

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:


- Dennis Dillon** - Preacher, Parkview church, Odessa, Texas. Esophageal Cancer.
- Nancy Reed** - Various health issues.
- Patrick King** - Hemiplegic Migraine.
- Sandy Craig** - Ongoing kidney problems.
- Jo Ann McLerran** - Back problems/COPD.
- Glenda Marble** - Faithful Christian at 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. Treatment for Prostate Cancer.
- Don Smith** - Faithful brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.

APPEAL FOR A FAITHFUL BROTHER - Dennis Dillon, who preaches for the Parkview church in Odessa, Texas, suffers from stage 2 esophageal cancer, but his oncologist says it is potentially curable. He is now on radiation. Brother Dillon's Medicare will not nearly cover the high cost of his medical bills. Any financial aid you can send may be mailed to Dennis Dillon, 1706 Rosewood Ave Odessa TX 79761. Brother Dillon is a faithful preacher, a dear friend, and worthy of our aid. Please do what you can to aid him in this time of great crisis.

KENYA REPORT - Recent contributors to the Kenya fund are Dub McClish, Denton, Texas; Gary and Jacque Rogers, Quanah, Texas; the Fish Hatchery Rd. church of Christ, Huntsville, Texas.; the Morton Street church of Christ, Denison, Texas; the Eastside church of Christ, Lexington, Okla.; Harold and Ruth Tydings, Broken Arrow, Okla.; and the Bellview church of Christ, Pensacola, Florida. Four more boxes of the late brother Dub Mowery's books are on their way to Kenya. They were mailed on Tuesday at a cost of \$451.53. The boxes mailed last week totaled \$1,315.30, making a total of \$1,766.83 for all books mailed. If faithful brethren can help replenish these funds, it will be greatly appreciated. When the political situation in Kenya becomes safer, Benard will travel to Nairobi to obtain a visa to visit the Bellview Lectures next June.

PREACHING THIS WEEK - Patrick King will preach at both worship times this Sunday, Nov. 12.

Website - www.necocellcity.com Face Book - www.facebook.com/necurchofchristecok You Tube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ	
Those Who Serve Sunday Morning, Nov. 12, 2017 First Prayer - Landry Brewer Closing Prayer - Dylan Brewer Communion - Jerry Brewer Offering - Earl Reed Sunday Afternoon, Nov. 12, 2017 First Prayer - Earl Reed Closing Prayer - Patrick King	Records - Nov. 5 Attendance Bible Class.....13 Morning Worship.....16 Afternoon Worship.....15 Contribution.....\$170.00
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 12, No. 36
Nov. 12, 2017

A Dearth Of Bible Knowledge In The Church

Jerry C. Brewer

There was a time when members of the church were known as, “Walking Bibles.” That was a long time ago when brethren read, studied, and meditated on the Scriptures daily and engaged their friends and relatives in Bible discussions. Because they knew their Bible, that was also a time when baptisms were frequent in gospel meetings. Faithful members would carry on their teaching conversations throughout the year and when the time rolled around for the annual gospel meeting—usually in July or August in rural areas after the cotton crop was “laid by”—the visiting preacher would come and reap a harvest of souls. Tragically, those days are gone. And there are reasons for that.

First, brethren are ignorant of Bible teaching because they no longer take time to read and study it. Secular pursuits consume too much time for Christians today. They are caught up in activities like ball games, television, surfing the internet, and school functions. They pursue money to buy the things which perish, having their affections set on things of this world, rather than the things above (Col. 3:1-2). They refuse to attend Bible classes on Sunday morning and pursue other interests when Wednesday Bible study comes along.

Second, the proliferation of so-called “new translations” of the Bible have created mental and spiritual chaos and confusion in the minds of many who *do* read their Bibles. This has almost led many to infidelity. So-called “Bibles” like the New International Version, the English Standard Version, the Revised Standard Version, the New English Bible, the Easy To Read Version, and a host of others, all contain contradictory statements. They contain denominational doctrines which pollute the mind with deliberate lies. Those who use them poison their minds against the Truth, which has led to an ignorance of the Scriptures unknown since, perhaps, the Dark Ages.

In the words of the late Wayne Coats, the “fermented ignorance” of the Word of God in the church will some day come back to haunt those who believe they are in good standing with the Lord. Jesus said, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one

that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48).

Brethren, heed the warnings and admonitions of God’s Word. “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6), and, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).

Will Knowledge Save?

Harrell Davidson

In chapter four of Hosea, God condemns Israel for her refusal to obey His Word. In verse 1 we note, “Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.” What a desolate condition!

This was a time when there is no truth. A time where the mercy of God is not accepted nor is the knowledge of His goodness respected. God says that the people have separated themselves by “swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery...” (cf. Hosea.4:2). In verse 6 the ancient prophet penned words of destruction due to the malady of the time, hear him, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”

It is the case that the people of Hosea’s day had refused to acquire and live by knowledge of the Word of God. They never thought of the penalty for their neglect in all likelihood. They were going along to get along and practicing the same sins as the people about them while God had commanded them to be separate or different from those nations around them, but this seems to have never entered their thought process. They wanted to be like the nations about them when they desired a king. God granted them their wish, but their desire led to great suffering and turmoil.

As Hosea writes God is rejecting His priests and His people. He even forgets their children. A calamity exists in the land that does not respect and know God. We are taught in the Scriptures that eternal life is to “know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3). It is rather obvious that there is trouble in our land this day in the year of our Lord, 2014.

Unless we come to a knowledge of God, man will be lost. We remember a classic passage in Judges 2:10 that address situations like this. “And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.” The first generation out of Egyptian bondage perished in the wilderness.

The second generation is the one that Judges is addressing who were faithful. The third generation was lost because they did not know the Lord. They served Balaam while forsaking the Lord. Are we talking about an antiquated condition? No! A thousand

times No! We are describing present day America. We are talking about a time when God is respected less and less. There is lying, swearing, killing, stealing, adultery and the list goes on and on. Filth and turmoil fill our news programs while the Bible is closed on the shelf and most of all closed to our hearts. Jesus said, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” (John 5:39). Knowledge alone will not save. It must be applied to the heart of man. The condition of our time is such that we had better *wake up open up and read up* if we want to *go up* to heaven some day. All one has to do is read the front page of the newspaper and we see Hosea all over again. **(Piedmont church of Christ, Denver, Colo., Aug. 31, 2014)**

Judging Righteous Judgment

Tim Smith

“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment” (John 7:24).

Have you ever tried to convince someone that the particular religious position he/she held was incorrect? If so, you most probably received an answer somewhat like this: You are judging me and that is wrong. While we are never to presume to judge one’s motives, a certain amount of judging is absolutely necessary to pleasing God. We cannot judge what is beyond our ability to perceive, but that which is before us and regulated by His Word we must judge.

We are not, according to our text, to judge “according to appearance,” or only based on externals when the matter pertains to the inner man. I cannot see whether your secret thoughts are right with God unless you manifest your motive incontrovertibly by your actions. I cannot perform a cursory review based on my own preferences or rules. These things are strictly forbidden.

But notice that in our text there is a judging that we are compelled to engage in and it is called “righteous judgment.” We consider the works of an individual and compare them with the standard of righteousness (God’s Word—cf., John 12:48) and arrive at a conclusion as to the propriety of those works or deeds. It is not wrong to engage in this kind of judgment, and in fact, it is wrong not to engage in this kind of judging!

How can we oppose a man like Hitler without judging righteous judgment? How can we say that Saddam Hussein or the devil himself is wrong without comparing their deeds with the Bible? And is not such a comparison judging? Indeed. It is judging righteous judgment.

Someone who says, “You are wrong for judging” has engaged in the very activity they condemn. They have judged you for judging. They condemn you for condemning. Where is the consistency? To judge righteous judgment is to preach the Truth. To judge righteous judgment is to determine what is required of God on a given matter and to then pronounce His requirements to one in danger of hell-fire.

Heed His Word: “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment” (John 7:24). **(The Beacon, Bellview church of Christ, Pensacola, Fla., June 17, 2013).**