

*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:

*Qualifications
of Elders:
A Closer Look-04*

*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*

Making Change

Tim Jennings

via-The Market Street Messenger—08-02-2009

Most of us would love to change some things about ourselves. If you do not think you need to change, just ask a friend; I am sure he has a list of things you can work on. We would love to change certain aspects of our personality, our appearance, or our habits. We would especially love to change spiritually. We are called to be "*conformed to the image of His Son*" (Romans 8:29). That requires some adjustment, to say the least. We need a spiritual makeover. All other changes are superficial and short-lived in comparison, because at the core, sin is the bane of our lives. It has stained our character, distorted our priorities, and ruined our peace, so that our souls cry out for transformation.

The good news is that the gospel is the most powerful tool of change the world has ever seen. Its pages burst with full-color illustrations of the anatomy of change. It is full of case studies about people who fundamentally changed their character and lifestyle. The gospel gives us a way to change, a power to change, and a goal for change that the world knows

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nothing about.

The transformation of the early Christians took the world by storm. They were no longer simply products of their families or their culture. They were a new creation in Christ. They were so totally altered that they were like “new men” who stood out like sparkling salt in a mundane landscape. They were noticeable different and gloriously changed. But how? Is such change possible for us?

In Scripture the mechanism of change is fueled by six important elements. Practice these six elements regularly and the gospel will change you.

Hear The Truth

Every transformed life in Scripture started with “*receiving the Word of God*” (1 Thessalonians 2:13). The wind of change was driven by the breath of God. One of the real problems we have with change is listening to the right source of information. People are changing all the time as a result of the things they hear. Whether the change is good depends upon its source (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25). There is no shortage of talk shows, glamorous celebrities, and venerated intellectuals who want to tell you what to change, but there is only one word that contains the truth about who you are and what you were made to be, and that is the Word according to Jesus.

Some of us are not changing as we would like because we are not listening to the right source for truth. Satan loves to get us thinking so deeply about ourselves and this world that we do not want to listen to what God has to say. The truth bounces off our hearts like seed off of hard pavement. In contrast, God’s people have an unquenchable thirst for truth.

See Yourself As You Are

The truth causes us to see ourselves as we are. Most of us live in a perpetual state of self-deception. We see ourselves as we want to be rather than how we are, so we see no reason to change. If you doubt that, listen to yourself on a recording or watch yourself in a video. After that experience do you say, “I

didn’t know I had such a good voice and was so good looking?” No, we are shocked at how we really appear. Why? We are skilled in the art of self-deception.

We are much worse in the area of spirituality. If we could see how sinful we are in the presence of a holy God we would fall to the floor as dead (Isaiah 6; Revelation 1). In the same way that a skunk is not repulsed by its own odor, we don’t understand how odious sin is in the sight of God.

In the presence of the truth of the gospel our selfishness is laid bare, our indifference toward God and man is exposed, and it is not a pretty picture. No change is possible until we take off the mask, drop the pretense, quit making excuses, and see the truth about ourselves.

Change How You Talk

Now is the time to change the way you talk. Without pretense you come clean. You admit God is right. There are many times where we know the truth about ourselves, but we dare not tell anyone else, because then we just might have to do something about it. There is something about confession that forces us to own up to what needs to change.

Then you start using your tongue to profess what you have confessed. You tell people the great truths of the gospel. The reason those early believers were so evangelistic is because they were transformed. When you have found something that completely changes your life you cannot keep quiet.

Change Your Habits

Now your talk must change your walk. You must begin to “*bear fruits worthy of repentance*” (Luke 3:8). You courageously cut some things out of your life. You throw those things away, you turn that thing off, and you say “no” to other commitments, because they do not fit your new priorities in Christ.

You can only change when you start doing things differently. That is why many of us never change. We hear the truth and we con-

fess our need, but the change never affects our schedules. Why? Because our schedules are too full! We don't take anything out, so we don't put anything in, and despite our good intentions we change nothing.

Test Your Resolve

Be aware, no change will be left unchallenged. Satan will send a battalion of burdens to test your resolve. In many different ways he will try to discourage you so that you give up.

Nearly every significant change is met with persecution. If you get serious about living for God you will face some burdens that will tempt you to give up. You will face problems that will make you feel justified in quitting. The reality of your change will be seen in your perseverance in such times.

If the frontal attack of persecution does not cause you to quit, Satan will weaken your resolve by attacking your flank with pleasures. He will tempt you to value something else more than you value God. You will be forced to ask yourself, "Is this change worth all the trouble?" If not, your change will come to an end.

Reaffirm Your Decision

Once your resolve is tested, whether you have failed or not, take time to reaffirm your decision. Remember why you decided to follow Jesus in the first place. Return to the passion of your first love for Him (Revelation 2:3-5).

If you could see the Lord in all His glory, would there be any fear that things would work out right? Would there be any fear in giving him your life and bearing your cross? Not at all. When the teaching becomes challenging and your cross becomes heavy, reaffirm your decision by remembering whom you serve. See your Creator in all His power, your Savior in all His love, your Judge in all His glory, and be in awe of Him and inspired to please Him all over again.

Are You Playing the Blame Game?

Jason Hardin
via-InGodsImage.com

It's easy to blame others, isn't it? It's easier to blame your bad mood on your spouse than to own up to your grumpiness. It's easier to blame your moral carelessness on your friends than to own up to your lack of sobriety. It's easier to blame your brothers and sisters in Christ than to own up to your spiritual complacency. It's easier to blame your parents than to own up to your immaturity.

Have you been playing the blame game for a while now? Is there anything you need to take ownership of **today**? No matter how good you get at playing the blame game, you never really win.

"Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." - James 1:19-27

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Don Coen, Jr.
Announcements	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Wayne Campbell
Scripture	Mark 4:1-20
Reader	Dan Marton
Prayer	Earl Miller
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Matt Ferrell
Fruit of the Vine	Chuck Isinghood
Serve	Don Coen, Sr.
Serve	Terry Smith
Closing Prayer	Nathan Marshall

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Dan Marton
Scripture	Mark 4:21-41
Reader	Terry Smith
1st Prayer	Chuck Isinghood
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Ken Prager
Closing Prayer	Matt Ferrell

Wednesday

Class Prayer	Earl Miller
Announcements	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Tim Henderson
Invitation	Nathan Marshall
Closing Prayer	Chuck Isinghood

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Sick/ Poor Health:

- **Charena Campbell** was admitted to the hospital (Weirton) for chest pains Friday, room 888, she is being kept overnight again due to pain and other complications.
- **Phyllis Coen**
- **Zeda Goddard** is in Weirton Hospital, room 820
- **Blake Headen**, Alberta's husband, recovering from surgery.
- **Robert Schwerferger**, Alberta Headen's brother-in-law diagnosed with brain cancer.
- **Ronald Lancaster**
- **Virginia Malick**, Peggy Miller's mother
- **Harold Marshall**, recuperating from his surgery.
- **Kitty Morgan**, is at Carriage Inn in Steubenville.
- **Alfred and Mary Jane Myers**
- **Jimmy Roberts**, Ed & Marie's son
- **Jim Roberts**, Ed Roberts' father
- **Marie Roberts**
- **Gabriel Taylor**, 5 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 contact Tim Henderson