

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Pat Miller** - Wife of Jim Miller, Gray, Maine preacher - Recovering from auto accident and in therapy.
- Dennis Dillon** - Preacher, Parkview church, Odessa, Texas - Esophageal Cancer.
- Nancy Reed** - Various health issues.
- Patrick King** - Hemiplegic Migraine.
- Sandy Craig** - Ongoing kidney problems and recent respiratory illness
- Jo Ann McLerran** - Back problems/COPD. Doing better after receiving injections for back pain.
- Glenda Marble** - Faithful Christian at Lexington, Okla. Heart problems.
- Debbie Post** - Wife of Salisbury, Maryland preacher Doug Post - Cancer.
- Sissy Craig** - For spiritual and emotional strength. Upper respiratory illness.
- Charles and Linda Pogue** - Congestive heart failure.
- Nancy Verkist** - Ellensburg, Washington. Von Hippel Lindau disease.
- Chuck Verkist** - Ellensburg, Washington. Undergoing treatment for Prostate Cancer.
- Don Smith** - Faithful brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.


HEALTH UPDATE - Brother Chuck Verkist drives to Yakima Wash. five days a week, one hour each way, for cancer treatment. He is doing well, but Nancy, is having problems with her disease and has not been well.

A PLEA FOR AID - Dennis Dillon who preaches for the Parkview church in Odessa, Texas., has esophageal cancer, and is on radiation. His Medicare will not cover the high cost of his medical bills. Brother Dillon is worthy of our aid. His address is, Dennis Dillon, 1706 Rosewood Ave. Odessa TX 79761.

KENYA REPORT - Recent contributors to the Kenya fund are Harold and Ruth Tydings, Broken Arrow, Okla.; The Berea church of Christ, Rives, Tenn.; The Morton Street church of Christ, Denison, Texas; The Eastside church of Christ, Lexington, Okla.; The Bellview church of Christ, Pensacola, Fla.; and Chuck and Nancy Verkist, Ellensburg, Wash. Kalamindi's gospel meeting ended Dec. 10 with at least two baptisms, Kalamindi's Thomas A. Musick School of Preaching also graduated 14 men. If all goes well, Benard will go to Nairobi in January to obtain a U. S. Visa for his trip to the Bellview Lectureship in Pensacola, Florida next June. He will speak there during an Open Forum and report on the work in Kenya.

GOSPEL MEETING NEXT YEAR - Brother Ron Cosby, of Disney, Okla. has confirmed that he will preach in our gospel meeting August 5-9, 2018.

Website - www.necocelkcity.com Face Book - www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok You Tube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ	
Those Who Serve Sunday Morning, Dec. 17, 2017 First Prayer - Patrick King Closing Prayer - Dylan Brewer Communion - Jerry Brewer Offering - Earl Reed Sunday Afternoon, Dec. 17, 2017 First Prayer - Earl Reed Closing Prayer - Landry Brewer	Records - Dec. 10 Bible Class.....14 Morning Worship.....15 Afternoon Worship.....15 Contribution.....\$137.00
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)

Published Weekly By The Northeast church of Christ
P. O. Box 267, Elk City, Oklahoma 73648

Volume 12, No. 41
Dec. 17, 2017

“This Thing Was Not Done In A Corner”

Jerry C. Brewer

When Paul stood before Agrippa, he preached the gospel to him, showing that Christ came in fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets (Acts 26:22-23). Nearing the close of his discourse, he said, “For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner” (Acts 26:26).

Jesus said, “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved” (John 3:19-20).

Of the mob who came to arrest Him in Gethsemane, Jesus asked, “Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me” (Matt. 26:55). All of Jesus’ teaching was done publicly. He had nothing to hide. He came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10), and that was done by the things which He taught. That is still the mission of the church, and any church which hides that teaching obviously has a secret agenda.

In this age of marvelous technology, multitudes of churches of Christ maintain websites. Those are wonderful, expeditious, tools for sending the gospel into every corner of the earth where men have computers. Websites are normally built at a cost to churches, thus the Lord’s money is used for them. This is as it should be. They are a means of preaching the gospel, as are other media forms, like radio and newspapers. Many of those websites are filled with gospel teaching, but some we have found either contain no truth taught by the churches maintaining them, or they are restricted only to those who sign up and have a password. One wonders what they are hiding from the general public.

The Northeast church of Christ not only maintains a website, but a Face Book page, as well as a You Tube Channel on which are posted articles and sermons. All of this is done to fulfill our God-given responsibility to preach the gospel to the lost, wherever they may be in the world. Because what we teach is not “done in a corner” but publicly for all the world to see, we are many times castigated and opposed in our teaching. An atheist responded with negative remarks to a video on our You Tube channel, entitled, “The Foolishness of Atheism.” Another response came from a “gospel preacher” who strenuously opposed to our sermon exposing the errors of Jack Wilkie in his *Focus Press* article, “A Dangerous Trend In Churches Of Christ.” We expect such things. The servant is not above his master. It matters not what the world thinks of us when we preach the truth. As with Paul, our sentiment is, “For do I now persuade men or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ” (Gal. 1:10).

The problem is that many “churches of Christ” will not publicly (at least on the internet) post their sermons and articles. They don’t mind objecting to the truth we preach, but have no inclination to expose their teaching to such scrutiny. Perhaps they keep it “in a corner” so those who do not love the light will not be offended. That way, churches can post fun, games, meals, Judo classes, financial seminars, ski trips, camping news, “Youth Meetings,” and other items for public relations and “please men.” That approach is antithetical to everything in the New Testament.

Keeping the truth hidden in a corner, or in darkness, may please those who love darkness more than light, but it will *never* please Him who said, “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). Churches who hide the truth from public scrutiny are not worthy to be called, “churches of Christ.”

Will Sodomy Be The Church’s Next Huge Moral Problem?

Charles Pogue

A few years ago, we were saying that there were few physical families in churches of Christ who had not experienced the sad situation of either the breakup of a marriage, or a family member committing adultery with someone else while still in the marriage to their scripturally lawful spouse.

Unscriptural divorce and remarriage has become a plague. I am wondering if today we haven’t already reached the point where we can say there is within many of our families a member who has taken up a homosexual relationship. If that is not the case will it soon be? Personally, I have little doubt that it is coming.

Homosexuality is one of those sins appearing in a relatively short list that the scripture calls an abomination (Lev. 18:22; 20:13). Some deny it, but homosexuality is listed as sin in the New Testament under the law of Christ (Rom. 1:26,27; 1 Cor. 6:9). Perhaps the best word that can be accurately used to define “abomination” in our

current usage, is the word disgusting. It is so disgusting that it led to fire directly from God that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities of the plains. That is not only how disgusting it is to God but also how destructive of humanity, both as far as the eternal welfare of the soul, and families are concerned.

Rejection of what the Bible says about that sin is now accepted by many, and to oppose it is bigotry and hate. Recently, former President Jimmy Carter announced he is leaving the Southern Baptists, because too many of them oppose it. If he had waited around a little longer, given the fact that the Southern Baptists are embracing a gender neutral Bible, many more of them might have joined him in embracing that sin!

The implications of evil men calling those of us who oppose the sin of homosexuality, are staggering. The most serious of those implications is that it is calling God a bigot and hater. It is calling the Bible a book of bigotry and hatefulness. No, God loves the person, He hates the sin, and this world must not be in any doubt; homosexuality is a sin that if it goes un-repented of, is by itself, like any other sin, enough to reap the punishment of eternal vengeance in the lake of fire (Rev. 21:8).

Why did unscriptural divorce and remarriage become a huge problem in the Lord’s church? Why is homosexuality in the same category of problems as well? One reason is false teaching. However, another part of the reason is that when any sin becomes acceptable to society at large, Christians often cease to raise their voices against it. Many will say, I cannot do anything about, so they keep their opposition to the evil to themselves. That’s not opposition, it is indifference. Indifference leads to acceptance and acceptance often leads to participation. That is a general truth from which deviation is seldom witnessed.

Will homosexuality become the next huge problem on the heels of unscriptural divorce and remarriage? There is more than a small chance not just that it will, but that it already has. For years there have been those who practice homosexuality who are members of the church of Christ. Like society at large, they lash out any who oppose them, and who will not accept them as they are. We cannot fellowship a person who refuses to repent of any sin and change their lives, and that includes the sin of homosexuality. Yet, these homosexuals seek congregations that will accept them in their sin. Those kind of attempts have been going on for over twenty years. Thus, is it a next big problem? We probably should say, no, it already is!

A person is not born a homosexual. The far left in our world has made that false claim, and it is being accepted by an enormous number of people. In past years, I never knew a person who said he or she was homosexual or transgender. Today I do. Rest assured, God will never accept it, nor will I. Barring repentance and a change of life, homosexuals, just like those in unscriptural marriages, will find themselves in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone (Rev. 21:8).