

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

**Our Gospel Meeting** - Pray also for brother Lee’s safety in travel to and from Elk City.  
**Pam Patrick** - Spiritual and emotional issues.  
**David Brown** - Spring, Texas preacher, blood clots in leg.  
**Sandy Craig** - Kidney problems, new tests.  
**Jo Ann McLerran** - Confined to home but doing better.  
**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.

**GOSPEL MEETING AUG. 6-10** - Our meeting begins two weeks from this Lord’s Day with brother Lee Moses. We have flyers on the foyer table to advertise it and mail to friends and family. Let your Face Book friends know about it. We’ll meet at regular times on Sunday morning, have a dinner immediately following morning worship, then meet again at 1:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday is 7:00 p.m. Please get the word out to others, and support it with your presence.

**SYMPATHY** - Our sympathy is expressed to Karen Hatcher and husband, Michael, in the death of Karen’s father, O. J. Savage this week. Memorial services were conducted from the building of the church of Christ in Trenton, Texas on Thursday. The Hatchers are beloved friends of Jerry and Sherlene.

**KENYA REPORT** - Benard and others are still exposing liberalism in Kenya. He posted this on his Face Book Page this week: “Nairobi Great Commission School in Kenya is as liberal as those who stand behind them in push of denominationalism teaching. World Bible School with their gospel chariot in Kenya is all liberalism.” Nairobi Great Commission School is affiliated with Abilene Christian University and Harding University and much false teaching is coming from it, corrupting many churches in Kenya.

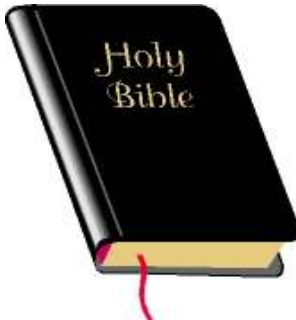
Our building is located at East Avenue C and North Locust in Elk City, Oklahoma, one block east of Van Buren on Avenue C. You are invited to visit with us at any of our meeting times.

**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](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ)  
**Website** - [www.necoccec.org](http://www.necoccec.org)  
**Face Book** - [www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok](http://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 12, No. 20

July 23, 2017

“As Long As They’re Happy, That’s What’s Important”  
Lee Moses

While awaiting a connecting flight at Dallas Love Field, this writer observed a number of small children traveling with their mother. They were a fine looking bunch, and all seemed cheerful. A male flight attendant then commented to their mother, “As long as they’re happy, that’s what’s important.” However, while the sight of happy children is wonderful indeed, their happiness is **not** the measuring stick of successful child rearing.

Having a child’s happiness as a parent’s primary goal is not conducive to successful child rearing. Clearly, children are not happy when being disciplined; so a parent seeking his children’s happiness at all costs and all times would not discipline his children. Yet proper discipline is crucial to a child’s upbringing: “*Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell*” (Prov. 23:14). Parents are warned, “*Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying*” (19:18). But refusing to discipline children and giving them everything they want spoils them, and leaves them never satisfied. Parents who do everything in their power to maintain their children’s happiness usually have miserable children.

A major problem with using happiness as the measuring stick of successful child rearing is that “happiness” can be very ambiguous. *The Oxford American College Dictionary* defines “happy” as “feeling or showing pleasure or contentment.” While it is certainly true that “*he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast*” (Prov. 15:15) and that “*a merry heart doeth good like a medicine*” (17:22), making happiness the ultimate end has justified many unjustifiable means. Some are able to find pleasure in immorality, such as recreational drug and alcohol use or extramarital sex. However, those who continue therein “*shall not inherit the kingdom of God*” (1 Cor. 6:9-10), and thus “*shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth*” (Matt. 8:12). Some take their pleasure at the expense of others; yet such shall eventually receive miseries (Jas. 5:1-5).

And many of these find themselves very content in their unjustifiable means of seeking happiness. Others may indeed “**show** pleasure or contentment,” but they are truly neither pleased nor content. After many a teenage suicide, the dead child’s parents have lamented, “But he **seemed** so happy!” As Solomon found long ago, true happiness will never be found unless one determines to “*Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all*” (Eccl. 12:13, New King James Version).

The flight attendant who made the statement “As long as they’re happy, that’s what’s important” likely was not attempting to provide sound advice for child rearing. He probably was expressing his appreciation for the sight of happy children, a sentiment shared by this writer. However, there are far too many parents who do make their children’s “happiness” their nebulous goal. Let each parent instead heed the inspired instruction, “*And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*” (Eph. 6:4). No, children’s apparent happiness is not what is important—what is important is that they are taught to become faithful Christians for the remainder of their lives.

## The Principle Of “Ought”

**Dub McClish**

Believers can’t deny that some who claim to be “Christians” are odd (said oddities occurring not because of—but in spite of—the Bible). Believers don’t have a patent on oddness, however. Atheists partake of an innate strangeness that stems directly from their anti-God, proevolution credo.

Among the “new wave” of militant, belligerent infidels is the British Oxford scholar, Richard Dawkins. His 2006 book, *The God Delusion*, boldly aims at converting every believer to his atheism. Obviously, either too few have read it, or he did not do a very effective job. Many millions (whether odd or not-odd) still believe in God.

One of the inherent “odd” components of atheism is its espousal of certain moral and ethical tenets. For example, Dawkins denounces the Muslims for their murderous response to the Danish Mohammed cartoons several years ago (no disagreement there). He labels God as a vindictive, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, bully (and that’s just half his list). Further, he points to Abraham’s dishonesty about Sarah, Lot’s incest, the Levite’s dismemberment of his concubine, Jephthah’s vow, and other historical records in the Bible, clearly judging such as morally unacceptable (again, no argument).

He obviously believes some things are wrong and others right, but from whence comes his moral outrage? Where do men get their morals? He first suggests a “scientific” (evolutionary) ground for “moral” behavior toward others (which folly a man of his intellect should be ashamed to proffer). A second hypothesis is *zeitgeist* (“the spirit of the age”)—merely another stab at an evolutionary explanation.

Granting for argument’s sake that morals arrived via evolution, this merely explains *the way they got here*. How does one explain the inclination to conform to them—the

*oughtness* of moral principles? If we are mere soulless combinations of protoplasm, who, against incredible odds, arrived at the “human stage” of evolution through natural selection (still occurring, mind you), how can any behavior be praised or condemned? Why is murder worse than hymn-singing, lying than honesty, or raping than protecting a child? Dawkins at last has nothing to offer besides *personal choice* as his arbiter between good and evil—utter subjectivism. No behavior can be *abnormal* or *immoral* if there is no transcendental objective moral *standard*. Only in God and the Bible do we have that objective standard and the *oughtness* that tugs at us to obey it (John 12:48; 3 John 11). (*The Denton Record-Chronicle*, Denton, Texas, Aug. 8, 2014).

## Gospel Meeting - August 6-10 - Northeast church of Christ Meeting At E. 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.