

*In
Search
of ...*

Truth & 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." Phil. 4:8 (NASB-U)

A publication of the
**Wellsburg
church of Christ**
Which meets at:
**112 Sunset Ave.
Wellsburg, WV 26070
304-737-1422**

We appreciate so much your presence here with us today. We would like to extend an invitation to join us at any of our other times of worship.

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)

Today's Sermons:

*AM-Evidences for God
& His Word*
*PM-Equipping the
Saints—Organizing
For Service*

*Audio CD's are available
free of charge in the foyer.*

*Please visit our website:
www.truthandright.org*

*If you have any questions regard-
ing what we teach and practice,
please feel free to ask*

We would like to invite you to a **Gospel Meeting** **October 5-10**

Sunday 10:00 AM
10:45 AM
6:30 PM
Mon.—Fri. 7:30 PM

with speaker:

Daniel Ruegg
Of Wooster, OH

at the

Wellsburg church of Christ
*112 Sunset Ave.
Wellsburg, WV 26070*

- ♦ *Plain Bible Preaching*
- ♦ *No Nightly Collections*
- ♦ *Simple, Biblical Worship*

*Bring your Bibles and join us as we study
from the Word of God*

For More information call 304-737-1422

In this Issue:

Gospel Meeting - pg. 1—with Dan Ruegg	News N Notes—pg. 4
When Loyalty Fails—pg. 2— Jon W. Quinn	Insert—Outline

When Loyalty Fails

Hosea 6:1-4

By: Jon W. Quinn

The Prophet Hosea lived in a time similar to our own in many respects. Both Israel and Judah, the chosen people of God and descendants of Abraham, were experiencing prosperity and a general weakening of their moral and spiritual fabric. The reason for the prosperity was the weakening of Syria, their chief rival. The nation had been able to scale down its military and become more productive industrially and agriculturally. In our own nation, while the military has become more active recently, and there have been some economic downturns, we are still a prosperous nation.

Hosea lived during such a prosperous time. It seems what is good for the pocketbook is not always good for the soul, though it need not be that way. (contrast Matthew 19:24-26; 1 Timothy 6:9,10; Revelation 3:15-19 with 3 John 1,2; 1 Timothy 6:17-19).

The prophet Hosea lived in the eighth century before Christ. People were demanding more luxuries, and it seemed that the more they got, the more they wanted. They had begun borrowing the religious practices of other nations (the worship of Baal and other idols). They searched for a more sensual and less spiritual religion. Those faithful to God became a smaller and smaller minority, often ridiculed for their faith and narrow-mindedness.

Even then, the Lord patiently called them to repent and return to Him. While there may have been scattered success with individuals, the nation as a whole rejected the invitation and history shows a continued downward spiral to its ruin and destruction. Such could have been averted. History has a lot to teach our

own nation if we'll listen.

Notice the invitation issued by the Lord to the nation through Hosea: "Come, let us return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us. He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, That we may live before Him. So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, Like the spring rain watering the earth." (Hosea 6:1-3)

Why did this invitation fall on deaf ears? The next verse tells us; in a word; disloyalty. "What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? For your loyalty is like a morning cloud And like the dew which goes away early." (Hosea 6:4).



Torn and Wounded (vs. 1)

The People had left God. It had happened gradually over a period of years. Now, God had withdrawn His special providential care from the nation.

All the world is blessed in some ways. Whether we are righteous or faithful, we will enjoy a degree of blessings. The sun shines and the rain falls on both the just and the unjust (Matthew 5:45; Acts 14:17). But God had promised special blessings to His people if they remained faithful (Deuteronomy 11:13-17). Likewise today, there are special blessings reserved only for the faithful (Ephesians 1:3; Hebrews 5:9; James 1:25; 5:16).

That nation suffered many of the same consequences as our own; most were well off

materially, but were suffering in other ways. There was less confidence and good feelings about the future. Love, honor and nobility were becoming forgotten virtues. Their shallow spirituality was taking its toll on the soul of the nation. Greed, despair and fear ruled the day. The law of the jungle was replacing the Law of God (see Hosea's description of this in 5:9-13).

The answer to our dilemma today is the same as theirs; verse 1: "Let us return to the Lord."

Like a Morning Cloud (vs. 4)

This is a rather interesting figure to use to describe the loyalty of Israel to God. Like a farmer who sees a "morning cloud" and his hope for rain for his thirsty crops rises. But as the day continues, the sun grows stronger and as the dew evaporates, so does the cloud. The hopeful prospect vanishes away. The loyalty of Israel was like that cloud. Our nation's loyalty to God today and righteous principles, it seems, are no less fleeting.

The parallel strikes even closer when we look at many in the church today. Their loyalty to God is "like a morning cloud"; faith shallow; priorities misplaced and zeal non-existent. There is a quickness to compromise with the world while going through minimal motions of Christianity, but hearts are far from God (Matthew 7:19-24; 15:8,9; James 1:4; 6-8).

The end result is ruin. We cannot neglect our duty nor abandon the One who died for us without bringing ourselves down. The answer, again, is found in verse 1: "Let us return to the Lord."

Revival and Life (vs. 2)

This passage reminds us of another event that was still 800 years in the future. The resurrection of Jesus is not what Hosea is talking about. But God had already foreordained that His Son would die and arise on the third day, and inspired Hosea to use this language in

describing a spiritual renewal that was needed by the people of his day. "He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, That we may live before Him."

Many such hints in the O.T. prophecies and figures which people of faith would not connect to Jesus until the gospel age (i.e. brass serpent in wilderness; Jonah in the belly of the fish for three days). Now, when we read such, we are caused to be reminded of Christ Jesus, our hope.

The sin of such disloyalty and neglect must be repented of to be cured. To ignore it is to suffer defeat (Ephesians 2:1-5; James 4:8-10). The answer: verse 1 "Let us return to the Lord."

Know the Lord (vs. 3)

Earlier, there was a statement made about the disastrous effect of a lack of knowledge: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." (Hosea 4:6). This seems to indicate a willful ignorance; a refusal to listen; a blindness of choice. The people had chosen to reject God. (Matthew 13:14-15); But it doesn't have to be this way (Matthew 13:16) What made the difference? (Matthew 13:18-23).

As long as one is ignorant, he can mock God's laws and think himself clever in spite of the moral decline seen all around him. Hosea was mocked and ridiculed for his message, and so will we be if we are true to our responsibility to try and help others see the light. But listen! If the Lord's standards were more respected and obeyed today, many of our problems would vanish away! How long will we, as a nation, continue to "reject knowledge"? Much better to "press on to know the Lord" (1 John 2:4-6). We cannot do anything about Israel. They are now a part of history. We can do a little about our own nation; to the extent of our influence if we live by faith. A drop in the bucket, but a much needed drop without which the bucket won't get filled. This is where you have control. Don't let your loyalty be like a morning cloud. The answer is, as always, return to the Lord.

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Tim Henderson
Announcements	Don Coen, Jr.
Song Leader	Earl Miller
Scripture	Ezekiel 22:1-15
Reader	Ken Prager
Prayer	Ed Roberts
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Nathan Marshall
Fruit of the Vine	Chuck Isinghood
Serve	Blake Headen
Serve	Matt Ferrell
Closing Prayer	Dan Marton

Please inform the one in charge of announcements if you are unable to fulfill your responsibilities.

Sunday PM

Announcements	Don Coen, Jr.
Song Leader	Nathan Marshall
Scripture	Ezekiel 22:16-31
Reader	Earl Miller
1st Prayer	Matt Ferrell
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Don Coen, Jr.
Closing Prayer	Ed Roberts

Wednesday

Announcements	Don Coen, Jr.
Class Prayer	Ken Prager
Song Leader	Singing/Praying
Invitation	Dave Harless
Closing Prayer	Tim Henderson

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Hospital:

- Ruth Ann Lemley is in Ohio Valley Medical Center.

Recovering:

- Ann Rudolph
- Mary Jane Myers continues to have a difficult time. She is having pain in her hip and the chiropractor can't see her because she hasn't healed from her surgery
- Cary Lancaster
- Terry Smith
- Joyce Coen
- Marie Roberts

Prayer Requests:

- Lucille Harless, Dave Harless' mother
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband, as he continues to deal with cancer treatments.
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Blake Swanson, Dorothy Lancaster's grandson
- Bud and Merl Frey
- Tammy Garrison, Zeda Goddard's daughter
- Ila Marshall, Harold Marshall's mother
- Jim Roberts, Ed Roberts' father
- Rick Miller, Dorothy Lancaster's nephew, was diagnosed with colon cancer, and will be having surgery in the next few weeks.
- Gary Dickerson, a longtime friend of the Henderson family passed away Friday.

Don't forget our Shut-ins

Nursing Home:

- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers

At Home:

- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Pauline Midcap