

*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)

**A publication
of the
Wellsburg
church of
Christ**

We would like to invite you to a
Gospel Meeting
April 15-20

Sunday 10:00 AM
 10:45 AM
 6:30 PM
Mon.—Friday 7:30 PM

with speaker:

Don Bunting

at the
Wellsburg church of Christ
112 Sunset Ave.
Wellsburg, WV 26070

- ♦ *Plain Bible Preaching*
- ♦ *No Nightly Collections*
- ♦ *Simple, Biblical Worship*

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)	

*Bring your Bibles
and join us as we
study from the
Word of God*

*For More information
call 304-737-1422*

This Bulletin is published by the:

**Wellsburg
church of Christ**

which meets at:

**112 Sunset Ave.
Wellsburg, WV 26070
304-737-1422**

Hurting Ourselves

By: Matt Hennecke

via the Weatherly Heights Bulletin—Huntsville, AL

It was over a year ago, but something got me thinking about it recently. After Sunday evening worship, a group of us went to a local

restaurant. This particular restaurant was noted for the hot, buffalo wings it served, in fact, they had degrees of wings rated according to the pain they might inflict. I can't remember now, but the ratings were something like the following: mild, warm, hot, super hot and dangerous.

Now I have never been one to enjoy painful food. I figure if I want to suffer while eating, I can simply stab myself in the mouth with my fork. Accordingly, I ordered a salad. Others at the table—mostly of the male persuasion—debated which level of pain to order. I'm not sure how it got out of hand, but eventually three of the males dared each other to order the "dangerous" wings. I sat in wonder. Why would anyone intentionally hurt himself?

After a twenty minute wait the food for our table for our table finally arrived. I enjoyed my salad. It was flavorful and more importantly didn't render me incapacitated. I enjoyed even more watching the self-inflicted pain experienced by my brothers in Christ. Three of them—the most competitive—proceeded to eat the dangerously hot wings. The results were predictable: faces turned bright red, beads of sweat popped out on their foreheads, gasps of agony were overheard, and large volumes of water were consumed in a futile attempt to quench the spicy fires burning in their mouths.

This wasn't dinner, this was a kind of last supper Armageddon the end of taste buds and common sense as we know it. I watched in wonder and fascination.

I'm not sure what reminded me of the sight of these three people intentionally hurting themselves, but it got me thinking about spiritual matters and a spiritual application: Why is it that Christians—people who have been saved and who know better—will do things that hurt them? Why will they turn back to the world and to sin when they know better? Such spiritual self-destruction simply doesn't make sense. Peter put it in graphic, even sickening terms when he said, *"If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. Of them the proverbs are true: 'A dog returns to its vomit'"* (2 Peter 2:19-22).

Self destruction is, sadly, all too common amongst Christians. We need to stop hurting ourselves by self indulgence and sin. You think hot wings are hot? Think again. There is some real heat awaiting those who refuse to serve the Lord. John tells us Jesus has *"His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."* (Luke 3:17)

Do Not Quarrel on the Journey

J. S. Smith

When Joseph finally revealed his identity to his brothers who had come to Egypt to buy food, a shocking and emotional reunion naturally followed.

It was Joseph's wish that his father also be summoned to Egypt where Joseph had providently risen from slave to second-in-command. The brothers were sent back to famine-stricken Canaan with piles of provisions and this bit of instruction: *"Do not quarrel on the journey"* (Genesis 45:24,

NASV).

Now that sounds like what I told my children the last time we loaded up the Dodge Ram in Fort Worth and headed for northwest Alabama, hundreds of miles and at least 11 hours separating us from a holiday with family. Do not quarrel on the journey! Yes, I added the exclamation.

Joseph's brothers would "be occupied in recalling the parts they had respectively acted in the events that led to Joseph's being sold into Egypt, but their wickedness would soon have to come to the knowledge of their venerable father" (Jamieson). Just wait till Dad finds out what they did!

Of course, they had sold Joseph into slavery while telling their father that he had been mauled by wild animals that left only his blood-stained coat of many colors. "*So Jacob tore his clothes, and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. Then all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted*" (Gen. 37:34-35). The brothers had reason to quarrel over who was most responsible (not Reuben; maybe Judah?). So Joseph cautions them, "*Do not quarrel on the journey.*"

Like my truckload of offspring and the siblings of Joseph, we are all but children on a journey – a journey together, although we might not all obtain to the same destination. The Holy Spirit likens us to "*little children*" to whom "*it has not yet been revealed what we shall be*" (1 John 2:1, 3:2). Spiritually we are brothers and sisters, but also "*sojourners and pilgrims*" traversing a heathen world, striving to maintain honorable conduct that we might emerge from life "*unspotted from the world*" (James 1:27, 1 Peter 2:11-12). Together, we are traveling from birth to rebirth to eternity – Do not quarrel on the journey! "*Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, But any fool will quarrel*" (Proverbs 20:3).

Yes, we must "*contend earnestly for the faith*" (Jude 3), but we must likewise refrain from quarreling over selfish ambition (Phil. 2:3), personal scruple (Rom. 14:1), and matters of mere tradition (Mark 7:1-5). On occasion, brethren must divide because of doctrine (1 John 2:19), but it is deplorable when they are sundered instead by pride.

Jesus is the way and his father's house is the destination (John 14:1-6). In fellowship and love of brotherhood (1 Peter 2:17), we are traveling together, but do not quarrel on the way.

News N Notes

Sick:

- Terry Smith had knee surgery the 11th and is continuing to recuperate
- Vicki Renshaw became a proud grandmother this week, Sadey Grace was born Monday the 10th, 7lbs, 9 oz, 20 1/2 ". There have been some problems with breathing and the baby was moved to Morgantown. (**Web Update**—Sadey is now at home and continuing to improve)
- Continue to keep these in your prayers—Blake Headen, Alberta's husband; Marie Roberts; Terry Smith's brother George; Faith Kress, Linda Marshall's niece; Ed Roberts father; Grace Lancaster; Ila Marshall, Harold Marshall's mother.

Nursing Home:

- Hazel Carroll; Pauline Sellers; Rhea Henthorn

Shut-ins:

- Ethel Mahan; Josephine Clow; Mabel Fleming; Pauline Midcap
- A card, phone call or a visit can really brighten someone's day.