

In
Search
of ...

Truth & Right

GENESIS

Tim Henderson, Editor

Volume-04

Issue-25

01/17/2010

"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:

Rejuvenation

"Yet those who wait on the Lord Will gain new strength" - Isaiah 40:31

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.

What's Ahead is Worth Reaching For!

Gary Henry

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" Romans 8:18

When we're discouraged and we're thinking about taking the easy way out, it's important to remember the value of the things we're reaching for. Life with God is a treasure worth any price that ever has to be paid to receive it — and more important, the privilege of simply being a person through whom God can glorify Himself ought to mean more to us than anything else in the here or the hereafter. Whatever we're giving up, what we're getting is what we WANT to get most of all, isn't it?

When the price seems too painful to bear and we wish we could get back what we've given up, we need to recall how we evaluated things when we originally "counted the cost." Like the Olympic athlete who remembers every day his original decision (that the rewards of discipline and training are

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WORTH more than those of ease and indulgence, and that he WANTS the former more than he wants the latter), we must remember that "the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." When the life of discipleship turns out to be hard, the wise Christian will say, "Yes, but I'd still rather have the 'minuses' I have right now than the 'minuses' that would go with any other 'pluses'. The tradeoff is well worth it."

We should not let Satan deceive us as to the true value of things. When we barter with him, he has a way of making the things outside of God's will seem more valuable than they really are, and he carefully conceals the deadly downside of disobedience. He is, after all, the ultimate "con artist." Yet we are not helpless in our struggle against him. Faith — real trust in God's goodness — is the quality that can keep us in touch with reality. No matter what life looks like in the short term, and no matter what sacrifices are asked of us, we have good reason to believe that God is telling us the truth: WHAT'S AHEAD IS WORTH REACHING FOR! If we forget that, we're in danger of being seriously misled.

"We master fear through faith — faith in the worthwhileness of life and the trustworthiness of God; faith in the meaning of our pain and our striving, and confidence that God will not cast us aside but will use each one of us as a piece of priceless mosaic in the design of his universe" —Joshua Loth Liebman

Choosing Our Basic Outlook

Gary Henry

"Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" 1 Peter 1:13

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE. On most days, our thoughts move from one to the other many times. Indeed, one of the marvels of the human mind is that we're able not only to enjoy the present but also to remember the past and anticipate the future.

But concerning the past and the future, there is an important choice to be made: will we be people who PRIMARILY look backward or look forward? As great as the gift of memory can be, the past should not be the MAIN focus of our minds. Since life moves only in one direction, forward, it is wise to make that the chosen direction of our character. We need to have made up our minds that HOPE will be our basic, day-in-and-day-out orientation. And we need to be aware that that choice will often be difficult to make.

Paul wrote about forgetting the things which are behind and reaching forward to the things which are ahead. Sir William Osler echoed that sentiment when he gave this advice: "Shut out all of your past except that which will help you weather your tomorrows." What we've already experienced may have been painful or pleasant, but it must not be allowed to distract us from what's ahead. "Rest your hope FULLY," Peter said, "upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Abraham is the great biblical example of a forward-looking person. During the long years of his pilgrimage in Canaan, there would have been many moments when his mind drifted back to his home in Ur, and these memories would not have been altogether bad. Yet he chose the future as his basic outlook, the decisive direction of his character: "he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10).

We ought to be warned by the story of

Lot's wife that there are times when it is dangerous to look back (Genesis 19:23-26). And even when our memories are wholesome and helpful, it is wise to keep ourselves from being caught in the past. If even one day remains to us in this world, that means that there's good work yet to do — and the best is yet to come!

"Look up and not down; look forward and not back; look out and not in; and lend a hand" —Edward Everett Hale

*Do We Fear To Go
Where God Is Not?*
Gary Henry

"But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us'" Luke 16:25,26

If we depart from this life alienated from God, we will spend eternity in that condition. Once our sojourn here is finished, there will be no more opportunity for reconciliation with our Creator: we will be forever banished from His presence.

Heaven and hell, of course, are not physical "places," but even so, Abraham said that there is a "great gulf fixed" between these realms. As much as those who are away from God might like to cross over and be where He is, even for a moment or two, that will not be possible. To end up in hell is to end up in a

realm where there can never be any contact with God ever again.

Does the possibility of such a destiny impact our thinking with much power? Do we fear to go where God is not? We certainly ought to. Indeed, there is **something seriously wrong with our thinking** if we don't fear it. Like the foolhardy man whose courage is nothing more than ignorance of the real danger that he's in, if we don't fear the prospect of being separated from God, it's because we don't understand what that would be like.

We may think we've tasted being "*without God in the world*" (Ephesians 2:12). But in this world, even those who refuse God's redemption are still surrounded by touches of His grace. For now, the lost can still enjoy beautiful sunrises, friendly people, and civilizations based on moral principles, more or less. But in hell, there will be no trace of God whatsoever. All that will be left will be the soul-racking memory of the Love that we have lost forever.

Concerning heaven, the best thing about it is that God will be there. And concerning hell, the worst thing about it is that He WON'T be there. That ought to be what we fear, far more than the fire and brimstone. The bottom line is this: a right relationship with God is what we were created for, and if we lose Him, nothing can ever take His place. Without God Himself, hell would be hell even if we could keep every lesser blessing we've ever enjoyed.

"If God should give my soul all he ever made or might make, apart from himself, and giving it, he stayed away even by as much as a hairbreadth, my soul would not be satisfied" —Meister Eckhart

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Harold Marshall
Announcements	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Earl Miller
Scripture	Haggai 2:12-23
Reader	Terry Smith
Prayer	Don Coen, Jr.
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Ken Prager
Fruit of the Vine	Harold Marshall
Serve	Dan Marton
Serve	Chuck Isinghood
Closing Prayer	Dave Harless

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Harold Marshall
Scripture	Zechariah 1:1-11
Reader	Earl Miller
1st Prayer	Don Coen, Sr.
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Matt Ferrell
Closing Prayer	Don Coen, Jr.

Wednesday

Announcements	Ed Roberts
Class Prayer	Dave Harless
Song Leader	Harold Marshall
Invitation	Tim Henderson
Closing Prayer	Dan Marton

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
- Ed Roberts
- 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