

Win Friends and Influence People—DM] so the man in the pew would know what was taking place. It is high time we put the preacher back in the study with his Bible and let him know we expect him to “get with it and preach it.” Some sermons I have heard recently would not have been tolerated in the country church where I grew up. He might have preached one, but that would have been the limit. They wanted the Bible, and a man either preached that or he did not preach.

—Franklin Camp
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 NJ, 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	14
Contribution	\$1,009.00
Contribution average (2015)	\$971.25

Internet and YouTube 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.
- Our **YouTube** channel at *Northpoint Church of Christ* has a growing collection of Northpoint sermons available for viewing.

Preacher, *The Lighthouse* editor

Dub McClish



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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Mark and Avoid

False doctrine does not exist independent of false teachers. Therefore, the originators and/or propagators of divisive doctrines must be dealt with. Paul says we must “mark” them (Rom. 16:17). *Mark* is from *skopein*, meaning to “look (out) for, notice, keep one’s eyes on someone or something.” (Our English family of “scope” words derives from this Greek term.) Every Christian is to practice vigilance for false teachers. How strange that anyone claiming loyalty to Christ and respect for New Testament precept and example would sympathize with purveyors of perversions rather than exposing and/or rebuking them. The only way some brethren “look out for” the teacher of “contrary doctrines” is to supply his needs and protect him. Paul demands the practice of discrimination concerning teachers and teaching.

Quite pitifully some (including elders) are so ignorant of the Truth that they do not recognize error when they hear it. Those who know little of the Truth are hardly in position to discern its opposite. Others count it a mark of spiritual superiority never to “keep books” or “files” (as they pejoratively style it) on any brother. Only a fool places his hand over the gas gauge in his car thinking the gas will last indefinitely as long as he doesn’t see it register “empty.” Brethren are no wiser who pride themselves in denying who is teaching or practicing this or that, thinking that ignoring it will cause it to disappear. A generation of ignoring instead of taking note has shown the predictable evil fruits of disobeying Divine injunction.

Some argue that the idea of “branding” is not in the word translated *mark*. Granting this contention, however, does not the act of so taking note of false teachers as to be able to avoid and to warn others of them demand that we “brand” them? Was not this our Lord’s practice (Mat. 16:6) and was it not both the practice and precept of Paul (1 Tim. 1:3, 20; 2 Tim. 2: 16-17; 4:1-4; Tit. 1:9-13, et al.)? If Paul did not give this charge to the end that divisive teachers might be identified and exposed, then the charge has no meaning.

Not only are we to mark these teachers, we are to “turn away from them” (cf. Tit. 3:10; 2 John 10-11). That is, we are not to listen or extend any sort of treat-

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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

ment to them that implies endorsement. Preachers, congregations, and colleges are known doctrinally by the company they keep. If many of our brethren had not been so “sophisticated” and “bleeding-heart” tolerant over the past fifty years, we could have isolated most of the element that has turned many congregations into denominations. For lack of backbone to turn away from these men and identify them for what they were/are, many of them have become firmly entrenched in places of powerful leadership in recent decades.

Romans 16:17 emphasizes the dependence of true unity upon doctrine. We must reject the concept of the possibility of Scriptural fellowship or unity on any basis that ignores or forfeits doctrinal Truth. There can be no heaven-ordained unity in the climate of doctrinal diversity. Paul’s words make it plain: where men are taught and receive doctrines that differ from and are contrary to **the doctrine**, the result is not unity, but “divisions and occasions of stumbling.” Such statements as “It is not doctrine that unites us; it is love,” are not only unscriptural, they are utterly anti-scriptural. Scriptural unity surely involves mutual love between the parties concerned, but it requires far more than mere emotional ties and good will. Romans 16:17 alone is sufficient to successfully challenge the insidious doctrines of “unity in diversity” and “fellowship without endorsement.”

– Dub McClish
Denton, TX

NO CONSEQUENCES?

A three-year-old is told to pick up his toys. When he refuses, Mom picks them up for him.

- A five-year-old enters a store with his mother and asks her to buy him a toy. Mom says, “No,” and he has a temper tantrum. She tries to get him to stop, but he screams louder. To get him to stop she buys him the toy.
- A third-grader is told to clean up his messy room. He ignores the instructions and goes outside to play baseball, so Mom cleans his room.
- A high school basketball player is called for a foul. Instead of raising his hand and acknowledging the foul, he shakes his head in disbelief, frowns, and otherwise demonstrates his displeasure at the call. The crowd sympathizes with him and verbally abuses the official who made the call.
- Another teenager is caught drinking alcohol and sent home from a band trip at a Bowl Game. His fellow band members express great displeasure at this. “He worked so hard to get here. He should be given another chance.”
- A college student hands in his term paper a day late and loses a full point on his final grade. The teacher lets him do extra work to make up the deficit.
- A president lies to the people, practices sexual perversion in the White House, and commits perjury in court, but the people say, “What he does is his business. Besides, the economy is so good.”
- A young woman enters a public restroom in a mall, gives birth to a child, wraps the newborn in paper and tosses it into the nearest trash dumpster. She has no husband and can’t be bothered with a child.

- A promiscuous young male learns that his equally promiscuous girl friend is pregnant. They find an abortion clinic and have the baby killed so their active lives won’t be interrupted.
- Two young high school students arm themselves, take the weapons to school, murder 11 of their classmates, and then kill themselves.

All of the above scenarios have a common factor. All of those described believe they can act without consequences. They learned this early in life at the feet of permissive parents. If they can defy parental authority without consequences, they also believe they can defy teachers, the law of the land – and God Himself – without consequences. They are the products of a society that is festering at its core with the rot of Secular Humanism and subjective morality – a society that has forgotten God and believes that man is the center of all things.

But the Scripture says, “Be sure, your sin will find you out” (Num. 32:23). A permissive and corrupt society may call evil “good” and good “evil.” It may legitimize gambling, sexual perversion, alcohol consumption, abortion, sodomy and every other evil under the sun. It may tell you, “Do your own thing,” and “If it feels good, do it.” You may revel your way through life, escaping a few of the consequences of your ungodliness, but know this: No human being can live without consequences.

Some day, you and I shall stand before the Judge of all the earth and give an account of the lives we live here: “For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom. 14:10b-12). That is one appointment that none shall miss: “And as it is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment...” (Heb. 9:27). Though men may believe they have escaped the consequences of sin in this life, they will face those consequences on that day, and pay for them – for all eternity.

– Jerry C. Brewer
Elk City, OK

Bible Preaching

An important root of the [19th-century, DM] restoration of the church was Bible-founded and Bible-centered preaching. The men that set about to call man back to the Bible **knew the Bible** and **preached the Bible**. The Bible was their textbook. This root is fast drying up. **There is too much preaching today that has everything in it but the Bible.** I may not know whether a man is quoting from Norman Vincent Peale [a prominent 20th-century denominational preacher – DM], or not, but I know enough about the Bible to know when a man is quoting from it. It is a tragedy for a man to get up in the pulpit with a Bible and then never use it.

Some preachers should more appropriately leave their Bibles at home and get into the pulpit with a stack of magazines and Dale Carnegie’s books [e.g., *How to*