

11:6; John 8:24), repent of their sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38), confess Christ before men (Mat. 10:32; Acts 8:37), and be baptized for the remission of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).

The decision is yours.

—Jerry C. Brewer  
Elk City, OK

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Sincerity of belief or the number of people who believe it will not change a false doctrine into the Truth.

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Why don't those who hate the Bible move to where there are none?  
~~~~~

## THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

### Let us pray for...

**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                    | 16       |
| Sunday AM Worship                | 17       |
| Sunday PM Worship                | 17       |
| Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship | 16       |
| Contribution                     | \$903.00 |
| Contribution average (2015)      | \$878.50 |

### 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 11  
March 15, 2015

## Discounting Doctrine

**E**mphasis upon adherence to Biblical doctrine is unheard of in both Catholic and Protestant religious bodies. It is of little more importance to a host of those who still claim to be members of the church of Christ. In spite of these realities, there was never a more devilish doctrine than the one that discounts doctrine. No one can read the New Testament with an unbiased eye and keep from seeing its constant, frequent, unvarying emphasis on doctrinal purity. It begins with such representative statements from the Christ as, "If ye abide in my word, then are ye truly my disciples" (John 8:31) and does not end until the final words of the Sacred volume (Rev. 22:18–19). **No New Testament author neglects this emphasis.**

The motive behind this strong and consistent theme is the fact that the Word of God, given through His Son, is God's spiritual "seed" (Luke 8:11). If the seed is faithfully preserved and planted, it can produce nought but the plant imprinted by God on its spiritual DNA (Gal. 6:7). Moreover, when the seed germinates, the plant it produces is the church Jesus promised to build (Mat. 16:18). Further, the church can remain pure, healthy, and strong only so long as it abides in the doctrine of Christ.

Apostasy cannot be defined apart from doctrinal corruption. When 1 or 100 saints move away from Christ, they do so because they have embraced a different, perverted "gospel" (Gal. 1:6–7). The reason why hundreds of congregations today are different from what they were in faithfulness even one generation ago is that they ceased to abide in the inspired doctrine.

The two—the doctrine and the church—are inseparably linked. When the doctrine is changed, a vicious cycle, almost incapable of being interrupted, is set in motion. Change of doctrine creates changes in the work and worship of the congregation. The more the church changes, the more true doctrine is despised, causing yet further digressions from the Truth. Eventually, the only evidence remain-

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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

ing that such congregations were once churches of Christ is the sign on the building, which has become nothing more than a disguise, masking what is inside from the unwary.

Is it any wonder that the inspired men were so boldly militant in pressing the priority of the preservation of Divine Truth? The very survival of the church in every generation depends upon doing so. As they were, so must we be “set for the defense of the Gospel,” “ready always to give answer” for our hope, and determined to “contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered” (Phi. 1:16; 1 Pet. 3:15; Jude 3). This is precisely why Paul made his powerful appeal on this theme to the saints at Rome:

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them that are causing the divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which ye learned: and turn away from them (Rom. 16:17).

No better illustration can be found of the consequences of ignoring this appeal than the total apostasy of the church to which Paul addressed the foregoing charge. The Roman congregation remained a church of Christ indeed only so long as she faithfully preached and practiced “the apostles’ doctrine” (cf. Acts 2:42). When tolerance of false doctrine and its teachers began to prevail, the loss of her Scriptural identity was sealed; the seed was corrupted. Over a span of the next few centuries it developed into the monstrosity known as the Roman Catholic Church. **Will we learn the lessons of history?**

—Dub McClish  
Denton, TX

## Why Many Are Lost

**S**ince the fall of man in Eden, there has never been a time in the history of the world when the majority of people were God-fearing. Jesus said there will be more people lost than will be saved (Mat. 7:13–14). But this is not God’s fault. Peter said that God is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9). Nor is it the desire of Christ that anyone should be lost (Heb. 2:9). It follows, then, that the reason so many will be eternally lost is the fault of man himself. Why is that so?

Many people do not think they are lost. They give lip service to righteousness, but deep down they believe in universal salvation. They think they are just too good to be lost and the man who believes that will make no effort to get to safety.

Many folks are trusting in salvation by “faith only.” They think that just because they believe Jesus is the Son of God, they are saved. But their faith, apart from works, is dead (Jam. 2:24). Noah’s salvation came about because his faith was obedient (Heb. 11:7; cf. Gen. 6:22). One cannot be saved apart from an obedient faith. Jesus said, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Mat. 7:21). And Christ is the author of salvation “to all them that obey him” (Heb. 5:8–9).

The love of sin will keep multitudes from heaven. Jesus said men love darkness more than light (John 3:19) and Paul said men would be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God (2 Tim. 3:1–5). He who would be saved must shun the things of the world (1 John 2:15–17).

Many are lost because they are trusting in moral goodness to save them. If morality alone can save, men could be saved apart from the blood of Christ (Eph. 1:7), and man does not even need a Savior (Mat. 1:21). There was moral goodness in the world before Christ came, while He was here, and after He ascended back to heaven. If morality could save, He was foolish to die for our sins.

Many are lost because they are trusting in the doctrines of men. Jesus said that to do so renders one’s worship (and thus his service to God) vain (Mat. 15:8–9). Men trust more in reciting a so-called “Sinner’s Prayer” than in obeying the Gospel of Jesus Christ and those who teach such nonsense are sending men to eternal torment.

Many are lost because of their own biases. They have loved and believed religious lies for so long that they have closed their eyes to the Truth and are self-deceived (2 The. 1:10–12). In that condition, they are prejudiced against the Truth and those who preach it.

Although more people will be lost than saved, you do not have to be among that number. God has revealed the plan of salvation in His word and if we follow that, He will save us. He says men must believe in Him and in Jesus Christ (Heb.

# Gospel Meeting

## APRIL 5-8

### Sermon Topics

4/5—9:30: “The Deception and Growth of Sin”

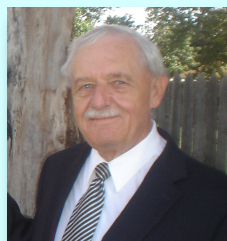
10:30: “Remove Not the Ancient Landmarks”

1:30: “God’s Eternal Purpose”

4/6—7:00: “Not All Believers are New Testament Christians”

4/7—7:00: “How to Identify the Church Today”

4/8—7:00: “Baptized into Moses”



Jerry Brewer

**Come—and invite others!**