

*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**

Using Our Talents

By T. Sean Sullivan

Have you ever known someone who is incredibly talented? Someone who can just about do anything? The kind of person who can paint a picture, play an instrument, and even rebuild the engine in your car in their spare time? There are some very talented people in this world. Even in the Lord's church there are those who are very talented. They seem to be very at ease serving as song leaders or tending the Lord's Supper. They may even teach when necessary and be able to do so at a moment's notice. It is a good thing that we have individuals like that and they need to be appreciated for the good use of their talents. Sometimes, however, because there are those of us with less ability we often want to let others do the work as we try to blend into the background. I suppose we tend to deny our own talents because we compare ourselves to others instead of just doing what we can do with our own ability. We all have abilities. We are all talented in some way. We must be good stewards of the talents we possess. Using those talents to serve and glorify God. We need to discuss our talents and how to use them wisely.

To use our talents wisely we must find our talents. We are all familiar with the idea of "hidden talents." As we travel through life, occasionally, we discover that we have an ability that we never knew we had. Most often it is because we have not had opportunity to express that ability in the past. It is like a man who stands in one spot for his entire life. He will not know if he can walk until he tries. To find your talents try walking. The Hebrew writer instructs us to, "*Consider one another in order to stir up love and good works*" (Hebrews 10:24). In other words look around see what you can do. You might be surprised what talents you have hidden away inside you just waiting to be awakened. Maybe you are an

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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which meets at:

**112 Sunset Ave.
Wellsburg, WV 26070
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“Apollos,” able to speak well to teach others. Maybe you are a “Barnabas” you are able encourage others in good work. Maybe you are a “Dorcas” able to use your talent to supply other’s needs. As part of a local congregation we all have something to do. We are to be joined and knit together as an effective unit in which every part (each of us) does their share (Ephesians 4:16). Every individual member doing their share causes growth of the body. In order for this congregation to reach it’s full effective potential every member of this congregation must be working at their full potential. You will find your full potential by discovering and using your talents.

To use our talents wisely we must express our talents. We must, however, find the proper way of expressing them. There are two distinct areas in which we can express our talents. We can express them religiously. By religiously I mean the use of our talents in specific authorized service. For example prayers, Lord’s Supper, preaching, song leading, teaching, etc. Expressing our talents religiously demands staying within the boundaries of God’s authority. We must make sure that we are doing only that which we are authorized to do to the full extent of our ability (Romans 12:4-11). Seeking to be the most effective worker for the Lord that we can be. We also can express our talents secularly. Many talents do not have an application in our specific service to God. One may be very talented with a musical instrument or be an incredible athlete. These are undeniable talents but they have no role in specific service to God. Not that instruments or athletics are wrong in and of themselves. God has just not authorized their use in worship or the spread of the gospel. We have a responsibility to use our talents in both areas fully considering God’s will. Remembering that we are to be living an example every day. Paul records by inspiration, “*Whatever you do in word or deed do all in the name of the Lord*” (Colossians 3:17). This extends to all areas of our life and it serves as a warning and a reminder. This passage warns us to conduct ourselves righteously every moment of our life. It also reminds us all that we have is from God who gave us the opportunity of salvation through His Son. Knowing this we must use our talents to the fullest without allowing them to come before our service to God. We cannot skip out on services for a baseball game or to play in a band concert. We must have our priorities set in the right place and they must be fixed in their place (Matthew 6:33).

To use our talents wisely we must increase our talents. We all have room for improvement. We cannot be satisfied with, or rest on, what we have done in the past. We must only be looking ahead to what more we can do. Christianity is about growth. We grow (mature) by studying and increasing our knowledge of God’s word. Striving to be pleasing to the Lord. (Colossians 1:10-12). We have a responsibility to our Lord and our brethren to develop our talents and use them to reach the goal laid out before each of us as Christians. Our goal being compared to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13). Our full potential must be reached so that we might reach this goal. That is going to take effort on our part. God has provided you with the abilities, now you must develop them and use them to achieve the goal.

Each of us has, within us, the ability to find and express our fullest potential. The talents that we have must be developed and used each day. Take a step back and examine what you have been doing for the Lord. Ask yourself, “Is it the best I can do?”

"Is it all that I can do?" Or is it, "All that I want to do?" Look inside, find your talents, develop them, use them and become the most effective servant you can.

News N Notes

Sick:

- Anna Henderson is doing better and hopes to come home this afternoon
- Josephine Clow & Zeda Goddard both have gone home from the hospital
- Continue to remember—Vicki Renshaw; 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.

Gospel Meetings:

- Middlebourne church of Christ—April 1-6 with Danny McKibben—7:00 PM

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

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>10:00 AM</i>
	<i>10:45 AM</i>
	<i>6:30 PM</i>
<i>Mon.—Friday</i>	<i>7:30 PM</i>

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*

Bring your Bibles and join us as we study from the Word of God
For More information call 304-737-1422