

damnable doctrines have been condemned by Miller's supporters because we showed patience with others. They have accused us of inconsistency in our dealings regarding these matters when, in actuality, we were simply giving others time to learn about them. (If we had not been patient, these same ones would have condemned us for being impatient and "jumping the gun.") Patience is a virtue. However, we cannot allow it to get in the way of doing what needs to be done and allow it to become a vice.

—Michael Hatcher
Pensacola, FL

THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

Congratulations to...

Jeff Simmons will finish his high school education by graduating from Ponder High School June 3. He will be leaving us in August for basic training in the US Navy. Our best wishes and prayers go with him. It would be great if we had a dozen more just like him.

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 MS, 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	16
Sunday AM Worship	16
Sunday PM Worship	16
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	17
Contribution	\$706.00
Contribution average (2015)	\$960.90

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



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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Animal "Rights"

People who visit cruel and senseless suffering on lower animal forms are sick and sadistic. Accordingly, there is a place for a voice against such. As is often the case, however, that which is good in principal can become bad when carried to an extreme. The Environmental Protection Agency's policies that exalt the welfare of creatures at the expense of human suffering demonstrate this claim. Another example of animal "rights" extremism is People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). This organization is filled with dedicated Humanists who believe humankind are merely superior soul-less animals. These are the misguided folk who picket (and sometimes employ violence) against fur coat manufacturers and wearers and medical experimentation on animals. PETA folk even asked England's oldest pub to change its name from "Ye Olde Fighting Cocks" to "Ye Olde Clever Cocks" so as not to offend "intelligent, sensitive chickens" (<http://www.inquisitr.com/2107741/ye-olde-fighting-cocks-peta-says-british-pub-offends-chickens/>).

Consider some observations concerning such extremes:

1. These elements elevate lower forms of life to the same level as (if not above) that of human beings. (Of course, one must conclude that they are at least equals if he assumes that blind evolution explains the existence of all life forms.) If a researcher started experimenting on human beings instead of on white mice or guinea pigs, he would be carried off in a straight jacket, but his practice would be consistent with the premise of the animal "rights" activists.
2. Where do the activists stop? If we let them take experiments on animals away from us, what do they suggest in their place? (Will they offer themselves in place of rats, and if not, why not?) If they get so exercised over a fur coat, will they tolerate a plain leather coat? If they deny us a leather coat, what about our belts, shoes, wallets, and purses? Where do they stop?
3. This issue has some abortion implications. Amazingly, the same activists who work themselves into a frenzy over preserving a Tennessee snail darter, an un-

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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

hatched eaglet, or a whale will often be found screaming for a woman's "right" to murder her own offspring in her womb. By what warped, twisted, perverted, insane "logic" such can happen sane folk can hardly comprehend. But it occurs every day in our confused times.

4. What does God's Word say about animal "rights" and man's place in the hierarchy of physical beings? First, the very order of creation demonstrates that man is the crowning achievement of God's creation (Gen. 1:26). Second, God gave man dominion over **all other life forms** (Gen. 1:27; 9:2-3). Third, God was the first to make clothing for humans out of animal skins (so it must not be too terribly bad for us to do so) (Gen. 3:21). Fourth, inspired men clearly distinguish between men and "brute beasts" (2 Pet. 2:12; Jude 10). Fifth, Paul labeled the forbidding of animal flesh for food as a "doctrine of demons" and said "every creature" was good for food (1 Tim. 4:1-4; cf. Gen. 9:3). Sixth, Jesus said that one man is worth more than many sparrows (Mat. 10:31) or a sheep (Mat. 12:12).

We should not inflict unnecessary, purposeless cruelty upon the lower life forms. However, God created us as masters of them and made them to serve our needs. Let us not be driven from this Biblical position by radicals and extremists.

– Dub McClish
Denton, TX

Closed Eyes

Some people choose not to see the obvious. It was these people to whom Jesus referred when He spoke of those whose "...eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes..." (Mat. 13:15).

It becomes more and more alarming that many in the church who should be well informed have chosen to close their eyes to the Truth with reference to a movement among us which denies the distinctive nature of the church and spreads an umbrella of fellowship over those in the denominational world. I refer here, not to those who have forsaken the Truth with reference to Bible doctrine, but to those who know the Truth, yet who are not at all hesitant to announce, promote, and attend meetings featuring those who have forsaken the Truth.

Do you believe, for example, that the prayer of the Lord in John 17 proves that we are to include in our fellowship all of those in denominational churches who just believe in Jesus? Do you believe that the Holy Spirit provides direct leadership to the Christian, separate and apart from the Bible? Do you believe the denominational bodies are filled with faithful Christians? If brethren do not believe these things, then why do they invite men who are on record as teaching these things to be featured speakers on various programs? If brethren do not believe these things, then why do their church bulletins carry announcements about programs featuring those who teach such? Why do they announce such from their pulpits or urge their people to attend?

The answer, in many cases would be, "We just do not believe these preachers stand for these things." In other words, "Their eyes they have closed." It is not that evidence of their positions on various things is not available, or that they have kept their positions secret. They have declared their positions very publicly, and faithful brethren have called attention to the dangerous errors they espouse. Recordings of their speeches have been made available, but some choose not to see. In many cases, those who are courageous enough to speak out against these false teachers are accused of bitterness, or even jealousy. Some become intimidated by such accusations and decide to remain silent.

We have no intention of closing our eyes to the things taking place in the church. We would urge others to "Be sober, be vigilant..." (1 Pet. 5:8). *Sober*, according to Thayer, means, "of **sound mind, sane**, in one's senses." It is insane to try to promote the cause of Truth by promoting and encouraging those who teach error. Refusing to face the fact that certain ones are false teachers does not make them any less false teachers. Neither does it set one at liberty to promote and encourage false teachers as if they were teaching the Truth. Those who promote and encourage false teachers become guilty of teaching false doctrine themselves (see 2 John 9-11).

– Bobby Duncan
Deceased

[**Editor's note:** I edited this fine article, written perhaps 20 years ago, for space considerations. The foregoing principles and their applications apply with equal force to those once-faithful brethren who, since 2005, have plowed ahead in their determination to support, endorse, embrace, and defend brother Dave Miller and his errors. The Lord's words condemn them: "Their eyes they have closed." DM]

Patience in DOCTRINE

A few decades back, Rubel Shelly began teaching some strange doctrines. Rubel Shelly was so well known for his soundness that many refused to believe anything of a negative nature concerning him. However, faithful brethren began showing the errors and contradictions compared with his previous writings and views. Many people were pleading for patience with Rubel instead of marking and avoiding him as God teaches:

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple (Rom. 16:17-18).

Many others have taken this same view regarding Dave Miller and his false teachings. Certainly, time should be given for people to study the issues, gather the facts, and come to a conclusion regarding these matters. (However, this should not take years to do.) Yet, many of us who oppose Dave Miller and his