

sin, please stop accusing me (and others) of being unloving because we earnestly contend for The Faith. If we did not love, we would not try to correct.

If what you read on these pages is wrong, prove it, and let me know; I do not wish to go to Hell for teaching false doctrine. If what you read on these pages is right and proves that you are doing something that is wrong, repent – for Judgment surely comes. If you are proven wrong and you still refuse to repent then you are the unloving one, for Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).

I remember an old saying about throwing a rock into a pack of dogs – which one barks first? Make sure that what you are doing is proper – it would be a shame to come so close to the Truth only to miss Heaven because of liberalism in whatever form. I do love Jesus. I do love you and long for your salvation. That is why I try to reach you with the Truth.

– Tim Smith, 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 (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

Joshua Aidoo – Gospel preacher in Ghana we support

Samuel Bagsangi – Gospel preacher in Philippines we support

Records you helped make last week...

Bible Classes	21
Sunday AM Worship	21
Sunday PM Worship	21
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	18
Contribution	\$2,126.25
Contribution average (2015)	\$981.87

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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PREPARING for Persecution

I excerpted the quoted material below from the MS I wrote for the seventeenth Annual Denton Lectures (1998), conducted by the old Pearl St. church here in Denton. Please keep this date in mind as you read:

In America the heinous philosophies of Hedonism, Humanism, Atheism, and Liberalism (political, theological, and moral) and the climate for persecution of the opposing force of Christianity (in the broadest sense) have increased in parallels in the final quarter of the twentieth century. It seems likely that these trials and tests to our faith will only accelerate as increasingly godless voters elect more and more godless officials after their own kind, who will pass increasingly anti-Christian legislation and appoint additional anti-Christian judges. While there is already some real persecution of the Lord’s people in America, except for occasional isolated incidents, it is not violent, and it is at present perpetrated largely only by God-hating individuals rather than as a matter of government policy.

However, if the new paganism embodied in the philosophies of the New Age and Postmodern movements – and fueled by the aforementioned forces – continues to gain ascendancy, the young generation of saints may well live to see calculated, legislated, government-sponsored, violent testing of their faith as in bygone ages. There are already some government regulations in place that have been applied by some judges so as to limit the discussion of the Gospel with one’s co-workers on the job and to proscribe private religious meetings in homes.

The restrictions in public schools pertaining to anything related to the Bible are well-known (although witchcraft, pagan mysticism, Islam, “Native American” religion, et al., ...have free expression). The so-called “politically correct” speech and thinking that have been forced upon practically every facet of our culture and society are almost altogether anti-Bible and anti-Christian. For the most part, the public education hierarchy, from preschool through university level, is under the control of radical, liberal

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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

extremists who despise rationality and exalt subjective “feelings.” ...Their sources are the powerful, rabid Atheism and Liberalism already mentioned.

When it is more shameful in the minds of many to cry out against the abomination of homosexuality than to **commit the act**, the forecast of worse trouble for God’s people is evident. When our fellow-citizens count it more reprehensible to **display posters showing the graphic results** of the abortion industry in protest of the practice than the murderous act itself, the signs are ominous for what may lie ahead. When a majority of our citizens appear to be more upset with the prosecutor who exposes the corruption and crimes of a morally bankrupt president than with **the president’s pornographic and criminal behavior**, the precarious position of Biblical morals is manifest. It does not require the wisdom of Solomon to see that if the militant homosexual and feminist forces continue to gain power, younger Christians may well eventually face federal legislation ordering congregations to install them as preachers, elders, deacons, and teachers or else face crippling fines, seizure of property, and/or imprisonment.

The recent Supreme Court ruling redefining *marriage* may prove to be the catalyst leading to the persecution foreseen above. To in any way endorse dragging this institution—originated, ordained, and defined by God Almighty “from the beginning” (Mat. 19:3-6)—into the sewer is territory into which we must not be willing to go. Paul described what we presently face:

For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (Eph. 6:12).

The preparation for dealing with such opposing forces is the same now as it was then—equipping ourselves with the “whole armor of God” and arming ourselves with “the sword of Spirit, which is the word of God” (vv. 10-11, 13-17).

—Dub McClish
Denton, TX

A GOSPEL PREACHER IS...

Above all a Gospel preacher is a simple **Christian**. He has no titles or a special suit to wear. He fights many of the same battles with Satan every day that other Christians fight. He gets sick on Sunday. He can be exhausted on Wednesday evening. He even visits the sick, when needed.

A preacher is also a **proclaimer** of God’s Word. He tells the old, old story of Jesus and His love. The story may be tarnished and pitted to some, but it is as fresh as rain in the desert to him. He loves to plant God’s Word in men’s hearts. He is extremely careful in what and how he preaches. And occasionally he sees the most thrilling thing of all—the seed sprouts and bears fruit.

The gospel preacher is an **exhorter** of the brethren. He tries to show them the strait and narrow way that leads to eternal life. Along the way, he encourages

many and may even snatch a few from the fire. In so doing he constantly returns to the freshness of God’s Word to encourage himself and stimulate others.

A preacher is a **defender** of God’s Truth. In some ways he must have a steel hand inside a velvet glove. He must be like Jeremiah the prophet by being a defending wall to his people. His may often be a lonely position, but he must realize he is never alone.

A preacher must be a **rebuker** of false teachers and doctrine. With firm gentleness he stops those who sow confusion by power of the Scriptures. This requires much study, prayer, and the overcoming of fear and dread. But he realizes Jesus would not do less for him.

The Gospel preacher is a **builder** of dreams. He has in his hands and heart the blueprint and pattern—God’s Word. He must rightly divide it and not be ashamed when the Lord returns.

A Gospel preacher is a **student** of God’s Word. He pores over it daily trying to learn some new insight. He is constantly being renewed by it. Every sermon and Bible class impresses on him the fact that it is truly inspired. He sees it resurrect people’s lives. The more he learns the more he realizes his purposes in life. God’s purpose for man becomes his purpose.

—Roelf Ruffner
Columbia, TN

“You Are UNLOVING”

Has anyone ever told you that? I have heard that a few times through the years and things similar to it: “You are too negative,” “You need to be more concerned with the spirit of the law and less concerned with the letter of the law,” and more. Prior to finishing any article (this one included) I ask myself several questions about what I have written—Is it correct? Is it needed? Is it balanced? Are there two or more ways of seeing the issue considered? Have I proven my point clearly? Am I speaking the Truth in love?

I love the Lord—first and foremost. I love my brothers and sisters in Christ. I love the lost—alien sinners and erring brethren. I love the liberals—they are lost, mistaken, misguided (sometimes), ignorant (sometimes), and even hypocritical, but I love them anyway. I hope to call to their attention the errors of their ways that they might repent before Jesus comes or they die, for, lacking such repentance, He will spew them out of His Mouth. Every line of this article, like them all, is written with love.

Is it unloving to point out the error of one’s way to him? Jesus did it. Paul did it. Peter did it. In fact, if you took out every book of the Bible that says something to us about the importance of living right and not living wrong, what would you have left? Not much. While it might be unpleasant to read of your