

# Why settle for less: If God is your pearl of great price?



**Matthew 13: 45** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: **46** Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.



# **Biblical examples of those for whom God was or was not the pearl of great price**

1. Adam and Eve
2. Ananais and Sapphira
3. Abraham-Sarah
4. Moses
5. Paul

# **Those for whom God was not the pearl of great price**

## **1. Adam and Eve**

**Genesis 3:6** When the woman saw that the tree produced good food, was attractive in appearance, and was desirable for making one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate it. Then she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate some, too.

### **1 John 2:16**

For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

# Consequences for putting self first, settling for less



1. Adam and Eve: Genesis 3:8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden... 10: He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid..." 19. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

**Cover up, misery and fear, separation from God**

# Those for whom God was not pearl of great price: **2. Ananais and Sapphira**

## Acts 5:1-3, 7-9

**1.** But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, **2. and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge**, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. **3.** But Peter said, "Ananias, **why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit** and to keep back some of the price of the land? **7.** Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **8.** And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" And she said, "Yes, that was the price." **9.** Then Peter said to her, "**Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test?** Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well."

# **Consequences for putting self first, settling for less: 2. Ananias and Sapphira**

**Acts 5: 5, 10**

**5.** And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it.

**10.** And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

**These were not back-sliden folks who forsook the assembling. As far we can tell these were faithful members of the Jerusalem Church. Cover up, Misery and Fear, Separation from God, Death.**

# Those for whom God was the pearl of great price

## 3. Abraham and Sarah Genesis 12:1-6

1. After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great." 2. Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3. And Abram said, "Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir." 4. Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir." 5. And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6. **Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.**

# Consequences for putting God first, settling for more **3. Abraham and Sarah**

**Heb 11:8** By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. **9** By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign *land*, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; **10** for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. **11** By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised ... **13** All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth ... **16** But as it is, they desire a better *country*, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.



# **Consequences for putting God first, settling for more** **4. Moses**

**Heb 11:****24** By faith **Moses**, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, **25** **choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26** considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. **27** By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen. ...**38 the world was not worthy of them.**

# Consequences for putting God first **5. Paul**

**Phil 3: 4** although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: **5** circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; **6** as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. **7** But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. **8** More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, **and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ**, that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

**Paul** [Lydia, Cornelius, Ethiopian Eunuch] **considered Christ and His kingdom a “treasure” worth giving up all one had to obtain it. What is there about the kingdom of Christ that makes it so valuable?**

# The Kindgom of Christ is the pearl of great price

**Col 2:3** in whom [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

**2 Co 4: 7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

**“the gospel of the glory of Christ”, Paul refers to as a “treasure”**

# The Kindgom of Christ:the pearl of great price

## 1) A refuge from the powers of darkness –

Co 1:13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son

## 2) Outside of Christ is the kingdom of satan

Ep 2:2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3Among them we too all formerly lived in **the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind**, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

# A portrait of Kindgom folks, who have found the pearl of great price Matthew 5

- a. They are poor in spirit (realizing their sinfulness) v3
- b. Thus they mourn (for their sins) v4
- c. Thus they are meek (gentle toward God and others) v5
- d. Thus they hunger and thirst for righteousness (which they desperately need) v6
- e. Thus they are merciful (for they know they need mercy) v7
- f. Thus they are pure in heart (seeking to please God with singleness of heart) v8
- g. Thus they are peacemakers (making peace with others, having found peace with God) v9
- h. Thus they are insulted/persecuted/falsely accused for the kingdom of heaven (misunderstood by the proud and arrogant who are still in their sins) v10
- i. They are salt and light v13-16 j. They are quick to forgive v23-24
- k. They are married for life v31-32 l. Their yes is yes and no is no v37

**In a word, they are counter cultural, they walk to a different drum beat. The world is offended by them, but world is unworthy of them Heb 11:37-38**

# Why settle for less: because God is our pearl of great price!

**Matthew 13: 45** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: **46** Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

**Luke 15:9** And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' <sup>10</sup> **In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."**



# Cost of discipleship—the pearl is costly

Luke 14: 25 Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.27"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

How about us? Are we willing to pay the full price to obtain the “treasure” of the kingdom?

a. The price of repentance? - **Ac 3:19; 17:30-31**

b. The price of complete submission to the will of Christ? - **Mt 28:18-20; Ac 2:38**

c. The price of putting the kingdom first in our lives? - **Mt 6:33**

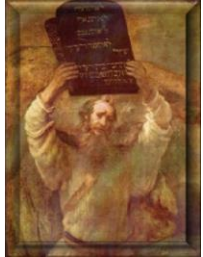




# EXAMPLES of PEOPLE WHO FOUND THEIR PEARL OF GREAT PRICE; OBEYED THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

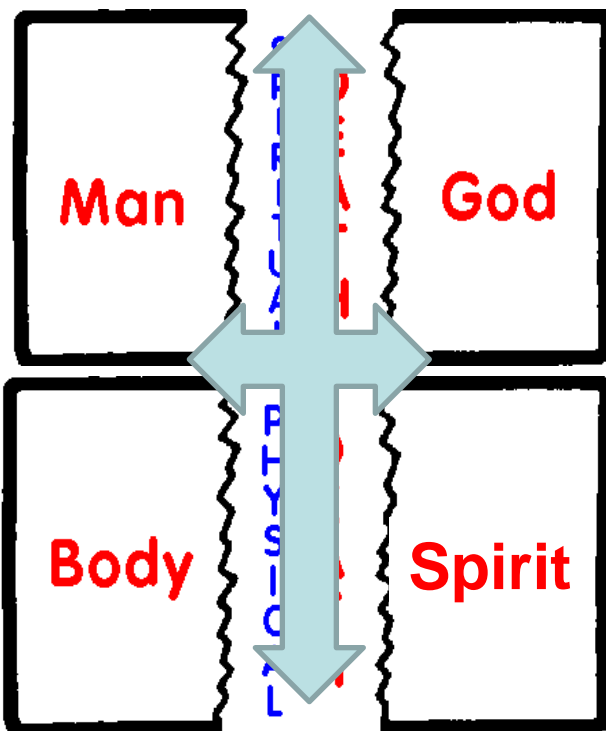
		HEAR THE GOSPEL	BELIEVE FAITH	REPENT OF SINS	CONFESS CHRIST	BAPTISM
1	<b>DAY OF PENTECOST</b> ACTS 2:36-42	HEARD 2:37		REPENT 2:37-38		BAPTIZED 2:38-41
2	<b>SAMARITANS</b> ACTS 8:5-13	HEARD 8:6	BELIEVED 8:12			BAPTIZED 8:12
3	<b>SIMON</b> ACTS 8:13	HEARD 8:6	BELIEVED 8:13			BAPTIZED 8:13
4	<b>ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH</b> ACTS 8:36-41	HEARD 8:35			CONFESSED 8:37	BAPTIZED 8:38
5	<b>SAUL - (PAUL)</b> ACTS 9:1-9; 22:6-16; 26:12-19	HEARD 22:16				BAPTIZED 9:18
6	<b>CORNELIUS</b> ACTS 10:25-48	HEARD 10:33	BELIEVED 10:43			BAPTIZED 10:48
7	<b>LYDIA</b> ACTS 16:13-15	HEARD 16:13-14	BELIEVED 16:14			BAPTIZED 16:15
8	<b>PHILIPPIAN JAILOR</b> ACTS 16:34	HEARD 16:32	BELIEVED 16:31			BAPTIZED 16:33
9	<b>THE CORINTHIANS</b> ACTS 18:8	HEARD 18:8	BELIEVED 18:8			BAPTIZED 18:8
10	<b>12 MEN AT EPHESUS</b> ACTS 19:1-7	HEARD 19:5				BAPTIZED 19:5
	<b>PREACHING</b> Romans 10:14 Galatians 1:6-9	<b>HEAR</b> Mark 4:23 Acts 10:22	<b>FAITH</b> Hebrews 11:6 Hebrews 5:8-9	<b>REPENTANCE</b> Luke 13:3, 5 Acts 2:38	<b>CONFESSION</b> Romans 10:10 Matthew 10:32-33	<b>BAPTISM</b> 1 Peter 3:21 Barnes' Bible Charts



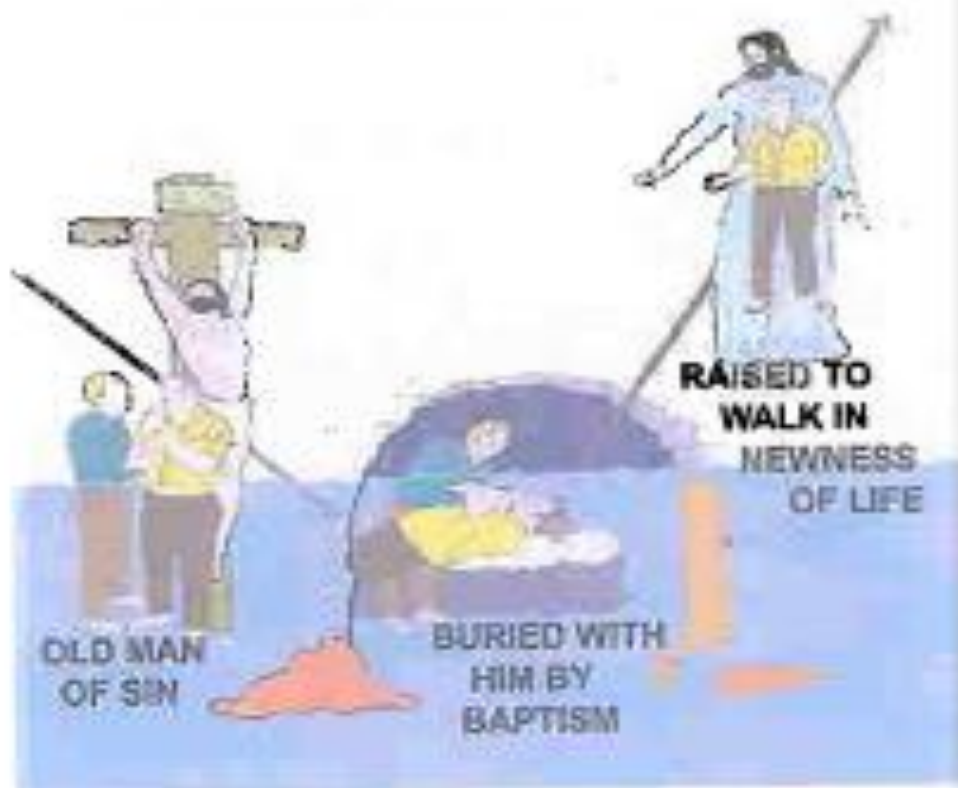


# Would you obey the gospel of our Lord as all these people did in Acts?

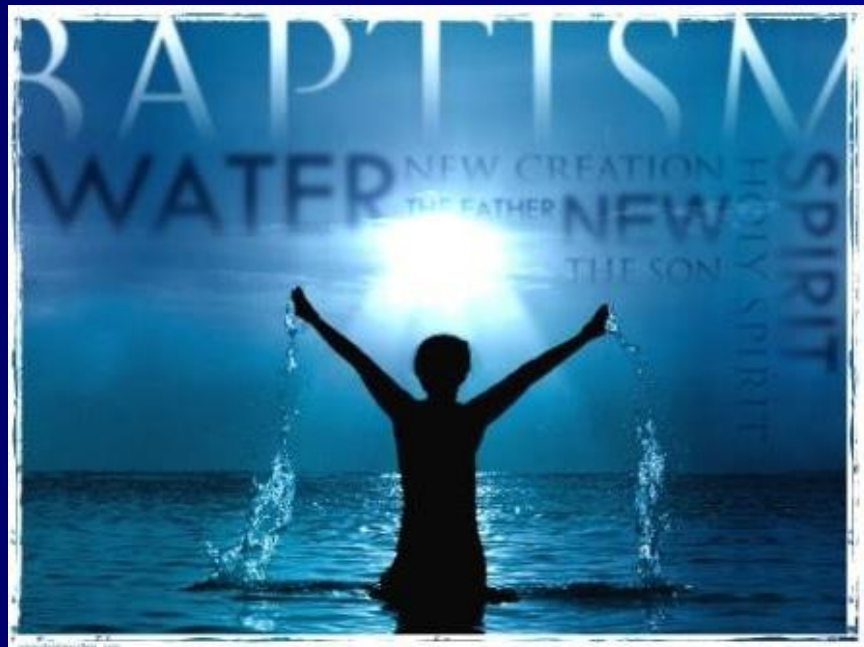
- Believe,
- repent,
- confess, and be
- baptized for
- remission of sin
- and gift of holy spirit



## GOSPEL OBEYED Romans 6:3-5; 17



**If you haven't obeyed the Gospel Of Christ,  
why are you waiting, what are you waiting for?**



“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” and you will receive His enabling Spirit **Acts 22:16; Act 2:38b**