The Parables of the Treasures and the Pearl  
Matt. 13:44-45

Introduction:
A. Jesus sometimes taught a series of parables to illustrate same point.
  1. Mustard seed - Leaven. (vs. 31-33).
  2. Lost Sheep - Lost Coin - Lost Son. (Lk. 15).
  3. Treasure - Pearl. (Text).
B. Jesus illustrates value of Kingdom.
  1. To be had at all cost.
  2. Requires and is worthy of all we have.
C. Jesus knew that our commitment to kingdom depended on value placed on it.
  1. Some think like "term insurance" - most protection with least cost.
  2. Some think of it as fire escape or life jacket - not boat itself.
D. These men would naturally consider some factors in their evaluation:

Discussion:
I. Expert Appraisal.
   A. Appraisal of Jesus.
      1. The Parables.
   C. Appraisal of early Christians.
      2. John (Rev. 1:9).

II. It's Rareness.
   A. ONE pearl of great price.
   B. ONE church of God. (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:20).

III. It's Personal Benefit.
   A. In kingdom, each has light, etc. (Col. 1:12-14).
   B. In kingdom, each has name in heaven. (Heb. 12:22,23,38).

IV. It's Relative Value.
   A. Pearl and Treasure worth more that all men had.
   B. Kingdom worth more than all else. (Matt. 6:33).
      2. Pleasure of sin. (Heb. 11:24-26).
      3. Innocent Pleasures. (1 Tim. 4:8).

   A. Such treasure have to guarded and maintained.
   B. Must maintain kingdom:
      1. Personal purity. (1 Tim. 4:16; 5:22).
      2. Exhorting one another. (Heb. 3:13).
      4. Preachers preaching. (Acts 20)
   C. Do benefits out-weigh the cost?

Conclusion:
A. How much is kingdom worth to you?
B. How much are you willing to pay?