



and liberating, unfortunately, **“there is a way which seems right to man, but its end is the way of death”** (Pro. 14:12). Why? The Truth is **“man’s way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to**

**direct his steps”** (Jer. 10:23). Every man and woman alive seeking true freedom must be reconciled to God through Christ and willing to say, **“Pierce my ear, O Lord my God. Take me to Your door *today*”**. In so doing they will find *real* liberty, and can be the Lord’s servant forever. There is plenty of room in God’s House for new servants, so why wait? Let us hasten to accept the Lord’s invitation (cf. Rev 3:19-20). Would you repent, and confess Christ as the Son of God? Would you appeal to Him for a good conscience in baptism and be saved? (cf. 1 Pet. 3:21).



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## Welcome Visitors

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

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

14.11

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

March 11  
2012



## Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:20 AM  
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

## Elders:

Pat Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Kyle Pope

## Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Bill Davis  
Steve Dixon  
Pat Goguen  
Jack Langley  
Neil Ledbetter  
Brady McAlister  
Walker McAnear  
Lance Purcell  
Rusty Scott

## Evangelists:

Kyle Pope  
Jason Garcia

## Pierce My Ear

By Jason Garcia

**O**n the heels of receiving the Ten Commandments, we read of a curious practice given to the Israelites through Moses in Exodus 21: **“If you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve for six years; but on the seventh he shall go out as a free man without payment. But if the slave plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife and my children; I will not go out as a free man,’ then his master shall bring him to God, then he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him permanently”** (Exod. 21:2, 5-6 NASB). It is difficult for us to imagine a time in which slavery was lawful and permitted under certain restrictions. Most would, no doubt, find any such notion repulsive in light of the many evils that slaves have endured throughout history. The character of Hebrew slavery, however, would not allow for the

gross mistreatment of slaves without penalties to the master. Furthermore, the Law of God made provision for the release of all slaves, so that all who were permanently indentured were so by their own choice. It is here that we find the words few slaves in history have spoken, **“I love my master...I will not go out as a free man”**. The He-



Olsen Park church of Christ

brew slave could have enjoyed such treatment from his master so as to inspire a life-long commitment to him and, subsequently, the slave's ear would be pierced against his master's door or doorpost as sign of this pledge. What significance does this ancient practice hold for us today?

The man or woman who has come to Christ in the obedience of faith has become His slave. Like the willing Hebrew slaves of old, the Christian has discovered the truth of Christ's words when He said, **“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light”** (Matt. 11:28-30). The rest of the world may mock and scorn the Christian for submitting his or herself in obedience to Christ, but only because the people of the world have failed to realize their own enslavement. Paul asks, **“Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?”** (Rom. 6:16). Scripture teaches that all men are in fact slaves to one thing or another—sin or righteousness. Unbelievers mock

those who follow Christ because they have been duped by the rest of the world into a false belief in their own freedom in sin. Peter says that through their **“arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved”** (2 Pet. 2:18-19). Ironically, slaves of Christ have more freedom than those in the world who boast of their false liberty and tolerance. Those who submit to Christ do not find a Master who oppresses and corrupts, but a Lord who, in truth, has freed them from sin, fear, punishment, and death (Jn. 8:32). Everyone must ultimately choose for himself or herself whom to serve. We may choose to be self-serving, or enslaved to our jobs, hobbies, or pleasure, and even though most of those things are not sinful in and of themselves, we will find them to be cruel masters in the end. For if we choose to submit to anything or anyone other than Christ, it will end in death; either we must be counted among those who presented their **“members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawless-**

**ness”**, or among those who presented their **“members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification”** (Rom. 6:19).

Quite frankly, there is no reason that is good enough to justify rejecting Christ. Like the Hebrew slave of old who found his master to be good and fair, the Christian has found a Master infinitely good and fair of whom he can say, “I love my MasterÖI will not go out as a free man”. For the “freedom” of sin is no freedom at all, and we can be assured that the **“wages of sin is death”** (Rom. 6:23). The way of the world can seem enticing and *feel* right