

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**

The God Who Waits for Our Return

By: Gary Henry

***"Thus says the Lord: "Will they fall and not rise?
Will one turn away and not return?""***

Jeremiah 8:4

One of the wondrous aspects of God's character is the love with which He waits for us to turn back to Him. Only He could have made it possible for us to return, of course, but since He has done so, a failure to return is contrary to all wisdom, and even to common sense. Listen to the words with which God implored Judah in Jeremiah's day: *"People of Jerusalem, when you stumble and fall, you get back up, and if you take a wrong road, you turn around and go back. So why do you refuse to come back to me? Why do you hold so tightly to your false gods?"* (**Jeremiah 8:4,5 Contemporary English Version**).

The God who waits for our return is a God who has promised us *forgiveness*. We can't fathom the value of what He had to sacrifice to make this forgiveness available, but we can stand in awe of the sacrifice and its underlying love. More than that, we can determine that our gratitude will be shown in our deeds. We can turn back to God, grounding all our hopes in the goodness of His character and living out the balance of our days in commitment to His truth. However foolishly we have forsaken Him, God remains the God He has always been. Long ago He revealed Himself to Moses as *"the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin ..."* (**Exodus 34:6,7**). *"To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him"* (**Daniel 9:9**).

But the God who waits for our return is also a God who has promised us *rest*, and rest is surely what we need. Although we were designed for joy, most of us have worn ourselves out in counterfeit

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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)**

pleasures and substitute satisfactions. Hardly even knowing what we were looking for, we've been looking for joy in all the wrong places, and with truly tragic results. Our foolishness has worn us out. But God has made possible our return to Him, and it's only in such a return that the prospect of real joy can spring to life. Here is where our homesick hearts should come to rest. Here, at last, is where we find a perfect Friend.

“There can be no happiness equal to the joy of finding a heart that understands.” —Victor Robinsoll

Today's Sermons:

AM—Lessons we can learn from Geese

PM—Everyone stood in his place

Worldliness

By: Gary Henry

“Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.” —Mark 4:18,19

Worldliness is the sin of being so wedded to this world that we pay too little attention to the world to come. It means being preoccupied with *temporal* matters to such an extent that *spiritual* concerns are crowded out of our thinking. To fellow Christians, Paul wrote, “*Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth*” (Colossians 3:2). This is not easy to do, given the strong pull that this world can have on our hearts. If we're not careful, worldliness will “choke” God's word and cause it to be “unfruitful” as far as we are concerned.

When some people think of “worldliness” they think of sins which violate the tradition of conservative social values, particularly those of the Victorian era. When preachers inveigh against worldliness, for example, they often have in mind things like drinking, gambling, and the wearing of immodest clothing. But there is more to worldliness than this. Certainly any outward action which violates the principles of godliness and purity is sinful, and we're in a dangerous position if we think we're so much more enlightened than our grandparents that we don't have to be concerned about such things. But worldliness is a problem of the *heart*. It afflicts all who are moved primarily by worldly motives, perhaps even the preacher who takes a condescending attitude toward “sinners.” Despite outward appearances, the drunkard and the prostitute may be closer to the kingdom of heaven than some others. In truth, their hearts may not be tied as tightly to this world as those of their more “respectable” contemporaries!

In the parable of the rich fool, God said to a certain prosperous man, no doubt a “good” fellow in many ways and one whose life might even be called admirable, “*Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?*” (Luke 12:20). And Jesus concluded this worldly man's story by saying, “*So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God*” (Luke 12:21).

“Worldliness is excluding God from our lives and, therefore, consciously or unconsciously accepting the values of a man-centered society.” —Erwin W. Lutzer

The Judges of Israel

SAMUEL
IBZAN
TOLA

SAMSON
DEBORAH
JEPHTHAH

SHAMGAR
EHUD
JAIR

GIDEON
ABDON
OTHNIEL

ELI
ELON

S E I H E L O U D B A A L O S A M S O B
H H H G S T E L O N R U N N O D B A U S
A A E U A D L A O O E B H D N G E E M H
M H S H U N N E B M I I O L S A M S A N
I T L H A A D E A A E O E I A L A H S E
N H E R G I D S N E L O D S H U O I M N
L P U N G S A M U E L B I H A R O B E D
G E N I J D S T H A A G G O I J N E S B
A J A A G I H E A H A E E B L S E P R O
B N Z U H E A L O L O U A E S A M S O N
D G B I O A M R A D A D I O R G D O E E
O R I O I L G A I I S N R J E P H T H D
O I H L A O A G N S H I J O T H N I A E
N A E N J T R J I T T R S H O M G A R B
D J E A H S S N O D L G G O J S H S A U

News N Notes

Remember these in your prayers:

- Terry Smith
- Earl Miller
- Trudell Tennant
- Lucille Harless, Dave Harless' mother
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband.
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Blake Swanson, Dorothy Lancaster's grandson
- 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

Last Weeks:

B I N G D N U N E S I M O N A
I L S A A R A N U A B H M E L
N A A D O H Z P I L H E O B E
J H C H J U D J H M U L A U E
E P S E H A N I D T A B I R I
M A I S A C H A R H A J I B E
O N R H N B A D U J H L N Z N
N L E I Z E B U L U N S J E C
N E U N I D R J U D A H A L B
O H B O O E M S D E N H I L
E C E A H I V D A N J J P H H
M A N S I E L I V I J O E C N
I R A E L H A P L I Z S S A E
S C R A H C A S S I N E O R E
M E H N A E S A I H A D J J E