

In
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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:

*AM: Good
Progress*

*PM: Mistakes We
Make*

*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*

Charging A Battery That Has A Dead Cell

Dennis Reed

Via— Watchmanmag.com

More than forty years ago, I shared in the Lord's work with a faithful gospel preacher in Birmingham, Alabama, who was the only preacher among our black brethren in that area who truly stood firm for the Truth and preached it with all boldness. Brother James Ashhurst, now deceased, was one of the finest men that I have ever had the opportunity to work with in my efforts to preach the gospel. Brethren Frank Smith and Bob Crawley, both now deceased, had the same confidence in this brother and diligently worked to help him in every way that they could to carry the gospel to the black people who made up almost half of the population of Birmingham during those difficult years of the 60's.

Brother Ashhurst was telling me one day about a brother whom he was trying to strengthen through teaching and said to me, "brother Reed, helping this brother is like trying to charge a battery which has a dead cell – you can charge it, and charge it, and charge it, and it will still be dead!" I thought then, and think even more today that our lack of ef-

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fectiveness in providing strength, soundness, and knowledge to a great many of our brethren is being hampered tremendously by our having to try so hard to charge a battery which has a dead cell!

We have often heard that one of the most difficult tasks in life is trying to help someone who doesn't believe that he needs any help or else he is just totally satisfied with what he is now doing and doesn't want to be helped! So we are therefore confronted with the task of getting brethren to recognize the tremendous dangers which threaten their faith, and to provide them with the teaching, exhortation, and strength to encounter the enemy – but we find ourselves charging and charging, and charging, and then ultimately having to realize that our lack of success is simply because we are working with a “dead cell” – a mind or heart which is not at all willing to receive the needed instruction!

There are so many brethren who just refuse to listen, and they refuse to open their eyes so that they can see! There are so many who don't even have the desire to examine any kind of spiritual issue. There are so many who are being deceived and beguiled with smooth and fair speech! There are so many who believe the falsehood being spread by the “union in perversity” brethren that “it just doesn't matter what you believe, teach or practice – you can still remain in full fellowship with God and with your brethren!” There are so many who want the kind of preaching which entertains them and tells them how really great and faithful they are! We are really living in a generation where it seems that many of our brethren prefer to hear “smooth things” and “deceits” (Isaiah 30:9-10).

Yes, brother Ashhurst was right on target, “you can charge it, and charge it, and charge it, and it will still be dead!” When a person wants so badly to follow his or her own selfish desires, and when one so greatly desires to believe and practice what pleases and satisfies his own personal whims in religion, it becomes very obvious that you have a battery which is definitely going to resist a “charge” (Matthew 13:10-16). When you want

to have fellowship with sinful doctrines and practices and still be justified in what you desire to do – then you have become as dead and useless to the Lord as any of our neighbors out there in the denominational world who are of that same persuasion! And besides all of that, you may well have developed a whole vocabulary of derogatory names and remarks that you can make about those who would dare to question what you are teaching, practicing, or fellowshiping! Those who refuse to come to the light will never receive the Truth (John 3:19-21) (1 John 1:5-7) (Ephesians 5: 6-14).

Yes, it is extremely difficult to drill through hardened material. We may well be trying to break through concrete walls, or we may well be plowing in rocky soil. It is becoming more and more evident that we are diligently trying to charge some batteries which have dead cells!

But make no mistake, we are still totally confident that the gospel of Christ is the “power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16-17). And we are absolutely resolved to never “grow weary in well doing” (Galatians 6:9) (2 Thessalonians 3:13). But, brethren, we must be straightforward and candid about the problem which we are finding more prevalent with every passing day. Jesus described it in these words as he quotes from the prophet Isaiah, “For this people's heart is waxed gross, And their ears are dull of hearing, And their eyes they have closed; Lest haply they should perceive with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And should turn again, And I should heal them” (Matthew 13:15).

We cannot just throw away precious souls as we would a battery with a dead cell, so we must therefore look at the sober alternatives involved. Sometimes it may be as the Lord taught the disciples, “And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, as ye go forth out of that house or that city, shake off the dust of your feet” (Matthew 10:14). Or it may be necessary to turn in another direction, “But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was constrained by the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. And when they opposed themselves and blasphemed, he shook out

his raiment and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles..." (Acts 18:5-11). Whatever the circumstances we encounter, we must continue to seek those who are "noble" enough to search the scriptures, "Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11).

I shall never forget the beloved brother who said to me, "you can charge it, and charge it, and charge it, and it will still be dead!" Brethren, are you and I reacting to God's Truth as if we were like a battery with a dead cell? Are we in need of spiritual "eyesalve" to anoint our eyes so that we can see (Revelation 3:18)? Shall we be like Israel of old and have our hearts so hardened that we will not believe (Acts 28:17-31)? Shall we be so arrogant and so certain that we have complete vision that we are unable to see ourselves as we really are (John 9:39-41)? Could it be that we are so selfish and enamored with ourselves that we are blind to the hypocrisy in our own lives (Romans 2:17-24)?

Please be soberly reminded, brethren, our willful blindness and hardness of heart will cause us to lose our soul if we don't "awaken" before it is eternally too late! "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31).

Tears

Gary Henry

"Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you" John 16:22

Do goodbyes bring tears to your eyes? They do mine. I'm afraid I know no moderation when it comes to love. The things and the people that I love, I love with all of my

heart, and it is a sore trial to say goodbye to any of them, from my favorite homely objects to my favorite places to my favorite people. In this world of loving and losing what we love, tears are a fact of life.

I have often imagined what it must have been like to know and love Jesus personally during His earthly sojourn. There would have been no way to love Him and not have your heart ripped apart when He left you. So we're not surprised to hear Him saying to His disciples, "Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you." There is a great truth in these words, a truth that we need to hear as much as His original disciples did: **In Christ, there are never any tears except those that look forward to a greater joy.** The tears are not to be avoided (we shouldn't even try), but they are to be seen as a part of something much greater than the grief itself. Peter wrote, "Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory" 1 Peter 1:8.

Imagine the scene at Jesus' ascension. Having had a final conversation with His disciples, He had to leave them. Luke says, "Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven'" Acts 1:9-11

As Jesus left these dear friends and disappeared from their view, there would have been tears streaming down their upturned faces. But Jesus would not have spared them this sorrow or scolded their broken hearts. For some tears are the tears of love. And the tears of love are ever the tears of gratitude. And of hope.

*"I will not say do not weep —
for not all tears are an evil"*

J. R. R. Tolkien

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Nathan Marshall
Announcements	Don Coen, Jr.
Song Leader	Nathan Marshall
Scripture	Zephaniah 3:1-10
Reader	Blake Headen
Prayer	Ed Roberts
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Earl Miller
Fruit of the Vine	Don Coen, Sr.
Serve	Terry Smith
Serve	Ken Prager
Closing Prayer	Tim Henderson

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Don Coen, Jr.
Song Leader	Dan Marton
Scripture	Zephan. 3:11-20
Reader	Matt Ferrell
1st Prayer	Dave Harless
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Don Coen, Sr.
Closing Prayer	Chuck Isinghood

Wednesday

Announcements	Don Coen, Jr.
Class Prayer	Dan Marton
Song Leader	Earl Miller
Invitation	Matt Ferrell
Closing Prayer	Dave Harless

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

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

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