

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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.
Nancy Verkist - Ellensburg, Washington. Von Hippel Lindau disease.
Chuck Verkist - Ellensburg, Washington. Undergoing treatment for Prostate Cancer.
Don Smith - Brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.


SPEAKING THIS WEEK - Patrick King will speak at both worship periods this Lord's Day.

GUEST SPEAKER - Pat Craig, who preaches in Lexington, Okla., will speak in Jerry's absence on June 10 while the Brewers are at the Bellview Lectureship. Patrick King normally preaches on the second Sunday each month, but graciously consented to speak the third Sunday, June 17.

KENYA REPORT - Recent contributors to the Kenya Fund were Larry D. Davis, Audubon, Penn.; the Bellview church of Christ, Pensacola, Fla.; The Eastside church of Christ, Lexington, Okla.; the Fish Hatchery Rd. church of Christ, Huntsville, Texas; Harold and Ruth Tydings, Broken Arrow, Okla.; and the Morton St. church of Christ, Denison, Texas. Thank you all for your support of this good work.

GOSPEL MEETING - Our annual gospel meeting will be held August 5-9 (Monday through Thursday), with Ron Cosby of Disney, Okla. preaching. It's not too early to begin making a list of friends to invite. Get their addresses and send them a card a week or two before the meeting...or send them an email invitation. A gospel meeting is a special effort to have the lost hear the soul saving gospel and is a way for every member who loves souls to be active in the effort.

Website - www.necocelkcity.com Face Book - www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok You Tube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ	
Those Who Serve Sunday Morning, May 13, 2018 First Prayer - Jerry Brewer Closing Prayer - Landry Brewer Communion - Dylan Brewer Offering - Patrick King Sunday Afternoon, May 13, 2018 First Prayer - Dylan Brewer Closing Prayer - Earl Reed	Records - May 6 Bible Class.....15 Morning Worship.....16 Afternoon Worship.....15 Contribution.....\$135.00
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)

Published Weekly By The Northeast church of Christ
P. O. Box 267, Elk City, Oklahoma 73648

Volume 13, No. 10
May 13 2018

God Is Not, “The Man Upstairs”

Jerry C. Brewer

The modern world differs nothing from Noah's day when, “God saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually” (Gen. 6:5). Consequently, “The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth” (Gen. 6:11-12). Every manifestation of sin and corruption begins in the heart.

The violence and paganism that defines modern man is because the “*thoughts* of his heart (is) only evil continually.” That leads to a society described by Paul in Romans 1:18-32, “Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever” (Rom. 1:25).

Not only do immoral works of the flesh plague us, but also the idea that God is “one of us”—a concept entertained by religious people today. The Psalmist listed God's indictments against Israel and capped them with, “These hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether as thyself: I will reprove thee, and set in order before thine eyes” (Psa. 50:21). When man begins to think God is like man, he opens the door to every kind of evil.

One manifestation of that skewed thinking was seen this week in a Face Book post by a young woman who is graduating from high school. She wrote, “I owe it all to the man upstairs.” God is *not* “the *man* upstairs!” He is the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth, and we *dare not* refer to Him as though he is “one of us.” Isaiah wrote, “For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose

name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones” (Isa. 50:17). The Creator further declared, “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa. 55:9).

Peter said the Lord’s delay in returning to judge the world would make scoffers of men in the last days. “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation” (2 Pet. 3:3-4). Scoffers in our time think God is like man because He has delayed what He promised. But they are *wrong*, as Peter explained: “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9).

Paul said the ancients became idolaters and, “changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things” (Rom. 1:23). There is not a whit’s difference between those who fashioned their gods as creatures of the earth and men today who fashion their “God” as a man. They have reversed the order and, “created God in their own image.” And *that* is blasphemy. Do not *ever* think God is like man by calling Him, “the man upstairs.”

“Justifying” Sodomy By The Scriptures?!

Johnny Oxendine

I am just going to give you a few quotes from a December 15, 2008, *Newsweek* article titled: “Our Mutual Joy.” It is an attempt by a so-called, (but know nothing) religion editor (Lisa Miller) to justify homosexuality *by* the Scriptures. These are exact comments or statements found in the article. I will leave most of my comments for the conclusion, but here you have this to see for yourselves how ignorant someone can be:

Scripture gives us no good reason why gays and lesbians should not be (civilly and religiously) married—and a number of excellent reasons why they should.

The Bible does condemn gay male sex in a handful of passages. Twice Leviticus refers to sex between men as “an abomination” (King James version), but these are throwaway lines... our modern understanding of the world has surpassed its prescriptions. Why would we regard its condemnation of homo-

sexuality with more seriousness than we regard its advice, which is far lengthier, on the best price to pay for a slave?

“Paul is not talking about what we call homosexuality at all” [Neil Elliott, *The Arrogance of Nations*].

The Bible was written for a world so unlike our own, it’s impossible to apply its rules, at face value, to ours. Religious objections to gay marriage are rooted not in the Bible at all (<http://www.newsweek.com/id/172653>).

This article reveals not only how little Miller knows about the Bible, but also how desperate she seems to toss aside hundreds of years of biblical scholarship that is overwhelmingly concerned with correct and specific definitions—not homosexuality. She speaks with sarcasm of the passages in Leviticus relegating them as some archaic cave writings that cannot possibly be taken seriously and therefore should be *thrown away!*

To think that our modern world has somehow surpassed the prescriptions of God is perhaps the most insulting slap of all at the Creator. She defiantly sees no reason to obey or apply anything the Scriptures teach if they do not correspond to beliefs she has concocted in her little speckle of a distorted humanistic mind. How this woman can oversee several so-called religious publications also is an indication of how pervasively entrenched the pro-homosexual liberal press is as it endeavors to demean/demonize religion (not only is she the religion editor(?), but she writes a weekly column, *Belief Watch* for the magazine). If anything, Miller hates the Bible and what it teaches and stands for.

If Paul is not talking about homosexuality at all, what does this passage from 1 Corinthians mean?

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God (6:9-10—NKJV).

The English Standard Version translates that phrase similarly: “neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,” so there is no doubt of whom Paul speaks!

Take some tracts from the rack in the foyer and distribute them wherever you go. They are designed to teach the Truth to the lost, but do no good in the rack.