

<i>In search of</i> Truth and Right Tim Henderson, Editor		
Vol. 01 No. 14 11/05/ 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

"Doing Good All Over Again"

By George Hutto

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Ready or not, life keeps coming. One would think after years of overcoming temptation, helping others in the fight for right, and putting the kingdom first, that being a Christian would get easier. The aged apostle Peter did not think so: *"You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked..."* (2 Peter 3:17). Examples of others who went before us will show that life presents challenges to man's faith at every turn.

God challenges us to accept His word, applying it to our lives, which otherwise has been shaped by inheritance, upbringing, society, and the various choices we've made along the way. *"Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves"* (James 1:21,22). The above quote from Peter continue: *"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen"* (vs. 18).

God's word teaches us to do good. And throughout life it teaches us to do good all over again.

When King David forsook the word, he fell into sin. The consequences of his sin and his rehabilitation were painful. *"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight: that Thou mightest be justified when Thou speakest, and be clear when Thou judgest"* (Psalm 51:1-4).

God said to David, *"The sword shall not depart from your house,"* and, indeed, the history of his immediate and extended family is one of treachery. David had to learn to do good all over again.

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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About the time Peter thought he had the Messiah figured out, Jesus told the apostles about His upcoming suffering and death. Peter's lack of comprehension is seen in that he proceeded to rebuke Christ, to which the Lord said, "*Get behind me Satan! For you are not mindful of the things that be of God, but the things of men.*" He then called all of the disciples around and spoke to them on the necessity of cross bearing (Mark 8:27-38).

Peter had to learn to do good all over again, as he did after he denied the Lord at the trial (Luke 22:54-62), as he did after his dissimulation at Antioch (Galatians 2:11-14). He spoke from experience when he warned against falling away.

One does not have to fall all the way into sin to relearn doing good. For the apostle Paul, the sins of his past seemed to be sufficient to remind him of the need for constant vigilance. He had persecuted "*that way*" unto death, imprisoning Christians. How often did his path cross with Christians who he had formerly terrorized? We are not told of his occasional stumbling, as we are of Peter's, but he had his scars.

Hear the apostle with the clean conscience, a pedigreed Jewish inheritance, a good reputation, a proper education, and Roman citizenship:

"For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good, for I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (Romans 7:19-24).

It is no accident that the Christian walk is referred to as a vocation or a profession (Ephesians 4:1). Christians have to learn to do good all over again many times along the way. There may be a crisis in the family that demands it. The death of a loved one might challenge one to learn to do good all over again. The daily temptations, stumbling blocks for everyone, demand it. Strife among the brethren may require it. Turning the pages of life into a new bracket will demand it. Learning to tack, to lead, to console others challenges one to learn to do good all over again.

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Romans 7:19***

Jonah in the fish's belly, the prodigal at the hog trough, Elijah under the juniper tree (1 Kings 19:4); all had to learn to do good all over again.

The metamorphosis never ends. {That is the word used, metamorphoo, in Romans 12:2, which was also used to describe Christ's transfiguration on the mount. We are being transformed! But we are not yet changed}.

"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation take you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

"All Turned Away From Me"
Larry Ray Hafley

Without anger or bitterness, Paul observed that "*all*

they which are in Asia" are "*turned away from me*" (2 Timothy 1:15).

Later, he lamented about another case, saying, "*At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men*

forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge" (2 Timothy 4:16). That last sentence is remarkable! What an attitude it represents. How many of us would have said, "After all I have done for those so called brethren! And what do I get? Nothing but cowardly rejection from hypocritical weasels! Well, someday the Lord will judge them for this, and then they will be sorry they ever did this to me! It will serve 'em right, too!"

The Lord faced similar denial. *"From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him" (John 6:66). His own "familiar friend" betrayed him. One of his most ardent disciples denied him. Those whom he came to seek and save crucified him. Still, he said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). Could you and I have prayed that prayer?*

Stephen, while dying, prayed for those who killed him, saying, *"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge" (Acts 7:60). That dying prayer ushered him into life. Praying a curse would have brought real death.*

We may be ever so devout and faithful in attendance at worship; we may sing loudly and give liberally; we may meet and greet everyone with a kind word and a warm smile, but until our hearts are full of love and able to pray for them that spitefully use us and persecute us, we are not his disciples.

We have, in essence, turned away from him. We are not walking with him and in him. We are not allowing Christ to live in us and through us when we lash out and lash back at those who speak evil against us and seek to do us harm (Matthew 5:43-48; Galatians 2:20). Instead, we are going back and walking no more with him.

May God help us all to love the unlovely and to give our hearts and tongues to prayer and forgiveness rather than to cursing and bitterness (Romans 12:14). *"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (1 John 2:6).*

News N Notes

Sick:

- Blake Headen
- Marie Roberts continues at home recovering
- Ed Roberts father
- Grace Lancaster
- 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:

- Nov. 5-10—**Elk Fork church of Christ** in Middlebourne, WV with **John Weyon**
- Nov. 12-17—**Pleasant Valley church of Christ** with **Aaron Veyon**
- Nov. 12-17—**Middlebourne church of Christ** with **Mike Willis**