

*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:

*Pushing  
the  
Envelope*

*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.*

*We would like to invite you to a*  

# *Gospel Meeting*

*April 18-23*

*with speaker:*

*Jarred Currence*  
*of Norton, OH*



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>10:00 AM</i>
	<i>10:45 AM</i>
	<i>6:30 PM</i>
<i>Mon.—Fri.</i>	<i>7:30 PM</i>

*"Come now, and let us reason together,"*  
*—Isaiah 1:18*

## In this Issue:

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# *Giving Attention*

*Tim Henderson*

In Earl West's book, The Search For the Ancient Order, he relates a conversation between 'Raccoon' John Smith, a pioneer Gospel preacher of the restoration period, and another preacher, William Vaughn. The conversation takes place after having heard Alexander Campbell speak on the allegory of Hagar and Sarah. " 'Is it not hard, brother Billy, to ride twenty miles, as I have done, just to hear a man preach thirty minutes?' ' You are mistaken brother John; look at your watch. It has surely been longer than that.' When Smith looked, he found Campbell had preached two hours and thirty minutes. Two hours were gone, and he knew not where." (Vol. 1, pg. 247)

When I read this passage from brother West's book, it struck me as something that would not take place today. I find it very interesting to see how the attention spans have shortened concerning Gospel preachers and the length of their sermons. I believe there are several reasons for this. First the religious world today, members of the church included, are not zealous in their desire to hear the blessings of God's word. We have reduced everything to sound bites, that must be delivered quickly so that we might get on with our lives. Our attention spans have been so reduced by television (or so the excuse goes) that we can't sit through more than thirty minutes at a time, and that must be broken up by interesting commercials. Because of this, many preachers have reached a point that they believe they must insert interesting stories every five minutes in order to keep their audiences attention. In listening to one Gospel preacher during a Gospel meeting, I kept track of how many inspirational stories he told

versus how much scripture he used. Unfortunately, he used many more stories than Scripture, and many are being encouraged in this. It is a sad state we have reached that we feel we must entertain more than we exhort, encourage, and rebuke. The amazing thing with this idea of the world today having a shorter attention span is that so many things in the world of entertainment last for hours. Many of today's movies are clocking in at 2 1/2 to 3 hours. A football game or baseball game can go on for an entire afternoon. Theatrical presentations will generally last for 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Why can we devote so much time to these activities and give them our most rapt attention, but when it comes to God's glorious word, we are doing good to devote 20 minutes, and that must be broken up with inspirational stories.

Another possibility for this lack of attention is because of the preachers themselves. Preachers today, do not make the word of God as much a part of their life as these early preachers did. Also, perhaps we don't preach with the same zeal and earnestness as the restoration preachers had. We do not appreciate what we have, because we did not have to work as hard or struggle with as much opposition as the Restoration evangelists did. I believe that if our preachers today would devote more of their time to studying God's word and making it an important part of their lives and treat it as a lifestyle, not an occupation, then we would see a great improvement in our pulpits.

When we read in our Bibles (Nehemiah 8:1-9) of the Israelites listening to the word of God being read and explained to them from early morning until midday and being attentive to the reading, it should shame us that we cannot spend one or two hours listening to God's word being read and explained in a wonderfully air conditioned building, with padded pews and completely protected from the environment around us. The Israelites were standing, outdoors, without modern conveniences, and still were giving close attention to what was being read and explained. Let us give care that we are not judged by our desire to hear God's word.

If you find that you do not enjoy listening to God's word being delivered, look into your heart and see if the problem lies within you, if it does, then get your heart ready to hear and heed God's word. If the problem lies with the preacher, then try to aid him in giving him encouragement both in his preaching and in his studying so that he might devote more of his life in making God's word a force in his life. May we all look and see what needs to be in our lives, and make God's word of prime importance.

## *Deterioration*

*Gary Henry*

***“When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first”***

— Luke 11:24-26 —

If its proper occupancy is neglected, the human heart falls into ghostly ruin. A certain kind of work is necessary to make our hearts the joyous abode of God which they were created to be. When we make the mistake of neglecting this work, for whatever reason, a deadly chaos begins to develop.

Perhaps the word “focus” best describes

the effort we must make. Having been given minds that can choose the objects of their thought, it is absolutely essential that we exercise this choice in such a way as to elevate our hearts, rather than allow them to be degraded. To those who would be Christians, this simple instruction is given: “*Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth*” (Colossians 3:2). Not only CAN we choose to focus on truths that keep our hearts from deteriorating, but we MUST do so.

*“Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy; meditate on these things”* (Philippians 4:8). To ignore this admonition is to bring on the almost certain disintegration of our own hearts.

Just how badly can a neglected heart deteriorate? Paul gives an ominous hint of the possibilities when he describes those who were living “*in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness*” (Ephesians 4:17-19).

Great damage is done by the simple decision to do nothing about God. Between actively growing toward Him and actively growing away from Him, there is no safe middle course. To do nothing is to deteriorate. Either we choose to seek God diligently or our hearts will fall into darkness, decay, and finally . . . death.

***“A house with no one living in it deteriorates rapidly. The soul that does not celebrate God becomes a dark, ruined, deserted place” —Pseudo-Macarius***

## Those Serving This Week

### Sunday AM

<b>Class Prayer</b>	Don Coen, Sr.
<b>Announcements</b>	Harold Marshall
<b>Song Leader</b>	Ed Roberts
<b>Scripture</b>	Matthew 1:1-13
<b>Reader</b>	Blake Headen
<b>Prayer</b>	Dave Harless
<b>Speaker</b>	Tim Henderson
<b>Lord's Supper</b>	
Bread	Ken Prager
Fruit of the Vine	Don Coen, Jr.
Serve	Terry Smith
Serve	Chuck Isinghood
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Earl Miller

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

### Sunday PM

<b>Announcements</b>	Harold Marshall
<b>Song Leader</b>	Ken Prager
<b>Scripture</b>	Matthew 1:14-25
<b>Reader</b>	Chuck Isinghood
<b>1st Prayer</b>	Don Coen, Jr.
<b>Speaker</b>	Tim Henderson
<b>Communion</b>	Earl Miller
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Coen, Sr.

### Wednesday

<b>Announcements</b>	Harold Marshall
<b>Class Prayer</b>	Ed Roberts
<b>Song Leader</b>	Dan Marton
<b>Invitation</b>	Earl Miller
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Prager

## *News N Notes*

**Please continue to remember these in your prayers:**

### **Prayer Requests:**

- Please continue praying for our Spring Gospel Meeting, April 18-23 with Jarred Currence
- Charena Campbell
- Zeda Goddard's sons, Dallas and Terry, and her daughter Tammy Garrison
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband
- Jerry & Dottie Henderson have made it safely to the Montana / Idaho area and will be working there for the next couple months
- 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
- Gabriel Taylor, 4 year old great grandson of Don & Phyllis, dealing with cancer.

### **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