

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Our Gospel Meeting - Pray also for brother Lee's safety in travel to and from Elk City.

Robert Corley - In Mercy Hospital in OKC with blood clots in his lungs

Pam Patrick - Health problems. Will have a medical procedure in Okla, City on Aug. 9.

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

Sandy Craig - Kidney problems, new tests.

Jo Ann McLerran - Confined to home but doing better and able to be in worship both times 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.

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

HEALTH REPORT - Robert Corley was likely to be released this week from Mercy Hospital. He is on blood thinner to combat blood clots which, Sandy says, runs in their family.

OUR GOSPEL MEETING - Our meeting with brother Lee Moses begins this week. Please invite others, and support it with your presence. An ad has been placed in the Penny News which comes out this week, and another is in *The Enterpriser* at Mangum, Okla. We have also now running articles in *The Enterpriser*.

FALL MEETINGS - Jerry will preach in gospel meetings, September 10-13 for the Parkview church in Odessa, Texas, and October 13-15 for the Fish Hatchery Road church in Huntsville, Texas.

KENYA REPORT - Contributing this week to the Kenya Fund was the Parkview church of Christ, Odessa, Texas. Two new congregations have been established in Kenya. Benard sent this report on July 27: "Through your great effort in this great work of our Lord, all glory be to Him for His two new congregations planted this week. Ulanda church of Christ and Ober church of Christ. I was at Ulanda today morning where two gave themselves to God though baptism and we are requesting you prayers for these young congregations and their spiritual strength."

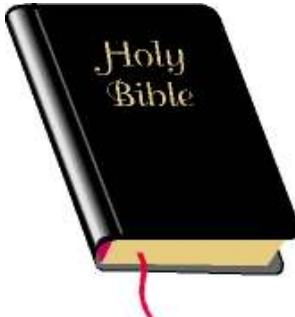
Our building is located at East Avenue C and North Locust in Elk City, Oklahoma, one block east of Van Buren on Avenue C. You are invited to visit with us at any of our meeting times.

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.necocec.org
Face Book - www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok



Sound Doctrine

“But speak thou the things that become sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1)

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How To Approach Bible Study

Lee Moses

As children of the heavenly Father, we desire to become well acquainted with our Father's word. We realize the obligation we have to become knowledgeable in His word (2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:18) and the privilege that is ours to know His will (Eph. 3:3-5; 1 Pet. 1:10-12). Questions may be raised concerning how is best to do this, including: Is simply reading the Bible sufficient? Do I need anything other than a Bible to study the Bible? Do I need to have a particular mental approach when studying the Bible? Although this article is by no means exhaustive on the subject, we will endeavor to answer these three questions.

Is simply reading the Bible sufficient? If by this is meant a casual reading, or skimming, the answer is no; although regular Bible reading is important. Reading is where one begins his Bible study, not where he ends it. God is a "rewarder of them that *diligently seek him*" (Heb. 11:6, *emph. LM*). If one wanted to be a doctor, he would not skim through one or two medical books. Reading the Bible is good, but rightly dividing God's word requires more than a casual reading. One must spend time thinking about what he has read in God's word. Many passages speak about "meditating" upon God's word (Josh. 1:8; Psm. 1:1-3; 119:148; 1 Tim. 4:13-16; et al.). At times, we must dig to find the meanings of various Bible passages that may not be clear upon first reading. Also, an effort should be made to commit portions of Scripture to memory (Psm. 119:11; Heb. 2:1; I John 2:1; Matt. 4). If our Lord was able to use Scripture embedded in His mind as a defense against temptation, we can certainly be aided in this respect as well.

Do I need anything other than a Bible to study the Bible? No, one does not need anything other than a reliable English translation of the Bible (e.g. King James Version, American Standard Version, New King James Version) to understand everything one needs for his soul's salvation. However, there are many tools available that can help the Christian to avoid confusion, and to make better use of his study time. A good English dictionary, New Testament word dictionary (e.g. Vine's), concordance, and Bible dictionary or encyclopedia are indis-

pensable tools in Bible study. There are many commentaries available which provide research which will assist in understanding the Bible. One should always use a discriminate mind when using commentaries—brethren such as J.W. McGarvey, Guy N. Woods, and H. Leo Boles have written commentaries that are quite reliable, without the denominational bias found in many of the prevalent commentary sets. But even when consulting sound commentators such as these, one must always let the Bible be the final word on itself.

Do I need to have a particular mental approach? “Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments” (Ezra 7:10). Once anyone realizes that the Bible is the word of God, he will approach its study with deserved respect. The attitude must be: **(1) Seek**—I will seek what God has to say. I truly want to know what His will is, and I do not care what any man says differently. I will not go to the Scriptures to try to justify my conduct or to prove my personal views. **(2) Do**—I will do whatever the Lord asks of me. Knowledge without application is useless. **(3) Teach**—Ezra had prepared himself to teach God’s word, and so must we. The apostles were given the Great Commission to teach (Matt. 28:19-20); and since we are to observe those things commanded them, we have that command as well. But we must prepare ourselves through regular, reverent Bible study if we are to be able to teach, or serve God in any other capacity.

We are very privileged to have readier access to the Bible today than any time in previous history. If we approach our Bible study diligently, wisely, and respectfully, we can know our house is built upon the Rock (Matt. 7:24-25).

“For I Determined Not To Know Anything Among You, Save Jesus Christ, And Him Crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2)

David P. Brown

The mission of a gospel preacher is to forget the appeal of whatever eloquence he may have; divorce himself from playing on the sympathies of his auditors by “deathbed tales”; cease from whatever “personal testimonies” or “witnessing” he could employ to draw men to him rather than to the Christ; and forsake all human philosophies and methodologies. The gospel of Christ is the saving power of God (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-4).

In the book of Acts, the Holy Spirit has selected and vouchsafed for time and eternity sufficient accounts of conversions and non-conversions. Hence, for preachers or anyone else to give their own conversion “testimonies” is nothing less than a testimony of their own lack of confidence in those selected by Jehovah.

Of certain ones Isaiah charged, “. . . their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men” (Isa. 29:13). When we substitute our testimony for the sacred witnesses of the Bible, we are persuading men by unauthorized means. Therefore, we are found guilty of drawing men to God “by the precept of men.”

Indeed it is sad to hear preachers testify of their life of sin and their “personal encounter” with their “surrender” to Christ. Graphically, they illustrate their life before their “confrontation with Christ.” Emotionally, they pluck the heart strings of innocent boys and girls with tales of sin so black. Marvelously, they sway their audience with hypnotic songs of their

glorious conversion. Sadly, we search in vain for the Christ, but we cannot see him for the preacher.

Proper awe and respect of Jehovah must be built upon the fear and love of God. Such is accomplished when men declare the wisdom of God. “For after that in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Cor. 1:21).

We plead for all, especially preachers, to return to Jerusalem. With Luke, journey through the sacred pages of Acts of the apostles and learn that “Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God” (1 Cor. 1:24) is our staff, stay, and plea in turning men to Jehovah. ~

Gospel Meeting - August 6-10 - Northeast church of Christ Meeting At East Ave. C & N. Locust, Elk City, Oklahoma



Lee Moses

Lee Moses, Union City, Tenn. will preach the gospel in our meeting, Sunday through Thursday, Aug. 6-10. Brother Moses and his late wife, Kelley Jo, have three children, Luke, Travis, and Laina Ruth. Lee was baptized into Christ by Gary Summers in 1999 in Denton, Texas, and graduated from the Memphis School of Preaching in 2002. He received a Bachelor of Music degree (B.M.) in music education from the University of North Texas in 1998, and also attended Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. Lee has done local preaching work in Texas, Arkansas, and Tennessee, as well as speaking on numerous lectureships and in gospel meetings, and now serves with the Berea church of Christ in Rives, Tennessee.

1. *Pray* for this meeting and for lost souls to hear the gospel.
2. *Work* for this meeting by inviting others. Take the flyers and mail them to family and friends.
3. *Support* this meeting at every assembly with your presence.
4. *Share the news* of this meeting with neighbors and Face Book friends.
5. *Post* this meeting on your Face Book Page. Go to Northeast’s page and share the notice from there. (Have You Done This This week?!!)