

ciple (ones who would never be **thought** guilty of improper conduct, let alone charged with it). This nation needs to see elderly people who comport themselves with dignity and wisdom.

This world should be taking notice of those who are godly and moral, who despise every form of corruption, and whose countenances shine with courage and zeal. Paul lauded those who were good examples and exhorted brethren to pay attention to them:

Brethren, join in following my example, and note [this is the same Greek word Paul used in Rom. 16:17 for marking false teachers] those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern (Phi. 3:17).

Have you inspired someone today?

—Gary W. Summers  
Winter Park, FL



# The Northpoint Lighthouse

Volume 10, Number 36  
September 14, 2014

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Let us pray for...

- Mike Mallett**—fighting leukemia (faithful brother in Evant, TX)
- Ken Chumbley**—fighting cancer and other physical problems (Gospel preacher)
- Janice Ruffner**—fighting various physical issues (Sherry Gleaton’s mother)
- Ann Henderson**—fighting cancer (Sheri Woodall’s aunt)
- Brian Ritter**—fighting rare autoimmune disease (son of Rick Ritter, Gospel preacher)
- Tim Smith**—fighting chronic physical problems from auto injuries (Gospel preacher)
- Richie Aidoo**—Joshua Aidoo’s 8-year-old son (fighting seizures)
- Samuel Bagsangi**—Gospel preacher in Philippines we help support
- Joshua Aidoo**—Gospel preacher in Ghana we help support

### Records you helped make last week...

Bible Classes	13
Sunday AM Worship	13
Sunday PM Worship	13
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	17
Contribution	\$643.00
Contribution average (2014)	\$850.57

### Internet Sermon broadcasts...

Both sermons each Sunday are broadcast, beginning at approximately 10:45–10:50 a.m. and 1:12–1:15 p.m., via Internet through our Website, [www.northpointcoc.com](http://www.northpointcoc.com).

### Assignments...

**Bible class teacher for September** Phil Smith  
**Chairman of Men’s Meetings (July–September)** Jerry Smith  
**Preacher, *The Lighthouse* editor** Dub McClish

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**Sunday**

<b>Bible Class</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>

**Wednesday**

<b>B.C./Worship</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
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## Respect for Scripture

**O**f the Law of Moses Jesus said: Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Mat. 5:19).

If the Lord's displeasure was clearly upon those who would break even the least command of the inferior covenant (which the Lord knew was soon to pass away), how much more shall His wrath be upon those who disrespect the superior Covenant of Calvary? The Hebrews writer makes this very argument:

For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? (2:2–3).

Unmistakably, the Lord's approval is only upon those who faithfully obey and teach His Word. No less unmistakably, His wrath is upon those who treat His Word with disdain and disrespect. There really is no other criterion for measuring faithfulness to Christ: "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). Show me someone who is flippant, careless, superior, and disdainful in his attitude toward the Sacred Page, and I will show you someone possessed of the same attitudes toward its Divine Author, regardless of his claims to the contrary.

How strange—and tragic—that we have come to the day in the church of God when His Word is hardly even considered before some new program is launched, some new gimmick is adopted, or some new doctrine is taught. We should not be

surprised that secular, atheistic, humanistic, and hedonistic worldlings despise God's Word. They have always done so and will always do so. The amazement is almost overwhelming when those among the people of God disdain the Holy Book.

For at least four decades, the voices of liberalism among us have been seeking to silence those of us who have remained "set for the defence of the gospel" (Phi. 1:16, ASV). Let them charge us with "bibliolatry" (worshiping the Bible). We take refuge in the foregoing Paul's behavior, which they obviously eschew for themselves and in others. We further gladly emulate the Lord's own unblushing respect for the written Word. Every word He ever said concerning or quoted from the inspired writers, whether in the law, the prophets, or the psalms (Luke 24:44) demonstrated His absolute confidence in the Sacred Text. This respect includes the accounts of creation, Jonah and the great fish, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and Moses and the burning bush—all of which modernist theologians (including some "enlightened brethren") and other assorted infidels so enjoy classifying and ridiculing as "myths," "fables," and "legends."

Faithfulness to God and His Son absolutely demands our confidence in His Word, likewise. When one surrenders undaunted faith in the Holy Word, he has surrendered confidence in all that really matters. "To the law and to the testimony" (Isa. 8:20) is the consistent cry of God's faithful people through the ages.

—Dub McClish  
Denton, TX

## Primary Message

**T**o some brethren (evidently more than a few), unity among and between men is the fundamental and primary design of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To the contrary, the fundamental design of the Gospel is to bring men into unity with God. One is not ready to preach the Gospel if that one is going into all the world to unify men. **We go into all the world to get men to walk with God.**

Having stated what the primary purpose of the church via the preaching and defense of the Gospel of Christ is to accomplish, we hasten to add that we are not unmindful of our Lord's prayer for the unity of believers in Christ as the Son of God and their Savior (John 17:20–21). Every Christian desires to see our Lord's prayer for unity of all believers answered.

However, it is useless to seek unity among men simply for the sake of unity. Such an idea is foreign to the Bible. The Gospel is God's power to save men—men who are in need of salvation because they are separated from God by their sins (Mark 16:15; Rom. 1:16; 3:23; 6:23; 10:17; 1 Cor. 15:1–4; 2 The. 1:8; 1 John 3:4). Thus the unity that should first, foremost, and always concern every Christian is the reconciliation of men to God through the preaching and defense of the pure,

unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ (John 12:48; Col. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:1–3). It is vain to seek unity among men apart from "walking in the light" of God's Truth (1 John 1:7; cf. John 8:31, 32; 17:17; Jude 3).

Therefore, whatever causes any member of the church to deviate from the doctrine of Christ, no matter how slight the departure may seem to fallible men, such a departure ruins the ultimate, final, and logical end of the Divine Scheme of Redemption—the salvation of the souls of men.

If, therefore, the unity Christ prayed for and Paul commanded (1 Cor. 1:10), the points of which are listed in Ephesians 4, is to be realized, we must learn to put "first things first" or we will get the proverbial "cart before the horse" in the matter of unity and thereby corrupt the whole Divine system of unity (Mat. 6:33).

Without the doctrine of Jesus Christ believed and obeyed, no person can be saved and remain in a saved state with God. Only by a pure Gospel can men find and possess salvation from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ. And, only those who are saved from sin have authority from God to unite with one another—and then unite only on His terms. To seek a "unity" among men apart from the doctrine of Christ is foreign to and against God's Scheme of Redemption.

Thus the Holy Spirit-inspired John instructs us:

Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds (2 John 8–11).

Therefore, we must teach, believe, practice, and contend for unity with God **first**, which unity comes only through compliance with Christ's doctrine. **Only** by such compliance with the doctrine of Christ is the unity for which Christ prayed—and which Paul commanded—obtained and perpetuated.

—David P. Brown  
Spring, TX

## Good Example

**S**eneca (4 B.C. — A.D. 65), the Roman philosopher and playwright, wrote: "Noble examples stir us up to noble action." How the world desperately needs to see men and women who act nobly. The news and entertainment media have for more than a decade glorified the bizarre, the tacky, the perverted, the sleazy, and the obscene. Some who make the "most admired" list ought to be viewed as contemptible.

Society needs the example of virtuous young ladies (ones that refuse to dress as though they were attending a prostitutes' ball) and men of character and prin-