

## PREACHING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

Much is said about preaching the Truth in love...but in love of what? The preacher should so love the Truth that he will not sacrifice any of it nor pervert it, and he should so love people that he will not withhold...even an unpleasant truth. He that does either...loves neither the church nor the people. We frequently fool ourselves, thinking we...spare the feelings of others when it is our own feelings that prompt us. "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine..." (2 Tim. 4:2-3).

—R.L. Whiteside, deceased

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Let us pray for...

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

**Megan Broking**—departing this week for military training in SC

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

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

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

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

**Rick Heimberger**—cancer

### Records you helped make...

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Bible Class                      | 9        |
| Sunday AM Worship                | 9        |
| Sunday PM Worship                | 9        |
| Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship | 13       |
| Contribution—11/01/09            | \$380.00 |
| Contribution average (2009)      | \$338.05 |

### 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 |
|--------------|---------|



# The Northpoint Lighthouse

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## REBELLING AGAINST GOD

As Israel approached Sinai on the way to Canaan the people faithlessly murmured against Moses and Aaron because of hunger (Exo. 16:1-3). It is important for us to notice that Moses correctly perceived that this murmuring actually represented rebellion against God: "Your murmurings are not against us, but against the Lord" (v. 8). This is similar to the later rebellion of Aaron and Miriam against Moses (Num. 12). The rebellion of the 250 princes of Israel against Moses and Aaron led by Korah was likewise counted as rebellion against God Himself: "Therefore thou and all thy company are gathered together against Jehovah" (16:11).

Israel demonstrated the same thing again much later in her history when the people came to Samuel, their judge, and demanded a king. In his depression over their rejection of him and his leadership, the Lord told Samuel, "They have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them" (1 Sam. 8:7). The Jews had a long history of rebellion against and persecution of God's messengers, the prophets (Mat. 5:10-12). Stephen charged his auditors with "resisting the Holy Spirit" by betraying and murdering the Christ, which is the very treatment their fathers had given the prophets who foretold His coming (Acts 7:51-52). In all of these cases one point is crystal clear: When one opposes God's chosen leaders or spokesmen, he opposes God himself.

This principle has not changed. God decreed that a plurality of Scripturally qualified men, called "elders," "bishops," and "pastors" should be over each congregation. Paul stated to the elders of the church in Ephesus:

Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you bishops [overseers, KJV], to feed the church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood (Acts 20:28).

The author of Hebrews added concerning these men:

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit to them: for they watch in behalf of your souls, as they that shall give account; that they may do this with joy, and not with grief: for this were unprofitable for you (Heb. 13:17).

Christians who refuse to submit to Scripturally qualified elders who are doing the work God gave them to do are rebelling against God who placed these men over local congregations. Further, those who teach that elders have no

authority in the local congregation are following in the steps of Korah, who fomented rebellion against God by rejecting the authority of Moses.

Further still, when faithful men preach the Word of God and spiritual pygmies murmur and complain and seek to run them off, they are crying out against God. They do not really oppose the messenger, but the message—which is from Christ. Those who receive not the Word of Christ reject the Christ Himself (John 12:48). Likewise, Saul of Tarsus learned in dramatic fashion that those who persecute God’s faithful servants persecute the Christ Himself (Acts 9:4–5). Such are too cowardly to literally shake their fists in the face of God for all to see, so they simply try to silence His messengers (which amounts to the same thing).

Make no mistake about it—all murmuring and rebellion against the message or the messengers of God is nothing less than murmuring and rebellion against God Himself, regardless of the time or place. God will not open the earth today to swallow such rebels after the manner of Korah and his disciples, but their eternal end will be far worse (2 The. 1:7–9).

—Dub McClish  
Denton, TX



## WITH MY WHOLE HEART

“I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart...” (Psa. 9:1). Is there any part of man that should be withheld from Him with Whom we have to do? How can we serve Him partially? What should we do to ensure that we are serving Him with our whole heart? These three questions, while they may appear blasé to some, may well determine the destiny of the person sitting nearest you as you read these lines...and they may well determine the destiny of the person sitting nearest him or her as well. Let us spend a few moments considering each question in the light of the passage above.

### **Is There Any Part Of Man That Should Be Withheld From Him With Whom We Have To Do?**

On the very face of it the answer to this question is pretty simple: No. We might even begin before this question and ask why anyone would **wish** to withhold anything from Him with Whom we have to do. Without Him we would not be. And not being, we certainly would not know the beauty of a mountain sunrise, a summer breeze, or a quiet sunset. Not being, we would never see the look of love on our children’s faces or hear them call our names anytime some little thing frightened them or perhaps when they have fallen and scraped a knee. Now, since He has given us life and all things in it, what on earth would move us to want to withhold anything from Him for which He might ask?

It flies in the face of logic! Having given us so much, even if He did ask that we give Him our very lives it would be no large price to pay. If we have drawn a breath it is His. So what if He wants it back? Is it not His to want back? Should He turn from us this very minute and withhold from us all blessings henceforth we would cease to exist. We would simply not be. Anything, therefore, that He desires of us we ought to give Him. He is worthy! He alone is worthy!

### **How Can We Serve Him Partially?**

Is it possible to serve Him partially? I suppose, after a sort, it is. Inasmuch as we can perform some of the tasks commanded by Him and leave others undone, we can serve Him partially. That is not, of course, to say that He will acknowledge such, not by any means. But how can we do such a thing? We have noted already that He has given us all, is there any right or just way that we can give back to Him less than He has given to us? Of course, if we give Him our all we still have not given Him as much as He has given us. But in His grace He will accept our all if we give it.

I often think of those who “do” many right things only to fall short in so many other areas. Think of the denominations with their charitable endeavors, or the Catholics with their active interest in health care or the many individuals who are so nice and profess so great a love for the Lord. They do many right things, but not enough. “If we keep the whole law and offend in one point...” (Jam. 2:10). How sad! But then, whose duty is it to know whether a man is serving fully? Is it not the duty of each man to determine as much from the Word? That being true, it is sad, not because of the consequences to the partially obedient, but sad that they would set an example of partial service—partial obedience—which is, in essence, but full disobedience!

### **What Should We Do To Ensure That We Are Serving Him With Our Whole Heart?**

In essence, this question deals with ensuring that we are not guilty of full disobedience by rendering only partial service. Every man will stand and answer before the Judgment Seat of the Lord for himself (2 Cor. 5:10). Therefore every man has the duty of preparing for that accounting. How can I make such preparations as to be ready to give account?

I suggest to you first of all that we must study the Bible for ourselves. Never be content to believe “what we have always believed” on any subject. Learn the meaning of words you do not understand. Know that you know that you know what that passage really means. Meditate on the things you study. Mull them over. Consider them from every perspective. Be sure.

Having done that, implement into your life what God requires of you. Leave nothing undone. If it means losing sleep, lose sleep. If it means making major changes in every aspect of your life, make major changes in every aspect of your life. Do whatever you must do to comply in every particular with the Word.

Having studied and obeyed, never quit. You will never reach the age of retirement from Christianity. Retirement from your secular employment may come, but not from being a Christian. When you die nothing more will be required of you. Remain steadfast in all matters at all times and continue to study and to obey and never grow complacent. The Lord will reward you accordingly.

Do you see how the answer to these three questions may well determine the destiny awaiting you? Rather, can you see a way wherein the answer to these three questions will not determine your destiny? May God bless you as you study and obey His Word.

—Tim Smith  
Dothan, AL