

But Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). The copulative conjunction, *and*, joins both *belief* and *baptism* in salvation. One is neither saved by faith alone, nor baptism alone. It is in baptism that one's faith is complete and Peter emphasized that point, saying, "The like figure whereunto baptism doth also now save us..." (1 Pet. 3:21). Peter did not say baptism **alone** saves us, but that baptism is simply part of God's requirements for our salvation. No man is saved without being baptized into the death of Christ where His saving blood forgives sin (Rom. 6:3-5). Indeed! "Obey what the Bible says, not what men say it says."

—Jerry C. Brewer  
Elk City, OK



## 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	19
Sunday AM Worship	19
Sunday PM Worship	19
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	11
Contribution	\$801.00
Contribution average (2015)	\$968.64

### 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](http://www.northpointcoc.com).

Preacher, *The Lighthouse* editor

Dub McClish



# The Northpoint Lighthouse

Volume 11, Number 31  
August 2, 2015

## Religion by Majority

A Pew Poll of 35,000 Americans, released in June 2008, revealed some interesting statistics about religious beliefs. More than half (57%) of "evangelicals" (strong in their belief in the Bible and in Jesus as God's only begotten Son, right?), opined that Christianity is **not the only way to Heaven**. "Mainline" Protestants (e.g., Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, et al.) stated the same opinion by a whopping 83%. The average of all who professed any sort of religious affiliation (70%) said that there are many ways (religions) by which one might attain eternal life.

Of those polled, 92% claimed to believe in God. Belief in the Bible registered 88% among Evangelicals, 61% among "mainline" Protestants, and 63% over all those surveyed. Among other things, these figures indicate a widespread religious pluralism, reflecting the popular philosophical nonsense known as "post-modernism." This philosophy denies the existence of objective truth and makes all things relative. Its deluded adherents babble about "your truth" and "my truth" as if all views were equally true and valid. This drivel is but the natural progression of the generations-old denominational inanity: "It makes no difference what you believe, as long as you're sincere." The Bible says it makes **all** the difference. Just as there is one God and one Savior, there is only one Gospel by which men can enter Heaven (Mark 16:15-16; Rom. 1:16; Gal. 1:6-9).

Postmodernism has opened the door for the "Emerging" or "Emergent" church movement that has been gaining momentum since the last decade of the previous century. It is the ultimate Burger King, "have-it-your-way," approach to religion. It smacks of the old anti-establishment movement in culture and politics of the 1960s, only applied to religion. The Emerging/Emergent church movement is an unabashed attempt to bend religion to every Humanistic, secular, and pagan (including Islamic) influence in society.

The Emerging/Emergent approach allows one to believe and/or practice anything (or nothing) regarding God and man's relationship to Him – and still call himself a "Christian." It holds few, if any, moral absolutes. Its main concerns are with the here and now and "social justice," rather than with sin, redemption, and

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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

immortality. One critic likened it to a “Build-Your-Own-God” shop, while another identified it as outright paganism.

Propositional truth and Biblical authority are passé, if not subjects of ridicule to its leaders. The Bible is of no use or concern to them. Were we still in the days of outhouses, these pseudo-theologians would doubtless place their Bibles alongside the Sears-Roebuck catalog in such facilities. To them, one can deny the Father and the Son—John’s definition of an “antichrist” (1 John 2:22)—and still be a “Christian.”

The concept of many ways to Heaven (assuming one still believes in the immortal soul) indisputably contradicts the claim of belief in the God of the Bible. The very basis of the Mosaic law pronounced the God of the Bible to be the **only** true and living God, not “a god” among many:

Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee a graven image, nor any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them; for I Jehovah thy God am a jealous God... (Exo. 20:3-5).

The New Testament echoes this cardinal fact throughout. That very God sent the Redeemer into the world in the person of Jesus Christ, and “like Father, like Son” —He claimed to be the **exclusive** avenue to eternal life: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). Biblical religion is decidedly **monotheistic** and **anti-pluralistic**. It may evince “tolerance” for declared believers in God and in the Bible to aver that there are many paths to Heaven, but it is also hypocritical and patently anti-Biblical. **Men may reject this Bible teaching, but it is consummate folly to deny that the Bible so teaches.**

Paul’s warning is ever-appropriate: “Take heed lest there shall be any one that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” (Col. 2:8).

—Dub McClish  
Denton, TX

# RIP?

**W**hen a person passes from this life (especially if that person was a notable figure), we often hear the expression, “Rest in peace,” and in print it is often abbreviated as simply “RIP.” The expression is, no doubt, designed to give comfort to those who knew, loved, and appreciated the deceased. If the deceased has been sick and in suffering, we will often hear that the person is in a “better place” or that he is no longer suffering.

For one who lived and died as a Christian, those statements are indeed true. John wrote:

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them (Rev. 14:13).

Christians will “rest” from the work they have done in living the Christian life.

There was a certain beggar named Lazarus. When he died, he was “carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom” (Luke 16:22). Abraham stated that Lazarus was now being comforted (v. 25). Lazarus was certainly resting in peace and was in a much better place than earth afforded him.

While in prison in Rome, Paul wrote at least four books (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon). Paul expected to be released. Whether or not he was, his aim or purpose was to bring glory to Christ:

According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death (Phi. 1:20).

Thus, either way, whether he lived or died, Christ would be magnified. Next Paul stated, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (v. 21). We are concerned at this point with his death’s being “gain.” Why would Paul’s death be considered “gain”? He answers that question by saying, “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better” (v. 23). *Depart* is a word expressing the idea of going out to something better; it would be the fulfilling of one’s purpose. Paul lived his life magnifying Christ, and when death would come, he would be able to go and be with Christ. Thus death was gain to him; he would be in a better place—he would be able to RIP!

However, being in a better place and being able to “rest in peace” is only true of those who “die in the Lord” (Rev. 14:13) or those who magnify Christ in this life (Phi. 1:20). What about those who are not “in the Lord” or magnifying Christ in the body? If we return to the historical account of Lazarus, we are also introduced to “a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day” (Luke 16:19). When the rich man died, Jesus simply said he “was buried” (v. 22), as opposed to being carried into Abraham’s bosom, as was Lazarus. Jesus then reveals to us that, while Lazarus was being comforted, the rich man was being tormented.

As Christians we should refrain from saying a person is in “a better place” if the person was not a faithful Christian. To give others false hope is wrong, and to lie about the one who has died is wrong. While we should be tactful in our comments, we dare not leave a false impression.

—Michael Hatcher  
Pensacola, FL

# “Obey What the Bible Says...”

**A** Baptist Church in my city posted the following message on a sign at its building a few months ago: “Obey what the Bible says, not what men say it says.” That’s a good statement and the best advice one can give. But the Baptists who posted the sign teach that “...no one is a scriptural subject for baptism till he is already saved” (J.G. Bow, D.D., “What Baptists Believe and Why They Believe It,” Issued by The Sunday School Board of The Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, TN., n.d.). That’s what men **say** the Bible says.