

## News and Notes

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

**Doyle Harris** - Former gospel preacher. Pneumonia, congestive heart failure. In Baptist Hospital, OKC.  
**Paul Brantley** - Elder at Bellview, Pensacola, Fla. Heart damage and constant pain.  
**Earlene Holley** - Sherlene's mother. On hospice care In Elkwood Assisted Living.  
**Janice Ruffner** - Roelf Ruffner's wife, Columbia, TN. Blood clots, Fibromyalgia, Lung problems.  
**Nancy Reed** - Various health issues.  
**Patrick King** - Hemiplegic Migraine.  
**Sandy Craig** - Ongoing kidney problems.  
**Jo Ann McLerran** - COPD.  
**Glenda Marble** - Lexington, Okla. - Heart problems.  
**Paul Marble** - Glenda Marble's son. Recurrence of cancer, now doing well.  
**Charles and Linda Pogue** - Congestive heart failure. Charles having dizzy spells.  
**Nancy Verkist** - Ellensburg, Washington. Von Hippel Lindau disease.  
**Don Smith** - Brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.


**DOYLE HARRIS** - Brother Harris is critical in Baptist Hospital in Okla. City. He cannot swallow or take his medicine. Pray for him to be comfortable and for his children.

**MEET, EAT, AND MEET** - Northeast will meet at the regular times on June 10, then eat together, and meet again immediately after dinner. Pat Craig, who preaches for the Eastside church in Lexington, Okla., will speak at both times,

**KENYA REPORT** - Contributing this week to the Kenya Fund was the Fish Hatchery Road church of Christ, Huntsville, Texas. Thank you to all who support this good work.

**BELLVIEW LECTURES** - The 43rd Annual Bellview Lectureship in Pensacola, Fla. begins Friday, June 8. Jerry will speak three times. Benard Kagaga will attend from Kenya and report on his work during the Open Forum at 3 p.m., Saturday, June 9, and speak on the topic of, "What's Right With The Church" at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, June 11. Lectures will be live streamed on Bellview's website at [www.bellviewcoc.com](http://www.bellviewcoc.com). The Brewers return on the 1th, then go to Texas the 15th for a wedding on the 16th. Earl Reed has agreed to preach on June 17 and Jerry will preach again on June 24.

<p><b>Website - <a href="http://www.necocelkcity.com">www.necocelkcity.com</a></b>  <b>Face Book - <a href="http://www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok">www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok</a></b>  <b>You Tube - <a href="http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ">www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ</a></b></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Those Who Serve</b>  <b>Sunday Morning, June 3, 2018</b>                  First Prayer - Patrick King    Closing Prayer - Dylan Brewer                  Communion - Landry Brewer    Offering - Jerry Brewer  <b>Sunday Afternoon, June 3, 2018</b>                  First Prayer - Earl Reed    Closing Prayer - Jerry Brewer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Records - May 27</b></p> <p>Bible Class.....13                  Mornng Worship.....15                  Afternoon Worship.....16                  Contribution.....\$1,258.00</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)**

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## The Evils Of God's People

**Foy E. Wallace, Jr. (Deceased)**

If history repeats itself in the rise and the fall of empires and in the destinies of nations, it is nonetheless true in the development and the declension of the church. This antecedent thought dates back to Israel, God's Old Testament church, whose mistakes have been repeated in the history of the church of his Son through the ages of its existence. Israel's was a history of gradual departure, the end of which was rebellion against God's way. Moses lifted up his voice of tearful warning against any deviation from the Oracles of Sinai, but the feet of Israel wandered from the way. God raised up prophet after prophet to guide their wayward feet, yet Israel wandered. The end of the story was national decline, captivity and exile, forfeited promises, and rejection.

This Biblical record is not mere ancient history. It was written for the learning and the admonition of those upon whom the ends of the ages are come. The lesson is aptly put in the words of Jeremiah: "My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water" (Jer. 2:13).

***Forsaking the Right Way***

Jeremiah, the weeping but brave, lion-hearted prophet, struck the vital cause of Israel's exile. God touched the prophet's mouth and his message flamed forth: "My people have committed two evils." In their idolatry Israel had not committed one evil merely, like the heathen idol devotees who know no better. Besides the evil of idolatry Israel added the sin of forsaking the Living God whom they had known. Forsaking God, "the fountain of living waters," for idol nonentities was like taking cracked and leaky cisterns hewn out by men in preference to the ever flowing supply of fresh waters that a natural fountain could give. In turning from God to idols, Israel had abandoned fountains for tanks man made, broken cisterns that could hold no water.

How readest thou? Can we not see the application in our own deviations? The denomina-

tions, like the heathen idolaters, know no better: but in our departures from the way, the church like Israel commits two evils: first, the evil of the thing done; second, the evil of forsaking what we have known in the doing of it. Wise and just Samuel was rejected for young and handsome Saul. The choice seems to have been made on looks—mere appearances. Today, many are more concerned about how the church looks to the world—outside appearances—than about what God wants the church to be. The result of such will prove sadder and far more fatal than with Israel, who rejected not Samuel, but God. There are many such problems before the church today.

### ***The Preaching Problem***

There is a marked reticence in preaching today that did not exist a generation ago. The church grew when our pioneers waged relentless war on error. The doors of public buildings were closed against them, and persecution was bitter, but that did not deter them. Then courage was an essential quality of the man who preached the gospel.

We would not assume (far be it) a hyper-critical, holier, wiser, better-than-thou attitude, but there has been too much of the “method-of-approach” preaching, and not enough of the Stephen, Paul, Peter and John sort. In a Sunday morning Bible Class in a certain church it was remarked that if Stephen had used the right method of approach, those Jews would not have killed him and he, perhaps, would have baptized many if not the most of them. Attention was called to the fact that Stephen was “full of the Holy Spirit” when he did that preaching and the criticism was against the Holy Spirit. It was learned that a Bible teacher in one of the colleges had made a like statement to his class.

Another instance of the same sort is a statement which has been heard from the pulpit of a church of Christ that John, the apostle, was called “son of thunder” when he was a young man, full of zeal, but in the maturity of his age he toned down and wrote his epistles on love!

It is also being talked that no apostle ever “took baptism for a subject.” Neither did any apostle ever take repentance “for a subject.” But when they said anything on faith, repentance, baptism, heaven or hell, it was decidedly *on* the subject. Such statements can be taken only as an apology for plain Bible preaching and as an effort to court the favor of an element in the church and out of it in whose mouths such preaching leaves an unsavory taste. But such preaching never converts anybody-though it may bring a few responses.

These instances, out of many like them, are mentioned as examples of the fact that much preaching is headed in the wrong direction, with a definite trend away from the boldness of apostolic and pioneer preaching. When a young preacher once asked the veteran A. J. McCarty how to preach effectively, fearless Jack McCarty replied, “Young man, get brim full and running over with the word of God and it will come out.” Yea, verily.

God touched the mouth of the modest Jeremiah, and said, “I have put my words in thy mouth.” They were words aflame with a message of vehemence. Some preachers today need their lips touched by the hand of God. When God touched the mouth of Jeremiah, He said, “I have set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, to pluck up, to throw down, to destroy, to build and to plant.” Yet there are those who cry for “affirmative” preaching and decry “negative” preaching. Go back and read that verse again. God set Jeremiah over the nations in that kind of preaching and that kind of preaching will still influence nations.

If the non-combative policy some brethren urge in the Pulpit and press should be generally adopted where would the church drift within a single generation? The Christian Church furnishes a good example. They got where they are by pursuing that very course. And who wants to be where they are?

Another preacher problem is the tendency toward professionalism. Certain colleges of business, guarantee those who graduate from them a position within a certain length of time. There is a sentiment in our schools among those “preparing for the ministry” somewhat akin to that. Not with the idea of doing “the work of an evangelist,” such as Paul commanded Timothy to do, but rather with the idea of obtaining a “position” with some established church as its “minister,” do many “enter the ministry” today. It can hardly be denied that when a New Testament preacher established a church, and set it in order, he went to his next field. Whether that practice is regarded as obligatory, expedient or inexpedient, now, we certainly should not get so far away from it as to destroy the evangelistic spirit possessed by the New Testament church, and let a clergy grow up in our midst out of our located ministry. The need of the hour is straight live-coals-from-the-altar gospel preaching, with the fire of Stephen, the boldness of Peter and John—note, the boldness of Peter and John (John still had thunder then)—and with the invincible spirit of Paul; preaching that will start people to talking, even arguing. The people will hear it, if the brethren will bear it. Let us do it.

### ***The Institutional Problem***

We get the organize bee in our bonnets. The institutional idea is no longer a trend—we are institutionalized already. No week passes that churches are not circularized by “our institutions” True, “we” did not start them but they were left on our doorstep for adoption, tagged, “your institution, support it.” As a doorstep child, the only alternative is adoption or death. Too kind-hearted to let any of them die, the “brotherhood” adopts them all.

Stress needs to be put on the independency of the local church, with its own individual program, as being better than to become a mere subscriber, willing or unwilling, to a number of institutions. Some sober thinking is needed here. And some efficient figuring will reveal that the institutional way is more expensive and less effective.

Institutions are inclined to assume power as they grow and, consciously or unconsciously, to control preachers and churches. From the schools into the churches young people go as potential leaders and it is easy to see how churches in the future may become what the schools have in their power to make them, And it is reasonable that most young preachers will be formed into the mold of the college they attend. Remember that it was the colleges, not the societies, that swept the church into the digression. The colleges were before the societies and far more powerful in their influence. Their original intent was right, but they later became the hotbeds for innovation, compromise and all forms of digression. . . . (*The Bible Banner*, April, 1941).

**EDITOR’S NOTE: There is no new thing under the sun. The things addressed 77 years ago by brother Wallace are the same things that are peculiar to what we call “mainstream churches of Christ” today. Apostasy in 1941 was fueled by colleges. Today, it is coming from schools of preaching with their loose fellowship of error, such as that advocated and practiced by Dave Miller, the foremost “sacred cow” among them.**