

Truth, ought to humble himself and repent. When men who have a genuine reverence for God and His Word fill our pulpits and teach our Bible classes, then church members will be encouraged to “Fear God, and keep His commandments” (Ecc. 12:13), but not otherwise. Church leaders (and every member) ought to demand this kind of preaching/teaching. In the long ago, God commanded Jonah: “Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee” (Jon. 3:2). The preaching that God has always demanded is the preaching of His Word, and not man’s: “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God” (1 Pet. 4:11).

–Danny Douglas  
Mt. Pleasant, TN



# 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)
- 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	17
Sunday AM Worship	17
Sunday PM Worship	17
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	16
Contribution	\$741.00
Contribution average (2015)	\$899.14

### 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

**Northpoint  
Church of Christ**  
Greenway Plaza, 4224 N. I-35  
Denton, Texas 76207  
940.220.9931  
[northpointcoc@hotmail.com](mailto:northpointcoc@hotmail.com)  
[www.northpointcoc.com](http://www.northpointcoc.com)  
[www.scripturecache.com](http://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 Conflict Is Real

**M**any go through life not realizing that a conflict between good and evil, Truth and error, is raging about them and that they are in the middle of it. Some mitigate the conflict, convincing themselves that evil is not so bad, good is not all that good, and error is about as good as Truth. Others would have us believe that absolute evil, good, or Truth do not even exist (indistinguishable forces can hardly be in conflict). However, these entities exist and this conflict rages as surely as God is God and Satan is Satan.

God’s people have always known conflict with the devil and his earthly/worldly henchmen. We first see this unrelenting clash demonstrated in Satan’s deception of Eve, followed by God’s prophetic threat to him after the Fall: “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel” (Gen. 3:15). The conflict brought the Flood upon the evil world of Noah’s day. We can track it in the experiences of the patriarchs. It becomes more pronounced in the history of Israel, dating from her bondage in Egypt until God, over a millennium later, finally gives Judah over to her pagan enemies due to her own, never-ending cycles, of acquiescence to evil.

The conflict escalated while our Lord and His apostles were on earth. They often warned of trials and persecution for the sake of Truth and righteousness: “...men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their works were evil” (John 3:19; cf., Mat. 5:10–12; John 15:18–21; 2 Tim. 3:12; et al.), and they all experienced the conflict in extreme measures. The apex of the conflict was in the Lord’s crucifixion, which fulfilled Genesis 3:15, the *protevangelium* – the “first gospel” – the first prophecy of the coming of the Savior of mankind. Compared to His victorious resurrection that dealt a deathblow to Satan, His Satan-inspired death on Calvary was but a heel-bruise.

The Holy Spirit often applies the military motif – a figure of conflict – to the life of the disciple of Christ. Christians are soldiers at war, but this war is not

fought with weapons of carnal warfare (2 Cor. 10:3-4). As soldiers, we are to “war the good warfare” (1 Tim. 1:18). Our archenemy attacks us by means of “fleshly lusts which war against the soul” (1 Pet. 2:11). The good soldier of Christ will “suffer hardship” for his Commander-in-chief, even as Paul did (2 Tim. 2:3). His service requires the avoidance of any alliances that will keep him from single-heartedly serving his Commander (2 Cor. 6:14-18; 2 Tim. 2:4).

We are not in a mock battle, but a real war—the “good fight of the faith” (1 Tim. 6:12). Paul, ever one to practice what he preached, could say as he saw the end nearing, “I have fought the good fight” (2 Tim. 4:7). We are to “resist the devil” rather than compromise with and surrender to him (Jam. 4:7). If we fail to resist him, our souls will become part of the spoils of war in his triumph over us (Col. 2:8).

Since this nation was founded, its citizens have enjoyed freedom to preach and practice the Gospel as a God-given right—protected by our Constitution’s first amendment, the bedrock of our Bill of Rights. We have taken for granted that this right will ever be ours. However, in recent decades, secular forces that despise God, Christ, and the Bible have gradually gained significant power. If the course our nation is presently on is not soon reversed, we may indeed find ourselves having to make frequent choices between obeying God and obeying men (Acts 5:29). The conflict is very real, even as the principles of good and evil and those promoting evil are real. Let us recognize the conflict and fight with all of our might for Truth and righteousness.

—Dub McClish  
Denton, TX

## Good Housekeeping

**T**he prophet Isaiah addressed the following statement to King Hezekiah of Judah: “Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live” (Isa. 38:1).

Death plays no favorites; his sickle cuts down the king on the throne and the slave working in the field. It claims the elderly on the bed of pain and suffering, but it also takes a tragic toll on young people as well, for the young die, too. In the “democracy of death” all men are equal. The rich man is divested of his wealth, Lazarus leaves behind his rags (Luke 16:19-31), and every person gives account of himself to Christ (2 Cor. 5:10). Surely, every sensible, and intelligent person needs to give consideration to this challenging command: “Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.”

Ironically, those who are best prepared to die are also most fit to live. Millions spend their lives in pursuit of sinful pleasures, without ever giving a thought to “setting their houses in order.” Jesus once described a certain man who said to himself, “take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou foolish one, this night is thy soul required of thee” (Luke 12:19-20). Such fools

have always been plentiful. One may say, “There is no God” (Psa. 14:1), while another says, “God is dead.” All such continue to “make a mock at sin” (Pro. 4:9, KJV). The way of every fool is right in his own eyes (12:15). The drunkard tries to justify his drunkenness, the adulterer his infidelity, the thief his dishonesty, and the liar his falsehoods.

Isaiah gave a remedy for such sinners:

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts:  
and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon (Isa. 55:7).

Let each one of us set our houses in order by obeying the Gospel (2 The. 1:7-9), and keep them in order (1 Cor. 15:58).

— Author unknown

## Missing Scripture

**T**he trend with many today is to concentrate less on the Holy Scriptures, and more on other things in the pulpit and in Bible classes. Serious listeners are made to wonder: “Where is the Scripture?” In visits to congregations in recent years, I have left saddened because preachers or teachers used very little Scripture in the pulpit or Bible classes. In one instance, the preacher did not read or quote even one Scripture in his Bible class. How could this be called a “Bible class” at all?

We also see this problem when preachers do not give the plan of salvation from the Scriptures when they extend the invitation. Do we assume that everyone knows what to do to be saved? Or, do we think that members no longer need to be put in remembrance of these important truths? This cannot be the case, according to Paul (1 Tim. 4:6) and Peter (2 Pet. 1:13-15; 3:1-2). Do children and youth—and adults as well—not need to be grounded in the “first principles” in this matter? Have some lost confidence in the Gospel to convert and to convict? Paul certainly did not. He said: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Rom. 1:16).

Does not God command us to “Preach the word” (2 Tim. 4:2a)? Sadly, book, chapter, and verse preaching is rapidly vanishing from many pulpits today. Could it be that some actually think that their words are greater than God’s Word? This sad situation can only be remedied by returning to a “thus saith the Lord.” Precious souls need to frequently hear the plan of salvation preached, because the Word of God is “able to save your souls” (Jam. 1:21b). “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple” (Psa. 19:7).

One who thinks so little of the Bible, and so much of himself, that he will fill his lessons with human sentiments, while leaving his audience starving for the