

In
search
of...

Truth & Right

GENESIS

Tim Henderson, Editor

Volume-05

Issue-32

03/06/2011

"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 lesson:

Jesus Presents Three Paradoxes

*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*

Christianity is Not a Detour

By—Gary Henry

Via—Diligently Seeking God—11-02-2010

*"I do not pray that You should take
them out of the world, but that You
should keep them from the evil one"*

~John 17:15~

When Jesus prayed for His apostles, He prayed that they might have the help they needed to survive the attacks of the evil one. Christianity was never meant to be a detour AROUND the world — instead it is a particular path THROUGH the world, the only one that finally turns out to be safe. So Jesus prayed that while His apostles lived "in the world" (John 17:11) they might not be "of the world" (John 17:14). Would He not pray the same for us? Since the world is the environment in which we must live, there is nothing much we can do about that. However, we must do what we

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can do, and that is to **reject the spiritual values of the world**. We can refuse to give these principles any place in our hearts. As an old sailor would say, a ship's place is in the sea, but if the sea gets into the ship then there is serious trouble.

Devotion to God does not mean that we dispense with any regard for the world that God has created. The more reverent our regard for God, the higher will be the **QUALITY** of our connection to the world. "Far from turning us away from the world, Christ directs us to it. He awakens within us an altogether new concern for it" (Paul Tournier). As we live in the world without being of the world, we will look more respectfully upon all things that God has made, even upon those that have been broken and marred by sin. Like our Lord Himself, we will be moved by compassion to enter the world on our own missions of mercy.

Let us also remember that "sanctification" does not require secluding ourselves in private, though it would surely be a good idea for us to do that more often nowadays. To be sanctified, or "set apart," does not mean **PHYSICAL** separation as much as it means **MORAL** separation. Even more than that, it means separation from any **USE** of ourselves other than the Lord's use. To be His people, we must be distinct from the world, but it is in the world, after all, that the Lord intends to make use of His people.

"Consecration is not wrapping one's self in a holy web in the sanctuary and then coming forth after prayer and twilight meditation and saying, 'There, I am consecrated.' Consecration is going out into the world where God Almighty is and using every power for His glory. It is taking all advantages as trust funds" (Henry Ward Beecher).

God is Not the Same as His Creation

by Gary Henry

Via—Diligently Seeking God—10-14-2010

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" —Genesis 1:1

The first statement in the book of Genesis affirms that the cosmos was created by God. From that point forward, the Scriptures make it clear that this God was not merely the universe creating itself nor simply a "creative life-force" pervading nature, but rather a personal God who is distinct from the nature that He created. God is presented to us in the Scriptures as a **TRANSCENDENT** God: He is radically "other" than His creation. And if that is the truth, then it is a serious mistake to give to the creation the reverence that ought to go to the Creator alone.

Contemporary thinkers and writers tend to be generic rather than specific in their concepts of "God." There is often very little distinction among terms like "spirit," "the universe," and "the creator." God is conceived as simply everything that exists or as a force that animates nature. The way in which "spirituality" has come to be distinguished from "religion" suggests the shift that has taken place with respect to God. Spirituality now encompasses an extremely broad range of philosophies, attitudes, and lifestyles, very few of which have anything to do with a personal God who is distinct from the universe. The adoration of nature, or even political participation in the environmental movement, is now enough to qualify as "spirituality." Indeed, in some circles respect for the "web of life" would be seen as a much more **ENLIGHTENED** spirituality than that of the religious person who believes in a transcendent, personal Creator. The creation is now

firmly ensconced on the throne that once belonged to the Creator.

The apostle Paul wrote of those who long ago *"exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen"* (Romans 1:25). But whether in its ancient or modern form, the tendency to confuse God with His creation is an intellectual mistake — indeed a SPIRITUAL mistake — fraught with the most tragic consequences. When nature is worshiped at God's expense, not only is God dishonored, but nature is dishonored also. As long as we are false to God, we can never be true to nature.

"Nature has perfections in order to show that she is the image of God, and defects to show that she is only his image" ~Blaise Pascal~

Kaizen

by Gary Henry

Via—Diligently Seeking God—10-07-2010

"... but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ" —Ephesians 4:15

Life in general is about growth, and life in Jesus Christ is about growth toward the perfection in our character. Much of the happiness and joy that are available to us can only be ours if we know that we're making progress in the direction of godly character and conduct. When we give in to the forces of evil "inertia," we fail to move ahead, and the result is that we stagnate. Eventually, our choice becomes a choice between improvement or death. There is really no other option.

The Japanese word *kaizen* refers to the concept of "continuous improvement over time." This concept is a part of what has made so many Japanese businesses successful, and it has made these businesses a model of effectiveness for corporations around the world. *Kaizen* says that while we may not "get it perfect" on the first attempt, what we want to do is continuously IMPROVE what we do in a never-ending spiral of positive growth. Businesses that employ the concept of *kaizen* find some way to improve everything they deal with — every time they deal with it. And over time, the results are nothing short of stunning.

Wouldn't the results be even more stunning if we practiced *kaizen* in our spiritual lives? Surely they would, and it is no compliment to us that people striving for worldly goals in the business environment work harder at improving what they do than is often the case with those who are striving for heavenly goals. Jesus said a long time ago that *"the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light"* (Luke 16:8).

Yet here is an intriguing thought: can we not improve our track record in the matter of improvement? Can we not "do better about doing better"? Yes, we can. And when we exercise even one ounce of initiative to make progress in even one area of our spiritual lives, the devil has cause to worry. It is by steps like these, seemingly small but taken regularly, that our adversary loses his prey. Improvement is not a concept that he's comfortable with.

"We must praise your goodness that you have left nothing undone to draw us to yourself. But one thing we ask of you, our God, not to cease to work in our improvement. Let us tend towards you, no matter by what means, and be fruitful in good works, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord"

~Ludwig van Beethoven~

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Earl Miller
Announcements	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Nathan Marshall
Scripture	Mark 15:27-47
Reader	Ken Prager
Prayer	Chuck Isinghood
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	John Lemal
Fruit of the Vine	Harold Marshall
Serve	Dan Marton
Serve	CJ Isinghood
Closing Prayer	Dave Harless

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Earl Miller
Scripture	Mark 16
Reader	Wayne Campbell
1st Prayer	Tim Henderson
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Bryan Legg
Closing Prayer	Matt Ferrell

Wednesday

Class Prayer	Earl Miller
Announcements	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Wayne Campbell
Invitation	Tim Henderson
Closing Prayer	John Lemal

News N Notes

Please remember these in your prayers:

Travelling:

- **Mary Jane Myers** is in Florida visiting her mother
- **Melanie Vilk** is in Florida

Sick/ Poor Health:

- **Don Coen, Sr.**
- **Zeda Goddard**
- **Robert Schwerferger**, Alberta Headen's brother-in-law.
- **Grace Lancaster**
- **Ronald & Charollette Lancaster**
- **Virginia Malick**, Peggy Miller's mother
- **Harold Marshall, Sr.**, Harold's father
- **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 Coen, Sr., dealing with cancer.
- **Trudell Tennant**

Don't forget our Shut-ins

Ann's Retreat:

- Josephine Clow

Brightwood Center:

- Shirley Campbell

Valley Haven:

- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers

Weirton Geriatric:

- Kitty Morgan

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