

*In
Search
of...*

Truth & Right

Tim Henderson, Editor

Volume-04

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*"Fi-
ever
hon-*

*nally, brethren, what-
is true, whatever is
orable, whatever is
right, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely,*

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:

*Heaven Will
Surely Be Worth
It All*

*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 Value of Doubt

Larry Rouse

Late in his ministry John the Baptist sent two disciples to Jesus with this startling question: "*Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?*" (Luke 7:19-20) To the careful Bible student this question makes no sense when you first consider it. John appears to have doubt about a matter that he had earlier expressed great confidence in. Jesus described John as being the greatest of the prophets (Luke 7:28). How can this happen with such a man of faith?

Consider the earlier experiences and statements of John the Baptist. He had witnessed the Holy Spirit come down upon Jesus as a dove and had heard the voice of God from heaven proclaim: "*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*" (Matthew 3:17) Shortly after these events, John boldly proclaimed this eyewitness account to his own disciples. It is from these very men that Jesus would later choose His 12 disciples. Listen to the bold, confident proclamation from John as to the identity of Jesus Christ. "*And John bore witness, saying, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the*

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Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.” Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciple. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” (John 1:32-36)

Possible Causes of John’s Doubt

The bulk of John’s ministry consisted of his strong preaching to the multitudes in the wilderness. He was an outdoors man described as being clothed in camel hair, and eating wild locusts and honey (Matthew 3:4). He was arrested and imprisoned for boldly and accurately teaching the will of God. His stand of faith was exactly the stand God wanted him to make. But now he is isolated and soon would be killed. This sudden change of lifestyle would cause any man great pain. It is at this time that a man of faith would step forward and review the very foundations of his faith.

Another possible cause of doubt would be John’s lack of knowledge of the details and timetable of the execution of God’s plan. He preached boldly of the power of the Messiah and how He would purge Israel of the chaff of

u n b e l i e v e r s (Matthew 3:7-12). John was like every other prophet that came before him in that he was given a specific, accurate message to deliver, but he was not given all the details. We are told of how both the prophets that spoke of Christ and even the angels from heaven desired to know “the rest of the story” but were not allowed (1 Peter 1:10-12). Did

John have a mistaken view of the kingdom as Jesus’ own disciples did? Was he expecting a physical, earthly kingdom? From the outlook of the fleshly eye, the ministry of Christ would appear to be going nowhere.

Is Doubt a Threat to Faith?

Whatever the cause of John’s doubt, we see in his request to Jesus the exact response that a man of faith would have in a moment of doubt—he brought his doubt to the Lord! Doubt, by itself, is not a threat, but instead, it is an opportunity! The man of faith has learned that when doubt comes, a man is to seek out answers. These answers are not often easily found and will require great energy and suffering. When one runs from his doubts and tries to bury his doubts he is in reality running from a stronger faith. Jesus taught in such a way to make men think, struggle and doubt in order that they might reach the truth of God. When Jesus challenged a man to believe in His ability to free his child from demon possession, the man honestly and tearfully said, “*Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!*” (Mark 9:23-24)

Jesus’ Response to John’s Doubt

Jesus gave John the very evidence he needed to erase his doubt. “*And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.” (Luke 7:21-23)*



Can you imagine John hearing the eyewitness testimony of his disciples about the miracles and teaching of Jesus? John knew the prophecies of Christ, given both to the Old Testament prophets and also to him. Can you see him as he reviews again this evidence and, as a result, saying: “Yes, Jesus is the Coming One!”?

Did Jesus rebuke and show disappointment in John because of his doubt? No, rather in this very setting Jesus give John the highest praise. *“When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John: ...This is he of whom it is written: ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.’ For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”* (Luke 7:24-28)

What About Your Doubt?

What questions about God’s will do you have? Do you have a reasonable foundation to know that Jesus is the Son of God and the Bible is His complete revelation (1 Peter 3:15)? Are you running from doubts about the application of God’s will in the local church where you are a member? Sadly, many churches have taught their members to run from their doubts and to run from an honest examination of the evidence found in the word of God on a multitude of possible questions one may have. This approach will not lead to a stronger faith. I will never forget the reactions that I received as I studied my way out of denominationalism and later out of a local church that had made some serious compromises. Men threatened me, others ridiculed me, and others gave me “easy answers” thinking that I would swallow them and end my struggle. None of these men helped me to find what I found after a lengthy, painful struggle—a faith upon which I could stand and defend to myself and to others.

From my experience, I have found some who have the weakest faith are the very ones who try to project the greatest confidence. From the Pharisee who scoffed at how anyone could disagree with him, to the one who loudly proclaims God’s grace but lives in sin, these all have one thing in common—they will not open their hearts and test the doubts that actually exist in their hearts with an open Bible.

They will, however, try to silence those whom they may disagree by using their tongues to attack or other forms of intimidation. My prayer for you is that you begin this struggle for a stronger faith and that you will not abandon the struggle. Do not let men enslave you in fear and doubt. *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”* (Hebrews 11:6)

Spiritually Productive

Shane Williams

via-The Lilbourn Light

We all enjoy seeing beautiful landscapes. Whether it is vast fields ready to be harvested or a magnificent garden where flowers bloom and great beauty is everywhere to behold.

What about a plot of land that is a memorial to neglect? Anything of beauty or that which could be good and useful can be choked out with that which is undesirable.

The apostle Peter told us how we can avoid being “barren” (useless) and “unfruitful” (2 Peter 1:8). He encouraged Christians to be diligent and spiritually productive, developing the character qualities of faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (vs. 5-7).

Doing this requires effort on our part. It demands that we work on our relationship with God. We need to be reading the Bible regularly, praying often, resisting temptation, focusing on obedience to Him, and reaching out to others in love. Peter mentioned the additional benefits of being fruitful: a continued assurance, spiritual stability (*“you will never stumble”*) and an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior (vs. 10-11).

How productive is your life? Is your life in God’s sight one of beauty or neglect?

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

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

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Don Coen, Jr.
Song Leader	Earl Miller
Scripture	Micah 2
Reader	Harold Marshall
1st Prayer	Dan Marton
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Ed Roberts
Closing Prayer	Matt Ferrell

Wednesday

Announcements	Don Coen, Jr.
Class Prayer	Dave Harless
Song Leader	Tim Henderson
Invitation	Matt Ferrell
Closing Prayer	Dan Marton

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Cary Lancaster is still in Ohio Valley Medical Center in room 409.

Travelling:

- Wilma Harless is in Florida

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
- Jimmy Roberts, Ed & Marie's son
- Jim Roberts, Ed Roberts' father
- Marie Roberts
- Chris Shane
- Continue to keep Charissa Wallace in your prayers

Don't forget our Shut-ins

Nursing Home:

- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers

At Home:

- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Zeda Goddard
- Betty Hunter
- Pauline Midcap
- Ann Rudolph

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