

In  
Search  
of ...

# Truth & Right

GENESIS

Tim Henderson, Editor

Volume-04

Issue-33

03/14/2010

*"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:

# A Study on Authority

*Audio CD's are available  
free of charge in the foyer.*

*Please visit our website:  
[www.truthandright.org](http://www.truthandright.org)*

*If you have any questions regarding  
what we teach and practice, please  
feel free to ask*

## Days Well Spent

Gary Henry

*"See then that you walk circumspectly,  
not as fools but as wise, redeeming the  
time, because the days are evil"*

— Ephesians 5:15,16

We have only a limited number of days to live in this world, and it's important to have the confidence that we've spent them well. We need to be able to go to bed each night knowing that we've used the resources of that day to the best of our personal abilities and have "redeemed" the time.

This doesn't mean that every single day must be spent in full-throttle, no-time-for-leisure "work." The best use of some days is to rest. In the Law of Moses, it should be noted, God REQUIRED the people of Israel to rest one day out of every seven. And though the Sabbath law does not apply directly to us today, the point should not be missed: God understands

## In this Issue:

Days Well Spent—pg. 1—Gary Henry  
The Prepared Heart—pg. 2—Gary Henry  
Light on the Road—pg. 3—Gary Henry  
Those Serving & Announcements—pg. 4

our need for rest and replenishment, and the CORRECT use of many days is to engage in those very things. "Days well spent" does not mean "all work and no play."

On any given day, however, whatever should be done with THAT day — whether work, play, or some combination of the two — that is what we should do. As the days come and go, we need to have the good feeling that we're using life as God wants us to use it, rather than wasting it doing things that were never meant to be done or things that were meant for someone else to do.

For fallible creatures like us, living the godly life comes down to the business of making regular IMPROVEMENT. Reaching forward means doing a little better with each day than was done with the day before. If we take a moment or two at the end of the day to reflect on what we've done (and it's wise to make that a habit), it's a wonderful feeling to know that, with that day, we've taken a step forward in our stewardship of life — we've brought another thing or two under the benevolence of God's will and made ourselves a bit more completely the vessels of God's glory. In an age obsessed with "self-esteem," we should understand that healthy self-respect can only come from hearing God say to us at day's end, *"Well done, good and faithful servant"* (Matthew 25:21).

*"Begin well and go on to better.  
Do everything for the glory of  
God and the benefit of others.  
Consider time lost if you do not  
use it to at least think of the  
glory of God and seek for a way  
to do something for someone  
else's advantage"*  
~ John Bradford ~

## *The Prepared Heart* Gary Henry

***"For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel" —Ezra 7:10***

**Our "Nature" is given to us by God, but our "Character" is created by our choices.** What we do with the raw materials of our created nature brings into being a character that is either good or bad. Of course, the fact that character is a matter of choice does not mean the choices are always CAREFULLY made. Indeed, many people simply live by default, going with the flow and ending up with a character that has been chosen haphazardly. But haphazard choices are still choices. Whether we've been careful or careless, we'll still have to account to God for our decisions.

Ezra is said to have "prepared his heart." Apparently he had given some thought to the sort of man he wanted to be. Surely he was aware of what the major alternatives are that lie before a human being, and his choice to pursue godliness seems to have been a deliberate decision. It's not unlikely that Ezra had given some consideration to the matter of CONSEQUENCES. There is no more "consequential" choice than the choice of one's character, and Ezra had no doubt considered that some kinds of character would take him places he didn't want to go to.

It is worth noting the particular character Ezra prepared himself to have. This wise man determined that he would (1) SEEK God's will, (2) DO whatever he learned, and (3) TEACH to others the things that he had both learned and lived. We could look a long time and not find a better three-point program for character development. Seeking, doing, and teaching ... the will of God. These things

point to the very heart of what human existence is all about.

If we've not already done so, it's urgent that we prepare our hearts. It's time to think seriously about what matters most to us. What kind of people do we INTEND to be? "When a man does not know what harbor he is making for, no wind is the right wind" (Seneca). But preparing our hearts requires more than charting our course. We must also count the cost and resolve that we'll pay the price to have a character that's worth having. The devil is eager to test how well prepared our hearts really are.

*"You cannot dream yourself  
into a character; you must hammer  
and forge yourself one"*

*~ James Anthony Froude ~*

## *Light on the Road*

*Gary Henry*

*"Moreover You led them by day  
with a cloudy pillar, and by night  
with a pillar of fire, to give them  
light on the road which they  
should travel" —Nehemiah 9:12*

If what we really want to do is follow God, His assurance to us is that we'll always get the information we need to do His will. Many things we may not understand, but there will always be sufficient light on the road to guide our next step, if our motive is to obey.

Jesus pointed to the importance of motive when He said to certain ones, "Why do you not

*understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do"* (John 8:43,44). Whose "desires" we most deeply want to DO is the crucial factor that determines whether we'll "understand" the things we need to understand. And it takes a person of more honesty than many of us have mustered to tell the truth about whose will means more to us, God's or someone else's.

How much obedience really matters to us is indicated by the use we've made of the light that has already shown upon our path. Does the day-to-day evidence of our decisions show that we're thankful for this light? If not, there's little point in seeking further light. As long as our conscience smites us for not doing the duty that lies clearly before us, we don't have the luxury of worrying about the various hypothetical questions that cloud the future.

Biblical faith is much more than a simple trust that God's light will lead us. It's an active FOLLOWING of that light step by step. We certainly should rest in the confidence that the road will be illuminated according to our needs. But there's also a need for sobriety. God is a rewarder of "those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6), and we show that we're diligent seekers by actually taking the steps that He has shown us. The path toward God will challenge our willingness to obey perhaps more often than it does our ability to understand. In any case, our choice must be to move forward. God will not allow darkness to hinder the diligent.

*"God wills us to tread the hidden  
paths of grace in faith only; and so he  
only gives us just such light as we need  
for the present moment. It is not his  
will that we should see before us or  
around us, but he never fails to grant  
such light as makes it impossible for us  
to lose our way so long as we follow  
his leading" ~ Jean Nicolas Grou ~*

## Those Serving This Week

### Sunday AM

<b>Class Prayer</b>	Matt Ferrell
<b>Announcements</b>	Chuck Isinghood
<b>Song Leader</b>	Harold Marshall
<b>Scripture</b>	Zechariah 14:1-10
<b>Reader</b>	Dan Marton
<b>Prayer</b>	Earl Miller
<b>Speaker</b>	Tim Henderson
<b>Lord's Supper</b>	
Bread	Ed Roberts
Fruit of the Vine	Ken Prager
Serve	Blake Headen
Serve	Don Coen, Jr.
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Coen, Sr.

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

### Sunday PM

<b>Announcements</b>	Chuck Isinghood
<b>Song Leader</b>	Ken Prager
<b>Scripture</b>	Zech. 14:11-21
<b>Reader</b>	Terry Smith
<b>1st Prayer</b>	Ed Roberts
<b>Speaker</b>	Tim Henderson
<b>Communion</b>	Harold Marshall
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Dan Marton

### Wednesday

<b>Announcements</b>	Chuck Isinghood
<b>Class Prayer</b>	Tim Henderson
<b>Song Leader</b>	Earl Miller
<b>Invitation</b>	Harold Marshall
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Dave Harless

## *News N Notes*

**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 as she continues her recovery from breaking her leg.
- 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