

result in the salvation of the lost. Paul recognized this and said, "But they have not all obeyed the gospel" (Rom. 10:16). But when the Christian delivers the message and the sinner receives it, baptism results, and salvation is obtained (Acts 2:37-47).

May both sinner and saint fulfill their respective roles regarding the great commission. Remember, if either fails, both will be lost – the saint for disobeying the command to go and preach and the sinner for refusing to obey the Gospel. May those who have been saved do their part so that many who are lost will have the opportunity to do theirs and be saved.

– Bruce Stutling
Huntsville, TX



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

Let us pray for...

- Sheila Beauchamp – recovering from shoulder surgery
- Tonya Thatcher – difficulty with pregnancy
- Judy Reid – treatment for auto accident injuries (sister in NJ, planning to move here)
- Lester Kamp – fighting prostate cancer
- Mike Mallett – fighting leukemia (faithful brother in Evant, TX)
- Ken Chumbley – fighting cancer and other physical problems (Gospel preacher)
- 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)
- 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	18
Sunday AM Worship	20
Sunday PM Worship	18
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	12
Contribution	\$926.00
Contribution average (2014)	\$895.30

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...

Adult Bible class teacher for January
Chairman of Men's Meetings (January-March))
Preacher, *The Lighthouse* editor

Phil Smith
Rick Beauchamp
Dub McClish

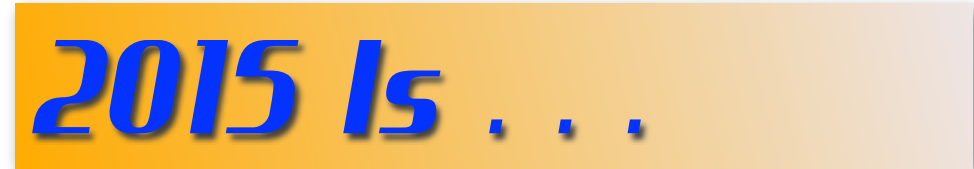
**Northpoint
Church of Christ**
Greenway Plaza, 4224 N. I-35
Denton, Texas 76207
940.220.9931
northpointcoc@hotmail.com
www.northpointcoc.com
www.scripturecache.com

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 1:00 PM

Wednesday

B.C./Worship 7:00 PM



A brand new candle, barely lit, that will burn itself out in twelve fleet months; . . . another volume in our book of life, full of blank pages upon which we shall write with our words and deeds; . . . a fresh suit of clothes without wrinkle, soil, or tear; . . . an open door, behind which many paths will beckon before the door is closed; . . . a new plant freshly pushing through the earth's crust, destined to bear fruit, either good or evil; . . . a piece of soft clay over which each one of us exercises the power of a potter to mold it into a shape of his own choosing; . . . a race to be run that many will fail to finish to its end.

Worldlings will live out this new year in a Monday – Saturday context. The Lord's people will live ours from Lord's day to Lord's day, looking forward to each appointed time when we can assemble with our brethren to worship God and study His Word. While those outside try to fight the battles and face the trials of life on their own, we can draw from the inexhaustible source of spiritual strength, found only by those who submit to mankind's only rightful Ruler.

The beginning of a year is a good time to view the past year in retrospect. How many times did I **choose** to be away from the assembly of the saints last year? How many times did I reject the spiritual feast of my Bible classes? How many weeks did I neglect to contribute financially to the spreading of the Gospel? How many times did I "freeze up" when I had an opportunity to say something to a friend or fellow-worker about the Lord and His church? How many times did I compromise the moral standard of the Gospel to keep from being different from "the crowd"? How many times did I say "No" when the call went out for workers? If you can say, "None" to these, that is wonderful, indeed. You certainly moved to higher ground last year. If your record was not so good, do you understand that, just as many times as you placed something ahead of serving God, you proclaimed that He was not in control of your life?

Now, let us look at this new year again. Only you and I can determine what sort of flame its candle will burn. Only you and I can decide what sort of lines will be written upon its blank pages. You and I alone are responsible for how free of soil and damage our garments of life will remain. The choice is ours as to the paths we will take that open before us and the way we will walk them. The fruit produced and the vessel molded are in our control. May we determine to make this the best year of our lives in God's service here below.

– Dub McClish
Denton, TX

Tolerance

The idea of tolerance is noble in the best of times. The word originally meant “the ability to bear pain,” but now carries forward the notion of enduring (bearing with) the existence of opinions or behavior that one does not necessarily agree with. This has allowed people to come here (the US) and start new lives regardless of their earlier circumstances. The colonies eventually saw the need for tolerance of beliefs for immigrants.

However, tolerance today is taking on dimensions that could not have been anticipated by those who screamed so vehemently for the acceptance of “new ideas” 50 years ago. Now we have the clarion call for tolerance regarding what constitutes/defines a family. God gave us the model for the family in the early chapters of Genesis. When He created man and woman He set in motion the nucleus for the first family. The kernel of the family as God created it consisted of a man, a woman, and their children. Now they are making a major push to redefine what a family is (or should) be. These “haters of God” want not only the “right” to sin; they want to eliminate the idea of sin. To do so they must remove God's influence.

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly (Rom. 1:26-27).

If one is intolerant of sin, he might be labeled a “bigot” or ostracized. These people defiantly want to rid the nation of God's standards.

An ironic twist to this situation is revealed in the way that our nation is being asked to be tolerant of a religion the ultimate aim of which could be to destroy us – if a certain reading of their “holy book” is correct. This book denounces any not agreeing with or following the dictates of their “messenger.” We are all infidels in their sight. They are making various attempts throughout the country to use our Constitution to worm their way into the innermost areas of our society – schools only for their people, dress codes, and neighborhood laws that would rob

us of some of our basic human (and civil) rights. If we remain nonchalant, our nation will implode.

Tolerance is also a hydra in the church. It is eating away at the very foundations established by God's Word through a mendacious offensive that insists that we must have unity rather than discord or division. This tolerance finds rebuke offensive. This tolerance finds “contending for the faith” offensive. It does not want anyone to oppose associations with false teachers (like the same-sex supporters) because that will cause discord. Some brethren make no distinctions between brethren who fellowship with liberals and false teachers one week, as long as they show up at their summer camp the next. The smell of this “movement” reminds me of rancid meat.

Even more disturbing is the reluctance of these people even to attempt any more to point out sin in the brotherhood. Oh, they will address sin in the world, but it is mostly a big cheerleading session. It is clear that a lot of the New Testament epistles dealt with false teaching and false teachers, but these people cannot garner the nerve to withstand one to the face because it would simply reveal an already putrid hypocrisy.

– Johnny Oxendine
San Mateo, CA

Obeying Both Parts

At the close of his account of the Gospel of Christ, Mark records what has come to be known as “The Great Commission.” In the words of Jesus, the commission reads:

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned (Mark 16:15-16).

This commission is delivered in two parts. Part one is the obligation of every Christian to preach the Gospel of Christ to every lost individual in all the world in every generation. Part two is the obligation of the sinner receive the Gospel. Failure on the part of either will result in lost souls.

It is vital that Christians take their part in the Great Commission seriously. Paul stated that faith in one's heart and confession with one's mouth are necessary in order for the sinner to be saved (Rom. 10:9-10). He then poses several rhetorical questions:

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? (Rom. 10:14).

Paul concludes by stating, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). Thus preaching the Gospel is essential to the sinner's development of faith. Unfortunately, the preaching of the Gospel doesn't always