

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

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We Need Both Desire & Training

*By: Gary Henry
Wordpoints—08-14-2008*

"... exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come."

1 Timothy 4:7,8

It is important to have a passionate desire for God and also to undergo the training necessary to fulfill that desire. Both of these things are needed in the spiritual life, and either without the other will leave us short of our goal. In fact, if either of these is isolated from the other, the result can be disastrous.

First, consider the necessity of *desire*. The writer of Hebrews tells us that God is a "*rewarder of those who diligently seek Him*" (Hebrews 11:6). If Jesus taught anything at all, it was that God must be deeply desired. Those who will be "filled" are not the indifferent, nor are they those who happen to get in a religious mood once in a while. They are, as Jesus said, those who "*hunger and thirst for righteousness*" (Matthew 5:6). We must be moved by a desire for God that stirs deep within us. If we are not so moved, there is every likelihood that we'll be "*choked with cares, riches, and pleas-*

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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)**

ures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity" (Luke 8:14).

But also, consider the vital importance of *training*. Growing in the worship of God and in the acquirement of godly character is the highest endeavor to which we may commit ourselves. But the pursuit of godliness is like many other pursuits in that it requires the learning of certain *skills* and the adoption of certain *habits of daily living*. It is not a thing that we find ourselves doing accidentally or haphazardly. Because it is a discipline, it takes training. Paul was not wasting words when he urged Timothy to *exercise* himself toward godliness. Our godly desires will simply not be fulfilled if we don't do anything more than what comes naturally.

Desire and training interact with one another and complement one another. Like the serious athlete, we train because of our desire. But when our training begins to bring positive results, that increases our desire. For this reason, it is critical that we pay attention to both. To make spiritual progress, we must deal decisively with anything that threatens either our desire or our training. "Meditate on these things," said Paul. "Give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all" (1 Timothy 4:15).

"Know well that thy enemy laboureth in all wise to stay thy desire in good and to make thee void of all good exercise."

Thomas a Kempis

Perpetual Babes in Christ

By: Dan Shipley

Via—Charlottesville Beacon—08-27-2008

It is heartbreaking to see a child who is undeveloped physically or mentally. But what is worse is to see Christians growing older but not growing in faith. Why is it worse? Because it is a condition of choice; it is a self-imposed condition. This was a problem in the church at Corinth that compounded (if not caused) many other problems. Paul calls such Christians "*babes in Christ*." He says, "*I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able*" (1 Corinthians 3:2). Being "*babes in Christ*" is not the problem STAYING babes in Christ is.

Perpetual babes are the result of neglect. Spiritual growth is no accident. It requires spiritual nourishment and is no less important than the physical. God says we are to "*desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow thereby*" (1 Peter 2:2). Growing in knowledge is essential to growing in faith (Romans 10:17). Those who continue to neglect opportunities to know and grow hurt themselves and hinder their usefulness in the Lord's work.

But that's not all: A lack of knowledge also makes perpetual babes easy prey for Satan. God's Word in man's heart provides a much needed defense against sin. The Psalmist says, "*Thy Word*

Today's Sermons:

*AM—Am I My
Brother's Keeper
PM—Lessons from
the Fall of Jericho*

have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against Thee” (Psalm 119:11). In addition, God's Word provides the armor we need to stand against the wiles of the devil, Ephesians 6:10ff. Peter pictures Satan as a roaring lion walking about seeking whom he may devour, then tells us to withstand him *“steadfast in your faith” (1 Peter 5:8,9).* Obviously, those weak in the flesh will be most vulnerable.

Finally, the perpetual babe in Christ will always be hindered in teaching others the gospel he has not learned himself. God says we are to be ready to give answer to those asking us a reason for our hope, 1 Peter 3:15. Can we? Have we grown as we should? If not, why not start now?

*“For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
“I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit,
to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”
(Isaiah 57:15)*

To worship is:

To quicken the conscience by the holiness of God.
To feed the mind with the truth of God.
To purge the imagination with the beauty of God.
To open the heart to the love of God.
To devote the will to the purpose of God.
(By William Temple)

John 4:24 says ...

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

News N Notes

Remember these in your prayers:

- Paula and Lydia Prager
- Joyce Coen as she recovers from her knee surgery.
- Mary Jane Myers has been in the hospital for the past week
- 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