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**EMMAUS**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**... Strengthening the Local Church**

**Whoever Believes in the Son Has Eternal Life**

I would like to share a story recently told by my minister. Many of you have undoubtedly heard this story but I think it is worth telling again.

A very wealthy man who had a vast collection of valuable art also had another item he valued greatly, his son. This son was called to serve his country in a war and as with many sons, did not return. Many years later a middle aged man showed up at his door with a gift and told the man that, "I and others are alive because of your son's heroics. He sacrificed his life that I might live. I would like to present this portrait that I have painted of your son as a remembrance of what he did for me and others in our troop." The painting captured the spirit of the son so well that the man placed this painting in the most prominent place in the house.

Years later this wealthy man passed on with no heirs and in his will he directed that all his possessions be auctioned. On the day of the auction, people came from around the world to bid on his magnificent collection of fine art. The first item up for bid was the portrait of his son. Immediately chants began for the auction to proceed to the more valuable items. The auctioneer asked, "Who will give two hundred dollars for this painting?" The only response was again, "Bring on the good stuff!" This same process continued until the auctioneer called for a \$10 bid. With each bid reduction the same chanting continued, "Get on with what we came for!" The gardener for the deceased man said, "I knew the boy well, I will give \$10 for the portrait." "Going once, going twice, three times, sold for \$10," was the auctioneer's reply.

You could hear the crowd's excitement, finally they would get to the items they were there to bid on. The auctioneer closed his book and declared the auction over. A very irritated crowd demanded an explanation; they had traveled far for the opportunity to bid on the valuable art. The auctioneer said, "The will was very specific; whoever takes the son gets it all."

This is so true in our world, whoever accepts Christ, has the kingdom of God as his reward. All the riches in the world cannot compare to the value received through the acceptance of Christ as your Lord and Savior.

Rick Shaver  
Community Lay Director, 2005

*"The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him" John 3:35&36*