

though I did not help rob the bank. I am guilty of a crime. If I then tell you about the situation and you do not contact the police, what does that make you? At the very least you are hindering the arrest of a fugitive, a crime in and of itself.

Yet, some brethren will not flinch at fellowshiping those “spiritual criminals” who bid “Godspeed” to false teachers.

– Roelf Ruffner
Columbia, TN



Those who expect to go to Heaven must take time to study the route that will get them there.



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)
- Jeff Simmons – “our boy” in the US Navy
- 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	15
Sunday AM Worship	15
Sunday PM Worship	15
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	13
Contribution	1,176.00
Contribution average (2015)	\$975.33

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

**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



The Northpoint Lighthouse

Volume 11, Number 32
August 9, 2015

Compassion

Among the many attractive and ennobling traits the Bible urges upon servants of God and followers of Christ is compassion. Even those who possess no compassion often admire and appreciate this trait in others.

Psalms 86:15 extols God’s compassion: “But thou, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.” Notice the companion virtues to compassion: graciousness, longsuffering, and mercy. Because of His compassion, God is slow to anger (145:8). Out of His compassion, God sent the prophets to warn His people of coming doom if they failed to repent (2 Chr. 36:15).

Compassion graced the earthly life of our Savior. Upon seeing the multitudes, Jesus “was moved with compassion for them” (Mat. 9:36; cf. 14:4; 15:32; et al.). In every case where His compassion is mentioned, He did something to help the object of His compassion.

Since we are to “walk, even as he [Jesus] walked” (1 John 2:6), and since Christ is to be formed in us (Gal. 4:19), it follows that we must be a compassionate and longsuffering people. The upright man is “gracious, and full of compassion and righteousness” (Psa. 112:4). The Hebrew Christians were commended for having “compassion on them that were in bonds” (Heb. 10:34). Zechariah commanded God’s people of old: “Execute true judgment, and show mercy and compassions every man to his brother” (Zec. 7:9).

While lauding this all-too uncommon virtue, a word of warning is in order concerning its misuse. We must never use compassion as an excuse for a compromising attitude toward God’s Word. In the name of “compassion” some would withhold the Truth from those who need it lest they be offended. It is no mark of compassion to neglect or refuse to speak the whole counsel of God – whereby one might be saved – whether to spiritual brethren, friends, family members, or even an enemy. Nor does a compassionate disposition contradict the capacity to raise one’s voice in bold protest against sin and error, as our Lord often did. His perfect compassion did not preclude His calling the scribes and Pharisees blind and foolish hypocrites who were the sons of vipers and bound

for Hell (Mat. 23:16–33). Paul’s compassionate spirit did not prevent his calling Elymas the sorcerer “thou son of the devil” (Acts 13:10).

As with the noble virtue of sincerity, so with compassion – it is not the totality of virtue. Let us cultivate the sweet disposition that can be born only of compassion, all the while determined to stand firm in all of the Truth of God’s revelation.

– Dub McClish
Denton, TX

It was reported that a man said: “I’m not lazy. I just don’t like to work.” Obvi-

WHY Work?

I obviously, this man did not understand the importance of work. Let us consider some reasons that we need to work, and especially why we need to work for God.

- **The Father and the Son Are Workers.** “But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work” (John 5:17). These are two examples we must all follow!
- **Labor for the Lord Is Not In Vain.**

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58).

When the Great Depression hit, many wealthy people lost “everything” overnight. Servants of the living God do not have such insecurity, for we know that what we do for Him is treasure laid up in Heaven, and it is a treasure that is safe from all harm. Jesus declared:

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Mat. 6:19–21; cf. 1 Tim. 6:17–19).

Jesus taught: “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). The Lord realized that He had to be diligent and earnest in doing God’s will while He had the time and opportunity. We must also know and practice this valuable principle. Anything worth doing is worth doing with our might, and the Lord’s work is the most worthwhile of all.

Solomon said:

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest (Ecc. 9:10).

One may be diligent in earthly affairs but slothful in spiritual matters. The rich farmer in Jesus’ parable was very diligent in his business, but he left out God. How sad!

But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God (Luke 12:20–21).

Go to the ant, thou sluggard; Consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, And gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard: When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, And thy want as an armed man (Pro. 6:6–11).

Paul teaches that Christians are to be “Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord” (Rom. 12:11). The one-talent man was condemned as a “wicked and slothful servant” (Mat. 25:26)!

• Our Works Will Follow Us.

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).

The Bible says of righteous Abel that “...he being dead yet speaketh” (Heb. 11:4).

• Christ’s Faithful Workers Will Be Rewarded Eternally in Heaven.

Jesus said of them:

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also (John 14:1–3).

– Danny Douglas
Mt. Pleasant, TN

“Spiritual Criminals”

As the old saying goes, “It does not take a rocket scientist to understand” 2 John 9–11:

Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds (2 John 9–11).

Yet, many brethren refuse to obey these verses. For me they simply state:

1. If one teaches false doctrine (i.e., not the “doctrine of Christ”) he has sinned and is not in fellowship with God.
2. Neither the individual Christian nor the church should fellowship such.
3. If we knowingly aid this false teacher in any way, we are fellowshiping him and are guilty of sin ourselves.

What about those who knowingly fellowship the sinner in item number 3 (2 John 11)? Are they “out of the loop” of sin because they have not **directly** fellowshiped the false teacher? No they are not! They are also sinning by fellowshiping a sinner, the sinner of verse 11 (cf. Eph. 5:11).

If a friend of mine robs a bank, then comes and tells me of his crime and I agree to hide him, what am I? Legally I am an “accessory after the fact” even