

*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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## *What Are You Reading?*

*Joe R. Price*

Via, Truth Magazine—Vol. XLV, No. 14

The following e-mail was just received, unsolicited, in response to answering a Bible question which had been posed to this writer. The last part is very enlightening:

Thank you for giving your time to others who have questions. I have read and studied my Bible for years but that was one of my son's Bible questions for church and I thought I had looked up Pharaoh but I guess I had not. My husband and I looked and searched with our concordance in the back of the Bible but all of the key words seemed to run into a dead end. I need to get back to reading my Bible more. Sometimes when we start just reading other things like Max Lucado and other Christian authors we get very rusty on our Bible. I will visit this site.

My New Year is going to be filled with a lot more Bible study. God bless you for helping others.

Over the past decade or so there has been a great deal of enthusiasm and excitement over such authors as Max Lucado and others. Many brethren immersed themselves in these works which are long on emotion-drive stories and short on "thus saith the Lord." "Positive Christianity" was the rage. Lucado and others fueled the fire.

There were some voices in the wilderness which cried out in protest. They advised that such works, when indiscriminately imbibed, would lead to spiritual corruption.



| TIMES OF SERVICES              |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| <b>SUNDAY</b>                  |          |
| Bible Classes*                 | 10:00 AM |
| AM Worship                     | 10:45 AM |
| PM Worship                     | 6:30 PM  |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b>               |          |
| Bible Classes*                 | 7:00 PM  |
| (* Bible Classes for All Ages) |          |

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These voices of caution and warning were met with sharp counterattacks. They were scolded and told that Lucado and other such authors were generating genuine spirituality and a closer walk with God in Christians' lives. Those who objected to the trend of positivism and such "Bible-lite" teaching were depicted as "negative" traditionalists.

Having sown the wind, some are now reaping the whirlwind. Less Bible reading and more Lucado reading has diminished a knowledge of the word of God. You do not agree? Please read the above email again.

Moral degeneration, social injustice, and religious corruption results where "*there is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land*" (Hosea 4:1, 2-5). Destruction follows such lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). Are we so self-confident and blinded as to think that what happened to Israel cannot happen to us? Already "*the great things of (God's) law*" are "*considered a strange thing*" by a growing number of Christians (cf. Hosea 8:12). Honor for Bible authority has waned. Honor for the kind of unity-in-diversity Lucado and others preach and practice has increased. Like Israel, we shall reap what we sow (Hosea 8:7; Galatians :7-8)

Commit yourself to the Bible. Read it, meditate on it, study it, and walk in its light (Psalm 119:97-105; 2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Peter 3:16-18). Therein "*you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God*" (Proverbs 2:5). Any other source of knowledge is an unstable foundation upon which to build your life and eternal future (Matthew 7:24-29).

*"Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."* (Mark 4:24-25)

The expression, "Use it or lose it" is often heard in regard to physical exercise. Muscles must be used in order to insure their greater use in the future. To fail to use one's muscles will lead to the loss of strength one presently has.

The same is true concerning spiritual things. Regarding hearing and understanding God's word, the Lord warns, more or less, "Use it or lose it." Matthew's account says, "*For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.*" (Matthew 13:12)

*"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."* (Matt. 18:3)

"Last night my little boy confessed to me some childish wrong; and, kneeling at my knee, He prayed with tears, 'Dear God, make me a man Like Daddy--wise and strong; I know that You can.' Then, while he slept I knelt beside his bed, confessed my sins, and prayed with bowed head, 'O God, make me like a child, like my child here, pure, guileless, trusting thee with faith sincere.'" (From Andrew Gillies, in **Pulpit Helps**, June, 1992)

*"Therefore He said: 'A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.'" (Luke 19:12-13)*

*"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." (1 Pet. 4:10)*

One of Ripley's "Believe It or Not" items pictures a plain bar of iron worth \$5. The same bar of iron if made into horse shoes would be worth \$50. If it were made into needles, it would be worth \$5,000. If it were made into balance springs for fine Swiss watches, it would be worth \$500,000. The raw material is not as important as how it's developed.

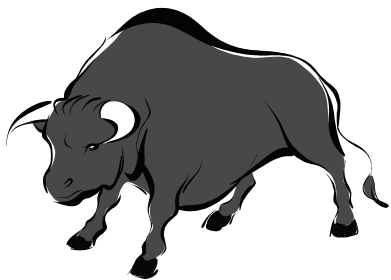
God has given each of us various talents, and their worth to Him is dependent on how we develop them.

The story is told of a young man who wished to marry the farmer's beautiful daughter. He went to the farmer to ask his permission. The farmer looked him over and responded, "Son, go stand out in that field and I'm going to release three bulls, one at a time. If you can catch the tail of any one of the three bulls, you can marry my daughter."

***"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."***

2 Corinthians 6:2

The young man stood in the pasture awaiting the first bull. The barn door opened and out ran the biggest, meanest-looking bull he had ever seen. He decided that one of the next bulls had to be a better choice than this one, so he ran over to the side and let the bull pass through the pasture out the back gate.



The barn door opened again. Unbelievable! He had never seen anything so big and fierce in his life. It stood - pawing the ground, grunting, slinging slobber - as it eyed him. Whatever the next bull was like, it had to be a better choice than this one. He ran to the fence and let the bull pass through the pasture, out the back gate.

The door opened a third time. A smile came across his face. This was the weakest, scrawniest little bull he had ever seen. This one was his bull. As the bull came running by, he positioned himself just right and jumped at just the exact moment. He grabbed; but, the bull had no tail!

The lesson from the above story is that we must take advantage of opportunities when they are available to us. This is especially true in the spiritual realm. Let us avail ourselves of the present time and opportunity because it may soon be gone forever.