

Second, we must live in such a manner that others will listen to us and give weight to our warnings (Mat. 5:13-14; 1 Pet. 2:12-15). Third, we must expect persecution for standing for righteousness and the Truth (Luke 6:22-23; 2 Tim. 3:12). Some of us may lose a job or even our freedom over opposition to homosexuality.

Finally, we must seek to lovingly proclaim the Gospel (publicly and privately) so that all may have the opportunity to obey it and to enjoy salvation for eternity (Jude 22-23). This last point is perhaps the most important. Men and women can be set free from the bondage of sin; however depraved and vile:

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God (1 Cor. 6:11).

– Roelf Ruffner
Columbia, TN



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

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	15
Sunday AM Worship	16
Sunday PM Worship	16
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	19
Contribution	\$681.00
Contribution average (2014)	\$844.61

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.

Assignments...

Bible class teacher for October
Chairman of Men's Meetings (October-December)
Preacher, *The Lighthouse* editor

Rick Beauchamp
Phil Smith
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

Those "Arrogant" Apostles

Some statements of Jesus' apostles may sound downright arrogant to the uninformed or casual reader. To the Corinthians Paul wrote:

If any man thinketh himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him take knowledge of the things which I write unto you, that they are the commandment of the Lord (1 Cor. 14:37).

To the Galatians he wrote:

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 (Gal. 1:8).

Peter wrote in a similar vein:

Wherefore I shall be ready always to put you in remembrance of these things, . . . That ye should remember the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and the commandment of the Lord and Saviour through your apostles (2 Pet. 1:12; 3:2).

John's claim is unmistakable:

We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he who is not of God heareth us not. By this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error (1 John 4:6).

For ordinary men to make such authoritative claims smacks of unmitigated arrogance. But, were these ordinary men? Yes—in the sense that they were human beings with natural human appetites. However, in another sense, these men were not "run-of-the-mill," "every day" men. Even the enemies of Christ recognized this difference in them and identified it: "...they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13). The authority given to the apostles by the Son of God, who has all authority (Mat. 28:18), re-

moves any trace of arrogance from their statements of doctrine and from their forceful, dogmatic, and authoritative claims to preaching and writing infallible Truth.

There is no plainer statement of the authority vested in the apostles of Christ (and in the infallibility of their teachings) than His promise of Matthew 18:18:

What things soever ye shall bind on the earth shall be bound in heaven; and what things soever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

As careful students of the New Testament are aware, the verb tense in the foregoing pivotal passage indicates that Jesus was telling the apostles that they would be able to bind or loose on men only those things which **had already been settled** in Heaven. The Lord fulfilled this promise to them by sending the Holy Spirit upon them upon His return to the Father (John 16:13). This promise is an absolute guarantee that the message of these men would be the perfectly true, inerrant revelation of God's Will.

To those who understand this fact, the apostles are not arrogant at all. Their authoritative words came from the Lord. They were merely human, "earthen vessels," through whom the Word of God flowed (1 Cor. 2:13; 2 Cor. 4:7; 1 The. 2:13). Men fatally err who seek to distinguish between the authority of the words the Christ personally spoke and the teaching done by the apostles. Luke recorded concerning the Jerusalem church: "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' teaching...." So must we. Men can hear/read their words and live or reject them and perish (Mat. 7:24-27; 10:40; John 12:48).

— Dub McClish
Denton, TX

Death Comes to All

Death is the common denominator of all men. Rich and poor alike must some day walk through the valley of the shadow. That truth is expressed in these lines from the classic poem, *Thanatopsis*, by William Cullen Bryant: "All that wealth, all that beauty e'er gave await alike the inevitable hour, the paths of glory lead but to the grave."

Death is an appointment that every man, woman, and child upon the earth shall keep. This fact is plainly stated by the Hebrews writer who said, "...it is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27).

Death isn't a pleasant thing to think about, so many people simply ignore it. And not only that, but they have some strange ideas about death that are not found in the Bible.

For instance, many people think that death automatically makes a person a Christian and sends him to heaven. But that's not true. As one dies, so he remains for all eternity. One who dies in sin is forever separated from God's presence. Jesus demonstrated that fact in His account of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke

16:19-31). He said there is a "great gulf" fixed between the wicked and the righteous dead that can never be crossed after death.

Neither is death extinction. The good and the bad continue to exist after death. Jesus said the righteous will exist in eternal bliss, or rest, and the wicked will go away into the everlasting punishment of hell fire. Of both He said, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment," but "the righteous into life eternal" (Mat. 25:46). And the apostle Paul further said that God will recompense tribulation to the wicked and rest to the righteous when Christ returns in judgment (2 The. 1:6-9).

Death is an appointment that is both certain and uncertain. According to Hebrews 9:27, it is **certain** in that all shall die, but it is **uncertain** in that no man knows when that hour shall come to him, and life, at best, is brief. "For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (Jam. 4:14).

But there is hope of life after death for Christians. For them, death is the end of labors and trials, which will be rewarded (Rev. 14:13). But the key to eternal rest is faithfulness in this life. One's eternal destiny is sealed at death. There is no "second chance." Now — in this life — is the time to prepare for death by believing in Christ (John 8:24), repenting of our sins (Luke 13:3), confessing our faith in Christ (Acts 8:37), being baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), and living a life devoted to Christ. Death will come to all of us. Are you prepared for it?

— Jerry C. Brewer
Elk City, OK

What to Do?

Winston Churchill once said that a totalitarian society seeks to "liquidate its opponents." Totalitarian societies (North Korea, Iran, et al.) seek to silence all who oppose their oppressive rule and then try to eliminate them physically. But we do not live in such a society, or do we? For a generation homosexuals in our land have waged a very effective media and legal campaign for acceptance of their decadent, depraved, and degrading life choice. Through persistent and moneyed influence they have nearly won the battle. The majority opinion in our fickle country now is that theirs is an acceptable lifestyle and as such they have "rights" (i.e., **special rights**).

Now the next phase of this nefarious agenda is to isolate and persecute those who disagree with them. Already in some states "Human Rights Commissions" have fined businesses that will not cater to these deviants' demands. Churches are feeling the pressure. Several months ago the Ridgeway Church of Christ in Chattanooga, Tennessee, was harassed and ridiculed because it dared to privately rebuke members who publicly supported a lesbian relative in her quest for spousal benefits for her newly wed "partner."