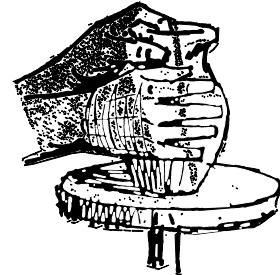


His Workmanship at Westside

*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."
—Ephesians 2:10*



Vol. XXII

December 8, 2013

No. 48

Isaiah 64:8

Josiah and the Book of the Law *by George Parsley*

In 2 Kg 22 and 23 we find the account of the child king Josiah. The record tells us how the book of the Law had been found in the house of the Lord, 22:8. In the process of repairing the temple, the priests had found the scroll of the Law. This indicates that the Law had been tucked away somewhere that was hard to find. Tucking away the Law was the downfall of God's people.

1. We cannot put our Bibles away. Over time God's people had discarded the book of the Law. This resulted in each person doing what he wanted to do, both religiously and individually. We cannot hide our Bibles and expect a different result. We must be in our Bibles daily, Ax 17:11. We must diligently strive to be approved by God, 2 Tim 2:15. We must grow in knowledge of Christ and His gospel, 1 Pet 2:2; 2 Pet 3:18. We must know the Bible in order to teach our children right, Eph 6:4; Deut 6:6-7.

We cannot neglect our Bibles during the week and expect to keep the devil at bay and our children safe from this world. The Lord said: *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest*

for Me. Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children," Hos 4:6. If we put away our Bibles between assemblies and only open them on Sundays, we and our families are in serious danger of destruction.

2. We must respond to truth. When the book of the Law had been found, it was brought to King Josiah, 22:8-10. When he was presented with the truth, Josiah was at a crossroads as to what he would do with it. *"And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes,"* 22:11. Rending of his clothes was not from anger but from sorrow and repentance. The Lord's people had been wrong for a long time, and Josiah was honest enough to see the truth of the situation.

He then sought the advice of the priests: *"Go, inquire of the LORD for me, for the people and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the LORD that is aroused against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."* Josiah not only accepted that

they were going in the wrong direction but he also wanted to know how to fix it. He knew that neglecting the Law again would not change the truth. So it is for us, when we are faced with the words of the gospel—our rejection of it does not change the truth of the word. We can reject it and even hide our Bible away and ignore its truth, but truth is still written in heaven.

3. Josiah broke free from tradition. In 2 Kg 23 we see the action that Josiah took against the "traditional error" of his society and "church." Too many times when folks are confronted with the truth, even though they see it they will not let go of their "family religion." But Josiah was more concerned about pleasing God than pleasing the masses. Notice what he did:

- burned everything that was associated with idolatry, vs. 4,6.
- removed the idolatrous priests, v. 5.
- tore down the houses of the Sodomites (male temple prostitutes) that were in the Lord's house (temple), v. 7.
- broke down the places of false worship (high places, groves of trees), v. 8.

continued on p. 2

" 'But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, in this manner you shall speak to him, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Concerning the words which you have heard—because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you,' says the LORD." —2 Kings 22:18-19

- abolished Molech worship (child sacrifice), v. 10.
- pulverized the altars that King Ahaz and King Manasseh (his own forefathers) had built in the house of the Lord and threw their dust into the brook Kidron, v. 12. **Now this is breaking your family religion!**
- pulled down the high places in the country outside Jerusalem, some built by King Solomon for his wives, v. 13.
- cut down the altar at Bethel built by King Jeroboam, v. 15.
- removed the bones of those responsible for Israel's sins from the idolatrous tombs and burned them,

vs. 14-16.

- executed all the priests of the high places, vs. 20.

This idolatry had been going on for more than 300 years and had become the norm, but the norm was wrong. We as well may have to take the same drastic measures that Josiah took if we want to be pleasing to the Lord. Jesus recognized the seriousness of allowing wickedness to continue: *"If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell,"* Mt 5:29-

30; cf. Mt 18:8-9; Mk 9:47.

We must understand that truth cannot be changed—even when we do not like it. We cannot hide it away, mark it out, or even cut it out of our Bibles. The truth remains. When Pilate was confronted with truth and had to decide what to do with Jesus, he tried to avoid it, saying, "What is truth?" Jn 18:29-40. What will you do with the truth? Will you rend your heart and embrace it? Or will you be like the kings before Josiah who ignored it, neglected it, and hid it away? Hiding the truth does not make us exempt from the truth.

Meddling: Cockroaches and Roosters (Jamaica Patois Wisdom) by J. D. Tant

Patois: Cockroach nuh business inna fowl fite.

English: A cockroach should not interfere in a fowl fight.

Meaning: People should not get into quarrels that do not concern them.

It's pretty obvious that if a cockroach gets mixed up in a fight between two roosters, they might lose interest in one another pretty quickly and pounce on the cockroach for a good snack. I have seen roosters sparring with one another, and have seen plenty of cockroaches in my [life](#), but I don't think I ever saw a cockroach join in a cock fight. Perhaps they have better sense than that.

I wish it were that way with humans, that they would exercise restraint and common sense before they get

involved in the affairs of others.

Peter gave some good counsel: *"For let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evil-doer, or as a meddler in other men's matters,"* 1 Pet 4:15. It is interesting to consider the company in which this meddler is cast—murderers, thieves, and evil-doers. Many of us tend to categorize sin. While we would not think of committing murder, or theft, or telling a "black lie," we somehow rationalize "little white lies," or gossip, or tale-bearing.

Have you ever noticed the particular wording in Rev 21:8? *"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and*

idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

There is some significance in the words "all liars." Obviously the abominable and murderers will be lost, but then the Holy Spirit had John write "all liars," not merely "liars." That should get our attention that there are no "little sins" that God will overlook or excuse.

Solomon chastised meddlers because seemingly small sins result in huge problems:

- *"The beginning of strife is like releasing water; therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts,"* Pr 17:14.
- *"Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, but any fool will quarrel,"* Pr 20:3.

continued on p. 3



Meddling, from p.2

• “Like one who takes a dog by the ears is he who passes by and meddles with strife not belonging to him,” Pr 26:17.

• “My son, fear the LORD and the king; do not meddle with those given to change; for their calamity will rise suddenly, and who knows the ruin those two can bring?” Pr 24:21.

He warned about the dog because it can be dangerous. If you grab a snarling cur by the ears, he will snap at you and bite you. You’ve got your hands full and can’t do anything else. If you turn him loose, then you may be in even more danger, because he can attack you. (“turn and rend you,” Mt 7:6). And it wasn’t even your dog to start with! Neither was it your quarrel.

Paul’s word concerning a tendency among young widows has a universal application, for it is good for all of us. “At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention,” 1 Tim 5:13. Too often we get caught in other people’s quarrels, then we take sides, then the matter blows up, and we are harmed. Paul told the Thessalonians “to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, attend to your own business, and work with your hands, just as we commanded you,” 1 Thes 4:11. Stay out of matters that don’t concern you. “A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient...” 2 Tim 2:24. “Avoid foolish disputes, quarrels, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless,” Tit 3:9.

Discipleship Here At Home

Disappointment, Not Defeat

“This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him,” 2 Cor 2:6-8.

Paul urged the Corinthians to forgive and comfort the man who had been disciplined, lest he be overwhelmed by sorrow and give in to despair. He had repented of the sin for which Paul had commanded them to withdraw from him, 1 Cor 5:1-13, and so the need was not for more discipline but for support and encouragement in his new path. This event illustrates an important point. When we have sinned, we should be disappointed in ourselves, and if others know about it, they also should be disappointed in us. But disappointment need not defeat us. If our sorrow is godly, it will lead us to repentance, 2 Cor 7:8-10, and having repented, we can hold a steady course in a new direction.

Past failures can play a positive role in our lives. To see this truth, we need only look at the life of Paul. In his past were horrible things, painful to remember. But having turned to God and received forgiveness for those sins, Paul moved forward. The regret Paul continued to feel was not a negative force in his life but a positive one. Remembering what he had done made him humbler. It also made him more compassionate toward others who were caught in the net of sin, and it made him work very hard in the Lord’s service to show his gratitude for God’s grace.

But past failures can be destructive if we let them. If we give in to self-pity, seeing only what we have lost by our mistakes, then disappointment can eat us up. “The sorrow of the world produces death,” 2 Cor 7:10. So we must choose that our sorrow

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help, and comfort here and away

Mark Campbell—conscious and responsive but in ICU after heart arrest Sun night; stents and medical coma; on ventilator

Kim Howell—flu

Pat Wilkes—recovering from knee surgery at home

Nell Free—recovering from cataract surgery; also chronic heart; back pain

Jordan and Tracy Corray, Michael Bennett, and three friends—recovering from auto injuries

Larry Campbell’s mother—recovering from a fall

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Rocco Sangellino Jr; Addison Tope; Pat Wilkes—asthma

Pearl Chapman—leg pains; pancreatitis

Rod Green—thyroid trouble

Autumn Hadders—epilepsy

Jonathan Hadders—RA

Danielle Huelsman—vertigo, CV syndrome

Kirk Johnson—worsening MS; needs help around his house

Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak; **Virginia**, worsening rapid macular degeneration; high BP

Judy Sartin—spinal stenosis; severe arthritis

Judy Sartin’s grandson Tristen—autism

Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung

Pat Wilkes—hyper parathyroidism; A-Fib

Job concerns **Linda Szymanski and Andrew Tope** are seeking jobs.

Expecting **Liz Kosik**, early April—blood platelets low; **Christina Adams’s daughter**

Kayla, May

Traveling DeWayne Howell to Phoenix Tues-Fri.

for past sins will be godly sorrow rather than the sorrow of the world. Our adversary wants us to be consumed and destroyed by our painful memories. We must make sure he does not get his way.

by Gary Henry



Exposing

Cook Stews over

Bulloch County, Georgia, for religious freedom. Elementary School message: "As of today, email and/or Bible remove it immediately... must remove yourself ing to administrators, savers, and religious from the extremists at Church and State.

One teacher's spouse, school's edict that he County Citizens for us do not stand firm cal correctness that is Starnes at Fox News, we lose *all* religious Starnes calls it, is just attacks. Groups like losing one, so they try elementary school lead-budget to fight back.

Thankfully, this dis- night, Jeremy Dys, an Georgia and spoke to a about the controversy discrimination that the in," Dys said to AUSCS was looking for, employees would have geous violation of their teachers work in the

"The very idea some objective rulers and ruled the belief in ob-

current thoughts &

Georgia School Censorship

Georgia, is the latest ground zero in the fight vLast month, the staff at Sallie Zetterower eopened their emails to see a chilling yif you have a Bible verse on our school idverse posted in the classroom, please eIf a student-led prayer is initiated, you and step away from the group." Accord- Christmas card displays, Bible screen music are all off-limits after a complaint Americans United for the Separation of

Mr. Cook, was so outraged by the started a grassroots gathering, Bulloch Religious Liberties. "I fear that if more of against the progressive cancer of politi- Peating away at our society," he told Todd e"we may not have much time left before Sliberty." This "religious cleansing," as uthe latest in a long string of small town pAUSCS recognize that their case is a pto intimidate more modest targets, like oers, who have neither the will nor the s

istrict's parents have the will. Thursday attorney for Liberty Institute, flew to spacked Board of Education meeting and its implications. "[This is] viewpoint school board is not permitted to engage m"Amens!" from the room. If it's a lawsuit e then it's a lawsuit they might get. School o plenty of grounds to sue for this outrab First Amendment rights. Just because e classroom doesn't mean they have to cti

of freedom presupposes e moral law which overarches m alike. Unless we return to of jective values, we perish."

la
w



meets at
13789 W. 8th Avenue
Golden, Colorado 80401
720-295-4530
info@thechurchingolden.com
www.thechurchingolden.com

Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 462-4987
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Bible classes | 9:00 am |
| Morning assembly | 10:00 am |
| Afternoon assembly | 1:30 pm |

Wednesday

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Bible classes | 7:30 pm |
|---------------|---------|

This morning: "Exercising Discipline in the Local Church"

This afternoon: "Hezekiah: He Trusted in the Lord God"