

*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:

*Two Kings
Receive the
Word of God*

*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*

Don't Be Surprised

Zack Lee

via-The Market Street Messenger—09-26-2010

Life is filled with surprises, some good and some bad. There is one surprise that I hope we will never experience. I am referring to the surprise of standing before the judgment seat of Christ, having been a Christian for many years, only to be rejected by Him. Many would be surprised to find out that such a surprise is even possible, yet Jesus says that it is. As Jesus finishes up His sermon on the Mount, He says, *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and cast out demons in your name and do many mighty works in your name?' And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness"* (Matthew 7:21-23).

This warning should concern everyone who is a Christian. Jesus is not speaking of atheists or agnostics. Neither is He speaking of those in religions who deny His authority and de-

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ity. He is speaking of us, those who call Him, "Lord," people who consider themselves among the faithful and in a right relationship with Him. Yet, to the surprise of many, they are shocked to hear Jesus say, *"I never knew you, depart from me; you workers of lawlessness."*

Notice the profession of the people in this passage. Jesus refers to people who call Him, "Lord." These are very religious people. Not only do they call Him, "Lord, Lord," but they also recognize the power of His name. They claim to prophesy, cast out demons, and do many mighty works in the name of Jesus. These are people who openly profess Christ. Yet Jesus says their profession is not proof that they are on their way to heaven. Why? Their profession did not match up with their practice.

The people Jesus refers to have deceived themselves into thinking that they are on the right path, but their true condition before God is a disaster. Their profession of Christ is empty because they do not live by the demands of His Lordship. According to Jesus these people do not *"do the will of my Father"* and are *"workers of lawlessness."* In Luke 6:46, Jesus asked, *"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"* This is the same problem with the people in Matthew 7. They act and sound religious. They may attend worship service and be involved in the church, but when it comes right down to it they refuse to do the will of God. There are many people who claim to be Christians yet do not live in submission to Christ. There is a huge gap between their profession and their practice.

While this should be clear to us, according to Jesus it isn't. Let's look at a few examples of how this might play out:

- * **If you expect to go to heaven you cannot claim to be a Christian and engage in adultery and fornication.**
- * **If you expect to go to heaven you cannot claim to be a Christian and hate your brother or sister in Christ (or anyone else for that matter).**

- * **If you expect to go to heaven you cannot claim to be a Christian and never forgive someone of wronging you.**
- * **If you expect to go to heaven you cannot claim to be a Christian and serve two masters.**
- * **If you expect to go to heaven you cannot claim to be a Christian and lie, cheat, and steal.**
- * **If you expect to go to heaven you cannot claim to be a Christian and engage in continued, willful sin.**

If you think you can you are just as deceived as the people that Jesus refers to and you are in for a big surprise come judgment day. Many people will try to argue with Christ on the Day of Judgment and list all of their religious involvement only to be shocked that they were not doing the will of God.

Can you imagine how terrible it would be to hear Jesus say, *"I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness?"* The worst thing that could ever happen is to be banished from the presence of God for all eternity (2 Thessalonians 1:9). There will be no more opportunities for redemption, repentance, or confession.

I pray that none of us will be surprised on the Day of Judgment. So what can we do to avoid such a surprise? Let me suggest two things:

Examine Yourself Regularly

Paul wrote to the Corinthians about the danger of deceiving ourselves. *"Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves"* (2 Corinthians 13:5). We should examine ourselves daily as we go through life. This is one reason for observing the Lord's Supper. When observed, according to the teaching of the New Testament, the Lord's Supper includes a time of self-examination. *"Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup"* (1 Corinthians 11:28). Paul went on to say that a number of

Christians in Corinth were “weak and ill, and some have died” because they did not examine themselves (1 Corinthians 11:30).

Allow the Word of God to expose your sin

Hebrews 4:12 says, “*For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*” Self deception can be buried deep within our minds. God’s word is able to penetrate those deep, dark places and dig out the fraud that is found there if we allow it. When you read or listen to the word of God and something hits close to home, do you pay attention to the words or do you ignore them?

Do not be surprised on the Day of Judgment. Let’s be sure that our profession matches up with our practice.



I recently heard an expression regarding our Christian way of life, “Trying perfectly.” There are several phrases or expressions we use to motivate us to do our very best, “Give it all you got, give a 110%, try as hard as you can, etc.” We are reminded that life is filled with endeavors that require our full attention and maximum effort. No effort is more important than our spiritual endeavor to overcome sin.

On several occasions the children of Israel wanted to give up when the journey became difficult. There were times that they thought they would have been better off left in Egyptian bondage. God told them to “Go for-

ward” (Exodus 14:15).

Though our way can become difficult, and we do fall short and commit sin, we must continue in our walk of faith. We must realize the problem originates with our failure to humble ourselves before God. We must remember God provides the way of escape (1 John 1:8; 1 Corinthians 10:13). Yes, we sometimes fail to see the provisions God has made for us, but they are there.

The result of being overtaken in a fault is we feel the foolishness of failure. A common response to failure is to quit trying. We must never allow this to happen. Regardless of the struggle we must never, never give up! We can never allow the difficulty of the circumstance to cause us to think for one moment we would be better off in the bondage of sin. We would not!

While we strive for perfection we must struggle against sin. As we run the race we must be prepared for those times when we might want to give up. We must give it all we’ve got, a 100%, we must “try perfectly.”

***“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you;” —Philippians 3:13-15***

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Chuck Isinghood
Announcements	Earl Miller
Song Leader	Ed Roberts
Scripture	Matthew 25:31-46
Reader	Dan Marton
Prayer	Tim Henderson
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Don Coen, Jr.
Fruit of the Vine	Nathan Marshall
Serve	Chaz Schaffer
Serve	Terry Smith
Closing Prayer	Matt Ferrell

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Earl Miller
Song Leader	Ken Prager
Scripture	Matthew 26:1-25
Reader	Chuck Isinghood
1st Prayer	Nathan Marshall
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Don Coen, Jr.
Closing Prayer	Ed Roberts

Wednesday

Class Prayer	Matt Ferrell
Announcements	Earl Miller
Song Leader	Dan Marton
Invitation	Nathan Marshall
Closing Prayer	Don Coen, Jr.

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Travelling:

- **Chuck Isinghood**, and his family
- **Harold Marshall**

Sick/ Poor Health:

- **Zeda Goddard**, and her family
- **Blake Headen**, Alberta's husband, is to have a stint put in for the other kidney.
- **Jerry & Dottie Henderson** are home in Florence, AL
- **Kathy Johnston**
- **Ronald Lancaster** was taken to the hospital Friday, his acid levels were high and heart rate was low. His kidneys had quit functioning, and he has been put on dialysis, along with a temporary pacemaker
- **Virginia Malick**, Peggy Miller's mother
- **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**
- **Terry Smith**
- **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