

*In  
Search  
of ...*

# Truth & Right

*Tim Henderson, Editor*

**Volume-03**

**Issue-23**

**01/04/2009**

*"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 Sermons:

*AM: The Valley of  
Dry Bones  
PM: Two Sticks*

*Audio CD's are available  
free of charge in the foyer.*

*Please visit our website:  
[www.truthandright.org](http://www.truthandright.org)*

*If you have any questions regard-  
ing what we teach and practice,  
please feel free to ask*

## Restoring Our Focus

*By: Matt Allen*

*via—New Living—Volume 10—Number 1*

I am sure you have heard the phrase, "Don't miss the forest for the trees." We often use the phrase when trying to tell someone not to miss the bigger picture on a particular matter. That can certainly be good advice. What about with our focus on the spiritual? There are times when we need to restore our focus and look at the underlying principles that govern our spiritual lives. Sometimes we can get bogged down in the details and forget God's purpose for our lives. Consider the following examples as you begin 2009.

**Christianity is about becoming disciples, not just mere decision making.** Christianity is much more than just a decision to obey the gospel. It involves more than just a collection of decisions we continue to make as we go through life. Christianity becomes *who* we are. Paul spoke of the need for transformation, Romans 12:1-2. Where Jesus leads, we follow. In Mark 10:17-22, Jesus taught a very important lesson to a rich man who inquired as to what he must do to obtain salvation. This person had kept the commandments from his youth, 10:20, but there was still something lacking. Jesus instructed him to "*go and sell all you posses and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in*

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heaven; and come, follow me,” 10:21. Becoming a disciple of Christ involves sacrifice! We cannot come to Jesus on our own terms. We must make the commitment to be like Him! *“A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher,”* Luke 6:40. Think of it: we are extremely blessed to serve a God who wants a relationship with us, 2 Corinthians 16-17. We must serve Him out of the desire for a relationship with deity.

**Christianity is about obedience, not just doctrine.** Some may be tempted to reduce Christianity to little more than cold, calculated law-keeping. This mentality can lead to traditionalism, ritualistic prayer and worship services, and heartless expressions of praise. Sometimes these traditions and rituals can become more important than scripture itself! Jesus condemned such, Matthew 15:7-9. Is doctrine essential? Certainly! John wrote, *“Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son,”* 2 John 9. We must keep the doctrine of Christ if we wish to go to heaven!

During New Testament times, humility was inseparably intertwined with the concept of obedience. When the apostles called for the need to implement Christianity into life, a person was expected to literally yield his or her wants, desires, and behavior to God’s standard. True Christianity is an expression of a humble heart connected with God. We do not worship God just to adhere to a collection of doctrinal expectations, but out of humble submission to God’s will. We do not spurn instrumental music in worship because of a manmade idea, but out of respect for what God has *not* said. Embedded in obedience, is the concept of unyielding faith and trust. Even if a practice seems strange by modern standards, we trust that God’s way is best. Paul wrote, *“the foolishness*

*of God is wiser than men,”* 1 Corinthians 1:25. There are countless examples in both testaments where obedience to God’s will required great trust on the part of God’s servants. Naaman, Moses, Abraham, Jos-hua, and Caleb are just a few great examples.

**Christianity is about relationships, not just attendance.** Worship services allow us to develop and strengthen our relationships with God and brothers and sisters in Christ. The church is an absolute necessity for the Christian who wants to strengthen himself spiritually. Congregational praise and worship should be viewed as a strengthening experience, not just as an hour or two to fulfill God’s requirements for that week. We often quote Hebrews 10:23-25 on this subject. Often the greater emphasis is on 10:25 where the writer speaks of not neglecting the assembly. Equally important to this passage is 10:23-24 where we read: *“Let us hold fast the confession*

*“By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected,”* 1 John 2:3-5a

*of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds...”*

The fastest way to develop a poor attitude toward worship and attending church services is to go with an attitude that focuses on self. “This is boring,...” “The preacher always preaches on the same thing...” and “We never do anything different...” are not healthy attitudes or feelings with which to approach worship. When we come to services, let us focus on God, and the encouragement we can bring to others. Your smiling face, participation in heartfelt singing, prayers, Bible study, and giving can lift others up. This is what the Hebrew writer had in mind in 10:24. We encourage others by our presence, 10:25.

We must never lose sight of the underlying principles God has established for us as we serve Him. As you move forward, let God’s purposes motivate you to higher and nobler service. *“By this we know that we have come to*

know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected,” 1 John 2:3-5a.

## *Doting About Questions*

*Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.*

*via—Charlottesville Beacon—V-04/I-12*

Paul warns of those who are “*doting about questions and strifes of words.*” (1 Timothy 6:4). The basic meaning of the English word “dote” is “to show excessive love or fondness.” The word from which “doting” is translated means “sick.” Three other widely-used translations translate the phrase thusly:

“*Obsessed with disputes and arguments over words*” (NKJV).

“*An unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words*” (NIV).

“*A morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words*” (NASB)

From the context it is fairly certain that Paul was talking about certain false teachers who were causing strife among brethren by using their skills at argumentation to persuade poor slaves, who were Christians, to use godliness for their own material gain by rising up against their masters. It may have been that they argued that “freedom in Christ” entitled one to demand all other forms of freedom. What ever the case, Paul tells the slaves that rather than “*supposing that gain is godliness,*” to consider that “*godliness with contentment is great gain.*”

It was not the purpose of the gospel to upset nor overthrow the social and political systems of the world, but its purpose was (and is) to give man freedom from sin and fear of the

wrath to come. In order to maintain this freedom a Christian was taught to “*live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world.*” (Titus 2:12). Part of living that “*quiet and peaceable life in all godliness*” (1 Timothy 2:2) was to quietly submit to those over them in the social and political realm, rather than being an agitator of strife and a rabble-rouser.

While this is the context of Paul’s warning, it is clear that God does not like for one to “*dote about questions*” in any context. Christians should not “show excessive love” for controversy. They must “*contend earnestly for the faith.*” (Jude 3). Jesus and his Apostles left us copious examples of engaging in legitimate debate on religious questions. But we need to be careful that our affinity for controversy does not become excessive until it becomes an obsession, a sickness – so that one seeks to debate just for the love of debating or arguing just for the sake of arguing. Such a one can foment a lot of unnecessary strife and headaches among brethren in general, and within the congregation where he attends in particular, with his endless wrangling over every little question. Bible classes, preaching services, and even social conversations, with such a person present, are tension filled because most of those present wonder what brother Wrangle is going to find to argue about today. It is hard to really learn and be edified in such an atmosphere.

*“he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions,”*

1 Timothy 6:4

## Those Serving This Week

### Sunday AM

<b>Class Prayer</b>	Matt Ferrell
<b>Announcements</b>	Ed Roberts
<b>Song Leader</b>	Nathan Marshall
<b>Scripture</b>	Ezekiel 37:1-14
<b>Reader</b>	DC Coen
<b>Prayer</b>	Don Coen, Sr.
<b>Speaker</b>	Tim Henderson
<b>Lord's Supper</b>	
Bread	Don Coen, Jr.
Fruit of the Vine	Dave Harless
Serve	Dan Marton
Serve	Terry Smith
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Prager

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

### Sunday PM

<b>Announcements</b>	Ed Roberts
<b>Song Leader</b>	Harold Marshall
<b>Scripture</b>	Ezekiel 37:15-28
<b>Reader</b>	Nathan Marshall
<b>1st Prayer</b>	Matt Ferrell
<b>Speaker</b>	Tim Henderson
<b>Communion</b>	Ken Prager
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Dave Harless

### Wednesday

<b>Announcements</b>	Ed Roberts
<b>Class Prayer</b>	Don Coen, Sr.
<b>Song Leader</b>	Dan Marton
<b>Invitation</b>	Dave Harless
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Chuck Isinghood

## *News N Notes*

**Please continue to remember these in your prayers:**

**Funeral:** Wanda Rice, wife of Clarence Rice, passed away Friday. The viewing will be at Furbee Funeral Home, Monday 2-4 & 7-9, Tuesday 3-5 & 7-9. The Funeral will be at 11 at the Middlebourne church of Christ. Visit [www.furbeefuneralhome.com](http://www.furbeefuneralhome.com) for more information

**Traveling:** Alfred and Mary Jane Myers

**Recovering:**

- Earl Miller                      - Ann Rudolph                      - Mary Jane Myers
- Marie Roberts                - Phyllis Coen

**Prayer Requests:**

- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother, is in room 536 at Weirton Medical Center
- Ila Marshall, Harold Marshall's mother.
- Cary and Grace Lancaster
- Albert Miller, Earl Miller and Marie Robert's brother.
- Alfred Myers diagnosed with a leaky valve in his heart
- Mary Jane Myer's daughter-in-law has cancer in her neck .
- Zeda Goddard's sons, Dallas and Terry, and her daughter Tammy Garrison
- Frank Miller, Dorothy Lancaster's brother and 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
- Lucille Harless, Dave Harless' mother
- Blake Swanson, Dorothy Lancaster's grandson
- Bud and Merl Frey

### **Don't forget our Shut-ins**

**Nursing Home:**

- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers

**At Home:**

- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- 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