

Psalms 119:64–65: “The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes. Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according unto thy word.”

THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

Let us pray for...

- Rick Beauchamp** – on extended absence from family and us because of employment
- Sheila Beauchamp’s brothers** – Mike, Rick, and Doug.
- Jerry Douglas** – fighting bone and lymph cancer (Danny Douglas’s twin brother)
- Ann Henderson** - fighting cancer again, trying one last treatment series (Sheri’s Aunt)
- Terry Hightower** – in the loss of his wife, Vicki
- Judith Klein** (Don Smith’s mother) is down with pneumonia.
- Debbie Post** – fighting cancer (wife of Doug Post, Gospel preacher)
- Judy Reid** – sister in NJ, planning to move here
- Brian Ritter** – fighting rare autoimmune disease (son of Rick Ritter, Gospel preacher)
- Jeff Simmons** – “our boy” in the US Navy (Saratoga Springs, New York)
- Don Smith** – faithful brother in Ohio prison, ordered to cease teaching fellow inmates
- Stephanie Tigner** – who has been restored to Christ (Kourtney’s sister)
- Samuel Bagsangi** – Gospel preacher in Philippines we support
- Danny Douglas** – Gospel preacher in US we support

Records you helped make last week...

Bible Classes	16
Sunday AM Worship	16
Sunday PM Worship	16
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	8
Contribution	\$1,009.00
Contribution average (2017)	\$1,292.73

Internet and YouTube 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.
- Our **YouTube** channel at *Northpoint Church of Christ* has a growing collection of Northpoint sermons available for viewing.

Preacher, Editor, *The Lighthouse*

Philip Smith



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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GOD IS LOVE

God is Love (1 John 4:8). That is seen in his care for mankind from the Garden of Eden to today. His great love is also seen in His wonderful provisions for Adam and Eve until they brought sin and separation upon themselves by their sin. Yet, even in their disobedience God, in His great love He promised a savior (Gen. 3:15). It is seen again when man’s thoughts were evil continually and wickedness filled the earth (6:4). God provided a way of escape from the destruction of the great flood though Noah and the ark (6-8). We see His love in bringing the children of Israel out of Egypt and into the promised Land (Exodus through Joshua). It is also seen in His not completely destroying them when they were wholly turned to idols. He sent them into captivity where they learned never to serve idols again, then returned them to their homeland to rebuild and prosper.

The greatest demonstration of God’s love for mankind is Jesus, God’s Son, Who came to earth to suffer and die for each and every one of us (John 3:16). Why did God do this? Because that was the only way that man could be forgiven of his sins. Jesus prayed that if it be possible that He be spared the cup of suffering He was about to endure (Mat. 26:39-42). The coming of the mob to arrest Jesus was God’s answer. There was no possible way that man could be saved except Jesus die, be buried, and raised from the dead. Yes, His suffering was crucial to our salvation. Emmanuel, God with us, showed the greatest love possible when He gave His live for our sins (John 15:13)

How much do we love God? Do we love Him enough to give our lives to Him in devoted service and obedience (John 14:15)?

-Philip Smith

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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

1 John 4:19: "We love him, because he first loved us."

A NEW BIRTH

I've always been delighted seeing a newly born child. The beginning of a new life that is pure and without a single evil thought or motive brings joy to family, friends, and even casual acquaintances. While the birth of a child is cause for rejoicing, there is another birth that brings even more joy. That is the "birth" of a Christian.

Jesus said, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." This New birth takes place only in baptism because it is in baptism that we become a "new creature." We must be in Jesus Christ to be a new creature (2 Cor. 5:17). The only way we can be in Jesus Christ is through baptism (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27). Since that is where we become a new creature that is where we are born again.

There is one birth, but two elements in this one birth. The first element is that in which we are baptized,—“water.” Since Jesus in the great commission told His apostles, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved,” we understand that baptism is necessary for salvation. Since water baptism is the only baptism preached in the New Testament in which each of us may choose whether or not we will submit (Eph. 4:4-6) and that is the baptism people obeyed in the New Testament (Acts 8:38; Acts 10:47-48), we rightly conclude that the element of water in the new birth is the water of baptism.

The other element in the new birth is the “Spirit.” How does the Holy Spirit enter into the new birth? Is it a Holy Spirit baptism in which the Spirit in some way overwhelms us as it did the apostles and Cornelius?

Is it the Holy Spirit somehow enlightening the mind of the individual so that he might better understand the Scriptures or perhaps withstand temptation? Of course not. It is the Spirit working through the Word to bring about our obedience in baptism.

The Word is the sword of the Spirit, and the Spirit uses the Word to cut to the heart (Acts 2:37; 5:33; 7:54; Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12). In doing so it has the power to bring about obedience in baptism. The fact the Spirit uses the Word of God cannot be missed. Peter wrote:

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever (1 Pet. 1:22-23).

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We are born by the Word of God, which is the sword of the Spirit. This is the part the Spirit plays in the new birth.

If we are to be part of the Kingdom of God and be saved from our past sins, we must be born again. Will you begin a new life that, like a newborn babe, is pure and innocent? Then you must be baptized in water in obedience to the words of the Holy Spirit as proclaimed in the New Testament.

-Philip Smith

“UNCEASING PAIN IN MY HEART”

In Romans 9:1-3, the apostle Paul declares: “I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience bearing witness with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing pain in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were anathema from Christ for my brethren's sake, my kinsmen according to the flesh.” (ASV).

Paul's heart was in pain, not because of heart trouble, but because he had a strong, pure, and loving heart. Whenever one has a sound heart, he will be hurt over those who are away from Christ and in a lost condition (cf. Rom. 9:1-5; 10:1-3). It is an indication of the love of God within one's heart to undergo pain in behalf of other people. The sick, sad, and unhealthy heart does not care and is not moved by those who are in sin and headed for the lake of fire and brimstone! Are we like God, “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4)? Are we like the Lord, “who is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9)? Are we like Paul, who was willing to give his life to labor to save the lost (2 Tim. 4:6-7)? If we love Jesus, we will keep His commandments, according to John 14:15.

Remember, that pain in the heart does not always indicate heart trouble, but can, when one loves Christ and precious souls, indicate a heart that is right with God!

-Danny Douglas

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