

*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**

The 23rd Channel

Selected

The TV is my shepherd, my spiritual growth shall want.

*It maketh me to sit down and do nothing for his name's sake
because it requires all my spare time.*

*It keepeth me from doing my duty as a Christian because it presenteth so many
good shows that I must see.*

*It restoreth my knowledge of the things of the world,
and keepeth me from the study of God's word.*

*It leadeth me in the paths of apathy and doing nothing in the Kingdom of God.
Yea, though I live to be a hundred, I shall keep on
viewing my TV as long as it will work, for it is my closest companion.*

Its sound and its picture, they comfort me.

*It presenteth entertainment before me,
and keepeth me from doing important things with my family.*

It filleth my head with ideas which differ from those set forth in the word of God.

*Surely no good thing will come to my life,
because my TV leaveth me so little time to do the will of God.*

Thus, I will dwell in the house of idleness and sloth forever.

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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"In your faith ... supply love"

By: S. Scott Richardson, Sr.

Via—Gospel Guide, May 1995

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." So reads 1 John 4:8. Love is the essential nature of God, and those who are His children must have this same essence. *"But God commendeth His own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8). He loves mankind even while yet sinners.

2 Peter 1:7 states that those who would escape from the corruption of this world should give diligence to add love to their lives of faith. Immediately preceding the admonition to add love, brotherly kindness, or "love of the brethren," is introduced. Peter, being guided by the Spirit of God, makes it clear that only loving those who would reciprocate is not sufficient. "Love" (agapao) must be added to the brotherly kindness. This is the type of love previously mentioned that is the very essence of God. It is an unconditional love.

God displayed His love for mankind in a most dramatic way -- the sending of His Son into this world to die on our behalf. There was no apparent reason for God to take such action. No one deserves the blessings of God by means of any excellence inherent in mankind. God did it because He is God -- Love.

As true "love" develops, the first way it is expressed is in the striving to keep all of the commandments that God has issued for His followers (John 14:15,21,23; 15:10; 1 John 2:5; 5:3; 2 John 6).

Love is also evidenced in the concern for the welfare of all men with no ill-will to any (Romans 13:8-10; 15:2). Not only does love express concern for others' welfare, but it actively seeks to do good to all men *"and especially toward them that are of the household of faith"* (Galatians 6:10).

The love of God should create a saturation of love in every aspect of a believer's life -- love for brethren and love for mankind. A Christian should have a love that sparks an interest in souls' salvation and ignites into a burning desire to share with others the love of God. This is the essence of God. This is the essence of a true Christian.

Get Ready

By: Ethan R. Longhenry

It is a scene that has played out in all of our lives at some point. We enter the classroom and sit down at our desks and prepare for class. The teacher walks in, begins instruction, and announces that there will be a pop quiz on the material assigned previously. Panic sets in-- we have not prepared! What are we going to do?

In the classroom setting, sometimes being unprepared was not the end of the world. The grade could be made up in other ways. Perhaps we did not do so well in certain classes; that does not mean that we have failed in life.

On the other hand, what will be our fate if we are not prepared in our spiritual lives? God has established through the Scriptures that all people are on continual notice-- the end could come at any time, and therefore people must live in a prepared state. How is this so? What can we do?

There are many who deny that the end will come quickly-- they believe that the end will be observable by various signs and that mankind will have many chances to repent before the actual end comes. The Scriptures, however, reveal a different story. The time that mankind has been given to

repent is right now (Acts 17:30-31); in fact, the reason why the end has not yet come is so that mankind may have that chance to repent (2 Peter 3:8-9). The end will come "like a thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5:2).

How and when the end would come was a concern of Jesus' disciples, and they felt compelled to ask Him about it (cf. Matthew 24:3). Jesus does not give them a fixed moment in time, nor does He establish a particular set of events that would take place that would indicate that the end was coming.

Instead, He compares that time to the time of Noah and Lot (Matthew 24:37-38, Luke 17:26-30): just as people were going about their daily lives in the times of those men, entirely unconcerned about God, and calamity came upon them, so it will be in the end. Jesus then establishes in a series of parables His essential message: be ready, for you do not know the day or the hour (Matthew 24:42-25:13). In all of these images, we do not see any "second chances" given: the door is shut, and there can be no entrance!

Let us consider Matthew 24:45-51:

"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath set over his household, to give them their food in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, that he will set him over all that he hath. But if that evil servant shall say in his heart, 'My lord tarrieth'; and shall begin to beat his fellow-servants, and shall eat and drink with the drunken; the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he expecteth not, and in an hour when he knoweth not, and shall cut him asunder, and appoint his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth."

There is a day of judgment coming; we know not when precisely it will be. Nevertheless, we do not have to live in fear of that day-- we can live our lives as servants of God daily and therefore have no need to fear, just like the faithful and wise servant. When we were in school, if we did well at always studying when we ought, we would never have need to be worried about the pop quiz. The same is true in our spiritual lives: if we are always striving to obey God, we have no need to worry about His return. Are you prepared? Consider the fate of evil servant-- do you want to be where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth? Repent today, and get ready for the Lord's return!

News N Notes

Traveling:

- The Henderson's are in Alabama

Sick:

- Dorothy Sams, Linda Marshall's mother
- Susan and Scott Swanson, Dorothy Lancaster's daughter, and their baby.

- Continue to remember

- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband
- Amanda Dowdy
- Vicki Renshaw
- Terry Smith's brother George
- Faith Kress, Linda Marshall's niece
- Ed Roberts father
- Ila Marshall, Harold Marshall's mother
- Marie Roberts
- Cindy North
- Grace Lancaster

Nursing Home:

- Hazel Carroll
- Pauline Sellers

Shut-ins:

- Rhea Henthorn
- Ethel Mahan
- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Pauline Midcap