

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Michael Omondi & Hiram Njiru - Michael recuperating from brain surgery/Hiram for spiritual strength.

Paul Brantley - Elder at Bellview, Pensacola, Fla. Heart procedure but doing well.

Patrick King - Neurological problems. Awaiting MRI Test.

Lee Moses - Suffered a seizure and is on medication and in therapy..

David Brown - Spring, Texas preacher, blood clots in his leg.

Sandy Craig - Ongoing kidney problems. Kidney function is up to 37 percent, but should be 70.

Jo Ann McLerran - Back problems/COPD, but able to be in worship last week.

Glenda Marble - Faithful Christian at Lexington, Okla. Heart problems.

Debbie Post - Wife of Doug Post, preacher in Salisbury, Maryland - 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.

Chuck Verkist - Ellensburg, Washington. Awaiting prostate biopsy result.

Don Smith - Faithful brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.

ONLINE BIBLE CLASS - Our online Bible class begins Sept.28th at 6 p.m. Eastern and 5 p.m. Central times. It will be a study of first principles which will enable those who are not Christians to know the saving gospel of Christ and for those who are to have their faith strengthened. In order to participate, students will need to download a program from this website: <https://zoom.us/j/641473816>. When you go there, you will be prompted to download and install the program. It is free of charge and McAfee has designated this as a safe site for downloads. Jim and I have both downloaded it. This program that will take you to each of the classes

KENYA REPORT - Benard and co-workers gave Bibles to men of the Ober church, Migori County on Sept. 17.

PATRICK KING'S HEALTH - Sarah sent this on Thursday: "Patrick went to the ER with the same problems as a couple of weeks ago. We were there for a couple of hours and then came home and he slept. Patrick seems to be doing better now. I will be calling the neurologist in the morning and get him in as soon as possible." The ER trip was on Wednesday night.

PREACHING SUNDAY - Earl Reed will preach this Sunday morning and afternoon.

Website - www.necocelkc.com

Face Book - www.facebook.com/necurchofchristecok

You Tube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ

Those Who Serve

Sunday Morning, Sept. 24, 2017

First Prayer - Patrick King Closing Prayer - Earl Reed

Communion - Earl Reed Offering - Dylan Brewer

Sunday Afternoon, Sept. 24, 2017

First Prayer - Jerry Brewer Closing Prayer - Landry Brewer

Records - Sept. 17 Attendance

Bible Class.....12

Morning Worship.....16

Afternoon Worship.....16

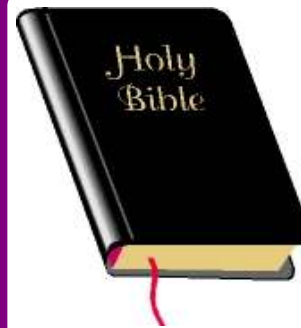
Contribution.....\$242.00

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)

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“...And Gave Gifts Unto Men” (Eph. 4:8)

Jerry C. Brewer

For about as long as I have been preaching, I have heard men say that the gifts Paul enumerates in Ephesians 4:11 are both, the miraculous of the first century and the non-miraculous that remain today. That is false. Within this context, they are all miraculous.

Paul had just written of Christ’s ascension following His resurrection, saying, “Wherefore, he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men” (Eph. 4:8). That is a quote from the Messianic prophecy in Psalms 68:18 which says, “Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men...” The figure in these passages is of a conqueror returning from his conquest. In Rome, the conqueror would lead a triumphal parade in his chariot, with his captives trailing behind it, and he would distribute gifts to celebrate his conquest.

Paul makes a spiritual application of that practice in Ephesians 4. By His resurrection, Christ conquered death which held mankind in captivity, and in His triumphal ascension He led death captive. David wrote of His triumphal entry into heaven in Psalms 24: “Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. ...Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory” (Psa. 24:7, 10). Thus, when the Lord ascended and was crowned, He, “gave gifts unto men” by the apostles’ baptism in the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 2:1-4) and their laying on of hands to impart spiritual gifts to others (cf. Acts 8:14-17; 19:6).

The gifts that the triumphant Christ gave to men are then enumerated: “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers...” (Eph. 4:11). That these are *all miraculous gifts* is clearly explained by their purpose in the verses following: “...for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Eph. 4:12). That *all* are miraculous is further explained by their duration: “...till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the

Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13).

The above, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, refer to those in the first century who were miraculously endowed. It is true that the church today has evangelists, pastors (elders), and teachers, but none today is miraculously endowed. *All* of those that Paul lists above were. For instance, when Paul and Barnabas reached the end of their first evangelistic tour at Derbe, “...they returned to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed” (Acts 14:21-23). Paul and Barnabas retraced the course over which they had just passed and converted men to Christ, but the amount of time between their conversion and their ordination as elders (pastors) would not have been sufficient for them to grow into the qualifications for the eldership as men today must. They were miraculously endowed as elders. The same, then, is true with evangelists, and teachers.

That all of these gifts were miraculous is further evidenced by their purpose and duration in the following:

1. “For the perfecting of the saints.” The completion of divine revelation provides us everything we need for perfection in God’s service. The word “perfecting” means “completing” and Paul said, “All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). When *the faith* was “once delivered” (Jude 3), everything man needed to be perfect (complete) was made available through the scriptures.
2. “Till we all come in the unity of the faith.” Notice—“the unity of *the* faith.” That refers to the completion of divine revelation. Paul said he preached *the* faith (Gal. 1:23), which meant he preached the gospel—the same thing he preached at Corinth (1 Cor. 15:1-2).
3. “And of the knowledge of the Son of God.” That refers to the same thing—the completion of divine revelation and full knowledge of all things necessary to our salvation, and Peter said that has been done: “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue” (2 Pet. 1:3).

The word “till” in Ephesians 4:13 expresses the point of termination of those miraculous gifts. When divine revelation was completed, they ceased, as Paul said in First Corinthians 13:9-10: “For we know in part, and we prophecy in part. But when that which is perfect (complete, JCB) is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

“That which is in part” referred to the miraculous gifts bestowed upon men in the first century for the purposes enumerated by Paul in Ephesians 4. There is not a man on earth today who fits the description of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, or teachers as Paul described in that chapter. Nor is any man today charged with “the perfecting of the saints,” as many churches of Christ say on their websites. To claim such is to claim miraculous gifts today.

The Organization And Methods Of The Church

Foy E. Wallace, Jr.

The organization of the New Testament church is simple, not complex. It is the local church with elders, deacons, and members. No other organization is known in the New Testament. The local church with elders and deacons is a complete and perfect organization through which to do everything God has commanded the church, *as such*, to do. It, therefore, follows that any organization larger or smaller than the local church, designed to do the work of the church, is an infringement upon the divine arrangement and is unscriptural. The truth of this principle is so evident as not to require proof to one who is familiar with New Testament teaching.

In the application of the above principle, however, some have failed to discriminate between *methods* and *organization*. The church may use any expedient *method* of doing anything God has commanded so long as it is a *method only*. The protracted meeting is a method of saving souls. Class teaching, sometimes called “Sunday school,” is a *method* of imparting instruction, whether pursued on Sunday or some other day. But there is a vast difference between methods and organizations. It has been claimed that the missionary society is only a method of evangelizing the world. That is not true. The missionary society is an organization, an established institution, and uses methods of its *own*.

It is easy to encroach upon principles, and such encroachments are in evidence in some of the churches of Christ today. For instance, the Sunday school as a method of instruction violates no Scriptural principle. Quite to the contrary, it is the application of the Scriptures that enjoin teaching, but prescribe no method. But when the Sunday school becomes an organized auxiliary, functioning apart from the church, it ceases to be a method and becomes an organization. It is not uncommon for Sunday-school classes, young people’s meetings, women’s Bible classes, and other groups to function as organized groups even to the point of maintaining a separate treasury and doing certain work belonging to the church in the name of their group. If one group has the right to so organize and function, other groups have the same right, and if followed to its logical end the congregation as an organized unit would be destroyed. Such is a perversion of an otherwise Scriptural work. When Sunday-school classes and young people’s meetings so organize and function, they differ from denominational B. Y. P. U. and C. E. societies only in name. (*Gospel Advocate* Editorial, May, 1931).