

lieved this all my life.” Third point: “Give all you can.” “Oh my,” exclaimed the man, “now he’s gone crazy. He has quit preaching and gone to meddling.”

Isn’t it strange that some people’s conception of great preaching is a sermon that compliments them and rebukes others? Remember – your preacher didn’t write the Bible. He is not responsible (as to source) for any word in it, but he is definitely responsible for **preaching every word in it** (Acts 20:27). And when it is preached, people judge themselves by their reaction to it.

–Leroy Brownlow
Deceased

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)
- Lester Kamp** – fighting prostate cancer
- 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	14
Sunday AM Worship	14
Sunday PM Worship	14
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	14
Contribution	\$732.72
Contribution average (2014)	\$827.62

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.

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 49
December 7, 2014

Biblical Faith

F *aith* and *belief* (in its various cognates) are among the most frequently found words and concepts in the Bible. They are also among the most misunderstood and abused Biblical words. Without controversy, the Bible requires that all who would be saved from the condemnation of sin must possess faith in God and His Son:

And without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that seek after him (Heb. 11:6).

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16).

For except ye believe that I am he, ye shall die in your sins (John 8:24).

Biblical faith involves belief, trust, and conviction. The nearest thing in the Bible to a definition of faith is the following: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1, KJV). *Substance* and *evidence* are powerful words of certainty regarding our faith in God and His son, although we cannot now experience either of Them empirically (i.e., by one of our physical senses).

Nevertheless, sufficient evidence exists to prove that the hoped-for things are real. God does not ask us to “believe” in eternal and spiritual verities merely because we want them to exist. God never asks anyone to believe anything He has said without providing adequate evidence to warrant the investment of our faith. In light of these thoughts, consider the following:

- Biblical faith is **not** mere wishful thinking, wherein one wishes for something so much he convinces himself it exists. This concept is one of “pie-in-the-sky,” “leap-in-the-dark” desire with no reason or evidence for it.

**Northpoint
Church of Christ**
Greenway Plaza, 4224 N. I-35
Denton, Texas 76207
940.220.9931
northpointcoc@hotmail.com
www.northpointcoc.com
www.scripturecache.com

Sunday
Bible Class 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 1:00 PM

Wednesday
B.C./Worship 7:00 PM

- Biblical faith is **not** merely suggesting the probability that God exists, Christ is the Son of God, or the Bible is the Word of God. This approach is little more than agnosticism.
- Biblical faith is **not** belief in something (or someone) **in spite — or absence — of** evidence. Rather, it rests upon credible evidence.
- Biblical faith is **not** distinct from knowledge, as if “faith” begins where “knowledge” ends and proceeds into an unknowable “twilight zone.” Rather, Biblical faith is another **avenue** of knowledge.
- Biblical faith, in relation to salvation, is **not** mere intellectual acceptance of one or more Biblical doctrines (e.g., the Deity of Jesus). Such conviction is the **beginning** point of salvation — not its end. **Saving** faith is always **obedient** faith. Jesus said: “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned” (Mark 16:16).

The source of evidence for Biblical faith is the Bible: “So belief cometh of hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ (Rom. 10:17). John specifically pinpointed the evidence for our faith in the Christ:

Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in his name (John 20:30-31).

— Dub McClish
Denton, TX

“Put Your Little Foot”

Call me “an old curmudgeon,” but I am sick and tired of hearing about the Robertson family of the TV reality show “Duck Dynasty” and how “Christian” they are. Yes, they say prayers over their meals, read the Scriptures aloud, and denounce homosexuality. But most of the men wear long hair in violation of God’s Word (1 Cor. 11:14). They own a winery (cf. Hab. 2:15; Gal. 5:19-21). They also are members of the apostate White’s Ferry Road Church of Christ in West Monroe, Louisiana, where two of the clan are elders. The family constantly fellowships denominations (Eph. 5:11), even rank false teachers like Neo-Pentecostal Pat Robertson of the notorious “700 Club” — sorry examples of the “churches of Christ” for the world to see (Rom. 16:16)!

But the latest glaring example of hypocrisy comes from Sadie Robertson, daughter, niece, and granddaughter. She is performing in the TV contest “Dancing with the Stars.” I do not watch this show, but from its commercials it involves gyrating in various stages of nudity before a panel of judges. Sadie loudly proclaims that she is doing it all “to the glory of God.” Her immodest costumes and indecent gyrating are no different from the other contestants who do not claim to be Christians.

Sadie and her family need to read a few passages from the Bible (from which they quote so readily) concerning modesty, lust, and lasciviousness.

In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works (1 Tim. 2:9-10).

By what stretch of the imagination could Sadie’s costumes be called “modest”? I wonder if she could talk with others about modesty and godliness while wearing such. Her costumes may well incite lust among her male viewers (Mat. 5:27-28), and it may cause them to stumble and sin (Mat. 18:6-7).

But the center of attention in this escapade is dancing. The modern dance with its many indecent movements is condemned in the New Testament as “lasciviousness” or “indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females” (Thayer, pp. 81-82). It was common among the pagans in the First Century A.D. world. The apostle Paul condemns this sin in very strong language:

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these...lasciviousness...and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:19-21).

Some who are reading this article may accuse me of “judging” this beautiful young woman and her family (Mat. 7:1), but the Word of God has judged them already: “Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment” (John 7:24). They can all read the Bible themselves. Unless they repent of their sinful actions they will face the ultimate Judge — the Lord Jesus Christ — unprepared. He will not be like some worldly judge in a dance contest.

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day (John 12:48).

— Roelf L. Ruffner
Columbia, TN

Self-Judgment

A man went to hear a visiting evangelist in a little town. The preacher preached that night on money, and presented the sermon under three points. First point: “Make all you can.” The man nudged his wife and said, “This preacher is the best I’ve ever heard. He is no nitwit. He knows what it’s all about. He is one smart man.” Second point: “Save all you can.” This excited the man, and he whispered again, “This beats anything I’ve ever heard. He’s smart enough to be President. This town has never had a preacher that could hold a candle to him.” The preacher commended hard work and thrift, denouncing laziness and waste. The man couldn’t keep quiet. He whispered, “I’ve be-