

*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**

"And She Prevailed Upon Us" The Story of a Certain Woman

By: Jason Moore

Part 5—

Changes: A Gift and a Burden

Lydia went to Atlanta this past Monday to visit a friend whom we'll call "Sarah." Sarah is the one who challenged Lydia's religious convictions in college which then led to Lydia's personal investigation of the scriptures and salvation. Sarah is facing some challenging crises and Lydia went to lend her assistance. I continue to marvel at Lydia who has this boundless sympathy for the spiritual needs and predicaments of others, when her own immediate challenges are so great. The Lord "knowing that His hour had come" washed the disciples' feet on the night He was betrayed (John 13:1-5). She has learned well from the Master, His model of service. What better preparation for tomorrow's uncertainties than service. What better preventative to despair. What better legacy. What greater testimony to faith.

Tuesday evening, Sarah and Lydia were involved in a serious automobile accident. Their vehicle rolled. Both were rushed by ambulance to Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta. Fortunately, Lydia was only badly bruised—she is still quite tender from her recent surgery. Sarah, who was driving, suffered a broken shoulder and a concussion. She underwent surgery on her shoulder on Thursday and is making good progress now. Lydia who has faced death so often in recent weeks maintains her cheerful, contented disposition. "I'm moving a little slower than normal," she said on the phone. I marvel again.

Sarah's mother arranged for Lydia to speak to a group of ladies yesterday afternoon. The speak-

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finds Him, that's not too
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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)**



From the editor's desk: This is the fifth of seven in a series of articles written by Jason Moore. This is the record of the conversion of a young lady and the effect it had on those around her. *TRA*

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ing engagement had been planned for some time and in spite of the events of the week and Sarah's hospitalization, it proceeded as scheduled. Forty-eight ladies met in a home. Twenty-two of the ladies were Baptists who were interested in hearing Lydia's story. And Lydia was particularly interested in talking to them having once shared their views on salvation and being sympathetic with their prejudices. So Lydia talked about *Changes*. She talked about her cancer. Then she talked about her conversion.

Just like I would like to read Lydia's notebook, the record in her own hand of her eighteen month quest for God's will, I would like to have heard her story in her own words. Forty-eight ladies in Atlanta heard it yesterday. Some of them had questions. One lady was angry.

"Where are your parents?" the irate lady asked. "They've both passed away," Lydia answered. "Haven't you condemned them by your decision?" the lady continued. "No ma'am. Their destiny is up to God, not me. Whether they are saved or lost depends on their life choices, not mine. The only person's destiny that I can determine is my own." "But that's not easy for me to say," Lydia continued, trying to maintain her composure, "My parents were the godliest people I know ... but they were not baptized for the remission of their sins."

Some inquired about her beliefs on other Baptist views to which she answered, "There is a lot that I still haven't settled in my mind that I intend to study for myself. I can only share with you what I'm sure about. But I can call you later when I've studied those subjects and we can look at the Bible together."

One young lady asked to speak to Lydia privately. She had already been studying the Bible on her own and concluded that she needed to be baptized. Her husband has opposed her however. She asked Lydia how she handled the opposition she received from family. Lydia said, "I struggled with that too, but I decided that eternity will be a lot longer than any family conflict that I encounter—even from my husband. Your salvation may cost you your marriage or your marriage may cost you your salvation. You have to make that decision. I can't promise you that if you choose the Lord everything is going to be okay."

Wise words—and wisdom that Lydia has lived and is living. It's too early to know what that young lady will choose. Who knows whether she or someone else who heard Lydia's story and God's good news yesterday will someday embrace the gospel? It took ten years for Lydia to embrace it after her views were challenged. And she's now redeeming time. Maybe God has used her to point someone else to the path to Him, the way that Sarah did for her.

Aah Sarah. I'd like to meet her too. Is she an extrovert or an introvert like Lydia? If there is anything God is teaching us through Lydia's story, it is that opportunities for any one of us to share His message abound. Plant the seed and watch it grow. It may take two days—like Ruth. It may take two weeks—like Jonah. It may take ten years—like Lydia. And when the harvest of ten years comes, it may come by the bushel!

"God has given you both a gift and a burden," I said to Lydia yesterday. The two are inseparable. Lydia's burden is her gift. The burden of her uncompromising quest for answers, and now the burden of her cancer, her brushes with death, the grief over her nephew, and the uncertainty of her future all give a timid young woman the ability to speak with uncommon candidness, credibility, and wisdom about God's word. May God bless her so that heaven is populated and souls gifted by the burden she bears in faith. A few weeks ago, Lydia said to me, "Jesus died for me as unworthy as I am. If losing my life means that one soul finds Him, that's not too much for Him to ask of me." That's not just talk. She really believes that.



From the editor's desk: As we continue this story I am challenged in my own life and I hope you will be as well. When we look at all of the road blocks the devil has attempted to put before "Lydia" and her determinations to plow ahead in spite of them, we should be challenged to do more in our service to God. Many of us do not have the problems that she is facing from family, friends, health problems, and yet "Lydia" is able to accomplish so much more because of her deep faith in God. As she said "Jesus died for me as unworthy as I am. If losing my life means that one soul finds Him, that's not too much for Him to ask of me." Jesus said in Luke 17:10 *"So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.'"* Jesus has done so much for us, and yet we do so little for Him in return. It is with these thoughts I think of one of my favorite songs "Follow Me" (564 in Hymns For Worship)

I traveled down a lonely road and no one seemed to care,
The burden on my weary back had bowed me to despair;
I oft complained to Jesus how folks were treating me,
And then I heard Him say so tenderly:
 "My feet were also weary upon the Calv'ry road;
 The cross became so heavy I fell beneath the load;
 Be faithful weary pilgrim, The morning I can see,
 Just lift your cross and follow close to Me."
"I work so hard for Jesus" I often boast and say,
"I've sacrificed a lot of things To walk the narrow way;
I gave up fame and fortune; I'm worth a lot to Thee,"
And then I hear Him gently say to me:
 "I left the throne of glory and counted it but loss,
 My hands were nailed in anger upon a cruel cross;
 But now we'll make the journey with your hand safe in Mine,
 So lift your cross and follow close to Me."

News N Notes

Please remember these in your prayers:

Sick/Surgery:

- Terry Smith, Jr., Terry and Lora Smith's son as he deals with cancer
- Susan and Scott Swanson, Dorothy Lancaster's daughter, and their baby.
- Hazel Carroll suffering from pneumonia

- Continue to remember—

- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband
- Amanda Dowdy
- Dorothy Sams, Linda Marshall's mother
- 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