

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. Undergoing treatment for Prostate Cancer.
- Don Smith** - Faithful brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.

APPEAL FOR BROTHER DILLON - Dennis Dillon, preacher for the Parkview church in Odessa, Texas, suffers from stage 2 esophageal cancer, and is 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 contributor to the Kenya fund is the Berea church of Christ, Rives, Tenn. We were saddened to learn of the death of brother Julias Okello’s mother last week in western Kenya. Benard spoke at her funeral, but those who loved her can rejoice in the knowledge that was a faithful child of God. Julias was one of my students when I taught classes at Kalamindi in 2012, and 2014,

PREACHING ON FACE BOOK - At last count, Northeast’s Face Book page had 518 “likes” which is quite an accomplishment. There have been some “unlikes” but that is to be expected when one preaches the truth. There were a lot of people who did not “like” Jesus and the apostles when they spoke the truth.

<p>Website - www.necocelkcity.com Face Book - www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok You Tube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ</p>	
<p>Those Who Serve Sunday Morning, Nov. 19, 2017 First Prayer - Patrick King Closing Prayer - Landry Brewer Communion - Dylan Brewer Offering - Patrick King Sunday Afternoon, Nov. 19, 2017 First Prayer - Jerry Brewer Closing Prayer - Earl Reed</p>	<p>Records - Nov. 12 Bible Class.....8 Morning Worship.....12 Afternoon Worship.....14 Contribution.....\$121.00</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. 37

Nov. 19, 2017

The “First Principles Of The Oracles Of God”

Jerry C. Brewer

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment (Heb. 5:12-6:2).

This passage is oft misused by well meaning brethren (and some not so well meaning) to teach that the fundamental truth of the gospel should be left behind after a while. It has been used to teach that our preaching should not center so much on topics like, “the church,” “faith,” “repentance,” “confession,” “baptism,” “the inspiration of the Scriptures,” and other aspects of the gospel. Instead, it is said, “We need to not preach those things so much and center our attention on Christian living.” About four-fifths of the New Testament was written to instruct Christians how to live, so we do not dismiss that in any way. However, the above passage does not present an “either/or”—either preach perfection in Christian lives, or the first principles of salvation in Christ.

“The first principles of the oracles of God,” to which the Hebrews writer refers, is not the gospel, but the types and shadows of the Old Testament. That is the same theme Paul expressed in opposition to Judaizing teachers in Galatia when he wrote, “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster” (Gal. 3:24-25).

The entire book of Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians who faced persecution and, because of that, were in danger of abandoning the law of Christ and returning to Moses’ law.

In the context of Hebrews 5, he is in the midst of a rebuke of them for their failure to understand the priesthood of Christ to which the Law pointed. Brother Wallace explained it this way:

The exhortation to leave “the principles of the doctrine of Christ” refers to Judaism, the Mosaic law, as rudimentary to the gospel of Christ, as in Galatians 3:24 to 4:5, and “let us go on unto perfection” refers to the new covenant; the falling away of those who had been once enlightened by the gospel had reference to a return to Judaism and the Mosaic law; the impossibility of renewing the ones who thus apostatized to Judaism meant that the altars of the Mosaic system were dead altars, obsolete and nullified, and therefore had no power or efficacy to renew unto repentance as when they were in force, but *now* being dead altars it was impossible for these altars to annually renew them — abandoning the new covenant and going back to the old sacrificial system, they could not again find what the old altars provided, but as stated in 13:10 our altar is now in Christ. The elements of the Mosaic system were (1) repentance from dead works — the dead sacrifices of the law; (2) faith toward God — because Christ had not come; (3) the doctrine of baptisms — plural, the divers washings of the law; (4) the laying on of hands — the priestly and prophetic ceremonies of the law; (5) the resurrection of the dead — reviving the dead ordinances of the Mosaic system; (6) eternal judgment — because there was no actual forgiveness of sin, but a continuing judgment through the whole of that dispensation, as the word *eternal* (*aiōnios*) means all of the period to which it refers. The exhortation “leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ (Mosaic system), let us go on unto perfection (the new covenant)” was the apostle’s counteraction of the activities of the Judaizers in their efforts to sabotage the new covenant and induce the Jewish Christians to return to Judaism. (Foy E. Wallace, Jr., *The Plain Truth About The Revised Standard Version*, Foy E. Wallace, Jr. Publications, Ft. Smith, AR, 1997, pp. 177-178)

Paul’s warning against abandoning the new covenant of Christ was restated in these words later in this epistle:

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins. But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries (Heb. 10:25-27).

He did not refer to “missing worship” because of illness or incapacitation in verse 25. The reference is to “forsaking” the assembling—abandoning it in favor of returning to the Law of Moses. Furthermore, he warned that if they did that, “there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.” The blood sacrifices of the Old Testament had no power to remit sins. Only the blood of Christ can do that, and if they returned to that system of animal sacrifices, they abandoned the only sacrifice they had to remit their sins—Christ’s.

Everything in the Law of Moses pointed to Christ and His redeeming work, which was

the thesis Paul expressed in the opening verses of Hebrews—that God spoke in past ages and in various ways by the prophets, but “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son” (Heb. 1:2). The types and shadows of the Law constituted the “first principles of the oracles of God” which pointed to Christ’s redeeming work, and which these Hebrew Christians had forgotten.

Preachers, do not let anyone tell you that there is no need to teach the fundamentals of the faith of Jesus Christ today. Those things, to which the Old Testament pointed, are vital to our salvation and the gospel of Christ is *still* God’s power, “unto salvation to every one that believeth” (Rom. 1:16).

The Home: Developer Of Souls

Jerry C. Brewer

The home is society’s incubator where children are to be nourished both materially and spiritually. The father is to provide for his family (1 Tim. 5:8), nourish his children up in spiritual things (Eph. 6:4) and the mother is to be a keeper at home (Titus 2:3-5). When parents fail in these things—as surely they have in this present time—children are left to their own devices. Morals, duty, love for God, parents, and their fellow man have no meaning to them. This near-universal neglect of children today has not only created multitudinous problems in civil society, but has also affected local churches.

It was God’s intent from the beginning that children were to be produced in homes where men and women are married. That law was unchanged in Jesus’ day and remains unchanged in our day. God never intended that mankind should roam and breed freely as do the animals of the earth, but that one man and one woman would form a union for life.

But those children produced in God-ordained homes must be developed into God fearing individuals, and that responsibility falls squarely upon the shoulders of parents. God’s pattern for developing children into decent, God-fearing, adults was given by inspiration centuries before modern child-sociologists and psychologists created their industries. There are four ways in which a child must develop to be a decent citizen of any society, and those are expressed by the inspired Luke regarding the human maturing of Jesus. “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52).

The development of the child Jesus began with Himself. He “increased in wisdom and stature.” The order of these two things indicates the importance of them. Of first importance are the mental and physical development of the child. The next order is also revealing. He increased “in favor with God and man.” Thus, Jesus matured mentally, physically, spiritually and socially.

Providing for his family, both physically and spiritually, has always been the primary responsibility of the father. Paul reminds us that, “...if any provide not for his own, and specially those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel” (1 Tim. 5:8). It also was, and remains, the God-given responsibility of the mother to be a keeper at home and guide the children. This was divinely commanded through Paul in his letter to Titus when he said the older women should teach the younger women, “to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.” (Titus 2:4-5) This is absolutely the *only* pattern for the home that can and will produce morally upright citizens and faithful members of the local church.