

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

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes* 7:00 PM
(* Bible Classes for All Ages)

Today's Sermons:

*AM: Stability in
Difficult Times
PM: The Medes &
Persians*

*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*

The Passionate Pursuit of God

Gary Henry

*"How lovely is Your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of
the Lord; My heart and my flesh cry out for the
living God." (Psalm 84:1,2)*

GOD SHOULD BE NOT ONLY OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY BUT ALSO OUR MOST FERVENT PASSION. Love and desire for Him should stir so deeply within us that we seek Him AT ALL COSTS. If God is indeed our Creator, no less than this is required. It would be the greatest folly imaginable to treat God as one of our "peripheral" interests.

Some years ago, there was a theologian who defined religion as a person's "ultimate concern." While this is true in a certain sense, the concept of "ultimate concern" may be misleading. Ultimate concerns may be equal in that everybody has one, but they are not equal with regard to validity or

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value. To be of value, ultimate CONCERN needs to be aligned with ultimate REALITY. But more to the point, not every person's ultimate concern is equally STRONG. We all have something that we care about more than anything else, relatively speaking, but we don't all give ourselves with equal passion to our priorities, even our highest ones. Some people simply don't pursue ANYTHING with passion. And when it comes to God, none of us can say that we pursue Him as passionately as we SHOULD. God deserves more than we usually give Him.

To put it bluntly, in our present spiritual condition we are weak. And overcoming our weakness is a process that requires focus and dedication. As artist Thomas Kinkade, the "painter of light," has written, "You don't get into physical shape by wishing you were a better athlete, and you don't get into better spiritual condition by harboring some vague spiritual yearnings." In the Beatitudes, Jesus said it with pointed clarity: *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled"* (Matthew 5:6). *"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God"* (Matthew 5:8). Those who shall be filled are those who hunger for God with a hunger that is desperate. And those who hunger are those who long for Him with a passion — we may even call it a DETERMINATION — that will not be denied.

"For many of us a right relationship with God is seen as an important part of 'the good life' which every well-rounded individual should address, but it is certainly not the whole of things. Jesus says it must be more than a vital interest — it must become the reigning passion of our existence. All that truly hungry people can think of is food" Paul Earnhart

Freedom From Bondage

David Hartsell

Moses was born during a perilous time for Israel. The Egyptian king who exalted Joseph and invited Jacob's family to live in the land of Goshen was a distant memory. The new monarch did not know Joseph. He became frightened by the dramatic increase in Israel's population. So he enslaved Israel and made them rigorously serve in Egyptian building projects. Out of fear, the Egyptian monarch ordered newborn male Hebrews to be thrown into the Nile River. Moses' parents disobeyed this command. Instead they made a little basket in which they placed baby Moses and set him among the bulrushes near the bank of the Nile. Pharaoh's daughter came to the river to bath. She found the basket and opened it to see the babe crying. She had compassion on the child and adopted him as her own son.

As Moses grew to manhood he defended a Hebrew who was being abused by an Egyptian. He killed the Egyptian. When this became known Moses fled to the land of Midian and lived there for the next forty years. In the mean time, things were getting worse for Israel. They were grievously suffering. *"And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them."* (Exodus 2:25) Israel was in bondage and they needed a deliverer. The Lord instructed Moses from the burning bush to return to Egypt and lead His people out of captivity. Moses obeyed and ten plagues later God brought them out of Egypt with His mighty hand. The final plague, the death of the firstborn, brought great suffering throughout all of Egypt. There was not an Egyptian household that was not affected. At the same time, not one death occurred among the Hebrews. They had been instructed to kill a Passover lamb and put the blood on the sides of the door and the lintel. *"And when I see the blood, I will pass over you."* (Exodus 12:13) Pharaoh was distraught and ordered the Hebrews to leave immediately. Israel had watched God do many wonders to protect

them and humble Pharaoh. Now it was their turn to act. They had to turn their backs on bondage, trust God, and follow Moses to freedom.

There is a parallel between Hebrew bondage and our slavery to sin. Sin is often a horrible taskmaster. We become slaves to it. (Romans 6:12-18) We have all been under its power before. Like Israel, we needed a deliverer. Jesus Christ was sent by God to *"deliver us from the power of darkness."* (Colossians 1:13) He did this not with animals' blood but His own. (Hebrews 9:11-15) Even after all that our Lord has done, we must take steps to be free from bondage. We must have faith in Jesus as God's Son, turn our backs on sin, and upon confession of our faith be baptized into Christ. (Galatians 3:26-27) Israel went through a baptism that freed them from bondage. (1 Corinthians 10:1-2) We must do the same!

Under The Tree

Gary Henry

"For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again" 2 Corinthians 5:14,15

ONE OF LIFE'S MARVELS IS THE REDEMPTIVE POWER OF LOVE. There probably aren't many of us who haven't experienced the difference that it makes to know that somebody loves us. We can be discouraged and about to give up, but when we remind ourselves that there are those who love us, we find new hope.

Paul the apostle is a fascinating figure from many viewpoints, but one of the most interesting things about him is his motivation.

We don't have to wonder what caused him work as hard and suffer as courageously as he did. He tells us. It was, he said, *"the love of Christ"* that compelled, or constrained, him. The love of Christ governed his thinking and pulled his actions in the right direction.

But was Paul talking about Christ's love for him or his love for Christ? I think he was talking about both, because it's not really possible to separate the two. Christ's love for us moved Him to die for our sins, and in response to that love, we love Him and live our lives for His sake. Christ died *"that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them."* That was the key to Paul's motivation. Every move he made was an effort to show GRATITUDE for the One who loved Him enough to die for him. And friend, if that motivation doesn't move you, you can't be moved. Motivation doesn't get any stronger than that.

As long as we live in this world, we are going to have days of discouragement. We can't fight on the front lines and not get wounded. But what a difference it makes to remember that Christ died for us! The thought that Somebody loved us like that can turn us around no matter what ditch the devil has dragged us into.

But there is a catch: we have to THINK about what Christ did for us. The redemptive, refreshing, strengthening power of that thought is not automatic. We have to THINK it. And not only do we have to think it, we have to let it have its proper effect on us. We have to go to the cross and get the point of what happened there.

"If at any time you feel disposed again to say, 'It is enough,' and that you can bear the burden of life no longer, do as Elijah did: flee into the silence of solitude, and sit under — not the juniper tree — but under that tree whereon the incarnate Son of God was made a curse for you" —Friedrich Wilhelm Krummacker

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Nathan Marshall
Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Ed Roberts
Scripture	Hosea 2:13-23
Reader	Chuck Isinghood
Prayer	Don Coen, Jr.
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Matt Ferrell
Fruit of the Vine	Nathan Marshall
Serve	Blake Headen
Serve	Terry Smith
Closing Prayer	Ken Prager

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Dan Marton
Scripture	Hosea 3-4:11
Reader	Ken Prager
1st Prayer	Earl Miller
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Don Coen, Jr.
Closing Prayer	Nathan Marshall

Wednesday

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Class Prayer	Dan Marton
Song Leader	Tim Henderson
Invitation	Ed Roberts
Closing Prayer	Earl Miller

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Traveling:

- Charissa & Tina Wallace are in Colorado

Recovering:

- Marie Roberts
- Ann Rudolph

Prayer Requests:

- Merl Frey
- Zeda Goddard, also her 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
- Chris Shane
- Monty Wallace, Charissa Wallace's father
- Corey Williams, a 19 year old friend of Tim & Anna Henderson diagnosed with cancer.

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