

*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:

*Learning from
the 12 Spies*

*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.*

The Open Mind of the Seeker

*By—Gary Henry
Via—Diligently Seeking God*

*"The Lord looks down from heaven
upon the children of men, to see if
there are any who understand, who
seek God" —Psalm 14:2*

God is looking for those who understand the importance of seeking Him. To understand this importance, we must at least open our minds to two basic facts: that God exists and that we're accountable to Him. If we reflect on these two truths with serious minds and reverent hearts, we will want to seek God.

There are, to be sure, many who know the basic truths but do not seek God any further. Their progress in the knowledge of God is blocked by a resistant attitude toward what they already know. In contrast, those who SEEK God are genuinely open to Him. Whatever knowledge of God these individuals may hold, they hold it eagerly and appreciatively. And what

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they seek is not only to know more of God; they long to have FELLOWSHIP with Him.

The intriguing evidence of Himself that God has left in His creation was meant to move us deeply and stir up our desire. To the citizens of Lystra, Paul said that God *"did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness"* (Acts 14:17). And to his listeners in Athens, he said that God's sovereignty over the nations is such *"that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us"* (Acts 17:27).

Perhaps the greatest decision we ever make is deciding what to do about the tokens of God's existence that we discover in His creation. Do we ignore them or do we welcome them? Do we deny them or do we deal with them gratefully? If we choose to "understand" what the creation has already said about the Creator, then the serious seeking of God will become our goal.

It has been said that there are two classes of people who please God: those who serve him with all their hearts because they know Him, and those who seek him with all their hearts because they do not know Him. As far as God is concerned, open-mindedness on our part is more than intellectual curiosity. It is the delight with which the sincere embrace everything they can learn about their Father. When such people seek God, He is sure to be found.

*"God reveals himself
unfailingly to the
thoughtful seeker"*
—Honoré de Balzac—

The Humble Heart of the Seeker By—Gary Henry *Via Diligently Seeking God*

"The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts"
—Psalm 10:4—

If there is one quality that is more needful than any other for seeking God, it is the **quality of humility**. Pride is the power that lured us away from God in the first place, and it is the power that will, if we let it, keep us from returning to Him. If God must be dealt with on His terms, then proud people simply will not deal with God. *"The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts."*

Pride keeps us from enjoying so many good things, it is a pity that we don't reject it any more decisively than we do. It is a heavy, soul-wearying bag of rocks that we drag around with us wherever we go. Rather than seeing humility as an unpleasant burden that we must somehow learn to bear, we'd do better to see pride as an unnecessary burden that we need not bear any longer. Those who have finally let go of their pride always report enjoying such a sense of freedom that they wish they'd made the decision sooner. We pay a high price for holding on to our ego.

Pride can be so subtle, however, that we may not see how much we have been affected by it. Few of us see ourselves as being "proud" people. And yet few of us are as humble as we need to be in our seeking of God. The deep changes that have to be made in our hearts require that we adopt a more receptive, teachable attitude than we've had up to now. Whether we call it by its right name or not, it's pride that prevents our re-

pentance.

God is always appealing to us to lay down our prideful rebellion and come back home to Him. But while we may see some of the good that would come from doing that, we don't find it an easy thing to do. Reconciliation to God is appealing, but if it means having to humble ourselves, we're reluctant to go that far. It may have been a long time since we deferred to God on any question that really mattered to us, and the thought of openly admitting how poorly we've lived our lives is embarrassing, to say the least. Pride dies a hard death.

"Not irreverently we may say that God has no easy time of it to smash the bridgeheads of our clever self-sufficiency, to break down the fortified walls of our self-defenses, and capture the inner stronghold of our pride" —Paul Stromberg Rees

The Groaning Heart

***By—Gary Henry
via-Diligently Seeking God***

*"I am weary with my groaning;
All night I make my bed swim;
I drench my couch with my tears.
My eye wastes away because of grief;
It grows old because of
all my enemies."
Psalm 6:6,7*

There is such a thing as GOOD GRIEF. It is not good because it is pleasant, but because it opens up our hearts more lovingly to God. When we groan in prayer, perhaps hurting so deeply that we can scarcely find any

words to say, we are experiencing something that we desperately NEED to experience: the unavoidable realization of our need for God. Thus while we look forward to praying the prayer of joyous thanksgiving, it is the prayer of downcast sorrow that pushes us more strongly down the path of inner growth. Perhaps it shouldn't be true, but it is: it's when our blessings are withdrawn that the Source of those blessings means the most to us. The groaning heart is the one that clings to its God.

The same wise man who said, "[There is] a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance" (Ecclesiastes 3:4) also said, "[It is] better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for that is the end of all men; and the living will take it to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, for by a sad countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth" (Ecclesiastes 7:2-4). Although it seems to be written in the laws of our culture, it is nowhere written in the laws of the universe that unpleasantness is an unqualified evil. There are times when groaning deeply within ourselves is the exactly RIGHT response to what has happened.

So all things considered, which would we rather have the "opportunity" to pray: the prayer of THANKSGIVING or the prayer of GROANING? If we live a normal life span, most of us will get some experience with both. But while it's natural to hope that the times of gladness outnumber those of grief, let us not despise the purity that can come out of grief. And when our hearts hurt so badly that words fail us as we try to speak to God, let us not be afraid simply to shed our tears, if they will come, and to let our groanings be a sufficient prayer. The God to whom we make our plea not only hears what we say, but He feels what we feel.

*"The best prayers often have
more groans than words"
—John Bunyan—*

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Dave Harless
Announcements	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Wayne Campbell
Scripture	Luke 16:1-18
Reader	Bryan Legg
Prayer	Don Coen, Jr.
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Earl Miller
Fruit of the Vine	Dan Marton
Serve	John Lemal
Serve	Terry Smith Don
Closing Prayer	Coen, Jr.

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	Luke 16:19-31
Reader	CJ Isinghood
1st Prayer	Tim Henderson
Speaker	Dan Marton
Communion	Chuck Isinghood
Closing Prayer	Tim Henderson

Wednesday

Class Prayer	Earl Miller
Announcements	Ed Roberts
Song Leader	Ken Prager
Invitation	Tim Henderson
Closing Prayer	Dan Marton

News N Notes

Please remember these in your prayers:

Travelling:

- The Marshall Family
- The Prager Family
- Melanie Vilks

Sick/ Poor Health:

- Leila Brady, Nancy Morris' daughter
- Don Coen, Sr.
- Clifford Coen
- Zeda Goddard
- Grace Lancaster
- Ronald & Charollette Lancaster
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Harold Marshall, SR, is at home under hospice care
- 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

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