

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Sandy Craig - Sissy reports that Sandy is doing very well, for which we are thankful.
Jo Ann McLerran - COPD. It was so good to have her in worship last Lord’s Day.
Dub McClish - To have a stent implant Apr. 6, but no word yet on how it went, He also has stage 3 kidney disease and the dye used in the stent implant could further damage his kidneys.
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 the Eastside church of Christ, Lexington, Okla.; and the Parkview church of Christ, Odessa, Texas. Benard and Veroon have been busy in the Rift Valley, restoring apostate churches back to the one faith and baptizing men and women into Christ.

PREACHING THIS LORD’S DAY - This is the Sunday that Patrick preaches at both worship periods.

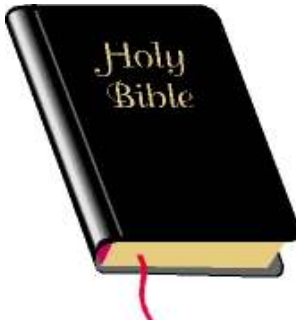
REVELATION CLASS - We began our study of the book of Revelation in the adult class last week. Our thanks to Earl who taught the class on Hebrews.

NORTHPOINT GOSPEL MEETING - Jerry and Sherlene attended the gospel meeting at Northpoint in Denton, Texas on Mynday and Tuesday evenings. It was a wonderful experience to have fellowship with sound brethren in the meeting. Phil Smith is the preacher there. Our dear friend, Dub McClish, asked to be relieved of the preaching duties at Northpoint some time ago and brother Smith succeeded him. Michael Hatcher, who preaches for the Bellview church in Pensacola, Fla., did a superb job in presenting the pure and simple gospel of Christ.

Those Who Serve	
Sunday Morning, April 9, 2017	
First Prayer - Earl Reed	Closing Prayer - Dylan Brewer
Communion - Landry Brewer	Offering - Jerry Brewer
Sunday Afternoon, April 9, 2017	
First Prayer - Patrick King	Closing Prayer - Jerry Brewer

Records - April 2 Attendance	
Bible Class.....	15
Morning Worship.....	15
Afternoon Worship.....	14
Contribution.....	\$149.00

Weekly Meeting Times	
Sunday Morning Bible Classes.....	9:30
Sunday Morning Worship.....	10:30
Sunday Afternoon Worship.....	5:00



Sound Doctrine

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

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Christians And “Corrupt Communication”

Jerry C. Brewer

A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned (Matt. 12:35-37).

It is sad and very disappointing when Christians use the foul language of the world—especially when those Christians are known as being “sound” in their beliefs and teaching. Paul told Timothy to, “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself, and them that hear thee” (1 Tim. 4:16). It is not enough to take heed to the doctrine, but to take heed to one’s life also. The person who will not *live* the doctrine of Christ destroys his influence in teaching it. Paul further commanded us to, “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers” (Eph. 4:29).

Within the past week, I observed Christians violating these scriptures on Face Book. It is absolutely baffling to me why any Christian would write posts or share posts on their pages which contain curse words such as, “damn,” or “hell.” Now, I realize that those words are in the Bible, but they are not used there as profanity like they were used on Face Book. The Christian who does that reveals a heart that is not good in the sight of the Lord (Matt. 12:35). Moreover, he tells the world, “We are just like you.”

Our world today freely uses curse words and other vile language as a matter of

course—words that would *never* have been used in polite company a generation or two ago, even among those of the world. When Christians fall in line with the world by using foul language, they are no longer, “a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Pet. 2:9). Those who have such language on their Face Book pages need to repent, remove it, and let their friends know they are sorry for using it and do not condone it. Unless, of course, they have sold out to the world. Then they need to stop claiming to be a child of God and bringing shame upon Christ and His church.

The Unity Movement At Babel

Danny Douglas

And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth (Gen. 11:4-9).

On a plain in the land of Shinar (Gen. 11:2) the people started a “unity movement.” Instead of multiplying and spreading throughout the earth as God had commanded them (Gen. 9:7), they decided to set out with their own purpose. Adam Clarke aptly observes: “Being therefore strictly united in all things, coming to the fertile plains of Shinar they proposed to settle themselves there, instead of spreading themselves over all the countries of the earth, according to the design of God...”

The “unity movement” at Babel has its modern day counterpart in the community church movement and others who are caught up in “unity-in-diversity” efforts, seeking to unify while ignoring the doctrine of Christ (cf. 2 John 9). They were “unified” in their efforts to do their own thing in defiance of the will of the living God! Unity without God is no good. Atheists and humanists may unify in their efforts to denounce faith in God. Muslim terrorists unify in their efforts to destroy innocent human lives. The Watch Tower Society goes out in unison to spread their false doctrines. Those at Babel were unified, but they were also displeasing to God. It was not Divine unity! God destroyed their efforts, just

as one day He will root up every thing that He has not authorized (cf. Mat. 15:13; 7:21-23).

The people at Babel had the numbers. Yet, this did not make them right! In the heart of Houston, Texas, Joel Osteen proclaims his enticing message to thousands every week in the enormous facility which houses “Lakewood Church.” Yet, they are all lost! God is no more pleased with Osteen's false doctrines and his multitudes than He was with the wicked world of Noah's day (Gen. 6:1-13). Many wayward congregations, which are now located where faithful churches of Christ once met, are growing in number. They are not longer the Lord's church. This is the age of the “mega church,” when large community churches number into the hundreds or even thousands. Many people reason, “We have a large crowd. We must be doing something right!” They have forgotten the words of Jesus: “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Mat. 7:13-14).

The people at Babel wanted to make name for themselves. They wanted to do things their way instead of God's way. Many preachers and congregations want to be renowned. They want a big name. They want to do things their way instead of the Lord's way. They want instrumental music and special singing groups in the worship, but this is not God's way (cf. Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). They want entertainment in the Worship, rather than worshipping God in spirit and in truth (cf. John 4:22-24). They want women in leadership roles in the church, but again, this is not God's way (cf. 1 Tim. 2:8-14). They want to have joint services with denominations, or pulpit exchanges with sectarian preachers, but this is not the Lord's way (cf. 2 John 9-11). They want to have an environment where a religiously mixed married couple can both feel accepted and not be offended. They want a place where unscripturally “married” couples can find comfort. All of this is wrong. It is sinful to seek to comfort those in sin by compromising the faith! Their hearts need to be pricked so that they might repent, obey the Lord, and be saved! (cf. Acts 2:36-38; 2 Cor. 7:10; Heb. 5:8-9).

The people at Babel wanted to build a tower “whose top may reach unto heaven.” Yet, they were not going to reach heaven. Those in the “unity movement” are seek a path to God that is not based on the doctrine of Christ. We cannot have fellowship with God apart from abiding in the doctrine of Christ, as John declared: “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” (2 John 9). Their attitude is not like that of Jesus, Who prayed to the Father: “not my will, but thine be done” (Luke 22:42). Their attitude is self-willed and despises “dominion” (i.e. authority). Jude describes them: “Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities” (Jude 8). Theirs is a way of confusion and the sure path to eternal destruction, “the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8).