

*In
Search
of ...*

Truth & Right

GENESIS

Tim Henderson, Editor

Volume-05

Issue-33

03/13/2011

"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 Speaker:

*Bryan
Legg*

*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*

Unconditional Surrender

By—Gary Henry

Via—Diligently Seeking God—02-09-2011

"And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God" — 2 Corinthians 8:5

To seek God sincerely is to give ourselves to Him completely. The good things that come from life in God come to those who yield themselves to Him entirely. If we hold back parts of our hearts or our lives from His benevolence, we will miss the unique blessings that flow from commitment. If we sow sparingly, we will not reap bountifully (2 Corinthians 9:6).

"A living sacrifice" is the expression Paul used to characterize the yielding of ourselves to God: *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable*

In this Issue:

Unconditional Surrender—pg 1—Gary Henry

We Must Try To Grow—pg 2—Gary Henry

What is the Point of Life in Christ?—pg 3—Gary Henry

Those Serving & Announcements—pg. 4

service" (Romans 12:1). In the Law of Moses, animals that were sacrificed to God had to be slain. It was not possible for the worshiper to retain the living animal for himself and still give a part of it to the Lord. The very life of the animal itself had to be given. Corresponding to those sacrifices, our offering must be total. Although ours is a "living" sacrifice, the gift must be no less complete than if our bodies were to be slain. God deserves no less than our all, both inwardly and outwardly.

But the partial approach not only tries to give God less than He deserves, it involves us in great difficulty and frustration. Just as a timid soul can't leap a large chasm by taking two medium-sized jumps, the requirements of our new life can't be met by the half-hearted efforts of our old mind. If we try to hang on to all that we think is "ours" and give God only enough of our outward behavior to get us to heaven, we are attempting the impossible. The old self will never be happy having to give up parts of itself to God. Since it never relinquishes its own desires except when forced to do so, the old self will never find Jesus' yoke "easy" and His burden "light" (Matthew 11:30). So the old self must die and a new self must come to life. We must be "*crucified with Christ*" (Galatians 2:20). When that happens, we will then find that the Lord's "*commandments are not burdensome*" (1 John 5:3).

~~~~~

*"The Christian way is different: harder, and easier. Christ says, 'Give me All. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work; I want You. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are any good . . .'" ~C. S. Lewis*

## *We Must Try To Grow*

*by Gary Henry*

*Via—Diligently Seeking God—02-08-2011*

***"Then He said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other"***

**—Matthew 12:13**

**It is true spiritually, as well as physically, that significant growth requires the exertion of effort.** It is inconsistent to say that we want to grow but do nothing about it. Passivity only breeds weakness and leads to stagnation.

Dallas Willard, in his provocative *The Spirit of the Disciplines*, quotes William Law's statement that "God has made no promises of mercy to the slothful and negligent. His mercy is only offered to our frail and imperfect, but best endeavours, to practise all manner of righteousness" and also Henry Thoreau's wry observation that "men will lie on their backs, talking about the fall of man, and never make an effort to get up." A life that grows toward God is an active enterprise, not merely a passive status to be enjoyed. To "be" a Christian, one must "walk in Him" (Colossians 2:6).

Those who move forward are those who reach forward "*to those things which are ahead*" (Philippians 3:13). Paul urged Timothy, "*Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all*" (1 Timothy 4:15). The gospel, the "glad tidings" of our salvation, must not simply be heard and appreciated; it must be responded to. Not only at first, but forever afterward, the gospel must be "obeyed" (Romans 1:5; Galatians 3:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; 1 Peter 4:17; etc.).

It is a pity that so many individuals have come to think of religion and spirituality as the mere giving of mental assent to correct doc-

trine, as if life in God had to do only with the thinking of the mind and nothing to do with the activity of the body. But the flesh is not inherently evil, and the enjoyment of grace by faith does not preclude the requirement of bodily obedience. Our bodies, in fact, can be a valuable ally in our spiritual growth. Trained by the effort involved in spiritual disciplines and godly habits, our bodies can aid and support us in our seeking of God. In Jesus' own life, we see an obvious link between His inward strength and the habits of His outward activity. If He had to exert effort, should we expect to grow strong by merely passive means? Bodily, as well as mentally, we must seek God with diligence.

*"The lazy man does not, will not, cannot pray, for prayer demands energy" ~Edward McKendree Bounds*

## *What is the Point of Life in Christ?*

*by Gary Henry*

*Via—Diligently Seeking God—10-13-2009*

*"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead" —Philippians 3:8-11*

**The point of life in Christ is that we may "know Him and the power of His resurrection"**  
The value of knowing Christ so far excels the value of anything in this world that we are willing to suffer the loss of all else, if need be, in order to *"gain Christ and be found in Him."* Life in Christ is not primarily about relief right now from the trauma of living in a broken world. Indeed, to be in fellowship with Christ means to know *"the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death"* in order that we may *"attain to the resurrection from the dead."*

To the ears of the Christian these truths should sound self-evident. Unfortunately, the concept of Christianity that has come to be dominant in our day is one that runs in a different direction. According to this concept, emotional pain relief is the basic, overall concern of life in Christ. Offering health, wealth, and complete emotional bliss, it promises to take away the deep ache of our needy, broken souls and to do so in the here and now. The new gospel is fundamentally about "feeling better." It is about US.

But the historic gospel is not first and foremost about feeling better; it is about glorifying God through Christ and coming to be like Him. Christ did not die for the mere betterment of our feelings, and seeking God through Him is not mostly about pain relief. It is about **character transformation**. And even more than character transformation, it is about **the glorification of God**. Far from eliminating the possibility of pain, the glorification of God may **require** the suffering of pain, even to the point of death. Our expectation should be no less than that of Paul, whose only hope was that *"with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain"* (Philippians 1:20,21).

*"Modern Christianity, in dramatic reversal of its biblical form, promises to relieve the pain of living in a fallen world" (Larry Crabb).*

# Those Serving This Week

## Sunday AM

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Class Prayer</b>   | Ed Roberts      |
| <b>Announcements</b>  | Nathan Marshall |
| <b>Song Leader</b>    | Wayne Campbell  |
| <b>Scripture</b>      | Luke 1:1-20     |
| <b>Reader</b>         | John Lemal      |
| <b>Prayer</b>         | Bryan Legg      |
| <b>Speaker</b>        | Bryan Legg      |
| <b>Lord's Supper</b>  |                 |
| Bread                 | Matt Ferrell    |
| Fruit of the Vine     | Don Coen, Jr.   |
| Serve                 | Earl Miller     |
| Serve                 | Terry Smith     |
| <b>Closing Prayer</b> | Ken Prager      |

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

## Sunday PM

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Announcements</b>  | Nathan Marshall |
| <b>Song Leader</b>    | Ed Roberts      |
| <b>Scripture</b>      | Luke 1:21-38    |
| <b>Reader</b>         | Terry Smith     |
| <b>1st Prayer</b>     | Chuck Isinghood |
| <b>Speaker</b>        | Bryan Legg      |
| <b>Communion</b>      | Ken Prager      |
| <b>Closing Prayer</b> | Tim Henderson   |

## Wednesday

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Class Prayer</b>   | Dave Harless    |
| <b>Announcements</b>  | Nathan Marshall |
| <b>Song Leader</b>    | Harold Marshall |
| <b>Invitation</b>     | Earl Miller     |
| <b>Closing Prayer</b> | Chuck Isinghood |

# *News N Notes*

## **Please remember these in your prayers:**

- **Mary Jane Myers'**, daughter-in-law, Cindy Ambrose passed away

## **Sick/ Poor Health:**

- **Don Coen, Sr.**
- **Zeda Goddard**
- **Robert Schwerferger**, Alberta Headen's brother-in-law.
- **Anna Henderson**
- **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