

# The Pearl of Great Price

Matthew 13:45-46

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. **Matthew 13:45-46** – “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”
- B. The pearl of ancient times was to people what the diamond is to us today.
- C. The pearl was a prized possession . . . And it was exceedingly valuable.
- D. This parable illustrates the unsurpassed value of the Church.
  1. **Ephesians 5:25** – “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”
  2. **Isaiah 53:5** – “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”
  3. **Acts 20:28** – “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PARABLE OF THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE AND THE TREASURE HIDDEN IN THE FIELD.

- A. The merchant in the Parable of the Pearl of Great Price was seeking goodly pearls . . . The man in the Parable of the Treasure hidden in the field just happened to find the treasure.
  1. Some find the **true church** with little effort while others seek the truth very diligently.
  2. Some are reared in the church environment and grow up knowing the truth.
  3. Some find the church by mere chance.
 

**Illustration:** How I came to know the church. I have often wondered what it might have been otherwise.
  4. Some, like the Jews and those reared in denominationalism, put forth great effort to find the church.
    - a. They have to seek for the truth.
    - b. They have to learn to discriminate between true and counterfeit religion.
  5. Darrell Stewart – Family and Friends Day (2007), told me he read himself out of the Baptist church.
- B. The merchant seeking goodly pearls already had other pearls . . . But the man who found the treasure hidden in the field had nothing which he prized so highly.
  1. Some who obey the gospel are forced to give up their old religion which they have prized highly.

- a. Family religion
- b. Parents and grandparents staked their souls on that religion.
- c. Deep-rooted feelings are attached to the family religion and religious tradition.
- d. Feel they will be condemning all others in their family if they depart from it.

**THE CHURCH CAN BE FOUND BY ALL WHO WILL SEEK FOR IT.** **Matthew 7:7-8** – “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

- A. God has promised that all who fear Him can learn the truth.
  1. **Psalm 25:14** – “The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.”
  2. **Matthew 5:6** – “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.” (4<sup>th</sup> of 9 beatitudes)
  3. **John 7:17** – “If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.”
  4. **John 8:32** – “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
- B. The merchant knew what he was looking for . . . Not everyone does know.
  1. He recognized it when he found it.
  2. He was looking for goodly pearls.
- C. The world has many kinds of religions and isms.
  1. One must look for the church and the religion of the Bible
  2. One must study the Bible so he/she will be able to recognize the true church when he finds it. Why? . . . Because there are many counterfeit/manmade churches.
    - a. **Proverbs 14:12** – “There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”
    - b. **Jeremiah 10:23** – “O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.” When man tries to direct his own steps, he deviates from God’s way.
- D. The merchant was **seeking** goodly pearls. He did not sit down and imagine he had something valuable like many do who are adherents to false religions.
  1. If a person wants something better . . .
    - a. If a person wants a better job, he should look for one.
    - b. If a person wants a better automobile, he should look for one.
    - c. If a person wants a better house, he should look for one.
    - d. Until one looks, he continues to have what he presently has.

2. If a person is a member of a church which is unlike the church of the New Testament in doctrine . . . Worship . . . and practice, he should look for a church that is like the church he can read about in the New Testament.
3. We have been warned against false religions.
  - a. **Acts 20:28-30** – “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.
  - b. **Romans 16:17-18** – “Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.”
  - c. **1 Peter 2:1-3** – “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.
  - d. **Galatians 1:6-9** – “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”
4. We are commanded to turn away from that which is error.
  - a. **Romans 16:17-18** – “Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.”
  - b. **2 Corinthians 6:17-18** – “Therefore ‘Come out from among them And be separate,’ says the Lord. ‘Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters’, Says the LORD Almighty.”

5. When temporal treasures are involved, we exhaust every means to obtain them. Why should we not do the same in the interest of our souls?  
**Matthew 16:25-27** – “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”

### THE CHURCH IS A PRICELESS PEARL

- A. The denominations and other worldly organizations are of some worth in shaping the morals of society, but they are worthless when compared with the body of Christ . . . Why? Because there is no salvation in them!
- B. The true church is worth more than all the world. **Colossians 3:5-10** – “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.”
1. You have the opportunity of seeking and finding this priceless treasure.
  2. You should seek for it and pay the price to be a member of it.

### THE PRICELESS PEARL IS COSTLY

- A. It cost God His Son. John 3:16
- B. It costs Christ His life’s blood. Acts 20:28 Ephesians 5:25
- C. It will cost you any church or religion that you previously embraced. **Galatians 1:13-14** – “For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.”
- D. It sometimes will cost the breaking of family ties. **Matthew 10:35-39** – “For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.”
- E. It will cost the pleasure of self-indulgence.
1. **Illustration:** Judge’s daughter in South Pittsburg in August, 1967)

2. **Illustration:** Nichol's daughter visiting South Pittsburg from Upper east Tennessee . . . Wanted to obey the Gospel (and did) with threat of parents telling her to not come back home. It worked out.

F. It will cost worldly gain.

G. Many are intellectually honest in seeing the truth.

H. Others have fabricated a preconceived idea of what they want and are seeing something to fit them rather than for something for them to fit to.

### **THE MERCHANT BOUGHT THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE**

A. The merchant knew that for which he was seeking . . . And he had the courage to risk all he had for it.

B. The merchant lost no time selling all that he had to buy the pearl. He paid the price.

1. Many are slow to obey the gospel.

2. Many want a cheaper religion. They are not ready to give up the world . . . But they intend to obey later.

3. Many are not willing to pay the price.

C. The pearl of salvation is not subject to the fluctuation of stock markets. It is as cheap as it is ever going to get.

1. Your soul is worth more than the whole world.

2. You have so much time to live and do not know just how much time that is.

D. The church is of great value, and whatever you might have to give up to be a member of it will be a cheap price to pay for such a prized possession.

**Matthew 16:26-27** – “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

### **CONCLUSION:**

A. Are you seeking?

B. Have you found the Pearl of Great Price?

C. Will you not accept it now?

D. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**