

## 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.


**HEALTH REPORT AND APPEAL** - Lee Moses wrote last week that he is well and doing fine and can be removed from the prayer list above, but still appreciates prayer in his behalf. He also sends his love and appreciation to the Northeast brethren. 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 started chemo and radiation this week. His family says brother Dillon has Medicare, but it will not nearly cover the high cost of his medical bills. They ask for any financial aid brethren can send. It may be mailed to Dennis Dillon, 1706 Rosewood Ave Odessa TX 79761. Brother Dillon is a faithful preacher and a dear friend. Please do what you can to aid him in this time of great crisis. Chuck Verkist will have an MRI on Friday, Nov. 3 to see if his cancer is still contained within the prostate.

**KENYA REPORT** - Recent contributors to the Kenya fund are Ron Skinner, Lexington, Okla.; Harold and Ruth Tydings, Broken Arrow, Okla.; the Berea church of Christ of Christ, Rives, Tenn.; and the Parkview church of Christ, Odessa, Texas. The late brother Dub Mowery intended for his library to go to the brethren in Kenya, so 20 boxes of his books ready to be mailed. Jerry went to Denton, Texas on Tuesday where he, Dub McClish, Philip Smith and Jess Whitlock prepared them for mailing. The mailing cost will be around \$1,800.00, so if brethren can help with this expense, it will be greatly appreciated.

[Website - www.necocelkcity.com](http://www.necocelkcity.com)  
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[You Tube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCXn52ouOrXoQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCXn52ouOrXoQ)

<p><b>Those Who Serve</b>  <b>Sunday Morning, Nov. 5, 2017</b>                  First Prayer - Dylan Brewer Closing Prayer - Earl Reed                  Communion - Landry Brewer Offering - Jerry Brewer  <b>Sunday Afternoon, Nov. 5, 2017</b>                  First Prayer - Patrick King Closing Prayer - Jerry Brewer</p>	<p><b>Records - Oct. 29</b>  <b>Attendance</b>                  Bible Class.....20                  Morning Worship.....21                  Afternoon Worship.....20                  Contribution.....\$445.00</p>
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<p><b>Weekly Meeting Times</b></p>
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)

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## Did Jesus Have Long Hair?

*Dub Mowery (Deceased)*

Where did the idea that Jesus had long hair originate? Certainly not from the Scriptures. The only Scripture that relates to the physical appearance of Christ is as follows: “For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him” (Isa. 53:2).

Someone may be ready to say, “But what about the pictures of Christ?” There is no known picture or painting of Christ which dates back to the first century. Most of the paintings of Christ by noted painters of the Middle Ages portrayed Christ according to their own surroundings, time, and religious concepts. The average picture of Christ during this period gave Him an appearance of a Frenchman, including reddish hair and a pale complexion. He was also portrayed as feminine in appearance instead of masculine. At least, the paintings of more recent times reveal Him as being masculine in nature.

There is a picture of Christ at Bacone College in Muskogee, Oklahoma that gives Christ an appearance of being an Indian. He also has been portrayed as a Negro. Of course, when our Savior lived in the flesh, He lived as a Jew. However, in eternity He is not physical in nature but spiritual. Christ is not partial to any race; He loves all mankind.

The Lord has always demanded a distinction between male and female. In the Old Testament, God instructed the Israelites to keep a distinction in the dress of male and female. The Scripture is as follows: “The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman’s garment; for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God” (Deut. 22:5). In the New

testament, the Scripture plainly condemns the practice of males attempting to become like females, or effeminate (1 Cor. 6:9-10). The length of hair is directly related to the matter of keeping a distinction between male and female. “Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering” (1 Cor. 11:14-15). Females who cut their hair short and dress like the men are not respecting this principle of distinction between the sexes.

Probably most of the males who are wearing long hair are not doing so for the purpose of being feminine. They are more likely doing so because it is considered stylish by many. I cannot look into the heart of an individual and know why he is wearing long hair. We should also consider who set the style of men wearing long hair in our day and time. The rebellious class of people known as “hippies” are the ones who brought on the wearing of long hair in our present society. This is not to say, however, that every male who wears long hair does so to cater to “hippies.” Nevertheless, the wearing of long hair has become a symbol of rebellion. We should also keep in mind the plain teaching of God’s Word on the matter. Even if the stigma of long hair being a symbol of rebellion in our society could be removed, this would not eliminate the instructions of the Word of the Lord concerning the matter (Matt. 24:35).

The question may now come up, “How long is too long?” We might ask this question in reverse by asking, “When is hair too short on a female?” The answer to both questions is, “When the distinction between male and female is violated.

## Religious Titles

*Michael Hatcher*

As one associates himself with the religious world, he quickly finds a clergy/laity system. Some wear their “position” outwardly by the clothing they wear. They put a distinction between themselves and everyone else. Then there are many in addition to those who wear special clothing who will also expect certain titles to be used with their names. What is God’s attitude about religious titles?

In condemning the scribes and Pharisees for doing their work “for to be seen of men” and their pride; Jesus also condemns them for religious titles. He speaks of their love for “greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself

shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted” (Mat. 23:7-12). Jesus clearly condemns the using of religious titles. Consider some of the one’s used today.

Some have used the title of Reverend. “Reverend” is used one time in the King James Version and the American Standard Version (and not in any other major version of the Bible). The one time it is found is in Psalm 111:9: “He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.” The English term reverend is only used for God in the Bible. By what right does anyone take a term that is used only for God in the Bible and apply it to himself or some other man? Please do not call me “Reverend”; I am not God.

Many will use the title Father. Considering what Jesus said, “And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven,” makes us wonder how anyone would take this religious title to himself. (There is a difference between using “father” as a religious title and using it in the physical sense. Using it physically is not condemned as is seen in Ephesians 6:1-4.)

A couple of terms which some use as religious titles are Pastor and Bishop. These terms are used for a work or office in the local church which God instituted. There are three terms which identify this work: elder referring to the older age of the person (what does that say for those young kids who use this term), bishop referring to the work of overseeing the work of the congregation, and pastor or shepherd referring to the way in which they do their work. These men must meet the qualifications God established in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. However, none of these terms were given by God to be used as a religious title, rather they are different ways of describing the work in which these men are involved.

There are those who will use the term “priest” for their religious title. This does find its background in the Old Testament worship. The Levitical priest served at the altar. In the New Testament all Christians are priests. In writing to the saved, Peter says, “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.... But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Pet. 2:5, 9). Every Christian is a priest.

Religious titles are contrary to the nature of Christianity as set forth by the head of the church—Christ Jesus. Listen again as Jesus says, “and all ye are brethren” (Mat. 23:8). Religious titles are used to elevate some above others. Each person has their own personal responsibility to study the Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15) and prove all things so they can hold fast to that which is good and abstain from evil (1 The. 5:21-22).