

*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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Instrumental Music and Alcohol

By: J. D. Williams

This article is based on a true story with some modification in order to make the illustration. I knew of a person once who thought himself to be a very devoted Christian. He loved to listen to gospel music. Unfortunately, he also loved to drink! One day while intoxicated he wanted to listen to some gospel music. The songs moved him to tears. His heart swelled with deep emotion and love for the Lord. He had never experienced such spiritual feelings before. The next day when he was sober, he listened to the same music again. But something was wrong. While he enjoyed the music, somehow it didn't have the same effect on him. It was quite a let down. Later in the week, he was drinking again and began listening to his collection of gospel music. This time that wonderful elation returned. What joy and happiness he felt. After he sobered up and while thinking on the problem, he came to the conclusion that the only way he could truly enjoy the music and have the feeling he thought he was supposed to have was to be in a drunken state! As a result of this wrongful conclusion, he was never again able to listen to gospel music while sober.

I have asked many people that used mechanical music when they sing why they did it. The most standard reply was, "because it makes me worship better!" Others say it "stirs their souls" or "they feel closer to God through its use." "Why you can't beat a good old fashion hand clapping, foot stomping song service to get you in the spirit." "Can't you worship God without it," I asked? "I guess, but who would want to? There's just no feeling without a good piano or something playing the background." "But we are told to sing only, don't



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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)

you think the Lord had something better in mind when He forbade their use?" "Don't you think any emotions we feel by singing these psalms and hymns should come from the heart? And that true worship which God intended would be evidenced by singing unaided and by following His command?" Usually, the conversation ends here with, "well, it makes me feel good, and I don't see anything wrong with it."

I believe a fair comparison may be made with the use of intoxicants and instrumental music in worship. Both are artificial stimulants. And both induce a false sense of emotions, which I believe are very addictive! Just as the alcoholic comes to rely on his booze to artificially stimulate him that he might function in life, so the use of mechanical music by those who have come to rely on that to stimulate them to worship. It is truly sad that those who continue to rely on such will never know the real joy of worshipping God in song as He has commended.

Today's Sermon: *Spiritually Minded*



Living Without Nourishment

By: Kent Heaton

The human body is composed in such a way that without daily nourishment, weakness, disease and death will follow. It will be a gradual process but one that if not altered will result in a horrible death of starvation. Pictures of emaciated children bring tears to the eye; parents who also suffer from the deprivation of proper nourishment raise the anger of society to seek correction. A greater need is found in the lives of people who have little or no spiritual nourishment.

As in the physical body, the spiritual man requires daily nourishment. Paul declared that our faith is determined by our knowledge of the word of God (Romans 10:17). The word of God is shown to be as the manna provided Israel in the wilderness (Exodus 16). Jesus taught the Jews that what they had in the wilderness did not give them lasting life but He was the manna from heaven that gave eternal life. *"I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh"* (John 6:48-51)

Without the nourishment of Jesus Christ in our lives, we cannot live. Each day must be filled with the desire and the filling of our hearts, minds and souls to partake of the *"bread of life."* The word of God is as necessary in our day-to-day lives as physical nourishment to our mortal bodies. Without it; we die!

*"I am the bread of life. ...
I am the living bread that
came down out of
heaven; if anyone eats of
this bread, he will live
forever;"*

The Psalmist declared that he languished for salvation in the Lord and he waited for the word of the Lord to revive him (Psalm 119:81-88). He loved the law of the Lord and it was his meditation all the day (Psalm 119:97). Psalm 1 shows the value of meditating on the word of God daily: *"His delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night"* (v2). The measure of our faith is proportionate to the measure of our daily nourishment of the word of God. Little contact with the Lord will offer little hope in the Lord. Little hope in the Lord will starve your spiritual life to death.

Do you struggle daily with the challenges of life? Are the temptations of life overwhelming your courage to fight off sin? Spending time in the everlasting manna will give hope and victory to your lives. How sad that so much is available to us from the word of God and how little we use in our lives. Paul declared the gospel was the power of God (Romans 1:16). This power is the manna of our lives that gives us hope, vision, courage, faith and the ability to fight off the disease of sin. Without it we are doomed.

The people of God were destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). Living without the nourishment of the knowledge of the grace of God will cause our lives to wilt away in a miserable agony of spiritual death. Make your commitment to live with the word of God each and every day of your lives as much as you commit to taking care of your mortal bodies. Our fleshly bodies will pass away but our inward man must be renewed daily. *"Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day"* (2 Corinthians 4:16). *"Put on the new self who is being renewed [daily- keh] to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him"* (Colossians 3:10). Don't go hungry. Your life depends on it!

News N Notes

Remember these in your prayers:

- Phyllis Coen
- Mary Jane Myers recovering from surgery
- Phyllis Coen recovering from pneumonia
- Sue Prager, Ken Prager's mother, recovering from surgery
- 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