

Terrace Heights Church of Christ  
Sermon (Steven J. Wallace)  
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## PEARLS AND PIGS

We are going to look at a lesson today that I don't think we spend a whole lot of time thinking about. It is one that is quite relevant to our work. We are going to look at PIGS AND PEARLS. There is a statement that is made in the Bible, "Do not give what is holy to the dogs nor cast your pearls before swine lest they trample them under their feet and turn and tear you to pieces", that is from Jesus' own mouth in Matt 7:6. You think of something as fine as pearls and something as filthy often as pigs and you think about the connotation that is involved there as we cast things before wild animals. Casting things that are good and so in the context here if you turn your Bibles there if you are not already there and in Chapter 7 we see the context of this message is about judging. Judge not, verse 1, that you be judged. For with what judgment you judge you will be judged and with the measure you use it will be measured back to you. Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye but do not consider the plank in your own eye or how can you say to your brother, let me remove the speck from your eye and look a plank is in your own eye. Hypocrite, first remove the plank that is in your own eye and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. Then, he states, do not give what is holy to dogs, or the dogs, or cast your pearls before swine. So in this context of making judgments obviously Jesus, and this is one of the most abused passages in all of the religious world today, in making these judgments, or condemning judgment, Jesus essentially is saying you must also make judgment. You must make judgment! He is not saying never judge because the person here has to be able to remove something from his eye which involves judgment and then he must seek to remove the speck in his brother's eye which involves judgment. He also must make a judgment as to what is the pearl, or pearls, and what are pigs. He is not condemning all judgment, rather he is regulating the type of judgment that we have, the type of judgment that we make. It must be a judgment that has substance to it. It must not be a judgment that is hypocritical. You know I am practicing the same thing I am condemning you for doing or you are doing a minor form of something that I am majoring in. I am walking around with the telephone pole, the cedar tree, the sequoia in my eye and I am trying to do optic surgery on you and it doesn't make sense. So there is a place for humor in our preaching but that humor must carry with it a severe tone as it does here. Jesus called a spade a spade. He doesn't try to sugar coat it, camouflage it. He simply states what he sees and what he is and so we are not used to this verse, verse 6, probably, to our own shame because we think Jesus went around the world always coddling people and patting them on the back and trying to lift them up all the time. There was a time when he also cut. There was a time when he cut down. He called Herod a fox in Luke 13:32; just like here he is calling some people pigs in Matt 7:6.

He called the Pharisees, in Matt 23:27 he called them white-washed tombs. What is the meaning of a white-washed tomb? It is a tomb that looks like what? On the outside it looks clean; it looks beautiful. It is kind of the way we look at a casket today as well. On the outside of a casket, most caskets are a fine finish. They have a finished layer on them that is very fine. They have got that nice finish; they have that bar that goes around them and they often have flowers on top. But what is inside of a casket, a dead body; a dead man? That is what he says you are Pharisees. You look appealing on the outside but inside you are just plain nasty. He also called them a brood of vipers. What is a brood of vipers? You know, children of snakes, children of serpents because they are following the serpent of old, the devil. J. W. McGarvey in commenting on Matt 7:6 said he, he is talking about a Christian, must know dogs and swine when he sees them. You know that involves judgment, right? He must not treat them as priests and kings those fit objects for the bestowal of holy food and goodly ornaments. We are here forbidden then to use any religious office, work, or ordinance in such a manner as to degrade or profane it. Saloons ought

not to be opened with prayer, nor ought adulterous marriages be performed by a man of God. To give pearls to swine is to press the claims of the gospel upon those who despise it until they persecute you for annoying them with it. When such men are known, they are to be avoided.

Do you know any pigs? Do you know any pigs that you have dealt with? Do you know any pigs that you have thrown, unknowingly thrown, pearls before? You know a dog doesn't care where meat comes from. In the Old Testament they had holy meat. The priests were to eat the holy meat. A dog doesn't care if it has been offered to the Lord or not. You give him something that is bloody and he is going to eat it. You give him something that is cooked he is going to eat it. He could care less about any kind of religious connotation that is involved into it. Swine don't care if they are trotting among pearls, do they? If you take a truckload of pearls, if you had them, and you dumped them in a mud puddle, swine would not care. They don't care what a pearl is; they don't care if they are below their feet. And there are men and women who could just simply care less about heaven's riches. There are men and women who don't care about God. They don't care about the church. They don't care about the Bible. They have no interest in salvation and all you are is an annoyance to them if you try to teach them. And so what does "pigs and pearls" teach? What does this pigs and pearl principle teach? It tells me I need to use discernment.

You know there are a lot of pigs that visit our web sites. There are. And they like to e-mail me and try to engage me in private debate where they can go on and on and on and, finally, after three years I have learned how to deal with a pig that comes on our web site. Meet me in a public debate, half in your church building and half in ours and then we will discuss. If you want to argue we will do it before others. We are not going to do it in private because you are not going to waste my time. I have limited resources and I am not going to deal with private debaters. We are given the charge here to discern between a genuine prospect, and I try to do that on our web site. If you are sincerely interested and you have a genuinely honest question, then I will help you all day long forever. I will give you the verses; you study them. I will give you the passage for you to contemplate on. But if you are e-mailing me because you want me to read a ton of garbage that has spilled out of your religious denomination, forget it! I am not going to waste the time. We are going to look at God's word and we are going to discuss it or we are not going to discuss anything at all. And if you are a prospect for heaven you will appreciate that but if you are a pig, what are you going to do? Get mad and leave. You are not going to want to discuss heaven's pearls. And so, we are to place God's pearls before those who are interested. If we don't place it, that is called sin.

There are people who are genuinely interested in salvation. You people being here today are an example of that and we ought to place the pearls of God before such, and it would be sinful to not do it. But it is equally wrong to spend too much time with a pig, to give that which is holy to dogs because we are not being a good steward of that which God has given to us, the pearls in this life. It is wasteful to not use when we should as well as wasteful to use when we should not. Right? Certainly! There is a discerning attitude or eye that we need to develop that I am not casting God's word before the ungrateful. Think about discernment, we need to recognize that we have limited resources. Every single one of us individually and collectively as a church, we have limited resources; the truth is something that you possess, something that you have. It is a pearl of God. Your life is also. Your life is a pearl before God, and yet it is very limited. Your time is a pearl before God and it is limited. Your energy is a pearl before God and the opportunities that God gives us to teach the lost are pearls. But Jesus still says you need to discern who the pig is. You are not going to know that at first; you are not going to know that at first. We need to be good managers of our time.

Go to 1 Peter 4:8-11. The apostle Peter said, "Above all things have fervent love for one another. Love will cover a multitude of sins. Be hospitable with one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it with the ability with which God supplies that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen." Notice the command to love,

the command to be hospitable, the command to use the gifts that God has given to you, verse 10. Those are the pearls that God has given you. Yet he still says that we ought to be a good steward of the manifold grace of God. We ought to be a good user of those things that God has given to us. We ought to be a good overseer. And so time spent with a pig is time not spent with a person. You don't go out to a pig palace and start preaching to pigs, do you? No, you try to preach to people, but there are pigs that walk on two legs that we need to be aware of, and so, discernment.

Notice a parallel passage that teaches discernment. The kingdom of heaven, Matt 13:47, is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind which when it was full they drew to shore and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels but threw the bad away. You bring a net across the ocean floor who knows what you are going to get. It is like going fishing and instead of getting a fish you catch a tire or shoe or something like that. There are good and there are evil. They threw the bad away. The gospel net will attract every character of people, every type of character. You will have people that will want to come in and only get money. You get others who want to come in and argue. You get others who want to come in and deceive. Now in all fairness the context of Matt 13:47-48, if you go to the next verse is really towards the end of the world where the angels will pull out of the kingdom of heaven the good and the bad, and so that tells me that there are those who that go under the radar of our eyes. There are those who can work their wickedness without us knowing it though they are a pig we have not discerned the right eye to see that they are a pig, to see that they are a two-legged wolf, seeking to devour the flock. But God will see them. They will not go under the radar on judgment day. They will not escape the hell then that exists for them. Yet God does expect us to have a discerning eye.

Another reason that Jesus teaches this in Matt 7:6 is for our own protection. Not only that we are to have a discerning eye but he wants us to be protected. You know, why in all his wisdom does he say the church needs to have elders who meet these particular qualifications? It is for the protection of not only for the eldership but of the flock, the church. And he wants us to be protected that's why he says unless "they trample them under their feet and turn and tear you to pieces." I mean do you want to have a fight with a pig that looked like that; I wouldn't want to, and yet sometime we are standing before people that look like that to heaven's eyes and we are saying I have just got to tell you one more time. I'm just going to tell you one more time! I've got to tell him again. No you don't. If you heard him snort, you don't need to tell him again. You don't need to hear it. He doesn't need to hear you. Don't throw the pearls of God before swine. And so we must then realize that there is a time in our conversation where we know whether we are making progress or whether we are not. That time exists; you know it; whether you are progressing or you are digressing. You know whether you are leading them unto heaven's salvation or they are pulling you into hell's flames. And so we must respect also what it is we are holding. We must respect and protect the pearls of God. Don't cast them before the unworthy. Don't cast them before swine. Have some respect for what is in your hands. Have some respect for the holy gospel of God. And so the pearls and pigs or the pigs or pearls principle is taught throughout history.

In the book of Proverbs 9:7-9, it says that he who corrects a scoffer gets what? Notice he says, "Shame for himself." He is correcting a what? A pig. He is throwing pearls before swine. He is giving holy meat to dogs. He who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. Harms who? Himself. Do not correct a scoffer lest he hate you. Verse 9. Well, continue verse 8, "Rebuke the wise man and he will love you." Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser. Teach a just man and he will increase in learning. You see you have two types of people that God always sees. He sees the foolish and the wise. He sees a stubborn and wicked one, or he sees a wise and just man. He sees someone who hates learning, like the scoffer, and someone who loves learning, the wise man. He sees the merchant of pearls and he sees the pig in the pool, and so we determine who it is that we are. For some people there is no good that comes from our conversation with them, only hurt. It is pretty naive for Steve Wallace to think that if I can just get the truth out into the world, if the masses could just have access to the truth, if I could just have

web site after web site after web site teaching the same thing: credible testimony giving book, chapter and verse and then masses are just going to repent and turn to God. They are all going to be saved. No, you are not thinking, Steve; there are a lot of pigs that don't want to have anything to do with you. And they may come under the guise of being religious but they are not under the true guise of being right. And so rather I want to get the word out to the masses not because I ignorantly believe that the masses will repent and turn but because I am a fisherman and I am seeking to fish within the ocean of the world to pull out a soul, to catch a soul that I might teach the truth to. Those who are in love with foolishness will have no use for me and nor will I them. When a fool is corrected what does he do? He lashes out with insults only to harm you. He is not interested nor is he thankful. So how do you know that one is a pig; how do you know that? When you hear that snort against the message that you're teaching, when they say "I know that is what it says but that is not what it means today," then understand you are standing in front of snorting swine. When they snort, "Oh that is not a real church," you know that there is a pig in this area that snorted that to a young couple recently and I am not afraid to mention his name, his name is Morris May. And he told another that this church here at Terrace Heights is not a real church, but Mr. Morris May has not set his foot into this congregation to consider whether we are or not. He is snorting like a pig because he is acting like one. He is wallowing in the mire; that is the way a pig is. They can cast insults without knowledge; they can state things that they say are true and have no access to the truth. When you hear that snort, understand that you are dealing with a pig.

When you see the lack of interest in your time and spiritual truths, you are standing before swine. They give you the sign that they would rather be fishing than studying the Bible with you. I remember some Bible studies that I have had where we brought them into our home and tried to teach them the truth and they are all but there. They are just kind of sleepy, just kind of out of it; they don't want to be there. They don't want to be in that environment; they don't want to learn God's word. There are people who will resent your moral standards; they will resent your wholesome speech; they will resent your trust and faith in God. They are not going to have time for your speech. They try to make you look like the fool. They try to make you look like the bad guy. Isn't it ironic that people in our society who boast the most about open mindedness are probably more closed minded toward the truth than anyone else? Far from being open minded, the homosexual activist, the abortion advocate and the promoter of pornography will stand and scoff at the scripture and keep a closed mind as to what God has written and revealed. You will find yourself severely rebuked and challenged by these individuals because they do not love the truth and they do not love you. Merely attempting to reason with a swine can result in your own hurt. That is a warning that Jesus here gives, and he tells them that you will know them by their fruit; you will know them by their fruits, Matt 7:16, just 10 verses later. Do men gather fruit from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? You plant a vineyard and it is all thorny. No. You get grapes from a vineyard not from thorn bushes.

And so you will know them by their fruits and so he tells disciples in Matt 10:16, Behold I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore, for your own protection essentially, be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. You know, we ought to be innocent as a dove yet at the same time as wise with which we are dealing with as a serpent is. You don't often hear of this characteristic being attributed to a Christian that he ought to be as wise as a serpent. We often hear the harmlessness of a dove, so to speak, but we need to be wise men as well. We need to understand the conniving nature of man and the evil that they can create. So what about the disciple who is walking with wolves? What about the disciple that is torn by wild swine? Do you know any people like that? Luke 15. And I am going to suggest to you that that is a time when we need to seek, to find, and to rescue. We need to try to find and rescue these individuals when opportunity comes, and we have tried. In Luke 15 you see the three parables here in this chapter and they are all about something that is lost. Something that is lost and desperately needs to be found and as you go on through the chapter you find perhaps an elevation in value and a degradation in number. You start here in Chapter 15, verse 2, The Pharisees complained this man receives sinners and he eats with them, and he spoke this parable to them saying what man of you having a hundred sheep, say you have a hundred, if he loses one of them would he not

leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one which is lost until he finds it and when he finds it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing and when he comes home he calls together his friends and neighbors saying to them rejoice with me for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say to you likewise there will be more joy over heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance. For what woman having ten silver coins if she loses one coin does not light a lamp, sweep the house, search carefully until she finds it and when she has found it she calls her friends and neighbors together saying rejoice with me for I have found the piece which I lost. Likewise I say to you that there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. You see you go from one hundred, then you go to ten, then you go to two in verses 11 through 32 and that is two sons, one that stays home and the other that leaves, demands his inheritance and wastes it on riotous living. And ultimately as the story ends the son who was lost is now found. And so this burden God has also placed on us to find and rescue. There may be a sheep that wanders. We need to search out and pursue it. There may be one that is walking with swine, even with wolves; we need to try to teach them.

Now I am going to go to Ezekiel 34 and I am going to start in verse 1. I am just going to read this because I think it so appropriate to the point that I am trying to convey here of searching out and rescuing. Ezekiel 34:1, "The word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, saying to them, "Thus says the Lord God of the Shepherds; Woe to the shepherds of Israel that feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? [What are they supposed to do? Feed the flock. What were they doing? They were feeding themselves.] You eat the fat, [verse 3] and clothe yourself with wool. You slaughter the fatling but you do not feed the flock The weak you have not strengthen, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost but with force and cruelty you have ruled them.'"" You know there are people like that today. They are supposedly in the church, in the kingdom, they elevate themselves as some type of shepherd among God's people but when you look at the pattern of their life and all that they have done all you see is a person that has not healed, a person who does not care about the bound, a person who brought back none that were driven away but only helped drive others away. You see a person who sought not the lost to save, he with force and cruelty ruled over them. So they were scattered, verse 5, because there was no shepherd and became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered. Were they eaten by wolves? Were they torn to bits by wild creatures? You know that these are the two-legged creatures. Keep in mind that we are dealing with prophesy here. He is talking about men. My sheep wandered through all the mountains and on every high hill. Yes, my flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth and no one was seeking or searching for them. Does God place a burden upon us to seek and search? Surely, he does. Don't just sit back and let the wolves gnaw on them. Don't let the pigs trample them. Seek and search. Now, then, they will make a decision whether they want to remain with the swine or not. If you keep on reading down through Chapter 34, and I tell you, it really puts our work in prospective today with the type of people that we deal with. I was reading it and wanted to read down through 26, but because of time constraint, we can't. And so we must teach them. We find and rescue through teaching.

David prayed in Psalms 51:12, Restore me the joy of your salvation. You know this is what James was talking about in our Bible class. You have to believe in your salvation; you have to have it right there. And uphold me by your generous spirit. We need to know that God is with us. We need to know that we have been forgiven. And then he says, I will teach transgressors your ways and sinners shall be converted, that is the drawing men out of the world; drawing people out of the world away from the deceivers. David can use his example and his experience and the mercy that was shown to him so he can also teach transgressors like Paul, the chief of sinners. We need to see them before the Lord. We need to see that person, that family, that husband, that wife. We need to see their children. We need to see that grandmother. We need to see that individual before the Lord on judgment day. In 1 Thess 2:19, "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?" What is it that motivated the apostle Paul? He could see and visualize these individuals standing before God with the approval of God though they were rejected by men and despised by men

they were approved by God. We need to see these individuals who are lost standing before the Lord; that might give us more zeal to seek to retrieve them.

Pigs and pearls are models for us by the Lord Jesus Christ. In the book of John, and again I am just going to have to elude to these verses, eventually you can read these on the web site and do more study if you want, but in John Chapter 6 Jesus is before the multitude and he fed 5,000, John 6:10 and following, 5,000, tremendous miracle. He took what was small and little and he fed a tremendous amount of people. And then in John 6:15, he withdrew himself from this multitude of people, withdrew. Then in John 6:26, the people find him again and Jesus rebukes them for only seeking him because of the food that he had previously given them and they ate. Did Jesus just make a judgment in John 6:26? He says, most assuredly I say to you, you seek me not because you saw the sign but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. What is he saying? You are all a bunch of pigs; that is what he is saying. You are a bunch of wolves or dogs; you want to eat the holy meat for yourselves. You don't have any concern for that which is truly holy. In verse 41, he offers them spiritual bread; they don't like it. In verse 45, the Bible says that it is written in the prophets, they shall be taught by God. Therefore, everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. And yet dogs and pigs they won't hear; they won't learn; they won't come to Christ. They have no interest in that at all. In Chapter 6 verse 54 he says, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him up in the last day." They didn't like that talk about eating his own physical flesh but rather a spiritual pig and a spiritual dog, they only wanted to eat good physical things; they don't care anything about the spiritual. And so when he is putting a spiritual connotation to his own flesh and blood that is sickening, that is horrid, to a spiritual pig, ironic, a spiritual dog, and then they followed him no more, John 6:66. Why did they follow him no more? Because they were pigs until they repent and if they did not repent they remained a pig when they died and they will stand before the all-holy God as a filthy swine wallowing in the mire. Pearls and pigs is applied, Jesus refused to do a miracle in Matt 16:1-4, Luke 23:8&9, he had performed miracles and these people wanted to, Oh you only perform miracles when . . . Listen I have performed miracles and you have not seen the sign of the time. You have not seen the signs that I have done. You have not appreciated what I have done thus far and therefore I am not going to give you a sign. I am not; he refused to cast pearls before swine.

He instructed the disciples to shake the dust off their feet, Matt 10:11-14. Jesus here says, "Whatever city or town you enter inquire who in it is worthy and stay there until you go out and when you go into a house, go into a household, greet it, and if the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whoever will not receive you, nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Surely I say to you it would be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the Day of Judgment than for that city." You know these people are like pearls going before the world. There are some places that will appreciate them; there are other places that will not. And there are those who are not worthy of you to stand before them. Isn't that what Jesus said there? They are not worthy. They are not worthy to have the gospel cast before them. In Acts 13, we see it exemplified. Here in Acts 13:44. Again it is the pig-pearl principle. Verse 44, "On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God but when the Jews saw the multitude they were filled with envy, and contradicting and blaspheming they opposed the things spoken by Paul." Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first (you know it is necessary that we give you the pearls first) but since you reject it and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold we turn to the Gentiles. Since you have chosen to be a pig, we are going to go to some one else. This is the kind of tough love that a Christian should have. If a person is not willing to work, neither shall he eat, is another example of the pig principle, 2 Thess 3:10&11. If a person looks at the church as simply a place to go to get a handout of money, to beg, and solicit funds, the Bible says neither shall he eat. You are casting pearls before swine.

Now in contrast to this section, understand that there is a pearl of great price. Jesus so stated, Matt 13:45, Again the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking (what?) beautiful pearls.

(There are such people out there who seek beautiful pearls.) Who when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. He sold all that he had and bought the pearl and the way that I view the pearl of great price, you know, I am seeking many pearls and then somebody comes and shows me the pearl of great price. The way that I view that determines whether I am a pig or a merchant. If I am a pig, what will I do with it? Well, I will gladly trample it under my feet; have no use for it. But if I am a merchant, what am I going to do? I am going to sell everything that is required to attain that precious piece. So if you think about the pearl of great price, there is only one pearl. There are many beautiful pearls that you might be seeking after but there is only one great pearl, and that is called the kingdom of heaven, which is the church that Jesus built. That is the church that he paid the price for. The pearl of great price, well, it never goes on sale, does it. You are going to have to pay full price for it. This merchant doesn't try to negotiate, ah, just come on down, you don't need to be that expensive. No, but there is a cost that is involved and this merchant understood that the cost that was involved is that he had to sell all that he had. Tremendous cost for some people, to give it all up for the pearl of great price. Some people don't want to give up a former religion because their parents were that. You are not a merchant of the great pearl. You need to get the genuine pearl of God. It is not enough to simply admire the pearl. There are a lot of people who admire it. I go out and recently I have been trying to buy a house and eventually it is brought up, "What do you do?" I am an evangelist. Oh, how wonderful. So people admire that but they are not serious about digging into it. What exactly is it you are casting, Steven? What exactly are you preaching? What exactly are you teaching? They don't want to buy it, yet the Bible tells us in Proverbs 23:23 that we are to buy the truth and sell it not, also wisdom, instruction and understanding. That is like the merchant here he sold all that he had so that he could obtain the great pearl of great price. It required all that he had and so sometimes we teach that a Christian must have full commitment. He must be willing to deny father and mother. He must be willing to deny himself. He must be willing to deny the praises of men. If that is what the cost is then so be it. He must have full commitment. All other pearls or kingdoms, domains, they all fail in comparison to the kingdom of heaven. There is no pearl of greater price. Jesus did not die for a man-made church. He did not shed his blood for a worldly kingdom. He built the church of Christ which rests upon his worth, his plan, his redemption. No other pearl, no other kingdom, no other domain has that.

And, finally, one can live life without the other beautiful pearls in this life, but he can't truly live life without the pearl of great price. If you are here today and you are not a Christian, I hope that you will consider the pearl of great price, I hope that, if I am speaking to you today, that you are not a pig; you are not going to cast it under your feet, trample it, and turn and tear me when I tell you what the Bible tells you to do for the salvation of your soul. And what the Bible tells you to do for the salvation of your soul is that you must believe that Jesus is the Son of God. You must believe it. You can't just say, "Yes, it is a possibility, a probability." No, you have to say I believe that Jesus is the Son of God. You have to be convinced of that. Without faith it is impossible to please him. For those who come to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him, Hebrews 11:6. You must also be willing to repent. You know the pearl of great price tells you that if you are in a sinful relationship with somebody, you need to get out of that sinful relationship and get in a right relationship with God. It tells you that you need to stop living in sin, that you need to quit the nonsense and foolishness. It tells you that you need to no longer steal but rather labor with your hands for that which is good and give. It tells you to use your mouth as a fountain of blessing rather than cursing. It teaches you how to walk as Christ himself walked. The pearl of great price demands that you confess. Yes, I do believe that Jesus is the Son of God as the Ethiopian eunuch did in Acts 8:37. And it requires that you are willing to humble yourself into the point of baptism whereby you receive the remission of sins that comes only when you contact the blood of Christ in baptism. Nothing else in scripture tells people where they can contact the blood of Christ except in baptism. If doesn't say, if you repent then you contact it. You don't confess into the death of Christ, but you are baptized into the death. If we can help you today to be baptized into that, we will do so this very hour as together we stand and as we sing.