

## THE DAILY CROSS

Charge not yourself with the weight of a year,  
 Child of the Master, faithful and dear;  
 Choose not the cross for the coming week,  
 For that is more than He bids you seek.  
 Bend not your arms for tomorrow's load;  
 You may leave that to your gracious God.  
 "Daily" only He says to thee,  
 "Take up your cross and follow Me."

— Author Unknown

## THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

### Let us pray for...

**Sheila Beauchamp** – recovering from shoulder surgery  
**Tonya Thatcher** – difficulty with pregnancy  
**Joan Henderson** – heart problems (Mother/grandmother of Sheri and Jeff, respectively)  
**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	16
Sunday PM Worship	11
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	13
Contribution	\$781.00
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](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 12  
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## The "Gospel" of "Magic"

**I**n the 1980s, "Magic" Johnson obtained great fame and wealth by his basketball exploits with the Los Angeles Lakers. He has been named one of the fifty greatest basketball players of all time. In 1991, he contracted the HIV virus, which forced his immediate and premature retirement when he was at the top of his game. He tried a comeback later, but never achieved his former level of play and soon gave it up for good. While we can sorrow for him because of his illness, the implications of this matter cause should cause us much deeper sorrow. He became an HIV/AIDS "apostle," preaching what he termed his "gospel."

"Magic" had previously kept his name free of scandal relating to gambling, sex, drugs, or violence in which so many professional athletes become involved. His broad, natural smile made him likable even to strangers. He presented himself as an unusually wholesome hero for young people, many of whom (especially young boys) idolized him. He freely admitted his sexual promiscuity as the source of his infection, and his wholesomeness was forever tarnished to those who still have any concept of moral purity. Worse, however, in spite of his sexual immorality, he remained the hero and role model for millions of youngsters.

His "gospel" (as he described it) became a message of "safe sex." Loosely translated, this meant go ahead and behave like an alley cat in satisfying your sexual passions, just take the "necessary precautions" to decrease the chance of infection. Go ahead, commit fornication any time, and with anyone anywhere as long as you do it "safely." You see, committing fornication with perhaps several hundred women was a minor matter – even beside the point; his great fault was merely in failing to protect himself and his "partners" against disease.

I sorrow over the quick praise for "Magic's" safe sex "gospel." Such public acceptance indicated (and indicates) the corrupted and flawed view of God, of marriage and family, of the Bible, and of moral standards abroad in our nation.

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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

And “Magic” is only one among many sports and entertainment figures whom youngsters idolize. The news media, complicit in the amoral/secular culture that has steadily made headway over the last half-century, have almost made him a new Messiah. What a golden opportunity for “Magic” to influence millions with a sorely needed message concerning morals, abstinence, and self-control at least somewhere in his “gospel,” but we did not hear the slightest hint either from him or the news media that he had violated any moral strictures. His “sin” was not in engaging in fornication, but engaging in “unsafe” fornication. However, God’s Word still declares that fornication is sin and that impenitent fornicators will be eternally lost (1 Cor. 6:9–11; Gal. 5:19–21; et al.).

“Magic” sowed the wind and reaped the whirlwind (Hos. 8:7; cf. Gal. 6:7–8). The price for sin must be paid, and sinners often pay dearly even in this world, with the heaviest price coming in the end (1 Cor. 6:9–10; Heb. 13:4; Rev. 22:14–15; et al.). Not only do sinners pay, but they bring tragedy upon the innocent. Not all who have contracted AIDS have done so through their own sins. Many have died from this cruel killer as innocent victims infected by a medical professional, a polluted blood transfusion, or some other means. The gravest consequence of the behavior of “Magic” Johnson and those like him is that by thus glorifying sin, young people will accept and adopt such behavior and will be lost and undone eternally.

**Sin indeed has terrible, far-reaching consequences!**

– Dub McClish  
Denton, TX

## No Escape

**O**ur daily lives are filled with constant decisions, and sometimes life’s demands become so great that we seek escape from those decisions. Fortunately for all of us, there are some things which we can escape in this life and avoid. However, the Bible reveals certain things about our lives which we can never escape.

**Our Influence:** Every one of us wields some kind of influence by the life we live, the things we do, and the words we speak. That is the meaning of Paul’s words in Romans 14:7: “For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.” The influence we have on others may be good or bad, but we cannot escape influencing others. Whatever we do influences others to some degree.

**Personal Accountability:** In Romans 14:12, Paul also wrote, “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” The fact that we cannot escape personal accountability for our actions is something that most people do not understand in this age of irresponsibility. Like Adam, many people want to shift the blame for their own actions to someone else. When Adam sinned, he told God, “The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat” (Gen. 3:12). In that statement, Adam became the first man in history not only to blame his wife for his own actions, but also to blame his Father, who was God.

The fact remains that each of us is personally accountable to God. I cannot serve God for my family and neither can they serve Him for me. “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him” (Eze. 18:20).

**Sin’s Consequences:** Sin has always had consequences and the ultimate consequence of sin is eternal death. Paul said, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23). What most people do not realize is that even sin which has been forgiven may have consequences. One may ruin his health by drunkenness or by drugs and later repent and become a Christian. When he obeys the Lord, his sins are forgiven (Acts 2:38), but the consequences of his actions will linger in his body that is dissipated by drugs and alcohol. The greatest consequence of all is the eternal loss of one’s soul if his sins are not forgiven.

**Conclusion:** Regardless of the sins we have committed, God has promised to forgive us when we obey the Gospel of Christ. If one is willing to believe in Jesus as the Son of God (John 8:24), repent of his sins (Luke 13:3), confess his faith in the Son of God (Acts 8:37) and be immersed in water for the forgiveness of his sins (Acts 2:38), God forgives his sins. Anyone can escape the eternal consequences of sin by doing these things and by living faithfully thereafter (1 Cor. 15:58).

– Jerry Brewer  
Elk City, OK

# 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!**