

In
Search
of ...

Truth & Right

GENESIS

Tim Henderson, Editor

Volume-04

Issue-30

02/21/2010

"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:

*Come Together
Not For The
Better*

*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.*

New Delight

Gary Henry

*"... and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
and that you put on the new man which was cre-
ated according to God, in true righteousness and
holiness" — Ephesians 4:23,24*

If it's important to hate sin, it's even more important to love righteousness. The love of God involves not only being repulsed by the idea of disobedience; it means being ATTRACTED by the opposite idea: the idea of obedience. Living within our Father's love must come to be, among other things, DELIGHTFUL.

In Ephesians 4, Paul discussed the two sides of godliness. Whereas we used to take delight in disobedience, "you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus" (vv.20,21). So we must "put off, concerning [our] former conduct, the old man" (v.22). But that is only half the battle. On the positive and more important side, we must "be renewed in the spirit of [our] mind" (v.23). We must make the choice to "put on the

In this Issue:

New Delight—pg. 1—Gary Henry
A Greater Sense of the Possible—pg. 2—Gary Henry
No Delight—pg. 3—Gary Henry
Those Serving & Announcements—pg. 4

new man" (v.24).

If we've been satisfying our desires in unlawful ways for a long time, it will not be easy to learn a new set of delights. It can be done, though, and making the COMMITMENT to do so is the first step. If we want to be people who take deep delight in pleasing God, we must get past our *what ifs*, our *maybes*, and our *yes buts* and make an actual commitment to be renewed in our thinking.

Since the good that awaits us is so much more joyful than the counterfeit pleasures we've been accustomed to, our main regret will be that we didn't delight in God sooner. We'll scold ourselves for having been so foolish for so long. What were we thinking?

Granted, counterfeits can be quite convincing. The things we used to enjoy were really enjoyable, or we wouldn't have spent so much time with them. But whatever pleasures may have come from satisfying ourselves unlawfully, the lawful satisfaction of those same desires is so much deeper and more genuine that the comparison defies description. The "new delight" we can have in God is the real thing. It's what we were made for. It's all we've ever dreamed of and then some. And the main thing about it is that it centers on God Himself. He, finally, is all we really desire.

"Show unto me, O Lord, your mercy, and delight my heart in it. Let me find you, whom I so longingly seek" —Jerome

Since the good that awaits us is so much more joyful than the counterfeit pleasures we've been accustomed to, our main regret will be that we didn't delight in God sooner.

A Greater Sense of the Possible

Gary Henry

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

— 1 Corinthians 2:9

The greatness of God far exceeds the limited ways in which we seek Him. In all the good things that grow out of love, it is we who are limited, not God. If we enjoy but little of the bounty that is available, it is because our hearts have been hampered by our rebellion against Him. We experience no more than a small measure of God's greatness, sometimes because of unrepentant sin in our lives and at other times because our vision of God is so inadequate. We need a greater comprehension of what is really possible, a deeper desire for what can be ours.

One of the realities of sin is that in alienating us from God, it also stands between us and the help that He could give us. And there is not one of us so free of sin that we don't need to hear Isaiah's words to Israel: "*Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear*" (Isaiah 59:1,2). The principle embedded in this text is just as important for the devout Christian as it is for anyone else. Sin — any sin at all, however "small" — hinders God from blessing us fully. So if our experience of God seems meager, we may need to quit waiting for God to answer our prayers and understand that He is waiting for us to repent of the sins that keep Him from doing so.

But another tragic truth is that fallen creatures, even forgiven ones, have only a shrunken knowledge of God's nature and His

power. Even if we've grown a little in our vision of what could be ahead for us, we still have much to learn. Our God is *"able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think"* (Ephesians 3:20). He is eager to lift us to planes higher than we can yet imagine. Our need is for a bigger desire, a greater sense of what can happen if we're willing to submit to God as He purges away the things that hold us back.

"If I were to wish for anything, I should not wish for wealth and power but for the passionate sense of the potential, for the eye which, ever young and ardent, sees the possible. Pleasure disappoints, possibility never"

—Soren Kierkegaard

No Delight Gary Henry

"But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts ..." Ephesians 4:20-22

As long as we delight in evil, we won't have much success removing it from our lives. In any contest between the head and the heart, the heart will almost always win. Our loves, whatever they may be, are powerful things. They direct our actions almost irresistibly. For that reason, we must constantly work on our desires and diminish those that lead us away from God.

In dealing with our desires, there is one

thing that is helpful to understand: most of the time, it is not our desires themselves that are wrong, but rather our willingness to fulfill them in unlawful ways. The Scriptures teach that temptation comes to us in three basic ways: *"the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life"* (1 John 2:16). With each of these, the devil is simply trying to exploit some natural desire that God has given to us.

For example, when Eve was tempted to eat the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, she saw *"that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise"* (Genesis 3:6). It was not wrong, in itself, for her to be physically hungry or to desire the possession of something beautiful or even to have the satisfaction of being wise and personally significant. The problem lay in the devil's suggestion that she should go OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF GOD'S WILL TO SATISFY THESE DESIRES. When she turned away from God's provision for each of these and tried to fulfill them in a "better" way, she sinned — and she died.

So how do we get rid of our sinful desires? We do so, first, by recognizing the murderous lie behind the devil's offer. Then, remembering that our desires have been given to us by God, WE MUST HOLD ON TO OUR LOVE FOR HIM. However pleasurable an unlawful act might be, the thought of gaining that pleasure in a way that grieves God ought to be so repugnant that the deed seems repulsive. With Joseph, we must learn to say sincerely, *"How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"* (Genesis 39:9).

"As long as I delight in any evil, as long as sensuality is more gratifying than purity, indiscretion than moderation, flattery than correction, how can I even aspire to friendship which springs from an esteem for virtue?" Aelred of Rievaulx

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Dave Harless
Announcements	Don Coen, Jr.
Song Leader	Harold Marshall
Scripture	Zechariah 8:13-23
Reader	Terry Smith
Prayer	Don Coen, Sr.
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Earl Miller
Fruit of the Vine	Chuck Isinghood
Serve	Harold Marshall
Serve	Dan Marton
Closing Prayer	Matt Ferell

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Don Coen, Jr.
Song Leader	Earl Miller
Scripture	Zechariah 9
Reader	Dan Marton
1st Prayer	Harold Marshall
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Ken Prager
Closing Prayer	Dave Harless

Wednesday

Announcements	Don Coen, Jr.
Class Prayer	Earl Miller
Song Leader	Dan Marton
Invitation	Tim Henderson
Closing Prayer	Chuck Isinghood

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Prayer Requests:

- Charina Cambell
- 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 — Alfred continues to deal with back problems, he was to have a shot for it Thursday but it was moved to Monday. Mary Jane is back home.
- Ed Roberts as he continues to recover from a blood infection
- Jimmy Roberts, Ed & Marie's son
- Jim Roberts, Ed Roberts' father
- Marie Roberts
- Kris Shane

Don't forget our Shut-ins

Nursing Home:

- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers
- Josephine Clow

At Home:

- 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