

Let us examine God's Word and find the truth and apply it even though it might not be "politically correct." Remember, it is the Lord's Word that will judge us (John 12:48), not the ideas and whims of men and women.

—Ken Chumbley
Belvedere, SC

[Note: Slightly edited for space considerations.]

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayers answered...

A few months ago it became necessary for the church to withdraw fellowship from sister **Karla Dobbs**. We rejoice greatly that last Lord's day she confessed and repented of her sins of forsaking the assembly, negligence and carelessness in living the Christian life, and harshly criticizing the Lord's church. Our prayers concerning her were answered. Let us continue to pray for her faithfulness.

Let us pray for...

- Rick & Sheila Beauchamp**—his job hunt & mother, her recovery from surgery
- Magen Broking**—In Missouri for military training
- Waynette Davis, Karla Dobbs, Sharon Harp**—health problems
- Lavonne McClish**—macular degeneration and other health problems
- Janice Parks**—her health and family burdens
- Sandy Greene and Rick Heimberger**—cancer

Records you helped make last week...

Bible Class	10
Sunday AM Worship	10
Sunday PM Worship	11
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	9
Contribution—11/29/09	390.00
Contribution average (2009)	345.19

Sermon broadcasts...

Both sermons each Sunday are broadcast via Internet, available at our Website, 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 December Sundays	Dub McClish
Chairman of Men's Meetings (October–December)	Darrell Broking
Preacher, <i>The Lighthouse</i> 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

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OUR CARES AND GOD'S CARE

A verse that we all should commit to memory and upon which we should ever rely is the following: "Casting all your anxiety upon him, because he careth for you" (1 Pet. 5:7). When we learn to trust this promise, it will bring us great consolation and courage.

Because of persecution, there was great anxiety among the brethren to whom Peter wrote. They were being "put to grief in manifold trials," and their faith was being "proved by fire" (1: 6–7). There was a "fiery trial" among them (4: 12). In 23 of this epistle's 95 verses, Peter alludes to the persecutions and immense sufferings these brethren were undergoing for the Lord. These experiences brought great anxiety to their hearts. A major purpose of this letter was to tell them how to deal with these anxieties.

Anxiety in 1 Peter 5:7 translates a word that refers to those things about which we worry and about which we are unsettled or undecided. It reminds us of Paul's familiar exhortation: "In nothing be anxious..." (Phi. 4:6a). The Lord made a lengthy statement on this subject in the Sermon on the Mount:

Therefore I say unto you, Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on.... Be not therefore anxious for the morrow: for the morrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof (Mat. 6:25–34).

If there is a difference in the exhortations of the Lord, of Paul, and of Peter, perhaps it is this: The Lord and Paul urge us to cultivate a calm and settled approach to life that will help prevent our becoming anxious about life's experiences in the first place. Peter tells us what to do when we nonetheless become anxious and distressed.

The antidote for worry is the promise of God's care and concern for His children. The word Peter used for God's "care" refers to His interest and concern and implies both His willingness and His ability to meet our needs. If God cares for the sparrow and the raven and adorns the expendable grass of the field, does He not much more care for those who are His children (Luke 12:6, 24, 28)? If He knows the very number of the hairs on our heads, He knows and is concerned about all of our far more important needs (v. 7).

The promises of God and His Son to ever be with us are many. God's promise to Israel in this respect applies to us:

I will in no wise fail thee, neither will I in any wise forsake thee. So that with good courage we say, The Lord is my helper; I will not fear: What shall man do unto me? (Heb. 13:5–6).

Our Savior promised that He would be with His people as they do His work “always, even unto the end of the world” (Mat. 28:20). Peter’s words are an echo of Psalms 55:22: “Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee.”

Immediately after urging us to be anxious in nothing, Paul wrote: “But in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (Phi. 4:6b). With deep faith in and reliance upon God, even in the face of the great trials and storms of life, we can claim a blessed tranquility: “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus” (v. 7). Therefore, in a very uncertain world with Christians facing a very uncertain future in our own nation, let us fret less and trust and pray more.

—Dub McClish
Denton, TX

ON DEPARTURES

Now, many of you may well be in a better position to write these lines than am I, but I shall endeavor to do it all the same. Have you noticed that there are many departures from the faith around us today? That implies, of course, that many Christians are leaving the Truth and in its place embracing error. One cannot “depart” from that in which he/she never resided. I do know, from personal experience, that many places, once bastions of Truth, are now havens for error. Why is this? What is there to do about this?

As to the “why,” I fear I can offer no reasonable explanation for those who have departed from the faith. Some depart through ignorance. Some leave through neglect. Some leave to get numbers. Some depart due to the influence of ungodly men in pulpits and elderships. Whatever the reason, it is sin. It is never right to leave the Truth—it matters not who says you should or what rewards appear to be in the offing for those who do.

As to what there is to do about it, there is much. I have never preached in a congregation (as a located preacher) in which liberalism/sectarianism/modernism/denominationalism or the like has taken over. I have preached where they **tried** to take over. I have left due to the efforts of those who tried to take over—but only after their efforts were defeated and shown to be what they were. But some, sadly, have not been so fortunate.

I recently spoke with a friend who was on the “losing side” of a battle for Truth. I do not say that Truth lost, but that the group opposing the Truth had more votes and thereby controlled the property. Of course, unless they repent they will burn in Hell for their sinful vote, but they can enjoy the fruits of the labor of godly and sound men and women between now and then as they pervert His Word and violate His Precepts. That friend told me of his struggle and of the struggle of those who, like himself, loved the Truth, and it was indeed a valiant example. They did what all preachers used to do—they cited the Scriptures and

reasoned from them. That is what we all must do: Stand on the Book. If you do not have the votes and ultimately Truth cannot carry the day, then leave that congregation—it has ceased to be a faithful congregation—and start a new one or go to a sound one. Simple enough. The sign on the property does not guarantee the soundness of the assembly.

Do not be afraid to speak up—Truth is His and must be spoken. So what if the money is on the side of the false teachers? So what if the departing ones are bankers or lawyers or store owners? When they set themselves against the Truth, they must be opposed. Have the courage to speak in defense of the Truth. He will not forget your labors (cf. 1 Cor. 15:58).

—Tim Smith
Dothan, AL

FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER LEAVES HIS DENOMINATION

You may have heard that former President Jimmy Carter severed his 60-year ties to the Southern Baptist Convention earlier this year. An article in the British paper, *The Observer* (July 12), under the headline, “The Words of God Do Not Justify Cruelty to Women,” stated his reason. He accused the Baptist denomination of subjugating women and attempting to justify it with “a few carefully selected Bible verses.”

Carter stated that his decision was “painful” and “difficult,” but was “unavoidable” after the Southern Baptist Convention ruled that women could not become deacons, pastors, or chaplains in the military. Carter stated that this ruling was “in conflict with his belief—confirmed in the Holy Scriptures—that we are all equal in the eyes of God.”

The former President’s mistake is the same mistake made by Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On (Numbers 16:1-3), and it is also the same mistake many are making today: Assuming that “Equal standing is equivalent to equal responsibility.”

Korah argued that since the entire congregation was holy (v. 3), then everyone should have the same responsibility or role. Likewise, I hear people quoting the equality of men and women per Galatians 3:23, then concluding that they have equal responsibilities. While the premise is true, the conclusion does not follow. Just read what happened to Korah and his companions.

Yes, all the congregation of Israel was holy, yet that did not remove the role distinctions between the congregation and Moses. Likewise women and men are equally holy and valuable in the church. Yet, that does not remove the God-given, gender-based, role distinctions affirmed in Scripture (1 Tim. 2:11–15).

What Mr. Carter doesn’t seem to understand, and what Korah didn’t seem to understand is that their respective rebellions are not against the Southern Baptist Convention or Moses, but are actually rebellions against God (Numbers 16:11). It wasn’t the Southern Baptist Convention who said, “Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have