

*In
Search
of*

Truth and Right

Tim Henderson, Editor

**Vol. 02
No. 05
09/02/
2007**

“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)

**A publication
of the
Wellsburg
church of
Christ**

Do you need to be Encouraged or Warned?

By: Gary Henry
Truth Magazine, Vol. 51, No. 6, June 2007

Next Sunday morning, which kind of sermon do you need to hear: a comforting lesson that helps you deal with discouragement or one that gets in your face and warns you to take God more seriously? Depending on your circumstances, you will probably need one more than the other, but whatever your needs are, the Scriptures have what you need.

If, despite your best efforts, you've been struggling and doubting whether you're going to make it to heaven, you need to be encouraged. You need to trust a God who is greater than your hardships, and there are texts in the Scriptures that you need to pay particular attention to. You need, for example, to hear Jesus encourage His disciples: *“In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”* (John 16:33).

But if you've been lax and overconfident lately, your problem lies in the opposite direction. You need to be warned, and there are passages that will do just that. You need to hear, for example, the Lord blistering the Laodiceans: *“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth”* (Revelation 3:15,16).

Passages that give us solace and security (such as Hebrews 4:16: *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need”*) are not in conflict with those that stress reverence and responsibility (such as Hebrews 12:29: *“For our God is a consuming fire”*); they just address two different needs, both of which we will have at one time or another. The Bible is a medicine cabinet that contains both sedatives and stimulants; which medicine we need at a particular time depends on what is happening at that moment.

Over time, of course, most of us will need a balance of both, and that is one good argument for learning all that is in the Bible. We need to be so familiar with all the book of God that in the exigencies of any moment we can turn to the passage we need to hear at that moment. And not only that, we need to be able to open the Bible and read to someone else what they most need to hear at that mo-

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)

This Bulletin is published by the:

**Wellsburg
church of Christ**

which meets at:

**112 Sunset Ave.
Wellsburg, WV 26070**

ment.

Any time a gospel preacher steps into the pulpit, he faces a tough challenge: he must judge the needs of a group of listeners wisely and present a lesson that meets the main need of the group as a whole, without doing damage to individuals in the audience whose needs lie in the opposite direction! A group that needs to be encouraged may contain an individual who is already overconfident concerning his salvation, and a lesson that comforts the group is likely to send that overconfident individual away confirmed in his overconfidence. On the other hand, a strong lesson that warns those who think they stand to take heed lest they fall is likely to have a discouraging effect on that downtrodden soul in the audience who was already doubtful of her salvation and now goes away thinking the task is even more impossible than she thought.

So what is the answer? It is that we all need all of God's Word. And not only that, we need all of those who preach and teach all of God's Word. Some individuals need encouraging while others need warning. Some congregations need to be comforted while others need to be confronted. Some preachers tend to be better encouragers while others do a better job of warning. It is the net effect of all of us doing what we personally think needs to be done that—over time—will be the mix out of which God will bring forth the accomplishment of His purposes (1 Corinthians 12:14-22). The work is much too important (and much too big for any individual) for us to waste time quibbling about whether someone else is putting the emphasis where we personally think it needs to be put.

And what is the application for me personally? It is that I probably need to hear that which I think I least need to hear! The preacher who emphasizes things that I think don't need to be emphasized is probably bringing a helpful counterbalance to my thinking. And the passages of Scripture that seem least congenial to my thinking on a given day are probably those that I most need to listen to.

Variety is more than just the spice of life; it's a requirement for spiritual survival. Do you want a deeper devotion to God? Do you want to be more devout? Then study Bible passages you think you don't need to study and listen to gospel sermons you think you don't need to listen to. Somehow, you'll be encouraged. Sooner or later, you'll be warned. And in the long run, you'll be more healthy spiritually.

Kindness is from the Heart

By: Richard Thetford

I have often thought to myself "what is the one thing that really draws and keeps Christians together?" Well, it didn't take me long to think of the word kindness. When I think of the word kindness I am also reminded of the passage in Ephesians 4:32 which reads "*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*" To be kind takes a sincere effort on the part of each individual. Because of that, when kindness is shown to another, one can see that the heart of the individual doing the kind deed is the way God wants it to be. The passage continues to say that we should be tenderhearted which means to have sympathy or pity for another. It would be like seeing a little puppy with a hurt leg limping across a yard, and being moved with tenderness, you would help fix the puppy's leg so it could heal properly. In the same manner we should want to help our brothers and sisters when they are hurting. When we have a sincere, loving concern for another individual then we will naturally be a forgiving person. We know that God loved us so much that He gave His only begotten son for us (John 3:16). God is willing and wants to forgive us as we stumble through our walk of life, but we must be willing to forgive others first (Matthew 6:14-15). When an individual Christian can grasp the love of God then the love of God will be able to pour forth from the Christian.



From the Editor's Desk:

There is a very old illustration which shows that each one must do his part. There were four brothers who once decided they would give a feast for their friends. Wine in those days was expensive, and the boys decided that each one would buy a certain amount of wine, bring it to the feast, pour it into a large container, and it would be served to their guests. One of the boys thought that instead of buying wine he would just bring water and pour it into the large container. He knew it would weaken the wine somewhat, but since the wine would only be one fourth water, no one would know the difference. The story goes that when the wine was taken out of the large container to be served to the guests, it was all water. None of the boys had done their part in buying wine for their guests.

The growth and edification of the body of Christ depends on the effective working of each and every member.

"...From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love." (Ephesians 4:16)

News N Notes

- **Keep in mind our booth at the Brooke County Fair**—September 7,8,9—we will need help staffing the booth, please plan now to help.
- **Gospel Meeting—October 14-19 with Jarrod Jacobs.**
- Pray for these efforts that God will open doors for us and they will bring forth the fruit desired.

Please remember these in your prayers:

- **Blake Swanson**, Dorothy Lancaster's grandson, is in the hospital at Morgantown having a shunt put in to drain the fluid from his brain.
- **Terry Smith, Jr.**, Terry and Lora Smith's son is in Trinity West, Steubenville, OH, due to dehydration from his cancer treatment
- **Dorothy Sams**, Linda's mother, in Morgantown having tests run to check for Leukemia.
- **Blake Headen**, Alberta's husband will be having a heart catheterization and stints put in Wednesday, and will have tests run later in the week.
- **Virginia Malick**, Peggy Miller's mother
- **Amanda Dowdy** in her recovery, **Mabel Fleming** and we must not forget **Joyce Coen** who is taking care of Amanda and Mabel.
- **Vicki Renshaw** recovering from a broken foot
- Terry Smith's brother **George** is scheduled for surgery Sept. 7th
- **Ed and Marie Roberts**, Ed with kidney stones and Marie's continued recovery from a broken back, also remember Ed's father, **Jim Roberts**.
- **Faith Kress**, Linda Marshall's niece
- **Ila Marshall**, Harold Marshall's mother
- **Cary and Grace Lancaster**

Nursing Home:

- Hazel Carroll
- Pauline Sellers

Shut-ins:

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