

In
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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 Speakers:

AM: Ed Roberts

PM: Dan Marton

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.

Strength

Gary Henry

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus" —Acts 4:13

Our weakness when we are without God is more than matched by the strength we can have when we are with Him. If we can manage to avoid interfering with what God wants to do through us, wonderful things can be accomplished, things both great and good. We can be persons of extraordinary strength.

The key is our connection to God. Jesus said, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:4,5). We begin to be strong only when we humbly acknowledge God's sovereign right to set the terms of our fel-

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lowship with Him. It is God who determines what the gospel will require of us, and true strength on our part comes from respecting His requirements.

One of our deepest fears is that of insufficiency. We worry that when the time comes, we won't have enough of something we truly need. We fear the prospect of having to do without any of life's basic requirements, including those intangible necessities like love, appreciation, and understanding. If it's true that we've been created by God, however, any "adequacy" apart from Him is simply unthinkable. If we're creatures, there is no such thing as being "sufficient" without our Creator. Speaking of his apostleship, Paul enunciated a principle that holds true for all human beings: *"Our sufficiency is from God"* (2 Corinthians 3:5).

The glorious truth is that, if God is in us and we are in Him, we can do much more than just "get by." Through us God can sweep away every obstacle that stands in the path of His purposes. *"In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us"* (Romans 8:37). To be rightly related to God is to believe that He *"has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind"* (2 Timothy 1:7).

"A wise Hebrew proverb says, 'The soul of man is the lamp of God.' Man is a weak and miserable animal until the light of God burns in his soul. But when that light burns . . . man becomes the most powerful being in the world. Nor can this be otherwise, for what then acts in him is no longer his strength but the strength of God"

—Leo Tolstoy—

Weakness

Gary Henry

"I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind"
—Ecclesiastes 1:14

It is a bitter truth to accept, but we simply do not have, on our own, what it would take to do what life calls upon us to do. No matter how intelligently and energetically we press onward, we sooner or later find ourselves frustrated, unable to meet life's demands and unable to find the real fulfillment of our desires. Unaided by anything outside of time and space, we discover that despite short-term successes, the long-term verdict is that we've been "grasping for the wind."

Our culture generally responds to the realities of human weakness by suggesting that we adopt a "positive mental attitude." Our bookstores are stocked with best-selling volumes that, in one way or another, show us how to create a positive "vision" of reality and then live upon the basis of that thinking. And this is wise advice, as far as it goes. There is much value in thinking positively if it motivates us to respond to external reality in more creative ways. But we should not forget that most of reality is independent of our thinking. If we face ultimate problems greater than our human efforts can solve, thinking positively will not change that fact. Facts are stubborn things, and simply believing that we can survive will not make it so.

Positive mental attitude often amounts to little more than "whistling past the graveyard." Like the young boy walking past the scary graveyard on a dark night, we whistle cheerfully to try to convince ourselves that we're not afraid. But who are we fooling? All the courageous pretense in the world won't change the truth that this world is doomed, along with all its efforts and accomplishments. Unlike the

boy walking past the graveyard, our fears are not imaginary. We have real cause to be afraid.

We should not, however, think about all of this merely in terms of the human race or even of our own society. These are very personal matters. Apart from God, our own personal collapse is inevitable. If we walk alone, our steps will someday stumble.

“Eventually, we will come to say to God, ‘Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You’ (Psalm 73:25). Anything else is doomed to failure. Life is too short, strength too limited, competition too fierce. The long road wears us out”
—Bernard of Clairvaux

If Not Hope, Then Defiance

Gary Henry

“Resist the devil ...”
— James 4:7

The devil may depress our emotions but he need not break our will. We are not helpless victims of his, at the mercy of whatever he does. The devil can be RESISTED, and we surely need to do that more often, don't we? When we've been discouraged by the apparent hopelessness of our situation, we need to stiffen our resolve and do what is right, if not out of HOPE then out of DEFIANCE.

It would help us greatly if we could learn to operate with whatever the highest motives are that we have AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT. Perhaps we'd like to be motivated always by the highest motives in the world, but frankly, the higher motives sometimes elude us — sometimes we just don't FEEL like acting from those motives. But right conduct can't wait for perfect motives! We need to be willing to do what is right FOR THE HIGHEST REASONS WE CAN MUSTER AT THAT MOMENT. Conscience should always be our guide, of course, but once conscience has determined the right thing to do, it needs some sort of motivation — and it's willing to be motivated by a lesser motive until it can learn a higher one. So, for example, if we don't desire heaven as strongly as we should, then the fear of hell is an acceptable substitute, if that's the best we can do right then.

Now here is the application: if a pure love for the Lord is out of our reach in a moment of discouragement, then we may be saved by being JUST TOO “STUBBORN” TO LET THE DEVIL HAVE THE LAST SAY! When it comes down to it, we must want God with a passion that SIMPLY WILL NOT BE DENIED. We must love Him with the kind of love that will not let go, period. He has loved us with that kind of love, and we owe Him a dedication that is no less persistent.

In the end, the victory will be won not by the noble “lords and ladies” but by the simple “peasants” who just refused to give up, those who simply kept going in the face of resistance. To do no more than keep going may seem like a small thing, but it is in fact one of the greatest deeds that any human being can do. So when we're made blind to HOPE by the tears in our eyes, let's summon enough stubbornness to DEFY the devil and put him on notice that we do not intend to quit. We intend to keep doing what is right.

“We conquer by continuing”
—George Matheson

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Ken Prager
Announcements	Chuck Isinghood
Song Leader	Harold Marshall
Scripture	Matthew 10:21-42
Reader	Dan Marton
Prayer	Ed Roberts
Speaker	Ed Roberts
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Matt Ferrell
Fruit of the Vine	Ed Roberts
Serve	Blake Headen
Serve	Terry Smith
Closing Prayer	Dan Marton

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Chuck Isinghood
Song Leader	Ken Prager
Scripture	Matthew 11:1-19
Reader	Harold Marshall
1st Prayer	Dan Marton
Speaker	Ken Prager
Communion	Ed Roberts
Closing Prayer	Dan Marton

Wednesday

Announcements	Chuck Isinghood
Class Prayer	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Tim Henderson
Invitation	Dan Marton
Closing Prayer	Matt Ferrell

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

- Zeda Goddard, also her family— sons, Dallas and Terry, and daughter Tammy Garrison
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband, is doing well after surgery, he is to go back in a few more weeks to have a stint put in for the other kidney.
- Jerry & Dottie Henderson are in Medford, OR for the next few weeks
- Betty Isinghood will be having knee surgery the 15th.
- 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