

## News and Notes

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**


- Earlene Holley** - Sherlene's mother. Moved to Bell Ave. Nursing Home and in therapy.
- 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.

**PREACHING SUNDAY EVENING** - Jim Foster of Willow will speak Sunday evening at Northeast. Brother Foster is a long time friend and former classmate of Jerry in the Elk City School of Preaching, directed by W. R. Craig in the 1960s.

**GONE VISITIN'** - Earl and Nancy Reed, and Patrick and Sarah King, and their children, are gone this week to visit the Reeds' son, Josh, and his family in Eastern Oklahoma..

**KENYA REPORT** - Contributing to the Kenya Fund this week were Harold and Ruth Tydings, Broken Arrow, Okla. A large monthly loss makes it necessary to raise more funds for this work.

Website - <a href="http://www.necocelkcity.com">www.necocelkcity.com</a> Face Book - <a href="http://www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok">www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok</a> You Tube - <a href="http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ">www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ</a>	
<b>Those Who Serve</b> <b>Sunday Morning, Mar. 18, 2018</b> First Prayer - Jerry Brewer    Closing Prayer - Landry Brewer Communion - Jerry Brewer    Offering - Dylan Brewer <b>Sunday Afternoon, Mar. 18, 2018</b> First Prayer - Landry Brewer    Closing Prayer - Dylan Brewer	<b>Records - Mar. 11</b> Bible Class.....16 Morning Worship.....17 Afternoon Worship.....14 Contribution.....\$187.00
<b>Weekly Meeting Times</b>	
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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## Laid Back, Hip—And Irreverent

*Dub McClish*

The general abandonment of decorum in society over a couple of generations has obviously had its impact on the Lord's people—especially observable in our worship assemblies. I preached in a Gospel meeting several years ago before which the local preacher told me that the brethren were “laid back” in the way they dressed for worship. He was trying to prepare me for the fact that those who would be leading in worship would likely be “casually” dressed. Some of them didn't even make that “grade.”

In another Gospel meeting in which I preached, the congregation used varied song leaders, some of whom wore neither coat nor tie. One poor fellow wore jeans, an ugly open-collared shirt, and sneakers and sported a distracting, obviously unkempt beard. Had he worn hunting boots he could have been mistaken for “Jeremiah Johnson,” just down from his mountain cabin (never mind that he could hardly carry a tune). If such attire represented the best these men could do, they would have received no criticism from me. This hardly seemed to be the case, however. Rather, such behavior had *thoughtless, careless, sloppy, I don't care, and/or lazy* (to say nothing of *irreverent*) written all over it.

I have known of elders who wear coat and tie to work during the week, but who “dress down,” coatless and golf shirt, for their greater “work” on the Lord's day. T shirts at the Lord's table (especially “message” T shirts) hardly contribute to Scriptural meditation on the cross. Some seem to wear offbeat attire in order to “make a statement.” While visiting elsewhere, I have seen some younger preachers and youth “leaders” who show up for worship assemblies in cutoff jeans or cargo shorts, T shirts, and flip-flops—I infer to show how “hip” and “with it” they are or perhaps even to express rebellion at decorum and basic neatness.

Whether we (male or female) “dress up” or “dress down” indicates an attitude toward the activity or function in which we are participating. I am addressing men particularly,

however. While admitting some extenuating circumstances (e.g., coming immediately from work with no time to change, the less formal setting of Wednesday evening Bible study, et al.), what you wear may reflect how seriously you take the activity in which you are engaging (to say, “I hadn’t thought about that,” makes my point). I could not picture any of the men described above dressing so sloppily for an important business appointment or to serve as a pallbearer for a family member’s or close friend’s funeral service. Surely, one would not think of appearing before an earthly monarch disheveled, unkempt, and wearing yard work or golfcourse garb. He would do his best not to detract from royalty by appearing slovenly or even casual in his attire.

Yet, men all too often, representing the most important cause on earth, come before the King of kings, saying by their shoddy appearance that the occasion was not even worth dressing up for. Many of the grandfathers of my generation wore bib overalls to worship on Sunday, but these were the best they had. The one day in the week they wore a white shirt (if they had one) was the Lord’s day. They perceived that going to worship was worth dressing up for—and I believe they got it right.

Yes, God is more concerned with the inside, rather than merely with the outside, of men (1 Sam. 16:7). However, we may indicate what is inside by what we do with the “outside.” The Lord said that “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh” (Mat. 12:34), and we may “talk” with our attire. Have we forgotten the simple, but important, principle of doing all things “decently and in order” (1 Cor. 14:40) (written in the very context of behavior in a worship assembly, incidentally)? I am not suggesting that we turn our worship assemblies into fashion shows. I am rather urging that we, especially those who lead in worship, dress in such a way as to indicate how important they believe the worship of Almighty God and His Son is. (***TheScripturecache.com, owned and administered by Dub McClish***).

## “Uster Be”

***George Darling, Sr.***  
(*Defender*, July 1975)

“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.

The man who leaves the Lord doctrinally (so many are doing so today) or morally can come back and correct his mistakes. He has promised to forgive.

But he has not promised to forgive until the guilty one does his part. So, to you “uster be” your only hope is to humble yourself and confess your sins, and return to the church. Ponder carefully Paul’s statement, “The wages of sin is death” and Peter’s statement: Lord to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.”