

*In
search
of*

Truth and Right

Tim Henderson, Editor

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"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." Phil. 4:8 (NASB-U)

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It's Always Needed

Shane Williams

The Lilbourn Light, Vol. 7, No. 6, Oct. 2006.

I heard a story of a man in the mid 1950's entering school to study engineering. A professor told the entering freshman class to buy the best slide rule they could afford. The reason: "You will be dependent on it all your professional life." Well, of course, it wasn't too long before the slide rule was replaced by the calculator.

We've seen those same sorts of things in fairly recent years: 8 tracks, cassette tapes (almost), and even VHS tapes!

Things that today we consider essential may quickly become obsolete. Tomorrow they may be discarded as antiques that cannot provide the help we need.

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)	

At least one thing from the past, however, will always be needed and never becomes obsolete. It is the Bible, God's Holy Word. No matter how much technological change and progress takes place, that Book will remain the one sure means for getting the right answers to the complicated questions: Our origin, our purpose, our needs, and our final destination.

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"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

"As for God, His way is perfect; The Word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him" (Psalm 18:30).

"The entirety of Your Word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever" (Psa. 119:160).

"For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding Word of God" (1 Peter 1:23).

Make sure you keep your Bible around and use it! You'll always need it. It will never become obsolete.

On a Daily Basis
By Bill Hall
Via. Gospel Power, Vol. 13, No. 47

A man, asked recently to describe memories of his college days twenty-five years ago, replied, "A few big moments; many goofs, but, overall, pleasant memories."

Would these words not describe our memories of life generally? As we recall our years, there are always the "big" moments, the emotional "highs," that we love to relish. Then there are the "goofs," the embarrassing occasions that just keep coming back to haunt us. But, through it all, the pleasant memories sufficiently prevail to enable us to feel generally good about life.

But, in reality, success or failure in life is not determined by the "big moments" or "the goofs." We will not be eternally saved on the basis of a few great spiritual achievements or eternally lost on the basis of a few gross mistakes (assuming they have been repented of). Life consists of everyday actions and decisions, and it is these that bring ultimate success or failure, eternal happiness or eternal damnation. *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23).*

It is one thing to express concern for our children as we talk of their future spirituality and faithfulness. It is quite another to provide on a daily basis a spiritual atmosphere in the home, a good example of godliness and faithfulness, consistent and loving discipline and a love for God and respect for our fellowman that are so essential to the training of our children. It's the little impressions that are made day by day that prove to be so decisive.

It is one thing to dream of some day being appointed an elder in the church. It is quite another thing to put forth the effort on a daily basis to learn the Scriptures, to develop leadership ability, to grow spiritually, and to live as to gain the confidence of a discerning congregation. One does not qualify for the eldership in one big leap. It comes through daily development.

It is one thing to talk a "good line" on priorities. It is quite another thing to put God first on a daily basis. The devil knows so many ways to test our resolve in these realms. Our intentions are good, but, through his subtlety, he has us selling our souls for a mess of pottage or thirty pieces of silver. It is one thing to think that we would die for the Lord if our faith were so tested. It is quite another thing truly to live for Him on a daily basis. Egos may be fed on the "big moments," but true spirituality develops through daily prayer, study and meditation.

Our lesson is this. Set your goals for the future, and set them high. But recognize that it's the little, day-by-day moments, the often forgotten moments, accumulated throughout the years, that truly shape our destiny. Tomorrow's success depends upon the choices and decisions that are made today. Make them with care.

Our Deepest Need, Our Greatest Reward

Gary Henry

*"But without faith it is impossible to please Him,
for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that
He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."* Heb. 11:6

God rewards those who diligently seek Him. In order to come to God, we must believe this great truth. Confidently acting on our faith and passionately pursuing Him, we will find that God whom we were created to enjoy. He has promised that we will not only find Him, but find in Him all that our hearts truly desire. In times of comfort no less than in times of pain, we must always seek God. We must seek Him with diligence and determination, as well as love, trusting that at the end of our search He Himself, and He alone, will be our reward.

Two things are needed. We must see that our deepest need is for God, and we must then seek the fulfillment of that need in God only. The first of these is perhaps the hardest to do. On the surface, we seem to desire so many more visible and more immediate things that it's hard to understand how deeply we need God. But deeper than all our other wants is this ultimate desire: our longing for God. We long for Him because we were created for Him, and when we honestly and humbly recognize the importance of this need, we are then ready to seek God. We must devote ourselves wholeheartedly to finding Him, our most fervent hope being to come into His presence and enjoy His fellowship.

We tend not to seek God when our lives are comfortable. If our temporal needs are met, we imagine that we can take care of ourselves and we forget about God. For this reason, God lets us suffer some deprivation. The needs that go unmet may differ from person to person, but each of us will have our hearts broken in some ways. We will be taught to do without some of the things we deeply need, in order to learn that what we were created to enjoy is not fully available in this world. Only God can perfectly satisfy our hunger and our thirst, and He is always leading us in the direction of satisfaction in Him. He is teaching us, if we have the hearts to learn, that He is the only thing we can't do without.

Above all am I convinced of the need, irrevocable and inescapable, of every human heart, for God. No matter how we try to escape, to lose ourselves in restless seeking, we cannot separate ourselves from our divine source.

There is no substitute for God.

A. J. Cronin