

*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)

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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:

AM: Authority

PM: Ptolemy

*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*

Finding Faith

Ethan R. Longhenry

*"Nevertheless, when the Son of man
cometh, shall he find faith on the
earth?" Luke 18:8b*

This question of Jesus has echoed throughout time. It is a matter that has to be re-considered by each generation. Who will stand for Jesus? Who will accept what the Bible has revealed about Him?

This verse can be used in many kinds of preaching to ask pointedly about the future. The optimist finds many reasons why the faith will grow. The pessimist sees apostasy as just a generation away.

Yet, as with everything found in the Bible, we must consider the question in its context. Jesus is attempting to en-

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courage the disciples to persevere in prayer and not to lose heart (Luke 18:1). He tells them the parable of the persistent widow-- a woman with no legal rights who obtains justice from an unrighteous judge just because she is such an irritant to him (Luke 18:2-6). Jesus uses this parable as a contrast: in such a circumstance, if the constant nagging of a woman with no rights is finally heard by an evil judge, how much more will the righteous Father avenge those whom He loves who cry out to Him (Luke 18:6-8)? This is when Jesus asks whether the Son of Man will find faith on the earth or not (Luke 18:8)!

Therefore, Jesus' question really is not about whether there will be people who profess faith in Him when He returns. He knows that there will always be such people (James 1:22-25, Matthew 7:21-23). Instead, the question focuses on the matter of truly trusting God. When the Son of Man returns, will He find people on earth who fully trust in God despite terrible circumstances?

This is a much more challenging question. All kinds of people are always willing to profess knowledge of and belief in Jesus Christ, but who is willing to really trust Him? When we prosper and things go well, is our confidence still in God or is it "converted" to the material prosperity (1 Timothy 6:17-19)? Are we willing to trust in God's love, goodness, mercy, and justice even when we are oppressed, down-trodden, wronged, and suffering? Are we willing to pray constantly and fervently even after it seems that God is not there or is not answering? In short, when it seems that we have every reason not to trust in God, will we trust in Him regardless?

It is very important for us that we believe in Jesus and accept the truth of the revelation regarding Him in the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16-17), and work diligently to commit these truths to the upcoming generations if we have opportunity (2 Timothy 2:2). But let us remember that Jesus' question is much more personal and a much greater challenge. If He were to return today, would He find people truly trusting in God in all things? Will He find you and me

trusting entirely in the Almighty?

**Let us consider this question,
and learn to trust God more!**

To Whom Shall We Go?

Ethan R. Longhenry

"Upon this many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Jesus said therefore unto the twelve, 'Would ye also go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we have believed and know that thou art the Holy One of God'" John 6:66-69

Jesus never intended for Christianity to be easy. He has spoken and commanded many difficult things. Many of His teachings and practices are counter-intuitive and entirely against the grain of "conventional wisdom."

Most people can accept, or at least tolerate, much of what Jesus said and did. Most people have no difficulty accepting the teachings and practices of Jesus Christ that come easily for them. After all, it is easy to keep avoiding the sins you have been avoiding and to keep doing the good things you have been doing!

But then there are the more challenging commands. *"Deny [yourself], take up [your]*

cross and follow Me" (Matthew 16:24). *"The greatest among you shall be your servant"* (Matthew 20:27). Be crucified to self, live for Christ-- no longer me, but Him (Galatians 2:20). Love your enemies; do good to those who would hate you and do evil to you (Luke 6:27-36). Do good at every opportunity, even when inconvenient (Luke 10:29-37). The list can go on and on, and the list will be different for each person!

Jesus had taught many difficult things in John 6 (John 6:60). He told people that they needed to eat His flesh and drink His blood if they were to have eternal life (John 6:53). While Jesus was speaking spiritually (cf. John 6:61-63), the image was quite disturbing for these good Jews, and it was difficult to wrap their heads around the idea of "consuming" the Incarnate Word (cf. John 1:1, 14). Because of these difficult sayings, many disciples no longer walked with Him (John 6:66).

Jesus turns and asks the Twelve if they would go away in John 6:67, and we then have Simon Peter's excellent confession in John 6:68-69.

Notice what Peter does not say. Peter does not say that the teachings are easy or that they are entirely in line with the way the disciples already think. No-- Peter recognizes that Jesus' words are challenging and difficult. They were as counter-intuitive and against "conventional wisdom" then as they are now!

Instead, Peter demonstrates his faith and the faith of the other eleven disciples. Their faith is in Jesus Himself. They have come to believe and know that He is the Holy One of God, the promised Messiah that the prophets anticipated (John 1:41, 45). They have seen His work and know that no man can do what He does by His own strength (cf. John 9:30-33). Therefore, even if what Jesus of Nazareth teaches is difficult to swallow, it must be swallowed, because He has come from God and He speaks words of eternal life, and no such words can be found elsewhere!

If we are going to be effective servants of

Jesus Christ, we must have the same starting point of faith as Peter and the disciples. It is not enough for us to believe in Jesus Christ for the things we like about Him, or that we should be attracted to Him because He taught some "good things." Our faith must be rooted, first and foremost, in the belief and knowledge that Jesus is the Christ, the Holy One of God, Lord of heaven and earth, and His words are the words of eternal life (John 6:68-69, Matthew 28:18, Acts 2:36). If we first believe that, then we will be able to accept all things that He has taught, not necessarily because we think that they are all wonderful and lovely, but instead because we know that they are true and lead to eternal life, and that we cannot find such life anywhere else.

It will not be easy. Jesus' deeds challenge us and force us out of our comfort zones. Jesus' teachings overthrow some of our cherished beliefs and perspectives. We will be compelled to change the way we think, act, and how we present ourselves to others (Romans 6:16-18, Galatians 2:20, 2 Corinthians 10:5). It may be difficult, but, in the end, where else can we go? Jesus is the Holy One of God, the One who teaches words of eternal life. Let us learn from Him, accept both the easy and the challenging, and be found as faithful servants of God!

***"For indeed, as soon as the voice of
your greeting sounded in my ears,
the babe leaped in my womb for joy."***

Luke 1:44

**The Holy Spirit gave John, the unborn
babe, the ability to know that the Savior's
mother had come for a visit.**

**Today, the Holy Spirit gives us knowledge
of our Savior. The persecutors have not
prevailed. May your heart leap for joy as
you study the story of Jesus.**

Randy Simms

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Chuck Isinghood
Announcements	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Ken Prager
Scripture	Joel 2:1-16
Reader	Blake Headen
Prayer	Harold Marshall
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Dan Marton
Fruit of the Vine	Don Coen, Jr.
Serve	Matt Ferrell
Serve	Don Coen, Sr.
Closing Prayer	Dave Harless

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Earl Miller
Scripture	Joel 2:17-32
Reader	Dan Marton
1st Prayer	Dave Harless
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Harold Marshall
Closing Prayer	Matt Ferrell

Wednesday

Announcements	Ed Roberts
Class Prayer	Don Coen, Sr.
Song Leader	Harold Marshall
Invitation	Harold Marshall
Closing Prayer	Dave Harless

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

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