

*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)

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**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:

*Upgrades
We All Need*

*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*

No Time For Negligence

Gary Henry

*"Be sober, be vigilant; because your
adversary the devil walks about like a
roaring lion, seeking whom he may de-
vour" — 1 Peter 5:8*

Watchfulness is an attitude we can hardly do without. God happens to have a great adversary, and if we take God's side, that means we have the same adversary that God does. In his arrogant rebellion against God, Satan is bent on the destruction of every personal being God ever made. To the battlefield of the human heart, the devil brings weapons of considerable craftiness, and our spiritual survival will be extremely unlikely, if not impossible, if we don't wake up and watch out. "Be sober, be vigilant," is what Peter said, and he wasn't wasting words.

Yet negligence is a widespread problem, and not only among those who are foolish and indifferent. All too often,

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those who've been around long enough to know better still show little concern. Consider two "occasions" when we may let our guard down:

Spiritual Maturity. Curiously enough, the more mature we become in the Lord, the less we sometimes see the need for a humble and cautious mentality. Secretly, we may even pride ourselves on our ability to handle certain temptations — temptations that we wouldn't advise the less mature to expose themselves to. But don't we see the difference between courage and foolhardiness?

Old Age. As we get closer to heaven, it's natural that we cease to be actively concerned about certain dangers. We begin to face life, as Mark Twain said, "with the serene confidence of a gambler with an ace up his sleeve." Yet we still need to be careful. Daniel was ninety years old or more when he had his lion's den experience (Daniel 6:1-23). And Abraham was at least a hundred and ten before the Lord decided it was time for the most excruciating test of his faith (Genesis 22:1-19). At their age, who would have thought such struggles would still have to be endured? Is our enemy so blinded by his hatred that he refuses to give up?

As for God, His victory is absolutely certain. The decisive battle was painfully fought at the Cross and decisively won in the Resurrection. But as for us, WE'VE NOT YET MADE OUR FINAL CHOICE. *"Be faithful until death"* (Revelation 2:10) is not a command that can be put on autopilot, and right now is no time for negligence.

"You must watch, pray, and fight. Expect your last battle to be the most difficult, for the enemy's fiercest charge is reserved for the end of the day"
—Charles Haddon Spurgeon—

Ebenezer

Gary Henry

"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far the Lord has helped us'"
—1 Samuel 7:12

Whatever hardships we may yet have to face, the help of God that has brought us this far is no small thing to be thankful for. Boggled down as we often are in the painful particulars of daily living, our perspective may be so confined that we suppose the bad outweighs the good. Like Job, we may foolishly wish we'd never been born (Job 3:1-26). We may question whether there is any use in trying to go forward, or whether, if we do try to go forward, there is any possibility that we'll find the help we need. But consider this: the person who is alive to ponder such questions is always a person on whom God has not given up. Without His constant grace, we would not have made it this far.

The Scriptures teach that God is not only the Creator, He is the Sustainer of life. The Hebrew writer says that God *"upholds"* all things by His power (Hebrews 1:3). And Paul reminded the Athenians that it is in Him that we *"live and move and have our being"* (Acts 17:28). If God ever withdrew Himself from us completely, we would in that instant cease to enjoy anything that deserves to be called "life." And very likely, in that instant we'd also be stricken with the consciousness of the good we had taken for granted, including the gift of all the time we used up questioning whether God had been good to us. It is, after all, only by God's grace that we have the "opportunity" to doubt Him.

Do we despise the grace that has upheld us? Though we have more than mere survival to be thankful for, can we not see even in

this survival evidence that God is willing to help us? He has not only proven His power, but He has proven His patience with us!

A failure of gratitude is one of life's more serious failures, and one that is fraught with danger. Without God's providence, we would have been vanquished long ago. If we don't acknowledge that He has graciously watched over us in the past, we may have to learn the hard way what the diminishing of His grace means in the future (Isaiah 5:1-7). But if we will look backward with the eyes of gratitude, we can look forward with the eyes of faith.

*“Who brought me hither
Will bring me hence;
no other guide I seek.”*

—John Milton

*The Troubles of a
Temporary Home*
Gary Henry

*“For we know that the whole
creation groans and labors with
birth pangs together until now”*

— Romans 8:22

When bad days come, we need to pay attention to the reminder that we're being given. Good days are reminders too, of course; they remind us that God created the world. But bad days should remind us that the present world, tragically broken by our own sinfulness, is a dangerous place to settle down.

If our hearts are set on God, we are on our way to a place that can truly be called home.

A “rest” awaits us, if we're among the “people of God” (Hebrews 4:9). But we haven't yet reached our rest, and until we do, we are sojourners — temporary residents in a country not our own, strangers in a strange land.

But we tend to forget, don't we? We forget that we're aliens, and we fall into the habit of thinking like permanent citizens who're quite at home here and have no desire to leave.

Because that's a dangerous tendency, God sees to it that the fields of our thinking get plowed up from time to time. In the lives of some, it may be a “thorn in the flesh.” For others, it may be the tragic loss of something they thought they couldn't bear to lose. It may be the unending difficulty of some unpleasantness that won't go away. It may be temptation. It may be failure. It may be sickness or the specter of death. But God loves His faithful people too much to let them forget the home that He has prepared for them.

What do we do with these reminders, as painful as they often are? At the very least, we should be grateful for them. But also, we should bear them with humility, dignity, and courage. And above all, we should not fail to let them have their intended effect on us. If God is reminding us, we should let ourselves be reminded and not waste the care that He's bestowing upon us.

Moses spoke powerfully when he recalled Israel's hardships: “[God] *humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord*” (Deuteronomy 8:3). Some things we dare not forget, and from time to time, these things God will “make us know.”

*“Happy is the trouble that
loosens our grip of earth”*

—Charles Haddon Spurgeon—

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Ed Roberts
Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Ed Roberts
Scripture	Zechariah 12
Reader	Blake Headen
Prayer	Don Coen, Jr.
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Matt Ferrell
Fruit of the Vine	Earl Miller
Serve	Terry Smith
Serve	Ken Prager
Closing Prayer	Dan Marton

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Dan Marton
Scripture	Zechariah 13
Reader	Ken Prager
1st Prayer	Don Coen, Sr.
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Ed Roberts
Closing Prayer	Dave Harless

Wednesday

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Class Prayer	Matt Ferrell
Song Leader	Tim Henderson
Invitation	Matt Ferrell
Closing Prayer	Ed Roberts

News N Notes

Business Meeting this afternoon at 5:30 PM.

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Prayer Requests:

- Charena Campbell
- 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
- 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