

*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 Preachers:

AM: Ed Roberts

*PM: Nathan
Marshall*

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

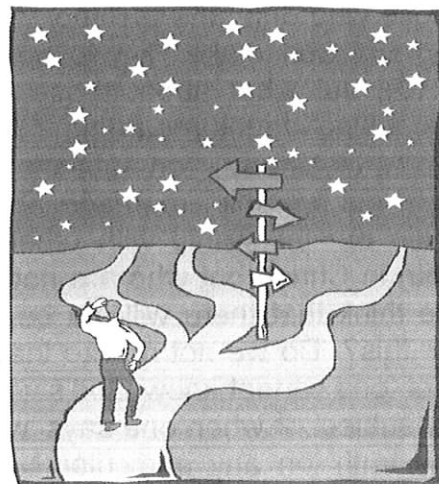
*Please visit our website:
www.truthandright.org*

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

The Preachers of Doubt

*Steven Harper
via—The Auburn Beacon*

Even as the Israelites were being delivered from Egyptian bondage, they found reason to doubt. Having just seen the power of God demonstrated so thoroughly by the plagues which decimated Egypt, they should have known that God had the power and will to deliver, yet when they stood at the edge of the Red Sea and looked back to see Pharaoh's approaching army, some complained to Moses, *"Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness"* (Exodus 14:11, 12). Despite the recent evidence to the contrary, some of the Israelites doubted the power of God would deliver them



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and complained that they were going to die in the wilderness.

Just three days after God delivered them from that seemingly hopeless situation, they complained about water at Marah (Exodus 15:22-24); about six weeks later, they were complaining again while in the Wilderness of Sin (16:1-3); and they complained again at Rephidim (17:1-3). This was all before they even reached Sinai! When they traveled up to Kadesh-Barnea, they sent spies into the land of promise and 10 of the 12 came back with a bad report, saying, "*We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are*" (Numbers 13:31), and the people complained again, ready to appoint new leaders and head back to Egypt (14:1-4). It seems that for all God had done and for all they had seen, they still found reason to doubt and, by doing so, impugned the character of God by implying that He was not able to do these things.

But the doubt was unfounded. It wasn't as if the people had reason to doubt, for God had amply supplied enough evidence to cause them to believe in Him and trust that He would provide. In effect, they have made God a liar because they did not believe His 'testimony' or His evidence.

The apostle John wrote by inspiration that those who deny the testimony of God regarding His Son make Him to be a liar (1 John 5:10); but what about those today who are preaching doubt regarding other portions of God's testimony _ on subjects such as salvation, our worship, marriage and divorce, and even our fellowship with others who profess faith in Christ, but who are not of Christ? Do we think that there will not be consequences for this? Do we not realize that when we say that 'one cannot know God's will' on a particular subject or when one says 'we cannot know the truth' on any particular subject that God has addressed, then we are once again impugning the character of God and calling Him a liar?

It is very troubling to me - more often as of late - that when I am discussing certain sub-

jects that are clearly taught within God's written word, someone feels compelled to say, 'We cannot be so dogmatic on this!' Or, when someone points out the erroneous teaching of a brother on a subject such as marriage and divorce, someone will say, 'There are many differences among brethren and we don't need to divide over this one.' Pardon me? Are we saying that we cannot know God's teaching [the truth] on marriage, divorce, and remarriage? Are we saying, now, that we cannot know God's teaching [the truth] on salvation? If I didn't know better, I would think we were standing at the edge of the Promised Land, hearing some of my brethren saying, 'We are not able!' Where are the Joshuas and Calebs for today?

But why this doubt? Why are some of my brethren all of a sudden doubting our ability to know God's will on some topics - topics that have been clearly understood for centuries? Why are some brethren now impugning the character of God by preaching doubt, rather than instilling trust and faith by talking about the surety and clarity of God's word? Why are some brethren now arguing that since we cannot say we know the truth on everything God has revealed, then we should not preach absolute truth on anything? Is it possible that God has failed to sufficiently provide for us, as those Israelites believed so long ago? Is it really that God's word is not so clear on these subjects? Or is it something else?

I cannot answer why some brethren are preaching doubt today [though some brethren are making it clear why they do this], but I can answer the question about the ability to understand God's word and the surety that God has provided all we need to know, and in such a way that it can be known. All we have to do is look into God's word [and that is where some are failing]. With that in mind let us consider the following three passages, which speak about understanding the will of God.

First, consider Paul's inspired revelation that God "*desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth*" (1 Timothy 2:4). NOTE: God desires that we know the truth; did He desire something of man which is

beyond his ability? If we are going to be consistent, then if we argue that man cannot know the truth, it must follow that man cannot be saved, either; God provided salvation and the means to obtain it, just as surely as He provided the truth and the means to understand it. If man cannot know the truth, then it must logically follow that he cannot obtain salvation, either, since God desires and provides both. If not, why not?

Next, consider Paul's inspired admonition to the Ephesian brethren to "*understand what the will of the Lord is*" (Ephesians 5:17). Not only is it God's desire that men know the truth, He has also commanded that we know it [God's will = truth]. Now, has God commanded something which is beyond our ability? If so, what kind of God must He be? Surely, we are not going to start preaching that God wants and commands something of mankind that he is unable to do, are we?

And, finally, consider Paul's inspired words to the Ephesian brethren when he wrote about the gospel plan of salvation [something particularly relevant to this discussion]. Here, Paul reminded them that, regarding that "*mystery*" of God's plan for salvation, he had "*written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ*" (Ephesians 3:3, 4). Did you catch that? Paul said they could understand God's once-hidden plan for man's salvation; they could understand the truth! Now, we - who are supposedly much more educated and intellectually astute - are now arguing that we cannot understand this, or other controversial subjects? Really?

The reality is, God's word is not so unclear and difficult to understand or apply. The difficulty for so many - including many of our brethren now - is in simply accepting what it teaches. Within my lifetime, I have seen brethren, who once boldly preached the truth on some subjects, now tuck tail and become inexplicably timid when addressing the same topic today. Has God's word suddenly become more difficult for them to understand? Or is it something else?

Brief Exhortations

David Riggs

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." (Romans 1:16)

The gospel is not "a" power (as though it is one among many), but is "the" power (the one and only power) by which God moves men to salvation.



The word "power" in Romans 1:16 is from the Greek word "dunamis" from which we get our words "dynamo," "dynamic," and "dynamite." Like dynamite, the gospel is God's power to blast men out of their complacency and indifference, and move them toward eternal salvation. The Hebrew writer said, "*For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*" (Heb. 4:12 NASV).

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." (John 17:3) "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments." (1 John 2:3)

When my son was a small boy playing with his buddies in the back yard, I overheard them talking; and the conversation was, amusingly, one of those 'My dad can whip your dad' routines. I heard one boy proudly say, "My dad knows the mayor of our town!" Then I heard another say, "That's nothing; my dad knows the governor of our state!" Wondering what was coming next in the program of bragging, I presently heard a wonderfully familiar voice (that of my own little son), saying, "That's nothing; my dad knows God!"

I swiftly slipped away from my place of eaves-dropping, with tears running down my cheeks. I dropped on my knees in my room and prayed earnestly and gratefully, "Oh, God, I pray that my boy will always be able to say, 'My dad knows God.'" (From Hilding Halverson)

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Chuck Isinghood
Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Ed Roberts
Scripture	Matt 16:13-28
Reader	DC Coen III
Prayer	Don Coen SR
Speaker	Ed Roberts
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Dan Marton
Fruit of the Vine	Ken Prager
Serve	Chaz Schafer
Serve	Wayne Campbell
Closing Prayer	Don Coen JR

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Nathan Marshall
Scripture	Matt 17:1-13
Reader	Ken Prager
1st Prayer	Ed Roberts
Speaker	Nathan Marshall
Communion	Don Coen SR
Closing Prayer	Chuck Isinghood

Wednesday

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Class Prayer	Don Coen SR
Song Leader	Ken Prager
Invitation	Nathan Marshall
Closing Prayer	Earl Miller

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Travelling:

- The Hendersons
- 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