

*In
Search
of ...*

Truth & Right

GENESIS

Tim Henderson, Editor

Volume-05

Issue-44

05/29/2011

"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 Speakers:

AM: Tim Henderson

PM Ed Roberts

*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*

Signs of Christ's Return

By—Mark W. White

Via—The Market Street Messenger—05-29-2011

Frequently, we hear people discussing the end of time and delineating the "signs" that, they say, are proof that Christ's return is imminent. These signs include "wars and rumors of wars," "earthquakes," and various political/military events that one observes on the evening news. The loud proponents of gloom claim to be representing the Bible in their calculations and forecast. Of course, to date, every attempt to pinpoint the date of Christ's return has failed.

The fact is that earthquakes could not have been intended by God to be a sign of the end of the world. Since 1900 alone, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that several million earthquakes occur in the world each year. Many go undetected because they hit remote areas or have very small magnitudes. The National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC) now locates about fifty earthquakes each day, or about 20,000 a year (NEIC Web Team, 2003). Since earthquakes have been fairly constant for the last two thousand years, and occur on a daily basis, they would be completely useless in attempting to recognize the end of the world. However, if Jesus intended them to be immediate signs, contempo-

In this Issue:

Signs of Christ's Return—pg 1—Mark W. White

Caducity—pg 2—Kent Heaton

Those Serving & Announcements—pg. 4

aneous with the first century, they would have served a useful purpose.

Consider for a moment what the Bible actually teaches on this matter. In Matthew 24, Jesus pinpointed numerous signs by which His disciples and Jewish Christians could recognize the occasion of the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. The signs that Jesus mentioned included "wars and rumors of wars" (vs. 6), "famines and earthquakes" (vs. 7), the Gospel preached to the whole world (vs. 14), and the approach of the Roman armies (vs. 15; cf. Luke 21:20). These events functioned as signals by which the faithful could identify the "end" (vss. 6, 14) of the Jewish commonwealth. Jesus provided descriptive detail in response to the disciples' question concerning the destruction of the temple (vss. 2-3). Just as tender branches and fresh leaves signal the approach of summer (vs. 32), so the multiple signs that Jesus pinpointed would signal the coming of Christ in judgment on the Jewish nation (vs. 33) in A.D.70.

Then, beginning in verse 36, Jesus turned His attention to the question of the end of time and His Second Coming. Notice the difference! Jesus went out of His way to stress the total absence of signs signaling the end of the world and the Second Coming. He declared that His final coming would be comparable to the Deluge of Noah's day (vs.37), in that it will be totally unexpected. Right up to the very day that Noah and his family entered the ark, life was going on as usual. No signs! Jesus said farmers will be in the field as usual (vs.40); women will be involved in the activities as usual (vs. 41). Jesus even likened the unexpected nature of His final coming to the exploits of a thief (vs. 43). Both Paul (1 Thessalonians 5:2) and Peter (2 Peter 3:10) repeat this analogy. As the coming of a thief in the night is preceded by absolutely no signs, so the final coming of Jesus will be preceded by absolutely no signals.

Contrary to the prevailing notions of today concerning "the signs of the times," the Bible asserts that there will be a total absence of signs to prepare the world for the end of time.

The only hope of the entire world is to render obedience to the written revelation of the Bible (24:46). Noah preached, apparently for many years, in hopes of alerting the world's population to the coming judgment upon them. They refused to listen. Likewise, the only "tip off" available today is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that instructs every accountable individual what to do to be right with God. When one brings one's life into compliance with those directives, "signs" by which to anticipate the return of Christ are completely needless.



The first bicycle brand-new-out-of-the-box is a special moment. It stands gleaming with bright colors, clean crisp wheels, painted without a flaw and the chain is oiled just right for smooth control. Riding the first time is like flying with the wind. If the bicycle is lucky it will be washed a few times the first week. The second week is when the change takes place and after the first month a remarkable change happens. What once was carefully nurtured to retain the sparkling look of a new bike gives way to being left in the rain, paint scarred from spills and potholes and tubes needing replacement. The new wears off and time brings on rust and decay.

Everything seems to be like that. A new car smell becomes the spilled coffee, stained seats from children playing hard, paint scrapped from bumps and dings and time wears the new car down to a used car; if lucky an antique. On the other hand every antique was new once - a long time ago. We become antiques. We wear down, wear out and lose that new youthful look we had a long time ago.

The wise man said, "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the

difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them:' while the sun and the light, the moon and the stars, are not darkened, and the clouds do not return after the rain: in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men bow down; when the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look through the windows grow dim; When the doors are shut in the streets, and the sound of grinding is low; When one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of music are brought low. Also they are afraid of height, and of terrors in the way; When the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper is a burden, and desire fails. For man goes to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets. Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the well" (Ecclesiastes 12:1-6). Life changes is what the wise man is saying. Youth is replaced with growing older.

Earlier the wise man declared "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2). The nature of life is temporary, transitory and perishable. Paul wrote, "the things which are seen are temporary, but the thing which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18). The most important lesson we must learn is that life is only a brief whisper in the eternal ages to come (James 4:14). We must heed the prayer of Moses to "number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalms 90:12). When we understand the nature of transitory life we can see more clearly the reality of our eternal existence.

Everything is temporary except the promises of God (Titus 1:1-2). What belongs to God will never end. What belong to man will change and end. The word "caducity" is being removed from modern dictionaries. It is one of many words that have lost their use in the

*Caducity is the
"quality of being
transitory or
perishable"*

English language. The temporal nature of our language proves the temporal nature of life. Ironically, the meaning of caducity spelled its own doom. Caducity is the "quality of being transitory or perishable" (Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, 1986 edition). Such is life - Transi-

tory and perishable. Eternal life is without end (1 John 2:17).

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

"There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven—² A time to give birth and a time to die; A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted. ³ A time to kill and a time to heal; A time to tear down and a time to build up. ⁴ A time to weep and a time to laugh; A time to mourn and a time to dance. ⁵ A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones; A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing. ⁶ A time to search and a time to give up as lost; A time to keep and a time to throw away. ⁷ A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; A time to be silent and a time to speak. ⁸ A time to love and a time to hate; A time for war and a time for peace."

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Nathan Marshall
Announcements	Don Coen, Jr.
Song Leader	Earl Miller
Scripture	Luke 9:37-62
Reader	Dan Marton
Prayer	Ed Roberts
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Dave Harless
Fruit of the Vine	Tim Henderson
Serve	Terry Smith
Serve	Matt Ferrell
Closing Prayer	Chuck Isinghood

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

Sunday PM

Announcements	Don Coen, Jr.
Song Leader	Tim Henderson
Scripture	Luke 10:1-20
Reader	Bryan Legg
1st Prayer	Don Coen, Sr.
Speaker	Ed Roberts
Communion	Nathan Marshall
Closing Prayer	Don Coen, Sr.

Wednesday

Class Prayer	Tim Henderson
Announcements	Don Coen, Jr.
Song Leader	Nathan Marshall
Invitation	Earl Miller
Closing Prayer	Wayne Campbell

News N Notes

- Ladies Class tonight after services in the auditorium.
- Men's Training class tonight after services in class room 2 & 3. Tonight we're discussing Song Leading

Please remember these in your prayers:

Sick/ Poor Health:

- Leighla Brady, Nancy Morris' daughter
- Don Coen, Sr.
- Nicholas Edwards, has received some good reports on his recovery
- Zeda Goddard is in the hospital at Weirton Medical Center, room # 844 with fluid buildup
- Robert Schwerferger, Alberta Headen's brother-in-law.
- Grace Lancaster
- Ronald & Charollette Lancaster
- William Louthen, Charissa Erdman's grandfather. His address is: 127 10th St., Wellsburg, WV 26070
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Harold Marshall, SR, is in the hospital
- Alfred and Mary Jane Myers
- Jim Moore, Nancy Morris' nephew
- 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