

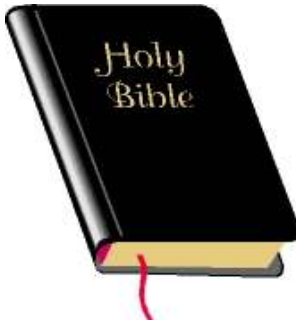
**News and Notes**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- Sandy Craig** - Broken shoulder/urinary tract infection, but recuperating well.
- Jo Ann McLerran** - Still unable to get out. COPD
- Dub McClish** - To have a stent implant Apr. 6 in Denton, Texas for blocked artery.
- Glenda Marble** - Faithful Christian at Lexington, Okla. Heart problems.
- Debbie Post** - Wife of Doug Post, preacher in Salisbury, MD. Cancer. Better after bout with pneumonia, still taking chemo. CT scan scheduled for April 4 to see if chemo is still working and will work.
- David Brown** - Spring, Texas preacher. Blood clots in his leg.
- Sissy Craig** - For spiritual and emotional strength.
- Charles and Linda Pogue** - Congestive heart failure.
- Nancy Verkist** - Ellensburg, Washington. Suffering from Von Hippel Lindau disease.
- Don Smith** - Faithful brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.

**KENYA REPORT** - Contributing this week to the Kenya fund were Glenda Marble, Lexington, Okla.; and Ron Skinner, Lexington, Okla. Benard sent this report on March 26: "Thanks for the great work you brothers are doing for standing with us in the great work of the Lord. I am happy to let you know that through that help, we had a gospel meeting with the Eastside church of Christ in Nakuru. I met with the preacher there, Zachariah Ouma, I talked with him for a good time and later he decided to be baptized and I did so. [That] congregation has been working in the same direction with the liberal congregations in Nairobi and Rift Valley they asked me to go and hold a gospel meeting with them and we did that. They said they have been on the wrong path and the whole congregation repented and are asking me for another meeting. ...We also had a Restoration Pleas seminar in Homa Bay town and the seminar was well attended by the members of a liberal congregation in the town ...The one they call their "pastor" wrote to me, "Benard, I wish to involve the whole church. I propose topics to be New Testament Worship, The Church of Christ, will give you some other topics." They are asking me to go back there as soon as possible." He also sent this report on March 26: "The Siagon church of Christ gospel meeting, ended up with two souls baptized into Christ. Remember this is one of the congregations we restored back to faith in Rift Valley. A very good group of people ready to do God's will for they understood what Jeremiah said, "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD." (Lam. 3:40). They also requested us to be back with them as soon as possible with a gospel meeting to help them from the wolves. This is the third congregation that needs our attention as soon as possible.

<p><b>Those Who Serve</b>  <b>Sunday Morning, April 2, 2017</b>                  First Prayer - Jerry Brewer    Closing Prayer - Patrick King                  Communion - Earl Reed    Offering - Dylan Brewer  <b>Sunday Afternoon, April 2, 2017</b>                  First Prayer - Landry Brewer    Closing Prayer - Earl Reed</p>	<p><b>Records - Mar. 26</b>  <b>Attendance</b>                  Bible Class.....13                  Morning Worship.....13                  Afternoon Worship.....13                  Contribution.....\$149.00</p>
<p><b>Weekly Meeting Times</b></p>	
<p>Sunday Morning Bible Classes.....9:30                  Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30                  Sunday Afternoon Worship.....5:00</p>	



# Sound Doctrine

“But speak thou the things that become sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1)

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## A New Qualification For Elders?

Dave Miller (who is now the director of Apologetics Press) preached a sermon at Brown Trail in Ft. Worth, Texas on April 8, 1990 to prepare the congregation for re-evaluating and reaffirming that church's elders—an act which is unscriptural. In his sermon, he said,

Not only may a man no longer meet the qualifications, but conceivably a man could meet the qualifications, brethren, and yet not be perceived by that flock as a shepherd. Not be a man to whom they will submit themselves. Shepherds cannot lead where sheep will not follow. So a man could be technically qualified to be an elder, and yet if the membership where he attends does not perceive him a leader in whom they respect and trust, he cannot shepherd effectively. ...What follows then that one of the qualifications of a shepherd is that the membership perceives him to be such, and is willing to submit and to follow to respect and to trust.

The inspired Paul laid down specific qualifications for elders in his letters to Timothy and Titus (1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-8). Dave Miller has added another one to those revealed by inspiration—“...one of the qualifications of a shepherd is that the membership perceives him to be such, and is willing to submit...”

Dave Miller has been defended and supported by such personages as the director, faculty, and staff of the Memphis School of Preaching (MSOP), by such noted preachers as Robert R. Taylor, Danny Petrillo (director of Bear Valley Bible Institute), Tom Holland, Wayne Jackson, Glenn Colley, Jeff Jenkins (Glenn Colley's brother-in-law), Mac Lyon, Phil Sanders, Barry Gilreath, Alan Highers, Cliff Lyons, Jim Dearman, Roy

Lanier, Sean Hochdorf, Chuck Webster, and a host of others. By their support and defense of Miller, they are violating Second John 9-11 in bidding him Godspeed. Do any of these men believe it is permitted for man to add to God's word? If so, they are violating Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30:6 and Revelation 22:18-19. If they defend a man who has added to the word of God, do those who direct preaching schools teach their students that God permits this? Miller's "new qualification for elders" is a presumptuous sin. He has spoken for God when God did not authorize him to do so.

Christians are charged to, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you" (Heb. 13:17). When Christians are unwilling to submit to the rule of qualified elders, it is they, *not the elders* who are unqualified.

## "Woe Unto Them That Call Evil Good"

**Jess Whitlock**

When we look to the words of Isaiah 5:20, and consider all that is happening in our world today, we have to think out-loud, "same song, 89th verse." In the church of my Lord we contend with false doctrine continually. There are those who advocate women preachers, the A.D. 70 heresy, pray the "sinner's prayer" to be saved, the reaffirmation of elders, and a dozen false beliefs as pertains to marriage and divorce, rather than the one cause of Matthew 19:3-9, et al. God still declares, "Woe unto them that call evil good..."

Preachers of the Gospel must "cry aloud and spare not" (Isa. 58:1), and "reprove, rebuke and exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:2). We must sound forth warnings to protect from wolves in sheep's clothing (Matt. 7:15). Our pulpits should thunder against all false teachers and false doctrines of men. "Woe unto them that call evil good..."

Godly elders must heed and honor the words of Titus 1:9, "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers." There is a desperate need in the church of my Lord today for elders who will stand solid for God's Truth and will insist that the preacher in that pulpit proclaim that old-time Jerusalem Gospel message! The eldership must insure that the flock of God is warned about all error (2 John 9-11; 1 Tim. 1:18-20; 6:2-5); nor will they provide a platform for false teaching and those who support error. God thunders out, "Woe unto them that call evil good..."

Lectureship directors (under the authority of Godly elders) will not harbor the purveyors of false doctrines. It is not sufficient to say, "I do not teach error...", we

must refuse to help those who do so. Jehoshaphat was charged with a two-fold offense: "Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the Lord?" (2 Chron. 19:2). Helping the ungodly and loving that which God Himself hates stands condemned by God both then and now! "Woe unto them that call evil good..."

It is only God's precious Truth that makes men free (John 8:32). Brethren must insist upon preaching and writing that imitates Amos and those other prophets of old, who raised their voices against the popular sins and worldliness of their day. Let us never shrink from declaring the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27).

## I Couldn't Be In Worship Because...

**Philip Smith**

You've heard the joke about the two men out fishing on Sunday morning? One tells the other, "I couldn't attend worship anyway because my wife is sick." This generally brings a smile because it is so ridiculous, but what about the actual excuses we do hear from week to week.

1. "I didn't feel well so I couldn't attend services." This might be a valid reason to stay home but the question we must ask ourselves is this, would we stay away from other activities such as our jobs or attending our favorite sporting event.

2. "We couldn't come because our relatives came to visit." Way to go, you just showed your relatives how little Jesus and His death on the cross means to you.

3. "We couldn't come to Wednesday night Bible class because our child had a basketball game." Yes sir, you're doing a fine job of teaching your child that the Kingdom of Heaven comes after recreation.

4. My wife has even heard; "If we're not fishing, camping, hunting or visiting relatives, we will be in services this coming Sunday." In other words, "We will be there if we don't have anything better to do."

How weak these excuses sound when compared with the sacrifice of Jesus. Have we forgotten why our Lord came to this earth? Have we forgotten His suffering and death? The psalmist wrote, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Every child of God should be glad to come together with the saints to worship God. As a matter of fact we are commanded not to forsake the assembling of the saints (Heb. 10:25). Add to that the words of our Lord, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). While faithful attendance alone does not prove our love for Jesus, unfaithful attendance does prove our lack of love.

So, what is *your* excuse? (***The Northpoint Lighthouse, Denton, Texas, Feb. 12, 2017***)