

and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds (2 John 8-11).

We, therefore, must teach, believe, practice, and contend for unity with God **first**, which unity comes only through compliance with Christ's doctrine. **Only** by such compliance with the doctrine of Christ is the unity for which Christ prayed – and which Paul commanded – obtained and perpetuated.

– David P. Brown  
Spring, TX



## 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	9
Sunday AM Worship	9
Sunday PM Worship	9
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	13
Contribution	\$1,615.00
Contribution average (2015)	\$1,615.00

### 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](http://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



# The Northpoint Lighthouse

Volume 11, Number 2  
January 11, 2015

## Money, Money, Money

**S**ometimes brethren complain that “the church emphasizes money too much.” A preacher friend once told me of hearing this complaint from a family where he preached. The circumstances behind the complaint were these: These folk attended worship assemblies very infrequently and one of these rare occasions they decided to come happened to be on a Sunday when the sermon was on “giving.” They went away saying, “All he ever preaches on is money!”

What about this complaint? Is money emphasized too much in the pulpit, classroom, church bulletin, and in other ways in most congregations? I doubt it seriously from my own observations and experiences. Elders, preachers, and teachers may emphasize “money” and “giving” in the wrong way in the church sometimes, for, after all, they are human and do make occasional mistakes. I opine that instead of emphasizing money too much as we preach and teach, the opposite is more nearly true – we likely do not emphasize it enough. Some preachers may have even become timid about preaching on it because they know some “little-bitty” brethren are always ready to accuse them of doing so for self-ish reasons – perhaps to get a raise in their salary.

An impressive list of reasons demands a proper, strong, and Scriptural emphasis on the proper use of the money God has entrusted to us. Consider the following:

1. The proper use of money is a major theme of the Bible. One cannot read the Bible very long without reading about covetousness, theft, honesty, helping the helpless, generosity, and like themes. It is impossible to preach the “whole counsel of God” without preaching some on this subject. I doubt not the claim that there are many more passages dealing directly with the proper use of one's money than with baptism. In case you miss the point, this fact does not

mean we should preach less on baptism, but that perhaps we should preach more on the proper use of money.

2. We are commanded to emphasize the proper use of money. This could be illustrated from several passages, but none is clearer than the following: "Charge them that are rich in this present world, that they be not highminded, nor have their hope set on the uncertainty of riches" (1 Tim. 6:17-19). Note that this inspired order appears in the context of Paul's warning that "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" (v. 10).
3. It takes money to preach and distribute the Gospel, to help the helpless, and to build up the church, even more so now than in the first century.
4. Some Christians are yet untaught or unconvinced of the seriousness of the matter of their accountability to God for the use of money. All need to know that one cannot serve both God and money (Mat. 6:24), covetousness is a form of idolatry (Col. 3:5), and "God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7).

Have you ever heard anyone who is giving generously to the Lord's work complain about too much emphasis on money? I doubt it.

—Dub McClish  
Denton, TX

## Pardon Me

**P**lease pardon my taking a brief trip down "memory lane." Two years (almost to the day as I write) have passed since my beloved Lavonne passed from this world to the next. She and I heard the poem below years ago, and occasionally, she or I would somewhat jokingly quote the first line to the other. I had no idea how fully the poet captured reality, until... (husbands/wives, cherish your companion while you have her/him [Eph. 5:25; Tit. 2:4]). I'm thankful that she was as prepared for her journey as one can be and that she is beyond the pain and sorrow of this world (Rev. 14:13). —DM

Should you go first and I remain to walk the road alone,  
I'll live in memory's garden, dear, with happy days we've known.  
In spring I'll wait for roses red, when fades the lilac blue,  
In early fall, when brown leaves call, I'll catch a glimpse of you.

Should you go first and I remain for battles to be fought,  
Each thing you've touched along the way will be a hallowed spot.  
I'll hear your voice, I'll see you smile, though blindly I may grope,  
The memory of your helping hand will buoy me on with hope.

Should you go first and I remain to finish with the scroll,  
No length'ning shadows shall creep in to make this life seem droll.  
We've known so much of happiness, we've had our cup of joy,  
And memory is one gift of God that death can not destroy.

—Albert Kennedy Roswell

## Primary Message

**T**o some brethren (evidently more than a few), unity among and between men is the fundamental and primary design of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To the contrary, the fundamental design of the Gospel is to bring men into unity with God. One is not ready to preach the Gospel if that one is going into all the world merely to unify men. **We are to go into all the world to get men to walk with God.**

Having stated what the primary work of the church via the preaching and defense of the Gospel of Christ is to accomplish, we hasten to add that we are not unmindful of our Lord's prayer for the unity of believers in Christ as the Son of God and their Savior (John 17:20-21). Every faithful Christian desires to see our Lord's prayer for unity of all believers answered.

However, it is useless to seek unity among men simply for the sake of unity. Such an idea is foreign to the Bible. The Gospel is God's power to save men—men who are in need of salvation because they are separated from God by their sins (Mark 16:15; Rom. 1:16; 3:23; 6:23; 10:17; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; 2 The. 1:8; 1 John 3:4). Thus the unity that should first, foremost, and always concern every Christian is the reconciliation of men to God through the preaching and defense of the pure, unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ (John 12:48; Col. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:1-3). It is vain to seek unity among men apart from "walking in the light" of God's Truth (1 John 1:7; cf. John 8:31-32; 17:17; Jude 3).

Therefore, whatever causes any member of the church to deviate from the doctrine of Christ, no matter how slight the departure may seem to fallible men, such a departure ruins the ultimate, final, and logical end of the Divine Scheme of Redemption—the salvation of the souls of men.

If, therefore, the unity "platform" Christ prayed for and Paul commanded (1 Cor. 1:10)—the "planks" of which are listed in Ephesians 4—is to be realized, we must learn to put "first things first." Otherwise, we will get the proverbial "cart before the horse" in the matter of unity and thereby corrupt the whole Divine system of unity (Mat. 6:33).

Without the doctrine of Jesus Christ believed and obeyed, no person can be saved and remain in a saved state with God. Only by a pure Gospel can men find and possess salvation from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ. And, only those who are saved from sin have authority from God to unite with one another—and then unite only on His terms. To seek a "unity" among men apart from the doctrine of Christ is foreign to and against God's Scheme of Redemption. Thus the Holy Spirit-inspired John instructs us:

Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you,