

## News and Notes

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

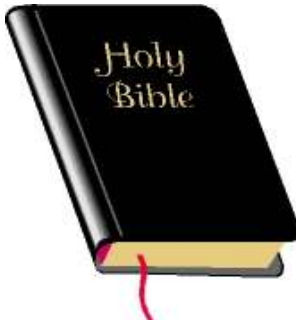
**Sandy Craig** - Broken shoulder/urinary tract infection, but recuperating well.  
**Jo Ann McLerran** - Still unable to get out. Moving to a new apartment to escape mold.  
**Dub McClish** - To have a stent implant Mar. 29th in Denton, Texas for blocked artery.  
**Glenda Marble** - Faithful Christian at Lexington, Okla. Heart problems.  
**Debbie Post** - Wife of Doug Post, preacher in Salisbury, MD. Cancer has returned. Recently hospitalized in pain and dehydrated, suffering from pneumonia and very weak.  
**David Brown** - Spring, Texas preacher. Blood clots in his leg.  
**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.

**MEMBERS' CONDITIONS** - Sandy Craig is doing much after breaking her broken shoulder in a fall a few weeks ago, and suffering from a urinary tract infection. Jo Ann McLerran was at Great Plains Regional Medical Center on Wednesday receiving an infusion of iron which should help her to be stronger. Her move to a new apartment is nearly complete. Her old apartment had mold which complicated her COPD.

**KENYA REPORT** - Contributing in the past week to the Kenya Fund were Chuck and Nancy Verkist, Ellensburg, Wash.; and the Berea church of Christ, Rives, Tenn. We are grateful to all of our faithful brethren who have fellowship with us in the great work of preaching in Kenya. The gospel meeting at Sota was recently completed with four persons baptized into Christ and one restored. More meetings are scheduled in March at Port Victoria in Kenya, Port Victoria (Lugala) in Uganda, and Nyacheki Kisii. We also have several books to be sent to Kenya soon.

**INTERNET EVANGELISM** - Weekly sermons are posted on Noprtheast's You Tube Channel. They may be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ>. Let others know about them and also check out our website at [www.necocec.org](http://www.necocec.org). We are also on Face Book.

<p><b>Those Who Serve</b>  <b>Sunday Morning, Mar. 19, 2017</b>                  First Prayer - Landry Brewer    Closing Prayer - Earl Reed                  Communion - Dylan Brewer    Offering - Patrick King  <b>Sunday Afternoon, Mar. 19, 2017</b>                  First Prayer - Jerry Brewer    Closing Prayer - Patrick King</p>	<p><b>Records - Mar. 12</b>  <b>Attendance</b>                  Bible Class.....14                  Morning Worship.....14                  Afternoon Worship.....12                  Contribution.....\$.N/A</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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## Satan's Best Servants

*Jerry C. Brewer*

There are only two spiritual kingdoms in the world—Christ's and Satan's—and there is a great war between the two for the souls of men. The servants of Jesus Christ call men to faith in Him, repentance of their sins, confession of Him, and baptism for the remission of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). That is the only way to enter the kingdom of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:47). When one does those things he is delivered from the power of darkness (Satan's kingdom) and translated into Christ's (Col. 1:13).

Satan isn't concerned about one who believes in Jesus Christ as the Son of God because even "the devils also believe and tremble" (Jas. 2:19). Neither is Satan concerned if one wants to confess that belief. The demons who possessed the Gergesenes confessed Him: "What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God"? (Matt. 8:29). Nor is Satan concerned if a person is religious and lives a good moral life. Cornelius was described as, "a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always" (Acts 10:2). But, despite this, Cornelius was lost (Acts 10:4-6; 11:13-14).

Belief in Christ as the Son of God (John 8:24), repentance of one's sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31), and confession of Him as the Son of God (Acts 8:37), are all necessary requisites of baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). But one can do all of those things *without leaving Satan's kingdom* and entering Christ's because neither faith, repentance, nor confession crosses that line between the two kingdoms. It is *only in baptism* that one leaves Satan's kingdom and enters into Christ (Rom. 6:3-5; Gal. 3:27). That is why Satan works so hard to prevent sinners from being baptized, and that is where Satan's *best servants* do his work.

There is only one way to heaven (John 14:6) but many ways to hell and Paul lists a number of ways one can travel that broad way that Jesus described in Matthew 7:13-14:

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:9-10).

Those who practice such things are great servants of Satan, but they are *not* his *best* servants. It is not likely that a fornicator, an idolater, a sodomite, thief, a covetous person, a drunkard, a reviler, or an extortioner is concerned if one wants to be baptized for the remission of sins. Who then *are* Satan's best servants? They are the preachers and practitioners of denominational religions. They are the *pretenders* to Christianity who sweetly woo the unsuspecting and Biblically ignorant individual who asks them about being a Christian. Paul also described *them*:

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as ministers of righteousness; whose ends shall be according to their works (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

Like the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Herodians—the denominational industry of Jesus' day—who hated one another, but ignored their differences and formed an alliance against the Lord (Matt. 22:15-33), Satan's servants in denominations today band together to oppose the Lord's command to be baptized for the remission of sins. These modern religionists are ministers of Satan, doing his work of sending souls to hell, and, because they are transformed into "ministers of righteousness" multitudes of sincere, misguided people fall prey to their lies. Let me relate a classic example of this.

I knew a woman who was one of the sweetest, kindest, most morally upright persons I have ever known. This woman was a devout Pentecostal who married a Baptist preacher's son and led him into her religion. She was the unchallenged spiritual leader of her family and her doctrine was accepted by her children, without question.

This woman died in 1967 and her mantle descended upon her third child—a daughter. This daughter was like her mother in all of her kind, sweet ways. She was morally upright, loving, tender, and devoutly Pentecostal, believing she was "touched" by the Holy Spirit, and raised a son who became an Assembly of God preacher. Consequently, the family—her brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, *except one niece and one great-nephew*, continued to look to her for spiritual guidance, never questioning her religious pronouncements.

Her great-nephew became a Christian and, knowing the danger to his parents' souls in her religion, attempted to persuade his father to be baptized into Christ while his father suffered from a terminal illness. He asked me to call his father and talk with him about being baptized, which I did. But he did not believe he had to be baptized. His wife had "talked to the family" and "the family" (the aunt) had told him he did not need to be baptized since he had been "saved" in a denomination. The aunt, one of the very best of Satan's servants, had done her master's evil work. He never entered into Christ.

A morally upright person who wants to be a Christian and do what is right to go to heaven has no problem rejecting the advice of those whom Paul described in First Corinthians 6:9-10, but can easily fall prey to the servants of Satan described in Second Corinthians 11:13-15. A little lie mixed with a truth is far more dangerous to the soul than outright falsehood. Satan added one small lie to God's prohibition to Adam and Eve. God told them, "...of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen 2:17) God had

said, "thou shalt surely die" but Satan inserted a single three letter word, saying, "Ye shall *not* surely die" and ruined the human race (Gen. 3:4).

Satan's *best* servants are *not* hedonists, atheists, idolaters, sodomites, drunkards, thieves, murderers, pornographers, or wiccans. His best servants are the preachers and practitioners of denominational religion in every town in every country in the world who rail against baptism for the remission of sins and tell you that salvation is by a "sinners' prayer" or "faith only" and that baptism "is not necessary for salvation." Like the two women we described, they may be sincere like Saul of Tarsus who served God in good conscience while persecuting Christians (Acts 23:1), and sincerely *thought* he should oppose Christ (Acts 26:9), but they are servants of Satan—his very best.

## What Do You Have For Our Children?

**Philip Smith**

I cannot begin to count the times that I have heard this question. My response is and always has been that we offer the soul-saving gospel of Jesus Christ. It is sad that for too many this is simply not enough. They are looking for something less. They want the congregation to have parties, trips, and sponsor entertainment for their children. This is simply not the work of the church.

God ordained three institutions and each has its work. God ordained civil government to provide order and protection for its citizens. This includes, among other things, the punishment of evil doers (Rom. 13:1-5). The church's work is to evangelize (1 Thess. 1:8; Acts 13:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:14-15), edify (1 Cor. 14:26; Acts 20:32) and provide benevolence. Nowhere is the church charged with providing entertainment or social activities. Congregations must be very careful how they use the funds given to the Lord.

There is a tremendous difference between a group of Christians getting together to play basketball, go skating, bowling, fishing or going to Six Flags using their own funds and Christians doing the same things using money given to the Lord's work. We are a social people and should enjoy being together and doing things together, but to charge the church with such is wrong. Social matters are a work of the home and Christian homes can and should provide recreation and entertainment, but to charge the church is unauthorized.

Someone will surely reply that providing recreation is an "outreach" of the church into the community. After all, we must attract people somehow. But our "outreach" is to be through the preaching of the gospel, that is our charge and the way the Lord said to do it (Matt. 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16). So, the next argument is that this "recreation" is edification. The problem with that is that edification is accomplished through the word of God (Acts 20:32). We edify through preaching and teaching. The fact is there is no authority for church-sponsored recreation in the word of God. You can find no statement, implication, or example that allows the church to become a financier of recreational and social activities regardless of the fact that so many are looking for congregations that provide such.

There is a pattern for the church (Heb. 8:1-5) and if we recognize Jesus Christ as our Lord and King we will follow that pattern and not corrupt it by adding social activities and recreation to the work God has charged to us. "Add thou not unto his words, Lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar" (Prov. 30:6). (***The Northpoint Lighthouse, Denton, Texas, Feb. 19, 2017***)