

blood sufficient for energy. Without it, all of us would fall into a coma and die. Who gave the human tongue flexibility to form words, and a brain to understand them, but denied it to the animal kingdom? Who showed a womb how to take the love of two persons and keep splitting a tiny ovum until, in time, a baby would have the proper number of fingers, eyes and ears and hair in the right places, and come into the world when it is strong enough to sustain life? There is no God?

—Jim Bishop

American newspaper columnist and historian, 1907–1987



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Let us pray for...

**Rick & Sheila Beauchamp**—his job hunt, mother, her upcoming surgery

**Waynette Davis, Sharon Harp**—health problems

**Karla Dobbs**—that she will be restored

**Lavonne McClish**—macular degeneration treatments and other health problems

**Janice Parks**—her health and family burdens

**Rick Heimberger**—health problems

### Records you helped make...

Bible Class	11
Sunday AM Worship	11
Sunday PM Worship	11
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	16
Contribution—10/25/09	\$377.00
Contribution average (2009)	\$337.08

### Sermon broadcasts...

Both sermons each Sunday are broadcast via Internet, available at our Website, [www.northpointcoc.com](http://www.northpointcoc.com). The Sunday morning sermon begins at approximately 10:47 a.m., and Sunday afternoon at approximately 1:15 p.m.

**Bible class teacher for November Sundays** **Darrell Broking**

(Rick, Dub, and Jerry will teach on Wednesdays in Darrell's absence)

**Chairman of Men's Meetings (October–December)** **Darrell Broking**

**Preacher, *The 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
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# The Northpoint Lighthouse

Volume 5, Number 44  
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## ARE YOU PREDICTABLE?

Have you ever known someone who was unpredictable? You can never know what such a person will say, where he will go, what he will do, or where he will stand in any given situation. You would not dare depend on him for anything of importance. Some are completely unpredictable in disposition; one day they may be all smiles, but the next they may refuse to speak.

Contrariwise, it is a joy to be around someone who is predictable, especially in wholesome ways. There is a pattern to his life and a balance in his disposition. His deep and abiding convictions allow you to know where he will stand and what he will say in given situations. He is a person on whom you can depend. Even when one does not behave in noble ways, one at least knows what to expect of him if he is predictable.

Our Lord was a predictable person in all the right ways. His earthly parents were so and thus trained Him. Joseph and Mary “went every year to Jerusalem at the feast of the Passover” (Luke 2:41). Each Sabbath day Jesus was in the synagogue worshiping God, “as his custom was” (4:16). Judas knew where to find Jesus to betray Him. He had gone with the eleven to the mount of Olives “as his custom was” (22:39).

The body of Christ often limps along when it could be running because so many members are unpredictable, undependable, and unfaithful. Some families have to decide from week to week whether or not to attend Bible classes and worship. No one can tell in advance if they will or will not be there. Some members give their money to the Lord the same way. If they are in a “good mood” they might give \$10.00, but if they did not like the sermon (too long, too short, too hard, too soft, etc.) they may give little or nothing. About the only predictable behavior about some church members regarding worship attendance and participation is that they are unpredictable. Thank God for those who long ago settled the decision about regular attendance. Thank God also for those who consider and purpose well in advance what they will give and who give it faithfully and predictably on the Lord's day. They keep the Lord's work going.

Brethren who will stand unwaveringly for the Truth when it is being abused, attacked, and compromised are behaving with the God-pleasing predictability Paul urged: “Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58). Some who seem predictably faithful are found to wilt in

the face of pressure or opposition. They care more about alienating family members, friends, or business associates than about alienating the Lord and His faithful people. They appear “solid as Gibraltar” until just the right issue comes up or certain brethren or institutions become involved. Then, unpredictably, they choose loyalty to men over loyalty to the Lord. Paul described all such as those who are “carried about with every wind of doctrine” (Eph. 4:14). Unlike John, the Lord’s harbinger, such brethren end up being “reeds shaken with the wind” (Mat. 11:7). They operate on the basis of politics rather than principle and thereby destroy their long-held reputations of being predictable Truth-defenders.

Let us strive to be purposed, dependable, predictable people in all of the noble qualities of the Gospel. This is surely the aim toward which Paul points us: “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...” (1 Cor. 15:58).

—Dub McClish  
Denton, TX



## THE WORLD REFUSES TO LISTEN

I heard it again this very morning: “We should be thankful for the many different faiths in the world.” This is one of the many similar statements which have been made since I can remember. It goes along with the statement: “It does not matter what a person believes, just as long as he is sincere.” All this sounds real nice and makes a person “feel good” about himself, but is it the Truth which God has given us? Can we place our trust and confidence and salvation in it? Each of us has at least one copy of God’s Holy Word available to us, so let us see how that idea compares with what God wants for the world which He created for his glory and pleasure.

Do you have a love for the Truth of God? The Bible shows what HE said, and what HE wants. This is not just one man’s opinion or interpretation. Common words with which we are familiar will be used, as recorded in Scripture. How you respond to it will show your real self and will answer that question. Remember, Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). For those who do not love the Truth of God, listen to what He said:

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness (2 The. 2:10–12).

Paul said almost the same thing in Romans 1:28: “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.”

It is vital that we love and receive the Truth in order to be saved. But, God will not force anyone to do different from what his heart is set on doing. We still have a free choice, and what we do in life determines our judgment at the end. For the most part, the world is going full speed against what God wants. Jesus

told us that in the story of the many who would be on that broad, easy road and the few who would be on that narrow road which leads to life eternal (Mat. 7:13–15). He concluded that story, warning of false prophets which would come to deceive many. Well, they came and are still coming and deceiving many today. So we must have a love for the Truth of God, first and foremost, or we may be deceived, also. Now, let us turn to the Scriptures and see about the “many faiths” which are in the world today.

The Holy Spirit directed Paul to write for our benefit that “glory was to be in the church by Jesus Christ” (Eph 3:21). Notice, *the church* is singular—not churches. He said specifically that we must strive “to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3). Now, read the next few words. He gave us seven things and said of each, “there is one” (Eph. 4:4-6): “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” Did you see what inspiration said about how many “faiths” there were? There are just as many Gods and Lords and bodies (i.e., churches, Eph. 1:22–23; Col. 1:18) as there are faiths.

Now, a big part of the world agrees there is only one God and one Lord, but, they refuse to listen to there being only one faith in the same context. Why? It all goes back to having the love for the Truth of God or not having it. Are we going to accept what God said, or will we give heed to what false prophets have said and continue saying? In order for us to be saved, we must submit to that one faith in obedience and be part of that one body. “It is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps” (Jer. 10:23). Why not determine now to learn and love the Word of God, accept and obey it? It will be our judge on that last day (John 12:48).

—Alton W. Fonville  
St. Paul, AR



## THERE IS NO GOD?

There is no God. All of the wonders around us are accidental. No Almighty hand made a thousand-billion stars. They made themselves. No power keeps them on their steady course. The earth spins itself to keep the oceans from falling off toward the sun. Infants teach themselves to cry when they are hungry or hurt. A small flower invented itself so that we could extract digitalis for sick hearts.

The earth gave itself day and night, tilted itself so that we get seasons. Without the magnetic poles man would be unable to navigate the trackless oceans of water and air, but they just grew there. Why does snow sit on mountaintops waiting for the warm spring sun to melt it at just the right time for the young crops in farms below to drink? A very lovely accident.

The human heart will beat for seventy to eighty years without faltering. How does it get sufficient rest between beats? A kidney will filter poison from the blood, and leave good things alone. How does it know one from the other? How about the sugar thermostat in the pancreas? It maintains a level of sugar in the