

The church does not depend upon any living person(s) for its existence and well-being. The church is built upon Christ (1 Cor. 3:11) and is founded and sustained by truth (1 Tim. 3:15). The church does not belong to us; it belongs to Christ (Mat. 16:18). Our obligation is to respect and submit to His authority (28:18) by abiding in His Word (John 8:31). We must speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent (1 Pet. 4:11). We show our love for Christ and for His church, the body of Christ, by doing His will (John 14:15). Those who refuse to abide in the teachings of Christ do not have God (2 John 9).

—Lester Kamp
Denver, CO



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)
- 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	16
Sunday AM Worship	16
Sunday PM Worship	16
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	17
Contribution	\$766.00
Contribution average (2015)	\$974.42

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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Honoring *with the Lips*

Pharisees and scribes once came to Jesus, chastising Him for not honoring the traditions of their forefathers (Mat. 15:1-2). He responded that they were violating God's commandments by their human traditions, and cited a tradition as proof (vv. 3-6). He then excoriated them as follows:

Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, This people honoreth me with their lips; But their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, Teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men (vv. 7-9).

Upon reading His scathing rebuke of such hypocrisy among His contemporaries, it is only natural to inquire if such hypocrisy exists today.

Notably, those against whom Jesus originally railed were religious leaders. They professed **orally** to be servants of God, but their behavior proved that their hearts were far removed from their lips. They were "talking the talk," but not at all "walking the walk" of true religion. Things have changed little from that time to this.

Religious leaders routinely "honor with the lips" the God and Savior Whose authority they despise by flouting His revealed will. For example, **religious leaders say that:**

- One church is as good as another, implying that all of them have Jesus' approval. **The Bible teaches**, however, that Jesus promised to build only one church, which He did (Acts 2:37-47). He is the Foundation, Head, and Savior of it—and it alone—(1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 1:22-23; 2: 5:23).
- All the conflicting doctrines and practices of professed believers are found in the Bible. However, **the Bible demands** uniformity of doctrine and practice (Mat. 7:15; John 17:20-21; 1 Cor. 1:10; Gal. 1:6-9; Eph. 4:3-6; 2 Tim. 4:1-4).
- Simply praying "the sinner's prayer" will result in salvation. But, **the Bible teaches** every sinner who confesses Christ to repent and be baptized in water in order to be saved (Acts 2:37-47; cf. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:35-38; et. al.).
- Baptism consists of sprinkling, pouring, or immersion, but **the Bible teaches** that baptism is a burial in water (Acts 8: 38-39; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12). The very meaning of the word translated *baptize* is to dip, plunge, immerse, submerge.

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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

- Baptism is optional in order to join a church—after one has been saved, but **Jesus said**, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: (Mark 16:16; cf. John 3:5; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom. 6:4; Gal. 3:27; 1 Pet. 3:21). **The Bible teaches** that in the act of Scriptural baptism the Lord simultaneously saves the sinner and adds him to the church of Christ (Acts 2:38–47; 18:8; Rom. 6:3–4; 16:16).
- When Jesus comes He will establish and reign in a millennial kingdom on earth. **Jesus said**, however, that His contemporaries would see His kingdom (Mark 9:1), which they did (Col. 1:13; Heb. 12:23, 28). **Jesus told** Pilate, “My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36).

Political leaders often behave likewise. They may be shameless fornicators, drunks, thieves, liars, and blasphemers, but around voting time they can glibly say, “God bless you,” “God bless America,” or “I’m praying for you.” All such is egregious mockery and hypocrisy.

Jesus said that all such “lip-servants” are blind guides of the blind, whom (along with their institutions) God will eventually uproot (Mat. 15:13–14).

–Dub McClish
Denton, TX

SAVING THE WORLD

The Bible contains the true religion, or there is none. There is light in the Bible to save the world, or the world is lost. Our only choice is between the Bible and nothing. Judaism is abolished. Mohammedanism has no claims in internal merit or external evidence. The fruits of all Paganism show that it is evil, and only evil, continually. Infidelity has nothing for the world. While it would take Christianity from us, it has nothing to propose. It is no system—no doctrine—teaches nothing and defends nothing. Its only province is to stand and deny. It finds fault with everything, starts doubts, destroys confidence, fills the world with fears, and spreads an eternal gloom over the prospects and hopes of all nations.

Reason and the light of nature have been tried longer and more effectually than any system in the world. At least four thousand years have the pagan nations been trying what they could do for our race without a revelation from God. In all the experiments yet made, with no guide but reason and the light of nature, the tendency has been downward. Deterioration has been the universal result, without the light of the Bible.

We then cling to the Bible—and the religion it reveals—as the only hope of the world. If it fails, all must fail, and all must be lost. But it is folly of the most stupid order to speak of the Bible’s failing. Its Author is emphatically **the friend of man**. Its holy lessons are all for our good. All who have been led by it are thankful they ever knew it. It has never deceived one or misled one. No one [at least no rational person, DM] has ever lamented being led by it. The more solemn and affecting the circumstances around us, and the greater the trials in which we are

soul. It encourages all that is good and discourages and condemns all that is evil. It is our guide and comfort through the journey of life; nor does it fail when we are sinking in death.

No one who believed it before, in a dying-hour denies and repudiates the Bible. But many determined infidels have recanted and repudiated their infidelity when sinking into the eternal state. That which they talked in health, that which dwelt upon their tongues in their mad career through life, they themselves condemned, in the most awful and solemn moments of life, and with their dying lips repudiated. How shameful and preposterous, that a man should live such a life of folly and inconsistency as to be compelled in his dying moments to condemn all his past life—with all the sentiments he had cherished and inculcated—and warn all men against them!

– Benjamin Franklin
Gospel preacher (1812-1878)

Preeminence

There has always been a desire on the part of some to be preeminent among the followers of Christ. In Matthew 20 we learn that the mother of James and John came to Jesus with her sons and requested the places of preeminence in the kingdom for her sons (vv. 20–28). Mark 10:35–45 tells us that James and John came to Jesus themselves with the same request. On both occasions Jesus’ response is the same. There is no place in the kingdom for the domination of or for exercising lordship over other disciples. Jesus made it clear that in the kingdom, He has “all authority” (Mat. 28:18). Paul wrote of the authority the Father gave to His Son: “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body” (Eph. 1:22–23).

Many years after learning this vital lesson himself, John encountered Diotrephes, “who loveth to have the preeminence” (3 John 9). This expression in the Greek is a compound verb, combining a verb which means “to love” and a verb which means “to have first place.” The second of these verbs occurs only once in the New Testament in Colossians 1:18 where it is used of Christ, “that in all things he might have the preeminence.” Diotrephes was running the church to ruin because of his exaggerated appraisal of his own worth and his lack of concern for the Truth and for the welfare of the church.

Regrettably, there are still some of the sort of Diotrephes in the church who seize power for themselves, thinking that the church stands or falls because of them. They believe that their judgments, ideas, and plans are more important than the church itself. Their love for preeminence usually exhibits itself like that of Diotrephes in 3 John 9–11 by: (1) accusing faithful preachers falsely, (2) forbidding others in the church to receive faithful Gospel teachers, and (3) expelling from the church those who refuse to bow to their will. Such domination in the church is always wrong. We must never place ourselves in such a position or allow others to do so (Rom. 16:17). The church of our Lord is greater than any personality.