

*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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Are we looking for Automatic Obedience

By: Gary Henry
via— WordPoints, March 24, 2008

***"Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." —
Luke 9:23***

In our effort to live in consistent obedience to our Heavenly Father, we sometimes try to make it easier than it can ever be in this life. We suppose that there must exist some state of holiness where right conduct has become automatic. Yet no such state exists. As G. Campbell Morgan cleverly put it, "Holiness is not inability to sin, but ability not to sin." Obedience is never anything less than a choice on our part, and we may as well face the fact that the choice will sometimes be very hard.

There are certainly means by which we can minimize the number of hard moments that come our way. It would be foolish not to do all we can to establish godly habits and patterns of obedience in our lives. When we do this, we gain the advantage of a "momentum" that is going in the right direction. But there will be a certain number of hard moments that still have to be faced, and it's precisely at these moments that we find out how much commitment to God we really have. If we only obey when the momentum is favorable, what kind of commitment is that?

We shouldn't be so foolish as to underestimate the devil's diligence. If we ever did get to the point where we could turn back the common temptations with relative ease, our adversary would simply up the ante and hit us with harder choices. Until we're on the other side and out of his reach, the Evil One is not going to

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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)**

give up on us. It's naive to look for some stage up ahead where saying "No" to him will have become so easy as to be automatic.

Modern avionics are such that today's aircraft will, for all practical purposes, fly themselves. In the spiritual realm, however, there is no such thing as an autopilot that will take the hard work out of decision-making. Obedience will always require moment-by-moment choices. Even those who live a long time and make much spiritual progress face this reality: there is never anything more than a decision standing between us and disobedience.

Jesus did not say, "Come to me and get it over with." He said, "If any man would come after me, let him take up his cross daily and follow me." Daily is the key word. Our commitment to Christ, however genuine and wholehearted it may be today, must be renewed tomorrow ... And the day after that ... and the day after that ... until the path comes at last to the river. —Louis Cassels—

666 & Red Fire Trucks

By: Kent Heaton

Fire trucks have four wheels and eight fire fighters; four plus eight equals twelve. There are twelve inches in a foot. A foot is a ruler. Queen Elizabeth is a ruler, and the Queen Elizabeth is one of the largest ships on the seven seas. Seas have fish. Fish have fins. The Finns fought the Russians. The Russians are red. Fire trucks are usually rushin'. Therefore, fire trucks are usually red! This all make perfect sense to anyone trying to make a conclusive argument to show why fire trucks need to be red. It does not matter that most of the conclusions have nothing to do with one another but any argument that begins with a supposition of truth will end with a conclusion of truth—or so it seems.

John writes in the Revelation: "Here is wisdom. He that hath understanding, let him count the number of the beast; for it is the number of a man: and his number is Six hundred and sixty and six." (13:18) Prognosticators of our modern time have continued the historical search for the identity of who the 666 refers to and have used a myriad of formulas to construct elaborate arguments of identification. A recent article supports this theme: "What about 666? Let's take a shocking look. On the Pope's official mitre has been seen the title "Vicarius Filii Dei," which means "Vicar of the Son of God." The claim that this is his official title has been stated publicly through the years." The article then begins to break down this title using the meaning of Roman numerals in the following order: V=5; I=1; C=100; A=0; R=0; I=1; U=5; S=0; F=0; I=1; L=50; I=1;

Today's Sermon:

*Who Killed
Jesus?*

Mark 15:6-25

I=1; D=500; E=0; L=1. When all these numbers are added up, they equal 666.

This could be an impressive argument if you followed how or why God would reveal to John the shocking truths of the numerical sequence of a man's hat in the year 2008. A similar argument can be given that Judas Iscariot is the man of 666. The book of Revelation is the 66th book of the Bible. The book of Revelation is the 27th book of the New Testament. The identifying passage of the antichrist is the 13th chapter and the 18th verse. $66 + 27 + 13 + 18 = 124$. The number 124 identifies the writer of the book as John. He is one of the 12 disciples and is named 4th in the order of apostles—hence, (12)(4). Reading John 12:4 identifies the antichrist as Judas Iscariot: *"Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him."* Of course this has as much truth as why fire trucks are red and the Pope is the man 666.

The Bible never teaches that Jesus is going to return to Earth and set up His Kingdom. Paul said he was a member of the kingdom of Christ. (Colossians 1:13) The supposed "antichrist" is not going to suddenly appear and begin to set in motion any events leading up to the war between Satan and Christ. Religious leaders have deceived the hearts of the simple minded to cause them to believe the fantasies of religious dogmas based upon the teachings of men. When Christ returns Paul said everyone will know it. *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God."* (1 Thessalonians 4:16) There is no such thing as a rapture [has anyone been able to find the "rapture" in the Bible?]; there is no such thing as the tribulation that is coming to usher in the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. These must all stand together or fall together. If one falls they all fall.

John said we can understand and have wisdom about the use of the "man" and "666". We can count the number of the beast and see the attention is given on the number and its significance and not on a specific man living today. The doom of the Jewish nation as described by Jesus in the gospels fits with all that John was showing in the Revelation. The complete and total failure of all that man seeks to do is shown in God's final message to man. Red fire trucks and modern day religious mathematics used to discover who the man of 666 is share a common beginning—and end.

News N Notes

Remember these in your prayers:

- Dave & Wilma Harless as they travel
- Dave Brewer's granddaughter—Cheyenne Elizabeth Brewer
- 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:

- Pauline Sellers
- Ethel Mahan

Shut-ins:

- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Pauline Midcap