

<i>In Search of</i> Truth and Right Tim Henderson, Editor		
Vol. 01 No. 13 10/29/ 2006	<i>"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."</i> Phil. 4:8 (NASB-U)	A publication of the Wellsburg church of Christ

Some Things You Cannot Afford To Be Without

By Russell H. Dunaway—via Truth Magazine, 02-05-04

When I left home a number of years ago, I quickly learned that there were some things that I could afford to do without. When I married, I discovered that there were even more things that I could not afford, things I had to do without. And then my wife and I had two sons, and we really learned about sacrifice and doing without some things for a while. The Bible teaches that there are many things that we can easily do without. Yet, it also teaches that there are some things that no one can afford to be without. Notice some of those things that you just simply cannot afford to be without.

First, you cannot afford to be without knowledge. Solomon said that for *"the soul to be without knowledge, it is not good"* (Prov. 19:2). The Lord rebuked Israel for their lack of knowledge, stating, *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children"* (Hos. 4:6). There are several things you must have some knowledge of if you are going to please God. If you are going to please God, you must have some knowledge about sin. You need to know what sin is (1 John 3:4; 5:17; James 4:17; Rom. 14:23). you need to know that sin leads to shame and death (Rom. 6:21,23). Sin will lead you to do things you later will be ashamed of. It will lead you to do things you will later regret. God is willing to forgive you of every sin you commit, but that does not remove the shame or physical consequences of sin. You need to know that the pleasure of sin is short lived (Heb. 11:24). Sooner or later, no one is troubled like the one who allows sin to have its way in his or her life. Sin brings more trouble in our lives than it is worth. Even worse than the shame it brings, is the fact that sin brings separation from God (Isa. 59:1-2). And if you die in that condition,

TIMES OF SERVICES	
SUNDAY	
Bible Classes*	10:00 AM
AM Worship	10:45 AM
PM Worship	6:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	
Bible Classes*	7:00 PM
(* Bible Classes for All Ages)	

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it brings eternal separation from God (2 Thess. 1:7-9). Furthermore, you need to know the truth (John 8:32; 17:17; Rom. 6:17-18; 2 Thess. 1:7-9).

It is not enough, however, to simply know the truth. Once you know the truth you then must obey it. Finally, you need to know God. Jesus prayed, *"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent"* (John 17:3). Sadly, there are so many people in the world today who know much about God, but who have never come to truly know God. Those who know God are those who keep His commandments (1 John 2:3-5).

Second, you cannot afford to be without faith. The Hebrew writer stated that faith is absolutely essential to pleasing God; that *"without faith it is impossible to please Him"* (Heb. 11:6). He also defined faith as being *"the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"* (Heb. 11:1). The faith you must have to please God is not some blind confidence. It is reasonable, based on the evidence presented in God's word (Rom. 10:17), Jesus said, *"If ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins"* (John 8:24). You cannot afford to be without faith.

Third, you cannot afford to be without the shed blood of Jesus. The Hebrew writer tells us that *"without the shedding of blood there is no remission"* (Heb. 9:22). The greatest need of man is to have his sins remitted. We can have our sins remitted, but only through the shed blood of Jesus (Eph. 1:7; Matt. 26:28). Jesus' blood was shed that we might have our sins remitted, but that does not take place until we are baptized in obedience to the gospel of Christ (Acts 2:38). You cannot afford to be without the shed blood of Jesus.

Fourth, you cannot afford to be without works. James tells us that saving faith expresses itself in actions; that a faith without works is a dead faith (James 2:14-24). All the faith in the world is useless if it is not accompanied by works of obedience. The Scriptures were given to furnish us unto *"every good work"* (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Christians are to be *"zealous of good works"* (Titus 2:14). To be righteous we must do righteousness (1 John 3:7). Those who are accepted of God are those who fear God and work righteousness (Acts 10:34-35). Doing righteousness, working righteousness, simply means doing what God commands in His word (Psalm 119:172). You cannot afford to be without the good works that God has *"afore ordained that ye should walk in them"* (Eph. 2:10).

Fifth, you cannot afford to be without love. Paul observed that everything you do is meaningless to God if it is not motivated by love (1 Cor. 13:1-3). Like faith, love expresses itself by actions. Jesus said, *"If you love me, keep my commandments"* (John 14:15). John wrote, *"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not grievous"* (1 John 5:3). He further admonished, *"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth"* (1 John 3:18). Love must demonstrate itself in actions. Paul observed, *"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love"* (Gal. 5:6). Again, he wrote that *"you have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another"* (Gal. 5:13). You simply cannot afford to be without love if you want to please God. Jesus said, *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another"* (John 13:34-35).

Sixth, you cannot afford to be without holiness if you want to please God. The inspired writer admonished, *"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord"* (Heb. 12:14). God commanded that we be holy, using himself as our standard (1 Pet. 1:13-16). Holiness is the result of a conscientious choosing of good over evil. If you wish to see the Lord, you cannot afford to be without holiness.

You can afford to be without many things in life, but if you wish to make heaven your destiny for eternity, you simply cannot afford to be without knowledge, faith, the shed blood of Jesus, works,

Consider This:

If you live to be 70, You will spend ...

3 years in education!

6 years in eating!

4 years in conversation!

24 years sleeping!

8 years in amusement!

5 years in travel!

14 years working!

AND ...

IF you attend EVERY Sunday morning, and IF you attend EVERY Sunday evening, and IF you go to Bible study EVERY Wednesday evening, and IF you study the Bible five minutes each day, ...

You will spend just **2 years** serving God ... and in the study of His word!

Sufficient????
Excessive ?????
Too Little?????

via—Truth Magazine

News N Notes

Sick:

- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband
- Marie Roberts is at home recovering
- Ed Roberts father
- Grace Lancaster is at home
- Remember Cindy North as she faces surgeries

Nursing Home:

- Hazel Carroll, Ethel Mahan, Pauline Sellers

Shut-ins:

- Josephine Clow, Mabel Fleming, Rhea Henthorn, Pauline Midcap
- A card, phone call or a visit can really brighten their days.

Meetings in the area:

- Oct. 30-Nov. 3—**Fly church of Christ** in New Matamoros, OH with **Morris Hafley**
- Nov. 5-10—**Elk Fork church of Christ** in Middlebourne, WV with **John Weyon**