

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Janice Ruffner - Roelf Ruffner's wife, Columbia, TN. Blood clots, Fibromyalgia, Lung problems.

Pat Miller - Wife of Jim Miller, Gray, Maine preacher. In therapy from auto accident.

Nancy Reed - Various health issues.

Patrick King - Hemiplegic Migraine.

Sandy Craig - Ongoing kidney problems.

Jo Ann McLerran - COPD.

Glenda Marble - Lexington, Okla. - Heart problems.

Debbie Post - Wife of Salisbury, Maryland preacher Doug Post - Cancer.

Sissy Craig - For spiritual and emotional strength.

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.


SYMPATHY - Our deepest sympathy is expressed to the family of our friend and brother in Christ, Dennis Dillon who passed away last week. His funeral was conducted by his son, Bret, in Odessa, Texas, Jan. 17. Brother Dillon preached for 37 years and was the long time preacher for the Parkview church in Odessa.

PATRICK KING - Patrick had a trip to the Emergency Room last week and was unable to preach. Sarah reported on Tuesday that he was better, but said tests showed everything normal. He has been told that he suffers from Hemiplegic Migraine and they are trying to get an appointment with a neurologist.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS - We will finish the first half of Revelation this week and on Jan. 28 Landry will begin a class on Paul's epistles to the Thessalonians.

KENYA REPORT - Recent contributors to the Kenya fund are the Berea church of Christ, Rives, Tenn.; the Eastside church of Christ, Lexington, Okla.; Charles and Nancy Verkist, Ellensburg, Wash.; Harold and Ruth Tydings, Broken Arrow, Okla.; and Holley Brewer, Weatherford, Okla. Although we will lose about 40 percent of monthly support for the work in Kenya after February, we continue to do what we can in this great work. Benard has obtained a U. S. Visa for his trip to the Bellview Lectureship in June, where he will speak in one of the open forums.

Website - www.necocelkcity.com Face Book - www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok You Tube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ	
Those Who Serve Sunday Morning, Jan. 21, 2018 First Prayer - Earl Reed Closing Prayer - Landry Brewer Communion - Jerry Brewer Offering - Earl Reed Sunday Afternoon, Jan. 21, 2018 First Prayer - Patrick King Closing Prayer - Jerry Brewer	Records - Jan. 14 Bible Class.....9 Morning Worship.....10 Afternoon Worship.....8 Contribution.....\$122.00
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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Singing About Heaven

Jerry C. Brewer

Paul said, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Col. 3:16). Look carefully at the words “teaching” and “admonishing” in this verse. A song’s tune may be beautiful, but there is no worship, or teaching, or admonition in the notes. That is done only by *words*, which must reflect the truth of the Bible, and that brings us to our point which relates to last week’s article concerning the dead. In that article, we wrote,

The dead do not go to either heaven or hell when they die. That was plainly taught by Jesus in Luke 16:19-31 in His account of the rich man and Lazarus. Both of them died and went to *hades*. The word, “hell” in that passage is *hades* in the Greek and does not refer to the place of eternal torment. It refers to the place where disembodied spirits of men go to await the resurrection and judgment. *Hades* contains souls in two states that are divided by a “great gulf” over which none can pass from one to the other (Luke 16:26). Those two states are “Paradise” (referred to by Jesus as “Abraham’s bosom”) and “Torment” (referred to by Peter as “Tartarus” [2 Pet. 2:4]). In these states, in *hades*, both the righteous and wicked repose until the judgment.

We also noted that, “denominational preachers, anxious to pronounce that the deceased are in heaven, simply ignore the Lord’s teaching [in the above passage].” Because we sometimes fail to, “sing with the understanding” (1 Cor. 14:15), we are also guilty of the same thing. One example is the second stanza of the song, O

Think of The Home Over There which says, “O think of the friends over there/ Who before us the journey have trod/of the songs that they breath on the air/In their home in the palace of God.” Now, I realize that a certain amount of “poetic license” may be taken in song, but the truth is that faithful friends are not yet “in their home.” That home is heaven, and all who have departed repose in hades awaiting the resurrection and judgement, at which time *all* of the faithful will enter heaven. The children of Israel did not enter the promised land in piecemeal fashion, nor do Christians enter heaven in that way.

Of course, we understand that the faithful are in Paradise, or Abraham’s bosom, which is a place of rest and under the control of God, but we must carefully consider the words of the songs we sing. We should not present any concept in singing that contradicts anything in God’s word.

The Gall Of Bitterness And The Bond Of Iniquity

Charles Pogue

One of the most sad and frightening descriptions ever recorded in the Bible is the one Peter used to describe Simon when he wanted to purchase the ability of laying on of hands to impart the Holy Spirit. Peter told him: “For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity” (Acts 8:23). Simon’s condition was that he was in the poison of bitterness and held captive to unrighteousness. It is to Simon’s credit that when Peter explained his situation to him, Simon asked Peter to pray for him.

Consider the fact, that Simon was in the condition that he was in after he believed and was baptized. He became a Christian and then found himself in the situation Peter described. How sad it is that some of God’s children fall away, are in the condition Peter told Simon he was in, but they never repent and die that way.

When I was a boy there were two brethren I knew, who had a falling out. One of the men did the other one a wrong. He realized what he had done, went to the brother and asked for his forgiveness. Instead of forgiving his brother, the one who had received the wrong, abandoned the church and was never restored. He died in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity. If one had asked him before he departed this life why he was in the spiritual condition he was in, he would likely have pointed his finger at his brother. Some said the brother who asked for forgiveness did not admit to doing wrong, but rather said, **if** he had done wrong. It makes no difference for that brother who died in his apostasy. He will give account of himself in the day of judgment (Rom. 14:12).

He will not give account for the other brother, nor will he be able to escape punishment by pointing the finger of accusation at him.

After His resurrection, Jesus signified to Peter by the description He gave him, by what manner he would die, Peter pointed to John and in essence said, “what about him?” He was told in effect not to worry about John, but just to take care of Peter. O, how so many need that message today! “Maybe,” the cry goes out, “I may not be what I ought to be, but it is his fault.”

Many need to hear and think seriously about the words of the inspired apostle Paul when he wrote, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10). It is impossible for the attentive reader to miss the individuality in that verse. Each one will receive the things done in **His** body according to that **he** hath done, not what someone else has done, nor what someone else has done to him. In the modern vernacular, there are no scapegoats! No one else will bear your or my sins upon their head and carry them into eternal destruction, while we enter heaven. It is not going to happen. Each man’s sins are upon his hands if he dies in them and he will be spoiled by them when he stands before the Lord on that day.

One point we made at first was that Simon was in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity after he obeyed the gospel then sinned. Presently, I am in a discussion with a friend of a friend on Facebook, who has been deceived by the doctrine of premillennialism. If that person does not obey the Gospel and leave that error, she will answer for it in the day of judgment. That, is sad. Yet, isn’t it even sadder when the person who has escaped the bondage of sin, known the saving grace of God through his obedience, and then leave it behind? Peter describes that person’s condition as one like the dog that has turned again to his vomit, and the sow that was washed to wallowing in the mire (2 Peter. 2:22). In this passage, and in the one in Acts 8, the Holy Spirit used the vocabulary of Peter to mince no words, there was no, as we say, beating around the bush. Peter put it where the calves can reach it, so why are so many cows not getting it?

If the sin of unfaithfulness or any other, has overcome you as a child of God, don’t ignore it, don’t put it off, and by all means do not attempt to blame someone else for it. Make your life right with God the Father and the Savior Jesus Christ today. It might be the only day you have.

Where will you be Sunday morning at 9:30 and 10:30?

“Come thou with us, and we will do thee good”