

- **Revelation 22:11-12:** “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”

There is a separation of time between the sowing and reaping in the natural world. So it is in the spiritual, but the time frame is much longer here. And did you notice there are two kinds of seed in the spiritual world: Good and Evil? The words of Eliphaz are true: “Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same” (Job 4:8). Let us meditate on these matters and proceed to sow only the seed that reaps eternal life.

—Delbert Goins, Lewisville, TX

## THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

### Let us pray for...

- Sheila Beauchamp** — recovering from shoulder surgery
- Tonya Thatcher** — difficulty with pregnancy
- Judy Reid** — treatment for auto accident injuries (sister in NJ, planning to move here)
- Mike Mallett** — fighting leukemia (faithful brother in Evant, TX)
- Ken Chumbley** — fighting cancer and other physical problems (Gospel preacher)
- Janice Ruffner** — fighting various physical issues
- Ann Henderson** — fighting cancer (Sheri Woodall’s aunt)
- Brian Ritter** — fighting rare autoimmune disease (son of Rick Ritter, Gospel preacher)
- Tim Smith** — fighting chronic physical problems from auto injuries (Gospel preacher)
- Richie Aidoo** — Joshua Aidoo’s 8-year-old son (fighting seizures)
- Samuel Bagsangi** — Gospel preacher in Philippines we help support
- Joshua Aidoo** — Gospel preacher in Ghana we help support

### Records you helped make last week...

Bible Classes	16
Sunday AM Worship	16
Sunday PM Worship	16
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	16
Contribution	\$651.00
Contribution average (2014)	\$829.64

### 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).

### Assignments...

- Bible class teacher for December **Jerry Smith**
- Chairman of Men’s Meetings (October–December) **Phil Smith**
- Preacher, *The Lighthouse* editor **Dub McClish**



# The Northpoint Lighthouse

Volume 10, Number 48  
November 30, 2014

## Cleansing the Temple

**J**esus twice “cleansed” the temple (actually the court of the temple) in Jerusalem by driving the merchants and moneychangers from it. The first time was near the beginning of His work (John 2:14–16) and the second was near its close (Mat. 21:12–13; Mark 11:15–17; Luke 19:45–46). It is obvious that He strongly disapproved of those practitioners and their practices.

When brethren decide they do not like some activity that is being practiced in the church building they will sometimes say, “We need to cleanse the temple” and cite these examples of the Lord. Those who object to eating a meal in the same building used for worship assemblies generally object on the ground that the church building is (as the temple was) “holy,” and that eating in it would “defile” it. Another case in point is the rather common practice of buying/selling good, true-to-the-Bible books and recordings in the church building. Is this activity parallel to that which caused the Lord to drive out the merchants and moneychangers? I say it is not, and for at least the following reasons:

1. Selling at a reasonable price books and recordings that promote the Gospel is both innocent and honorable, whereas the behavior of the temple moneychangers and merchants was neither. Historians say they were charging Passover pilgrims exorbitant prices for necessary sacrificial animals and for changing their foreign money into the shekels required by the Moses’ law (Exo. 30:13; Lev. 27:25). Their abuse was so great that the Lord called them “thieves” (KJV) or “robbers” (ASV). Selling a five-hundred-page hard cover book for \$18.00–\$20.00 or a CD for \$5.00 containing several Gospel sermons is not even exorbitant, much less “theft” or “robbery.”
2. One is greatly confused who thinks it is a “defilement of the temple” when such good materials are sold at reasonable prices on church property. The church **building** is not the temple (dwelling place) of God. God dwells not in a building made by men (Acts 7:48; 17:24), but in the people who make up

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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

His church (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20). The church, not the church building, is God's dwelling place.

3. Since God's temple is the church (not the building), if we would "cleanse the temple" we must cast out whatever defiles God's people (e.g., false doctrine, immorality, covetousness, etc.). If the "temple cleansers" are really earnest about that necessary work, let them join those of us who for years have been exposing and refuting false teachers and their damnable doctrines and practices. Let them join us in calling for the Scriptural purging of the church of those who have yielded to the works of the flesh or who are impenitent in their adulterous marriages. Let them join us in exhorting each one to fix his eyes on Heaven. Such is the real "temple cleansing" that needs to be done.

No, selling good, faith-building materials on or in church property desecrates nothing sacred. This is why sound and scholarly brethren have been doing it and allowing it to be done for many years. Making good books and recordings conveniently available to members of the church actually helps keep the temple (church) undefiled (pure). If anything, we need to do not less, but more of it.

— Dub McClish  
Denton, TX

## Changing Times...

**A** **ll one needs** to do to sense the difference between the preaching that is being done today and that of the past is to read some of the books of sermons or the writings of the pioneers of the plea for restoration. Their preaching was Bible-based, distinctive in its message, and simple in its appeal to people to lay aside the doctrines and the commandments of men and return to the Truth of the Gospel of Christ. This distinctive message that characterized the church in the past is almost an unheard of thing today. Instead of being distinctive, it seems that the philosophy of our day is to see how near we can ape the sectarians and denominational people in their rejection of the Bible. Many sermons that are preached today could be preached in any denominational building without upsetting anyone. I cannot think of anything more tragic than for a sermon that pretends to be the Gospel of Christ to be such as could be preached in the hot bed of error without causing any objection.

The emphasis that has been given to positive preaching, while repudiating anything negative, has also contributed to the lack of a distinctive message. If preaching is to have any effect in the lives of people, it must be the Gospel of Christ itself. First, therein alone can preaching be authoritative, and second, it must be preached with conviction to enable people to understand what sin is and what sin does. Let us realize that the changes that have taken place in the last twenty-five years have carried the church down the road toward the very verge of apostasy. We need to remember that in the changing world in which we live, there are some things that are unchangeable. When we attempt to change the

unchangeable we are fighting God, and it can only lead to our own ruin and condemnation. May we give careful and prayerful consideration to a restudy of the things that cannot be changed and let us hold to them with all the fervor and zeal that we can command.

— Franklin Camp  
Deceased

[Ed. Note: Brother Camp wrote these words in 1982. He referred to changes over the previous 25 years. Since he wrote, the changes that have resulted in compromise and outright apostasy have increased on a broader scale and at a faster pace. Let us with David say, "I shall not be moved" (Psa. 62:6), when the Word of God is concerned. DM]

## Sowing and Reaping

**P**aul warned:

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not (Gal. 6:7-9).

Sowing and reaping are comforting thoughts to the Christian. To the wicked people of world, this harsh teaching is disliked from every angle. This warning is to awake the careless, which makes it a cheerful and encouraging truth to the actively righteous. Of course, the fainthearted should take to heart the teaching and begin to live in Christ. This is not the only passage where this teaching is proclaimed. Here are a few more:

- **Matthew 16:27:** "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."
- **Romans 2:6:** "Who will render to every man according to his deeds."
- **Romans 8:13:** "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of body, ye shall live."
- **Romans 11:22:** "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off."
- **1 Corinthians 3:8:** "Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour."
- **2 Corinthians 5:10:** "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."
- **2 Corinthians 9:6:** "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."