

In  
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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 Sermon:**

*AM: Thoughts for  
the Meeting  
PM: Worship in  
Song & Prayer*

*Audio CD's are available  
free of charge in the foyer.*

*Please visit our website:  
[www.truthandright.org](http://www.truthandright.org)*

*If you have any questions regarding  
what we teach and practice, please  
feel free to ask*

## *Lessons from a Fallen Preacher*

*Andy Sochor*

Many brethren have heard the sad and disturbing news of the gospel preacher from Auburn, Ky allegedly having consensual sex with a 13 year old girl over the weekend. He has since turned himself in to the authorities and is being held on rape charges. In addition to being a preacher of the gospel, he is also a husband and father. The thought that such a man would do this is both puzzling and disturbing.

I don't know this man very well. I met him briefly a year or so ago when I attended a gospel meeting at the church in Auburn where he worked. I won't speculate as to why he did this or what path he took to get to this point. But there are some very important lessons in this story that all Christians need to remember.

- **Don't put your trust in men.** Not only was this a Christian, this was a preacher. It is one thing to see a weak brother fall into sin – it's sad, but it's not always surprising. But to see one who is (or should be) a model of faith fall like this, it can be very discouraging. If brethren place too much faith in men, they can be in danger of falling away themselves if these men go off into sin. If their role models fall, then they believe that

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they can no longer stand either. But we should not forfeit our faith because of the actions of one man. Christ is still our King. The word of God is still truth. The church is still the Lord's. We must not place so much trust in men that we lose sight of these constant truths.

- **Don't flirt with sin.** Many people in the world have no problem committing sin. They either don't believe it really is sin, or they believe that sin is not a problem. But it seems that many who understand the terrible nature of sin try to get as close as they can to it without crossing the line. Our goal as Christians is not to walk the line between good and evil. We are to strive for perfection (Matthew 5:48; 1 John 2:1). Whenever we think about the line, we need to turn the other way. Paul told Timothy to "*flee from youthful lusts*" (2 Timothy 2:22), not to see how close he could come to sin. This begins in our minds. We must work everyday to think on the good things (Philippians 4:8; Colossians 3:1-2), rather than the things that can lead us to destruction (James 1:14-15).
- **Be ready to forgive and help.** When a brother sins, even a sin as horrible as this, we must be ready to forgive him if he repents (Luke 17:3-4). We also need to be willing to offer whatever help we can. If a brother needs to be taught, restored, or encouraged (1 Thessalonians 5:14; James 5:19-20), Christians must work to do these things.

So as we think about the news of this brother, let us remember these lessons. Do not let something like this cause you to lose your faith in God. Move as far away from sin as you can. Be ready to encourage any weak or erring brethren you have opportunity to help.

In this particular situation, pray for all those involved: the preacher who did this, his wife and children, the girl who was the victim, her family, and the church where he was laboring. Pray that their faith in God might be strength-

ened and that they would all be able to work through this.

In that request is another reminder. When you sin, often times there are many others who are affected. In many cases, even with private sins, you are hurting more than just yourself. So put away sin. Strive for holiness.

Since writing this, I have seen the statement released by this brother. He understands how terrible his sin is and has expressed remorse. Obviously, this does not remove the physical consequences for what he has done. But let's hope and pray that he will continue to turn to the Lord so this does not result in eternal damnation. God is merciful and will forgive those who repent and serve Him. Hopefully our brother will continue to seek after God.

In a companion to this weeks article, I thought it would be good to include the statement released by Jody Lusk to the local television station, WBKO. I think it is important that we look to ourselves and understand more fully, "*take heed that he does not fall*" 1 Corinthians 10:12. Paul tells us later in the next letter to the church in Corinth to "*Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?*" 2 Corinthians 13:5. In his statement we can see the complacency he had in his life ... lack of study, prayer and meditating on the word of God. I'm afraid many of us might find ourselves in a weaker condition than we would like to admit.

*Statement from  
Jody Lusk  
Via-WBKO, Bowling Green, KY*

"I am deeply sorry for my sinful actions and I am in deep shame. I have been asked what could possibly motivate me to do such a

thing. I can't quite explain why. Satan binds us to sin and what it is and what it really does. Being a preacher I know that God's Word warns us about Satan and his ways. Unfortunately, until I experienced that first hand I didn't fully grasp it. I was on a spiritual high as 2009 began but I let it all come crashing down, I let Satan have his way with me. My faith wasn't as strong as I thought it was. Looking back on all that I've done it's hard to believe this was me doing this. I had been hardened to sin and its consequences. On Saturday after the events of the day had transpired it all hit me like a ton of bricks - what I've done, the people I had hurt, especially my dear wife and kids who deserved none of this. Jail is bad enough, but the idea of not having them in my life is absolutely crushing, I cry everytime I think about them. I think about the young lady I had the affair with and hope she will be okay and that she can renew her commitment to God. I hadn't studied His Word or prayed in months. I was so weak. Since being in jail I have cried out to God frequently and begged for forgiveness. I know

He has forgiven because He promises in His word that He will. I have studied His Word more in 2 days that I had in the past 6 months. I feel much better spiritually but emotionally I'm a wreck. I can't stand that I've put my family, the young lady's family, and all my Christian brethren through so much pain. I hope people can look at my failures and learn from them. Never give in to any sin. Satan wants all of us to think that some sins are OK. But what seems like a small sin will always progress and lead to other sins. Don't let him fool you. I ask for everyone to forgive me - my family, her family, my brethren, my friends, and my community. I realize that even with forgiveness there are consequences and I will face them. I hope that while in jail that God can use me for His glory to help some lost soul find Him. Please pray for me. Please don't give up on me. I take full responsibility for my actions. There are no excuses.

Jody Lusk"

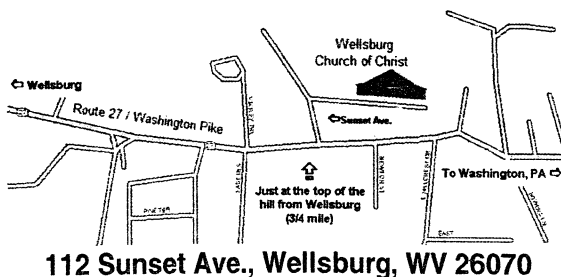


**.Is there a God?  
 .What does He  
 want from me?  
 .Is there a way  
 for me to know?**



**Join us, September 20-25 as  
 we search for answers to  
 these important questions.**

**Sunday—10:00 AM & 6:30 PM  
 Monday—Friday 7:30 PM**



Visit: [www.truthandright.org](http://www.truthandright.org) for more information or call - 304-737-1422

## Those Serving This Week

### Sunday AM

<b>Class Prayer</b>	Ed Roberts
<b>Announcements</b>	Don Coen, Jr.
<b>Song Leader</b>	Ken Prager
<b>Scripture</b>	Amos 1
<b>Reader</b>	Matt Ferrell
<b>Prayer</b>	Don Coen, Jr.
<b>Speaker</b>	Tim Henderson
<b>Lord's Supper</b>	
Bread	Chuck Isinghood
Fruit of the Vine	Dan Marton
Serve	Blake Headen
Serve	Don Coen, Sr.
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Harold Marshall

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

### Sunday PM

<b>Announcements</b>	Don Coen, Jr.
<b>Song Leader</b>	Dan Marton
<b>Scripture</b>	Amos 2
<b>Reader</b>	Ken Prager
<b>1st Prayer</b>	Ed Roberts
<b>Speaker</b>	Tim Henderson
<b>Communion</b>	Matt Ferrell
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Earl Miller

### Wednesday

<b>Announcements</b>	Don Coen, Jr.
<b>Class Prayer</b>	Harold Marshall
<b>Song Leader</b>	Tim Henderson
<b>Invitation</b>	Ed Roberts
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Matt Ferrell

## *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 recovering from 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