

*In  
Search  
of ...*

# Truth & Right

*Tim Henderson, Editor*

**Volume-04**

**Issue-40**

**05/02/2010**

*"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 Speakers:**

*AM: Ed Roberts*

*PM: Ken Prager*

*Please help encourage these men as they preach the word of God!*

*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.*

## **Christians Without Churches**

*Ethan R. Longhenry  
via - The Charlottesville Beacon*

Over the past few years a trend has increased among people, especially Americans: the idea that people can be good Christians without being part of a church. Many people will recognize that Jesus is the Messiah and Lord, but yet want nothing to do with any church. This attitude fits with the independent streak that marks most Americans. Many also feel that churches are just trying to get money out of people, and they do not see the value or relevance in being part of a church.

It is too often true that churches are not living up to the call of Jesus Christ. Some churches do not teach the Bible at all, and other churches favor their traditions over what the Bible teaches. Too many other churches teach the truths of the Bible and yet do not show the love and community that God desires. Do these difficulties, however, mean that we can or should be Christians without being part of a church?

We must first understand that there can be no such thing as a "churchless Christian." In Ephesians 4:4-5, we read that there is "*one body*", as assuredly as there is "*one faith*" and "*one Lord*." In Ephesians 5:29-30 (and Colossians 1:18), Paul identifies that "*one body*" as the church; this is the body for which He gave His life (Ephesians 5:25-27). Anyone who is not a part of this "universal church" is separated from Christ,

### **In this Issue:**

Christians Without Churches—pg. 1—Ethan R. Longhenry  
The Night Is Coming—pg. 2—Jim Ward  
Those Serving & Announcements—pg. 4

and will not be saved! A Christian, then, that is entirely "churchless" is no Christian, and has no part in the resurrection of life!

Is it possible for a Christian to be part of the "universal" church without being identified with a local church? The Scriptures give us no reason to believe that such is possible except temporarily, such as being converted while traveling.

God desires for His people to act in certain ways, and many of these actions require a person to be part of a local church of fellow believers. God desires that His people die to self and live for others (Galatians 2:20, Philipians 2:1-4). Christians are to think more highly of others and the needs of others than of themselves and their own needs. God intended for Christians to be first concerned with the needs of their fellow Christians (Galatians 6:10, Matthew 25:31-46). How can this be done if one is not part of a local church?

God also desires that His people work together, both to strengthen each other and to further His purposes (Hebrews 10:24-25, Galatians 6:2, Acts 2:42-47). Encouragement and accountability are important aspects of the Christian faith. Christians are commanded to consider how to provoke other Christians to love and do good works and to bear each other's burdens. They are to be open and honest with one another so that they can be the best servants of God they can be. This can only happen when Christians come together and get to know each other, and the local church has been designed for this purpose.

The witness of the Scriptures is clear: God expects Christians to work together in a local church. Love for one another, encouragement to continue in the faith, and accountability are all learned in the environment of the local church. We cannot grow to be the type of Christians that please God if we attempt to do so on our own!

Yes, it is unfortunately true that too often local churches are not representing God's intentions very well. Too many churches encourage too much passive behavior and do not challenge their members to represent the community that God expects the local church

to be. Just because many churches fail to live up to God's desires, however, does not mean that we are "off the hook" of the local church. God established local churches in His wisdom for our benefit. If God desired to have "maverick Christians," He could easily have done so. He recognizes, however, that we are too weak to defeat Satan by ourselves. Christians need opportunities to assemble with one another, to show love to one another, building one another up, and encouraging and exhorting each other to continue to serve God according to His will.

If you believe in God and Jesus Christ, do not deprive yourself of the love and encouragement you need and that others need from you: join us!

## *The Night Is Coming*

*Jim Ward*

*via-The Market Street Messenger*

You probably don't recognize the name of Henry Allingham, do you? How about Jeanne Calment? No? Well, there's really no reason why you should; they both lived an entire ocean away, he in England, she in France. Why, then, should we link their names together, you ask, "What did they have in common?" Just this: they were both recognized as the oldest person in the world at the time of their death. Mrs. Calment died in 1997 at the age of 122. Mr. Allingham, at 113 years and 13 days, died in July of 2009.

This pair were members of a rather select group dubbed *super-centenarians*. There are only seventy-seven of them in the world at the moment, at least according to those who keep count of such things. And, they also say, there have been only something over a thousand of these hoary heads documented in history.

Whether that includes - what shall we call them? - super-super centenarians of Genesis chapter five (5) is doubtful. Many people consider the Bible only a myth. Christians are not in that number; we believe that the Bible is

history and not myth.

If so, the patriarchs of Genesis five are the hoariest of all the hoary heads on record, with ages ranging from 777 to 969 years. But aside from the advanced ages of these men of old, there is another hard fact that jumps out at us from this text: each brief biography (with the exception of Enoch's) ends with the words, "and he died." It happened that way with Ms. Calment; she lived 122 years and *she died*. And Henry Allingham; he lived 113 years *and he died*. That's how my story ends - and yours, and the story of all humankind. What's more, it's no big secret; "*the living know that they will die*" (Ecclesiastes 9:5). We'd have to be dense to overlook the constant parade of hearses.

Why bother, then, to write about the certainty and universality of death? Why spend the time and ink and paper? Surely, it's superfluous, isn't it? My answer is no. Even though we know it, we don't seem to get it. We hide it back in some dark recess of our minds; we deny it. Jeremiah said, "*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?*" (17:9). We have to teach about things we already know because the human heart has a remarkable capacity for blocking out things it doesn't want to hear. And if we don't block them out entirely, we convince ourselves that we have plenty of time to deal with them.

Consider, then, two questions suggested by the fact of death:

### **When Must We Get Serious?**

My short answer is: immediately, if not sooner. But let's look at the issue in biblical language. The writer of Ecclesiastes wrestled with the meaning of life, and here is his reply to our question:

*"Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them'"* (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

Life is fleeting, he says, so it's best to enjoy your youth while you can (11:9f). Just do so with an eye on judgment. Enjoyment and seriousness are not mutually exclusive.

But what if youth passes us by and we fail

to sober up until later in life? My answer is still the same: get on with it now. Jacob uttered a bit of unstudied wisdom after he learned that his lamented son Joseph was alive. He said, "*I will go and see him before I die*" (Genesis 45:28). "*Before I die*" - those are the pivotal words. It's the only time we have to act. And procrastination is folly; who can say when death will batter down our door? We all know someone to whom it was a sudden and cruel intruder.

Even Jesus was constrained by time. "*I must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day,*" He said, "*the night is coming when no one can work*" (John 9:4). If true of the Master of time, how much more true of us. The wise will take it to heart.

### **What Must We Be Serious About?**

Birth and death are common to us all; it's what comes between which distinguishes us from each other. Life is a stream of everflowing choices, and they all matter because they all have consequences. The wise son of David tried them all. Here's what he found:

- \* Wisdom, though preferable to folly, falls short of being the key to life. To the contrary, "in much wisdom is much grief, and he who increases in knowledge increases sorrow" (Ecclesiastes 1:18).
- \* The party life is a washout. Pleasure, wine, laughter - "What does it accomplish?" (2:1-3).
- \* Possession don't cut it. Fine houses, servants, gold, silver, vineyards, flocks and herds - he denied himself nothing. And it was about as satisfying as a handful of wind.

So he wound up hating life "*because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to him*" (2:17). But then, finally, he worked his way to what he called "*the conclusion of the whole matter: 'Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all'*" (12:13).

So what will it be? God has set before us "*life and death, blessing and cursing*" (Deuteronomy 30:19). With Moses, I urge you, "*Therefore, choose life,*" and one more thing: do it now. "*The night is coming when no one can work.*"



## Those Serving This Week

### Sunday AM

<b>Class Prayer</b>	Don Coen, Jr.
<b>Announcements</b>	Ed Roberts
<b>Song Leader</b>	Earl Miller
<b>Scripture</b>	Matthew 5:13-26
<b>Reader</b>	Blake Headen
<b>Prayer</b>	Ken Prager
<b>Speaker</b>	Ed Roberts
<b>Lord's Supper</b>	
Bread	Don Coen, Sr.
Fruit of the Vine	Dan Marton
Serve	Terry Smith
Serve	Charles Schaefer
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Dave Harless

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

### Sunday PM

<b>Announcements</b>	Ed Roberts
<b>Song Leader</b>	Harold Marshall
<b>Scripture</b>	Matthew 5:27-38
<b>Reader</b>	Terry Smith
<b>1st Prayer</b>	Earl Miller
<b>Speaker</b>	Ken Prager
<b>Communion</b>	Ken Prager
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Chuck Isinghood

### Wednesday

<b>Announcements</b>	Ed Roberts
<b>Class Prayer</b>	Harold Marshall
<b>Song Leader</b>	Dan Marton
<b>Invitation</b>	Don Coen, Jr.
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Coen, Sr.

## *News N Notes*

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

- DC Coen as he continues to deal with the headaches and other after effects of his illness.
- Zeda Goddard's sons, Dallas and Terry, and her daughter Tammy Garrison
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband
- Jerry & Dottie Henderson are in Yakima, Washington for the next three weeks working with a congregation further away this week, then the congregation in Yakima for two weeks.
- Tim, Anna and family are in North Alabama for the next two weeks.
- Betty Isinghood is waiting on results from her biopsy and also will be having knee surgery May 18th.
- 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
- Gabriel Taylor, 4 year old great grandson of Don & Phyllis, dealing with cancer.

### **Don't forget our Shut-ins**

#### **Valley Haven:**

- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers

#### **Ann's Retreat:**

- 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