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**“The Right Perspective”**

(Column in WV Newspaper)

by

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I was asked recently the inspiration behind the name of this column... ***“The Right... Perspective?”*** The person asking thought it was only a column written to cover the Republican point of view in political campaigns and wondered what I would be covering now that the November elections were over. Our nation is so politically sensitive these days that our brains automatically think in terms of *“left or right.”* The ***“Right...”*** in my column’s name, however, is meant to be something more than just a reference to my political leanings, especially since I’m a registered Democrat.

Being an *“Op-Ed”* column as this is, much of what I write is my opinion based on who I am and what I’ve experienced as a former high school student, college student, finance company manager, school teacher, restaurant manager, company executive, insurance agent, insurance district manager, and current husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, world traveler, and all round good guy. Each of these occupations and life’s responsibilities has contributed greatly to what I think, say, and do in life. There is one experience, however, that changed my life totally and wrapped all my experiences into one neat package. That life changing experience, at age 35, was meeting a man and discovering the purpose for my existence.

The man’s name... Jesus Christ, and the purpose... to let as many people as possible know that having Him in their lives would allow them to face any challenge life throws at them. That’s why you will find in this column a perspective on the issues we face daily a tad more positive than the average. I also try, sometimes very ineptly, to let you folks know that with Him in your life you don’t have to consider yourself a victim and encourage you to see the silver lining in those low hanging dark clouds that you feel are following you around.

I especially want to give strength and hope to you who are entering into your Autumn and Winter years and looking at the pathway ahead with fear and trepidation... not know what’s coming at you from around the corners. I’m hoping to convince you

that this time of your life should not be looked upon as something coming to an end but the beginning of a brand new adventure unlike any you've ever experienced. With the "Right" attitude you'll be able to ignore all the negative input others will throw at you constantly and allow yourself to enjoy each day to its fullest. I've heard so many older people say, "*Well, these things happen for a reason,*" or "*I believe we moved here for a reason.*" If you really believe that please understand as well that if, indeed, there is a reason for everything, you must also believe that some controlling Being determined what that "*reason*" is for you and me. If there is a reason, then there's hope. If there's hope then there is purpose in each person's life. Determining that purpose and living it is what life is all about, not hunkering down waiting for the grim reaper to come take us away.

It's now three weeks into the New Year... our President has been sworn in for a second term... the economy is robust and moving... terrorists in Iraq are still doing their best to kill our soldiers to convince us to pull our military out and bring them home... and millions of dollars continue to pour into those countries devastated by the tsunami waves. There is continued debate over the wisdom of setting up private social security accounts and many speculations about President Bush's appointments for his vacated Cabinet positions occupy the airwaves to act as fodder for us news junkies to chew on. **All in all, a pretty normal day in the neighborhood.** So put on your best bib and tucker and get out and enjoy what life has to offer and what you have to offer life. You'll be glad you did.

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