

blood sufficient for energy. Without it, all of us would fall into a coma and die. Who gave the human tongue flexibility to form words, and a brain to understand them, but denied it to the animal kingdom? Who showed a womb how to take the love of two persons and keep splitting a tiny ovum until, in time, a baby would have the proper number of fingers, eyes, and ears and hair in the right places, and come into the world when it is strong enough to sustain life?

There is no God?

– Jim Bishop
Deceased

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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	16
Sunday AM Worship	16
Sunday PM Worship	13
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	11
Contribution	\$681.00
Contribution average (2015)	\$871.88

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.

Assignments...

Adult Bible class teacher for March	Dub McClish
Chairman of Men's Meetings (January–March)	Rick Beauchamp
Preacher, <i>The Lighthouse</i> editor	Dub McClish



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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“Whose Shall They Be?”

God pronounced judgment on the foolish farmer who had stockpiled his harvests with only one aim – selfish indulgence. In one breath God told him he would die that night and asked him, “The things which thou hast prepared, whose shall they be?” (Luke 12:20).

The great lesson of this parable is the folly and sin of covetousness (v. 15). The farmer had laid up these things for himself, but he would have no further use for them where he was going. Whose would they then be?

This is a good question all of us should ask and candidly answer concerning whatever estate we may anticipate leaving behind. We must all die (Heb. 9:27), unless we are living when the Lord returns. We should all soberly contemplate what will happen to whatever we have accumulated in life when we are no longer living in this world. When we think of wise stewardship, do we think only of our earthly sojourn? Do we not also have a continuing stewardship concerning what we may accumulate and leave behind when we die – that it may be used wisely and to the glory of God? Verily, the principle, *It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful* (1 Cor. 4:2), applies in death, as in life.

Sometimes godly men and women who generously supported the proclamation of the Truth in life failed to make wise provisions to continue this support in death. In many cases estates have been left to offspring who cared nothing for the Lord, the church, or the Truth. Some of these had joined denominations or had become utterly irreligious. I knew one faithful childless couple, who, when they died, left a considerable estate to nieces and nephews who were steeped in religious error.

In all such cases, those who so strongly supported Truth and righteousness with their wealth in life, allowed their surviving resources to tear down in death what they had built up in life. Not only is their remaining wealth lost to the cause of Christ by such negligence; it is used to support sin and error, hindering the advancement of Truth. Some of these good people had every intention of making

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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
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provisions for the Lord's work in their wills, but they neglected it too long. Consider the following suggestions concerning good stewardship of wealth regarding death:

1. Make a will if you have not done so (independent young people and/or young couples should do this). Without a will you have no control over what happens to your estate.
2. If you made a will several years ago, you should re-read and re-evaluate it periodically in light of any changed circumstances.
3. Ask yourself if those to whom you have willed or have thought about including as beneficiaries of your estate share your dedication to God's Word. Can you expect them to continue to support the Truth as you now do? If not, wise stewardship requires that you alter your will to implement this continued support after you die.

Every faithful child of God should think seriously on these things.

—Dub McClish
Denton, TX

“Tradional” CHURCHES

We sometimes see in articles or hear in conversations reference to the “traditional church.” These are usually references to congregations that reject instrumental music, choirs, women in leadership roles over men, and the like. They worship by congregational singing, praying, teaching and studying God's Word, and eating the Lord's Supper and giving on the first day of every week.

Some congregations have even been known to have two worship periods on Sunday morning—one to accommodate those who insist on “traditional” worship, and another for those who want something more “contemporary.”

We should remember that God has prescribed in His Word the worship of His church, as well as its terms of entrance, its organization, and its work. One would do well also to note that the words *tradition* and *traditions* are sometimes used to refer to the commands of God. In 2 Thessalonians 2:15, the apostle wrote: “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or by epistle.” Paul was here making it plain that the Thessalonica Church of Christ should be a **traditional church**. A few verses later the apostle wrote:

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us (2 The. 3:6).

If the church at Thessalonica did as they were exhorted to do, then one visiting their assembly on any Lord's day would find a church worshiping by singing congregationally, praying, engaging in a study of the Word of God, eating the

Lord's Supper, and giving of their means—all led by the men of the congregation, rather than by the women.

It is true that the Lord often criticized certain ones for holding on to traditions. But he always identified those traditions as things originating with men and not with God. In Matthew 15:3 he said, “Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?” Notice the words: *your tradition*. In verse 6 he said, “Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.” Again notice the words: *your tradition*. In Mark 7:3 this same incident is recorded, and Mark explains that it was the “tradition of the elders.” Now look at verse 8:

For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

I suppose one is justified in saying that when we have three songs, a prayer, another song, and then the sermon, this order of activities constitutes “human tradition.” One might even find reason to criticize that “order,” for it is dictated by human judgment. But singing, praying, and preaching as acts of worship are **not** dictated by human judgment; they are dictated by the Word of the Lord.

Some human traditions are perfectly harmless, even good. No doubt there are those who exalt human traditions to the point of being sacred, which is sinful. But let us never make the mistake of ridiculing “traditional churches” or “traditional worship” if we mean by that, congregations that insist on holding to the Word of God in all matters of faith and practice.

—Bobby Duncan
Deceased

No God?

↑ **here is no God.** All of the wonders around us are accidental. No Almighty hand made a thousand-billion stars. They made themselves. No power keeps them on their steady course. The earth spins itself to keep the oceans from falling off toward the sun. Infants teach themselves to cry when they are hungry or hurt. A small flower invented itself so that we could extract digitalis for sick hearts.

The earth gave itself day and night, tilted itself so that we get seasons. Without the magnetic poles man would be unable to navigate the trackless oceans of water and air, but they just grew there. Why does snow sit on mountaintops waiting for the warm spring sun to melt it at just the right time for the young crops in farms below to drink? A very lovely accident.

The human heart will beat for seventy to eighty years without faltering. How does it get sufficient rest between beats? A kidney will filter poison from the blood, and leave good things alone. How does it know one from the other? How about the sugar thermostat in the pancreas? It maintains a level of sugar in the