

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 \$10,459.00. 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)
- Terry Hightower and family**—Death of Vicki (Terry’s wife)
- Debbie Post**—fighting cancer (wife of Doug Post, Gospel preacher)
- 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	14
Sunday AM Worship	15
Sunday PM Worship	15
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	9
Contribution	\$917.00
Contribution average (2017)	\$1,957.26

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.
- Our **YouTube** channel at *Northpoint Church of Christ* has a growing collection of Northpoint sermons available for viewing.

Preacher
Editor, *The Lighthouse*

Phil Smith
Dub McClish



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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Rule of Law or of Men?

Only two kinds of civil government exist—the **rule of law** or the **rule of men**. When **law** prevails (assuming its nobility and justness), all are treated equally because law is **objective**, and plays no favorites. Citizens can plan their lives predictably by the limits and freedoms the law prescribes. Peace, security, and prosperity abound in such circumstances. Even where the law system is not ideal, if it is applied consistently to great and small, rich and poor, all of its subjects know what is expected and/or allowed. The founding fathers of our American republic came to these shores to escape the rule of men. They formulated our Constitution with the aims of guaranteeing the rule of law and of protecting her citizens from the tyranny they had escaped.

When **men** prevail, those in power apply the law only so as to favor their cause or to reward their friends and/or to punish their enemies. The rule of men is **subjective**, dictated by ideology, greed, lust for power, favoritism, and other self-ish factors; law matters only when it advances their agenda, but is ignored otherwise. Dictators may wear the title of *pharaoh, caesar, emperor, king, pope, premier*, or even *president*, but they are despots and tyrants nonetheless. When men rather than law prevail, citizens live in turmoil, anxiety, and oppression, fearing the next unpredictable whim. Those recently in power in our nation amply demonstrated their willingness to ignore the Constitution and other statutes to promote their own power and to protect their friends, all the while oppressing those who dared oppose them or their agenda. Solomon hinted at this evil:

Then I returned and saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and, behold, the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter (Ecc. 4:1).

As in government, so in religion: Only two kinds of authority exist in religion—the law of God or the opinions and caprices of fallible men. Jesus made this point when he asked the religious leaders if John’s baptism were “from heaven or from men” (Mat. 21:25). Every group, doctrine, and practice in religion derives its authority from one or the other.

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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

God revealed His law to chosen, inspired men. He preserved it in the Bible (particularly the New Testament for all who have lived [and will live] since Jesus died on the cross [Eph. 2:14-16; Col. 3:14; Heb. 9:16-17; 10:9 et al.]). His law is **objective**, standing apart from the ignorance, opinions, urges, and ill motives of fallible men. "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34), hence His law applies to all men equally. The Bible tells us both the limits and freedoms of God's will. As God is immutable (Heb. 13:8; Jam. 1:17), so is His law (Rev. 22:18-19). He has given all authority to His Son (Mat. 28:18; Heb. 1:1-2), Whose words will judge us at last (John 12:48). Spiritual peace, security, prosperity, and hope belong only to those who submit to Divine law.

Human rule in religion is **subjective**, mutable, and arbitrary, even as it is in civil societies ruled by men. Lamentably, the vast majority of mankind has chosen to submit to the rule of men in religion. All of the so-called "great world religions" (except genuine Christianity) are from men rather than from Heaven. Man-founded religions reflect their founders' ignorance, avarice, opinions, superstitions, and sometimes their raw sensuality and/or power-lust (viz., Mohammed, Joseph Smith, et al.). Further, most professed "Christianity" is little better, with its confused names, practices, creeds, and purposes, bowing low to human rule rather than to Divine law.

God allows men to determine whether they will submit to His law or to human rule in religion, all the while inviting them to submit to the Divine will (Mat. 11:28-30). All who reject Divine law in this life must still answer to it at The Judgment (John 12:48).

—Dub McClish
Denton, TX

SIN or Mere Disease?

One of the master strokes of deceit which Satan has been able to put over on millions of people—including many Christians—is the clever whitewashing of the sin of drunkenness, dressing it up, twisting it around, and palming it off as the "disease" of "alcoholism."

If Satan can just deceive sinners into thinking that they are not sinners, but just unfortunate victims of a "disease," who deserve sympathy and treatment and acceptance—what more would Satan want? No sinner will be led to repent of his sin so long as he and others call it mere "sickness."

We all know and agree that habitual drunkenness causes various kinds of bad or diseased conditions in the body. In fact, a large number of sins have an obviously bad effect upon the body and the brain.

Ordinarily intelligent people can easily distinguish between a sin or crime and the various kinds of bad results of that sin or crime. But the amazing thing is that in recent years Satan has successfully brainwashed the public and many Christians so that they confuse the sin itself with the bad physical and mental results.

I have in my files much documentary proof that many people are flatly denying that drunkenness ("Alcoholism"—repeated drunkenness) is a sin or moral problem at all; they claim it is solely a medical, psychological, or psychiatric problem—a sickness or disease, and that's all. And the shame is that some of the leading preachers and college professors have taught this.

God in His Word is absolutely authoritative and infinitely wise, and He has made it perfectly plain to all those not blinded by the foolishness of man's "wisdom," that drunkenness is a sin, a "work of the flesh," that will prevent one's eternal salvation if he/she does not truly repent of it—and that means, stop it!

If you will study the following statements from God, and believe and exalt them to the place of supreme authority over all of man's notions, there is not a doubt as to what conclusion you must draw. Please study every one of these verses: 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Romans 13:12-14; Luke 21:34-36; 1 Peter 4:3-5.

These passages clearly teach that drunkenness is a sin (not one word mentioned about any "disease") that will keep one out of Heaven, and furthermore, that a drunkard (who does not repent) is to be disciplined by the church—to be "put away" from the fellowship by congregational action—for the purpose, as Paul wrote, of "the destruction of the flesh" (lust of the flesh), "that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" (1 Cor. 5:5).

Paul writes that he had commanded the brethren "to have no company" with fornicators, idolaters, covetous ones, revilers, extortioners, or drunkards—"with such a one no, not to eat" (v. 11). "Do not ye judge them that are within?... Put away the wicked man from among yourselves" (vv. 12-13).

The test is before us; are we going to honor and obey God in the plain teaching of His Divine Word; or are we going to disobey God and not go along with the Bible, which contradicts modern psychology and psychiatry?

—Troy M. Cummings
Deceased

Believe the GOSPEL

Jesus Christ said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." He that believeth—what? The Gospel. The idea that all one must believe in order to be baptized is the mere fact that Jesus is Christ did not originate with the Gospel. One may believe the fact that Jesus is Christ, and not believe the Gospel. "He that believeth (the gospel) and is baptized, shall be saved." When a man believes that he is saved before he is baptized, he does not believe the Gospel, and he cannot be baptized, in any Scriptural, valid sense. When one is baptized into a denomination, knows that he is being baptized into one, no matter what he believes about baptism, it becomes an institutional act, a denominational baptism.

—Foy E. Wallace, Jr.
Deceased

