

<i>In search of</i>		
Truth and Right Tim Henderson, Editor		
Vol. 01 No. 41 05/13/ 2007	<i>"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."</i> Phil. 4:8 (NASB-U)	A publication of the Wellsburg church of Christ

Are you gonna check?

By: J. S. Smith

Ronald Reagan popularized the phrase, "Trust ... but verify," when dealing with Mikhail Gorbachev and the old Soviet Union back in the 1980s. While we were busy making disarmament treaties with the faltering, evil empire, Reagan was glad to extend a measure of trust to our enemies ... as long as he could also make certain they were worthy of that trust.

My four-year-old son has a little Gorbachev in him – not the massive cranial birthmark, thankfully, but the need to have his reliability certified. I trust him, but I had better verify what he tells me just the same. When I tell him to tidy up his room, for instance, and then ask later if he obeyed me, he often will ask, "Are you gonna check?" Most parents will instantly recognize that phrase as evidence that the room is still most untidy.

Think of the New Testament as our Father's instruction and life itself as our untidy room. A pile of stinking indulgences in the corner, partially-eaten temptations under the bed, some things to put away, some things to take out. The Father sends us to tidy up and we come back a few minutes later a little worse for wear. He looks down and asks how we did.

"Are you gonna check?"

Short answer? Yes, He's gonna check.

So the Christian enters his room with repentance, sweeping away the indulgences of yesterday with genuine remorse. He drags out the temptations from beneath his bed and commits himself to resistance. He puts away "*lying ... bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking*" (Ephesians 4:25, 31) and displays in their stead his "*love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control*" (Galatians 5:22-23).

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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And God is still gonna check. Because He loves us and not only wants us to have tidy, unspotted, faithful lives (James 1:27), but because He wants us to be ready to dwell in a mansion over the hill-top when this life inevitably concludes (1 John 3:1-3). God helpfully verifies that we are progressing.

"And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:13). I'm glad God's gonna check.

"It is well with my soul"

Compiled by David Riggs

Horatio G. Spafford, a successful Chicago lawyer, lost most of his wealth in the financial crisis of 1873. He sent his wife and four daughters on a trip to France; but on their way, their ship was struck by another, and sank. Of 225 passengers, only 87 of them survived.

Mrs. Spafford was among the survivors, but the four daughters perished. As soon as she reached land, she telegraphed to her husband: "Saved alone. Children lost. What shall I do?"

Spafford left for France to join his wife and return her to Chicago. In the depth of this bereavement, he wrote his only hymn: "It is Well With My Soul." Perhaps the words of the first stanza will take on new meaning for us, as we ponder them.

*"I would have lost
heart, unless I had
believed that I
would see the
goodness of the
LORD In the land
of the living."
Psalm 27:13*

**When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrow like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot,
Thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."**

*"And after my skin is
destroyed, this I know,
that in my flesh I shall
see God, whom I shall
see for myself, and my
eyes shall behold, and
not another. How my
heart yearns within me!"
Job 19:26*

The Politics of Dancing

By: J. S. Smith

Dancing has always been a popular human activity and its history can be traced all the way back through the Old Testament. It appears to be a natural way to express emotions and feelings, including joy, excitement, lust and even hate.

There appear to be three categories of dancing in the Bible, which are at least vaguely paralleled in modern society: social amusement, public rejoicing and acts of worship.

Jephthah's daughter led the maidens in a dance of public rejoicing when her victorious father returned home from battle, but if she had known what was coming next, she might have chosen a more somber jig instead (Judges 11:34). The Israelite women also combined to celebrate in

dance when Saul and David triumphed over the Philistines (1 Samuel 18:6; 21:11; 29:5).

As for worship dances, Miriam led the Hebrew women in one example (Exodus 15:20), but dance was just as often an act of pagan idolatry (Exodus 32:19, 1 Kings 18:26). David, however, danced and whirled as the ark of the covenant traveled in a show of public excitement (2 Samuel 6:14,16; 1 Chronicles 15:29). The psalmist likewise ascribes to dance a characteristic of worship in Psalm 149.

Dancing as a form of worship would be as authorized today as burning incense and slaughtering sheep, for the New Testament is silent on the issue, choosing instead to command and exemplify singing and prayer, for instance (Col. 3:16-17, Eph. 5:17-21). And the dance of public rejoicing is much modified as well so that it hardly fits the category any longer.

That other expression of dance, however – for social entertainment – is another matter. Perhaps the only Bible example is found during the ministry of John the baptizer who lost his head – literally – when the daughter of Herodias entranced her stepfather/uncle with her exhibition (Matthew 14:6, Mark 6:22). Today, however, dancing is widely popular as a social amusement – from high school proms to cheerleading to honky-tonks to the vile creatures cavorting on MTV.

Our concern as disciples of Christ is not that we are violating a New Testament command which says “Thou shalt not dance.” There is no command. It is the lewdness and lust bound up in so much modern dancing that ought to be a grave concern to anyone who wants to go to heaven and take others along. Paul includes among the works of the flesh one called in the Greek *aselgeia*, translated lewdness or licentiousness and meaning in part, “indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females” (Gal. 5:19, Thayer).

It is not the word “dancing” to which we object, but lewdness and licentiousness wherever it is found. Paul says the works of the flesh are evident and those who practice them cannot inherit the kingdom (19, 21).

News N Notes

Sick:

- Dorothy Sams, Linda Marshall's mother; Anna Henderson; Susan and Scott Swanson, Dorothy Lancaster's daughter, and their baby
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband; Kenny Johnston, Kathy Johnston's brother-in-law;
- Amanda Dowdy; Terry Smith's brother George; Faith Kress, Linda Marshall's niece
- Ed Roberts father; Ila Marshall, Harold Marshall's mother.
- Continue to remember—Marie Roberts; Terry Smith; Vicki Renshaw; Cindy North; Grace Lancaster

Nursing Home:

- Hazel Carroll
- Pauline Sellers

Shut-ins:

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