

In
Search
of ...

Truth & Right

GENESIS

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

Today's Speakers:

AM: Harold Marshall

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.*

Perparing to Die Well

By: Gary Kerr

I love to read. I do a lot of reading of all kinds, including things to help me in my work of preaching. However, I also try to set aside some time every day to do some "recreational" reading on a variety of subjects, usually history-related. Several years ago I enjoyed very much reading Robert V. Remini's three-volume biography of Andrew Jackson, our eighth president. The second volume of that set is entitled *The Course of American Freedom, 1822-1832*. I ran across an interesting story in this volume that I want to share with you.

In June, 1832, a massive cholera epidemic hit the United States, having been transported to this country from Europe. It has been estimated that between June 1st and November 1st, some three-thousand people died from this

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disease, and one of the hardest hit cities in the U.S. was Washington D.C. Nearing the end of his first term, President Andrew Jackson, already in poor health at age 65, was warned by his family back in Tennessee to get out of Washington and return to the Hermitage, his plantation home near Nashville, to ride out the epidemic. Jackson eventually did return to Tennessee, but not until July 22nd.

Prior to his departure (June 21st), Jackson wrote a letter to his beloved daughter-in-law, Sarah, to calm her fears for his health. In that letter, he said, in part:

"My Dear Sarah, Knowing that we have to die we ought to live to be prepared to die well, and then, let death come when it may, we will meet it without alarm, and be ready to say, 'The Lord's will be done.'" (Remini, p. 387).

To be honest, this statement took me by surprise. Jackson spent most of his life a skeptic at best, believing most if not all organized religions were out to take money from the masses, and were harmful to society. He did claim to accept Christ, on the urging of his wife Rachel, just prior to her death in 1828, and he "professed" religion from then until his death in 1845. However, even his admiring biographer Remini refers to the above statement as "pious fatalism," the last hope of an old man who desperately missed his wife and wanted some hope that he might be with her again.

Whatever Jackson's spiritual condition might have been, I believe he expressed poignantly and accurately a Scriptural truth that we all must accept. The author of the book of Hebrews says, "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after

this comes judgment" (9:27). Jackson was right! We all have to die, and we will all stand before God in judgment. How much calmer, how much more serene, how much more composed could we be approaching our own deaths than knowing that we had "lived well," and that we were prepared to face that judgment of God and hear Him say, "Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34).

What about you? Are you striving to "live well" so that you can go to Heaven? If not, then you are, in the words of a wonderful old song, "unprepared to meet your God," and should face the prospect of your own approaching death with alarm! Why not correct that situation while you have opportunity? When you do, you will know what Jackson was talking about, what Paul called that "peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension" (Phil. 4:7).

Why Go to Hell Twice? *by David Diestelkamp*

Arguably, the statement, "My life is hell on earth," is false. Of course, exaggeration is understandable during times of intense suffering--but what if it wasn't exaggeration? What if life really is so bad that worse cannot be imagined? Well, God still insists that eternal hell is worse, since it is total absence of the presence of His glory (2 Thess. 1:8). Faith says, no matter what happens in this life, to "curse God and die" (Job 2:9) is not the answer.

If someone maintains that their life truly is "hell on earth," then surely they will get their fill of it here and do everything possible to go to heaven in eternity! If life is hellish, why go to hell twice? Why let temporary suffering lead to eternal suffering? Any glimpse of hell someone may think they get in this life should serve as driving motivation, pushing them to find the way to heaven and to do whatever is necessary to go that way.

Why do so many blame God for evil and suffering, rather than Satan? Why do so many choose an eternity in hell rather than in heaven? The biggest problem we face is that it hurts now! It's hard, perhaps even impossible, to ignore searing pain, even if we are told it is temporary or that something better awaits us in eternity. The cry is, "Make it go away now!" The temptation is to deprecate future eternal spiritual bliss while desperately searching for and clinging to false promises of temporary physical relief.

Faith and hope say we have to wait to see and have what we desperately need (Heb. 11:1; Rom. 8:24-25). We hate waiting--especially when the deficiency is or seems urgent or unbearable. God does not ask that we ignore pain, depravation or loneliness. He does not suggest that these are not real. What God does ask is that we know and trust Him enough that we will accept His answer to these.

Most people contend that God sometimes answers "yes" to requests for relief from suffering, and sometimes He responds with a "no." This, in turn, opens up a debate as to why God might give such replies in certain circumstances. Some conclude that a good and loving God wouldn't sit by and do

nothing as suffering and death ravage us--and they are right! God has done something!

Unbelief based on human suffering misses the theme of the Bible, it denies the value of God becoming flesh, and ignores the proclamation of the cross--God cares! "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16). Is it possible that, as God told Paul, His grace is "sufficient"? (2 Cor. 12:9). God knows that we need our tears wiped away--no more death, sorrow, crying and pain (Rev. 21:4). These are real needs and are addressed fully by God by giving His servants a home where none of these exist for eternity. It is not cruelty for God not to end suffering for everyone now, it is merciful for Him to give us a way to conquer even death "through Him who loved us" (Rom. 8:37).

Suffering now pushes us toward God because He alone can end it for us. Focusing on heaven motivates faithfulness since "the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18).

What is the alternative? What is the point of being "of those who draw back to perdition"? (Heb. 10:39). Will we let the feeling of being cursed in this life cause us to choose damnation? What is the point of going through a life of suffering while also holding to "a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries"? (Heb. 10:27).

Why would anyone want to go to hell twice? God's mercy and grace says we don't have to.

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Don Coen Sr.
Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Ed Roberts
Scripture	Dan 9:1-14
Reader	Blake Headen
Prayer	Dave Harless
Speaker	Harold Marshall
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Don Coen Jr
Fruit of the Vine	Ken Prager
Serve	Chuck Isinghood
Serve	Dan Marton
Closing Prayer	Earl Miller

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Ken Prager
Scripture	Daniel 9-15-27
Reader	Chuck Isinghood
1st Prayer	Ed Roberts
Speaker	Ed Roberts
Communion	Tim Henderson
Closing Prayer	Dave Harless

Wednesday

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Class Prayer	Earl Miller
Song Leader	Dan Marton
Invitation	Don Coen Jr
Closing Prayer	Chuck Isinghood

News N Notes

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Bud Frey who passed away Saturday Evening. Arrangements to be announced.

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:

- 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
- Monty Wallace, 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