

## **Elder Vernon Johnson**

### **Numbers**

#### **One Pearl**

Matt. 13:45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: 46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it." In the description of the Bride of Christ in the 21st chapter of Revelation, the Holy City is said to have twelve gates and these gates are compared to pearls: "And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass." Thou these gates were compared to twelve pearls, yet they are described in such a way as to indicate they are truly, but one pearl.

Thou there are many local congregations, yet the Lord's bride is but one and her price was great. Jesus came to pay the redemption price for his bride as we read in Matt. 1:21, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." In order to pay this redemption price, Jesus gave all that he had, that is his life to redeem her from her sins: Eph. 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." There has never been such a great price ever paid for anything that would even compare to the price that Jesus paid.

According to the scriptures, 1 Cor. 6:19 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." God's elect people collectively make up that one pearl of great price and Jesus paid the terrific price to secure her for his own.