

*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: Know Thy
Enemy
PM: Faith That
Fails*

*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*

Becoming Real

Gary Henry

"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You" Job 42:5

We are far away from God, and the journey back to Him takes more than a day. We begin by hearing distant reports of Him, perhaps listening to them skeptically because they don't fit with what we think we know of reality. Eventually, however, we begin to see some truth in what we've heard. At some point, we may commit ourselves to seeking Him and to living according to His principles, although some of these principles still don't make complete sense to us. But over time, we discover that we've passed into a completely different land than we used to live in. What once was theory now seems solid and very practical. We find that the knowledge of God is no longer something to speculate about but rather something to experience. Like Job, who said, *"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you,"* we find that however serious we were about God before, He has now become REAL to us. And in the process of His becoming real to us, we ourselves have become real also.

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It needs to be said, of course, that the passage from knowing God in theory to knowing Him in real life involves a good deal of discomfort. Just as it is through suffering that our knowledge becomes wisdom, so it is through suffering that our wisdom becomes reality. Only as we work our way through hardships do we learn that the truth really is true after all. The safe nursery of our thinking is not where we find out what works and what doesn't; it's out in the street where mistakes about what is real are costly. That is why God INVITES us to take some risks and put Him to the test: *"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good"* (Psalm 34:8).

Becoming real is a gradual process. It takes place so slowly that sometimes we wonder if we're making any progress at all. But if we're patient — and if we're willing to accept a certain amount of pain as we learn — then the time will come when the best of the good ideas that we've had will come true. We'll find ourselves not merely thinking about God but knowing Him. And in God, what we've always wanted to be is what we actually will be!

"Real isn't how you are made,' said the Skin Horse. 'It's a thing that happens to you. . . . It doesn't happen all at once. It takes a long time'" —Margery Williams

*Trusting in
God's Forgiveness
Matthew Allen
via—New Living*

You know the feeling. It starts deep down inside, and as it grows your stomach turns and anxiety builds. It's the realization that you've fallen short...again. Satan seeks out our weaknesses and effectively exploits them

to the fullest. And now, the guilt. The constant questioning, *if only I had...* Think of the dread of coming to worship services *again* and thinking *if these people knew half the things I struggle with, they'd run me out of here*. Many obey the gospel of Christ and do well initially. But then, they find themselves falling back into the same habits they had before their relationship with Christ. After they succumb, then comes the guilt. This time it is even worse. Sometimes the guilt is almost overwhelming and younger Christians are tempted to give up.

Sin is a terrible thing. The Hebrew writer likened it to a great weight that ties us down, Hebrews 12:1. It can paralyze our spiritual progress and shackle us with guilt. When we begin to compare our self with the perfect example of holiness, Jesus, it can feel even worse. When Peter finally realized who Jesus really was, he responded, *"Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man, O Lord,"* Luke 5:8. When we begin to understand sin for what it is, the burden may feel overwhelming.

I once read that there are three things we can do with sin. We can resolve to never sin again. If we do this, we set our self up for failure. This is impossible. See 1 John 1:8. We can let sin make us a coward. This is what happened to Judas. Upon realization of the terrible consequences of his scheme, Matthew 27:3-5 tells

Propitiation is for everyone. It makes no difference how many sins have to be forgiven. There is no one beyond God's power to save.

us he went out and hanged himself. He could have faced his sin through confessing it to God. Had Judas humbly approached God seeking forgiveness, he would have been forgiven. Instead, Judas now has all eternity to deal with the regret of his sin. Sin turned Judas into a coward. Since resolving to never sin and not facing our sin are ways leading to defeat, we must learn from our sin. This is profitable. It is what Peter did. After suffering a crushing spiritual defeat by denying Jesus

three times, Matthew 26:69-75, the apostle sought God's forgiveness and picked himself up. A mere fifty days after the resurrection, Peter preached the greatest sermon of his life on Pentecost. There were over 3000 persons who obeyed the gospel that day. Toward the end of his life, Peter would write: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you."* 1 Peter 1:3-4 ESV

Peter knew all about mercy and forgiveness. He had personally experienced it as seen in John 21:15-17. What was true for Peter remains true for us. The Christian is someone who has experienced mercy and forgiveness from God. When God says something, He means it. Let us move in faith and learn to trust Him more.

The Forgiveness of God is personal.

God sent His Son to a cruel cross in order to be the perfect sacrifice for sin. Jesus is the propitiation for our sin, 1 John 2:2. This propitiation is for everyone. It makes no difference how many sins have to be forgiven. There is no one beyond God's power to save. There is a passage in Hebrews 7:25 we need to remember: *"He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them."* Hebrews 7:25 ESV

Note the last phrase in the verse above. Forgiveness was not a one-time event. Jesus *always lives to make intercession for us*. He continues to be the offering that turns away God's wrath. We can always approach the Father, confess our sin, and be assured that He will **always** welcome us back into His grace.

Heaven is not an unattainable goal. It is not the destination of so called "super-Christians." It is the destination of those who have been forgiven and stand solely by the grace of God. Because of the abundant mercy of God, we have a living hope of salva-

tion given to us through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. This hope and assurance should be a source of motivation for us as we go through life. When we realize that God will go to whatever depth or any length to save us, it should radically change our life for the better. How is your life?

Dead Weight *Author Unknown*

**I've been a dead weight many years
Around the church's neck;
I've let the others carry me
And always pay the check.
I've had my name upon the rolls
For years and years gone by;
I've criticized and grumbled too,
Nothing could satisfy.**

**I've been a dead weight long enough
Upon the church's back;
Beginning now, I'm going to take
A wholly different track.
I'm going to pray and pay and work
And carry loads instead;
And not have others carry me
Like people do the dead.**

***"Will You not revive us again, that
Your people may rejoice in You?
Show us Your mercy, LORD, and
grant us Your salvation."***

Psalm 85:6-7

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

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

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Earl Miller
Scripture	Habukkuk 2:1-10
Reader	Terry Smith
1st Prayer	Ken Prager
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Chuck Isinghood
Closing Prayer	Tim Henderson

Wednesday

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Class Prayer	Earl Miller
Song Leader	Tim Henderson
Invitation	Dan Marton
Closing Prayer	Chuck Isinghood

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Travelling:

- Chuck Isinghood

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
- Connie Shane
- Blake Swanson is to have surgery soon

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