(Cont. from pg. 3) All that remains is accounting for casualties. Our spiritual struggles should be thought of as minor skirmishes that (while vitally important to our spiritual lives) will not effect the final outcome. What remains to be determined is who is on what side. Imagine that you were a Nazi or Japanese soldier who had fought against the Allied forces and yet you were given a chance to switch sides after the war was over. Certainly, the wise soul who recognized that they were at the mercy victorious side even though we formerly of their conqueror would jump at such a took up arms against the King of chance. In a real way, that is exactly the Heaven! The war is over, the only chance that we are given. If we will question is which side are we on? recognize our own enmity against God,



caused by our own sin, and choose to "switch sides" we can be on the

By Kyle Pope



We are so glad that you joined us today. Please come again.

Please Visit Our Website - www.olsenpark.com **Articles • Audio Sermons • Outlines • Powerpoint Files**

Faithful Sayings Olsen Park Church of Christ

4700 Andrews Avenue Amarillo, Texas 79106 (806) 352-2809

oceans which separated

Vol. IX, No. 15

April 29, 2007

Services Sunday: 9:30 a.m. 10:20 a.m. 6:00 p.m. Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. **Elders:** Ken Ford **Charles Kelley** Pat Ledbetter **Deacons:** Dean Bowers Eddie Cook

Bill Davis Pat Goguen Neil Ledbetter Jeff Nunn Fred Perez Rusty Scott

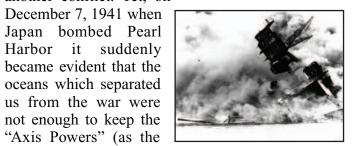
Evangelist: Kyle Pope

VISIT US ON THE WEB: www.olsenpark.com

The War Is Over!

r or sometime it had German and Japanese been looming on the alliance were called) **L** horizon. Even though from threatening our own Americans of the 1930's freedom. On that day and 1940's didn't want to American involvement in be involved in wars in World War II began.

Europe and Asia it was I suppose it is simply inevitable. Our hesitancy human nature to display was certainly understand- such hesitancy. At times able. Having just come this is probably the most out of the Depression and reasonable and prudent a only a few years before course; after all war is that "The War to End All not something to be Wars" - World War I, no glorified or desired. Yet, American was eager to the frightening thing is involve our country in that if such (Cont. on pg. 2) another conflict. Yet, on





(Cont. from pg. 1) hesitancy is taken too far it can cause one to wait until defense is impossible. What would the world have become if America had never become involved in World War II? What would have happened if Hitler had been successful in achieving his dream of establishing his 1000 year empire he called "The Third Reich?" One shutters to imagine.

As Christians much of our work involves alerting people to the spiritual warfare that we face in this life. We seek to warn non-Christians that rejection of Christ leaves them in a state of "enmity against God" (Romans 8:7, NKJV). We warn Christians that every day of our lives we are exposed to the "fiery darts of the wicked one" (Ephesians 6:16). Our hope is that by alerting people to this spiritual battle they will take up spiritual arms without hesitation before defense becomes impossible.

As we engage in this effort, I'm afraid that sometimes we fail to recognize one important aspect of this spiritual struggle. While the Bible does tell us that we individually engage in battles, in the broader view the fact is that the war is already over and Satan has lost! The book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus shared our humanity - "that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil" (2:14). In John's visions in the book of Revelation this victory is described (in part). The Holy Spirit tells us that - "war broke out in heaven" against the "dragon and his angels" (12:7). The text identifies this "dragon" as Satan and tells us they "did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer" (12:8,9). Because of this the text declares "...Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down" (12:10). This is a victory for all the forces of Christ. They were victorious because "they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not

When Jesus overcame death He offered to us the way that we can escape our own slavery to sin and death.

judged" (16:11). As the hour In the same way Satan has lost. approached for His death, the defeat of Satan was drawing closer. Finally, in Paul's letters to the Ephesians and to the Colossians the Holy Spirit tells us what Christ's death accomplished in the heavenly places. His death placed Jesus at the right hand of the Father (Ephesians 1:20). It exalted Him above all heavenly and earthly authority (Ephesians 1:20). It put all things under His feet (Ephesians 1:22). It reconciled all earthly and heavenly things unto Himself "having made peace through the blood of His cross" (Colossians

love their lives to the death" (12:11). 1:20). In simple terms, the war is over and Christ has won.

Is this to say that Satan can no longer tempt us or threaten our safety? Not at This same point is made in other all. Peter describes Satan as a "lion passages as well. In the gospel of Luke, seeking whom he may devour" (I after Jesus sent out the seventy and they Peter 5:8). At the end of World War II returned having cast out demons, He stories are told of Japanese soldiers on proclaims - "...I saw Satan fall like islands in the Pacific who had not lightning from heaven" (10:18). This received word of the Japanese doesn't seem to refer to some ancient surrender. They continued fighting fall in the past but to the spiritual ignorant of the fact that they had been victory that was accomplished as defeated. They posed just as serious a Christ's purpose was fulfilled at the threat to the Allied troops as they had time. In the gospel of John as Jesus during the war. The difference was that promises the coming of the Holy Spirit, all hope of any real victory was taken He declares "the ruler of the world is from them - it was just a matter of time.

(Cont. on pg. 4)



OLSEN PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST