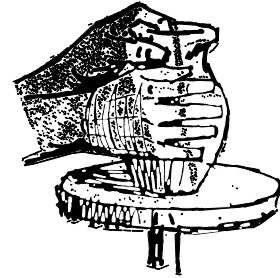


His Workmanship at Westside

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



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No. 1

Isaiah 64:8

How to Have a Happier New Year by Kenneth Trent

"For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, happy are you if you do them," Jn 13:15-17.

Jesus spoke these words to His disciples after He had washed their feet. Jesus said that happiness is not found merely in knowing these things but in doing them. He did not want them to forget the example of humility that He had given them.

Let us look at four things the child of God can do to ensure having a happier year.

I. BELIEVE. A dynamic faith will enable us to defeat discouragement and empower us to live victoriously in Jesus Christ. Our faith in His power to supply every need that we have in this new year will give us every reason to rejoice and will remove worry. Let us rejoice in the following evidences of His power to bless His children (perhaps you would like to memorize these verses):

- His power to save:
"Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God

through Him," Heb 7:25 NASB.

- His power to strengthen:
"I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me," Phil 4:13.

- His power to protect:
"Have not I commanded you? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go," Josh 1:9.

- His power to provide:
"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want...," Ps 23:1. *"But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus,"* Phil 4:19.

II. BEHAVE. As so often said: "What we do speaks so loud that others cannot hear what we say." For this reason, the Word of God places great emphasis on the believer living a godly and holy life. Our behavior should exemplify Christ in the following areas:

- In our daily lives:
"Let your light so shine...," Mt 5:16.
- In our lives before the world:
"...that they may see..."
- In our church work and fellowship:
"But if I tarry long, that you may know how you should behave yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of

the truth," 1 Tim 3:15.

III. BEWARE. To be fore-warned is to be fore-armed. The Word of God gives us ample warning to beware of certain and real dangers that confront us in our daily lives:

- Of the deception of men:
"Beware lest any man ensnares you through philosophy and empty deception, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ," Col 2:8.

- Of the snare of the devil:
"Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour," 1 Pet 5:8.

- Of materialism:
"And He said unto them, 'Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of things which he possesses,'" Lk 12:15.

- Of idolatry:
"Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them," Deut 11:16; cf. Deut 4:19, 23.

- Of divorce:
"Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously with
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"For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

—Mark 9:41

the wife of his youth. For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously," Mal 2:15-16.

● Of forgetting God:

"Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren," Deut 4:9.

● Of your own self: unforgiveness,
"Take heed to yourselves. If your

brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him," Lk 17:3; listening to false teaching, "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them," Lk 21:8, cf. Lk 8:18, Mk 4:24, 8:15, Mt 24:4; fleshly lusts, "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly," Lk 21:34; pride, "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall," 1 Cor 10:12.

IV. BELONG. It is impossible for anyone to be genuinely happy without a sense of "belonging." John Donne wrote that "a man is not an island unto himself." Every child of God can rejoice in the blessing of belonging to Christ and His church:

● To Christ:

"because you belong to Christ...."
Mk 9:41.

"You are bought with a price; do not become servants of men," 1 Cor 7:23.

● To the church: *"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved," Ax 2:47.*

#*#*#*#*#

A Place to Belong *by Scott Bayles*

Church isn't just something you attend; it's something you are!

Everyone needs a place to belong, a place that fits you like a favorite pair of jeans, that's as welcoming as your much-loved and much-worn recliner at home. That's the way we're made—not to be isolated, not to be alone, but to be together—experiencing life with others. And yet Vance Packard calls America "a nation of strangers," and studies show that 4 out of 10 people experience feeling of intense loneliness. Our American culture produces people who more closely identify with characters on a weekly TV series than with their next-door neighbors. Everywhere you look, there are signs that people are hungering for fellowship, community, and a sense of family.

The Bible uses a lot of metaphors to describe the church, but the most persistent is that of family. In the New Testament, believers called each other brothers and sisters and, in his letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul wrote:

"Now you...are no longer foreigners or strangers, but are citizens together with God's holy people. You belong to God's family," Eph 2:19 NCV.

Maybe you're as comfortable in the local church as you are in your pajamas. On the other hand, maybe you've never felt like you really belong somewhere. Maybe you've never known the blessing of being a part of something as big as the family of God! Either way, what Solomon once wrote about the benefits of belonging is for you: *"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help him up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. And a cord of three strands is not quickly broken," Eccl 4:9-12 NIV.* In his unparalleled wisdom, King Solomon here described three benefits of belonging.

1. STRENGTH. First, connecting with a local church provides strength. The

New Century Version says, *"Two people are better than one, because they get more done by working together."* Solomon had discovered a principle that holds true for every epoch of time—we can't do alone what all of us can do together. There is strength in numbers. None of us can do everything, but each of us can do something. And with the "threefold cord" of me, you, and God—what power!

The Jerusalem church was a hodgepodge of believers from a variety of backgrounds, with different personalities, and sometimes conflicting opinions, yet they found a way to work together. They understood strength in numbers. And because they did, lives were changed—history was changed. As we follow their example, the same will happen for us. Whether we want to share the gospel or help needy saints—none of us can do alone what all of us can do together. Belonging to God's family provides us with the strength to get more done by working together.

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Psalm 133:1

Let your faith be seen in 2014

“I rejoice to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.” —Colossians 2:5

A Place to Belong, from p. 2

2. SUPPORT. Furthermore, belonging to a church family provides support. King Solomon put it this way: “Two are better off than one, because...if one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him,” Eccl 4:9-10 GWT.

Do you know what it's like to get knocked down? Of course, you do. We all have troubles. A sign on a preacher's door said, “If you have troubles, come in and tell me all about them. If you don't have troubles, come in and tell me how you do it.” We all have days when everything goes wrong. Jesus promised us that we would. He said, “In this world you will have trouble.” But what did he say next? “But take heart! I have overcome the world,” Jn 16:33 NIV.

Jesus is all about helping people up. When Peter tried walking on water and ended up sinking like a rock, Jesus reached out, took him by the hand, and helped him back to the boat. When a woman was caught in adultery and publicly humiliated for it, Jesus could have thrown the first stone. He could have kicked her while she was down. But instead, He reached out his hand, lifted her up, and gave her a fresh start.

That's what we're supposed to do for one another. “Bear each other's burdens. In this way you will follow Christ's teachings,” Gal 6:2 GWT. We all have burdens and bad days to endure. But being part of a church that cares about

Discipleship Here At Home

you and wants to lift you up whenever you fall down—that will help. Belonging to God's family provides us with strength to be more fruitful and support we need to get through troubled times.

3. SPIRITUAL WARMTH. Finally, belonging to a church provides spiritual warmth. “Two people are better off than one, for... two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone?” Eccl 4:9-11 NLT. While this is practical advice for a nomadic people living in the desert, it also serves as a spiritual metaphor. You don't have to live in a tent to feel cold and alone. Anytime one of God's children gets separated from God's family, our fire starts to go out and our spirits grow cold. “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another,” Heb 10:24-25 ESV. One of the most important reasons the church meets together every Sunday is to stir each other up to love and good works, to encourage one another.

Two pastors visited a man who had been absent from worship for some time. When they arrived at the man's house, they found him sitting by a fire of glowing coals. The pastors drew up chairs alongside the fireplace. With the tongs one pastor took one of the red hot coals and placed it by itself out on the hearth. In no time at all the coal began to lose its glow, and in a few minutes it was cold and black. The man looked up and said, “I'll be there next Sunday.” He understood Solomon's word.

The warmth you feel inside as we worship together here today—that's your coals being stirred. That's your passion for God, your love for Jesus and for people being rekindled. When you first gave your heart to Jesus, He lit a fire in your soul. Belonging to a church that you worship with and work with fans the flames and keeps you spiritually warm. Everyone needs a place to belong, where people smile when you arrive. Maybe your family is far away,

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

Judy Sartin—shoulder injury and pain
Mark Campbell—cardio issues; at Rocky Mtn Health Care Services in CO Springs
Cheryl Reames's father, Buford Rather—home from hospital and doing better
Melanie Baughn's mother—ill
Bill Dennis—heart issues

Vicky Keyes, a friend of **Judy Sartin**—triple negative stage breast cancer

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Rocco Sangellino Jr; Addison Tope; Pat Wilkes—asthma
Pearl Chapman—to move to nursing care
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

Sandra Perry—neuropathy from diabetes; kidney failure, may need dialysis

Cheryl Reames—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia
Nell Free—pacemaker, heart; back pain
Judy Sartin—spinal stenosis; severe arthritis

Judy Sartin's grandson Tristen—autism
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung
Philippine brethren—widespread typhoon damage for Christians in Leyte and Cebu

Traveling Lisa, Stacy, and baby **Tony Ward** are driving to Phoenix; **Mina Gonzalez** is visiting family in AZ.

Job concerns Linda Szymanski

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

maybe you're feeling alone, or maybe you could just use a new friend or two. God doesn't just call us to believe; He calls us to belong. The entire Bible is the story of God building a family that will support, strengthen, and stir one another up to love and good works for all eternity—and he created you to be a part of it.



Exposing current thoughts & trends

Fa, La, Law Protects Troops

Long before Duck Dynasty, other camouflaged Americans were being persecuted for their beliefs: US service members. Now, thanks to Congress, our brave men and women will finally have the legislative armor they need. After a year-long struggle against the forces of political correctness, the Senate passed the Defense Authorization bill; leaders stood together in defense of our troops' right to speak and act openly on their faith.

With overwhelming bipartisan support (84-15), the Senate approved the legislation with Sen. Mike Lee's (R-UT) military conscience language—handing religious supporters one of the biggest victories yet in the battle for religious liberty. Under the bill (which still awaits the President's signature), Congress moves the current law from protecting religious beliefs to also protecting the *expressions* of those beliefs. For service members who've become increasingly afraid even to share their faith, this language is a game-changer. It frees our troops from the fear of retaliation, which so many have experienced under this administration.

Last year, Americans watched as service members were harassed, reprimanded, or relieved of their duties just for practicing their faith in a real and tangible way. Some, like Master Sgt. Phillip Monk, were punished—not because they were outspoken about their values—but because they refused to embrace the administration's values. On issues like marriage, where there's still a very real divide, Obama's Pentagon came down even harder. Men and women who embraced the majority opinion on marriage were even bigger targets.

Under this bill, those service members can breathe a sigh of relief that their careers will no longer be threatened for exercising the rights that they've dedicated their lives to defend. Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK), one of the conservative champions behind Lee's amendment, said he "feel[s] strongly that we have a good bill." Like Lee and others, he was committed to bringing the full weight of Congress to bear on the Obama Defense Department, which had refused to issue a guidance on this very topic—leaving troops vulnerable and victimized.

Although there are still some lingering issues with the overall bill, the Senate will work out the kinks this January. Senators Lee, Inhofe, U.S. Reps. John Fleming (R-LA), Randy Forbes (R-VA), Chairman Buck McKeon (R-CA), and other leaders worked hard to defend the religious liberties of America's men and women in uniform.



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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
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This morning: "How to Encourage Yourself," by Jim Reingrover

This afternoon: "Job: Righteous and Persevering," by Larry Campbell