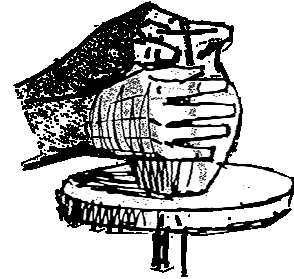


His Workmanship- Westside

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."

—Ephesians 2:10



Isaiah 64:8

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Motivations for Serving God by R. J. Evans

What causes or motivates someone to become a Christian? Three basic factors: (1) love; (2) hope; and (3) fear, are very basic, common motives in life. A man works in fear of getting hungry, in hope of being rewarded with a paycheck, and with love for his family. Love, hope, and fear also motivate us to serve to the Lord.

1. Our LOVE for God. Our love for God is a response to His great love for us. *"We love Him because He first loved us,"* 1 Jn 4:19. A child's love for his parents is a response to all the good deeds and acts of love shown to him by his parents. It is said that "the love that descends is always greater than the love that ascends." Thus, God demonstrated His great love for us, *"in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us,"* Rm 5:8. Jesus was willing to lay down His life for us, Jn 15:13. Our love moves us to obey the gospel of Christ and become His faithful child, Jn 14:15; Gal 3:26-27; 1 Jn 2:3; 3:1; 5:3.

2. Our HOPE of reward. *"God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away,"* Rev 21:1-7. It is understandable and proper that we work toward securing our reward in heaven. When we have a job,

everyone understands that we have that job so that we might receive payment for our work. Take away our reward or paycheck, and we will stop working. God told Abram that He Himself was his *"shield and exceedingly great reward,"* Gen 15:1. Paul used the rewards, efforts, and sacrifices made in sports as a comparison to our working and striving toward our reward in heaven, 1 Cor 9:24-27; 2 Tim 2:5.

Jesus often spoke of rewards, saying our reward was great: *"Love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High,"* Lk 6:35; cf. Mt 5:23; Lk 6:23. Our faith (confidence) has great reward, Heb 10:35. We receive rewards according to our deeds, Mt 16:27; 1 Cor 3:8; Rev 22:12. We hope and long for His words, *"Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your lord,"* Mt 25:21,23.

3. Our FEAR of punishment. While this might not be the highest motivating factor, it is still a power and appropriate one. *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man,"* Eccl 12:13. *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction,"* Pr 1:7; 9:10; Ps 111:10; Job 28:28. *"Therefore,*

since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire," Heb 12:28-29.

Look at the relationship among these: love and fear without hope is misery, 1 Cor. 15:16-19; love and hope without fear is irreverence, Heb 10:31; and hope and fear without love is selfishness, Mt 6:28-34. All during our walk with Christ, we are motivated by these three factors to be faithful in our service to the Lord. However, we sometimes may lose sight of the great love that has been shown toward us and the promise of our reward in heaven. Some lose their fear of God and do not heed warnings: *"For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine; I will repay,' says the Lord. And again, 'The Lord will judge His people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God,"* Heb 10:30-31. We must always keep our hearts in such a condition, Lk 8:15, that we will obey Christ and live faithfully so that we might receive *"the promise that He has promised us—eternal life,"* 1 Jn. 2:25. The salvation of our souls depends upon these three motivating factors. Have you been motivated to obey the gospel of Christ and remain faithful unto Him?

“And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”
—1 Corinthians 6:11

Such Were You, by Jarrod Jacobs

“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God,” 1 Cor 6:9-11. This passage stands as a warning against Christians engaging in various sins and a reminder that many who are now Christians came from very sinful backgrounds and have been forgiven fully. It also shines brightly because it stands as a reminder to the Corinthians, and to us, that it is Christ who has made forgiveness of sins possible.

“Such”: This word means *alike, of like manner*. When we read the list of sins from vs. 9-10, we might be inclined to look down on others and say, “I would never want to be around people like that!” But Paul’s statement reminds the Corinthians, and us, that the church is made up of people who have committed the vilest of sins, but are now forgiven, v. 11. Corinth was known as a very immoral city. It was so wicked that those in the first century who lived a life of drunkenness and immorality were said to “live like a Corinthian.” It is in this immoral climate that Paul preached the gospel, converting many to Christ, Ax 18:8; 1 Cor 1:14-16. In fact, God told Paul, “I have many people in this city,” Ax 18:10. For this reason, Paul stayed in Corinth a year and a half to strengthen those who had left immorality for Christ.

There is no question that the Corinthian Christians had been guilty of

many ugly sins. Perhaps they were taught to be like that by their parents. Immorality was encouraged in their society. But these people learned better through the preaching of the gospel, Ax 18.

“Were”: Though the people had been guilty of sin, Rm 3:23, Paul declared that they were now forgiven in Christ. They had repented, Lk 13:3; Ax 17:30, and had been baptized into Christ, Ax 18:8; 2:38. Therefore, though they were in sin in the past, including sins listed in our text, they had since followed the Lord’s plan for salvation and had been forgiven by Christ. They were now washed from their sins.

No one can escape his past! Even the apostle Paul, though he was forgiven and looking forward to a “crown of righteousness,” 2 Tim 4:6-8, said he was the “chief” of sinners when he reflected upon his past life, 1 Tim 1:15. The Corinthians were reminded that they were formerly in sin, but they had received the forgiveness of Christ!

“Were” is an amazing and powerful word. Can it be said that you “were” guilty of sin and now are not? Or are you still living in your sin? Trust in Christ’s work and righteousness—be baptized into Him, and He will wash away your sins, Mk 16:16; Ax 22:16.

“Some”: This word lets us know in no uncertain terms that the sins listed in 1 Cor 6:9-10 entangled the Christians in the Corinthian church. This is significant for three reasons:

1) It says something about the apostle Paul who went to Corinth! He was willing and ready to preach the gospel to whoever would listen, Rm 1:16. He understood Christ’s words to preach the gospel to “every creature,” Mk 16:15, and this includes preaching to

people who have committed some of the most heinous sins! They needed forgiveness just as Paul did and as we all do. Yet they could not be forgiven until they were told what to do to be saved, Ax 2:21, 37-40; 4:12; 16:30-33; Mk 13:13; 16:16; Mt 24:13; Jn 10:9; Rm 5:9. When they heard and believed the truth, they accepted Christ and were washed, sanctified, and justified.

2) It also tells us that people engaged in sins can come out of those sins and do what is right! Look at the list of sins that Paul said they had committed. Today some people claim either that some of those sins are not sinful or that they are merely a “disease.” Yet what does God call them? The list of sins here as well as similar lists in other verses are there to remind us that God has set a standard for all of us. He expects us to come out of those sins and live a righteous life. Sometimes, we are told by men that sins are a “disease,” or that sinful behavior is somehow inbred into their genetic code. This is inaccurate and wrong. This passage makes it clear that, regardless of the sin under consideration, we can be forgiven when we willingly hear and obey the gospel of Christ, Ax 18:8; Heb 5:8-9.

3) It says that God considered this church as His own, even though (and perhaps because) it was made up of such former sinners, 1 Cor 1:2, 14:37. Truly, God is forgiving, loving, and “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance,” 2 Pet 3:9. When the Corinthian sinners repented of sin and were baptized into Christ, God accepted them and added them to His church, Ax 2:47.

“Of You”: This phrase speaks not only to the Corinthians, but also to the

continued on p. 3




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

Such Were Some of You, from p. 2
 other readers of this letter (that means us). May all Christians beware of arrogance and pride! We may have been guilty of the very sins mentioned here. No one can say that he has never sinned, I Jn 1:10. Therefore, let no one look down upon anyone who repents of sin and is baptized or anyone who is restored as a straying Christian, Ax 8:22; I Jn 1:9. We, like the Corinthians, need to be continually washed, sanctified, and justified each day—and we will be when we do what the Lord says!

In many ways, we are like the Corinthians—we need to be reminded about what we once were, where we came from, and what we are in Christ. We were dead in our sins, but God raised us, Eph 2:1-7. Had it not been for Christ, we would have no hope, Eph 2:11-22. Let us care enough for people to teach them the truth that they might be washed, sanctified, and justified by God's grace, by the Spirit's truth and life, and by Christ's work on the cross.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
June 23-25
9:15-11:45 am
God Knows
About Water
Monday—Noah and the Flood
Tuesday—Crossing the Red Sea
Wednesday—Jonah and the Fish
 Register at www.thechurchingolden.com/beliefs/westside-vbs or see Tracy Corray or Kim Howell for information



Discipleship Here At Home

GOP Gay Therapy Platform, from p. 4 is important: people are responsible for their behavior, regardless of their sexual preferences. Of course, that sends the Left into a blind rage because it says that homosexual practice is, as science suggests, about conduct—not identity. If it's about conduct, then people can control it. Liberals would rather debate homosexuality as inborn so they can make convenient (false) comparisons to civil rights and demand acceptance. In reality, the research does not show that anyone is "born gay"; research instead explains homosexuality as a result of a complex mix of developmental factors. Certainly, homosexual attractions are not a choice in the vast majority of cases. But homosexual practice is a choice—just as heterosexual practice is a choice. It should be insulting to people with same-sex attractions to claim that they're compelled to act on those attractions. Homosexual or heterosexual, people are responsible for their conduct. The Biblical message is abstinence outside of God-approved marriage.

Have we come to the point that we are nothing more than our sexual urges? That's the point Governor Perry was making. However, there's no room for an honest conversation in Obama's America. Following the media outcry, the Governor's office sent out a simple statement reaffirming his commitment to marriage and natural sexuality. "The Governor supports traditional marriage and believes that marriage is between one man and one woman. He has been clear on his position that each state has the right to define marriage to reflect the views of its citizens." Much as liberals despise the First Amendment, Governor Perry has the freedom to have that opinion—even if it isn't politically correct. There are millions of Americans who are glad he has the courage to voice it.

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

Pat Wilkes—to have parathyroid surgery Wed
Larry Campbell—recovering from concussion
Mark Campbell—recovering from seizure
Sarah Hadders—broken foot
Ed Fink—prostate cancer; current treatment for brain tumors
Giles Free—seizure last month; confined at home
Sue Witherington, Brett's grandmother—breast cancer has returned
Shirley Barrett, Rod Green's mother—home from hospital for respiratory ailments
Nick Krausert, Szymanskis' friend—passed away recently; pray for Nick's wife Linda and their family

Rhonda Love, friend of **Judy Strand**—terminal cancer; young mother studying with Jim & Vicki
Gregg Geis's friend **Becky** in CA—terminal cancer; searching for the truth

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Rocco Sangellino Jr; Addison Tope; Christian Harrod; Pat Wilkes—asthma
Bill Dennis—heart issues
Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease
Danielle Huelsman—vertigo, CV syndrome
Kirk Johnson—worsening MS; needs quick meals to heat up, like soup
Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak;
Virginia, macular degeneration; high BP
Sandra Perry—neuropathy from diabetes
Cheryl Reames—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia
Nell Free—pacemaker, heart; back pain
Judy Sartin—spinal stenosis; arthritis
Judy and Mike Strand—both beginning treatment for hepatitis
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung weakness

Bereaved **Berney's** mother, **Ninfa Charo**, recently passed away. Let us lift up **Berney** and **Anita** at this time.

Job concerns Linda Szymanski

Travel! The **Wilkeses** are in FL with family. **Mina Gonzalez** will go to Tucson Tues for her parents' 60th wedding anniversary fete. The **Maillouxes** will be out of town 6/26-7/14. **Kim** and **DeWayne Howell** and **Kaysha Witherington** will be in KY 6/26-30. The **Gintchins** are with family in Bulgaria; **Lazar** will join them in a week.



Exposing current thoughts & trends

TX GOP Supports Gay Therapy, by Tony Perkins

Ten days ago the Texas Republican Party drafted a new platform for 2014 which embraces “ex-gay” or “reparative therapy,” a practice that most major medical organizations and the American Psychiatric Association have deemed “ineffective, harmful, or even dangerous.” New Jersey and California have banned conversion therapy for minors, and other states are considering similar initiatives. The TX platform’s first draft reads, “We recognize the legitimacy and value of counseling which offers reparative therapy and treatment to patients who are seeking escape from the homosexual lifestyle. No laws or executive orders shall be imposed to limit or restrict access to this type of therapy.” The measure allows people to choose this treatment—nothing is mandatory.

Backs Off 2012 Platform Language. The party eliminated language from its 2012 platform, which said, “we affirm that the practice of homosexuality tears at the fabric of society and contributes to the breakdown of the family unit. Homosexual behavior is contrary to the fundamental, unchanging truths that have been ordained by God.” The 2012 platform added: “Homosexuality must not be presented as an acceptable ‘alternative’ lifestyle in our public education and policy, nor should ‘family’ be redefined to include homosexual ‘couples.’ We are opposed to any granting of special legal entitlements, refuse to recognize, or grant special privileges, including, but not limited to, marriage between persons of the same sex (regardless of state of origin), custody of children by homosexuals, homosexual partner insurance or retirement benefits. We oppose any criminal or civil penalties against those who oppose homosexuality out of faith, conviction, or belief in traditional values.” The Texas 2012 GOP platform actually mentioned homosexuality thirteen times, citing “well-funded, vigorous political and judicial attempts by powerful organizations and branches of the government to force acceptance, affirmation, and normalization of homosexual behavior upon school children, parents, educational institutions, businesses, employees, government bodies, and religious institutions and charities,” and claiming that these “aggressive, intolerant efforts marginalize as bigots anyone who dissents.”

The Houston Chronicle reported that the 2014 language “drew ire during testimony, with at least one delegate imploring the committee to return to the language about homosexuality tearing at the fabric of society.”

Gov. Perry: Responsible for Behavior. At a speech in San Francisco last Thursday, Texas Governor Perry was asked about the decision to support reparative therapy for people with unwanted same-sex attractions. Never one to back away from the issue, Governor Perry made an argument liberals despise—that homosexual behavior is a choice. “Whether or not you feel compelled to follow a particular lifestyle or not, you have the ability to decide not to do that,” Perry said. “I may have the genetic coding that I’m inclined to be an alcoholic, but I have the desire [and have made the choice] not to do that, and I look at the homosexual issue the same way.” Perry’s underlying message

continued on p. 3



meets at
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Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 246-8810
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

info@thechurchingolden.com

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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Sunday morning:

- **Adult Bible class, Inside Out, Growing a Spirit of Service, Lesson 10, “A Steadfast Spirit,” DeWayne Howell**

- **Sermon, Jim Reingrover**

Sunday afternoon:

- **Sermon, Jim Reingrover**

Wednesday adult class for June:

Jeremiah and Lamentations: Warnings and Mournings This week: review