

*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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Christ**

What About Indifference

By T. Sean Sullivan

First, indifference is not a good thing-it is the enemy. Indifference is capable of killing us spiritually. Indifference is something that will cause Christ to deny us (Revelation 1:4-5). It is a lack of zeal.

All too often we have become comfortable and complacent concerning our duties. We want to climb to a plateau, but when we stop to look around we tend to forget that we are supposed to continue climbing. The Hebrew writer commended us to run our race (our life) with endurance (Hebrews 12:1-3). An Olympic runner will never get the gold medal by deciding that they have a comfortable lead so they can stop to watch the race.

Indifference is in the heart of a Christian who has stopped telling others about their hope.

Indifference is in the heart of a Christian who has stopped telling others about their hope. Indifference is in the heart of those who have become satisfied with not evangelizing. It is the place of those who are comfortable with those who are in the "club" and not eager for new members. We cannot allow this to creep in and kill our zeal,

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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**112 Sunset Ave.
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304-737-1422**

this is not a clubhouse this a building where the disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ meet to encourage each other and introduce new people to the Lord's plan. We need to sound forth the message in word and deed like the church at Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 1:6-10). They received the word, even through trials; they spread the word everywhere they went.

The apostle Paul knew God does not accept indifference (Romans 1:13-18). He spread the gospel and would allow it to be suppressed.

What Can We Do To Develop Our Zeal?

Discover again the first things. Read and cherish the word (Psalm 19:7-11; 119:97-105). Change your grip on God's out-stretched hand (Acts 17:27-28). There are

many passages that build zeal.

Pray for zeal, and open your heart to the fuel of God's word. The promise is, "*Ask and you shall receive*" (Matthew 7:7-11). If you ask according to God's will your request will be granted.

Conclusion:

A heart burning with zeal is one that is diligent for service to God (2 Timothy 2:15). A heart full of zeal offers no room for the corruptions of the world. It takes time to develop great zeal. Zeal starts like any other fire, with a little kindling and a spark. If your zeal is only a candle flicker and not a towering inferno, now is the time to fuel the flame.

Gradual Growth

By Gary Henry

We are an impatient people, and when things need to be fixed, we prefer them to be fixed quickly. If there are problems, we demand instant solutions, and we have little tolerance for delay in obtaining the results we seek. In our culture, the concept that some plan might take a lifetime to be accomplished is unthinkable. Long before that, we would have concluded that the plan wasn't working -- we would have changed plans.

Spiritual growth, of course, does take time, and we need to be more patient than we often are, both with other people and with ourselves. But I suggest that what we really need to be is more humble. We must put our pride in its place and be willing, perhaps for quite a long time, to be novices, or beginners. Between us and God, there is a long road to be traveled. All who've gone before have had to make the journey. Should we be exempt? If we're expecting God to provide us a shortcut, who do we think we are?

But we also need courage. Our Lord's own journey took Him through painful territory, and He endured all of it patiently, humbly, and courageously. So the Hebrew writer says, "Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin" (Hebrews 12:3,4).

At the present time, none of us is anything more than a work in progress. Our characters are unfinished and not yet ready for direct communion with God. But we're on the way to that goal, if indeed we've obeyed the gospel of Christ and are remaining true to the confession of our faith. Each day God's hammer and chisel are at work on us, chipping away at the sin that has hardened around our hearts. Since we're still alive and able to talk about it, one thing ought to be obvious: God has not given up on us! And neither should we. Eventually, God's methods, however ineffective they may seem right now, will be seen to have been the best. Meanwhile, let's trust the process

"... till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"
(Ephesians 4:13).

and give it time -- nothing less than a lifetime -- to work. It may be slow, but it's very, very sure.

". . . knowing God and developing faith is a gradual process. There are no shortcuts to maturity. It takes time to be holy" (Erwin W. Lutzer).

Change: Our Unwelcome Benefactor

By Gary Henry

"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life" (John 12:24,25).

An honest look at our lives would indicate that we have benefited from change. Many, perhaps most, of the best things in our individual characters are creative adaptations to changes we were forced to accept earlier in our lives. The loss of a job and the resultant move to another city, for example, required adjustments in our attitude that we would not have made otherwise. And ever since, we've benefited from that attitude alteration.

Yet we resist change. Because of the uncertainty of the future and the possibility that change may entail pain and personal loss, we not only resist it, we fear it. If change is our benefactor, it is an unwelcome one. It's somewhat like surgery: whatever good it may do for us, we don't like it and we don't look forward to it.

Inside our "comfort zone," there is much ease -- much ease, but little growth. Sometimes ease is what we need, of course, but if all we ever had was ease, we would not grow. As good as growth is, however, we would rarely give up our ease in order to grow. Most of the time, we have to be goaded in the direction of growth by changes that are forced upon us from the outside.

From the Christian's standpoint, change and its attendant "trials" can be seen to produce endurance and a deeper faith. "My brethren," James wrote, "count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience" (James 1:2,3). Abraham is the great example of how this works. If it had been up to him, he probably wouldn't have chosen to leave his home in Ur. But having endured that unexpected change faithfully, he knew more about trusting God than he could have learned in a hundred years back home (Hebrews 11:8-16).

**"Change is
the nursery of
music, joy, life,
and eternity"
John Donne**

Reaching forward requires a willingness to embrace change. There is no such thing as a "forward" that lets us stay comfortably where we are; we can't stay put and still move forward. And since change will come to us all, our choice is simply a choice of attitude: will we resist change and make ourselves miserable, or will we accept it with gratitude for the good things that it makes possible?