

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>

THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

Let us pray for...

Alice Haddon – fighting cancer (Sheri's friend)

Ann Henderson – fighting cancer (Sheri's aunt)

Lester Kamp – fighting prostate cancer

Mike Mallett – fighting leukemia (faithful brother in Evant, TX)

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)

Brian Ritter – fighting rare autoimmune disease (son of Rick Ritter, Gospel preacher)

Don Smith – faithful brother in Ohio prison who is teaching fellow inmates daily

Tim Smith – fighting chronic physical problems from auto injuries (Gospel preacher)

Megan Zies – pregnancy difficulties (Tonya's friend)

Joshua Aidoo – Gospel preacher in Ghana we support

Samuel Bagsangi – Gospel preacher in Philippines we support

Records you helped make last week...

Bible Classes	17
Sunday AM Worship	17
Sunday PM Worship	17
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	16
Contribution	\$1,067.00
Contribution average (2015)	\$963.15

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.

Preacher, *The Lighthouse* editor

Dub McClish

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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



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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Destructible Deities

When a Buddhist temple burned in a nearby city, news reports stated that the image of Buddha, their object of worship, melted. When I read this, I thought of the Philistine god, Dagon, that fell on its face – leaving nothing but a stump – when the Ark of the true and living God was placed beside it (1 Sam. 5:2–5). While none should rejoice in the property loss sustained by our fellow-citizens, the melted Buddha and the devastated Dagon provoke reflection on the great contrasts between Christianity and other “world religions” (e.g., Hinduism, Islam, Baha’ism) that have gained many adherents in our nation in recent decades. Consider the following three contrasts (although there are many more):

- **The concept of God:** The Bible’s God is the self-existent, omnipotent Spirit (Gen. 17:1; John 1:1–2; 4:24) Who created and sustains all things (Heb. 1:1–3). He is merciful, loving, and just (Tit. 3:4–7; 1 John 4:8; Acts 17:31). He lives not in earthly temples (24–29). **Buddhists** revere images of a man and some ethical principles veiled in ancient mythology. The Philistines borrowed Dagon from the ancient Chaldeans, who created him out of fertile superstition. **Hindus** have their choice of 330 million gods in their pagan pantheon, most of which are tied to mere forces of nature. Both **Muslims** and **Baha’is** profess monotheism, but deny God’s triune nature and Jesus’ Deity.
- **Historical roots:** Christianity is firmly rooted in history. The Christ-theme is threaded through God’s dealings with the patriarchs, prophets, and princes spanning all the way from Eden (Gen. 3:15) to Bethlehem (Gal. 4:4). Jesus ratified His credentials as Deity by undeniable signs and miracles (John 3:1–2; 20:30–31; Acts 2:22). Upon being crucified, God raised Him from the dead, a fact witnessed by hundreds (1 Cor. 15:1–8). Eastern religions have little certain history. Islam indeed has a history, but it stretches back only about fifteen centuries. Muhammad hijacked from the Bible all of Islam’s “history” before his time and warped it to his militant and bloody agenda. **Baha’ism’s** history dates only from 1863, and like Islam, it purloins its pre-founding “history”

from perverted Biblical accounts. Bible-related historical claims of **Islam** and **Baha'ism** contradict both inspired and uninspired history.

- **Revealed Truth:** God revealed all moral and religious Truth and inspired men to record it in the Bible (John 17:17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; Jude 3). It is thus objective (it stands apart from men; men did not originate it). It is both logical and consistent in its narrative from Genesis through Revelation. Jesus is God's final spokesman, and all religious and moral Truth is in the New Testament (Mat. 17:5; 28:18; John 16:13; Heb. 1:1-2;). He is man's only access to God (John 8:24; 14:6; Acts 4:12).

Oriental religions hold "truth" to be whatever one says it is with no ultimate standard by which to measure any claim or principle. Their "truth" is subjective (from within, based on one's feelings/opinions), inconsistent, and illogical. **Islam's** "truth" is the Koran, produced by a morally dissolute, violent "prophet" whose only prophetic credential was his own claim, backed by a bloody sword rather than by humanly impossible signs and wonders and His spiritual "sword." **Baha'is** rely upon their utterly human founder, and self-proclaimed "prophet" for their equally subjective "truth."

The only true religion is Christianity, not as men have corrupted and redefined it through the centuries, but as it is revealed in its source, the New Testament – God's final Word.

– Dub McClish
Denton, TX

Freedom **FROM** Religion

The destruction of our religious liberty was greatly accelerated a few years ago when the United States Supreme Court struck down the practice of prayer at high school events. That move was but another step in the erosion of, and outright attack upon, the Bill of Rights by a government that is wedded to the tenets of Secular Humanism. Instead of respecting our natural right to freedom of religion, our godless government is now enforcing freedom from religion.

The framers of the Constitution knew the dangers of government involvement in religion. That's why they wrote, "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, nor prohibiting the free exercise thereof." They never intended to keep religion out of government. Their purpose was to keep government out of religion. That purpose is now being thwarted by godless, black-robed heathens who sit on the United States Supreme Court bench and pontificate their Humanism in a building that bears the imprint of a Bible verse above its doors. The multicultural vultures have come home to roost in Washington.

The saddest part of this tragedy is that good people will do nothing about these philosophical jack-booted thugs who are ripping away the moral fabric of our civilization. The economy is too good and they are too fat to worry about mundane matters like liberty.

Charles Carrol, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, said: Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion, whose morality is so sublime and pure (and) which insures to the good eternal happiness, are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments.

George Washington said:

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.

How profoundly tragic that these men, who guaranteed our religious liberty, have been replaced by amoral government Cretans who are intent on taking it from us.

"Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?" (Lam. 1:12).

– Jerry C. Brewer
Elk City, OK

Religious "Experience"

Jude speaks of "contending for the faith" – that is, objective faith – the written revelation, upon which personal faith must rest:

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3).

Any "religious experience" not based upon what God has said is false. One's "religious experience" must be tested by what God **said**, not by what one **thinks** God "says" through an alleged "religious experience." Testing what God wills by one's "religious experience" today is the basis of false religion. Abraham had a "religious experience," but it was based upon what God said (Gen. 22:1-13). Salvation is a "religious experience" when it is based upon what God said. Worship is a "religious experience," but it must be based upon what God said (Acts 17).

The Athenians were having a "religious experience," but it was not acceptable unto God, because it was not based upon revelation. One can find people gathered everywhere in worship engaging in some kind of "religious experience," but this does not mean that their experience is acceptable to God. Every "religious experience" one has must be in harmony with what the Bible teaches and must rest upon what God said. When one has some kind of "experience" unknown to the Bible, it is false and deceptive – and is not accepted by God.

It is time for men to turn back to the Bible, find out what it teaches, and then act upon it. The action then will be a "religious experience" that harmonizes with what God said. This will be acceptable unto God. Nothing else is or can be.

– Franklin Camp, deceased