

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Kevin Brewer** - Jerry and Sherlene's oldest son. Bladder cancer; surgery at Elk City, July 24.
- Danny Vaughan** - Jerry's cousin in Ada, Okla., cancer (Multiple Myeloma)
- Danny Douglas** - Faithful preacher in Tennessee. Prostate cancer surgery.
- Paul Brantley** - Elder at Bellview, Pensacola, Fla. Heart damage and constant pain.
- Earlene Holley** - Sherlene's mother. On hospice care In Elkwood Assisted Living.
- Janice Ruffner** - Roelf Ruffner's wife, Columbia, TN. Blood clots, Fibromyalgia, Lung problems.
- Nancy Reed** - Various health issues.
- Patrick King** - Hemiplegic Migraine.
- Sandy Craig** - Ongoing kidney problems.
- Jo Ann McLerran** - COPD.
- Glenda Marble** - Lexington, Okla., Heart problems.
- Paul Marble** - Glenda Marble's son. Recurrence of cancer, now doing well.
- Charles and Linda Pogue** - Congestive heart failure. Charles having dizzy spells.
- Nancy Verkist** - Ellensburg, Washington. Von Hippel Lindau disease.
- Don Smith** - Brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.

FROM HAROLD TYDINGS - "I received favorable results on tests last Friday. Thanks for the prayers."

GOSPEL MEETING - Northeast's gospel meeting is Aug. 5-9., with Ron Cosby preaching. We have flyers that members can mail to friends and relative, inviting them to the meeeting. They are on the table in the foyer, Please take some and do that, and pray for this effort.

KENYA REPORT - Contributing this week to the Kenya Fund were, Harold and Ruth Tydings, Broken Arrow, Okla.; The Eastside church of Christ, Lexington, Okla.; and the Morton St. church of Christ, Denison, Texas. Benard sent this June report: "Much has taken place in the last month even when I was not around. June Meetings: June 1-3, Khamisi church of Christ (2 baptisms); June 8-10, Kiptogoch church of Christ (good attendance); June 8-10, Kapkisiara church of Christ (a congregation restored at the meeting); June 15-17, Kamato church of Christ (1 baptism); June 22-24, Sero B church of Christ (one congregation restored); June 25-27, Ladies Meeting at FTC County Hall (during that time we were planting a new congregation at Nguku); June 25-27, Chebunyo church of Christ gospel meeting (Chepalungu) (a congregation restored); June 25-27, Olondoyio Oorok church of Christ (1 baptism)."

Our building is located at East Avenue C and North Locust in Elk City, Oklahoma, one block east of Van Buren on Avenue C. You are invited to visit with us at any of our meeting times.

Weekly Meeting Times

- Sunday Morning Bible Classes.....9:30
- Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30
- Sunday Afternoon Worship.....5:00

Visit Us on The Web

- You Tube** - www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ
- Website** - www.necocelkcity.com
- Face Book** - www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok



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 13, No. 18

July 15, 2018

The Church And Its Salvation

Ron Cosby

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is an excerpt from brother Cosby's lecture at the 43rd Annual Bellview Lectureship in June of this year. It also contains material that he will cover in our gospel meeting, Aug. 5-9.

We introduce our thoughts with the words of Jesus and the record of the Holy Spirit on the subject.

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matt. 16:17-18).

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls....Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved (acts 2:41, 47).

With the information in these texts, the reader can logically conclude that the church and salvation go hand in hand. Other passages enhance the reader's understanding that the church is the saved and the saved is the church. With this information before him, the reader is justified to conclude that the statement, "Be saved and then later join the church of your choice," is false instruction. He could also discern it is false to say, "The church does not save; so *it is not important which church you join.*" Before anyone forms a false conclusion concerning what has been introduced, we quickly add this thought: One can be saved without being a member of a denomination, *but he cannot be saved without being a member of the church of Christ!* When we say, "the church of Christ," we speak of the very church that Jesus successfully established (Matt. 16). It is the church of Christ

because He built it, and because it is His. The church of Christ is the God-designated spiritual entity in which Luke proclaims that “the being saved ones” were being added by the Lord.

...How is it possible for one to be saved as a member of the church, yet, not join any denomination or spiritual organization? The Holy Spirit gives us a clear answer (Acts 2:1-47). On the Day of Pentecost, those who had murdered the Lord of Glory were told of their guilt before God (2:22-23). The apostles preached the Gospel to all who would hear. The message pricked their hearts and they immediately cried out unto salvation (2:37). The clear answer to their inquiry for forgiveness was, “Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins” (2:38). Those who obeyed were added to the church (2:41,47). Superior Greek Manuscripts correctly include the word *ekklesia* (church).

Luke has recorded that *the Lord* added the “being saved ones” to the church. Obviously, this means that the church is the saved, and the saved is the church. At the very moment a sinner is saved, he is immediately added to the church by the Lord of Glory Himself.

...Being added to the church is equivalent to the sinner being baptized into the one body by the instructions of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13). When the sinner is baptized into Christ (Col. 2:11-13—KJV), it is equivalent to being translated into the kingdom (1:12-14). Being added to the church is equivalent to being built and fitly framed together in the temple of God, which is His kingdom and household (Eph. 2:19-22; John 3:3-5). Salvation is in the kingdom, the temple, the household of God. (*The Church*, Bellview Lectureship Book, (pp. 36, 37, 38) Bellview church of Christ, Pensacola, Fla., Michael Hatcher, ed.).

False Prophet Max R. King’s Inane Doctrine

Jerry C. Brewer

Max R. King is the modern prophet of the inane doctrine that the end of the world occurred with the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, variously known as “Realized Eschatology” and “A.D. 70 Doctrine.” Like all false teachers, King twists, perverts, and wrests the Scriptures to his own destruction. He does not believe that the heavens and the earth will be destroyed by fire, as he wrote in the following:

A thought for the literalists on the fiery destruction passage is that word and application of elements. “And the elements shall melt with fervent heat.” (2 Pet. 3:10). Why are the elements ascribed to the “heavens” rather than the “earth”? Peter said, “. . . wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved and the elements shall melt with fervent heat.” (2 Pet. 3:12). It would seem more natural to speak of the “elements” of the earth rather than the heavens, if the material world were the subject. However, the interpretation of the Jewish world gives a natural explanation for elements being placed in the heavens, as seen from the meaning of the word. The word element in the scriptures means “the rudimentary principles of religion ... the elementary prin-

ciples of the O.T., as a revelation from God, Heb. 5: 12, R.V. This same word is found in Gal. 4:3, 9 where it is used in reference to the rudimentary principles of the Jewish system. Since law or government is involved in the meaning of heaven, it follows that the rudiments or elements of Judaism properly belong to the region of heaven. These were the elements that would melt with fervent heat, fire being a symbol of destruction (*The Spirit of Prophecy*, Warren, Ohio, 1971, pp. 186, 187)

Either ignorant of, or blatantly dishonest about, the principle of interpretation within context, he lifts Paul’s statement in Galatians from its context to fit his twisted theology. In Galatians 4: 3, 9, the word “elements” is the same as in Second Peter 3:10, but is used in an *entirely different context*. When Paul wrote, “Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world” (Gal. 4:3), the word “elements” referred to the rudimentary principles of worldly living, characterized by lust. The word “world” that Paul used in that verse is the same word that John used when he wrote,

Love not the world, neither the things in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever” (1 John 2:15-17).

In his answer to a question I asked him about the Greek word for “elements”, brother Daniel Denham, a reputable Greek scholar, replied,

The word in 2 Peter 3:10 is from *stoicheion*. King is disingenuous when he argues that the term only means “the rudimentary principles of religion,” et al. Surely, he is aware that it also can be used of “elemental substances” in the sense of “the basic elements from which everything in the world is made” (BAG, p. 776). The sidereal heavens, which are what is specifically contemplated, are as material as the physical earth, and in fact Peter expands the thought in the very next clause to include in the scope of the verse the destruction of the world and its “works” which shall be “burned up” (*katakaio*), which itself suggests consumption by fire (expressed already specifically in v. 7 and implied in the expression “fervent heat” in v. 10). The Greek word for “elements” in 2 Peter 3:10 is *stoicheia*, the plural of *stoicheion*. Perschbacher applies it to the “natural universe” in 2 Peter 3:10 (*The New Analytical Greek Lexicon*, p. 379) (Email exchange, Dec. 16, 2014).

King says the “elements” of the universe are figurative. He insists that *all* prophecy is figurative, unless it does not fit his hobby, and, of course, *he* is the “final authority” in determining what is figurative and what is literal,—a convenient tactic of a false teacher. Like Moslem “martyrs”, King and his disciples are in for an eternal surprise at death, or when Christ returns and “the elements shall melt with fervent heat.”