

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Holley Brewer** - Tests for low heart rate
- David Brown** - Spring, Texas preacher, blood clots in leg.
- Sandy Craig** - Broken shoulder/kidney problems.
- Jo Ann McLerran** - Confined to home and not doing well.
- 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.

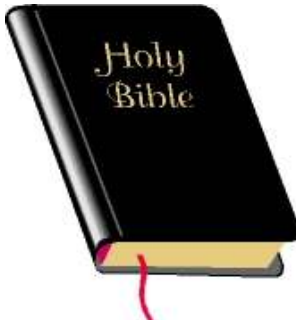
HEALTH UPDATE - David Brown reports that he is still on medication to dissolve blood clots in his legs. Doctors say it could take up to six months for the clots to dissolve. Sissy reported that Sandy will see a specialist in Okla. City. She believes that taking Prilosec for the past 20 years *may* have contributed to her health problems. We visited Jo Ann this week and she is doing much better. She is still weak, but far better than she was, and hopeful that she will be able to worship with us again.

KENYA REPORT - Contributing to the Kenya fund last week, were the Berea church of Christ, Rives, Tenn; and Holley Brewer, Noble, Okla.

BELLVIEW LECTURES - The annual Bellview Lectureship in Pensacola, Florida is scheduled for June 9-13. Jerry and Sherlene will accompany Jess Whitlock to Pensacola. Jess and Jerry will both speak on the lectureship. This Year's Theme is "Set Ye Up A Standard In The Land (Jer. 51:27)." Jerry speaks Sunday, June 11, on "The Church Is Precious In God's Eyes" and Tuesday, June 13, on "The Book Of Ezra." Jess speaks Saturday, June 10 on "My People Are Destroyed For Lack Of Knowledge" and Monday, June 12 on "We Will Come No More Unto God." There will be 27 lessons and three open forums. The Lectures may be seen live at www.bellviewcoc.com.

THANK YOU - Northeast is blessed to have members willing to work in the Lord's cause. Thanks go to Earl and Patrick for preaching, Landry for leading singing and teaching, Erin for teaching the children, Sherlene for cleaning the building and preparing communion each week, and to all of our members who are faithful in attendance at worship and Bible classes.

<p>Those Who Serve Sunday Morning, May 21, 2017 First Prayer - Earl Reed Closing Prayer - Patrick King Communion - Jerry Brewer Offering - Earl Reed Sunday Afternoon, May 21, 2017 First Prayer - Landry Brewer Closing Prayer - Dylan Brewer</p>	<p>Records - May 14 Attendance Bible Class.....15 Morning Worship.....18 Afternoon Worship.....15 Contribution.....\$197.00</p>
<p>Weekly Meeting Times</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)

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

Volume 12, No. 11
May 21, 2017

“A Text Taken Out of Context Becomes A Pretext”
Ron Cosby

The concept that the Scriptures were not written to us, but *for* us, is helpful in making proper applications to the many Bible verses. Another helpful principle is students must keep the thoughts of the text within the context. Truly, “A text taken out of context becomes a pretext.” Misuse of the context occurs repeatedly in respect to miraculous events and promises. Some students make the terrible mistake of claiming a textual promise that has not been made to them.

One modern miracle worker who debated that miracles continue today was fond of his slogan which said, “What they did we can do.” He was mistakenly applying this thought to the miraculous healings of the first century, claiming he, like they, could perform the same miracles. This may have been impressive to some but when it was pointed out that the man making the claim could not replace missing body parts, he quieted down. No doubt the apostles could replace legs, feet, hands, fingers, and ears of those who were suffering. However, these marvels cannot be done today because such mighty works served their purpose and then ceased (1 Cor. 13). Everyday observation also shows that such marvels are no longer happening. No one today has seen a man without a leg suddenly grow a leg. If students will interpret such wonders within their first century settings, they will better understand and apply Holy Writ.

Jesus promised the Comforter. The promise was made only to the apostles. Within the context of the promise of the Comforter, students can see for themselves two necessary qualifications that the Lord Himself specified that had to be met by the beneficiaries before they could rightfully claim for themselves Jesus’ promise. These

two qualifications demonstrate conclusively that the benefit was restricted to first century recipients. In John 15:26-27, Jesus states the first requirement that the recipient must fulfill. He said, "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall bear witness of me: and ye also bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning." No individual since the first century has been with Jesus from the beginning. Jesus gives a second requirement, saying that the Comforter was for those He had taught personally. "But the Comforter, even the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you" (John 14:26). By the very nature of what Jesus said within these two verses, this particular contextual promise of the Comforter is restricted to personal first century acquaintances that actually walked and talked with the Christ.

The following illustration will further clarify the point: A gospel preacher was discussing the subject of miracles with a holiness preacher. The holiness preacher claimed, "Jesus promised to bring to our remembrance through the Comforter." The gospel preacher then asked him, "Where did Jesus make such a promise?" The holiness preacher stumbled and stuttered for a moment and then answered, "I don't remember." To which the gospel preacher responded, "John 14:26." Ironic, isn't it? The one claiming the promise couldn't remember, while the other could.

First Corinthians 2:9-16 is another text that speaks of the miraculous which men claim for themselves. In this context, Paul claims he has received divine revelation, and that he has the supernatural capability to teach what has been revealed without error. In other words, revelation, inspiration, and confirmation. The apostles, including Paul, spoke the same thing and practiced the same doctrine because each of them had been immersed in the Holy Spirit. The Spirit did not inspire one of the gifted apostles to say that baptism in water was unto remission of sin and then have another deny it (Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21). The Spirit did not inspire one of the gifted apostles to say that baptism in the Holy Spirit was temporary and then have another teach that more than one baptism was to continue (Mat. 28:19; Eph. 4:5). So-called Spirit inspired men today contradict other so-called inspired men daily. Actually, so-called Spirit inspired men today even contradict themselves. These contradictions occur because modern man is not miraculously endowed. It is not because God is confused. You will notice that not a single one of these so-called gifted men has produced writings equal to the Bible. That is telling!

Taking texts out of their context causes false beliefs and false practices, and produces unbelief in the world (John 17:21).

Country Club Congregations

Jerry C. Brewer

Country Clubs are exclusive organizations, catering only to their own members and excluding all who do not belong. One who is not a member has no access to their services, benefits, or information. That *seems* to be the case among some congregations of churches of Christ.

Jesus gave the church its marching orders in the Great Commission (Matt. 18:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47). Those orders were carried out by the apostles and others in the first century (Acts 8:1, 4), and those orders remain the mission of the church today—"Preach the word" (2 Tim. 4:2). If the gospel is hidden, it is hidden from the lost (2 Cor. 4:3).

In all ages, the church has utilized every means at its disposal to preach the gospel—in writing, as the epistles of inspired men, individually, as Aquilla and Priscilla taught Apollos (Acts 8:24-26), in public preaching, as Paul and Barnabas on their preaching tours, and even to families, as Peter at the house of Cornelius (Acts 10), and Paul and Silas to the Philippian jailer's family (Acts 16).

Today's modern technology has provided even greater means of reaching the lost with the gospel. The Northeast church in Elk City preaches the gospel around the world through a website, You Tube, and Face Book. But a look at the websites and Face Book pages of some congregations reveals a "Country Club" mentality. There is nothing from God's Word to be learned from them. Their websites are closed to the public and require a password from their members to enter and read what is posted, and nothing is posted on their Face Book pages but news for members, or quotes from "theologians." They cater to an exclusive membership and when they post anything for the public it relates not to the simple gospel of Jesus Christ, but to project a good public relations image.

The "Country Club" mentality permeating many congregations is not concerned with fulfilling the Great Commission. It is from a "Social Gospel" perspective, in which the church is viewed as a "service organization" to provide camps, marriage seminars, fun trips for youth, outings for senior members, "trunk-or-treat" giveaways at Halloween, Valentine Dinners, Christmas parties, and dozens of other things which have absolutely nothing to do with preaching the gospel. These are called their "ministries." But the New Testament knows only *the ministry* (1 Tim. 1:12).

Why would a congregation that calls itself, "the church of Christ" hide its teaching from the general public? In some cases, it may be to project a good "public relations image" so no one will be offended. It may also be that such a "Country Club" congregation disdains and abhors controversy. If Jesus had that kind of mentality, He would have never come to earth to teach, suffer opposition, engage in controversy with the devil's servant, bleed, and die for our sins.

"Country Club Congregations" who cater only to their members are blots on the Holy Name of Christ.