

Jesus,  
Our guiding Light

## Cortland Christian Church

153 Grove Drive  
Cortland, Ohio

[officeatccc@gmail.com](mailto:officeatccc@gmail.com)

[CortlandChristianChurch.  
com](http://CortlandChristianChurch.com)

Pastor Curtis Miller

Cell- 330-717-4552

Home--330-652-3625

Office-330-637-4611

Jonathan Gallo  
Organist

Joyce Hall  
Administrative  
Assistant

October 2017



"Follow  
The Bells"

# The Church Bell

## "Pastors Pen"

*My Dear Friends,*

*We have been together now for one month. What a pleasure it is to get to know each of you and to see the enthusiasm that each of you have for our Lord. Ephesians 4: 11-12 tells us that God calls each of us, that some are called to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some as Pastors and as some teachers.*

*Whatever your call is, it is from God. So my friends when you are asked to do some job in your church, please, accept the challenge, and know that God will walk with you, and with God all things are possible.*

*We are in need of many areas of worship in our church, and all are welcomed to help in whatever it is God asks us to do.*

*Please know, that I am available anytime you need me, but I can't know that unless you call me and tell what you need.*

*Carol and I are very pleased to be here at C.C.C. I am excited about what we can do together to grow our church and to serve God in all we do.*

*God Bless you all,*

*Pastor Curt*

## Our Worship Assistants

### Elders:

October 1 Bob Johnson and Jeff Byler  
 October 8 Linda Swauger and Curtis Bell  
 October 15 Carol Robinson and Sharon Hopkins  
 October 22 Ron Miller and Carol Robinson  
 October 29 John Molnar and Joyce Lewis



### Deacons:

Captain: Terry Swauger 330-720-0346

Barb Bradford, Judy Hansel, Carol Glancy,  
 Cindy Miller, Jack Hanna, Phyllis Hake, Mackenzie Polakoff

Deaconess: Carol Robinson

October 2017

### Coffee Hour Hostesses



October 1 Effie Welsh and Pat Taylor  
 October 8 Carolyn Sparhawk and Diana Martin  
 October 15 Carol Glancy and Carol Deemer  
 October 22 Curtis and Anita Bell  
 October 29 Judene Ainsley and Friend

The Church Office is open on Monday-Thursday

8:00am.-Noon

### Somethings to Ponder

- \* Most of the stuff people worry about isn't going to happen anyway.
- \* A man who carries a cat by the tail learns something he can learn in no other way.
- \* Some body once figured we have 35 million laws trying to enforce "The 10 Commandments."
- \* He who angers you controls you!
- \* Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

### Church Chuckles

A man came home from a golf game one day, threw his clubs in the corner, and said, "I'm not playing golf with Fred anymore."

His wife asked, "Why not?"

He said, "Would you play golf with someone who moves his ball around, cheats on the score card, and fusses all the time?"

She said' "No, I wouldn't"

He replied, "Neither does Fred."

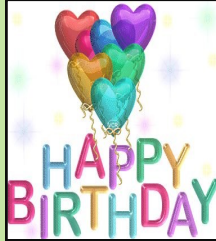
## FINANCIAL UPDATE OF CHURCH OPERATING FUNDS

Fund	September 2017			Year-to-Date		
	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Net
General	5,951	7,252	1,331	66,326	73,164	6,838
Building (Mortgage)	2,493	2,048	445	17,747	18,429	682
Total>>	8,444	9,300	856	84,073	91,593	7,520

Mortgage Balance \$96,983.23

## *Happy Birthday To You*

October 8 Rachelle Elhert  
October 11 Linda Chagnot  
October 14 Diana Martin  
October 19 Anita Bell  
October 19 Gerry Payne  
October 26 Ron Miller



## *Happy Anniversary*

October 10

Alice and Gary Everett

October 21

Kathy and Larry Dix



***If your birthday or anniversary does not show up here, please call the office 330-637-4611.***

## *How to Stay Safe*

1. Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all accidents involve those forms of transportation.
5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in Hospitals. So, above all else, avoid hospitals.

**BUT ... You will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church!**

**Bible study is safe, too. The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less.**

**So ...for safety's sake - Attend church and read your Bible.**

***IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!***

**5 THINGS EVERY MAN NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT STAYING HEALTHY**

**Don't eat your heart out.**  
Heart disease is the number 1 killer of men. Eating right is one way to fight back, so make half your plate fruits and veggies.

**Get fit.**  
Men live 5 years less than women on average. Just 2½ hours of exercise each week may help you live longer.

**Play it safe.**  
Each year, injuries land 1 in 7 men ages 18 to 45 in the ER. Be careful on the playing field, at work, and on the road—and make sure you have health insurance for when you do trip up.

**Team up with your doc.**  
Men are 24% less likely than women to have seen their doc in the past year. Get the checkups and shots you need to live longer and stronger.

**Don't sweat the costs.**  
Men with health insurance can get flu shots, blood pressure screenings, and stop-smoking programs at no extra cost. You can shop for affordable insurance on the new Marketplace starting October 1, 2013.

**HealthCare.gov** The care you need, when you need it.



# Little Lamb Sale



## Returns with a new location!

Now offered by Cortland Christian Church  
**153 Grove Drive, Cortland, Ohio 44410**

Thursday, November 2 (10am – 7pm)

&

Friday, November 3 (10am – 2pm)

Some items half-price on Friday!

## **SELLERS NEEDED**

If you're interested in becoming a seller please email [LittleLambsCortlandOH@gmail.com](mailto:LittleLambsCortlandOH@gmail.com)

Or call Cortland Christian Church

**330-637-4611**



## Where you see a mess, *God* sees His Son

Leanna Shepard

My home is not Pinterest worthy. My life does not look like a perfectly placed Instagram post. And, since we're being honest here, my heart is far from neat, pretty, and put-together.

Some days partaking of God's Word is tasteless.  
Some days I'm envious of my friends.  
Some days I eat too much.  
Some days I don't eat enough.  
Some days I'm mopy and feel sorry for myself.  
Some days I don't want to get out of bed.  
Some days I'm angry at God.  
Some days I only wanna eat chocolate.  
Some days I don't feel like talking to God.

I'm a mess. And I don't have to guess that you are, too, because we're all part of humanity. Fallen humanity. We're always in sin, running to sin, or repenting from sin. For real.

Don't pretend that's a shocking revelation. It's reality. No matter how many cups of tea I pour myself or how much chocolate I consume in a day, I will never feel better about myself, because I can't escape the reality that I'll never be good enough.

Do you feel the angst in your heart, too? It's there, and it's okay to talk about it. I don't mean broadcasting sin for the sake of drama; I mean being real about the nitty-gritty of life and seeking help for it.

### Don't Like What You See?

There are lots of things I don't like about myself: my body shape, my personality, my accomplishments, my talents (or lack thereof). And maybe you feel the same way. But get this—you and I were lovingly and carefully fashioned by a sovereign, creative God who made us as we are for a reason and sees things much differently than we do.

One day, a four-year-old friend drew a picture of me. In it, I've got a big head, pink hair, crooked eyes, and a grim expression, but she insists it's me. Not very flattering. I could argue with her and tell her she doesn't know what she's talking about, but how silly is that? (Seriously, have you ever tried arguing with a four-year-old?) Because in her loving eyes, she drew me as a pink princess, so that's who I am.

(Continued on the next page)

And that's when I realized that is who I really am in Christ. And if you're a believer, too, that's who you are!

Yes, even on your most cranky, irritable, coffee-guzzling, PMSing, chocolate-consuming kind of day . . . God loves you.

What will you focus on? Will you choose to see you as God sees you—chosen, loved, and forgiven, despite your weeds? Or will you remain in your little patch of ground—head down, spirits low, trying to uproot the ever-growing weeds that threaten to choke you?

Even on the days you had twenty-two things on your list and only got through one, and wait, it wasn't even on the list . . . God loves you.

Even when you hate yourself or your kids (or both) and want to run away from it all . . . God loves you. (Just don't actually run away. Your kids need you despite their best efforts to convince you they don't.)

*But isn't God holy, you say? Isn't He just? I thought He can't stand the sight of sin? So He certainly can't stand the sight of me! Goodness, I can't even stand myself!*

You're right. He is holy. He is just. He can't stand the sight of sin. But it is precisely because of His holy and just nature that there is hope. It was in God's plan all along to show us how utterly incapable we are to be near His presence in order to open our eyes to our very great and desperate need.

That's where His Son steps in. Jesus became flesh so that you could lose yours. He became sin so that you could be free from it. He died in your place so that your place would one day be with His Father. He was beaten, bruised, and torn so that you could be made beautiful and whole.

This is truly unbelievable! Yet through faith in Christ, this is your new reality. By God's grace, this is your new identity. Where you see pink hair, God sees His Son. Where you see crooked eyes, God sees His Son. Where you see a grim expression, God sees His Son.

### Stop Looking Within

Of course, the battle against the flesh still wages on, and some days (most days), we lose. But the grace of God that met you in your moment of salvation is the same grace that strengthens you in your moment of temptation.

Even in your despair, your guilt, and your fear, never doubt the loving kindness of God. It is Satan, not God, who condemns you and tells you your sins are too great, your anger too strong, or your pride too deep for God's forgiveness and love.

Nineteenth-century preacher Charles Spurgeon wrote a wonderful word of hope on this subject:

(Continued on next page)

We shall never find any comfort or assurance by looking within. But the Holy Spirit turns our eyes entirely away from self; he tells us that we are nothing, but that "Christ is all in all."

Remember, therefore it is not your hold of Christ that saves you—it is Christ; it is not your joy in Christ that saves you—it is Christ; it is not even faith in Christ, though that be the instrument—it is Christ's blood and merits; therefore, look not so much to your hand with which thou are grasping Christ, as to Christ; look not to your hope, but to Jesus, the source of your hope; look not to your faith, but to Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith.

We shall never find happiness by looking at our prayers, our doings, or our feelings; it is what Jesus is, not what we are, that gives rest to the soul.

## Pull Out the Wide Lens

One beautiful, sunshiny day in May, I was walking in a green meadow, taking in all the vivid colors around me—the lush grass, the bright sky, the sparkling sun. But when I sat down on the lawn, I found, to my amazement, something I'd never noticed before. The "lush grass" was mostly weeds!

While looking up across the entire hillside, I had seen only a beautiful, green meadow. But when narrowing my focus down to the patch at my feet, forgetting the bigger picture, I only saw worthless, ugly weeds.

Written by Leanna Shepard



**If someone says something unkind about you, you must live so that no one will believe it.**

**Even when you have pains you**

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**The shortest distance between your problem and the solution is the distance between your knees and the floor.**



**A 10 foot rope ladder hangs over the side of a boat with the bottom rung on the surface of the water. The rungs are one foot apart, and the tide goes up at the rate of 6 inches per hour. How long will it be until three rungs are covered?**

*Never. The boat rises as the tide goes up.*



# holiday Craft Fair

**Saturday,  
November 25,  
2017**

**We need crafters and vendors.**

**If you know of anyone that might be interested in having a table,  
call the office with the name and address, we will send out an invitation.**



**This craft show will be the same day as the  
Gingerbread Walk in Cortland.  
This Walk consists of many area business-  
es. It will be an exciting time in Cortland .**

**Great time for Christmas shopping. Teach-  
ers gifts, stocking stuffers, and much more.**

## **A Bake Sale:**

**We will be asking for donations of holiday  
breads, cakes, cookies, pies .  
Or may some home canned items.**

## **Lunch:**

**There will be a "soup and sandwich"  
lunch available.**

## **Raffle Basket**

**Hope to see our members and  
their invited friends.**



# Trunk or Treat

**Thursday,  
October 26,  
6:30-8pm**

1. We need at least 8-10 tables, with members handing out treats.
2. Pick a friend and a table to share and spend the evening with us.
3. Put on a crazy hat, or glasses and nose, paint whiskers on your face or costume would be fun.
4. Pastor Curt is going to read a Halloween story to the kids,
5. Jeff Byler will carve a pumpkin while the story is being read
6. We are going to have the popcorn machine up and running,
7. There will be a craft table for the kids.
8. Ghost Bean bag game.
9. The Police and Firemen will be there

**Canine Companions  
will be here, too.**

*And of course everyone will be giving out candy. It's Trick or Treat*

*If you have any fun ideas that we could try, Tell us, call Amy at 330-718-4645  
We hope to be able to attract some new Christians who are looking for a  
Church and a friendly church family.*



## ***Women who Say Yes to God"***

**By Lisa Terkhurst**

**Amy Popichak is leading this study.**

**There are 6 more sessions**

**Sept 28 —November 2.**

**There may be another Bible Study after the first of the new year.**

# Choosing Church Week After Week

Tessa Thompson



My husband and I are both natural introverts, which means our ideal form of “rest and relaxation” involves a good book, a hot cup of coffee, and, well . . . nobody else. Okay, that might be an exaggeration—we love our friends and family and have had many times of refreshing fellowship with them! But the truth is that social activities can often be more tiring than relaxing for us and sometimes even hard to look forward to.

Needless to say, it was quite a stretching experience when we moved to another state four years ago and began attending a church with two services and an afternoon potluck (sometimes all three back-to-back!). Add in an hour of Sunday school, a half hour coffee and fellowship break before the main service, and—*phew*—our weekly “day of rest” felt nothing like rest.

In the midst of a lack of desire to attend all the gatherings and my feelings of social weakness, I noticed something: The families at this church really enjoyed being there. They showed up week after week, toddlers (lots of them!) in tow. They made an effort to be at Sunday school, even if it meant walking in a few minutes late. They hung around after the service to fellowship, even though it was already 1 p.m. and stomachs were beginning to rumble.

The Lord used these observations, along with our dear pastor’s humble and persistent exhortations to make attendance a priority, to begin changing my heart toward Sunday mornings. He began opening my eyes to the fact that corporate worship was just as important, if not more important, than private worship, and that gathering with His people on Sunday morning was a unique experience that could not be had while sitting in a big comfy chair and watching a sermon on YouTube by myself.

**(Turn to next page)**

## A Weekly Choice

Every week we are presented with a choice: to go to church or not to go? And every week a myriad of seemingly legitimate excuses come to mind, tempting us to stay at home (or at least skip Sunday school).

But laying those excuses aside and faithfully choosing to go to church is not just another good habit to cultivate with gritted teeth and obligated resolve. Rather, it is a choice we can make while joyfully anticipating how the Lord will use it as an opportunity to make us more like Christ.

## An Opportunity to Obey

Going to church is an opportunity to obey God's command to "remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Ex. 20:8), prioritizing public worship and "not neglecting to meet together" (Heb. 10:25).

As we hear God's Word explained and applied through preaching, we are helped in obeying the command to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). Finally, as we submit to the leadership of our church elders, we can obey God's command to "obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls" (Heb. 13:17).

## An Opportunity to Learn

Paul's letters to the elders Timothy and Titus are filled with exhortation to be careful to teach sound doctrine (1 Tim. 4:6, 16; 2 Tim. 2:15; Titus 2:1), that their flocks may not be led astray by the many errors surrounding them. Attending a solid, biblical church is an opportunity for us to grow in our understanding of God's Word, that we might be discerning and able to detect error.

At times it can be easy to simply zone out and start thinking about lunch, but we must not lose sight of what a gift it is to sit under sound preaching of the Word. We would do well to cultivate an anticipation for growing in spiritual knowledge and understanding each week rather than seeing church as an obligation.

## An Opportunity to Love

No matter how hard you try, you will not find a church where everyone talks, dresses, and thinks the same as you. But over and over and over again we are commanded in the New Testament to love our brothers and sisters in Christ. Faithfully attending the same church every week gives us the opportunity to put those commands into practice while learning to love those who are different than us.

Simply taking up a seat each week is one thing; it's another thing to make an effort to meet new people, ask someone how their week was, and add specific needs to your prayer list. There is a beautiful diversity in the Body of Christ, and by God's grace we can develop a love and appreciation for that diversity as we observe how He unites His people's hearts and uses them as a collective body to grow, serve, and worship together.

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## A Word to the Mamas

*I know*—I've been there. Actually, I'm *still* there. My boys are four and one. For mothers of young children, Sundays are not a walk in the park, and between nursing babies, potty breaks, and squirmy toddlers (not to mention our own tiredness), sometimes it feels like we're doing anything but learning. It's even easy for our times of fellowship to be filled with "mommy venting," and by the time all the kids are packed up in the car, all we want is to get lunch on the table and a quiet nap.

The best encouragement I can give is this: *Remember, this is a season.* Believe it or not, one day your kids will be old enough to leave the sanctuary and use the restroom by themselves! Dear mamas, do not grow weary in giving your children the precious gift of going to church every week, for we have the opportunity to instill in them a lifelong desire to be in God's house with God's people.

If Sundays are the day you dread the most, ask God to change your heart and for the grace to display a joyful attitude, even when you're getting out the door ten minutes late. I remember reading about a father who would wake his young children up on Sunday morning and exclaim, "It's Sunday, kids. The best day of the week!" May God enable us to display more of this sincere, God-glorifying enthusiasm each week—missing shoes, diaper blowouts, and all!

## When Desire Lacks

I will be the first to admit that sometimes I have gone to church simply because I knew it was honoring to the Lord and good for my soul. There will be Sundays when, for whatever reason be it tiredness, a busy week, or simply our own sin, our hearts will not feel that desire to go and sit under the preaching of God's Word and fellowship with His people. And these are the times when we lay feelings aside, pray for God to work in our lukewarm hearts, and *go to church*.

More often than not, when I choose to honor the Lord in this way, He graciously meets me there in some way, ministering to me through a specific point in the message or refreshing my heart through the fellowship I had wanted to avoid.

The next time we are presented with the choice of whether or not to go to church, may we lay aside  
fleshly excuses and expectantly

**"enter His gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!" (Ps. 100:4).**

A farmer had 15 sheep, and all but 8 died. How many are left?

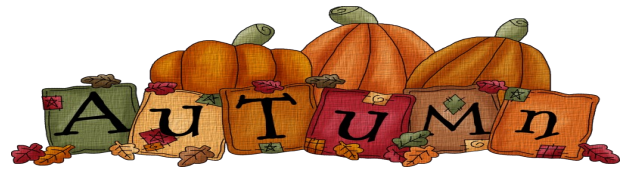
The 8 sheep that were left.








A truck driver is going down a one way street the wrong way, and passes at least ten cops. Why is he not caught?

He's walking on the sidewalk.



# September 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1. Service 10:00 am	2. Aerobics 	3. Finance 6:45 Board Meeting 7 pm	4. Joyful Noise	5. LOAF 10 AM Aerobics Bible Study	6.	7. 
8. Service 10:00 am	9. Aerobics	10. Brownies Meet	11. Joyful Noise	12. Aerobics Bible Study	13.	14. Aerobics
15. Service 10:00 am	16. Aerobics	17. 	18. S/S Prep Joyful Noise	19. Soup and Sandwich Lunch Aerobics Bible Study	20. 	21. Aerobics
22. Service 10:00 am 	23. Aerobics	24. Brownies Meet	25. Joyful Noise	27. Trunk or Treat  Aerobics	27.	28. Aerobics
29. Service 10:00 am	30. Aerobics	31. 				

Pray for our "Shut-Ins"

Drop them a note of encouragement and let them know we care that we care.



Vera Kidd

Community Skilled  
Nursing  
Room 221  
1320 Mahoning Ave.  
Warren, Ohio

Phyllis Beer

Lake Vista  
41 Heron Circle  
Cortland, Ohio 44410  
330-637-1456

Frank Zanin

18170 N.91st Ave.  
Apt.1210  
Peoria, Az. 85382

Maurice Brookes

Shepherd of the Valley  
North River Road  
Warren, Ohio

Alice Kalas

Champion Estates  
Windsor Place  
Warren, Ohio 4448  
330-307-7583

Grace Wagner

175 Wall Street  
Cortland, Ohio 44410  
330-637-5957

Raymond Kline

502 Arcaro Street  
Cortland, Ohio 44410  
234-244-4241

330-637-7726

## ***Bring your children to church.***

Do you see what is happening today?

They do not know the **“10 easy steps”** to a good Christian Life.

They are not learning the way of Jesus love, they are learning hate from television, news and movies.

Give them LOVE

Do you see what is happening in our streets, on television, the trash that these kids are subjected to. The internet can be good but too much of it is harmful. Good clean spiritual experience is not harmful. You can do both. Just give your children a proper spiritual education.

Our children are being destroyed, so much hate. Bullying, Drugs and Alcohol. So many of our children are dying every day needlessly. Don't say “not mine”. No one is exempt. It is happening all around us.

Help give them the love and understanding of Our Lord and Savior.

They can still dance, play sports, play computer games.

Now more than ever we need guidance and love.

Let it start on Sunday morning, just a few hours.

**Give them that few hours on Sunday morning  
to know love and to know where it is coming  
from.**

**Our Lord, Jesus our Savior who died for us.**



### A SIGN OF THE TIMES

They lie on the table, side by side The Holy Bible and the TV Guide.

One is well worn, but cherished with pride (Not the Bible, but the TV Guide)

One is used daily to help folks decide. (Not the Bible: it's the TV Guide.)

As the pages are turned, what shall they see Oh, what does it matter?...turn on the TV.

Then confusion reigns, they can't all agree on what they shall watch on the old TV.

So they open the book in which they confide (No, not the Bible.....it's the TV Guide.)

The Word of God is seldom read. Maybe a verse e'er they fall into bed.

Exhausted and sleepy and tired as can be... not from reading the Bible—from watching TV.

So then back to the table, side by side, lay the Holy Bible and the TV Guide.

No time for prayer....no time for the Word. The plan of salvation is seldom heard.

But forgiveness of sin so full and free is found in the Bible.....NOT on TV!

Computer, I-Pad, cell phone or X-Box

### Stocking for the Troops:

We will be buying items for these stockings and in November we will be stuffing the stockings for the troops. They will then be packaged and sent on to 2 different soldiers and their friends overseas. We are about \$40.00 short of our goal of \$500.dollars needed to finance this project ,as we fill about 50 stockings, 25 for each group. IF you can find it in your heart to contribute just a few dollars, just mark your offering envelope with “Stockings” and the amount.

If you would like to help fill and pack these stockings, we will be doing it at the November WOW meeting. Come help!

The date will be announced in the Church Bulletin on Sundays and also in the November Church Bell.



# The Son

Author Unknown

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had Everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art.

When the Viet Nam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you, and your love for art."

The young man held out his package.

"I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this."

The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the portrait.

"Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift."

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected. The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection. On the platform sat the painting of the son.

The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "We will start the bidding with this portrait of the son. Who will bid for this painting?" There was silence. Then a voice in the back of the room shouted. "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one." But the auctioneer persisted. "Will someone bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?" Another voice shouted angrily. "We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Goghs, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!" But still the auctioneer continued. "The son! The son! Who'll take the son?"

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the long-time gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting." Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. "We have \$10, who will bid \$20?" "Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters." "\$10 is the bid, won't someone bid \$20?"

The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the painting of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections. The auctioneer pounded the gavel. "Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!" A man sitting on the second row shouted. "Now let's get on with the collection!"

The auctioneer laid down his gavel.

"I'm sorry, the auction is over. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings. The man who took the son gets everything!"

God gave his son 2,000 years ago to die on a cruel cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is, "The son, the son, who'll take the son?"