

*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:

*All Christians
Should Be
Homeschooled*

*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.*

The Power of Simplicity

Bill Hall

Via—Market Street Messenger—Vol. 2—No.1

Jesus Christ had a deep appreciation for simple things. His teaching was profound, but always simple. He reached the hearts of His hearers, not with high-sounding philosophical jargon, but with illustrations and "to the point" teaching. He could see in a farmer sowing his seed, or a lily showing its beauty, or a shepherd leaving his flock to seek one lost sheep, or a loving father welcoming a wayward son, a lesson that could teach some spiritual truth. His apostles were chosen from the humble class. He could appreciate people, not for what they possessed, but for what they were; and, in some cases, not for what they were, but for what they could become. He recognized true quality, and true quality is often found in the simple and humble.

The worship He ordained was simple in nature. *"Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul spoke to them"* (Acts 20:7). Even the poorest could worship, for all that was required of a material nature was a little bread and fruit of the vine.

Those of little talent could worship, for God was listening in view of the heart rather than the beauty of the voice.

He authorized a simple organization for His church, with

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each congregation appointing its own bishops and deacons (Philippians 1:1).

There were no denominational associations, conferences, or synods. There were no interchurch organizations or societies. Yet, through the simple organization given the church by the Lord, the world of the first century was thoroughly evangelized and the needy among them provided for.

The Lord knew that success in His work would not be brought about through complexity of organization, but through dedication, faith, and commitment on the part of His followers. We make a terrible mistake when we try to substitute the former for the latter.

Why this simplicity? *"That no flesh should glory in His presence"* (1 Corinthians 1:29). The complex systems that men devise tend to bring glory to themselves rather than to God.

To return to the simplicity which our Lord ordained might not be impressive to the worldly minded, but, then, Jesus Himself is not very impressive to the worldly-minded. Besides, our purpose is not to impress the worldly-minded, but to please God and bow in

submission to His will. Let us do away with our super projects and complex systems. Let us learn to appreciate simple teaching and simple

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ways. Above all, let us learn to appreciate Bible teaching and Bible ways.

We like the following quote from Ed Harrell: "How foolish we are to think that God will be impressed with our voices when we sing; after all, He hears the angels sing! How foolish to think He will be impressed with our cathedrals; remember, He made the Grand Canyon!" What He is seeking for is a heart that is pure, loving, and obedient to His will. And that's simple.

Telling or Hearing Something New

Andy Alexander

Writing about Paul's visit to Athens, Luke describes the Athenians and strangers who visited there as people who spent *"their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new"* (Acts 17:21). This first century malady is still seen today in many quarters.

The news media is constantly trying to be the first to report some new item. Television talk shows go to great lengths finding deviants or perverts who are not ashamed to talk about their perversions. This effort is fueled by the desire to show or tell something that no one has seen or heard before. This kind of news obviously sells or we would not see such a large volume of this trash produced each week. Telling and hearing some new thing certainly is not confined to Greece or the first century.

Telling and hearing some new thing can be good or it can be bad. Telling people the gospel is a good thing and though so many people have a Bible, they have not really been taught the truth. Therefore, it is a very good thing for someone to properly guide them in a study of God's word.

Relaying joyful news to others is a good thing. News such as the birth of one into Christ or the birth of a new baby into the world is happy news that is good to relate to others. Even sad news can be a good thing to pass along to others. This will help brethren to be aware of a potential need physically or spiritually. While one will not enjoy passing along sad news, it is sometimes necessary because some news is news that needs to be known.

However, there is news that does not need general insemination, news that is personal in nature and news that all the brethren need not be made aware of. Yet, at times it seems that some brethren feel it their responsibility to let others know everything that they know. And, they like the Athenians of old enjoy "hearing and telling some new thing."

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Chuck Isinghood
Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Ken Prager
Scripture	Haggai 1
Reader	Dan Marton
Prayer	Tim Henderson
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Ed Roberts
Fruit of the Vine	Earl Miller
Serve	Blake Headen
Serve	Matt Ferrell
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	Earl Miller
Scripture	Haggai 2:1-11
Reader	Terry Smith
1st Prayer	Don Coen, Jr.
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Tim Henderson
Closing Prayer	Ken Prager

Wednesday

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Class Prayer	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Tim Henderson
Invitation	Harold Marshall
Closing Prayer	Earl Miller

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

At the hospital:

- Ed Roberts was taken to the emergency room this morning due to complications with the hives and infection he has been dealing with

Recovering:

- Charlotte Lancaster is recuperating well after having two stents put in Wednesday

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

This that we are referring to is commonly called gossip. The Scriptures list gossip as a sin which will cause one to experience the second death (Romans 1:29-32). Among the sins Paul was afraid he would find when he visited Corinth was the sin of gossip (2 Corinthians 12:20). Gossip is defined as "idle talk, not always true about people and their affairs." It is possible that gossip stems from the desire to hear and tell some new thing. We just like to be the first with news that nobody else knows.

Listed with the sin of gossip in Paul's second letter to Corinth was the sins of strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, arrogance, and disturbances (2 Corinthians 12:20). It is interesting because these sins seem to all go together. They feed off each other. If we, as Christians, would keep this in mind, it might help us curb our desire to tell and hear some new thing and at the same time help maintain peace in the congregation. Striving to maintain peace and harmony is required of each Christian (Philippians 2:1-2; Ephesians 4:1-3). It is not always possible to maintain, but we are responsible for trying.

It is easy to participate in the sin of gossip. We sometimes justify our actions with the reason that we are trying to help, and we may be, but telling people who are not involved and who likely will not do anything to help a situation can only lead to trouble. We are talking about "idle talk, not always true about people and their affairs." We must always ask ourselves the purpose for relating such news. Will it build up the body of Christ? Will it promote peace and harmony in the church? Is it really necessary to tell? Will it help the person being told and the person that it is about? Are we sure that it is the truth?

Jesus says "that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you shall be condemned" (Matthew 12:36-37). The rea-

son this is so is explained in the context. The words we speak are indications of our true character (Matthew 12:34-35).

If our words are words of gossip, murmuring, and slander, then our heart is not pure and clean as it ought to be. If, on the other hand, our words are uplifting, helpful, and true, then our heart is in the right condition.

James warns Christians of the dangers of the tongue. His book is filled with excellent teaching that will help each child of God to grow spiritually in Christ. Following the teaching of James regarding the tongue will eliminate gossip, slander, backbiting, and all other sins of the tongue. It is one thing to know what to do and another to put into practice the things that are known (James 1:22-25).

Think! Think! Think before speaking! If what we are about to reveal is true, is it something that others who are not involved need to know? It may involve a family situation that the family would rather keep quiet. It could involve the gain or loss of a notable amount of income and general knowledge may create jealousy instead of rejoicing among some of the brethren. It could embrace sins of the past that have been forgiven and do not need to be and should not be brought up and passed around. Whatever the case may be, bridling the tongue is a requirement, not a request (James 1:26).

Telling or hearing something new in the first century in Athens, Greece usually involved a vain philosophy that would damn one's soul. The urge to let our tongues run wild and open our ears to any new thing is a real and ever-present danger that can cause us to lose our souls just as the false philosophies of men would in the city of Athens. This urge has not died away with time and as Christians, we should keep in memory the admonitions of our Lord to guard what enters our mind and exits our lips (Proverbs 4:23-24; Matthew 12:33-37).

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