

In
Search
of...

Truth & Right

Tim Henderson, Editor

Volume-04

Issue-21

12/20/2009

"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:

*While
Men
Slept*

*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*

Harvest Is Past

Andy Sochor

In Jeremiah 8, the prophet condemns the people of Jerusalem for their sins. The condemnation was not for an occasional misstep, but for the persistent practice of sin and their stubborn refusal to repudiate it. *"Why then has this people, Jerusalem, turned away in apostasy? They hold fast to deceit, they refuse to return"* (v. 5).

The deceit to which they held fast was the lies of the scribes (v. 8) and of the priests who say *"Peace, peace," but there is no peace* (v. 11). They had become so accustomed to their sin that they were no longer *"ashamed of the abomination they had done... and they did not know how to blush"* (v. 12). They had replaced the Lord with *"graven images"* and *"foreign idols"* (v. 19).

After outlining this miserable state of the people, the prophet has these words — *"Harvest is past, summer is ended, and we are not saved"* (Jeremiah 8:20).

The point of this verse is that God's patience has a limit.

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His mercy, by which He refrains from punishing us as we deserve, will not be extended forever.

Jesus taught this in the parable of the ten virgins. In the parable, He speaks of five wise and five foolish virgins who were waiting for the bridegroom so that they could enter the wedding feast (Matthew 25:1-13). The foolish virgins were not prepared with enough oil for their lamps. When they left to get more, the bridegroom came and they were shut out. Even when they tried to get in, they were refused. It was too late.

He also told the story about the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). Once the rich man died, he saw Lazarus in Abraham's bosom while he found himself in torment. He pleaded for relief, but Abraham informed him of the great chasm that separated the place of torment from paradise. He could not leave torment for paradise. No matter how remorseful he was or how much he wanted to make things right, it was too late.

Fortunately, we know that God's mercy and patience will be extended to us as long as the earth stands and we are alive on it. The Hebrew writer said, "*it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes the judgment*" (Hebrews 9:27). While God will one day judge us and destroy the world, He is patiently allowing the world to continue so that we might repent of our sins and turn to Him (2 Peter 3:9-10).

But unfortunately, we don't know when that time of judgment will come. Our life is uncertain, and it could be gone at any time (James 4:14). The day of the Lord, when the heavens and earth will be destroyed, will come unexpectedly, like a thief (2 Peter 3:10).

So what are we to do? Should we press our luck and refuse to submit to God now because we think we'll have time later? Certainly not! God's patience is not an excuse to continue in sin, but is to draw us out of sin. Paul talked about this when he wrote to the saints in Rome: "*Or do you think lightly of the*

riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to each person according to his deeds" (Romans 2:4-6).

While God is merciful and patient, there is a limit. At the same time His kindness is extended to us, His wrath is building against those who continue in sin. The people of Jerusalem to which Jeremiah prophesied did not learn this lesson. They persisted in sin until it was too late.

Many today are also refusing to learn this lesson. They stubbornly continue in their sin, using God's mercy as an excuse. One day though, it will be too late. Many will be among the group that is like the people of Jeremiah's prophecy — "*Harvest is past, summer is ended, and we are not saved*" (Jeremiah 8:20). Don't be among this group. God has made salvation available now. Take advantage of it now and do not "*receive the grace of God in vain*" (2 Corinthians 6:1-2).

What Was Said About Jesus on The Cross

Andy Sochor

Jesus' death on the cross is the central event of the Bible. It is the sacrifice that made forgiveness, redemption, and salvation possible for all mankind. Jesus foretold of His death (Matthew 16:21). The Scriptures prophesied of this event (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53). Sufficient evidence has been provided to produce belief.

In addition to all the divinely given evidence, the gospel writers also record comments from some uninspired men as they

speak about Jesus and His crucifixion. It is interesting to see what others understood about Him, even some without the benefit of Old Testament teaching.

Pilate – Pilate was the Roman governor over the region that included the city of Jerusalem. The Jewish leaders brought Jesus before him, intending to have Him put to death. Pilate initially resisted, but later consented after the crowd went into an uproar. When Jesus was crucified, Pilate had an inscription placed on the cross, “*Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews*” (John 19:19). We don’t know Pilate’s motive for writing this. It’s doubtful that he really believed in Jesus, since he was allowing His death. But it is significant that he clearly identifies who is being crucified. It is Jesus. Not just any Jesus, but Jesus of Nazareth. Lest there be any further confusion, he states that He is the one who claimed to be a king (cf. John 18:36). There would be no mistake by anyone who passed by and saw that scene. They would know who was on that cross.

The Jewish Leaders – In responding to Pilate’s inscription, the Jews protested. “*Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews’; but that He said, ‘I am King of the Jews’*” (John 19:21). They did not want Jesus identified as their king. They told Pilate they had “*no king but Caesar*” (John 19:15). But what they did in their statement of protest was verify the claim of Jesus. They affirmed to Pilate that Jesus said He was a king. They understood Jesus’ teaching. They knew His intentions. They just did not believe Him.

The Thief on the Cross – When Jesus was crucified, two thieves were crucified with Him. Luke records one thief challenging Jesus to save Himself and them as well. The other thief rebuked him. He said, “*we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.*” He then said to Jesus, “*remember*

me when You come in Your kingdom!” (Luke 23:39-42). This thief recognized two things. First, he knew Jesus was innocent. Second, he believed that Jesus would rule over His kingdom, despite certain death on the cross. Therefore, we know that Jesus was recognized as a righteous man, and that His teaching about the coming kingdom was understood by certain individuals.

The Centurion – The Roman soldiers were accustomed to crucifying prisoners. It was something they were trained to do and there was nothing particularly unique about a crucifixion, usually. This time though, it was different. While Jesus suffered on the cross, there was darkness from the sixth hour to the ninth hour (Matthew 27:45). Immediately after His death, there was an earthquake, the veil of the temple was torn in two, and the graves were opened and the dead came into the city (Matthew 27:50-53). The

The centurion ... took note of all that happened, including all that Jesus said and did, and reached a conclusion: “Truly this was the Son of God”

centurion who was there to oversee everything took note of all that happened, including all that Jesus said and did, and reached a conclusion: “*Truly this was the Son of God*” (Matthew 27:54). Does the centurion mean that he thought that Jesus was the Son of God as we understand it, or just that he

was righteous, as Luke suggests (Luke 23:47)? In either case, this man understood that Jesus was different, He was innocent, and that the power of God was with Him.

When we consider all of these things, we get an idea about what the people thought about Jesus. They recognized Him as a Jew from Nazareth. They also understood His claims of being a king. If they were honest, they recognized that there was no just cause for His condemnation. It was also plainly demonstrated that God was with Him. Besides the testimony of these uninspired men that has been recorded for us, this is what the Scriptures teach as well. We must believe what it says, believe in Jesus, and look to Him for our salvation.

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Dave Harless
Announcements	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Earl Miller
Scripture	Habakkuk 2:11-20
Reader	Terry Smith
Prayer	Ken Prager
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Don Coen, Sr.
Fruit of the Vine	Chuck Isinghood
Serve	Dan Marton
Serve	Harold Marshall
Closing Prayer	Don Coen, Jr.

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	Habakkuk 3
Reader	Earl Miller
1st Prayer	Chuck Isinghood
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Harold Marshall
Closing Prayer	Ken Prager

Wednesday

Announcements	Ed Roberts
Class Prayer	Ken Prager
Song Leader	Harold Marshall
Invitation	Don Coen, Jr.
Closing Prayer	Don Coen, Sr.

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Travelling:

- The Hendersons will be travelling Monday through Thursday

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