

*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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GOT ANY CHAIRS

By Kipp Campbell

I am reminded of a story in which a preacher and his large family, who were new to a congregation, went to visit a deacon on his farm. After all the greetings and pleasantries were exchanged, there was an awkward silence as the family just stood there, looking for a place to sit down, since the room only had two chairs. After a couple of silent seconds had gone by, the preacher remarked, "Brother, I don't think you have enough chairs!" However, the man responded, "That ain't it, I got plenty of chairs—just too much company!" You can imagine the shock of hearing that come from a member of the Lord's church. Yet, this kind of action is actually rather prevalent in the Lord's church today.

*"Be hospitable to
one another with-
out complaint."*

1 Peter 4:9 [NASB-U]

I know of Christians who have made it abundantly clear they want nothing to do with each other outside of services. This is confirmed when it's time to get-together and they aren't there. Rather than supporting the time Christians have with each other, they would rather sit at home or associate with worldly friends. It really is a sad commentary when Christians can't stand to be around each other.

As Christians, we should understand just how important it is for us to spend quality time with each other. The only way for us to "get to know" each other and to know what is going on with each other is to spend time with each other. In Acts 2:44-47, we see a model of what we're supposed to be. In verse 46 Luke wrote, *"Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals to-*

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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gether with gladness and sincerity of heart," Every day those Christians ate meals together. Granted, it was a new time and there was an electric feeling in the air, but they all had the desire to spend time with each other. The point is, they made the time to be with each other. Now, I'm not saying we should eat every meal together or be with each other every day. But we do need to make sure we are making time to spend with one another, so we can know what's going on in each other's lives. Perhaps the easiest way to do this is to invite someone into our homes. Peter said, *"Be hospitable to one another without complaint."* (1 Peter 4:9). Whether it's for supper (dinner where I'm from), dessert, or even for just a cup of coffee, invite them in and get to know them.

We need each other more than ever today. We are "in the world" for the majority of our week and let's face it—we need all the help we can get to escape the clutches of Satan. There is a great deal of strength we can draw from being in each other's presence. So, let's make sure we are setting aside time right now to get to know one another better. Just make sure you have enough chairs!

"CHRIST AT HEART'S DOOR"

By David Riggs



Holman Hunt, a famous English painter, in the late 1800's painted a masterpiece entitled, "Christ at heart's door." It is said that when Mr. Hunt had finished his painting, he displayed it for the critics. As it was unveiled, one of the critics replied with laughter, "You forgot to put a latch on the door." The great artist replied, "There is no latch on the door; the latch is on the inside."

When we examine a reproduction of Hunt's, "Christ at heart's door," we will see no latch on the door. Truly, the latch is on the inside. If Jesus comes into our lives, it will not be because He forced His way in, but because we opened the door by submission to Him.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me." (Rev. 3:20)

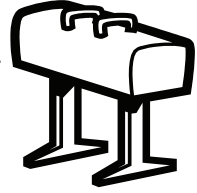
IT'S ONLY TWO INCHES

By Carl McMurray

Surely two inches wouldn't make much difference, would it? If you were watching the

Olympic finals of the women's gymnastics however, you know that's not true. Mysti-

fied, we saw the top female gymnasts in the world tumble off the pommel horse landing face down, face up, and stumbling to the mat. The American said, "I just didn't know, I thought it was me." Commentators and coaches discussed the tragic mistake that threw off the timing and heights for these athletes and the devastating effect it had on their following exercises. And what was the historic blunder? The "horse" was set up incorrectly, two inches lower than the height standard used all around the world.



Believing what Solomon wrote in Proverbs 1:20, "Wisdom shouts in the streets," I began to wonder what lessons were being "shouted" out. The main one that occurred to me was...little things DO count!

Two inches was enough to bring world class athletes stumbling to the mat. Years of work and thousands of hours training meant nothing when their "standard" was ignored.

Little things will mean a lot to each of us also, however. Little things like stopping and spending a few moments now with our children instead of pushing them off until later. Little things like walking across an auditorium or foyer to warmly greet a visitor when that might be left to elders or others. Little things like teaching a class now rather than delaying it until a time when everything is more convenient for me. Little things like stepping forward to be baptized instead of putting it off, or acknowledging our own wrongdoing instead of blaming another. Even a little thing like setting my schedule so I can attend and support the conference next week or any other effort the church makes to reach out or do God's will.

Little things can mean the difference in the long tumbling run of life between "sticking" that landing on one's feet, or hitting the mat as a loser in this "Christian" exercise. Don't ever let yourself believe that little things don't count. No one is going to want to come "two inches" short on judgment day.

Once upon a time there were four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. But Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry because Everybody was asked to do it instead of Somebody. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, and Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody, and Nobody did the job that Anybody could have done in the first place. Thus, who got the job done? That's right, Nobody!

Let us be zealous and fruitful in every good work, and not depend on others to do our work for us.