

- **Sandals** – This fellow is just a skeleton of a Christian who hasn't grown and matured in knowledge and service. He has not "grown in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18).
- **Sunday shoes** – The once-a-week Christian. He hasn't learned to be "stedfast, un-movable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" (12 Cor. 15:58).
- **Work shoes** – The active Christian who is always on the job for the Lord. "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4). "Son, go work to day in my vineyard" (Mat. 21:28).

Now may each of us ask, "What kind of shoe best fits me?"

– Author unknown

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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 MS, planning to move here)
- Llewelyn Reid – Judy's husband (that he will be restored)
- Jeffrey Reid – Judy's son, with whom Dub hopes to be studying
- 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	12
Sunday AM Worship	12
Sunday PM Worship	12
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	11
Contribution	\$699.00
Contribution average (2015)	\$949.00

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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Bible BAPTISMS

The New Testament mentions several baptisms. Failure to understand and distinguish between them leads to confusion and error. Note that *baptism* always connotes immersion, dipping, an overwhelming, or submersion. Consider this digest of Bible baptisms:

- **Israel's "baptism"**: Paul described Israel's passage through the Red Sea (Exo. 13–14) as a baptism "in the cloud and in the sea" (1 Cor. 10:1–2). Walls of water on either side and the cloud above fully immersed them. As that "baptism" freed them from Egyptian slavery, so our baptism frees us from sin's guilt and marks the beginning of a new life (Rom. 6:4).
- **Pre-Pentecost baptism**: John "the baptizer" first administered this baptism in water (as the apostles also did later [John 4:1–2]). It involved repentance and confession of sins (Mat. 3:6–9) and was "unto remission of sins" (Mark 1:4). It was preparatory for Jesus' kingdom/church (Mat. 3:2).
- **Jesus' baptism**: The baptism of Jesus by John was "one of a kind." As noted above, the baptism John (and later the apostles) administered was "unto remission of sins," but Jesus was sinless (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22; et al.). When John at first refused to baptize the Lord, Jesus said it was necessary "to fulfill all righteousness" (Mat. 3:15). As "Son of Man," Jesus was subject to the Father's will, and John's baptism was part of His will. Jesus could not have remained a sinless man had he not obeyed this command.
- **Baptism in suffering**: Jesus referred to his agony on the cross as a "baptism" he must undergo (Mark 10:35–38; Luke 12: 50). His suffering at Calvary was not a mere sprinkling or pouring, but an immersion in it.
- **Holy Spirit baptism**: John stated that Jesus would baptize "in the Holy Spirit" (Mat. 3:11). Jesus later specifically applied this promise to His apostles (John 14:26; 15:26; 16: 13). Just before He ascended to the Father, He told them to wait in Jerusalem for its fulfillment (Acts 1: 1–5, 8), which came **only upon them** on Pentecost (26–2:1–4, 14). Implication demands that Paul was also

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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

baptized in the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 11: 5; 12: 11–12). Later, the Lord caused “the like gift” to come upon Cornelius and his guests (Acts 10:44–46; 11:15–17). This overwhelming in power was very exclusive, was administered only by Christ, was not a condition of salvation, and is not known apart from these manifestations.

- **Baptism in fire:** John also stated that Jesus would baptize “in fire” (Mat. 3:11). He went on to describe this fire as destructive and “unquenchable” (v. 12). Fire baptism refers to the fire of Hell, the eternal abode of sinners after The Judgment (Mark 9:48; 2 The. 1:7–9; Rev. 20:14–15).
- **The “one baptism”:** Only one remains in effect from Pentecost (when first preached) “unto the end of the world” (Mat. 28:19–20; Acts 2:38–47). It is a burial in water (8:36–38; Rom. 6:4), it is preceded by a confessed faith in Christ (Acts 2:37; 8:37) and repentance (Acts 2:38). It is the act in which one is cleansed of sin by the blood of Christ (Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:3; Rev. 1:5) and is saved (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21). It clearly is an essential condition to one’s salvation.

It is interesting to consider all of the foregoing baptisms, but the only one that truly should matter to everyone reading these lines is the last one. Have you been baptized for the remission of yours sins and added by the Lord to His church?

–Dub McClish
Denton, TX

TRUE or FALSE?

In 2 Peter 2 we find the apostle bringing news to the brethren that must have been difficult to accept: The fight with false brethren (teachers/doctrine) would be an ongoing battle. Peter speaks to them with certainty that this will happen in the future (2:1), just as Jude (v. 4) speaks of its happening in the present. In Acts 20 the apostle Paul spoke to the elders concerning the same matter (vv. 17–31), reminding them that he had warned them about false teachers (“grievous wolves”) for three years! Brethren, however, are often lax on matters of fellowship with things that must be either “true” or “false.” False teaching hurts the church, but many fail to see this. Truth matters!

We commend the various brethren who will always defend the “Truth.” The “Truth” is very precious. God’s Word is “Truth.” In the Bible, things are quite often “true” or “false.” We dare not compromise or be confused about the difference between the two.

Truth appears in the Bible over 200 times. The word has invariably meant the same with respect to God’s will and Word: stability, certainty, trustworthiness, and verity. God’s Word is “stable, certain, trustworthy, and verifiable.” In Psalms 26:3 we read, “I have walked in thy truth.” In Psalms 119:151 we read, “All thy commandments are truth.” Jesus tells us in John 17:17 that the Word of God (“thy word”) is Truth. An interesting use of the word also appears in Galatians 4:16.

Paul asked, have I “become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” Here we see that the Truth is a dividing line at times, as Jesus said it would be. Truth is divided from error and all that is “false.” If a person does not preach/teach the Truth, then that which he speaks is “false.” The Scriptures inform us of this fact numerous times.

Pseudodidaskaloi is the Greek word translated “false teachers” in 2 Peter 2:1, a compound word that means “a propagator of erroneous Christian doctrine.” It is not limited to any particular teaching, as the New testament seems to use it to reference any “false” teaching that takes place regarding God’s commandments. The Scriptures refer to those who teach error as “false prophets.” The label is a serious one, as both the Lord and the apostles warn of the harm that they can and will do to the souls of the faithful.

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Mat. 7:15). Galatians 2:4 also speaks to us of “false brethren” who come in “unawares.” It is in the following verse that we see how we are to handle these brethren: not to subject ourselves to their control for even an hour! Paul did not allow Peter to reflect a “false” example to the brethren; he withstood him to the face. This is the lesson, that any who teach any other doctrine than that which is of God shall be accursed (1:8). We are not interested in pleasing men with our teaching, lest we displease God (1:10). Those who water down the commands of God, those who **change the demands** of God, and those who **omit the requirements** of God are nothing less (other) than false teachers. Is there really any other way to view it according to the Scriptures?

In the world, people sometimes do not take “True” and “False” questions too seriously. In the Lord’s church, we must always view them quite differently.

–Johnny Oxendine
San Mateo, CA

IF the Shoe FITS...



We often hear or say, “If the shoe fits, wear it!” We sometimes say, “I’d hate to be in his shoes.” I think everyone of us will fit into one of these shoe styles, but which?

- **Loafers** – The indifferent, lazy saint. “Thou wicked and slothful servant” (Mat. 25:26). “In diligence [be] not slothful” (Rom. 12:11).
- **High heels** – This fits the haughty, proud individual. One is not “to think of himself more highly than he ought to think” (Rom. 12:3).
- **Overshoes** – His religion is only superficial and outward. He honors God with his lips, but not with his heart (Mat. 15:8).
- **House shoes** – This person wants things easy, comfortable, and convenient. Half a dozen rain drops or a slight headache will keep him at home when the church meets. “Woe to them that are at ease in Zion” (Amos 6:1).