

## CAN YOU HELP?

Northpoint has supported **Joshua Aidoo** in Ghana for 6 years. His evangelistic work is greatly hampered because of transportation difficulties—he has no vehicle. When he goes into new areas with the Gospel he takes a team of men with him. Having either to hire a driver with a van or rent a van is expensive and at times unreliable. He also needs this vehicle for use by his family (5 children). The vehicle (used) he needs will cost a minimum of \$16,000.00, to which Northpoint has contributed \$2,000.00 to get this fund started. The elders of the Bellview Church (which also supports Joshua) are handling these funds. We ask brethren to help us help this good man by sending your check to **Northpoint** or to:

**Bellview Church of Christ, 4850 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32526.**

[Thanks to the generosity of various ones, the fund now totals \$6,000.00. DM]

## THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

### Let us pray for...

- Jerry Douglas**—fighting bone and lymph cancer (Danny Douglas’s twin brother)
- Alice Haddon**—fighting cancer (Sheri’s friend)
- Vicki Hightower**—malignant lung tumor (Terry has preached here several times)
- Judy Reid**—sister in NJ, planning to move here
- Brian Ritter**—fighting rare autoimmune disease (son of Rick Ritter, Gospel preacher)
- Jeff Simmons**—“our boy” in the US Navy (Saratoga Springs, New York)
- Don Smith**—faithful brother in Ohio prison, ordered to cease teaching fellow inmates
- Stephanie Tigner**—who has been restored to Christ (Kourtney’s sister)
- Joshua Aidoo**—Gospel preacher in Ghana we support
- Samuel Bagsangi**—Gospel preacher in Philippines we support
- Danny Douglas**—Gospel preacher in US we support

### Records you helped make last week...

Bible Classes	15
Sunday AM Worship	15
Sunday PM Worship	15
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	10
Contribution	\$4,242.20
Contribution average (2016)	\$4,242.20

### Internet and YouTube 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](http://www.northpointcoc.com).
- Our **YouTube** channel at *Northpoint Church of Christ* has a growing collection of Northpoint sermons available for viewing.

**Preacher** **Phil Smith**  
**Editor, *The Lighthouse*** **Dub McClish**

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**Sunday**

<b>Bible Class</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>

**Wednesday**

<b>B.C./Worship</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
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# The Northpoint Lighthouse

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## REBELLING AGAINST GOD

**A**s Israel approached Sinai on the way to Canaan they 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 case 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,” or “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 about the messenger and try (sometimes successfully) to run him off, they are crying out against God. It is not really the messenger they oppose, but the message—and the message 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 are 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

## Not My HARLEY!

**W**hat if Jesus were on the earth today and you walked up to Him and asked the age-old question, "Master what must I do to inherit eternal life." You could expect the Lord to give you the reply, "Repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins, and you shall have eternal life."

Your reply to him then was the expected one, "I have done all of that, is there anything that I am still lacking?" Would Jesus look at you with sadness in His eyes and say, "Well yes, there is that one thing you must give up, and then you can come and truly follow Me."

He of course told you what that one thing was, and when He did so you drew in a shocking breath and replied, "But, that means so much to me." You do know what His reply would be, don't you? It would be, "I know it, that's why you have to leave it behind. Nothing can mean more to you than I do if you want salvation."

How many people are like the rich young man (Mat. 19:22; Mark 10:22) who loves something so much that if Jesus said, "Give it up," they would hold on to it and lose their souls? Are you in that number? Am I? That which stands between you or me and salvation does not have to be great possessions, you know. It did not have to be great possessions in that young man's case. If there had been anything other than wealth that he had loved more than his soul, Jesus would have told him to give that up, instead.

Remember the three excuse makers (Luke 14:16-20) who rejected the invitation to the great supper. One went to see the piece of ground he had bought, one to prove the five yoke of oxen he had purchased, and the other had married a wife,

and therefore could not come. There is a great feast prepared in Heaven for all of those who are willing to obey the Lord and put Him first in their lives. No excuses for not accepting the invitation and making the necessary preparations for that supper will be permissible in the judgment.

What if there was a man who all his life, since he was a very small boy, wanted a Harley Davidson motorcycle. From the time he was old enough to get a part-time job as a teenager, he had scrimped, sweated, and saved, and now that he is twenty-five, finally the big day comes. He has the money and purchases the bike of his dream with every feature and accessory that he ever imagined it could have. Later, though, it turns out that motorcycle stood between him and being the Christian he ought to be. Could he give it up, or would he say, "Oh no, not my Harley!"

Do you have a Harley Davidson? Do I have One? If we do, then we must not only be **willing** to give them up, we must do it. If there is something in our lives that stands between us and God, let's put it aside this very day, for we know not the hour when the Lord shall come (Mat. 25:13).

—Charles Pogue  
Beeville, TX

## "Accept CHRIST"?

**I** was reminded of a 2500 year old passage as I passed a church of Christ building's marquee sign the other day:

In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab; And their children spake half the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews language, but according to the language of each people (Neh. 13:23-24).

The sign read, "Accept Christ," in flashing electronic lettering. I thought, "Yes, we should 'accept Christ' in the sense that we must believe and obey Him as Lord and Master." But the denominational world does not see it that way. They equate this phrase with the old heresy of *Just-accept-Christ-in-your-heart-as-your-personal-Savior-and-you-will-be-saved* or *Faith-only salvation*. Just ask your denominational friends. Of course they will include, "And say the sinner's prayer to God" (where is that in the Bible?). The doctrine of *faith-only salvation* is a symptom of religious schizophrenia which says that repentance, confession of faith, and baptism for the remission of sins are not needed for salvation, just belief in Christ. For those who thus believe, obedience to Christ's commands is necessary only **after** one is saved. In other words, "You need to obey Christ in order to be saved, but not really!"

Brethren, we should rid ourselves of denominational jargon and return to the old refrain, "Use Bible words for Bible things." Let us not confuse New Testament Christianity with phrases rooted in false doctrine. A better phrase to use on that marquee would have been "Obey Christ!" "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..." (1 Pet. 4:11).

—Roelf Ruffner  
Columbia, TN