

Though for a few moments he would probably be able to discuss spiritual matters, he more likely would have eventually turned the conversation around to what he knew best (his true love)—possessions and other

—Johnny Oxendine (The Berean Searcher, Rives, TN, April 30, 2017)

Psalms 119:76: “Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, According to thy word unto thy servant.”

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)
- 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	10
Sunday AM Worship	10
Sunday PM Worship	13
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	10
Contribution	\$917.00
Contribution average (2017)	\$1,224.87

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.

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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



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“Did I Use Lightness”

When I therefore was thus minded, did I use lightness? or the things that I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, that with me there should be yea yea, and nay nay? But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay (2 Cor. 1:17–18).

Have you noticed how diplomatic some folks are nowadays about the Gospel? Perhaps it is the penchant not to hurt anyone’s feelings. Perhaps it is the acceptance of the idiocy of religious pluralism by our society, and even some in the church.

A few years ago, I watched one rather well-known brother on television bewail the rising level of cohabitation (living in sin) by couples in America today. He mentioned a few Scriptures but his objections were mainly based on statistics, opinion polls, and studies. This is the tendency today among some preachers and defenders of Biblical morality. They do not dwell on the Word of God, but upon the opinions of men. They do not dare call something “sinful” because that might be “judgmental.” Someone might actually begin to think in negative terms about their eternal destiny or Hell!

Yet, the apostle Paul pulled no punches when he spoke to a bunch of educated hedonistic heathens in Athens.

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead (Acts 17:30–31).

Likewise, we should not be afraid to speak the Truth from God’s word to this generation.

—Roelf L. Ruffner (Contending For The Faith, Jan. — Feb. 2017)

Can Paperclips Talk?

Most folk believe that only human beings and parrots can talk, but that's just not true. Although paperclips are not very high on the intelligence scale (and while they don't actually form and speak words), they nonetheless can "talk." What then do they say?

- "Our form didn't 'just happen.' Men needed a means of temporarily holding pieces of paper together. Bill Middlebrook invented, designed, and patented us in 1899. He sought (and found) a specific gauge and temper of wire. He cut long pieces of wire into lengths of exactly 3-3/4 inches. He then bent this piece of wire in just the right places to form us—lowly and simple (but practical, if we may say so) paper clips. Multiplied billions of us have been formed since that first one."
- "Our wire didn't 'just happen.' Some ingenious person discovered long ago that by melting a solid material dug from the earth he could make a strong, hard metal. Someone then discovered he could process this metal into steel. A manufacturer then produced the steel wire that forms us and sold it to our designer and maker. As the expression goes, 'The rest is history'."
- "The ore from which our wire was made was also made. Some men with very large brains say that the ore 'just happened,' but even we of very little brain know that's just silly. If even we humble paper clips didn't 'just happen,' how could the ore out of which our wire was made 'just happen'? Others say the iron ore 'created itself,' but that's even sillier. If we didn't make ourselves (but one far more intelligent and powerful than we ever hope to be designed and made us), how could iron ore make itself (its IQ and power are no hardly better than ours)? Yet others claim that iron ore never had a beginning. Surely, they don't expect us to believe that one. If we paperclips had a beginning (as we did back in 1899), then it doesn't seem at all rational to claim that the raw material out of which we were made did not have a beginning (some of those human-types really have strange ideas, for all of their acclaimed brilliance). While we don't have the brains to figure out exactly when our 'ancestor,' iron ore, was made, but we know it didn't create itself. Someone caused it to exist and to be where it was."

Yes, paperclips not only "talk," but they make sense—far more sense than many reputed "experts." Some very smart men acknowledge the truth "spoken" by simple paperclips, but they remain in foolish denial of the same facts regarding our complex universe and ourselves. If paperclips can figure these matters out, why can't these "geniuses" do so?

—Dub McClish, Denton, TX

[Note: Dub wrote this article for and it was published in the Denton Record-Chronicle, Denton, TX, October 30, 2015.]

Do You Really Want To Go To Heaven?

A Philosophical Investigation Of Luke 18

Few Biblical scenarios are as sad to read about as the conversation that took place between Jesus and a young man recorded in Matthew 19:16–22, and also found in Luke 18. It is one of the more compelling conversations because the "young ruler" actually realizes that so much is at stake. Let us look at the conversation:

And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich (Luke 18:18–23).

The question here is whether this man really wanted eternal life at all. He makes inquiry as to whether it can be obtained; he certainly goes to the right person. However, when told of what is required, he balks because he does not consider what he wants to be of equal value to that he already has.

Also to be taken into consideration here is the fact that Christ knew that covetousness was the sin which most easily beset this young man; though he had obviously gotten honestly what he then possessed, yet he could not cheerfully part with it (even with a clearly stated assurance from the Lord of eternal life—"treasure in heaven"), and by this his lack of sincerity was shown.

It is this total lack of sincerity that brings us to ask the question: Why don't people really want to go to heaven? He did say he wanted eternal life, but that was all he did. He did not, through his actions, show any faithfulness to the announced conviction. It is from his question that we know he views himself to be a spiritual person. Anyone hearing him would also likely think that his first priority was spiritual. His actions, however, reveal his true convictions, his "comments, questions, or prayers" notwithstanding. He knew that by the way he framed his question that it would seem as though his quest was first and foremost heavenly.

Why then does he turn away from his request? Because when it comes down to follow through, he is as shallow as his pretense of faith obviously displays to others. Further conversations with him would perhaps reveal his true interests.