

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

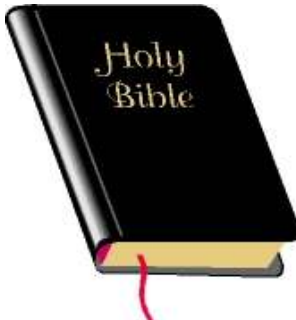
David Brown - Spring, Texas preacher. Serious blood pressure problems and asthma.
Sissy Craig - For spiritual and emotional strength.
Sandy Craig - Health and other issues.
Charles and Linda Pogue - Congestive heart failure.
Nancy Verkist - Ellensburg, Washington. Suffering from Von Hippel Lindau disease.
Don Smith - Faithful brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.

SYMPATHY - Our deepest sympathy is expressed to the family of sister Hellen Weaver who passed away on Monday in Oklahoma City. Hellen was loved by us all and was a frequent visitor at Northeast, and a member at the old Eastside congregation in the 1970s. Jerry spoke at her husband, Derrell's, funeral about 1977.

KENYA REPORT - Contributing this week to the Kenya Fund this week was Holley Brewer, Noble, Okla. Benard sent a report of the work in Kenya for 2016 and that report has been sent to all of our supporters. Here is a summary of the report: 54 Baptisms, 39 Restorations, 15 Congregations Restored, 14 of which were in the Rift Valley which had fallen under the influence of the Nairobi Great Commission School, allied with Abilene Christian University. In addition to these, Benard began a weekly radio program at Homa Bay in the fall of 2016. This program covers western Kenya and he reports a tremendous response with questions and requests for Bible studies. We are supporting this radio work as well.

INTERNET WORK - We have been unable to post sermons to You Tube for the last two weeks because of audio problems with the recording. We intend to test the wireless microphone to see if that is the problem. We urge you to visit our website at www.necocec.org, where we have added several new articles, and our Face Book Page at www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok

<p>Those Who Serve Sunday Morning, Feb. 5, 2017 First Prayer - Jerry Brewer Closing Prayer - Patrick King Communion - Jerry Brewer Offering - Earl Reed Sunday Afternoon, Feb. 5, 2017 First Prayer - Landry Brewer Closing Prayer - Dylan Brewer</p>	<p>Records - Jan. 29 Attendance Bible Class.....18 Morning Worship.....18 Afternoon Worship.....15 Contribution.....\$193.00</p>
<p>Weekly Meeting Times</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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“The Presence Of God With Us”

Jerry C. Brewer

Many years ago, brother Guy N. Woods preached a sermon with the title of our article. In it, he quoted the words of our Lord in Matthew 18:20: “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” The application he made of this verse was to the times we assemble to worship. When the children of God assemble—at whatever time—Christ is present with us when that assembly is in His name. That, of course, means when we assemble according to New Testament teaching to worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). The reverse of Jesus’ statement is that where Christians neglect to gather together in His name, they are not in His presence in that capacity.

Regarding God in our presence, many members of the church have an acutely skewed concept. So many are lulled into thinking that they can go through life, forsake the assemblies of the church where the Lord is, and then spend eternity in His presence when they die. How can one disdain the presence of the Lord in this life and expect Him to be with us in the next? That kind of thinking borders on Universalism—the notion that God will eternally save everyone, regardless of how they live in this world. It is sad beyond measure to the faithful when members habitually forsake the assemblies of the church, only to show up two or three times a year. That saddens the Lord too.

But it is a matter far more serious than the sadness of faithful saints and the Lord. It is a matter of a heart that does not love the Lord. Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15), “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me...” (John 14:21), “If a man love me, he will keep my words” (John 14:23), “He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings...” (John 14:24). No one can truthfully say he loves the Lord who constantly, and habitually, absents himself from the assemblies of the church. No matter how loudly he proclaims his love for Jesus Christ, he does not love Him with all his heart (Matt. 22:37-38).

Castles Made Of Sand

Geoff Litke

There is little as charming, well-planned, and skillfully made as a sand castle. Children of every age enjoy the hours of shaping sand into the grand palaces which exist only in the faraway lands of their minds. Along with this recreation comes a life lesson. A sand castle, for most, immediately calls to mind the thought of that which is temporary. Too many toddlers' tears have been shed watching the tide take away the fruit of their tedious toils. With full knowledge of this adults still have an insatiable attraction towards sand castles. Every year thousands or more enthusiasts converge upon Imperial Beach, California, for the U.S. Open Sandcastle Competition. There they build some of the most spectacular sand castles you could ever imagine. Exact replicas of the greatest architectural masterpieces built by man, and others that could only be built of dreams and sand.

While those in the competition may win prizes with skill exceeding child's play, they still are only making sand castles. Unfortunately, so many have approached life forgetting the lessons they learned. While one may become proficient and skillful at many things, where is the lasting benefit? Someone may build something beautiful and bring great joy to themselves and others, what real value does it have?

The tide of death is one that all men should see approaching (Heb. 9:27). As some learn of such an end, they find it almost unbearable to work towards anything. The faithful, on the other hand, do not find such torment as the day approaches. The psalmist said, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me (Psa. 23:4).

The key to such confidence lies in a rock solid faith in Christ and His Word. Jesus said,

Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it (Mat. 7:24-27).

Building one's house upon Christ is a sure way to ensure that the tempests of life will not overcome the structure. In these verses there is great similarity to the lessons learned from building sand castles. There is that which is unstable, situated in such a way that it is sure to fail. Wherein is the security? A denomination, built by men, is not

built on a solid foundation (1 Cor. 3:11; Mat. 16:16-18). A life of successful business is one of fleeting glory (Luke 12:15-21). The goal of most is a merry heart, but without Christ that merriment will end like the smile on a child's face when the first wave crashes over the seemingly solid walls of the sand fort. On the other hand, there is Christ and His Word. When one does what Christ commands he is building upon sure ground able to withstand anything. **(Via *The Beacon*, Bellview church of Christ, Pensacola, Fla., Nov. 21, 2016).**

“If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments”

Shortly more than a week before he died, brother Dub Mowery wrote the following email response to a message of comfort which he had received from Dub McClish, and copied it to Jess Whitlock and me. These are the words of a man who loved the Lord with all his heart and did God's will all of his days:

Dub, your words are deeply meaningful to me. I realize there could still be a turnaround, but I am not holding my breath. Still, I continue to pray the Lord's Will be done. If the time comes I want the three of you taking care of my memorial service. According to plan it will be at Idabel, there will not be a service at a cemetery. My body will be created like Charlotte's was. After saying all this, I am striving to remain faithful and accept whatever comes my way.

That's A Stunner!

Ron Cosby

Paul prayed for mature-in-the-faith Christians to receive the indwelling, saying, "I bow my knees ... that Christ may dwell in your hearts" (Eph. 3:17).

A number of commentators who believe in the literal indwelling find it difficult to accept Paul praying for faithful Christians to receive the indwelling since, according to them, all believers literally receive the Holy Spirit at the moment they are converted.

Charles Hodge believes in the personal indwelling of the Spirit. He discusses the problem with the prayer in his commentary on Ephesians. He, too, found Paul's prayer to be inconsistent with the view of the literal indwelling, arguing,

"... as Paul contemplates his readers as regenerated, he could not pray that Christ should dwell in their hearts, for such indwelling is inseparable from the new birth which they already enjoyed. *To pray for the indwelling of Christ would be to pray for their regeneration*" (Emph. rlc)

See the problem? If students follow the regular construction of what Paul prayed, then they have to conclude that the indwelling, whether personal or representative, is not automatically received at conversion. That's a stunner!