

In
search
of

Truth and Right

Tim Henderson, Editor

**Vol. 02
No. 46
06/15/
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." Philippians 4:8 (NASB-U)

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

Thinking of Quitting?

By: Bill Hall

No doubt, someone will read this article who is discouraged, weary of struggling, disappointed in his brethren, facing severe obstacles in his service to the Lord, and is in danger of quitting. But I would make this appeal: "Before you quit, look anew at the incentives the Lord holds before you; look again at heaven."

Heaven means victory—Victory in the strife with Satan and his allies. The battle is sometimes hard; the foe is formidable. Our own strength seems so small. We become discouraged. But lift our eyes! On our side is the Lord, the One who has already won the battle (Genesis 3:15). With His aid we can be victorious. We can be *"more than conquerors through Him who loved us"* (Romans 8:37).

Heaven means beauty—unsurpassed beauty—a street of gold, walls of jasper, a foundation of precious stones, gates of pearl, a crystal clear river flowing from the throne of God.

Heaven means home—Happiness is not found in our material surroundings, but in being with those we love. We experience homesickness, but our homesickness is not for a house or anything material, but for wife and children, for loved ones. Similarly, we speak of the beauty of heaven, and truly its beauty enhances our anticipation, but surely the greatest joy will be found in being with our Lord, the One *"whom having not seen [we] love,"* and with our God, with the Spirit, with the angels, and with the re-deemed of all ages. This will be our eternal homecoming.

Heaven means happiness—There will be nothing there to mar our happiness. There will be no more tears, no more sickness, no more heartache, no more death, *"nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away"* (Revelation 21:4).

Heaven means holiness—Never again will we hear the name of our Lord taken in vain. There will be no more adultery, filth, guilt, murder, crime. Truth will abound. There will be no more lying, deceit, flattery, hypocrisy. Women will no longer have to fear those who would abuse and desecrate them. Love will be pure and unfeigned. The Lord assures us, *"But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life"* (Revelation 21:27)

This Bulletin is published by the:

**Wellsburg
church of Christ**

which meets at:

**112 Sunset Ave.
Wellsburg, WV 26070
304-737-1422**

**TIMES OF SERVICES
SUNDAY**

**Bible Classes*
10:00 AM
AM Worship
10:45 AM
PM Worship**

6:30 PM

Heaven means eternity—This blessed state shall never end. “When we’ve been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we first begun” (Joseph Scriven).

You can quit if you so choose, for God will not force anyone to serve Him. But, remember, the day you quit is the day you forfeit all hope of eternal happiness and choose in its place eternal damnation. And eternity is a long time.

Today’s Sermons:

Daniel’s Prayer

The Traditional Party Line

By: Warren E. Berkley

Years ago, a man from a neighboring church came to the city where I was located, walked into my office and immediately said, “OK, what is your position on the marriage question?” I said, “...*whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.*” His response? “Yeah, the traditional party line!”

I said, “Wait a minute. All I did was quote Matthew 19:9; I’ve just repeated the words of Christ!” He said, “Well, but is that all the truth?” Almost as he said that, he heard what he had said! “I mean ... I mean, I know Jesus taught the truth ...” His words had already betrayed him. Rather than submit to the clear teaching of Jesus he had chosen to hurl an accusation that impugned my beliefs. But what did he mean by the phrase “traditional party line?” Behind this charge may be at least one of four attitudes:

1. I don’t like what you teach, won’t accept it so I’ll distract you from discussing the Bible by making this charge. This was certainly the case with the man above. If I spent time defending myself and why I believed what I believed that was time not spent discussing what Matthew 19:9 means. Clever tactic, yes? If I have close friends or relatives who want to marry, naturally I don’t like to hear someone teach something that would question that union. And without any doubt, if I am contemplating a relationship, and you tell me I shouldn’t, I won’t like that. But instead of just saying, “I don’t like what you are teaching,” it is much easier (and sometimes more effective) to charge “Well, you are just repeating the traditional party line.”

2. There are many others who have taught this for many years. So what? The fact that a teaching has been held for years does not necessarily prove it is wrong. Being traditional is not always bad. 2 Thessalonians urges us to hold the traditions of the apostles. There are thousands of brethren who have taught the necessity of repentance and baptism for many generations. This says nothing about the validity of repentance and baptism. The number of preachers and/or writers who have taught a proposition does not minimize its validity, or prove it. Likewise, the number of years something has been taught neither diminishes its truthfulness, nor makes it true.

3. You haven’t really studied, and you don’t really have your own convictions; you have blindly accepted the word of others. I would guess this is what is behind the “traditional party line” charge most of time. The charge then is a way of saying that I can read your heart and know your motives. It also says that I know that you are not sincere, nor a truth seeker. The only person qualified to make such a charge is the one who is able not only to know what we teach, but why we teach it. If you are able to know (have real evidence) that someone has put himself under the dominion of others; if you are certain that a man prefers “popular brotherhood thought” (whatever that is) to personal Bible study, then perhaps you are equipped to make this charge.

4. I don’t have any real arguments or response to what you are teaching. Here is the real problem the man described above had. He had nothing to say in response to Matthew 19:9, knew what he was doing was wrong, but wanted to do it anyway. So, he threw charges around to try to

I am not prepared to ignore a real danger here. There is a temptation to preach what others are preaching; there is the sin of listening to men and ignoring God; and there is such a thing as a Pharisaic, party-spirit mentality. But when you teach what the Lord said in Matthew 19:9, or anywhere else, because you believe in the Lord and want to stand where He stands, don't be intimidated by the charge of submitting to the "party line." And the fact that 95% of the preachers you know and respect teach the same thing is never a reason to throw it out. What do you think?

My good friend Harold Turner wrote about this a few years ago in a journal. His conclusion fits well here: "Personally, I don't give two hoots about traditional or nontraditional in the whole thing, and would like to make an appeal to anyone who might be feeling the pressure of the nontraditional use of the word traditional these days. Don't be too quick to apologize for preaching and teaching that which has characteristically been taught, for there is at least an outside chance that the reason that bit of teaching is traditional is because it is so."



- Mary Jane Myers
- 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

- Pauline Sellers
- Ethel Mahan

- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Pauline Midcap