

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Jaxon Reed - Infant son of Josh and Cassandra Reed, suffering from RSV.
David Brown - Spring, Texas preacher. Serious blood pressure problems and asthma.
Sissy Craig - For spiritual and emotional strength. Staples have been removed and she is healing.
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.

INFANT HOSPITALIZED - Jaxon Lee Reed, newborn grandson of Earl and Nancy Reed, was hospitalized at Talihina on Monday, suffering from Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) which affects lungs and breathing passages. Nancy reported on Wednesday that he was much better, and sleeping and eating well.

A FAITHFUL CHILD OF GOD GOES HOME - On Friday night, Jan. 20, after years of battling cancer, brother Dub Mowery, gospel preacher for the Clarksville, Texas church of Christ, took flight from his emaciated tabernacle of clay to eternal realms. His going leaves a hole in the hearts of all of us who knew and loved him. His death lacked one day being precisely two months since his beloved wife, Charlotte, passed away. Brother Dub was strong and faithful, never wavering in his faith in Him Who cannot lie. A memorial service will be conducted Saturday, Jan. 28 at 2 p.m. at Nations Funeral Home in Idabel, Oklahoma. Speakers will be Dub McClish, Jess Whitlock and Jerry Brewer, per brother Mowery’s request a few years ago. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his son, Paul Mowery and his foster son, Lee Reed.

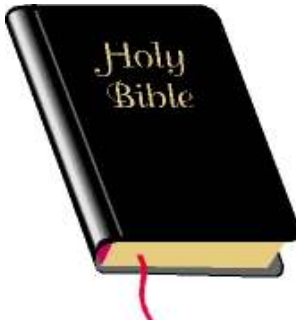
ANOTHER FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN PASSES - Another blow came for the faithful in the death of Terry Hightower’s wife, Vicki, on Wednesday afternoon. She had suffered an acute stroke on Monday which paralyzed her left side. This came on the heels of her battle with stage 4 cancer. Our deepest sympathy goes to Terry and his family in her loss. While we pray for their comfort, we rejoice in the great hope they have in Christ for a glad reunion after while.

KENYA REPORT - Contributing this week to the Kenya Fund this week were Harold and Ruth Tydings, Broken Arrow, Okla; Ron Skinner, Lexington, Okla.; Glenda Marble, Lexington, Okla.; Terry Whitlock, Denison, Texas; and Fay Reynolds and Linda Sinor, Denison, Texas. Preacher classes are currently in session at Kalamindi. Benard has finished the book of Hebrews and Veroon Wasonga has been teaching the books of James and First Peter.

Those Who Serve	
Sunday Morning, Jan. 29, 2017	
First Prayer - Patrick King	Closing Prayer - Dylan Brewer
Communion - Landry Brewer	Offering - Earl Reed
Sunday Afternoon, Jan. 29, 2017	
First Prayer - Earl Reed	Closing Prayer - Jerry Brewer

Records - Jan. 22	
Attendance	
Bible Class.....	13
Morning Worship.....	13
Afternoon Worship.....	12
Contribution.....	\$193.00

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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“It Is Appointed Unto Man Once To Die...”

Jerry C. Brewer

The title of our article is taken from Hebrews 9:27. Man’s appointment with death is a fact that is universally known, but which is often placed in a dark corner of our minds. Many years ago, a faithful elder in Chillicothe, Texas told me, “The old *must* die and the young *do* die.” That has been brought starkly demonstrated in the last year or so in the deaths of so many dear friends. Kelly Jo Moses died in November, 2015, Charlotte Mowery died suddenly at Clarksville, Texas in November, 2016, Elvina Gardner of Burns Flat passed away in December, 2016, Dub Mowery died last week and this week Vicki Hightower passed away.

Death respects neither young nor old. The pale rider indiscriminately crosses the thresholds of all. A young 29 year-old man died this week in our town. My parents buried half of their children—one at three months old and another at 21 years. My brother and his wife lost two sons—one in infancy and another at two years old. My father died at 67 and my mother at 92.

The great scheme of redemption, revealed in Jesus Christ, is man’s only hope of escaping the eternal consequences of sin when he dies. Jesus triumphed over the grave and offers that same hope to all (Matt. 11:28-29; Titus 2:11-12). But, sadly, the greater part of the world blithely stumbles through life ignoring the inevitable. Young people believe death is only for the old without soberly considering that they too may some day be old, or that they may die very young.

Death does not change one’s spiritual state. One who dies out of Christ is doomed to eternal torment. That includes those who have never obeyed the gospel and those who have obeyed it, but failed to live the Christian life. The child of God who allows the things of this world to draw him away, who places his affections on the things of this life, who is so wrapped up in “things” and sports and creature comforts that he neglects his duty to God

and lives for this life only will remember and regret his wasted life for all eternity. Memory of that will haunt the lost soul forever, as it haunts the rich man in torments.

And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst they good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented (Luke 16:23-25).

The condition of the child of God who departs from the Lord is far worse than if he had never been a Christian.

For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire (2 Pet. 2:20-22).

The reason his “latter end is worse” than if he had never become Christian is that his eternal torment will be doubly excruciating by remembering his wasted opportunities to serve the Savior he once embraced, then forsook. That is the case with so many Christians who have departed from the faith. That is the condition of three of my six children, and many relatives who once became Christians but have left Christ for the world, and our hearts grieve for them.

Let none of them think they will escape death’s appointment, nor believe their relative youth protects them. Death comes to everyone—the rich, the poor, the mighty, the lowly, the old, the young. Death did not discriminate between the rich man and the beggar Lazarus. Both of them died (Luke 16:22). Both kept the appointment that is made for us all. But their conditions *after* they died were far different.

Each of us chooses each day whether we will be comforted with Lazarus or tormented with the rich man after we die. Death does not, and *will not* make a lost person saved. As we die, so shall we be for all eternity. Think on these things.

“Uster To Be”

George Darling, Sr.

“I used to be a member of the church, but so and so happened and I quit.” I’m sure that most who read this have heard that statement at some time or other. When I hear it, I am reminded of the Lord’s question when He asked the disciples, “Will ye also go away?” And Peter answered, “Lord to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.”

(John 6:44ff).

Today we see so many who are turning their backs on the church. “Oh, we believe in Jesus alright, but we reject the church.” Seemingly they do not understand that to reject the church is to reject Christ. The church is His body (Col. 1:18-24). Christ is the head of the church (Eph. 1:22-23) and it is impossible to turn against the body and not the head. All this talk about the restructuring of the church is pure nonsense.

Another thing that needs to be impressed is, that one cannot accept the Lord and reject His Word and His law. The words spoken by the Lord—they are spirit and they are life. There is no hope of eternal life if one refuses to accept the words of the Lord. They make us free (John 8:32); they save (1 Pet. 1:18-25); and they sanctify (John 17:17). When we reject His Word we reject Him. Peter said, “Thou hast the words of eternal life.”

When church members are entangled with the things of the world, and neglect to study the Bible, and refuse to do their duty to God they should be reminded of the question: “To whom shall we go?” They cannot find salvation out in the world. Salvation is found only in Christ (Rom. 8:1-2; 2 Cor. 5:17).

Their friends might help them in times of need and they might go to them for comfort and advice, but to whom can they go for salvation? The only answer is to the Lord. Too many fail to appreciate Jesus when everything is going well—in times of good health and prosperity. But let hard times come, a few days of hardship, and they find that their friends forsake them, they go down into a depression of despair and begin to cry out, “Why did God let this happen to us?” Some will make the decision to return to the Lord, but why did they fail to realize before they left Him that he alone has the words of eternal life?

I hope that some who read this will give some consideration of their souls. If you are among the “uster be,” group or if you are growing careless of your duty and are thinking about leaving the church, if anything stands between you and the Lord, will you ask yourself this question, “To whom shall I go?” (John 6:68)? Remember if you leave Him you leave every hope of salvation.

Many are dissatisfied with the church and are seeking the “more popular.” Especially is this true with many of our younger people of high school and college age. They go away to school and are enticed by the cohorts of Satan to join in the practice of things that are foreign to the teaching of God’s Word. Our young ladies are taught to pray in public. Our young men are taught to speak in tongues, and to “work miracles.” Both are being taught that God’s plan of church government is obsolete.

The church is a complete institution. We dare not organize any other to do its work. Those who do these things have departed from the Lord and need to consider the question, “To whom shall we go?” Yes, my friends, you may live and die outside the church if that is your desire, but remember well that you will spend an eternity away from the Lord. (**Defender, July 1975**)