

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

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Christ**

Glory and Grandeur

By: Gary Henry

WordPoints—February 16, 2008

*"The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament shows His handiwork."*

Psalm 19:1

The vast riches of God's majesty are signified by every work of His creation, from the very great to the extremely small. There is nothing about the natural environment God has designed to surround and support us that does not show His greatness -- if we have eyes to see and hearts to understand.

The more urbanized our culture becomes, the more difficult it is for us to keep in contact with nature. Our automated, technological way of life cuts us off from the primary evidence for God. It is no coincidence that deep faith in the reality of God is more widespread in agrarian communities, where people interact more with the marvelous things that God has made and less with the things of man's making. The farmer who has a chance every morning before the sun comes up to rub his hand gently along the side of his milk cow, feeling her heartbeat, has an eloquent advantage over the executive who knows little more than the feel of his computer keyboard. The less daily contact we have with what God has created, the more difficult it is to think of God as we should.

Or perhaps our habitat's powerful statements about God don't impress us because they are so commonplace. We've seen sunsets on many occasions. A flower is nothing new. We saw the snow fall so many times last winter we wished we'd never see it again. And that ingenious raccoon who gets into our garbage can is

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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nothing but a nuisance. At some point, we simply quit paying attention. Even the most amazing things cease to amaze us.

But the vast, eternal sweep of God's wisdom, love, and power remains, waiting for us to open our eyes wide with the wonder that was so easy when we were children. The thunderous surf pounds the rocky shoreline every day. The clouds billow and continue their lazy drift across the blue sky. The aged oak welcomes the sparrows into its branches. The deer lifts his antlers and sniffs the wind, his ears alert. A clear stream tumbles noisily down the mountainside while the massive peak above silently surveys the earth for miles around. Everywhere, and in all things, the creation scintillates with the glory of its Maker.

“The world is charged with the grandeur of God.”

Gerard Manley Hopkins

“None of these things move me”

By: Jerry L. Henderson

The truly great men have been those who have had a great goal in life. Abraham is called *“the father of all them that believe”* Romans 4:11. His goal in life was that he *“looked for a city not made with hands.”* Hebrews 11:8-10. Moses also took the long view on life. He *“had respect unto the recompense of reward”* and *“endured as seeing Him who is invisible.”* Hebrews 11:24-27.

If greatness may be found in men whose goal in life was great, then the apostle Paul must be found with this number. His goal is stated in Philippians 3:13,14, where he said: *“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”* Paul did not consider this earth to be his home, he was looking toward heaven as his goal—Philippians 3:20,21. When he was on his way to Jerusalem and spoke with the Ephesian elders, Paul talked about things that would befall him; but he said *“none of these things move me.”* Acts 20:17-24. Paul had his mind set on his goal and would allow nothing on earth to move him from it. Let's look briefly now at some things that Paul would not allow to move him away from his goal.

Paul would not allow physical afflictions to hinder him. In 2Corinthians 11:24-27 he lists a number of physical abuses which he underwent such as: beatings, stoning, shipwreck, etc. so that his very life was in danger at almost every turn. Yet, he would not allow these things to move him away from his goal. Many of us today should take a lesson from the apostle Paul because many times we allow such things as our aches and pains; ridicule and pressure from the world to keep us from serving the Lord both on the Lord's day and in our daily lives.

Paul would not allow fleshly appetites to move him from his goal. He said in 1Corinthians 9:27 *“I keep under my body and*

Today's Sermon:

*AM— Self
Righteousness*

*PM—What will the end
be?*

bring it into subjection...." Are we as determined as Paul was to keep the desires of the flesh from moving us away from our goal? Does our desire for material wealth cause us to do things we shouldn't or leave undone the things that we should? Does our desire for "fun" sometimes entice us to participate in questionable activities or to miss the assemblies of the Lord's people? The desires of the flesh (eating, drinking, socializing, even sexual desires) are good and right in their proper place. However, we must control them instead of them controlling us.

Paul would not allow worldly position or honor to keep him from his goal. In Philippians 3:4-11 he gives an impressive set of credentials for himself, yet he gave it all up for Christ. Are we as conscientious today as was Paul? I fear that many times we allow worldly honors, scholastic achievement, sports involvement or our desire for high positions to hinder us in our service to God. This is especially a problem for our young people. The pressure is put on them to achieve and many times that

which is right is not considered. There is nothing inherently wrong with achieving in most cases. However, if we sacrifice truth and right or our service to God to achieve worldly position or honor then it becomes sin.

It is easy to stand up and be counted when we are in the majority, but rather difficult when one must stand alone.

Paul would not even allow family relationships or friends to deter him from reaching his goal. He had to forsake the teaching of his parents as well as the instructor which they provided for him Acts 22:3. When he heard the truth he realized that he had to forsake all who did not or would not stand for it. Note what Jesus said in Matthew 10:34-38 in regard to physical relationships and their importance when it comes to serving the Lord. Paul realized that he had to serve the Lord even if it meant standing alone 2 Timothy 4:16,17. It is easy to stand up and be counted when we are in the majority, but rather difficult when one must stand alone. Some

will just quit serving rather than "go along" with error and seem to fail to understand that the ultimate consequences are the same. Others are willing to just conform to the thinking of the crowd, but Paul did neither.

We must consider whether we are allowing ourselves to be moved away from our goal. No one ever said standing for the Lord was easy! (JLH)

News N Notes

Remember these in your prayers:

- Lucille Harless, Dave Harless' mother
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband.
- Blake Swanson, Dorothy Lancaster's grandson
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Trudell Tennant
- Bud and Merl Frey
- Tammy Garrison, Zeda Goddard's daughter
- Audrio Gaudio, Nancy Morris' great-granddaughter
- 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