

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

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Christ**

Discipline

*By: Gary Henry
Enthusiastic Ideas—Jan. 15, 2008*

*He that would be
superior to external
influences
must first become
superior to his own
passions.*

Samuel Johnson

Life presents us with no greater challenge than when it asks us to discipline ourselves. There aren't many good things that can be accomplished without self-mastery, but for all its importance, this kind of discipline is also very *difficult*. To learn to discipline ourselves effectively, we must usually pass through a painful apprenticeship. Most of us will fail frequently before we master the ability to channel our abilities in consistently good directions.

Too often, we spend our training energies learning nothing more than *how* to do what we *want* to do. Having learned that, we then insist on the right to do whatever we want. But as Aristotle pointed out, "What it lies in our power to do, it lies in our power not to do." The highest form of discipline is the ability to refrain from doing what we *might* do in order to achieve goals consistent with what we *ought* to do. Just because a thing can be done, that doesn't mean it should be done. Discipline knows the difference. It's able to subordinate impulse to principle. It knows what to put in . . . *and also what to leave out!*

Things like self-esteem and self-respect are high priorities with most people. In view of that, it's ironic that self-discipline is not valued any more than it is. Folks who've been down the road far enough in life to know what works and what doesn't all report that it's impossible to like ourselves if we don't discipline ourselves. Abraham Joshua Heschel, for example, said, "Self-respect is the fruit of discipline; the sense of dignity grows with the ability to say no to oneself."

So the ability to govern ourselves is critical. But as we said at the beginning, it's very difficult. It's not a skill learned overnight, but one that comes from growth and training. We need to get in the game and start learning discipline, but we also need to be patient with ourselves.

The main thing is to decide *who we are* and *what we want*. This

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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sounds simple, but there aren't many people in the world who've really done it. We can have *anything* we want, but not *everything* we want. Some choices have to be made; some things have to be given up. Let's not let our lives be marred by things we're too weak to let go of.

“Discipline is remembering what you want.” - David Campbell

What will you do next?

By: Shane Williams

The Lilbourn Light—Vol 8, No. 8, Dec. 2007

The night before Jesus was crucified, two of His disciples turned against Him: Judas betrayed Christ, leading His enemies to Him in the Garden (Luke 22:47,48) and Peter denied three times that he even knew the Lord (vss. 57-60).

Yet the difference in what they did next was enormous. Peter wept bitter tears of repentance and later was gently restored (vs. 62; John 21:15-17); but on the other hand, Judas *“threw the pieces of silver into the sanctuary and departed, and he went away and hanged himself”* (Matthew 27:5).

We are going to have shortcomings but when we sin, the most important thing is what we do next. If we lose our temper and say something cruel to a family member, what do we do next? If we mistreat a friend, what do we do next? If we find ourselves dwelling on evil thoughts, what do we do next? To make excuses justifying our behavior, to blame another person, or to ignore God only adds more sin to the first.

Perhaps there is some sin in your life. If so, you're faced with a choice. If you are a Christian, repent and confess it to God (1 John 1:9). If you are not a Christian, the only way to receive forgiveness of past sins is through Christ Jesus (Acts 2:36-38; 22:16). Denying that you have any need for Christ in your life is not a wise choice. What will you do next?

When you sin, don't make it worse with another sin, thereby adding sin to sin. Take it immediately to the Lord and follow Him. The most important thing is what you do next?

Today's Sermon:

*AM—A Closer
Relationship—02*

*PM—Getting Caught
up in Failures*

The Christian Life

By: Richard Thetford

Walking in the Light—01/13/08

“even so we also should walk in newness of life.” The Christian life is a life of faith (Romans 1:17). Our old life was buried and now we serve the Lord in *“newness of life.”* Paul said in Galatians 2:20: *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”* The “true” Christian realizes that the “old man” was crucified with Christ and now lives a “new”, pure life before God. John wrote: *“And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure”* (1 John 3:3).

The Christian life is also a life of self-denial. Jesus said that *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let*

him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matt hew 16:24-25). Some have trouble living the Christian life because they have **NOT** determined to really let Jesus rule their life, denying anything that would stand between them and their service to the Savior.

Peter writes: *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world"* (1 Peter 5:8). The Christian realizes that Satan is active and working to destroy all those that try to do good. The Christian life is not an easy life. The apostle Paul told Timothy: *"all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution"* (2 Timothy 3:12). If we feel that we are suffering some type of persecution as we live our Christian life, then we must be doing something right. *"Count it all joy when you encounter various trials and tribulations"* (James 1:2).

The Christian life is also a life of prayer. Every Christian should be spending time talking to God every day (Matthew 26:41). God wants and expects us to pray to Him (1 Timothy 2:8). Are you spending time talking to God? When we talk to God it shows Him that we are trying to do His will and we are seeking his help and guidance, along with praising Him for all that He has done for us. The Christian life is a life of obedience to God, knowing that Jesus is the *"author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him"* (Hebrews 5:9).

In addition to all these things, the Christian life is a life of growth (1 Peter 2:2), and a life of abiding in Christ (John 15:5-6). May we all strive to live the Christian life because after all, we are wearing Christ's name aren't we? Are we really living the kind of life that our Savior Jesus Christ would be proud of? God knows if we are!

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