

## News and Notes

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

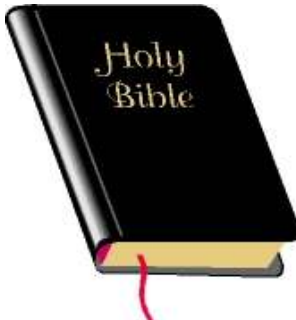
- Vicki Hightower** - Wife of gospel preacher, Terry Hightower. Malignant tumor on her lung.
- David Brown** - Spring, Texas preacher. Serious blood pressure problems and asthma.
- Pam Patrick** - Serious vision and other problems.
- Samuel Otieno** - Magunga preacher student. Fractured leg.
- Sissy Craig** - Pray for her spiritual and emotional strength.
- Sandy Craig** - Health and other issues.
- Nancy Reed** - Ongoing health problems.
- James Bradford** - Patrick's father. Stage 3B Lung Cancer with a 6-18 month survival rate.
- Charles and Linda Pogue** - Congestive heart failure.
- Nancy Verkist** - Ellensburg, Washington. Suffering from Von Hippel Lindau disease.
- Janice Ruffner** - Pneumonia/ongoing health issues.
- Don Smith** - Faithful brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.

**UPDATES** - There is no word this week from Patrick and Sarah King. We assume they are back in Oklahoma, or will soon return. Jo Ann was well enough to be in worship last week and we are thankful for that.

**KENYA REPORT** - Contributors this week to the Kenya Fund were Harold and Ruth Tydings, Broken Arrow, Okla.; and Ron Skinner, Lexington, Okla. Benard is now resting at home in preparation for preachers to return Dec. 31, and a full schedule of preaching, beginning January 1. After the first of the year, Jerry plans to begin recording a series of video Bible lessons to be used in the preacher training classes at Kalamindi. This will be a huge undertaking, as they must be recorded, then edited before being put on DVDs. Lessons will be over such things as The New Testament Church, The Book of Galatians, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther, The Book of Acts, The Holy Spirit, etc.

**SPRING LECTURESHIP** - Jerry and Sherlene will be at two lectureships in 2017. He will speak on the annual Spring, Texas Lectureship February 24-26. The theme is, *The Seven Churches of Asia and Christian Fellowship*. He will also speak on the annual Bellview Lectureship in Pensacola, Florida, June 9-13. The theme of that lectureship is *Set Ye Up a Standard in the Land*, from Jeremiah 51:27.

<p><b>Those Who Serve</b>  <b>Sunday Morning, Jan. 1, 2017</b>                  First Prayer - Patrick King    Closing Prayer - Earl Reed                  Communion - Jerry Brewer    Offering - Earl Reed  <b>Sunday Afternoon, Jan. 1, 2017</b>                  First Prayer - Dylan Brewer    Closing Prayer - Jerry Brewer</p>	<p><b>Records - Dec. 25</b>  <b>Attendance</b>                  Bible Class.....13                  Morning Worship.....13                  Afternoon Worship.....12                  Contribution.....\$304.00</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)

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

---

Volume 11, No. 43
Jan. 1, 2017

## Living By God's Word

**Jerry C. Brewer**

Christians understand the great truth Jesus spoke when He said man must live “by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God,” (Matt. 4:4), and those words forever establish the proper approach to religious authority. The Bible is the very word of God and, as such, it carries His authority. It is the very expression of His will to man and we are forbidden to deviate from its teachings (Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:18-19). But, sadly, that’s *not* the way most of the religious world views the Bible. Their view is most often expressed in the statement that, “The Bible doesn’t say *not to*.” That view permits one to do anything in religion, so long as God has not specifically forbidden it. But that notion is opposed to the teaching of the entire Bible and it’s as old as the human race.

You probably recall that Cain was the very first person on record to reason that way. Why does the Bible say God accepted Abel’s offering and rejected Cain’s in Genesis 4:3 -7? Didn’t both of these brothers offer *something* to God? Didn’t Cain have good intentions? Wasn’t he honest? The Bible says, “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain...” (Heb. 11:4). There’s the key—“By Faith.” What does that mean? Well, Romans 10:17, says “faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.” So to do a thing “by faith” is to do it as God’s word commands. It’s obvious then that Abel’s offering was what God *commanded* him to offer. On the other hand, Cain’s offering was *not* by faith because it wasn’t what God commanded or authorized by His word. There’s no record in the Bible where God specifically told Cain, “*Don’t* offer grain.” His offering wasn’t specifically forbidden, but it was rejected because it was not what God told him to offer.

Another man who thought he could *do* what God had *not* commanded was Uzziah, king of Judah when he “went into the temple to burn incense upon the altar of incense” (2 Chron. 26:16). Nowhere in the Law of Moses had God said, “The king may *not* burn incense,” but Uzziah sinned in so doing. Why? Because God had specified that the descendants of Aaron of the tribe of Levi should serve as priests and the burning of incense was commanded of them

(Exo. 30:7). Uzziah was neither a descendant of Aaron nor a Levite. Therefore he and his tribe were *forbidden* to function as priests. Because of his sin in doing what God had *not* authorized, Uzziah became a leper (2 Chron. 26:19-21)

So what's the lesson for us today? It's simply that God's word is the final authority in religion. Those who presume to do a thing in religion because it isn't prohibited are in dangerous error. These examples from the Old Testament illustrate that God expects men to live by what He says—not by what He *doesn't* say. The silence of God has *never* authorized *any man* to do a thing in *any age of the world*. We'll all give account to God someday for how we handle His word, and Jesus said the word of God—not God's silence—will judge us (John 12:48). Let's take care to do only those things that God has specifically authorized in the Bible. Let us live "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

## The Most Offensive Thing To The World

**Charles Pogue**

All around us there is murder, theft, hatred, unfaithfulness, and more. These are all offensive. Most people recognize that, though sometimes some of them may falsely accuse some others of being guilty of one or more of them when they are not. When understood, and applied correctly, though, all of those things truly are offensive. However, not one of them is the most offensive thing to the world. What is? Increasingly, most of us who love it, recognize that the most offensive thing to a growing number of people is *the Bible*.

Why do we say that the Bible is the most offensive thing to many people? Because they love the things the Bible identifies as sin. The Bible identifies drunkenness as a soul condemning sin (Gal. 5:1). Since the Bible condemns drunkenness, drunks are offended by the Bible, and by those who call their attention to the fact that drunkenness is sin. The Bible says that homosexuality is a soul condemning sin (Rom. 1:26-27). But society at large has come to accept homosexuality as a natural alternative life style (which it is not), thus they hate the Bible and all of those who stand with the Bible against that sin. When one considers the fact that people are offended at the truth, the only logical conclusion must be that they are offended at the God who created them, has the power to save and destroy their souls in His hands (Matt. 10:28), and who revealed the truth to them (2 Tim. 3:16, 17). 2 Corinthians 10:12 fitly describes the world, and the folly of its rejection of the Bible. "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

It is offensive to an increasing number of people to identify sin as sin, because they no longer believe there is such a thing as objective right and wrong. To them, sin only becomes sin when it is used in a sinful way. For instance, they deny that homosexuality is a sin until (and this, too, is a decreasing number) one homosexual partner is unfaithful to the other. No, homosexuality is a sin, because God says so. That ends the discussion about anything God identifies as sin.

Those who stand up against sin or branded as bigots, hateful, conceited, and arrogant. Why so? Not only because so many have rejected the concept of objective right and wrong,

but because the world misidentifies concern for hatred. A loving person knowing that drunkenness, homosexuality, immodesty etc., are sinful and understanding the eternal implication for those who commit such things, will speak out. They do not do so because they hate the sinner, but because they hate the sin, and they know that the sin will cause the sinner to be lost eternally. That is not hatred, it is love and concern, but the world rejects that truth. They will not even listen to it. But just as God does not want anyone to be lost (2 Peter 3:9), neither does any caring faithful child of God. Paul well describes the attitude of the world at the end of the list of things the Gentiles turned to after rejecting the Creator when he wrote, "Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" (Rom. 1:32).

Why should the Bible not be offensive to the sinner? Because it tells of a loving Father who sent His only begotten Son into the world to save the world (John 3:16). That same Father, loves that world enough that He has revealed to His offspring the things that are sin, and has given the instructive and corrective charge, not to walk after those things (Rom. 8:1-4; 13:13; Gal. 5:16; Eph. 4:17). The world does not understand that if the things that are sin are sin, and that if an individual does one or more of those things anyway, God must send them away into eternal punishment. Why is that so? Because it would be unjust of God to save those who are sinful along with those who are righteous. Not knowing that and other truths, the world is offended by the Bible that reveals the fact that there is a hell as certainly as there is a heaven, and there will be far more people occupying the heat than the heaven.

Many people who are in the public's eye, and who are even suspected of opposing the sin of homosexuality are aggressively attacked. Some of those who are attacked do not have the backbone to stand up and say, "Yes, that is sin, and I want anyone who does it to quit, because it will cost the person his or her soul. When they are unwilling to take such a public stand, isn't it in fact the truth that they too are just a smidgen offended by the Bible, too?"

## Do Not Fear Demons

**Ron Cosby**

New Testament teaching shows that, since the first century, no man needs to fear demons. Nevertheless, some instill terror in the hearts of readers with their headlines of demons taking over the world. An article, published in *Catholic Online* in October, 2016, declared, "WORLD UNDER ATTACK — Army of demons has led to spike in exorcism." Around Christmas time, a headline from the *Drudge Report* read, "In wicked world, exorcists in short supply..." Neither those in the Catholic Church nor any other person can cast out demons. Better yet, they do not *need* to cast out demons because demon possession existed only in the first century. The specially chosen servants of Jesus defeated the demonic world once and for all.

Therefore, fear not being possessed. It *cannot* happen. Fear not any so-called "supernatural power" emanating from those who talk funny or who act weird, which is described by some as "demon possession." Simply treat them like any other sick or dangerous person. Last of all, reject the teaching of those who spread fake news of demons conquering continents, nations, cities, individuals, or you. Demon possession ceased over 2,000 years ago.