

All who face trials in life—and eventually all do—can fully empathize with the embattled Psalmist, and recall those painful occasions when in turning to the Lord, there was the sobering realization that there was no one else to whom to turn. The Bible abounds with these wonderful and precious assurances to the faithful. “All things work together for good to them that love God” (Rom. 8:28). “As thy day is, so shall thy strength be” (Deu. 33:25). “My grace is sufficient for thee” (2 Cor. 12:9).

When sin-stricken, burdened, and weary, From bondage I longed to be free,  
There came to my heart the sweet message: “My grace is sufficient for thee.”

Though tempted and sadly discouraged, My soul to this refuge will flee,  
And rest in the blessed assurance: “My grace is sufficient for thee.”

—Guy N. Woods  
Deceased



# The Northpoint Lighthouse

Volume 10, Number 37  
September 21, 2014

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Let us pray for...

- Judy Reid – surgery for auto accident injuries (sister in NJ, planning to move here)
- 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	14
Sunday AM Worship	14
Sunday PM Worship	12
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	14
Contribution	\$640.00
Contribution average (2014)	\$844.88

### 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  
Chairman of Men’s Meetings (July–September)  
Preacher, *The Lighthouse* editor

Phil Smith  
Jerry Smith  
Dub McClish

## Murmuring at Marah

Exodus 15:22–26 gives the account of Israel’s murmuring at the bitter waters of Marah. At this very beginning part of their journey from the Red Sea toward Canaan, their water supplies were exhausted. They had hardly ceased their songs of thanksgiving and triumph before they raised a new cry – murmuring and complaining against God’s great prophet who had just led them out of slavery. This was but the first of several times they would so behave. Their repeated, faithless complaints became so displeasing to God that He would later send a plague to destroy 14,700 of the ungrateful wretches (Num. 16:41–49). Still later, God sent the fiery serpents to kill many others because for their murmuring and whining (21:4–6).

After a journey of three days from the Red Sea, they came to the waters of Marah, but they were “bitter” and undrinkable. The people murmured and complained. Moses brought the complaint of the people before God, Who pointed Moses to a certain tree, which, when cast into the water, made it sweet and drinkable. Could Moses have sweetened the water by substituting some other tree than the one God selected? Surely not. Had Moses presumed to choose a different tree, reasoning, “One tree is as good as another,” two results would have obtained: (1) Moses’ disobedience and disrespect toward God would have been on display, and (2) the water would have remained bitter.

Note some practical lessons:

- When God specifies His choice or His desire for men in any circumstance, they dare not presume to make changes or substitutions. Cain was the first to learn this principle – as it relates to worship – by his substituted offering (Gen. 4:3–7). He was certainly not the last to learn it. Most people who profess belief in the Bible deny this Biblical principle. *One church is as good as another, One*

**Northpoint  
Church of Christ**  
Greenway Plaza, 4224 N. I-35  
Denton, Texas 76207  
940.220.9931  
[northpointcoc@hotmail.com](mailto:northpointcoc@hotmail.com)  
[www.northpointcoc.com](http://www.northpointcoc.com)  
[www.scripturecache.com](http://www.scripturecache.com)

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

**Wednesday**  
B.C./Worship 7:00 PM

*of salvation is as good as another, One baptism is as good as another, One doctrine is as good as another, One kind of music in worship is as good as another, and like statements are proofs of this denial. Just as Moses was content to use the tree of God's choice, so must we be content with God's choices in all matters.*

God's command to Noah to build the ark out of gopher wood allowed no addition or substitution of any sort (Gen. 6:14, 22). Here is the principle: When God specifies any element(s) in carrying out His Will, He simultaneously **includes** what He desires and **excludes** everything else in the same class of items – without having to name any of them (God did not have to name all of the available trees and tell Moses not to use them).

- We see God's attitude toward murmuring. Paul used those very occasions of Israel's murmurings in the Wilderness as warnings against such behavior in the Christian age (1 Cor. 10:10–11). Those murmurings sorely provoked God so that He shut that generation out of the land of promise (Heb. 3:8–11). The root of the complaining, gainsaying, murmuring spirit is unbelief, which leads to rebellion (vv. 16–19). We are to serve the Lord without murmurings (Phi. 2:14). This ugly trait – and the lack of faith that it signals – will keep us out of the promised land of Heaven.

“Neither murmur ye, as some of them murmured, and perished by the destroyer” (1 Cor. 10:10).

– Dub McClish  
Denton, TX

## Instilling Values

**H**elps for parents on instilling Christian values in our children:

- Begin regular spiritual training in their first year of life and continue consistently through all their developing years (Eph. 6:4).
- Demonstrate to them at all times that God is the most important thing in your life.
- Let their earliest memories include daily readings of Bible stories and frequent discussions of the Word of God.
- Give them their own Bible even before they can read. Have them begin a life-time habit of regular memorization and review of important Bible verses.
- Teach them to pray.
- Have regular “family devotional” times as a family and speak often to your children of the joys of serving God.
- Spend the necessary time to be the main spiritual teacher of your children – more so than the preacher or Bible class teacher, et al. Remember, you have the primary responsibility of teaching your children the ways of the Lord.
- Teach them that lying is one of the worst things they could ever do.

- Train them early in principles of modesty.
- Keep their speech pure by not allowing yourself or them to ever use profanity.
- Help keep their minds pure by monitoring their reading and viewing materials and their personal friendships closely in their early years (1 Cor. 15:33).
- Be responsible enough to bring up the subject of sex and morality with your children. They will either learn about it from you or from the world.
- Instill in your children a strong desire to save themselves for the one who will someday be their mate.
- Reinforce your moral teaching by setting specific guidelines for dating.
- Train your children to date only those who are morally upright and urge them to plan on marrying a Christian.
- Teach them the virtue of work by giving them regular jobs and responsibilities around the home.
- Train them to never get too busy with secular pursuits to do something for the Lord's cause.
- Encourage them often to plan the future of their lives to include a “career” for Christ (Bible class teacher, song leader, preacher, deacon, elder, elder's wife, deacon's wife, etc.).
- Build a family life in such a way that “home” is a happy place.
- Be the kind of child your heavenly Father would have you to be. You will not only be pleasing God but will be the kind of parent who will be able to place within the hearts of your children the principles and values of Scripture.

If we want our children to grow into faithful, active Christians, we must begin with our examples, reinforcing them with our teaching and encouragement and then continue, prayerfully, to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4).

– Author unknown

## Vain Repetitions

**P**rayers pleasing to God need not be lengthy and must not be filled with “vain repetitions.” The Lord taught his disciples to avoid this common error of the Pharisees who, he said, use “vain repetitions, as the heathen do, for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking” (Mat. 6:7). The efficacy in prayer is not dependent on the number of words used, or the eloquence of the speaker who chooses them.

One of the most poignant and impressive prayers in the Bible has in it only two words! David, facing formidable enemies, deeply troubled, uncertain what course would be best for him to follow and fully aware of his own inability to resolve his problems, cried out, “Help, Lord” (Psa. 12:1). This was no time for speech-making to God!