

*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.

Anticipation

Gary Henry

"For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:8).

Anticipation is no small part of the enjoyment of any good thing. Thanksgiving is my favorite meal of the year, both to cook and to eat. But as much as I enjoy the satisfaction of it, I almost enjoy the anticipation of it more. There is nothing quite like the aroma of good cornbread dressing baking in the oven!

If you haven't learned it by now, you need to learn that **longing is not inconsistent with joy**. When Paul said that he "greatly longed" for his brothers and sisters in Philippi, we do not hear that as the complaint of a sad, miserable man.

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: RESPECT

*PM: Alexander and the
Greek Empire*

*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*

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No, we hear it as the exuberant expression of a man who knew how to enjoy the goodness of the things he longed for, **even while he was longing for them!**

It is often said that we live in an age of "instant gratification," and I suppose that is true to a large extent. But imagine a world where there was **nothing but** instant gratification, a world where you could have anything you wanted ... and have it instantly. Would you want to live in such a world? I don't think I would. Of the many things that would be lost in such a world, one of the most tragic would be the joy of **anticipation**. Imagine never knowing the childhood joy of **looking forward** to Christmas morning!

On a much more serious note, however, it is **heaven** that is our greatest anticipation. That is what we look forward to more than anything else; we deeply long to see our Father's face. But might it not be true that our Father is preparing us for that joy by sending us through a time of anticipation in this world, a time when our primary joy comes from relishing the thought of what will one day be ours? I think that is not unlikely. And if the joys of this world are meant to be "appetizers," let us enjoy them exactly as such. Let us appreciate that they make us more eager for the main course.

But even with the lesser joys of **THIS** world, may we let ourselves enjoy the blessings of anticipation. Not every day on the calendar can be a day of fulfillment; some must be days when we're looking forward to a fulfillment — and those days of anticipation can be days of great joy if we let them be. It is, after all, the space between the holidays that makes those days such happy occasions.

***"Every day cannot be a
feast of lanterns"***
Chinese Proverb

The Revelation of God

Gary Henry

"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who [is] the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person ..." Hebrews 1:1-3

In surrounding us with His glory, God's purpose is to reveal Himself to us, in order that we might obey the gospel and have fellowship with Him. The fact that God's purpose is to reveal Himself is a marvelous truth to think about. Contemplating this truth ought to have a powerful practical effect on our lives.

Having rebelled against God, Adam and Eve were banished from God's presence (Genesis 3:22-24). The consequence of sin is that we are cut off from the God whom we were made to desire. But no sooner had sin taken place than God began to reach out to us and to work toward a restoration of what had been lost. The God who made us is not a God who hides from us. He has moved toward us, making it possible for us to know Him again.

If God's purpose is to reveal Himself to us, this must mean that He is **mindful** of us. It must mean that we — yes, even **we** — are of concern to Him. And this in itself is marvelous. *"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?"* (Psalm 8:3,4). Our Creator desires that we be encouraged and refreshed by this knowledge.

At our moments of greatest weakness or rebellion, even then God is thinking of us and wanting to reveal Himself to us. Not any of us is a lost cause, as far as He is concerned. Our very ignorance is His active, personal concern.

On our part, we must more deeply desire to know Him. We must determine to stay more awake and more alert, eager to receive every bit of truth that is available about God as He really is. As He restores to us the knowledge of His character and His will, it is God's intention to lead us back to His immediate presence. "No one ever graduates from Bible study until he meets the author face to face" (E. T. Harris). The Bible is a book, but it is a book at the end of which God Himself is waiting for us.

"[God's] very work from the beginning is revelation — a casting aside of veil after veil, a showing to men of truth after truth. On and on from fact divine he advances, until at length in his Son, Jesus, he unveils his very face" George MacDonald



"... but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen" 2 Peter 3:18

Growing in the knowledge of God is the opportunity of a lifetime, literally. No matter how much we learn and are enriched by what we know, God's greatness offers still more. Our whole lifetime should be spent seeking these greater things. Coming to know our Creator more richly is, in a positive sense, life's greatest challenge. It is also our

greatest joy and our greatest reward. This is what makes life worth living.

A. W. Pink observed that most Christians "expect little from God, ask little, and therefore receive little and are content with little." If this is a problem today, it is by no means a new problem. The writer of Hebrews found it necessary to exhort his readers with these words: "*Though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food*" (Hebrews 5:12). Too few of God's people have ever grown as they should "*in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*." Arrested development is often the norm.

We would surely be shocked if we could see how wide the gap really is between what God knows Himself to be and what we know Him to be. But there is also quite a gap between what we know God to be and what we COULD know Him to be. We should be sorrowful when we reflect on our complacency. "God's treasure is like an infinite ocean, and yet a little wave of emotion, passing with the moment, is enough for many" (Brother Lawrence). Our desire to know our Heavenly Father is all too small.

Perhaps it is daunting to think of the magnitude of such a thing as coming to know God. We may shrink from the very thought. But looking at it from another point of view, what could we undertake that would hold more promise? Is this not the greatest adventure, the ultimate undertaking in this otherwise disappointing world? How bracing to climb a little way up the slope and feel the air freshen, to climb even further and catch a thrilling glimpse of the distant summit! The finest qualities of our created nature are called forth when we reach upward, always upward.

"When I am at my best the Word still towers high above me"
Bernard of Clairvaux

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Harold Marshall
Announcements	Don Coen, Jr.
Song Leader	Nathan Marshall
Scripture	Hosea 12
Reader	Terry Smith
Prayer	Dave Harless
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Ken Prager
Fruit of the Vine	Dan Marton
Serve	Don Coen, Sr.
Serve	Chuck Isinghood
Closing Prayer	Nathan Marshall

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	Hosea 13
Reader	Earl Miller
1st Prayer	Dan Marton
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Chuck Isinghood
Closing Prayer	Don Coen, Sr.

Wednesday

Announcements	Don Coen, Jr.
Class Prayer	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Earl Miller
Invitation	Nathan Marshall
Closing Prayer	Dan Marton

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Traveling:

- Harold & Linda Marshall are traveling

Recovering:

- Cary Lancaster
- Marie Roberts
- Ann Rudolph

Prayer Requests:

- Merl Frey
- 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.
- George Hutto, preacher from Alabama diagnosed with cancer
- 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 friend of Tim & Anna Henderson is undergoing cancer treatments.

Don't forget our Shut-ins

Nursing Home:

- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers

At Home:

- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Zeda Goddard
- 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