

ration of church and state? Does this endanger us and/or our culture? I would say "yes," because we have seen a spate of court rulings in favor of same-sex unions, abortion, and a watering down of divorce laws. What message is being sent when people deny parents the right to know if their underage child is getting an abortion, but requires parental consent for medicine? How irrepressibly ignorant is that, or the people who subscribe to it? Our nation is headed in a dangerous direction while some seemingly are enjoying the ride.

—Johnny Oxendine
San Mateo, CA



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Responses...

Darrell and April Broking—placed membership July 19, from the Bellview Congregation, Pensacola, FL. **Welcome!**

Sharon Harp—confessed July 19 negligence in worship attendance and lack of commitment.

Those in need of prayers...

Rick & Sheila Beauchamp—his job hunt, mother, her ears

Lavonne McClish—her foot and many other health problems

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

Jerry Smith—grandfather

Waynette Davis, Karla Dobbs, Sharon Harp—health problems

Rick Heimberger, Darrell Conley—health problems

Darrell Broking family—their job hunt

Records you helped make...

Bible Class	17
Sunday AM Worship	17
Sunday PM Worship	15
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	15
Contribution	\$315.30
Contribution average (2009)	\$328.78
Bible class teacher for August	Darrell Broking
Chairman of Men's Meetings (July–September)	Rick Beauchamp
Preacher, Lighthouse editor	Dub McClish

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Sunday
Bible Class 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 1:00 PM
Wednesday
B.C./Worship 7:00 PM

THE NEED FOR PREACHING ON CHURCH HISTORY

The older I get and the more I observe what some brethren are doing and saying, the more convinced I become that the Lord's people do not know much about church history. Surely, some of the things being tolerated and/or promoted among brethren nowadays would not be going on if there were a better grasp of what has gone before. I believe preachers need to preach on this subject far more than they have been doing in recent years to help close this serious "knowledge gap." The following things will be accomplished by increased knowledge of church history:

1. **One will understand the church as Christ established it.** Church history begins with the establishment of the church under the direction of the inspired apostles (John 16:13; Acts 2:37–47). If men (including brethren) never see the beauty of the original, primitive church (or once seeing it, they forget it), they will have no Biblical model in mind to follow. Our brethren need to hear, time after time, the grand old themes that reveal the church as it is presented to us in the New Testament.
2. **One will understand the warnings about corrupting the church.** The Lord built the church as He wanted it (Mat. 16:18; Eph. 3:10–11) and he intended for it to remain faithful to His original pattern (Heb. 8:5–6). An accurate presentation of church history will emphasize countless warnings not to tamper with the Word of God, which alone is the seed from which the church of Christ is perpetuated (Luke 8:11; Mat. 15:13; Gal. 1:7–9; et al.).
3. **One will understand how the church was originally corrupted.** The New Testament contains ominous predictions and signs of apostasy, even in the apostolic age (1 Cor. 4:6; Gal. 1:6; Col. 2:8–9; 1 Tim. 4:1–5; et al.). A study of church history from the second to the fifth centuries, though uninspired, clearly shows the gradual, but complete departure from the Truth, resulting in the monster of popery and Romanism. A study of the sixth through the fifteenth centuries will show one how far men can go when they ignore God's will. A study of the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries will reveal that attempts at mere reform in religion are insufficient and profitless.

4. One will understand the essentiality of uncompromising restoration. A study of the nineteenth century will give every Truth-lover the thrill of seeing the call for restoration of the first century church. One will also learn of the tragedy wrought when those who once cried for a "thus saith the Lord" begin to ignore this fundamental principle to mimic the sects again. One will observe the same sad saga being repeated at present and will do all that he can to correct it.

—Dub McClish
Denton, TX



“BE TOLERANT,” THEY SAY!

At every turn we hear someone say that we should be more tolerant with people of different “faiths.” Some say, “I have my faith and you have yours, and it doesn’t really matter what we believe as long as we are sincere and are doing the best we can.” Now let me ask you, does that sound like anything in the Bible? No, and why not? It is completely contrary to all the teachings of the Lord and to the “inspired” words given to us by Him. So if it is not from God the Father, where did it come from? The answer is obvious—those false teachings came from the minds of men and will lead to destruction. Let’s look at some Scripture which came from the mind of God, for our profit. It is the power with which God chose to save mankind, if he would only believe and obey it. It is called “the Gospel of Christ,” “the faith, for which we are to contend earnestly (Jude 3; Rom. 1:16–17).

Jesus came to the Earth from Heaven to do the will of God, the Father. He brought salvation to all those who would believe and obey Him. While here, He did many mighty miracles to prove (confirm) the Old Testament Scriptures which had spoken of him through the prophets and to prove He was the Son of God (John 30:20–21). He went to the cross to make it possible for our sins to be forgiven, so we could have fellowship with God and have the hope of eternal life with Him for eternity. Before He ascended back to Heaven, He gave charge to his apostles: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16: 15–16). If you notice carefully, he used the word the before the word Gospel. In all of His teachings, He stressed the oneness of the Gospel, providing for the one way to Heaven. There was no choice of “other gospels” to believe and obey. Those people who say, “be tolerant” with other “faiths” are trying to teach “another gospel.” Consider what Paul warned about this:

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we

said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed (Gal. 1: 6–9).

Jesus taught us there is one sheepfold and that he is “the way, the truth and the life, and no man cometh to the Father but by me” (John 10:1; 14:6). He said that those trying to come into it any other way were thieves and robbers. He said through the apostle Paul that ravening wolves would arise from among themselves to draw away followers, not sparing the flock (Acts 20:29–30). The Holy Spirit warned about the coming of “false teachers” who would come in to deceive many (1 Tim. 4:1). In reality, the false teachers are the same as the “ravening wolves” (Mat. 7:15). How much toleration should we have for such? Do we take pity on them and let them destroy a few sheep before we say, “enough”? Regarding these issues, we see what the apostle Paul did: “To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you” (Gal. 2:5). False teachers who came in privily were not excused even for one hour, that the Truth would not be contaminated with their false doctrines.

It must have been very important to Paul that pure doctrine which he had delivered was not to be contaminated with error. That same doctrine he taught in all the churches (1 Cor. 4:17). He warned his hearers night and day with tears (Acts 20:31). Paul pleads with us to have the same mind that Christ had (Phi. 2:5). How tolerant was our Savior when he encountered false teachers? They were dealt with immediately to maintain the purity of the gospel of Christ, which was once for all time delivered to us. When we allow even a small amount of the “leaven” of error to remain mixed with the Gospel, it no longer is the power of God to save mankind.

—Alton W. Fonville
St. Paul, AR



NEWSWEEK RELIGION SURVEY

In the April 13, 2009, *Newsweek* magazine there was an article that caused an uproar in the religious world. In this article, titled, “The End of Christian America”, the 2009 American Religious Identification Survey indicates that America is more quickly turning away from God and religion of any kind than ever before in our nation’s history. Since 1990 the number of people who identify themselves as “Christian” has dropped from 86 to 76 percent. That is a whopping drop, but even more is the additional information that the number of Americans who claim no religious affiliation has nearly doubled since 1990, rising from 8 to 15 percent.

Why should this be of a concern for the New Testament Christian? We have often spoken of the urgency with which we should approach our responsibility to preach the Gospel to the lost. We cannot be complacent and expect people to come to us asking to be baptized—we have to engage them, or be swallowed up by the materialists.

The article describes America as being in a “post-Christian” period! **Post-Christian!** Exactly how might this affect us, being we are advocates of the sepa-