

## NEW ONLINE RADIO STATION

A faithful brother, under the oversight of the elders of the Spring, TX, congregation, has launched an Online radio station dedicated to broadcasting the Gospel in all its truth, glory, and power. Take a listen at ...

<http://www.live365.com/stations/rfisher68>

## NEW WEBSITE: The Scripturecache

Please visit Dub's new Website for a collection of almost 400 articles and MSS written by Lavonne, Andy, and Dub, with more being uploaded all the time:

<http://thescripturecache.com>



# The Northpoint Lighthouse

Volume 11, Number 18  
May 3, 2015

## THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

### Let us pray for...

Emily Thatcher – newborn difficulties

Megan Zies – pregnancy difficulties (Tonya's friend)

Alice Haddon – fighting cancer (Sheri's friend)

Judy Reid – continued recovery auto accident (sister in NJ, planning to move here)

Jeffrey Reid – Judy's son, with whom Dub will be studying (he has embraced Islam)

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'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	14
Sunday AM Worship	15
Sunday PM Worship	15
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	14
Contribution	\$1,661.00
Contribution average (2015)	\$904.76

### 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).

Preacher, *The Lighthouse* editor

Dub McClish

## God Hath SPOKEN

**H**ebrews 1:1-2 contains numerous significant points of Biblical Truth: God, having of old time spoken unto the fathers in the prophets by divers portions and in divers manners, hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds.

- **GOD hath spoken.** The Creator of the universe has condescended to reveal His perfect will to mankind in the Bible. We are obligated to receive it, "...not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth, the word of God" (1 The. 2:13). In his upper room prayer, Jesus stated, "Thy Word is truth" (John 17:17).
- **God hath SPOKEN.** Deism denies this fact, asserting that He created us and has since ignored us, revealing nothing of His will to us. The Bible says He is so concerned about us that he revealed His will to us – He has "spoken" to us. Those who are wise acknowledge "it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). The world overflows with evil, but had God not spoken, how much fuller of wickedness would it be?
- **God SPOKE in the "old time to the Hebrew fathers** by various means (dreams, visions, heavenly messengers, numerous prophets). The grand theme of the prophets was salvation through the Messiah, the Christ, Who was to come (1 Pet. 1:10-12).
- **God HATH Spoken.** Jesus' work and teachings, culminating in His crucifixion, marked the end of the authority of the Old Testament (Col. 1:14). He promised that "all the truth" would be revealed before the last apostle died (John 16:13). By the time Jude wrote his epistle, "the faith" (i.e., the entire Gospel message) had been "once for all delivered to the saints" (v. 3). The New Testament allows for no subsequent revelations, either by addition or subtraction (Gal. 1:6-9; Rev. 22:18-19).
- **God Hath Spoken THROUGH HIS SON.** God gave His Son, Jesus the Christ, all authority (Mat. 28:18). He exercises His authority through His New Testa-

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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

Testament, ratified and empowered by His shed blood (Mat. 26:27-28; Heb. 9: 15-17). He spoke His will personally and through men whom He chose as His spokesmen, all of whom died by the end of the first century. God has not spoken through Joseph Smith, Mohammed, modern televangelists, or any other post-New Testament self-proclaimed prophets.

Since God has spoken through His Son, we are commanded, "Hear ye him" (Mat. 17:5). We are to "search the Scriptures" (Acts 17:11) that we may "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord" (2 Pet. 3:18). We must submit to His authority in word and deed (Col. 3:17). He will be the judge of all men on the great Judgment Day (Acts 17:31; 2 Cor. 5:10). God's Word, as spoken through His Son in the New Testament, will be the standard of that Judgment for all who have lived since Calvary (John 12:48).

—Dub McClish  
Denton, TX

## Abram — "Friend of God"

**I**n order to determine why Abraham was called "the friend of God," consider Genesis 15:1-6:

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." But Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but the one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

In this text we find God's assurance that He would be Abram's shield and reward. But something is troubling Abram. God had promised him a son, but so far he remained childless. The only "heir" was a foreigner named Eliezer. God reaffirmed that indeed Abram would have a child, one born from his own body. Furthermore, his descendants would be as the stars in the heaven. How many is that? It is estimated that there are 400 billion stars just in the Milky Way. In the universe itself, the best estimate is 1 septillion, which is 1 with 24 zeroes behind it. Abraham had no son yet, but his descendants would be countless. Scripture tells us that Abraham believed what God told him though it seemed to contradict the advanced ages of himself and his wife, Sarah. God accounted this trust in Him as righteousness.

From the text above, we know that Abraham was a faithful man, but does this make him God's friend? Let's look at the three times this term is used and then answer the above question:

The first time this designation is used is in 2 Chronicles 20:7 by King Jehoshaphat. The king begins by appealing for help in an upcoming battle by citing several facts concerning the relationship Israel and God enjoyed. He ends by reminding God that Abraham was his friend. The second reference is in Isaiah 41:8 where God Himself names Abraham His friend. The third time is from James 2:23, which combines what we have looked at in Genesis 15:1-6 with the fact of the friendship. "And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' And he was called the friend of God."

James goes to great lengths to prove that faith without works is dead (Jam. 2:26) and uses Abraham as his example. How did Abraham prove his faith? Was it by saying, "Yes, Lord, I believe you"? No. Was it through his good intentions? No. James gives us the answer in verses 21-22:

Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

Good intentions do not get the job done. Having kind thoughts or uttering eloquent words do not get the job done. Obedience does. Abraham obeyed God's command to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, proving his faith and fulfilling Genesis 15:6. It is not just words, but actions that convince God of our faithfulness. This is the reason Abraham was God's friend. If we obey, we can all be God's friends (Jam. 2:14-26).

—Gary Summers  
Winter Park, FL

## Inner "LIGHT"

**W**ith many the Word of God is not the power of God unto salvation; it is only a "witness" to God's Word. They tell us that as they read the Bible the Holy Spirit gives them special light on the passage read. If this is true, then the reader becomes a Divine speaker for God. That is all the pope of Rome claims. He speaks for God. I had just as soon have the pope as some teenager who claims he or she has a special leading in a "call meeting" or "soul talk" — which some call a "personal encounter." The Bible is set aside as a true guide and is made only a means of bringing a person into a "personal encounter."

The doctrine of "inner light" gave us every major denomination among us. Let us remember that the Bible is right and that "it is not within man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). God's means of converting and leading man is the Word of God (Rom. 1:16). The advocates of emotional religion talk much about the Holy Spirit and, at the same time, ignore what the Holy Spirit says in His Holy Word. The spirit that leads a man outside of the Word of God is not holy.

—G.K. Wallace, deceased