

content to know that we are living our lives in harmony with the will of God. In the very next verse, Paul points out to Timothy the vital truth that all, rich or poor, enter this world with nothing and we carry nothing out (v. 7). When the Egyptian Pharaohs died all manner of riches and food were placed in the pyramids that were built to house their tombs, but when these pyramids have been opened up, all of those material things were still there. In verse 8, Paul tells us that we should be content with having food and raiment, that is, these things are all that are physically necessary.

The tragedy is that in this country we have far more than the essentials of life, yet too often we are not content; we always want more. It seems that the more we have the more we want. Materialism is devastating to our faith. We need to learn to be truly thankful for that which we have, and if the Lord has seen fit to bless us materially, we should use these blessings for His glory.

—Ken Chumbley,
Deceased

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

Liam Zies — newborn (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	13
Sunday AM Worship	13
Sunday PM Worship	13
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	16
Contribution	\$611.00
Contribution average (2015)	\$932.36

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.



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"It Fills a SPACE..."

My reading of church bulletins spans six decades. I have served as editor of church bulletins for over five decades. At one time the mailbox of the church where I preached received approximately 150 bulletins each week. I have literally seen almost everything there is to be seen in church bulletins. One of these I received some years ago contained an article (actually, a "non-article") that has prompted me to make a few observations (admittedly non-expert, and, in part, subjective) on the subject. I quote a few excerpts from said "non-article":

One of the great "privileges" of being a minister is getting to write a bulletin article every week. [When you forget to write your article] . . . you run up to the nearest typewriter, pray for few mistakes, and start writing an article about writing articles which has little, if any significance, but at least it fills a space. It's a lot like eating "Fruity Pebbles" for breakfast — little if any nutritional value, but at least it fills your tummy.

This writer thought he was being humorous, but his pitiful lines made me sad. Whose fault is it when bulletins contain anything of "little, if any significance"? It is the fault of preachers/ editors who are too lazy to make the mental effort and take the time to write or to select and reproduce anything to edify the church. The preacher quoted above need not have bothered; his readers would have been at least as well (maybe better) off if his space had been left blank.

The article from which I pulled the excerpt is, however, illustrative of much of the material in bulletins I have received over the years. So much of it is "space-filler," and that is about all (at least the writer quoted above was honest about his grudging attitude toward a nuisance). So many bulletins contain little of merit, little to instruct, little to edify the soul — and they do so very unattractively. Some are even worse — teaching error and/or publicizing activities and events that brethren should be opposing with one voice rather than encouraging.

Like so many other things, a church bulletin can be a great tool for Truth and righteousness, or it can range anywhere from a colossal waste of time, paper, ink,

**Northpoint
Church of Christ**
Greenway Plaza, 4224 N. I-35
Denton, Texas 76207
940.220.9931
northpointcoc@hotmail.com
www.northpointcoc.com
www.thescripturecache.com

Sunday
Bible Class 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 1:00 PM
Wednesday
B.C./Worship 7:00 PM

and postage to being a tool to weaken and destroy the church. Permit me to make some suggestions for bulletin editors:

1. Make the bulletin attractive – it represents the church of the Lord. Use color and various type styles to create eye appeal. Excellent content is wasted if it is unread (because its vehicle was carelessly, sloppily thrown together).
2. If you are not good at writing and layout skills, get help from those who are.
3. Use it both as a teaching medium as well as a news medium.
4. Make sure that it teaches only the Truth (both in original and borrowed articles), that it publishes articles only faithful brethren have written, and that it publicizes only Scripturally authorized activities.
5. Give it the time and attention any worthwhile project deserves, and it will produce good fruit.

– Dub McClish
Denton, TX

A CONTROVERSIALIST?

How do you envision Jesus Christ? Many see him as the pale, limp figure of Renaissance art. We know this is not correct because the New Testament pictures Jesus as a hardworking carpenter for some thirty years before he began His ministry in Galilee.

Another misconception about Jesus is that He was not a man of controversy and merely went around consoling the sick and the downtrodden with encouraging words. Yet, again, this is not the Jesus Christ of the Bible. The Jesus of the Bible has rightly been called the “Great Controversialist.” Everywhere He went during His 3-½ year ministry there was a whirlwind of controversy and debate. Jesus was not a troublemaker, but the soul-cleansing questions He asked turned His world upside down. He confronted young and old, rich and poor, believer-in-God and infidel with the Word of God – a mirror to their souls. As He said, “Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell ye, Nay; but rather division” (Luke 12:51).

Many Christians today see religious controversy (i.e., legitimately promoting and defending the Truth regardless of opposition) as “unloving and un-Christ-like.” They run from it. They hold to a “Jesus” who never challenged or rebuked anyone. Yet Jesus loved His critics enough to say to them, “Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?” (Mat. 23:33).

Why is this? It may be because they do not know their Bible, Old or New Testaments. Or perhaps they have accepted the prevailing philosophy of religious pluralism, which maintains that all religious beliefs are of equal value. Others have bought into the idea that all truth is relative and there is no such thing as an absolute. Yet Jesus Himself refuted these outlooks when He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

After Jesus ascended into Heaven, the church He established also became the center of controversy. She was persecuted by the religious authorities and later the civil authorities. Christians challenged the beliefs of others in truth and love. For example, the Apostle Paul spent a good deal of his time debating and in heated discussion with opponents of Christianity. When he was in Ephesus, the historian Luke records:

And he went into the synagogue, and spoke boldly concerning the kingdom of God. But when divers were hardened, and believed not but spake evil of that way before the multitudes, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus (Acts 19:8-9).

Even today, if Christians truly follow Jesus, they will find their lives often embroiled in controversy, whether it is over the necessity of baptism for salvation or same-sex “marriage.” Yet I wonder if any of us could have survived one day in the life of Jesus Christ?

– Roelf L. Ruffner
Columbia, TN

Wealth or POVERTY

From time to time one hears preachers who teach that all who become Christians will become prosperous, materially – that God will bless them with wealth. On the other hand, there are those who preach that a Christian is one who should not have much of this world’s goods and that any Christian who prospers materially is surely not living a faithful life. But what does the Bible teach?

Nowhere does the Bible condemn wealth. Indeed, faithful men of old were prosperous and wealthy. For instance, Abraham, “the friend of God,” was certainly a wealthy man. It is not material things that are wrong in and of themselves, but rather it is how we use them. An old song states that “money is the root of all evil” and that we should not “contaminate” ourselves with it. However, Paul did not tell Timothy that money was the root of all evil, but that the **love** of money is the root of all evil:

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows (1 Tim. 6:10).

We can love money whether we have a little or a lot. It is our attitude towards what we have that is important. If a man’s heart is right with God he will seek the kingdom of God first (Mat. 6:33). A faithful wealthy man will use what he has for the furtherance of the kingdom; one who is not wealthy will also use wisely what he has for the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ.

What we need to remember above all is what Paul also told Timothy: “But godliness with contentment is great gain” (1 Tim. 6:6). No matter what we have, or have not, materially speaking, our goal should be to seek after godliness and be