

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)

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: Prayer
Barriers*

*PM: Things You'll
Never Regret*

*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*

It All Comes Down To This

Gary Henry

*"Everything you were taught can be
put into a few words: Respect and obey
God! This is what life is all about. God
will judge everything we do, even what
is done in secret, whether good or bad"*

Ecclesiastes 12:13,14 CEV

When life has been soberly considered, the conclusion of the whole matter is that we should properly relate ourselves to God. In other words, we should (1) adopt a posture of real reverence toward Him and (2) commit ourselves to carrying out His instructions in every area of life. "Respect and obey God! This is what life is all about." Compared to this priority, nothing else even tips the scale. This is our all, our everything.

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Daniel Webster, a statesman who moved in the highest circles of temporal power and consequence, once said, "The most important thought I ever had was that of my individual responsibility to God." This is a statement of pure insight. It penetrates the complicated appearance that MANY THINGS are important and touches the ONE AND ONLY THING that is really important after all (Luke 10:41,42). The quality of our lives would increase dramatically if we could accept this insight before the burden of years finally forces us to recognize our mortality. By the time most of us see what Webster saw, we've already misspent most of our life-resources, and there is little to give God but our leftovers.

The philosophical work to which Ecclesiastes 12:13,14 is the conclusion is a work that ought to be of considerable interest to us at the present moment in history. Never before have so many issues (and so much commerce!) crowded around us, clamoring for our attention. Somewhere in our brains we know that most of these things are of nothing more than passing interest. Today's front-page news moves to the back page tomorrow and is completely forgotten the day after that. Solomon used the word "vanity" to describe the wispy, fleeting nature of all this frantic worldly business: *"I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind"* (Ecclesiastes 1:14). Do we not desperately need to hear this wise old king recall us to what is solid and substantial?

*"Ah! For a vision of
God! For a mighty
grasp of the real, Feet
firm based on granite in
place of crumbling
sand!" — Roden Noel*

Should God Wait? *Gary Henry*

"Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them'" Ecclesiastes 12:1

Solomon, a king who was hardly naïve about what the world has to offer, counseled that we should remember our creator while we are young. To defer dealing with God until we are out of our youth is a costly error. And if we've not yet decided whether we're going to take God seriously, there is something we need to know: **The question only gets tougher the longer we delay answering it.** We're only deceiving ourselves if we think we need to take care of more important matters first. There is no such thing as a more important matter than God.

Particularly in our youth, the thing that tempts us to postpone dealing with God is the myth that godliness requires us to forfeit our pleasure. Because the life of serious spirituality seems so dull, it's only natural to defer doing anything about it until after we've drunk as deeply from the world as we want to drink. Our adversary would like us to believe that the only young folks who follow God are the losers who don't know what they're missing. One of the saddest things about this myth, however, is that it misrepresents a God who has never wanted anything but our good and who has never forbidden anything except what would hurt us or degrade us. We'd do well to go back and reconsider Ecclesiastes. The very God whom Solomon advised us to "remember" is also the God who said, ***"Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth"*** (Ecclesiastes 11:9).

Many of the reasons for taking a responsible approach to God in our youth are power-

fully PRACTICAL. One of the most practical (and also one of the most important) is that the basic shape of our personal character is set while we're in our younger years. The ideal time to commit ourselves to godly principles and begin adjusting our lifestyles to those principles is when our minds and hearts are still open and we've not yet begun to suffer "hardening of the categories." If we say no to God at the time when it is most crucial to say yes, it is not likely that our minds will be changed by anything later on — except circumstances that are truly tragic.

"If you refuse to be made straight when you are green, you will not be made straight when you are dry" —African Proverb

*What Our Creator
Has In Mind
Gary Henry*

*"And Jesus said to her,
'Neither do I condemn you;
go and sin no more'"*
John 8:11

In the story of the woman taken in adultery, Jesus did not minimize the seriousness of her sin, but He saw in her more than a woman who had sinned. Where others may have only seen problems, Jesus saw possibilities. He encouraged her not to reach backward to what she HAD been but to reach forward to what she COULD be. *"Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."*

In our dealings with others, most of us see the importance of doing what Jesus did: we

know the value of helping people to see their own potential. When people know that we have positive expectations of them, they very often rise to meet those expectations.

Why is it, then, that we so rarely "believe the best" in ourselves? Why do we focus on our problems so exclusively that we lose sight of our possibilities? We defeat ourselves just as surely as we defeat others when we do this. How much better it would be if we saw ourselves as someone worth "salvaging," someone for whom the Lord was willing to die. No matter how serious our sin, would not Jesus say the same thing to us: *"Go and sin no more"*?

Painful memories can be helpful if they humble us and make us more compassionate toward others. But there is a difference between being humbled and being HUMILIATED. If our memories drag us so far down into the black pit of despair that we quit reaching forward to heaven, then we've let our memories do something that God never intended. Even after forgiving us, God is still aware of our past, and we should remain aware of it, too. But although our past is a part of the truth about us, it is not the WHOLE truth. If we've been forgiven, that is also a part of the truth, not to mention the truth of what our FUTURE can be with God's help. THAT is the part of the situation that God is most interested in. So we need to adopt His perspective on our lives. We need to be concerned not only with where we've been but with where we can go.

So the crucial question is never "What have I done?" but "What does God have in mind for me in the future?" And more important, "Am I COOPERATING with what He has in mind for me?" That way of thinking about things can make all the difference.

*"In Christ we can move out of
our past into a meaningful pre-
sent and a breathtaking future"*

Erwin W. Lutzer

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Matt Ferrell
Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Earl Miller
Scripture	Obadiah 1-10
Reader	Terry Smith
Prayer	Ed Roberts
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Don Coen, Sr.
Fruit of the Vine	Don Coen, Jr.
Serve	Dan Marton
Serve	Chuck Isinghood
Closing Prayer	Dave Harless

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Ed Roberts
Scripture	Obadiah 11-21
Reader	Earl Miller
1st Prayer	Earl Miller
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Chuck Isinghood
Closing Prayer	Ken Prager

Wednesday

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Class Prayer	Matt Ferrell
Song Leader	Dan Marton
Invitation	Don Coen, Jr.
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
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Alfred & Mary Jane Myers
- Belinda Porter's mother, Melissa Alley
- Jimmy Roberts, Ed & Marie's son
- Jim Roberts, Ed Roberts' father
- Chris Shane
- Monty Wallace, Charissa Wallace's father

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