Date: 1/31/15

Title: An ID Bracelet

Theme: God sees the “ID bracelet” in our hearts.

Object: ID bracelet from hospital stay for hernia operation at Exeter hospital, 10/2/15

Text: 2 Timothy 2:19 (NIV) Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.”

I want to focus on the first part of this verse today: “The Lord knows those who are his.”

Does anyone notice anything different about me today? (I have this white band around my wrist).

Does anyone know what this might be? (Describe. It’s an identification bracelet.)

I had to go to the hospital yesterday to have an operation. (Describe operation.)

They asked me my name and date of birth, and then they put this identification bracelet on me.

They wanted to make sure I didn’t get mixed up with any other patient.

And I got to thinking, “Wouldn’t that be funny if they got me mixed up with another patient, and they gave him my hernia operation, and they gave me his operation …and his operation was to have his leg amputated!!! Wouldn’t that be funny???

But you know that has actually happened. They’ve mixed people up and have given them the wrong operation!!!

Or sometimes they get the patient right but operate on the wrong thing.

Wouldn’t it be funny if a guy goes into the hospital to have his right leg cut off and they cut off the left leg instead? Wouldn’t that be funny? No!!!

But it has actually happened. They do the operation on the wrong body part.

So when I went to Exeter Hospital everyone kept asking me what I was having done and on which side.

I talked to the surgeon, the anesthesiologist, the anesthesiologist’s assistant, this nurse, that nurse, the other nurse, the nurse’s assistants: “What are we doing?” they asked.

And I would answer, “You’re repairing my inguinal hernia on the right side.”

And they would say, “We just want to make sure we all agree on what we’re doing and where.”

So I was glad to wear the ID bracelet and answer their question because I wanted to be sure they did the right operation in the right place.

Believe me, I wouldn’t be laughing if they did the wrong operation or did it in the wrong place.

Then I got to thinking about the judgment.

What if God mixed me up with some really bad dude in the judgment, like Adolf Hitler.

And instead of sending me to the Kingdom of God, He sent me to the lake of fire!!!

Maybe I should have an identification bracelet when Jesus comes back.

And it would have my name on it.

And it would have the date that I received Jesus as my Savior and made Him Lord of my life.

And the date I was baptized: Nov 11, 1978.

And it would say my sins are forgiven by the blood of Jesus. Hallelujah!

But then I remembered this verse: “The Lord knows those who are his.”

He doesn’t need to look at a bracelet on our wrists, because He sees the bracelet that is written in our hearts.

What is written on the bracelet in your heart?

I hope it says, “I belong to Jesus.”

Let’s ask Jesus to write His name in our hearts right now, what do you say?