

**News and Notes**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

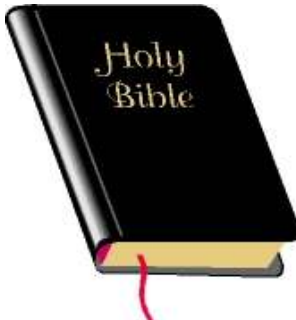
- David Brown** - Spring, Texas preacher, blood clots in leg.
- Sandy Craig** - Broken shoulder/kidney problems, new tests.
- Jo Ann McLerran** - Confined to home but doing much better.
- Glenda Marble** - Faithful Christian at Lexington, Okla. Heart problems.
- Debbie Post** - Wife of Doug Post, preacher in Salisbury, MD. Cancer.
- Sissy Craig** - For spiritual and emotional strength.
- 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.

**HEALTH UPDATE** - Glenda Marble, faithful sister in Lexington, Okla, had a pacemaker recently implanted, but had to go to the emergency last week. It had not corrected her heart problems. Pray that doctors can make the proper correction for her.

**KENYA REPORT** - Contributing to the Kenya fund this week, were the Bellview church of Christ, Pensacola, Fla.; the Berea church of Christ, Rives, Tenn.; Jess and Terry Whitlock, Denison, Texas; Chuck and Nancy Verkist, Ellensburg, Wash.; and the Morton St. church of Christ, Denison, Texas. Brother Ralph Fisher of Spring, Texas has informed us that he will become a monthly contributor. We are grateful for all of these generous brethren who aid us in preaching the gospel in Kenya. We could not do this without all of you. The elders of the Bellview church, Paul Brantley and Michael Hatcher, have graciously authorized that church to contribute 40 copies of this year's lectureship book to send to the brethren in Kenya. We are deeply grateful to them for this kind act. Benard reported three baptisms and good meetings recently. He reported, "It is great joy to inform you of the meetings and the results. May God bless all your efforts in this great work. We had two baptisms at Khamisi and one baptism at Sero B and the meeting at Kamato was well attended. May you all be blessed as we are looking for a better place."

**BELLVIEW LECTURES** - What an absolute pleasure it was to participate in the Bellview lectures in Pensacola, Florida last week. Every lecture was outstanding and ought to be viewed by all who love the Truth. The Bellview members, elders, deacons, and preacher were gracious in their hospitality, but the greatest joy was in fellowship with faithful brethren who *still* believe in contending for the faith once delivered (Jude 3). Most of the lectures are posted on Northeast's Face Book page.

<p><b>Those Who Serve</b>  <b>Sunday Morning, June 18, 2017</b>                  First Prayer - Earl Reed    Closing Prayer - Landry Brewer                  Communion - Landry Brewer    Offering - Jerry Brewer  <b>Sunday Afternoon, June 18, 2017</b>                  First Prayer - Patrick King    Closing Prayer - Dylan Brewer</p>	<p><b>Records - June 11</b>  <b>Attendance</b>                  Bible Class..... NA                  Morning Worship.....NA                  Afternoon Worship.....NA                  Contribution.....<b>NA</b></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)

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## “Stay Ye In All Places” - A Look At Cult Churches

**Jerry C. Brewer**

Current practices of hosts of so-called churches of Christ indicate that they believe Jesus said, “Stay ye in all places, distribute material goods, preach ‘secular service’ to the church and look inward to yourselves” (Mark 16:15). And if Acts 8:1, 4 were written by them in our day in our day, it might read,

At that time a great movement of scholarly endeavor and social justice was embraced by the church and they were all scattered abroad... Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere planting churches, establishing Youth and Family Ministries, Disaster Relief organizations, puppet shows, cookouts, Trunk or Treat, water park trips, Baseball Leagues, Self Defense Classes, Easter Egg Hunts, and a myriad of other like ‘ministries’ in order to serve themselves and have good public relations with the general public.

The disciples who were scattered abroad from Jerusalem, “went everywhere preaching the word” (Acts 8:4), in obedience to Jesus directive to “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). Acts 11:19 says they traveled, “as far as Phoenicia, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but the Jews only.” The next verse says that some of the “men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus” (Acts 11:27). What a contrast with today's churches who preach to themselves, serve loaves and fishes to their communities, entertain their youth, hire “Youth Ministers” to train up their children, and report baptisms of members' children (which is a good thing) but neglect to reach outside of their group with the soul saving gospel.

The social gospel has so infiltrated the thinking of members of the church today that they have become cultish their view of the church. That is manifested in their programs such as, marriage seminars, ladies days, men's breakfasts, youth rallies, and a host of other activities for members. Like cults, their focus has been turned inward to the neglect of the fields that are “white already to harvest” (John 4:35). They are content to “hire” men to preach what they

want to hear, who will project a good “image” of them to the community, and tickle their itching ears (2 Tim. 4:3).

They have tossed out the simple gospel and embraced Tillich, Bonhoefer, Lucado, Shelly, and every other brand of human philosopher. Consequently, they are as those whom God indicted in Hosea 4:6—spiritually destroyed for lack of knowledge. They nod at—and “amen”—pious platitudes and sweet words from their “educated” preachers, regurgitate them and call that the gospel. The idea of contending for the faith (Jude 3), or opposing denominational error (1 Cor. 1:10), or elders who will shepherd the flock and oppose false teachers (Acts 22:28-31; Titus 1:9), or marking those who are false teachers (Rom. 16:17-18) is foreign to today’s cult-churches that dot the landscape in ever-increasing numbers in our land. The time has come for the faithful to mark cult/social gospel churches, expose their errors, and avoid them. They are a shame and a blot on the name of Christ.

## Did Jesus Die In Vain?

*Dub McClish*

The entire Christian system centers around the death of Jesus on the cross. He “died for the ungodly” (Rom. 5:6, 8). He “laid down his life for us” (1 John 3:16). In spite of numerous like statements of Scripture, certain things, if true, would mean that Christ died in vain.

- **If one can be saved by Law of Moses:** Paul argued: “If righteousness is through the law, then Christ died for nought” (Gal. 2: 21b). The Galatians had fallen victim to Jewish Christians who sought to bind at least parts of the law (i.e., circumcision, 5:2-4) upon the church. If Moses’ law could have saved, the Word need never have become flesh (John 1:14), for men had had that law for 1,500 years by the time of Jesus’ birth. The law was only a “tutor” that pointed to the Christ (Gal. 3:24). Its sacrifices were merely typical of the “Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Jesus slew the authority of Moses’ law on Calvary (Col. 2:14). All who justify their religious practices by it (e.g., sabbath keeping, a priesthood, instrumental music in worship, et al.) render the death of Jesus worthless.

- **If religious division is right:** Though such diversity is applauded by the masses, the Bible condemns it. Jesus built only one church (Mat. 16:18), and He prayed that its members be one, as He and the Father are one (which includes doctrinal unity) (John 17:20-23). He died to establish this one body (Eph. 2:16; 5:25). If Jesus is as pleased with the monstrosity of denominationalism as with the one church He established, then He died for nought in that regard.

- **If the church is non-essential:** Jesus “bought” His church with His blood (Acts 20:28). “Jesus yes, the church no” is a common, albeit grossly mistaken, concept. If one is speaking of manmade counterfeits of Jesus’ church, it is true; He died for none of them. However, to include His church in this concept implies that Christ paid the price for it in vain. His church consists of those who have been saved through His death (Rom. 5:10; cf. Acts 2:37-38, 41, 47).

- **If I am lost:** Jesus’ death will have been wasted, as far as I am concerned, if I am lost. This will not be the case for others, of course. He “gave himself a ransom for all” (1 Tim. 2:6), so all have the opportunity to be saved, but if I am lost, He may as well have spared Himself the misery of

the cross.

It behooves each of us to obey His plan of salvation (Acts 2: 37-38), whereupon He will add us to His church (v. 47). We thereby accept the salvation He offers. By this means alone may we attribute fitting value to His death for ourselves.

## The Church Is The Kingdom

*Jess Whitlock*

A lot of confusion in the religious world could be cleared up if people could only understand that the kingdom and the church are the same institution. Christ taught in clarion tones “upon this rock I will build My church” (Matt. 16:18). Christ fulfilled that promise as we learn in Ephesians 5:23, “Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Savior of the body.” Let us understand that the church is not a building fashioned of wood, stone, brick, and mortar. The church of the New Testament is composed of people who have obeyed the Lord in faith, repentance of sins, confessing Christ as Lord, and being baptized into Him for remission of sins. “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16). “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body...” (1st Cor. 12:13). So then, we see that the body is the church, notice please, “...and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body...” (Eph. 1:22-23). Again, “And He is the head of the body, the church ..... for His body’s sake, which is the church” (Col. 1:18,24). The final act of obedience that puts one into the church of the New Testament is baptism for remission of sins (Acts 2:41,47).

Let us consider the word “kingdom” in relation to the Lord’s church. Jesus said, “That ye may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom” (Luke 22:30). We note that the Lord’s table is in His kingdom. The Corinthian correspondence begins, “Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, Unto the church of God which is at Corinth” (1st Cor. 1:1-2). We know the Corinthian missives are sent to the “church at Corinth.” Paul addressed those Corinthian Christians saying, “Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord’s table, and of the table of devils” (1st Cor. 10:21). Are you listening? The “church” at Corinth contained the “table of the Lord” (1st Cor. 10:21). The “table of the Lord” can only be found in the Lord’s church. All of that being the case, the “church” and the “kingdom” are one and the same institution.

The Colossian correspondence commences, “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse” (Col. 1:1-2). By inspiration of the Holy Spirit this letter is addressed to the faithful saints “in Christ”; i.e., New Testament Christians. To be in Christ, is to be in His church (Matt. 16:18; Acts 4:12; Eph. 1:7,11,13,22-23; 5:23). To those faithful brethren in the church at Colosse Paul penned, “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son” (Col. 1:13). It becomes crystal clear that Paul was writing to those who were in the “kingdom of Christ” and the “church of Christ” (Col. 1:18,24; cf. Rom. 16:16).