

In
Search
of...

Truth & Right

Tim Henderson, Editor

Volume-03

Issue-42

05/17/2009

"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 Sermon:

Conversion
Are You Truly
Converted?

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

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

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

Our Casual Requests for God's Costly Grace

Gary Henry

*"You ask and do not receive,
because you ask amiss, that you
may spend it on your pleasures"*
(James 4:3).

FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE, OUR EXPECTATIONS OF HIM MUST OFTEN SEEM QUITE CARELESS. We have no adequate idea of His grace or His eternal purposes, and so we make claims upon Him so casually that we come close to being flippant and disrespectful. God's goodness is indeed a treasury of wonderful riches. But it was not set up to fund the removal of every little inconvenience from our lives in this world. We need to be careful what we ask for and why. God's grace is not to be taken lightly.

Imagine that a loving, wise parent has made excruciating sacrifices for a son or a daughter to go to college. The par-

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ent is then disheartened to receive frivolous "Send more money!" messages when the student's lifestyle indicates that there's little appreciation for what had to take place for those funds to be made available. In a much more profound way, God must find it disturbing to receive casual "Help me with this problem!" messages from us, when it is obvious that we're out of touch with the reality of what had to be sacrificed to make our prayers possible.

The more serious aspect of the problem is that we see the Cross as little more than our ticket to a trouble-free life. We not only fail to appreciate the COST of grace to God Himself, we don't do justice to the PURPOSE of the sacrifice. The Son of God did not go to the Cross merely to purchase our convenience, or even our happiness. No, what happened on that dark day was *"that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself"* (2 Corinthians 5:19). It is not too much to say that we should see even the blessing of FORGIVENESS in this light. We should not seek to be forgiven merely because it benefits us personally. We should seek it because our reconciliation is a part of God's eternal purpose in Christ, the outworking of which purpose redounds to *"the praise of His glory"* (Ephesians 1:12-14). The kingdom of heaven is not about us. It is about God. We seek to be saved for God's sake, not our own.

"God does not pass out packages of spiritual victory sent special delivery to the person who requests them. Your sin cost him the death of his Son; he is not about to hand out spiritual bandages. He uses your struggles to give you a thorough housecleaning, reorganize your priorities, and make you dependent on his grace. There are no cheap, easy miracles. You must want spiritual freedom, not merely for your own sake, but for God's sake as well" - (Erwin W. Lutzer).

Inevitable Return

Gary Henry

"Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it."
(Ecclesiastes 12:7)

THERE IS NO AVOIDING THE APPOINTMENT THAT EACH OF US HAS TO BE JUDGED BY THE GOD WHO MADE US. When our lives have finally run out, we will die. And when that happens, *"the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it."* Having been created by God, our spirits will return to Him. We will give account of ourselves. It is inevitable.

WE ARE CREATURES, OR CREATED BEINGS. If we simply "happened" to exist as a result of merely physical processes, then at some point we would cease to exist. But we didn't just happen to exist; we were CREATED, and it is to our Creator that we will return. Where we are going has more than a little to do with where we came from!

WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO OUR CREATOR. To be personal beings is a truly awe-inspiring fact. It means that we bear RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR ACTIONS. Freedom of the will is a marvelous gift, and the use of it is something that we shall have to answer for at the end of our lives. *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad"* (2 Corinthians 5:10).

By far the most important question in life is whether, having returned to God, we will be allowed to REMAIN with Him. If we leave this life in a right relationship with God, we will hear Him say, *"Enter into the joy of your lord"* (Matthew 25:21). But if not, we will hear, *"I never knew you; depart from Me"* (Matthew 7:23).

Yet the anticipation of our return to God need not be fearful — it ought to be joyful. That prospect can't be joyful if we spend the years of our sojourn here in selfish indulgence, disregarding the things of God, and in fact, it can't be joyful if we simply live carelessly. But there is no reason why all of us can't make the same deliberate choices that Paul did and be able to say what he said: *"The time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing"* (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

*"All days travel toward
death, the last one
reaches it"*

(Michel de Montaigne).

*Sincerely Setting
Our Hearts On God*

Gary Henry

"Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom."

(Psalm 51:6)

IF WE DEAL WITH GOD AT ALL, WE MUST DEAL WITH HIM IN GOOD FAITH. Our approach to Him must be sincere and straightforward. To the best of our ability, we must really and truly want from God what our approach to Him seems to say that we want.

Most people are aware that the strongest language in the Scriptures is directed against hypocrisy. We recall, for example, Jesus' ex-

pose of the Pharisees: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness" (Matthew 23:27,28). Yet while we wince every time we read these words, we don't normally see ourselves as being guilty of the sin they condemn. We're not everything we should be, but we know we're not guilty of such blatant deceit, at least not intentionally.

But hypocrisy itself wears many masks, and it can creep into our character quite subtly. If we say that we "seek" God and we engage in certain outward actions that appear to be those of a seeker, the implication of all this is that we desire GOD — for His own sake, as He truly is, and on whatever terms He stipulates. Unfortunately, we often have something less in mind. All we really want from God, much of the time, is just a little help adjusting our OUTWARD LIVES to the prevailing social standards of goodness. What He desires, however, is to adjust our INWARD LIVES to HIS eternal standards of truth, which is a very different thing. If we really have no intention of going where we know God is headed, what does that say about our "seeking" of Him?

God is not to be mocked. He cannot be manipulated. There is no possibility of deceiving Him about our intentions when we come before Him. As "the God of truth" (Isaiah 65:16), He requires that our actions truthfully reflect our desire and that our true desire be nothing less than conformity — body, soul, and spirit — to the realities of His truth.

"Sincerity is the prime requisite in every approach to the God who requires 'truth in the inward parts' and who hates all hypocrisy, falsehood, and deceit"

(Geoffrey B. Wilson).

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Earl Miller
Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Ed Roberts
Scripture	Daniel 6:1-14
Reader	Terry Smith
Prayer	Tim Henderson
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Ken Prager
Fruit of the Vine	Don Coen, Sr.
Serve	Chuck Isinghood
Serve	Ken Prager
Closing Prayer	Dave Harless

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Harold Marshall
Scripture	Daniel 6:15-28
Reader	Ed Roberts
1st Prayer	Dave Harless
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Chuck Isinghood
Closing Prayer	Dan Marton

Wednesday

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Class Prayer	Dan Marton
Song Leader	Tim Henderson
Invitation	Ed Roberts
Closing Prayer	Chuck Isinghood

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Recovering:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| - Joyce Coen | - Marie Roberts |
| - Vicki Renshaw | - Ann Rudolph |

Prayer Requests:

- Bud and Merl Frey
- Zeda Goddard
- Zeda Goddard's sons, Dallas and Terry, and her daughter Tammy Garrison
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband, as he continues to deal with cancer treatments.
- Cary and Grace Lancaster
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Alfred & Mary Jane Myers
- Jimmy Roberts, Ed & Marie's son
- Jim Roberts, Ed Roberts' father

Don't forget our Shut-ins

Nursing Home:

- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers

At Home:

- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Betty Hunter
- Pauline Midcap

Send them a card—give them a call—let them know we are thinking about them.

If someone needs to be added to this list, please call:
304-914-2262 or 304-914-2263