

*In
Search
of*

Truth and Right

Tim Henderson, Editor

**Vol. 02
No. 24
01/13/
2008**

"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." Philipians 4:8 (NASB-U)

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

The Stranger

By: Keith Currie

*Walking in the Light—1/06/08
San Juan church of Christ*

A few months before I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small Tennessee town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer, and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around to welcome me into the world a few months later.

As I grew up I never questioned his place in our family. In my young mind each member had a special niche. My brother, Bill, five years my senior, was my example. Fran, my younger sister, gave me an opportunity to play "big brother" and to develop the art of teasing. My parents were complementary instructors - Mom taught me to love the word of God and Dad taught me to obey it.

But the stranger was our storyteller. He could weave the most fascinating tales. Adventures, mysteries, and comedies were daily conversations. He would hold our whole family spell-bound for hours each evening.

If I wanted to know about politics, history, or science, he knew it all. He knew about the past, understood the present, and seemingly could predict the future. The pictures he could draw were so life like that I would often laugh or cry as I watched.

He was like a friend to the whole family. He took Dad, Bill and me to our first major league baseball game. He was always encouraging us to see the movies and he even made arrangements to introduce us to several movie stars. My brother and I were deeply impressed by John Wayne in particular.

The stranger was an incessant talker. Dad didn't seem to mind but sometimes Mom would quietly get up -while the rest of us were enthralled with one of his stories of faraway places - go to her room, read her Bible, and pray. I wonder now if she ever prayed that the stranger would leave.

You see, my Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions. But this stranger never felt obligation to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our house - not from us, from our friends or from adults. Our longtime visitor, however, used occa-

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
304-737-1422**

sional four letter words that burned my ears and made Dad squirm. To my knowledge the stranger was never confronted. My dad was a teetotaler who didn't permit alcohol in his home - not even for cooking. But the stranger felt like we needed exposure and enlightened us to other ways of life. He offered us beer and other alcoholic beverages often.

He made cigarettes look tasty, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (probably much too freely, about sex). His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing. I know now that my early concepts of the man-woman relationships were influenced by the stranger.

As I look back, I believe it was the grace of God that the stranger did not influence us more. Time after time he opposed the values of my parents. Yet he was seldom rebuked and never asked to leave.

More than thirty years have passed since the stranger moved in with the young family on Morningside Drive. He is not nearly so intriguing to my Dad as he was in those early years. But if I were to walk into my parents den today, you would still see him sitting over in a corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name? We always just called him TV.



Apathy's Antidote

By: Steve Klein

The Bulletin of the church of Christ at New Georgia, 11/25/2007

Apathy is defined as "a lack of feeling or concern: indifference."

We've often heard others complain that "nobody cares" about the underprivileged or the righting of wrongs in society. Uncured social apathy has long been with us. Helen Keller said that, "Science may have found a cure for most evils; but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all -- the apathy of human beings." That being said, religious apathy has not always been as widespread as it is now. American history is filled with examples of religious passion. But today, apathy is a growing problem in our country and in the church.

One indication of the problem is seen in the increasing lack of concern for attending church. Recent studies by the Barna Group have shown that from 1992 to 2003 the average attendance at a typical church service has dropped by 13% whereas the population of America has increased by 9%. Their research also indicates that at the present rate of change, most Americans will identify themselves as non-religious or non-Christian by the year 2035. Corresponding to these figures, other studies have shown a continued decline in general Bible knowledge among the American population. The sad reality is that if we asked the typical American, "Is the biggest problem in the religious world today ignorance or indifference?" most would probably respond by saying, "I don't know and I don't care!"

The Scriptures command that Christians be "*fervent in spirit, serving the Lord*" (Romans 12:11). The word "apathy" should never describe our service to the Lord. Yet, how much concern are we showing in our service? Are we attending as we should? Do we involve ourselves in church work according to our talents? Do we study our Bibles? Do we talk about God's truth with others? Are we striving fervently to live godly lives? If we're honest, most of us would probably admit that we do not show enough concern for these things.

What is the cure for spiritual apathy? To my knowledge, there is no support group that one can join to overcome apathy. There

Today's Sermon:

A Closer Relationship

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

is no such thing as Apathetic's Anonymous, and if there were, no member of the group would care enough to tell you who they were or where they meet.

So, what's the cure for apathy? Peter tells us in second Peter the third chapter. The coming of the day of the Lord will cure apathy! Peter reminds us that the day of the Lord will come, and that just as surely as God once destroyed the earth with water, He will destroy it again with fire. He says, *"The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up"* (2 Peter 3:10). If we accept that, we won't be apathetic! Peter goes on to say, *"Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God ..."* (2 Peter 3:11-12a).

Everyone will have their religious apathy cured by the day of the Lord. Either you will swallow the cure in this life by accepting the reality of His coming or the cure will be forced upon you on that day. When the Lord returns and the earth is destroyed, everyone will care about their service to Him.

Deciding not to choose Jesus is still making a choice.



Read the Bible ... It will scare the "Eternal Punishment" out of you.



God doesn't want shares of your life ... He wants a controlling interest.

News N Notes

Remember these in your prayers:

- Dorothy Lancaster
- Josephine Clow
- Trudell Tennant
- Lucille Harless, Dave Harless' mother
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband.
- Blake Swanson, Dorothy Lancaster's grandson
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Roy Rhodes, Peggy Miller's brother
- Merl Frey
- Tammy Garrison, Zeda Goddard's daughter
- Audrio Gaudio, Nancy Morris' great-granddaughter
- Mabel Fleming
- Ed & Marie Roberts, & Ed's father, Jim Roberts.
- Ila Marshall, Harold Marshall's mother
- Cary & Grace Lancaster

Nursing Home:

- Hazel Carroll
- Pauline Sellers

Shut-ins:

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