

*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 Sermon:

Losing the Word of God

*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*

Taking Up the Cross

Billy Norris

*"And he who does not take his cross and
follow after me is not worthy of me"*

Matthew 10:38

All should want to be a follower of Christ, for He is the only one by whom we can come to the Father, and therefore to the heavenly and eternal home (John 14:6).

To follow Christ—to be like Him—we must be *pure in life*. *"For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth"* (1 Peter 1:21,22).

To follow Christ we must be *wholly submissive to God's will*. His food was to do the will of His Father in heaven (John 4:34). He came to the world with a purpose: *"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me"* (John 6:38). He never lost sight of this purpose. Approaching the cross His prayer was *"Not My will, but Yours be done"* (Luke 22:42).

To follow Christ we must *serve our fellowman*. He filled His days going from place to place serving the mass of humanity in need. Peter said that He went about *"doing good"* (Acts 10:38).

To follow Christ we must *take up the cross*.

WHAT IS THE CROSS?

Though not likely in our day, it could be a literal cross. It can

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be whatever personal and particular sacrifice each of us must make to be a true disciple of Christ—to follow in His footsteps.

1. *It may be the cross of giving up a loved one.* A young lady, a faithful Christian, was considering marriage to a young man whose church doctrine demanded that she give up her faith and vow that their children would be brought up in his church. Though she loved him, Christ and His kingdom came first in her life. She refused to violate her conscience and her conviction by such demands. By taking up this cross she pledged her allegiance anew to the One who died on His literal cross that she might live.

2. *It may be the cross of dividing the family.* Our Lord has said, *“Do you suppose that I came to give peace on the earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. Father will be divided against son, and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law”* (Luke 12:51-53). Why would Christ divide a family at peace and united in their religion? If their religion is not that of the revealed will of God, though they may be enjoying peace and unity in the family, it is not peace and unity that saves. That which saves is truth by which we are made free from sin (John 8:32).

When one learns that truth, like Andrew first bringing it to Peter his brother, he will want to first bring it to his beloved family that they may be saved. Some may accept it. Others may reject it. The family once at peace is now divided. But the family once at peace was lost. Now those who have obeyed the gospel will spend the remaining days of their lives striving to reach their loved one with the power of God to save (Romans 1:16). If the one or two in the family had not obeyed, all would be lost. Now there is the possibility that all will be saved.

3. *It may be the cross of overcoming personal weakness.* That weakness may be pride, temper, envy, vulgar and profane speech, lust, addiction to tobacco, alcohol, drugs. *“If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for*

your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell” (Matthew 5:29,30).

4. *It may be the cross of giving up honors and acclaim.* Some have been offered honors that have conflicted with their responsibility to Christ and His cause. Without his actually seeking the honor, a young man was elected to perhaps the highest honor the student body could bestow. It turned out that he would be required to lead the grand march at the prom with the young lady who had also been honored by her schoolmates. Since he could not conscientiously have a part in the prom, out of respect for him the officials, perhaps for the first time in the history of the school, cancelled the prom and replaced it with a banquet. Others also have given up high places offered to them when such honors conflicted with their devotion to Christ. On the other hand, some showing no compunction of conscience, have accepted such conflicting adulations with pride.

5. *It may be the cross of giving up high and lucrative position.* A Christian had served his company well. The national economy was at a low ebb. Company officials, seeking ways to increase their sales, told their salesmen to make free use of alcohol and food in wining and dining prospective customers as a means of increasing sales. Though he had a family to support, the Christian could not go along with company policy. He lost his job, but somehow in the providential care of God he came to be with a more honorable and successful company. The latter end was better than the first.

6. *It may be the cross of being out of step with the rest of the world.* So, one is an “old fogey,” a “stick in the mud,” a “square.” If one is in step with God and His way, this is all that counts in the long run. The world is going down, *“but he who does the will of God abides forever”* (1 John 2:17).

Be not discouraged. Though at the end of the cross-bearing, there may be a Calvary. Remember that beyond Calvary there was the cloud that lifted Christ to glory.

Using Our Talents

By: Matt Allen

The servant in Matthew 25:25-30 was cast into outer darkness because he buried his talent. How terrible! Had this man only recognized the need to fulfill his responsibility he would never have had to suffer punishment. The purpose of this parable was to make us aware that we should be doing our best to use the abilities we have from God for use in His kingdom.

Congregations of the Lord's people can also neglect responsibilities given to them by Christ. In the 3rd chapter of the book of Revelation, we are told of the church at Sardis. This congregation had a name that they were alive and prospering (3:1). They appeared to be moving forward for the Lord. I am sure they enjoyed the reputation of being alive. At the end of verse one, Christ very plainly tells them they were dead spiritually. No doubt, the news from Christ was a shock for some! But all was not lost, Christ told them to be "*watchful and strengthen the things which remain ...*" They still had time to correct that which was wrong and become pleasing in Christ's sight.

There are many congregations of the Lord's people today which are in the same category with Sardis. How do congregations get in such shape? Usually it is not one, but there are several contributing factors.

A major element which determines the life of a congregation is the type of spiritual food it is receiving. To have a strong, growing congregation, a continuous dose of strong spiritual food is necessary. Rather than concentrating on spiritual food, many congregations have chosen to satisfy the fleshly nature of man by interjecting entertainment into worship and bowing down to social interests. Thus many congregations, instead of digesting the truth as they should, settle for less potent doses of the Word of God. After allowing this kind of teaching go on for a period of time, the congregation becomes spiritually "anemic," with a few digressing even to the point of death! It does not have to be this way! Con-

gregations need to have evangelists who are not afraid to declare "*the whole counsel of God.*" (2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 2:1; 3:15; Matthew 28:20) This, balanced with sound teaching from other members of the congregation will ensure a proper diet of spiritual food. Every congregation has the ability to have sound teaching. Some choose not to, and because of that, will die spiritually!

Notice also in Revelation 3:2 Sardis' works were not "*perfect before God.*" Could it be that they were not diligent in their efforts for the Lord? 1 Corinthians 15:58 instructs us to "*abound in the work of the Lord.*" To bear precious fruit in the vineyard of the Lord requires hard work. Is our congregation diligent in its efforts for the Lord? If Christ were evaluating this congregation where would it stand? The responsibility falls on each one of us.

Later in Revelation chapter 3, we read of the congregation which met at Laodicea. This congregation is often referred to when addressing matters on this particular subject. This was the only group out of the seven churches of Asia which received no good commendation from Christ. But they had not progressed to the point of no return (3:18-20). The basic complaint was their lukewarmness before God. It seems as if they were giving only a portion of their lives to Christ, while concentrating on other things.

They thought of themselves as strong, needing nothing, and were satisfied with their condition. Christ declared they were wretched, poor, blind, blind and naked (3:17). If they remained in their present condition they would not receive their treasure in heaven.

How many congregations today are in the same state as Laodicea? Too many of God's people lack the zeal and enthusiasm which is necessary to be pleasing to God. A proper zeal will only come from the heart. We must render our heart unto God, so we can follow His will!

The congregations we have mentioned today were not achieving their potential! They had the ability to do many great and wonderful things for the Lord! But for some reason did not. What about our congregation here? Let us realize the potential we have to do good things for Christ!

via—The Cyclone Messenger—V-1, N-23, 1/5/1997

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Ken Prager
Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Ed Roberts
Scripture	Ezekiel 40:1-15
Reader	Terry Smith
Prayer	Matt Ferrell
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Nathan Marshall
Fruit of the Vine	Don Coen, Jr.
Serve	Dan Marton
Serve	Chuck Isinghood
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	Ken Prager
Scripture	Ezekiel 40:16-30
Reader	Ed Roberts
1st Prayer	Dan Marton
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Nathan Marshall
Closing Prayer	Matt Ferrell

Wednesday

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Class Prayer	Matt Ferrell
Song Leader	Singing/Praying
Invitation	Don Coen, Jr.
Closing Prayer	Dave Harless

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Traveling: Alfred and Mary Jane Myers

Recovering:

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

Prayer Requests:

- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Ila Marshall, Harold Marshall's mother.
- Cary and Grace Lancaster
- Albert Miller, Earl Miller and Marie Robert's brother.
- Alfred & Mary Jane Myers
- 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
- 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