

- I don't understand how anyone can love the things of this world and expect to be loved by the Father (1 John 2:15-17).
- I don't understand how God could love such a one as I and be willing to give up His Son to die as a sacrifice for me (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8).
- I don't understand pain, suffering, and death, but I do know that one day these will be no more (Rev. 21:3).

I don't understand such things, but I know that if I endure faithfully to the end, God the Father will explain it all to me on that Day (2 Tim. 4:7-8)!

– Danny Box  
Deceased

## THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

### Let us pray for...

- Linda Chumbley** – on the passing of Ken, faithful Gospel preacher  
**Sheila Beauchamp** – recovering from shoulder surgery  
**Tonya Thatcher** – difficulty with pregnancy  
**Judy Reid** – continued recovery auto accident (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)  
**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	7
Sunday AM Worship	7
Sunday PM Worship	8
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	canceled
Contribution	\$907.00
Contribution average (2015)	\$875.78

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

Dub McClish  
 Rick Beauchamp  
 Dub McClish



# The Northpoint Lighthouse

Volume 11, Number 10  
 March 8, 2015

## Disinherited Children

**J**oan Crawford, the famous movie star of several decades ago, left some of her children out of her will. She was not the first to do so, nor will she be the last. It is the right of parents to disinherit a child or children if they choose to do so. Let it be observed, however, that such disinherited children do not cease to be the children or offspring of the withholding parents; they simply are left out of the will, cut off from receiving any of the estate.

Can – and will – God ever disinherit His children? One of the major tenets of Calvinism is *perseverance of the saints*, which avers that once a person is a child of God he can never do anything sinful or evil enough to fall from God's grace and lose his eternal inheritance. However, those who will read the New Testament with clear glasses, rather than ones colored by Calvinistic dogma, will discover a plethora of passages that teach otherwise.

- Simon became a Christian, but he fell into the "bond of iniquity," concerning which he was commanded to pray for forgiveness (Acts 8:21-24). Why bother with the inconvenience of repentance if he could not be lost?
- The Galatians were in danger of falling from grace (Gal. 5:4).
- Paul said that he had to practice rigid self-discipline, lest that, while he preached to others, he might be lost himself (1 Cor. 9:27).
- Even in the Old Testament, God literally disinherited an entire generation of His people for faithless rebellion (Num. 14:26-30).

It is a tragedy that most of the Protestant world has embraced this fatal error along with its multitude of other errors.

Is it possible that some members of the Lord's church have unwittingly drifted into this very dangerous position? If they have not consciously imbibed this error, they certainly behave as if they have done so. Otherwise, it is very difficult to explain how some brethren can go hunting or fishing, entertain or visit relatives, or take a vacation, deliberately forsaking the prescribed assemblies of the

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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

church. Yet, through the years I've known of many children of God (at least in name) who have thus behaved, apparently believing it matters not to their heavenly Father.

Then there are those who attend regularly and perhaps even give generously of their money, but their lives are marred by ungodly habits, speech, dress, or other behaviors that dishonor God and disgrace the church before unbelievers. Yet their attitude seems to be, "I am what I am, and I cannot change." And what of those who "drop out" for weeks or even months at a time and then "drop in" again, as if nothing were wrong in their relationship with God and the church. Surely, they must labor under the assumption that God will not keep His promises of condemnation of His unfaithful children.

Once one is "born of water and the Spirit" (John 3:5), he never ceases to be a child of God. But let us soberly reflect on the fact that God has promised to disinherit unfaithful children. If the Lord will **not blot out the names** of those who are faithful (Rev. 3:5), what does this statement imply that He will do concerning the names of those who are unfaithful (20:15)?

—Dub McClish  
Denton, TX

## Plan Ahead

**S**ome time ago, I saw on a bulletin board the following statement: "Plan ahead. When Noah started to build the ark, it hadn't even started to rain!"

There is significance to that statement in at least two different ways, one of which was probably not in the mind of the author of the statement. First, when God commanded Noah to build the ark, there is no evidence that it had ever rained (indications are that it had never rained). Second, when God commanded Noah to build the ark, it was not raining at the time, and it did not rain until Noah and his sons completed the ark. Indeed, the rain did not come for more than a century while Noah built the ark—all the while preaching (Gen. 6-7; 1 Pet. 3:19-21). This length of time would also indicate that it had never rained.

Now let us think about the fact that Noah had not seen rain, yet God had told him He would bring a flood of waters upon the earth. Where would all that water come from? I am sure that from where Noah stood, he would have looked around and not been able to see where such a vast amount of water would come from, but Noah did not hesitate. Indeed, he "planned ahead" as he began the formidable task of building the ark according to the pattern that God had given unto him. We know also that he believed what God had told him, and, as a "preacher of righteousness" (2 Pet. 2:5), he must have pleaded with the people of his day to turn from their wickedness. We know that only eight souls were saved from the flood (1 Pet. 3:20)—just his own family. However, Noah did not flinch

at the magnitude of his task in building the ark and preaching to the people to repent, rather he went about faithfully doing the Lord's will. Truly, he planned ahead and he did so because of his faith in God and his trust in His promises (Heb. 11:7).

Are we planning ahead? God has forewarned us of a Judgment to come (Acts 24:25; Mat. 24:31-36; 2 The. 1:7--10; et al.). He has also granted us a way of salvation, as He granted to Noah's wicked generation. Noah had built the ark of safety for his time, but only eight entered it and were saved from the flood that destroyed all those outside of it. God, in providing the way of salvation through Christ, has provided for us an "ark of safety." Our ark of safety is His church for which our Lord suffered, bled, and died—the church, which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28).

When our Lord returns will we be found in His ark of safety? Will we have "jumped ship" for the swirling waters of the world? As only those in Noah's Ark were saved from the flood's destruction, so only those who enter the Lord's "ark" and serve faithfully in it will be saved from the Judgment that is to come (Eph. 5:23; 2 Pet. 3:9-12). We dare not be caught outside of the ark of safety when the Lord returns. As Noah's ark had only one door, so the Lord's "ark of safety"—the church—has only one "door." That one door is Gospel obedience, as proclaimed and yielded to on Pentecost (Acts 2:37-41, 47).

—Ken Chumbley  
Belvedere, SC

## Don't Understand

**S**ome things I don't understand:

- I don't understand how men who were once faithful Gospel preachers can preach a perverted "gospel" based on fantasy instead of fact (2 Tim. 4:2; Gal. 1:6-9).
- I don't understand why congregations put up with or fellowship preachers who have left the faith (1 John 1:6-10; 2 John 9-11).
- I don't understand how anyone can think that instrumental music in worship is authorized (or more beautiful) than singing that comes from our hearts (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
- I don't understand how anyone can think that God's Word changes just because his—or a family member's—situation in life changes (Mat. 5:32; 19:3-9).
- I don't understand how anyone can believe that the Spirit works directly on the heart of some unless he believes that God is a respecter of persons (Pro. 24:23; John 7:24; Acts 10:34-35).
- I don't understand why faithful Gospel preachers are ridiculed, abused, and even fired for doing what God has told them to do (1 Cor. 1:23; 2 Tim. 4:2).