

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Jo Ann McLerran - COPD. She is now at home from the hospital and on oxygen 24/7.
Debbie Post - Wife of Doug Post, preacher in Salisbury, MD. Her cancer has returned.
David Brown - Spring, Texas preacher. Serious blood pressure problems and asthma.
Sissy Craig - For spiritual and emotional strength.
Sandy Craig - Health and other issues.
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.

JO ANN'S CONDITION - Jo Ann is not doing well. She is under oxygen, very congested, on antibiotics, taking regular breathing treatments, and running a fever as of this writing. Pray for her recovery.

KENYA REPORT - Contributing to the Kenya Fund this week were the Eastside church of Christ, Lexington, Okla.; the Berea church of Christ, Rives, Tenn.; Harold and Ruth Tydings, Broken Arrow, Okla.; Charles and Nancy Verkist, Ellensburg, Wash.; and the Hornbeak, Tenn. church of Christ. Hornbeak designates its yearly contribution for the support of Tom Omolo, preacher at Lighodo. We are grateful to all of our faithful brethren who have fellowship with us in the great work of preaching in Kenya.

GONE MOVIN' - Earl will again be out of town this Lord's Day, helping his son and daughter-in-law, Josh and Cassandra, move. Jerry will again teach the Bible class and continue with the introduction to Revelation.

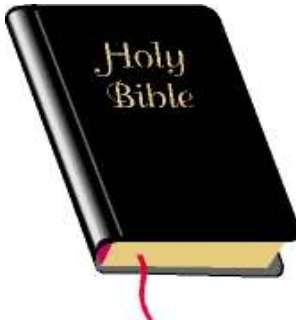
INTERNET PREACHING - Our weekly sermons are posted on You Tube at this link: www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ and we urge you to visit our website at www.necocec.org, and our Face Book Page at www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok.

SPRING LECTURESHIP - Jerry and Sherlene will attend the Annual Spring, Texas Contending For The Faith Lectureship Feb. 24-26. The theme is *The Seven Churches of Asia And Christian Fellowship*. Jerry will speak on "The Church in Sardis" on Saturday, and "Attempts To Justify Fellowship With Those In Error" on Sunday. They will spend Thursday night, Feb. 23, in Denton, Texas with Dub McClish, who will accompany them to the lectureship. The lectures may be seen live at Spring's website, located at www.churchesofchrist.com.

GUEST PREACHER FEB. 26 - Pat Craig, preacher for the Eastside church in Lexington, Okla., will speak at both worship periods on February 26 while the Brewers are at the Spring lectures.

Those Who Serve		Records - Feb. 12 Attendance
Sunday Morning, Feb.19, 2017		
First Prayer - Landry Brewer	Closing Prayer - Dylan Brewer	Bible Class.....14
Communion - Patrick King	Offering - Landry Brewer	Morning Worship.....14
Sunday Afternoon, Feb. 19, 2017		Afternoon Worship.....15
First Prayer - Jerry Brewer	Closing Prayer - Patrick King	Contribution.....\$112.00

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 11, No. 50 Feb. 19, 2017

Righteous Anger, Unrighteous Apathy

Jerry C. Brewer

Some people believe that a Christian cannot be angry at anything under any circumstances. “Anger” is a misused and abused word in our world today. The Bible teaches otherwise. *Jesus* was angry. He encountered a man with a withered hand in a synagogue on the sabbath. His enemies, who had gathered there, watched him carefully to see if he would heal the man so they could accuse Him of breaking the sabbath.

And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace. And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other. And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him (Mark 3:3-6).

Paul wrote, “Be ye angry, and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath; neither give place to the devil” (Eph. 4:26-27). It is *not* a sin to be angry. If that were so, then *Jesus* sinned. Paul’s injunction is to be angry, but do not let that anger turn to wrathful vengeance. In that case, anger would be a sin, but righteous anger (as *Jesus* demonstrated) is not sinful. Notice the reason for *Jesus’* anger—“being grieved for the hardness of their hearts.” Christians *ought* to be angry for the hardness of men’s hearts and for the unbridled imorality permeating our world today.

Without righteous anger toward sin, we are useless in the Lord’s service and are hardened ourselves. The Christian who keeps silence in the face of sin is apathetic and *that* is unrighteousness. Even if the Christian does not approve of such, his failure to be stirred by

sin is sin itself—unrighteous apathy. No soldier of the cross can be apathetic in the face of sin and love God. David declared, “Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way” (Psa. 119:104).

One may say, “Well I can’t change the situation,” which may be true. But that is no defense. That is unrighteous apathy. God cursed an apathetic city—Meroz—in the Old Testament. Their sin? Simply failing to act when Israel fought against the army of the Caananite, Jabin, led by Sisera. Meroz metaphorically shrugged its shoulders and said, “I can’t do anything about it.” Israel triumphed, and Deborah’s and Barak’s song celebrated that victory in Judges, chapter five. But within that song is this: “Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty” (Judges 5:23). Even without the help of Meroz, God’s people triumphed, but Meroz was cursed. The only mention of Meroz in the entire Bible is because of their unrighteous apathy.

Jesus is our Great Example (1 Pet. 2:21). He was angry in the face of sin and the hardened hearts of men, and opposed such. If He had taken the attitude that, “Well, that’s how the world is and since I can’t do anything about it, I’ll just keep my mouth shut,” we would all be hopelessly and eternally lost, floating upon a blackened sea of life, without chart or compass.

Let no Christian’s anger lead him to sin, but let no Christian believe the lie that righteous anger is sin. It is unrighteous apathy in Christian hearts that is sin, and that sin has become the bane of myriads in the church today. We may fail to, “cry aloud, spare not” (Isa. 58:1) and thereby “keep the peace,” but we shall answer for unrighteous apathy. Keeping silent in the face of unrighteousness will *not* make it go away, but it *will* bring God’s curse upon us, as surely as it did upon Meroz.

The Bible Was Not Written To Us

Ron Cosby

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written *for* our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope” (Rom. 15:4[emph. added RLC]).

It is a surprise to a few people to learn that the Bible was not written *to* us. Nothing said within its pages was said *to* us (2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:15).

When God told Noah to build an ark of gopher wood, did He give the command *to* us? He did not. When God commanded Israel to kill a lamb and sacrifice it upon the altar in Jerusalem, was He giving this command *to* you or me? He was not. When God commanded sinners who had crucified His Son to repent and be immersed unto the remission of sin, was Peter giving this command *to* you or me? No.

Someone may respond and say, “According to what you are saying, we do not have to do anything the Bible says!” No, that is not implied at all. Though the Bible was not

written *to* you or me, it was written *for* us (Rom. 15; 1 Cor. 10). Every verse, every command, every statement, every word has proper application(s) to all generations everywhere.

One of the proper applications to us concerning Noah’s flood is encouragement. Since God has promised that He will not flood the earth again (Gen. 9), we do not need to build an ark. Another proper application of the situation with Noah is found in Hebrews 11:7. We, like Noah, must manifest an obedient faith in order to enjoy God’s grace (Gen. 6:8; Eph. 2:8).

Peter commanded those on Pentecost, “Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins” (Acts 2:38). What is a proper application to us concerning Peter’s commands? We, too, must repent and be baptized unto the remission of sins because “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 6:23) and, “the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23).

Jesus commanded the Twelve to preach the gospel to the whole world, and to command the hearers to believe and be baptized (Mat. 28:18-19; Mark 16:15-16). He, also, commanded followers to repeat this mode of salvation to every creature and to instruct the new converts to repeat it to others (2 Tim 2:2).

Unlike Noah, we are not commanded to build an ark unto physical deliverance, but all creation *must believe and be baptized* unto *spiritual salvation*. Salvation and its accompanying instructions, events, and examples were revealed unto the inspired writers of earlier ages. They ministered these things on our behalf so that all men may know their obligations before God through diligent study and proper understanding of the things written (1 Pet. 1:10-12; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:14-18).

Judgment Day Is Certain (Heb. 9:27)

Jerry C. Brewer

A day of judgment for all mankind is appointed by God (Acts 17:30-31). Contrary to popular belief, it will not be a day of “trial,” but a day of *judgment* assessed by Jesus Christ. Those who have been obedient to His will shall inherit life everlasting and those who have shunned His will shall inherit “everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:34, 41). The “trial” of man is in *this life*.

Men may go through life with little thought of God or His will expressed in the New Testament. They may heed the doctrines of men expounded by the denominational industry. They may go through life foolishly insisting “there is no God” (Psalms 14:1). They may go through life seeking to amass material things, as the rich fool of Luke 12:20 did. Or men may go through life learning God’s will in the New Testament and obeying it. But for all these things, God shall call us to account (Rom. 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:10). No pleas will be allowed at judgment. Our plea is being made here and now.

Do not wait until judgment to plead your case. That will be too late. Make your plea now by obeying the gospel in faith, repentance, confession and baptism (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:37).