

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 Home
The Purpose of the
Home as God Intended*

*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.*

Fundamental Features of Christianity

Dee Bowman

via-New Living—V-11—Is 9, March 1, 2009

Fundamentals are a vital concern for whatever the project or enterprise. Without a firm foundation, any endeavor is eventually doomed to failure. Fundamentals are the things that undergird something, the foundation on which that thing rests. The Christians system has certain fundamental things that underlie it. These are necessary fundamentals. Here are some suggestions concerning those essential parts.

Conversion. Conversion indicates a change. Change is what the "new birth" is all about (John 3:3). Jesus said, "except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom



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of God.” That conversion is a change of the whole man—a change of his intellect, brought about by faith; a change of his will, brought about by repentance; and a change of his relationship, brought about by baptism. This fundamental change brings one “into” Christ, or into a new relationship with Him. *“Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away, behold, all things are made new”* (2 Corinthians 5:17). *“Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven,”* Jesus said (Matthew 18:3). Conversion is fundamental to Christianity; it’s what makes one a Christian in the first place.

Conviction. Conviction issues in two different directions: it may be the equivalent of faith, or it may be what is produced by the knowledge of being found guilty. First of all, it’s being convinced, fully persuaded. That’s faith. Conviction is faith. *“Without faith it is impossible to please Him,”* we are told in Hebrews 11:6. We must be fully convinced that God is, and that He rewards those who diligently seek after Him. Faith is an essential part of Christianity; it is the bedrock foundation on which the entire system rests.

But conviction can turn in another direction as well. It may mean one who is convicted by the law, one who is guilty of a crime, as charged by a judge or jury. Many has to realize his lost condition before he will turn to God. The people on Pentecost were *“pricked in their hearts”* (Acts 2:37) before they said, *“men and brethren, what shall we do?”* One of the purposes of the word of God is to identify sin for what it is, and cause men to repent. *“Godly sorrow worketh repentance”* (2 Corinthians 6:10). Sorrow for sin comes as a result of a realization that one is not approved of God because of that sin. In either case—whether it is understood as faith, or being found guilty—conviction is a fundamental of Christianity.

“...one must renew his mind in order to be consecrated to God. He must have a new focus, new desires, a new attitude toward the world...”

Consecration. To consecrate something is to set it apart, to make it sacred. In the case of Christianity, consecration is an indispensable part of service to God. As we have seen already, the Christian must be a new creature, one who has been born again. Once that is accomplished, he then must consecrate himself to God through His Son, Jesus Christ. *“Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed,”* we are told, *“by the renewing of your minds”* (Romans 12:1-2). Notice that

one must renew his mind in order to be consecrated to God. He must have a new focus, new desires, a new attitude toward the world, all of which has to do with his being set apart or consecrated to God. *“Set your affection on things above, not on things of the world”* (Colossians 3:2), is another way of saying, “be consecrated to God rather than the world.”

Consummation. Consummation, bringing one’s life to a suitable end or conclusion. *“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,”* says Paul (Philippians 2:12). You have to work it out yourself; and you have to work it all the way out to the end, or as Peter says, *“Give diligence to make your calling and elections sure”* (2 Peter 1:10). Consummation, for our purposes, means to bring your sanctified life to a good conclusion. *“Gird up the loins of your mind, and be sober,”* says Peter (1 Peter 1:13), *“and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”* Live your life here is such a way that when it is concluded you will hear the commendation, *“well done good and faithful servant ...”* Life is a miserable failure if it doesn’t, but the grace of God, culminate in a heavenly abode.

Fundamentals. They are necessary to who and what we are. Let us not become so enamored with where we are that we forget where we are going.

Why We Do Not Use Instrumental Music in Worship

Donnie V. Rader

One of the first things that people notice when they visit our worship services is that we don't use instrumental music. Some wonder whether it is a matter of finance, personal preference or a matter of conviction.

The reason a flag is raised is that most of the denominations have some form of instrumental music in worship. An organ or piano is most common. However, it is not uncommon to find churches with a full band—including drums and brass instruments.

Why do we not use instrumental music in worship?

It Is Not Authorized. Careful students know that we must have Bible authority for all that we do in service to God. Paul said, *"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him"* (Colossians 3:17). To do a thing *"in the name of"* someone is to do it by their power or authority (Acts 4:7). John wrote that we must abide within the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9).

Bible authority is established by (1) Command, (2) Example or (3) Necessary inference. All three of these were used in settling the matter of circumcision in Acts 15. Without a command or direct statement, an example that is approved of God or some principle that necessarily infers the matter, it is without Bible authority.

To illustrate: what would be wrong with having grape jelly on the Lord's table—along with the bread and fruit of the vine? There is no command to have it. We find no example of such. Furthermore, there is no passage that causes us to conclude that it was used or should be. Thus, there is no Bible authority for it. The same is true with instrumental music. To do something without Bible authority is sinful (2 John 9).

What God did authorize, as far as music is concerned, is singing. Consider the following passages:

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16).

"Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19).

There are seven other passages in the NT that deal with music in worship. All refer to singing (Matthew 26:30; Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Hebrews 13:15). There is no passage authorizing the instrument.

God did authorize singing. God did not authorize instrumental music. Therefore, it is unscriptural.

An Addition To The Word of God. Since God specified singing, we are not at liberty to use any other kind of music. For example, Noah was told to build the ark of *"gopher wood"* (Genesis 6:14). Had God said, *"wood"* (leaving it in the generic), Noah would have been at liberty to use any kind of wood. Yet, because God specified *"gopher"* that eliminated the use of any other *kind* of wood. To build the ark of oak would not be authorized. To use gopher and oak would not be authorized.

Let's consider again the matter of the Lord's Supper. God specified that the unleavened bread and fruit of the vine should be used (Matthew 26:17-28). If we decide that we want grape jelly to go with our bread, we now have *another* element on the table and thus an *addition* to the word of God.

The same is true of music in worship. Had God told us to have music (leaving it in the generic), we could have chosen vocal or instrumental or a combination of both. However, since God specified, *singing* (Ephesians 5:19), other kinds of music are thus eliminated. Instrumental music is therefore an **addition** to the word of God.

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Ken Prager
Announcements	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Harold Marshall
Scripture	Ezekiel 45:13-25
Reader	Dan Marton
Prayer	Tim Henderson
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Don Coen, Jr.
Fruit of the Vine	Chuck Isinghood
Serve	Blake Headen
Serve	Terry Smith
Closing Prayer	Harold Marshall

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Ken Prager
Scripture	Ezekiel 46:1-12
Reader	Blake Headen
1st Prayer	Don Coen, Jr.
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Harold Marshall
Closing Prayer	Earl Miller

Wednesday

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

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Recovering:

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

Prayer Requests:

- Zeda Goddard
- Joyce Coen is recovering from knee surgery at her daughter's house.
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Ila Marshall, Harold Marshall'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