

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 Speakers:

AM: Dan Marton

PM: Ed Roberts

*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.*

We're Hindered If We Try To See Ahead

Gary Henry

"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going" — Hebrews 11:8

Unfortunately, our desire to know the future often turns into a demanding attitude toward God. We demand to know what is going to happen. We insist on seeing what's ahead. We put the Lord on notice that if we're going to follow Him, He had better tell us the territory the road is going to take us through.

Yet when God told Abraham to leave his home in Ur, Abraham had enough faith to obey God without being told where the journey would take him. *"He went out, NOT KNOWING WHERE HE WAS GOING."* We need to work on having that kind of trust in God.

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More than most of us realize, we are HINDERED by our attitude toward the future. For one thing, worry about what's going to happen tends to paralyze us; it keeps us from taking steps in any useful direction. But also, trying to see ahead frustrates our faith and keeps it from growing. It's in the actual EXERCISE of faith that faith grows, and the only way faith can be exercised is to take steps that are based on trust in God rather than our own wisdom and foreknowledge. If we insist on walking by sight rather than by faith, we ought not to be surprised that our faith remains small.

One thing is certain: God knows what He is doing and He can be counted on to take care of us no matter where He asks us to go. In Abraham's case, Canaan was no doubt very different than anything he could have imagined back in Ur, but the result of sojourning there was also much better than anything he could have enjoyed elsewhere. Abraham "waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10). As long as he was going toward God, it didn't matter what happened to him in the meantime. It ought not to matter much to us, either.

"Most of us go through life praying a little, planning a little, jockeying for position, hoping but never being quite certain of anything, and always secretly afraid that we will miss the way. This is a tragic waste of truth and never gives rest to the heart. There is a better way. It is to repudiate our own wisdom and take instead the infinite wisdom of God. Our insistence upon seeing ahead is a real hindrance to our spiritual progress. God has charged himself with full responsibility for our eternal happiness and stands ready to take over the management of our lives the moment we turn to him" - A. W. Tozer

When Sorrow Turns to Self-Pity

Gary Henry

"And Cain said to the Lord, 'My punishment is greater than I can bear! Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me'"

Genesis 4:13,14

All who live in this world will have to deal with sorrow. It is inevitable. In an environment where sin is a reality, the temporal consequences of sin are unavoidable — and since sorrow is one of those consequences, we shall have to deal with it sooner or later. The only question is HOW we shall do so. It's important to keep our sorrow from turning into what is called "*the sorrow of the world*" (2 Corinthians 7:10). This is the sorrow that wallows selfishly in its own misery. It does not confront sin in a godly way.

Two things are needed to keep our sorrow from turning into self-pity: REVERENCE and GRATITUDE. When we are passing through any bitterness of spirit, we must maintain a humble respect for the greatness of God as our Creator, and we must not cease to thank Him for all that is right, despite whatever has gone wrong. Even when the sun is shining, we find it challenging to be as reverent and as grateful as we ought to be. When the darkness closes in, however, keeping our thinking clear about God can seem so difficult that we despair. We give in to the "*the sorrow of the world.*"

Failures of reverence and gratitude should be seen as failures of perspective. When pain focuses our attention on some small part of

reality, we tend to lose touch with the larger truths. This is no trivial thing, however. If we refuse to acknowledge the **WHOLE** truth about God, that refusal can cost us our souls (Romans 1:18-21). God is greater than our woes, and whatever the immediate cause for our sorrow, we simply can't afford to forget the clear tokens of God's greatness and goodness in the wider world.

Spenser wrote of the miserable fellow who finds himself "dying each day with inward wounds of Dolour's dart." The sorrow of the world is deadly because it indulges in self-justification. It fuels resentment and resistance to God. Like Cain, the self-pitying soul feels no genuine remorse for evil. He merely whines, "*My punishment is greater than I can bear!*"

*"He lies pitying himself,
hoping and moaning to himself;
he yearneth over himself;
his bowels are even melted
within him, to think what he
suffers; he is not ashamed to
weep over himself"*
Charles Lamb

Prudence

Gary Henry

*"No one tests the depth of
a river with both feet."*
Ashanti Proverb

Prudence means being careful. It means using wisdom, good judgment, and common sense in deciding one's course of action. When the harmful consequences of a plan's failure would be greater than the helpful consequences of the plan's success, pru-

dence will say, "Don't do it." In the game of Russian roulette, for example, a person has a five-out-of-six chance of "winning." But that sixth chance is so dire that no prudent person would play the game at all. It's prudence that keeps us from "courting disaster," as the saying goes.

Some other less-than-desirable traits often masquerade as prudence, of course. "Prudence is no doubt a valuable quality," wrote Robert Cecil, "but prudence which degenerates into timidity is very seldom the path to safety." Whenever we say we're being prudent, it's often worth asking whether we're being that or just plain mousy.

And not only that, there are many times when prudence should not be the governing factor. From the standpoint of common sense, doing the *right* thing is often very imprudent, and many of the noblest deeds in the history of the world would never have been done had their doers allowed prudence to decide the question. Robert Hall summed it up nicely in this way: "In matters of conscience, first thoughts are best; in matters of prudence, last thoughts are best."

But properly understood and wisely exercised, prudence is a good thing, a very good thing indeed. It would be a coward who never considered anything but the counsels of prudence, but it would be a fool who never consulted prudence at all. Prudence should always be given a seat at the table when significant matters are being decided.

In the end, I think the best way to look at prudence is to see it as something that helps us in the areas of *restraint* and *reserve*. In this age of uninhibited excess, we need to get reacquainted with some things like simplicity and understatement. It may be trite, but it's also true: *less is sometimes more*. Prudence can help us to get that "more" by putting the brakes on our runaway trains of thought.

*Tell not all you know,
believe not all you hear,
do not all you are able.*
Italian Proverb

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Ed Roberts
Announcements	Dave Harless
Song Leader	Ken Prager
Scripture	Dan 8:1-14
Reader	Chuck Isinghood
Prayer	Harold Marshall
Speaker	Dan Marton
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Tim Henderson
Fruit of the Vine	Dan Marton
Serve	Matt Ferrell
Serve	Don Coen Sr
Closing Prayer	Don Coen Jr

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Dave Harless
Song Leader	Ed Roberts
Scripture	Dan 8:15-27
Reader	Dan Marton
1st Prayer	Chuck Isinghood
Speaker	Ed Roberts
Communion	Ken Prager
Closing Prayer	Don Coen Sr

Wednesday

Announcements	Dave Harless
Class Prayer	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Ed Roberts
Invitation	Dan Marton
Closing Prayer	Earl Miller

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Traveling:

- The Henderson's are in Alabama and the surrounding area visiting family

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
- **Charissa Wallace's 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