

The measure of our devotion, reverence, and love for God is in direct proportion to how much we are willing to commit to the service of God, or how much we are willing to sacrifice (cf. John 12:3ff). Those who take the easiest, cheapest way to serve God are, in reality, servants of self, not God.

There is to be nothing cheap about our religion. It is to be the best we have—the same attitude that characterized David. "I will not offer...unto Jehovah my God [that] which cost me nothing."

—Al Brown
Deceased



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Those in need of prayers...

Rick & Sheila Beauchamp—his job hunt, mother, and co-workers; her ears

Lavonne McClish—her foot; her aunt and uncle

Janice Parks—back, new job, mother, and family

Jerry Smith—grandfather

Waynette Davis, Karla Dobbs, Sharon Harp—health problems

Rick Heimberger, Dub Mowery, Darrell Conley, Darrell Broking—health problems

Records you helped make...

Bible Class	10
Sunday AM Worship	11
Sunday PM Worship	11
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	10
Contribution	\$290.00
Contribution average (2009)	\$327.50

**Northpoint
Church of Christ**
5101 E. University Drive, Box 6
Denton, Texas 76208
940.323.2120
northpointcoc@hotmail.com
www.northpointcoc.com

Sunday
Bible Class 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 1:00 PM

Wednesday
B.C./Worship 7:00 PM



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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BE OF GOOD COURAGE

Of all of Satan's weapons, his favorite may be discouragement. It is certainly one of his most effective weapons. He has used it on the Lord's finest servants to try to neutralize their effectiveness. Paul well knew what it meant to be discouraged and depressed. He was so discouraged about preaching in the wicked city of Corinth that the Lord saw fit to speak words of encouragement directly to him, assuring him He had many people in that city whom Paul needed to seek (Acts 18:9–10). After Paul had written the first letter to Corinth and had received no response, he became both anxious and discouraged. He was encouraged greatly by the report Titus brought him in Macedonia (2 Cor. 7:5–7). After being unjustly imprisoned for a long period in Caesarea, Paul was finally shipped to Rome by the Imperial authorities. An extremely perilous voyage must have left him both physically and emotionally exhausted. What a welcome sight it must have been when the brethren from Rome met him some forty miles from the city. Luke described what this did for the discouraged apostle: "He thanked God, and took courage" (Acts 28:15).

Discouragement comes to all, small and great. Even the sinless Son of God must have been greatly discouraged when he wept over Jerusalem (Mat. 23:23; Luke 19:41). It is not abnormal to become discouraged, but those who will be remembered are the ones who did not let it defeat or destroy them. When a brother or sister accepts an assignment and then neglects it, it is discouraging. When you do your best at work or school or in congregational responsibilities and are still criticized, it is discouraging. When you contend earnestly for the faith and brethren question your motives, it is discouraging. When you oppose error, its advocates, and those who defend them and you are accused of trying to destroy good works, it is discouraging.

It is not always easy to keep on going when others around us have thrown up their hands and quit or when others oppose our righteous efforts. However, let us not become so disappointed in a brother or sister that we let it destroy us. Let us not allow the pessimistic, cynical spirit of others to cancel our initiative. Those who eventually accomplish great things in any area of

life (including the Lord's kingdom), are the ones who persevere in spite of discouragement.

Have you noticed that the more we try to do as a congregation or as individuals, the harder it seems to get it done? We may work very hard in preparation for Gospel meetings. We may place teaching articles in the newspaper week after week, month after month, and even year after year and see little immediate results. The devil does not worry much about a church that is self-satisfied and doing nothing. He gets concerned only about the Lord's people who are serious about the Lord's work. The more we do and attempt to do, the more we can expect him to try to discourage us. It must bring a special delight to his malevolent heart when he can enlist some of the Lord's own people in his nefarious efforts of discouragement.

With Moses and Joshua of old, we say, "Be strong and of good courage" (Deu. 31:6; Jos. 1:9).

—Dub McClish
Denton, TX



EDIFICATION IN CHRIST

The Greek noun *oikodome* denotes the act of building. This word comes from the word *oiko*, a home, and *demo*, to build. The verb *oikodomeo* literally means "to build a house." In Matthew 21:42, *oikodomeo* is used as a noun, and translated "builders." This same word is translated "edified" in Acts 9:31 and other places. Edification is the act of building.

Any time a wise person sets out to erect a structure, he will sit down and count the cost. In Luke 14:28, we read the words of that wise master builder, Jesus the Christ: "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" The cost involved in being built up in the Lord's house is considerable. Very few are willing to pay that price. In Matthew 13:44 Jesus said, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field." The price tag placed upon one being built up in the Lord's house is one's total worth. If we refuse to begin here, we labor in vain. Paul revealed to the Corinthians that the churches of Macedonia had much power in weakness, because they "first gave their own selves to the Lord" (2 Cor. 8:5).

The most important element in any structure is its foundation. In 1 Corinthians 3:11 we read, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." The Jew's rejected the Christ, therefore He said to them: "Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?" (Mat. 21:42).

So it is that all edification is centered around the Lord and His good doctrine. Jesus said, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock" (Mat. 7:24). True edification can only result when all of Jesus' doctrine is accepted. The hard sayings of the Lord are just as important as the love and grace passages found in His Word. Jesus' doctrine is the framework holding His house together. Any time a person skimps, and leaves out some of the framework, you can be assured that his building will not withstand the coming storm.

Inspired men in the first century were given various parts of the Lord's doctrine

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ (Eph. 4:12–15).

We have the New Testament for that same reason today, that is, to be built up in Christ.

—Darrell Broking
Pensacola, FL



WHAT COSTS ME NOTHING

After David had been told by God to build an altar and worship God on the threshing floor of Araunah, this Jebusite offered the king the threshing floor and everything necessary to worship God. David refused the offer with these words: "Nay, but I will verily buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt-offerings unto Jehovah my God which cost me nothing" (2 Sam. 24:24).

Would that all Christians had the attitude of David. Instead, they often show the very opposite disposition. David realized that an offering which cost him nothing was worth exactly that to him—nothing. God has always demanded the best that a person has—not what somebody else has (Lev. 22:21).

All we have has been given to us by God to use for His glory and in His service. We are but stewards of these things (1 Pet. 4:10). The Lord expects us to be good stewards, but giving what comes without cost to us is not practicing faithful stewardship.