

*In
Search
of ...*

Truth & Right

Tim Henderson, Editor

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11/22/2009

"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:

The Big Picture

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.

All That We Long For Is Known To God

Gary Henry

In this Issue:

All That We Long For Is Known To God—pg. 1—Gary Henry
Faces Turned To God Grow Brighter—pg. 2—Gary Henry
Where God's Glory Dwells—pg. 3—Gary Henry
Those Serving & Announcements—pg. 4

“Lord, all my desire is before You; And my sighing is not hidden from You.” -

Psalm 38:9

David was comforted, rather than frightened, by the knowledge that God knew everything about him. Can we go any place and God not be there? No. Can we do anything and God not know about it? No. Can we think any thought and God not be aware of it? No. But these facts are not fearful; they are encouraging. At least they CAN be and SHOULD be. *“O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off”* (Psalm 139:1,2).

One of the heaviest burdens we ever have to bear in life is to have a deep, aching need within us and to have to bear it alone. Sometimes there is not even one other human being who could do anything about our need, even if they knew about it. What an unspeakable source of comfort, then, to know that God knows. *“All my desire is before You . . . my sighing is not hidden from You.”*

So God knows what we need even before we ask Him for His help. Jesus said, *“Your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things”* (Matthew 6:32). But here is the amazing thing: GOD KNOWS WHAT WE NEED EVEN BEFORE WE ARE AWARE THAT WE NEED IT! Having created us, He knows more about our needs than we do. And when our hearts are broken by the pain and emptiness of some need that must, for the time being, remain unfulfilled, our hearts do not hurt half as much as He hurts for us. He loves us more than we love ourselves, and we cannot hurt without His feeling it.

On top of all of that, there is the additional fact that God has taken upon Himself our fleshly form and lived among us, experiencing every ounce of what it is like to suffer human sorrow. *“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses”* (Hebrews 4:15). God knows our

***Faces Turned To God
Grow Brighter***
Gary Henry

“They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces were not ashamed.” - Psalm 34:5

For the Christian, the main thing is not where we are or what is happening around us at the moment, but where we are going. Just as in a sports contest, where the thing that matters is not what the score is but which side has the MOMENTUM, the thing that matters for the Christian is that he is making PROGRESS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. Our progress may seem slow and there may be obstacles in our path, but what our hearts and minds are fully set on (or should be) is this: “the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:13). Our faces are turned toward God — and since they are, they grow brighter every day.

LOVE. It's hard to imagine how a person could have any significant understanding of God's love and not love Him back. The Scriptures are replete with stories of the acts of God's love, but if there were only one story — the story of the cross — surely that would be enough to move us to love God with a grateful love.

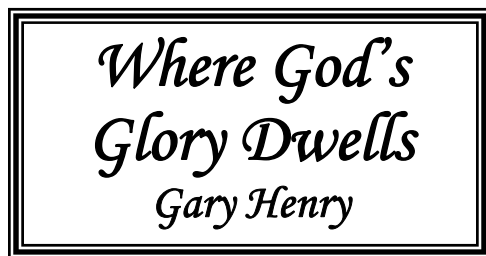
DESIRE. To love God is to desire to be WITH Him, to be in His actual presence. In this world, no human being has had that joy since Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden. But in Christ, God is offering the hope of being in His presence once again. To desire that perfect joy is to desire the very thing for which we were created.

EXPECTATION. The Christian does not merely wish that he might one day see God's face; he actually expects to do so. When Paul

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For the Christian, the main thing is not where we are or what is happening around us at the moment, but where we are going. Just as in a sports contest, where the thing that matters is not what the score is but which side has the **MOMENTUM**, the thing that matters for the Christian is that he is making **PROGRESS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION**. Our progress may seem slow and there may be obstacles in our path, but what our hearts and minds are fully set on (or should be) is this: “the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:13). Our faces are turned toward God — and since they are, they grow brighter every day.

LOVE. It’s hard to imagine how a person could have any significant understanding of God’s love and not love Him back. The Scriptures are replete with stories of the acts of



“Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house, And the place where Your glory dwells.” — Psalm 26:8

If we diligently seek God, our joy will be in proportion to how near we are to God. David’s sentiment will be our own: “Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house, and the place where Your glory dwells.” In whatever sense we may speak of God’s “habitation,” what we want is to be as near as possible to the place where His glory dwells. For the seeker, nearer is better.

(1) The Old Testament Tabernacle. When God entered into a special relationship with Israel (a temporary arrangement that was preparatory to the coming of the Messiah), He designated a physical place as the location of His dwelling in their midst. To come to the tabernacle, and later the temple, was to be as close to God’s glory as it was possible to be anywhere in the world at that time.

(2) The New Testament Church. Israel’s physical temple anticipated the building of a **SPIRITUAL** temple, a people in whose **HEARTS** God would dwell, and those people are the ones who make up the Lord’s church today (1 Peter 2:5). So it is possible to be nearer to God today than you could ever have been in Israel, even if you had gone into the Most Holy place in the heart of the tabernacle.

(3) Heaven. But just as Israel looked forward to a time when they could be nearer God’s presence than they could be in the tabernacle, we look forward to a time when we can be nearer God’s presence than we can be in the church. Just as they looked forward to the kingdom of the Messiah or Christ (1 Peter 1:10-12), we look forward to the heavenly completion and perfect fulfillment of that kingdom (2 Peter 1:10,11). Heaven will be the end of the progression, the great goal that everything else was leading up to. Heaven will be the saints of all ages in the actual, real presence of God!

My friends, we need to cherish the thought of that with all our hearts. Loving God as we do and desiring deeply to be as near Him as we can be, there won’t be a single day when we aren’t fired by the expectation of looking upon the face of our Father in heaven. That’s what the gospel is all about. Death is not the end — it is the **BEGINNING** of what Christ died to make possible for us.

“The early Christians were looking not for a cleft in the ground called a grave but for a cleavage in the sky called Glory”
Alexander MacLaren

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Don Coen, Jr.
Announcements	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Earl Miller
Scripture	Micah 5
Reader	Matt Ferrell
Prayer	Dan Marton
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Harold Marshall
Fruit of the Vine	Ken Prager
Serve	Terry Smith
Serve	Don Coen, Sr.
Closing Prayer	Chuck Isinghood

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Dan Marton
Scripture	Micah 6
Reader	Blake Headen
1st Prayer	Don Coen, Sr.
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Don Coen, Jr.
Closing Prayer	Earl Miller

Wednesday

Announcements	Ed Roberts
Class Prayer	Don Coen, Jr.
Song Leader	Singing/Praying
Invitation	Nathan Marshall
Closing Prayer	Tim Henderson

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Cary Lancaster is back in Ohio Valley Medical Center in room 412 with pneumonia

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