

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:

Leftovers

*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*

God Is All That We Lack ... and More

*Gary Henry
via—Wordpoints.com*

*"Because the foolishness of God is wiser
than men, and the weakness of God is
stronger than men" — 1 Corinthians 1:25*

As our perfect and infinite creator, God is everything that we are not. He is the Answer to our every question, the Sufficiency who can supply all our needs. Perhaps our greatest need, then, is to RECOGNIZE our need and to seek in God the perfection that we don't find in ourselves. He is all that we lack . . . and He is even much more than that.

If there is one thing that is obvious about us, it is that we are incomplete. Whether we speak of our needs and our longings or we put it in terms of our tendency toward growth and development, somehow we are always using language

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that implies our imperfection. We are, as we say, "works in progress." There are things about us that we need but do not yet have.

Whatever these things are that we need, God is all of these. There is no necessity that He cannot meet; there is no hole in our hearts that He cannot fill. God is everything that we lack.

But in a sense, God is also THE ONLY THING we lack. There is nothing that we really need except God! Whatever other needs we may think we have, these are but manifestations and reminders of that which is our only true need. We were made for fellowship with our Creator. Without that, we'd not be content even if we had all the rest of the world combined. But if we DO have that, we find that we're able to do without, if necessary, any of the other things we thought we had to have, including even physical life itself. Our having been created by God means simply this: God is all that we truly HAVE to have. Anything else is a bonus.

But there is, in fact, a great deal of bonus in God's dealings with us. As we've said, He is all that we lack, and He is also much MORE. One of the most marvelous aspects of God's nature is His bounty. He is a God whose grace super-abounds and overflows. When we drink at His fountain, He not only quenches our thirst, but He gives us additional gifts. We are told that He is "*able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think*" (Ephesians 3:20). Our Maker is a God who takes great delight in surprising us with the riches of His infinite goodness.

*"How completely satisfying
to turn from our limitations
to a God who has none"*

—A. W. Tozer

Friends of God *Gary Henry*

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you" —
John 15:13-15

The magnitude of God's grace is seen nowhere more clearly than in His desire for us to be His friends. We, of course, may reject the terms of His friendship. And when we refuse to remain within His purpose for us, we put ourselves in a place where our Friend's goodwill can do us no ultimate good. "*You are My friends,*" Jesus said, "*if you do whatever I command you.*" A choice must be made between the world's friendship and God's (James 4:4), and the statement in John 1:11 is a sad one: "*He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.*" Yet as long as life lasts, God is still inviting us to be His friends. No one has ever rejected God without breaking the heart of a Father who wishes to show us His love. We are staggered by this love when we hear Jesus say, even to Judas who led the mob when they came to arrest Him, "*Friend, why have you come?*" (Matthew 26:50).

So God's desire to be friends with us is a truly amazing fact. But we should respond to this fact with more than mere amazement. We should SEEK God in a way that shows our gratitude for His offer, and our seeking should be characterized by the same faithfulness and obedience that God saw in His old friend Abraham. "*Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.'* AND HE

WAS CALLED THE FRIEND OF GOD" (James 2:22,23). All these many years later, friendship with God must work the same way in our own lives. To be His friends, through His Son Jesus Christ, is no passive or slothful thing. It is the active enjoyment of all the **THOUGHTS** and **WORDS** and **DEEDS** that flow back and forth between those whose love is strong enough to govern their character and their conduct. It is in His gentle friendship that our Greatest Friend is always asking, **"I gave my life for thee, what hast thou giv'n for Me??"** (Frances R. Havergal).

***"All the best qualities of friendship
begin in Christ, advance through
Christ, and are perfected in Christ"***
—*Aelred of Rievaulx*

Well Placed Faith

Gary Henry

***"He who did not spare His own
Son, but delivered Him up for us
all, how shall He not with Him
also freely give us all things?"***
—**Romans 8:32**

As our Father, God asks us to believe in the goodness of His Fatherhood. For many of us, faith in God's character requires growth in our own character. To believe that God exists is a step in the right direction. To believe that He is *"a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him"* (Hebrews 11:6) is an even further step. Yet this is a step that we can take responsibly. Based on what happened at the

Cross, our confidence in the love of God is not wishful thinking, but well-placed faith.

In practical terms, what does God's goodness mean? First, we should be **SOBERED** by it. The very worst thing would be for us to presume upon the grace of our Father. Paul asks the pertinent question when he says, *"Do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?"* (Romans 2:4). And he urges us to consider not only God's "goodness" toward those who obey Him, but also His "severity" toward those who refuse to do so (Romans 11:22). Having determined to seek God reverently and obediently, however, we should be **ENCOURAGED** by the fact that God is gracious to those who take Him seriously. If we are willing to relate ourselves rightly to God, we need not doubt that a right relationship is what He gave His Son to make possible for us.

In all that God has spoken, we must believe that He has told us the truth. Most of all we must believe Him when He says that He loves us. "Faith is nothing else than trust in the divine mercy promised in Christ" (Philipp Melanchthon). We can't claim to have read the Bible thoughtfully if we've not noticed its emphasis on God's goodness. And we can't claim to have taken its claims seriously if we've not been touched by the tenderness of God's invitation to trust Him. *"For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear'"* (Hebrews 13:5,6). We may have learned many things since we were young, but none of our adult thoughts is more profound than the simple one that we sang in our childhood: **Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.**

"Faith is a knowledge of the benevolence of God toward us, and a certain persuasion of His veracity"
—*John Calvin*

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Earl Miller
Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Nathan Marshall
Scripture	Matthew 13:1-17
Reader	Blake Headen
Prayer	Dave Harless
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Don Coen, Jr.
Fruit of the Vine	Ed Roberts
Serve	Chaz Shaffer
Serve	Wayne Campbell
Closing Prayer	Matt Ferrell

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Ed Roberts
Scripture	Matthew 13:18-30
Reader	Chaz Schaffer
1st Prayer	Nathan Marshall
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Matt Ferrell
Closing Prayer	Don Coen, Sr.

Wednesday

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Class Prayer	Ken Prager
Song Leader	Ed Roberts
Invitation	Dave Harless
Closing Prayer	Don Coen, Jr.

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Travelling:

- Ronald & Charlotte Lancaster

Sick/ Poor Health:

- Zeda Goddard, also her family— sons, Dallas and Terry, and daughter Tammy Garrison
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband, is to go back soon to have a stint put in for the other kidney.
- Jerry & Dottie Henderson as they continue their work in the Northwest region.
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Alfred & Mary Jane Myers
- Paula Prager as she continues to deal with a difficult pregnancy
- 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