

Many preachers are failing today, and hindering the cause of Christ because they do not have the spirit of humility and meekness. Our Lord remained meek and humble until He finished His work on earth, and we must remain meek and humble until we complete our labors on earth. We should hunger and thirst after the spirit of humility, so that we will be living examples to the world, and we will be better able to lead many to Christ. God's kingdom will spread, and Jesus will be lifted up among all men. To God be all praise, honor, and glory.

– Marshall Keeble
Deceased

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THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

Let us pray for...

Tonya Thatcher – difficulty with pregnancy
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
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	16
Sunday AM Worship	16
Sunday PM Worship	16
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	18
Contribution	\$720.00
Contribution average (2014)	\$841.57

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.

Assignments...

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

Rick Beauchamp
Phil Smith
Dub McClish



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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"Come forth..."

When John heard the angel announce the impending doom of "Babylon," another heavenly voice warned, "Come forth, my people, out of her, that ye have no fellowship with her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4). Opinions differ concerning what *Babylon* symbolizes, but the **warning** is not symbolic: God's people must flee or perish. Lot received the same warning regarding Sodom (Gen. 19:13), and Paul echoed it to Christians (2 Cor. 6:17).

We must continue to sound forth these warnings to those in the kingdom today: leave that which is corrupt and apostate. Those who were adults half a century or more ago could weep at what we have seen happen in the precious bride of Christ. It is no exaggeration to say that in this time span elders and preachers in hundreds of congregations of the Lord's people have repudiated (consciously or unconsciously) the authority of God's Word, producing various stages of digression. Some churches are naively, gradually drifting from the Truth (Heb. 2:1–3), as the devil has his way with them incrementally, but nonetheless certainly. This number has mushroomed in the past decade, especially regarding fellowship compromises. Concerned members may find it hard to "put their finger" on why they are "uncomfortable," but they sense that "something is not right." Other congregations are past the "gradual" stage and are "quickly removing" from Christ (Gal. 1:6) – running pell-mell into the open arms of denominationalism.

Still others long ago lost their Scriptural identity. Preachers therein are attuned more to feel-goodism, social causes, attracting crowds, and/or entertainment than to God's Word. They revel in their fellowship with the denominations, having adopted both the language and practices of Ashdod. They manifest utter contempt for God's planned-from-eternity pattern for His church and for all who still respect His pattern (Eph. 3:10–11).

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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

They observe “Easter” and “Christmas” as religious “holydays.” They parade speakers through their pulpits, notorious for their soft, compromising, and/or blatantly liberal pronouncements. They employ denominational films and books for “Bible class” material. Their preachers dwell on “unity” “love,” and “grace” as **they redefine** these terms, rather than as the **Bible defines** them. Instead of Scripture-filled Gospel sermons (2 Tim. 4:24), they treat hearers to entertaining stories and ego-stroking mush for 15 or 20 minutes each Sunday. They give no thought to declaring the plan of salvation (if they still believe in it) or offering an invitation. Some of them prove how “hip” they are by sporting open collar and untucked shirttail in the pulpit.

Some of these congregations, founded generations ago by sacrificial and faithful saints, now flout their antinomianism by using instruments of music and women preachers. They deny both the necessity and possibility of the restored church. I applaud such who have replaced *Church of Christ* on their buildings with an appropriate sectarian name (at least they are honest in this respect).

There are good solid citizens of the kingdom all over the world who now find themselves in a congregation of which they have been members for perhaps 10, 20, or 30 years. They know that this is not the same church they were members of just a few years ago. Scripture mandates that we challenge faithful saints in such congregations: “Come forth... that ye have no fellowship with her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”

– Dub McClish
Denton, TX

Repentance

Repentance is absolutely essential to one’s salvation (Acts 2:38; 2 Pet. 3:9). It is universal in its import (Luke 13:3, 5). Without doubt, however, the hardest command to obey in becoming a child of God is the command to repent of one’s sins. Human beings as a rule do not like to be told that they are wrong about anything, especially when it comes to their moral conduct.

To be criticized about anything seems to “cut against the grain” in our mental make-up. Yet, it is precisely the humbling of ourselves—so as to recognize we are wrong when we are wrong—that lies at the very heart of genuine, heart-felt, and life-changing repentance. It is the lowering of ourselves in our own eyes, not only to acknowledge with both mind and lips, “I am wrong,” but also the steered determination to do something about it, regardless of what may be required by the Lord. Such is the essence of true repentance. Repentance is produced by “godly sorrow,” but it is more than this (2 Cor. 7: 10). While it recognizes the fact of wrongdoing and creates in the human heart genuine sorrow “after a godly sort,” it proceeds to motivate the penitent to do something about the wrong—to try in some fashion to correct it, or at the very least, to change one’s behavior about it. Where restitution is possible, it seeks to make it. It is a change of life itself, produced by a change of mind.

Repentance is beautifully illustrated in the parable of the two sons (Mat. 21: 28-32). The first son refused to go into his father’s vineyard to work, but then “afterward he repented, and went” (v. 29). It is also demonstrated in the wonderful account of the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, who went on to preach the faith which he once destroyed.

Some years ago, I was studying the Word of God with a young man. He soon came to understand God’s plan of salvation. When it came time to press the matter and call upon him to obey what he now knew to be true, he backed away from the Gospel by claiming that he simply could not bring himself to stop doing certain things, such as drinking alcoholic beverages, dancing in the nightclubs, and such like. He ultimately rejected the Gospel because it demanded more of him than he was willing to do. Invariably, when people reject God’s plan of salvation, the key point is repentance.

I am convinced that more people get hung up on that command far more even than the command to be baptized for the remission of sins. In fact, if the truth be known, in all cases where the latter is rejected, the former has never begun really to take place. True faith and repentance demand nothing less than full compliance with God’s Word in becoming a Christian. The biggest obstacle is not getting into the water to get into Christ. It is getting out of self so that the other can occur. The first requirement of discipleship is a denial of self (Mat. 16:24). Repentance is the proper expression of such radical change in one’s focus in life.

– Daniel Denham
Parrish, FL

Humility

Our Savior was born in humble surroundings, among the cattle, but He was the Savior of the world, and now the world must hear Him and obey Him, Who once lay in a stable. The Bible teaches us to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, and He will exalt us. I hope the day will come when we can possess the spirit of humility that every child of God must have in order to be a successful worker in the kingdom of our God.

Meekness and humility are the elements we need to fertilize our hearts, so the Word of God can grow in our hearts, and bring forth fruit to the glory and honor of our Lord. Moses, who was reared in the king’s palace, humbled himself. Desiring to please God, rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, by being humble, he was permitted to lead the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage. As long as he was humble and meek, God was pleased and blessed all of his work, but when he became exalted, he trusted in himself and struck the rock. This was because he lost control of himself and lost that meek and humble spirit, and for this cause he missed the Promised Land.