

and appreciate all that is loving and noble in others. "A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter" (11:13).

Do not turn against a true friend, and don't be a treacherous friend. "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me" (Psa. 41:9). "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful" (Pro. 27:6).

**WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS!**

—G.K. Wallace  
Deceased



# The Northpoint Lighthouse

Volume 11, Number 6  
February 8, 2015

## 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)
- Don Smith — faithful brother in Ohio prison who is teaching fellow inmates daily
- 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	16
Sunday AM Worship	16
Sunday PM Worship	16
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	15
Contribution	\$1,078.00
Contribution average (2015)	\$968.00

### 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 February  
Chairman of Men's Meetings (January-March)  
Preacher, *The Lighthouse* editor

Rick Beauchamp  
Rick Beauchamp  
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

## Cafeteria Theology

**D**oes God operate a theological cafeteria? Faithful saints have long faced this concept relative to Protestant denominations ("Join the church of your choice"). Now this religious virus has spread to embrace all the world's religions (i.e., Buddhism, Wicca, Hinduism, Islam, et al.). Does God have all of these on His religious "steam table"? Is Christianity (as defined by the New Testament) merely one among many choices of access to God and salvation? Does He allow men to choose which of these "dishes" of religion appeal most to them?

Those who believe the Bible alone is the inspired Word of/from God must answer "No" to all but the last of the foregoing questions. God has indeed granted human beings free will, allowing us to choose our religious "diet." However, this freedom by no means implies that He sanctions whatever choices one may make. The "cafeteria" described above is not God's. God has allowed men to erect, operate, and dine in it at their pleasure, all the while warning them of the consequences of doing so. He has never coerced our obedience.

The cafeteria approach may well have spawned the philosophy of Postmodernism — at least as it applies to religion. This philosophy gives "moral equivalency" to all philosophies, political systems, ethical systems, and religions, and modern man is in its grip. In this diabolical and irrational scheme of relativism, all truth claims are equal. It allows no such thing as an objective, immutable truth or truth system. Drawing conclusions based upon careful examination of evidence is irrelevant and passé. Whatever one believes or thinks is one's "truth," regardless of how inaccurate, false, immoral, or illogical the conviction may be. Postmodernism allows for directly contradictory claims to be equally true/right. (Can the day be far off when one will seriously argue that 2 + 2 = 7 is his "truth" and it be accepted by his fellow-Postmodernists?) *Truth*, once respected and sought above all else by honest souls, has thereby been cast on history's ash heap.

Cafeteria theology is Postmodernism applied to religion. It denies “that there is one perfect path that we are meant to follow.” The broadminded and idolatrous Jews five centuries before Christ traveled this road, so God sent Babylon to destroy Jerusalem and keep His people in exile for seven decades to teach them better. Postmodernism has given birth to the “Emerging Church” movement, which, though claiming to be a “Christian” movement, is little more than warmed-over Universalism. Although it’s all the rage in current theology, few things could be more anti-Biblical or anti-Christian. In spite (because?) of its blasphemies, some of “our” schools (e.g., Abilene Christian University, Lipscomb University) have welcomed its advocates to speak on their campuses.

In stark contrast, the Bible (and faithful saints) unapologetically and unequivocally declares **one** God, **one** Savior, and **one** body of Truth—exclusive of all others. Note a few of many such affirmations:

- God’s Word is **truth** (John 17:17).
- Jesus is God’s **only** beloved Son, Whom we **must hear** (Mat. 17:5).
- We must believe **Jesus is Deity**, the Son of God, or die in our sins (John 8:24).
- Jesus is **the** way, truth, and life; the **only** way to God (14:6).
- Jesus’ way **alone** leads to eternal life; all other paths (i.e., the “broad way”) end in death (Mat. 7:13–14).
- Men can be saved **only** through Jesus (Acts. 4:12).

These and a host of other statements exclude Buddhism, Mohammedanism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Baha’ism, and all other “world religions.” It is one thing to reject the Bible. It is quite another to **profess** to believe and teach it, while denying its plainest declarations. All such deniers should be ashamed.

—Dub McClish  
Denton, TX

## “Wannabe Cool” Preachers

**O**ne of the strange characters in “Christianity” today is the “wannabe cool” preacher. His goal: to appear “dynamic” and perform and act each Sunday. His sermon is usually well-seasoned with humor so no one is offended. The “wannabe cool preacher” believes that the only sin is offending someone. Therefore, he is more than willing to speak only smooth things to the people, as did the false prophets of old (Isa. 30:10). He dresses very casually—no suit or tie—because a shirt and slacks make him look and feel “cool.” The preacher of coolness understands that the young and affluent members appreciate mediocre sermons of inferior quality that will muddy the distinction between right and wrong, truth and error.

Jesus taught about the *wannabe cool* attitude and its reward. It is written: “And He spoke a parable to them: ‘Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch?’” (Luke 6:39).

He also said:

And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: “Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them” (Mat. 13:14–15).

Only the “wannabe cool” preacher can please people who have closed their ears and eyes to the Truth.

Those who seek out the “wannabe cool” preachers will receive what they desire. Paul wrote:

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers (2 Tim. 4:3).

Paul was not a “wannabe cool” preacher because he strongly proclaimed the will of God for mankind. His goal was to “preach the word” and be “ready in season and out of season.” He sought to “convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching” (v. 2). If Paul were preaching today, many would turn their backs on him to hear the “wannabe cool” preacher. Such is a shameful “sign of the times.”

—Paul Vaughn  
Marion, VA

## A Faithful Friend

**I**t is good to have a friend. We all need someone in whom we can utterly trust. We need someone who loves us in spite of all our weaknesses. We need someone who will comfort and encourage us in times of trouble and sorrow when the world leaves us alone to fight our battles. “A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity” (Pro. 17:17).

“Ointment and perfume rejoiceth the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man’s friend by hearty counsel” (27:9). Robert Louis Stevenson wrote, “So long as we love we serve, so long as we are loved by others I would almost say we are indispensable; and no man is useless when he has a friend.” Jesus Christ said, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15: 13).

Gossip can wreck friendship. “He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very (chief) friends” (Pro. 17:9). A true friend will help you up when you have fallen down. He will defend you when others speak evil of you. He will believe you are innocent until you are proven guilty. A good friend is a great blessing. To be a friend one must give of himself