

*In Search of...*

# Truth & Right

GENESIS

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:

# Fellowship

*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*

## Elders as Shepherds

Charles Brackett

*via The Auburn Beacon, Aug. 08, 2010, Auburn, AL*

A shepherd is literally one who feeds. He is a pastor. In Bible times, the typical shepherd tended his own flock, or delegated the work to his children or close relatives. By virtue of ownership, he was highly motivated to the work. No sacrifice was too great for his sheep. He sheltered them when cold, searched for them when lost, and bound up their wounds when hurt. With only his dog and staff, he protected them from wolves that were always crouching just out of sight and scent. A hireling would not be so diligent. He would not watch with the same degree of love and concern as the shepherd who cared for his own or his father's possessions.

Most of the shepherd's time was spent feeding and watering the flock. He was the shepherd, the feeder. Sheep were not fed in a pen as a farmer might feed his pigs, but in open pasture. The shepherd constantly moved his charge from hillside to valley searching for better grazing and plenty of good water. While there were occasions when searching or binding or protecting was necessary, the shepherd's continual duty was to feed and water, feed and water. And when that duty was done, he watered and fed.

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God has always looked at His people as sheep. He cares for them with the tenderness of a shepherd who gathers the lambs in his arms and gently leads those who are with young (Isaiah 40:11). Further, God has always considered those in positions of leadership over His sheep as shepherds. Overseers of the Lord's church are shepherds. Their position and their responsibility are put clearly in focus in 1 Peter 5:14 when Peter reminded elders to *"shepherd the flock of God which is among you..."* For those who discharge their responsibility well, Peter extended God's promise of *"an unfading crown of God's glory"* when the *"Chief Shepherd"* appears. On the other hand, God is against shepherds who *"do not feed the flock"* (Ezekiel 34:8-10). His words against negligent elders in Ezekiel's day were unmistakable. *"The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost but with force and cruelty you have ruled them"* (Ezekiel 34:4).

To each elder today the obligation of a shepherd over God's flock should be clear. And what is necessary for each to discharge his obligation is equally clear. He can do so only in his personal relationship with each member of the flock. Just as a shepherd on the hillsides of Judea searched for and cradled a single lost lamb against the ravages of a cold night, an elder of the Lord's church must be concerned for each individual member in his care.

That kind of concern is not possible without love, that sacrificial love which demands time. Not the kind of time and concern expected of a hireling but that which distinguishes a son of the owner. To be sure, much of an elder's feeding and watering will be accomplished when he has opened to the flock the good pasture and cool streams of God's word, but some of the lambs require individual attention. There are many in the flock who are spiritually undernourished. Some are crippled by sin, and some are only a hair's breadth from falling headlong over the precipice of Satan's domain. Will the shepherd act? The one who is truly committed to

the Chief Shepherd will.

God's shepherd will be ever watchful for any telltale sign that something is wrong in the life of one of the Father's little ones. He will be available to listen, and he will be a source of spiritual guidance for those who are groping. The Lord's church has never had a greater need for godly elders than it does right now. We need men who have prepared themselves to offer spiritual counseling and who are, as Paul said in Romans 15:14, *"full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to admonish."* With wise instruction and loving counsel, many members of the Lord's church today could be brought closer to the Lord. We need shepherds who will sound a loving alarm when one's faith falters, or when a marriage shows signs of weakening. We need elders who are unafraid to go after the one who strays or question the one who does not speak as the oracles of God. We need pastors who are willing to be close to the sheep—close enough to know them, to feel their hurts and bind their wounds. Above all, we need shepherds who will see that each lamb stays on the safe path of righteousness and who will continually feed us on God's word, even those of the flock who lack interest. Without such shepherds God's lambs will seek counsel from the ungodly and will be led to stand in the path of sinners and sit in the seat of scoffers! We are the Lord's! We are His valuable sheep bought with the blood of His only begotten Son. Our shepherds must exercise due care in watching over our souls.

## *Persuasion and the Gospel*

*By—Gary Henry  
via The Charlottesville Beacon,  
Aug. 29, 2010, Charlottesville, VA*

On the occasion when the apostle Paul presented the gospel of Christ to King Herod Agrippa II, the memorable reply of Agrippa was: *"You almost persuade me to become a Christian"* (Acts 26:28). It is difficult to know for sure whether the king was sincere when he

made this statement. He may have been sarcastic. In either case, his remark about being almost persuaded to become a Christian suggests some interesting lines of thought.

To begin with, being a Christian truly does require consciously becoming one. No one ever unconsciously (or even subconsciously) underwent the transformation involved in becoming a Christian, such that he awoke one day to the realization that he had evolved, willy-nilly, into a disciple of Christ. To the contrary, every person who has ever become a Christian has decided to become such -- he has done some definite things that are required. The gospel is a message which must be obeyed (Acts 6:7; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; Hebrews 5:9; 1 Peter 4:17, etc.).

In some circles one gets the impression that becoming a Christian is primarily, if not totally, thought of as an emotional experience. The truth is, however, becoming a Christian results from a conversion of the intellect and the will, as well as the emotions. To move from the realm of not being a Christian to the realm of being one, one must learn particular truths and exercise his volition to respond to those truths in ways that are specified in the gospel itself (Mark 16:16; Acts 3:19; Romans 10:9,10). No one ever became a Christian without an act of the will.

"Persuasion" is the moving of the will by the giving of compelling reasons. And since becoming a Christian involves an act of the will, there can be no real conversion to Christ without this thing called "persuasion." A person has to be given sufficient reasons to do the things that have to be done, or else he will not do what he must to obey the gospel. Evidently, Agrippa supposed Paul had given reasons that were "almost" sufficient to move his will to obey Christ. Those who themselves have chosen to become Christians would say Agrippa underestimated the weight of the reasons given him. In any case, it seems that Agrippa understood, to some degree, that becoming a Christian requires being persuaded to act in that direction.

The Scriptures consistently emphasize that both belief in the gospel and obedience to it grow out of evidence that the gospel is true.

John said, *"These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name"* (John 20:31). And Paul wrote that being saved requires coming *"to the knowledge of the truth"* (1 Timothy 2:4; cf. 2 Timothy 2:25). One does not obey the gospel unless he has been persuaded to believe it is true and persuaded to act on the basis of his belief. Convictions about the gospel, and the conduct that grows out of those convictions, are always the result of persuasion (Romans 10:14-17).

It is amazing, when one thinks about it, that God has chosen to depend on persuasion, rather than coercion, to bring men and women back to Himself. He reveals Himself to us through the medium of language, words that can be understood and acted upon (Ephesians 3:3,4). And Paul spoke with gratitude for the willingness of some to be moved by the gospel: *"We also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe"* (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

The apostles of Christ were not just communicators and persuaders; they were the authoritative communicators of the words by which God seeks to persuade mankind. Paul wrote, *"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation"* (2 Corinthians 5:18,19).

Through the words of the apostles, then, God's purpose is to persuade us to accept reconciliation to Him through Jesus Christ. Speaking of himself and his fellow apostles, Paul said, *"We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God"* (2 Corinthians 5:19,20). God gives us reasons to choose to accept reconciliation in the gospel of His Son. But mark it down: heaven will be populated by the altogether persuaded -- not the almost!

# Those Serving This Week

## Sunday AM

<b>Class Prayer</b>	Earl Miller
<b>Announcements</b>	Chuck Isinghood
<b>Song Leader</b>	Ed Roberts
<b>Scripture</b>	Matthew 20:17-34
<b>Reader</b>	Chaz Shaffer
<b>Prayer</b>	Dave Harless
<b>Speaker</b>	Tim Henderson
<b>Lord's Supper</b>	
Bread	Matt Ferrell
Fruit of the Vine	Harold Marshall
Serve	Nathan Marshall
Serve	Wayne Campbell
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Dan Marton

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

## Sunday PM

<b>Announcements</b>	Chuck Isinghood
<b>Song Leader</b>	Earl Miller
<b>Scripture</b>	Matthew 21:1-22
<b>Reader</b>	Ken Prager
<b>1st Prayer</b>	Dave Harless
<b>Speaker</b>	Tim Henderson
<b>Communion</b>	Nathan Marshall
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Wayne Campbell

## Wednesday

<b>Announcements</b>	Chuck Isinghood
<b>Class Prayer</b>	Nathan Marshall
<b>Song Leader</b>	Nathan Marshall
<b>Invitation</b>	Earl Miller
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Prager

# *News N Notes*

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

### **Sick/ Poor Health:**

- Jay Glasure, Ronald & Charlotte Lancaster's son-in-law had bypass surgery
- 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.
- Becky Johnston will be having surgery Sept. 24th
- 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**

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

- Josephine Clow

#### **Brightwood Center:**

- Shirley Campbell

#### **Valley Haven:**

- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers

#### **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