

*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

Today's Sermon:

*The Christian Man
As A Father*

*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.*

I'm Satisfied

David J. Riggs

Zealous Bible students are eager to persuade people to study the Bible with them, but more often than not, they are met with the reply, “I’m satisfied with my religion.” These people seem to think that since they are pleased with their present religion there is not need for Bible study. However, just because one is satisfied with his religion does not necessarily mean that God is satisfied.

There are satisfied people in all churches, but all churches cannot be right because they contradict one another. When several churches are teaching conflicting doctrines, some of them are in error. Truth is absolute and always consistent with itself. If one church teaches we can baptize infants and another says we can't, if one claims baptism is for remission of sins and another teaches it is not, or if one declares we are saved before baptism and another at the point of baptism, they all can't be right.

The Bible says, “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God.” (2 John 9). It is a Bible fact that Jesus Christ has only one church (Ephesians 4:3-6; 1:22-23). Jesus said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not

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planted will be uprooted." (Matthew 15:13).

People often make the reply "I'm satisfied" as though that's all that matters. They think that since they are happy and content with the church they are in, all is well with their soul. However, one's primary concern should be, "**Is God satisfied?**" The Pharisees were very much satisfied with their religion, but Jesus said, "*And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.*" (Matthew 15:9). Jeroboam was well satisfied with his new religion and so were the thousands in Israel who embraced it (1 Kings 12:25-33). However, there are no harder words of condemnation found anywhere in the Bible than those spoken against Jeroboam and his followers (1 Kings 13:1-2; 14:10-11). Jesus showed that at the judgment there will be many condemned in spite of the fact they were pleased with what they were doing in religion (Matthew 7:22-23).

The "I'm satisfied" attitude is not a good attitude to have. Instead, the child of God has an open mind realizing there is always room for correction and improvement. Furthermore, he realizes that those who differ with him will point out his error, but those who embrace that same error will not. To overcome the danger of embracing falsehood, he is always willing to study both sides of the question with an good and honest heart. With this humble attitude the Christian will study and examine what others present; without it, he will be closed minded and will cut off all possible avenues of truth. The Bible says, "*Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure ...*" (2 Peter 1:10). "*Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.*" (2 Corinthians 13:5).

***"Examine yourselves
as to whether you
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Benefit of the Doubt

Gary Henry

*"For with what judgment you
judge, you will be judged; and
with the measure you use, it will
be measured back to you."*

Matthew 7:2

It would be a better world if each of us would be as patient with other people as we are with ourselves. When it comes to mistakes that we have made, we tend to be very "understanding," but we aren't always so lenient toward the mistakes made by those around us. But Jesus Christ calls upon us to grow in this area of our thinking, and there are several ways we can do this:

When others have erred, we can place the best possible interpretation on the evidence. Very few things happen in this world that aren't capable of more than one explanation. Rather than jump to the worst possible interpretation, we need to do for others what we always hope they'll do for us: believe the best until the facts force a more negative conclusion, which is then accepted reluctantly.

We can give others time to improve. Every single one of us is a work in progress. At present, we continue to make mistakes that we hope we'll not make quite so often in the future. Consequently, we hope that others will extend grace to us and allow us the time we need to make the adjustments we're trying to make. Wouldn't it be wise to give them the same consideration?

We can see others more from the viewpoint of their potential and less from that of their present performance. When Jesus spoke to the adulterous woman who had been brought to Him, He did not condone her sin. In fact, He commanded her to repent: "*Go and sin no more*" (John 8:11). In saying that, however, He showed more compassion than her accusers had shown. In His view, she was

more than a person who had sinned -- she was a person with potential, one who could *overcome* the bad choices she had made!

It ought to be sobering for us to remember that a day of accounting awaits us all, a day when we'll be judged by God. At that time, we'll want God to show every possible leniency to us. But Jesus warned, *"With what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."* And James said, *"Judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy"*- (James 2:13). So we need to ask: what kind of accounting by God are we setting ourselves up for?

"If you put up with yourself, why not put up with everyone else."

Guigo I

On Loving Our Enemies

Gary Henry

"For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?"

Matthew 5:46,47

Loving those who have harmed us is one of the simplest things Jesus ever commanded, and one of the hardest. It's simple because it's very basic and goes right to the heart of what's important in life. Yet it's hard because it goes so strongly against the grain of the worldly thinking to which we're accustomed.

It should be noted that our ideas are often

quite naive concerning the meaning and practice of loving our enemies. Whatever it does mean, loving our enemies *doesn't* mean we enjoy being in their presence or have a warm, fuzzy feeling when we think about them. It doesn't mean that we practice the same social relationship with them that we'd be able to practice if they repented of their wrongs. And it doesn't mean that we never cry out to God for justice to be done. David, for example, loved his enemies with a remarkable love, as evidenced by his treatment of Saul, his worst enemy (2 Samuel 1:17-27). It was not inconsistent, however, for David to pray, *"Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. In Your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul; for I am Your servant"* (Psalm 143:11,12).

The key is that David had learned to see his enemies in the same light that God did, with both love and a respect for justice. If our enemies refuse to repent of their wrongs, we should not only accept God's justice but long for it to be done (Revelation 6:10). At the same time, we should be willing to make significant sacrifices, as God did, to make their return from sin possible. God did more than talk about loving His enemies; He went so far as to sacrifice His Son's life for them. What treasure would we sacrifice -- truly *sacrifice* -- to promote the salvation of our enemies?

Worldly relationships are built on mutual goodwill, but God has set His people a much higher goal. If we're among His people, we *must act with love and justice even when these aren't reciprocated.*

"It is a small thing to wish well and do well to one who has done you no evil. It is far greater -- a magnificent goodness -- to love your enemy, and to wish and do well to one who is trying to harm you." Augustine of Hippo

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Ed Roberts
Announcements	Chuck Isinghood
Song Leader	Harold Marshall
Scripture	Ezekiel 48:18-35
Reader	Ken Prager
Prayer	Dave Harless
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Tim Henderson
Fruit of the Vine	Don Coen, Jr.
Serve	Dan Marton
Serve	Blake Headen
Closing Prayer	Ken Prager

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Chuck Isinghood
Song Leader	Ken Prager
Scripture	Daniel 1:1-11
Reader	Terry Smith
1st Prayer	Ed Roberts
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Dan Marton
Closing Prayer	Dave Harless

Wednesday

Announcements	Chuck Isinghood
Class Prayer	Don Coen, Jr.
Song Leader	Ed Roberts
Invitation	Dan Marton
Closing Prayer	Earl Miller

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Recovering:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| - Earl Miller | - Ann Rudolph |
| - Marie Roberts | - Joyce Coen |

Prayer Requests:

- Zeda Goddard
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Cary and Grace Lancaster
- Alfred & Mary Jane Myers
- Albert Miller, Earl Miller and Marie Robert's brother.
- Zeda Goddard's sons, Dallas and Terry, and her daughter Tammy Garrison
- Rick Miller, Dorothy Lancaster's nephew
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband, as he continues to deal with cancer treatments.
- Jimmy Roberts, Ed & Marie's son
- Jim Roberts, Ed Roberts' father
- Bud and Merl Frey

Don't forget our Shut-ins

Nursing Home:

- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers

At Home:

- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- 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