

News and Notes

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
Paul Brantley - Elder at Bellview, Pensacola, Fla. Heart procedure but doing well.
Patrick King - Neurological problems. Numbness on one side, difficulty walking.
Lee Moses - Suffered a seizure and is on medication and in therapy..
Pam Patrick - Undergoing treatment with new medicine.
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 and a severe bout with COPD 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.

ODESSA MEETING - The meeting with Parkview was a fine one. It was well supported by their members, and with a number of visitors, including an Assembly of God preacher. I also conducted a personal study while I was there with the husband of one of the members.

KENYA REPORT - Benard reports a number of baptisms in recent meetings. Muhuru Bay had one baptism, Muluanda had one baptism, Tingolo had two baptisms, and Benga had one baptism. Classes for preacher students will resume at Kalamindi on October 19th and conclude the first week in December. Contributors this week to the Kenya Fund were the Morton Street church of Christ, Denison, Texas; Chuck and Nancy Verkist, Ellensburg, Wash,; Jess and Terry Whitlock, Denison, Texas; the Berea church of Christ, Rives, Tenn.; and the Fish Hatchery Rd. church of Christ, Huntsville, Texas. We are grateful to Fish Hatchery Road for their commitment to send monthly aid for this work.

New Website - Our new website is up and running. The URL is www.necocelkcity.com. Go there and check it out and let your friends know about it.

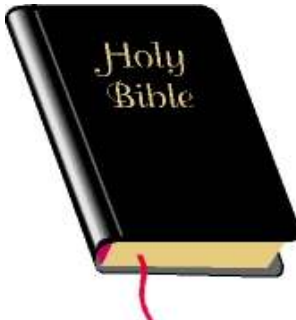
Our building is located at East Avenue C and North Locust in Elk City, Oklahoma, one block east of Van Buren on Avenue C. You are invited to visit with us at any of our meeting times.

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 12, No. 28

Sept. 17, 2017

Penknives And Religion

Dub McClish

At the end of the 7th century BC, Jehoiakim was the king of Judah in the waning days of that nation. On one occasion, Jeremiah’s inspired doom of the king and his nation was read to him, and he was not pleased. In bold arrogance, Jehoiakim casually took his penknife to God’s Word, supposing he could thereby expunge the Divine judgment (Jer. 36:20–24).

Men never seem to learn from history or the mistakes of their predecessors. In the conceited mold of Jehoiakim, modern civil and religious leaders have figuratively taken their “penknives” to God’s Word. Some have cut away all of it, denying that the Bible is God’s Word. Others have selectively excised portions of it they find distasteful, too challenging, too restrictive, or even unnecessary.

Consider the following examples of the “pen knife” treatment of the Bible:

- **Jesus’ teaching on divorce and remarriage:** The one cause He honors for divorce and remarriage is fornication on the part of one’s spouse (Mat. 5:32; 19:9). Civil law still reflected this Divine law to a great extent until human legislators took their “penknives” to it and began enacting “no-fault divorce” laws 50 years ago.
- **Jesus’ teaching on sexual morals:** The word *fornication* in the New Testament (as employed by Jesus and other inspired writers) includes all illicit sexual behavior (although in some passages, various sexual sins are listed separately for emphasis [e.g., adultery, homosexuality, bestiality (Rom. 1:26–27; 1 Cor. 6:9)]). The Son of God restricts sexual behavior to marriage between a man and a woman who are Scriptural candidates for marriage. Thus sexual intimacy before or apart from marriage is sinful. Civil and religious authorities have so emasculated this doctrine as to produce a “free sex” culture over the

past five decades.

• **Jesus' teaching on baptism:** Jesus declared, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16a), forever making baptism (i.e., immersion in water) a condition of saving grace. His declaration has simply been too narrow and restrictive for several generations of religious leaders, so they have used their "penknives" to delete Jesus' words. Thus multiplied millions face the Judgment unprepared.

The instances are endless in which men, exalting themselves above God, have mutilated His Word by ignoring and/or altering its message. Jehoiakim learned that He could not destroy the Divine Counsel with his puny little knife. All who follow his example will learn the same—sooner or later.

Calvinistic Election And Predestination

Jerry C. Brewer

Calvinistic election is attributed to God's arbitrary predestination of *individuals*. While the Bible teaches the children of God are the elect (1 Peter 2:9), it speaks of a *class* of persons, not individuals. Calvinism says the elect are those who were *individually* selected to salvation ("a certain number") and the non-elect are those eternally condemned *individuals*, both of whom were predestined to those ends before the world began. *Predestination* and *election* are Biblical terms, but Calvin perverted them in formulating his doctrine. According to Calvin, electing individuals to salvation, before the world began, God thereby predestined *certain persons* to salvation and others to damnation.

Holding that God's grace is only for the elect, Calvinism says certain *individuals* were arbitrarily chosen as recipients of it. Biblical predestination is concerned not with individuals, but the *locus* of salvation for election of a certain *class* of persons. That's the thrust of Paul's teaching in Ephesians 1:3-11:

1. All spiritual blessings are *in Christ* (v. 3).
2. We are chosen *in Christ* (v. 4).
3. Our adoption as God's children was predestined *through Christ* (v. 5).
4. Our acceptance by God is *in Christ* (v. 6).
5. Our Redemption, through his blood is *in Christ* (v. 7).
6. God purposed that all should be one *in Christ* (vv. 9, 10)
7. Our inheritance as God's children was predestined *in Christ* (v. 11).

As God predestined creatures with gills to life *in water*, so those in Christ were predestined to eternal life *in Him*. God does not choose who will enter Christ, but says that all who do are classified as His elect. A creature of free will, man chooses to obey or disobey God and when he chooses God, he is thereby elected to salvation in Christ Jesus. God's elect is constituted of *all* who elect to enter Christ through obedience to the gospel, (Romans 6:3-6). That is salvation by "grace through faith," (Ephesians 2:8). God's grace provides salvation and man's faith appropriates the blessings thereof.

"God has allowed men liberty and free will to choose between good and evil. Some will choose evil and cause the ruin of others; the necessity is in the obstinacy of men and not in the decrees of God...God does not slay men, nor deprive them of their free nature, nor limit its natural free action in its allotted range, in order to prevent men from sinning. It is a fundamental law of man's nature that his character shall have full scope freely to develop itself; hence responsibility can justly exist, penalty can be justified, and rewards can be bestowed" (H. Leo Boles, *New Testament Commentaries*, Gospel Advocate Co., *Matthew*, pp. 370, 371).

God's grace has been provided in Christ, not in some arbitrary decree of God to save and condemn "a certain number" of individuals before the world began. Denying the grace of God to the non-elect, Calvinism circumscribes it and contradicts Paul's inspired teaching on its universality. "For the grace of God, that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:11-14).

As foreign to the New Testament as Mariolatry, Calvinistic predestination and election are false doctrines. The Protestant world got them from John Calvin, who plagiarized them from the Catholics. A system of error woven into the fabric of almost every Protestant denomination, Calvinism undergirds false systems from the Baptist Church to Pentecostalism. A driving force behind the religion of the Puritans, Calvinism pervaded the Church of England, formed the basis for Presbyterianism in Scotland and finds devotees in America from the Assembly of God, Baptist, and Nazarene Churches to Promise Keepers and the 700 Club. While they aren't all accepted as he first propounded them, most of Calvin's views have been adopted by Protestant bodies in some form or another.