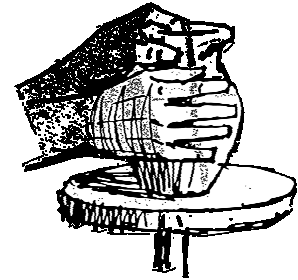


His Workmanship: Westside

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



Vol. XXIII

October 5, 2014

No. 40

Isaiah 64:8

Evangelism without Discipleship, by Tom Cocklereece

Constantine's conversion to "Christianity." In the spring of A.D. 311, Constantine and his force of about 40,000 troops marched toward Rome to confront the more numerous forces of Maxentius. In the evening Constantine saw a vision in the sky which was described as a bright cross with the words "By this sign conquer." According to Constantine's account, Jesus Christ told him in a dream to take the cross into battle as his standard. Constantine reportedly had his commander to mark every soldier's shield with the Chi-Rho symbol—thought to be an early Christian sign identifying allegiance to Christ.



Constantine set the stage for evangelism without discipleship.

Stories continue to circulate that Constantine supposedly marched his army through a river for a ritual mass conversion to "Christianity" or gave them a sprinkling baptism as they marched under a bridge. There is scant evidence that such a mass conversion event occurred. But it is well documented in history that Constantine himself remained a superficial Christian at best during the rest of his life. The standard practice of that day for new con-

verts to Christ had been a rigid discipleship process lasting up to three years following baptism. Constantine refused any such course of training and even refused baptism until he was close to death.

By his victory at the Milvian Bridge using the Chi-Rho symbol, many soldiers likely adopted the mark in a superstitious way. They accepted the symbol of Constantine's "Christianity" while never seeking to really know the Savior Jesus Christ. Thus began what might be called "Constantinian evangelism" or evangelism without discipleship. Constantine may have instituted mass conversion of his military by the use of an indoctrination prayer:

Constantine's Army Prayer, Emperor Constantine ca 320: *"We know Thou art God alone; we recognize in Thee our king. We call on Thee for aid. From Thee we receive victory, through Thee we are made greater than our enemies. We recognize Thy grace in present blessings and hope on Thee for the future. We all beseech Thee, we implore Thee to preserve our king Constantine and his pious sons safe and victorious to the end of our days."* In A.D. 303 it was illegal for a soldier in the Roman army to be a Christian; by 416 it was mandatory for a soldier to be a Christian. The possible use of a prayer for either mass conversion

(which converts no one) or represents compulsory religious conversion by the state should send chills down the spiritual spine of any Christian. However, it does raise the question for modern denominations: "Do we use what is known as 'the sinner's prayer' in a similar manner?"

The Sinner's Prayer. *"Father, I know that I have broken Your laws and my sins have separated me from You. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward You. Please forgive me and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that Your son, Jesus Christ, died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send Your Holy Spirit to help me obey You and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."* Certainly denominations do not approve of or use the sinner's prayer for state compulsory or mass conversion, but the focus on evangelism only (and even baptism when it is just "getting into the water") without an equal focus on discipleship raises concern.

Investing in evangelism futures. Of course there should not be a several year discipleship process before a

continued on p. 2

“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.” Luke 6:40

person is accepted as a genuine Christian. That is not in the Bible. However, many Christians today may have unintentionally accepted a powerless form of a life with Christ—evangelism and conversion without discipleship, i.e., Constantinian evangelism. Baptism plus teaching makes a disciple. There must be evangelism PLUS discipleship, according to the Great Commission, Mt 28:19. PROCESS: GO → TEACH → WORSHIP → GROW → SERVE → GO → etc.



Good discipleship of new Christians is an investment into future evangelism and real church growth.

Christians who are not true disciples are poor evangelists. Consider that an original document is printed and then successive photocopies are made from copies of the original. Eventually the document will be unreadable. Christians who are not true disciples may be like the illustration and fail to make new disciples. On the other hand, good discipleship of new Christians is an investment into future evangelism and real church growth. It is time to make disciples as the Great Commission commands—baptizing AND teaching. Church leaders should connect all the work of the church in an intentional process to cultivate a church culture where people are motivated to follow through in growth as a disciple. The process must include evangelistic opportunities that encourage hands-on service

and/or teaching experience. Churches that do this are revitalizing their ability to do effective evangelism, as they create needed growth.

Questions for thought.

1. *Jesus commanded His church to make disciples, Mt 28:18. To what degree does the responsibility belong to the church and to what degree to the individual Christian?*
2. *Do you think that some denominations use “the sinner’s prayer” as Constantine may have used “Constantine’s Army Prayer”?*
3. *What process is Westside using to make disciples?*
4. *Does Westside focus on evangelism without a viable plan for making new believers true disciples?*
5. *Does Westside take a passive laissez-faire approach to making disciples of new Christians?*
6. *How may Westside improve the discipleship process?*

The Fountain of Youth, by Whit Sasser

New World discoverer, Ponce de Leon, was supposedly searching for the fountain of youth when he discovered Florida! Well, there you go! Perhaps that’s why so many people retire to Florida. Seriously, many people today are preoccupied with perpetual youth. Narcissism is rampant. Growing old is the worst thing that could happen to some folks, it seems. Many young people refuse to leave home and go out on their own, or they delay marriage because they remain immature. Well, maybe they are looking in the wrong place in the wrong way.

“You are as young as you feel” is a common saying. Well, the Bible says somewhat the same thing, but it ap-

plies to young and old alike. “A merry heart does good, like a medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones,” Pr 17:22. “The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, but who can bear a broken spirit,” Pr 18:14. Do you want to capture your youth? Stay young? Not grow old before your time? Then seek to keep a pleasant and positive attitude; stay young at heart. Will that even keep you physically young? It will help, for so says our Creator in these verses.

Serving the lord renews the real

you. “He gives power to the weak and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the Lord shall

renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint,” Is 40:29-31. Paul said, “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day,” 2 Cor 4:16. You are not your body—you are your spirit; and that part of you can be renewed day by day. Who you really are is therefore perpetually staying young when you are walking with God.

We become like little children.

“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven,” Mt 8:3. Now that is getting young! Real young! “The righteous continued on p. 3



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

Fountain of Youth, from p. 2
shall flourish like a palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing. Ps 92:13-14. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new," 2 Cor 5:17. The conversion we make in Christ is a dramatic change—it is truly a fountain of youth.

Job's Blessings, by Mrs. C. Cowman
"So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning," Job 42:12.
 Through his griefs Job came to his heritage. He was tried that his godliness might be confirmed. Are not my troubles intended to deepen my character and to robe me in graces I had little of before? I come to my glory through eclipses, tears, death. Job's afflictions left him with higher conceptions of God and lowlier thoughts of himself. "Now," he cried, "my eye sees You."

Adversity will finally turn out to be the advantage of knowing God more intimately and seeing Him more clearly if we are willing to keep on working and to wait patiently. How steadfastly the great victors kept at their work, dauntless and unafraid! There are blessings we cannot obtain if we cannot accept and endure suffering. There are joys that can come to us only through sorrow. Like the stars at night, some Divine truth can only be revealed when earth's lights have gone out. Some harvests can grow only after the plowshare has torn and cut the soil.

Discipleship Here At Home

4th Quarter Sunday Afternoon Schedule

10/5 – Fruit of the Spirit, Kory Tope
 10/12 – Fruit of the Spirit, Westin Cox
 10/19 – Lessons from the Life of Christ
 10/26 – Questions answered*
 11/2 - Singing
 11/9 – Living Like Christ class
 11/16 - Living Like Christ class
 11/23 - Questions answered*
 11/30 - Singing
 12/7 - Living Like Christ class
 12/14 - Living Like Christ class
 12/21 - Questions answered*
 12/28 - Singing

* Please submit any questions you have about scripture, religion, or any other spiritual matters to DeWayne Howell for discussion and answers.

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Addison Tope; Christian Harrod; Rocco Jr; Pat Wilkes—asthma
Nell Free—pacemaker, heart; back pain
Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease
Jonathan Hadders—rheumatoid arthritis
Danielle Huelsman—vertigo, CV syndrome
Hannah Huelsman—polycythemia, thickening of blood; and acid reflux
Kirk Johnson—MS
Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak; **Virginia**, macular degeneration; high BP
Sandra Perry—neuropathy from diabetes
Cheryl Reames—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia
Judy Sartin—spinal stenosis; arthritis
Judy and Mike Strand—hepatitis treatment
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung weakness

Service Opportunity Help the Reameses move Sat, 10/25, 8 am

"Church attendance is as vital to a disciple as a transfusion of rich, healthy blood to a sick man." —Dwight L. Moody

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

Liz Kosik—undergoing tests for blood illness; not cancer
Baby Lorraine Harrod—very contagious virus
Baby Emma Sangellino—rash over entire body
Christine Adams—recovering from ankle surgery with 14 pins & plate; homebound 6 weeks see **Judy Sartin** to co-ordinate meals; cards to 10050 W. 8th Place, Lakewood, 80215; email tinaadams48@gmail.com; 720-984-8323
Virginia Menard—new ankle injury; knee pain
Eric Perry—intensive dental work for awhile
DeWayne Howell's and **Michelle Mailloux's** father, **Dick Howell**—back surgery Monday
Sylvia Chapman, Brett's grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; chemo
Bill Dennis—adjusting pacemaker and meds
Giles Free—seizure from fall; confined at home, no driving for a few mos; scheduled for scan
Pat Wilkes—recovering from knee surgery; pain
Ed Fink—prostate cancer; current treatment for brain tumors. Undergoing chemo this month.
Irene Robinson, Mina Gonzalez's friend of Fulton church—husband **Clay, Sr.**, stomach cancer; son **Joe**, needs colon surgery; grandsons **Joey** and **Mike, Jr.**, legal problems; and son **Clay, Jr.**, needs resolution of long-standing domestic difficulties
Judy Sartin's son, **Dave Sartin**—colitis and severe depression
Judy Sartin's friends—**Vicky Keyes**, cancer spread after mastectomy, discouraged; **Summer Jensen**, multiple tumors, cysts on both kidneys
Noah Hadders's friend—eye surgery
Sandra Perry's daughter's boyfriend, **Donald Redden**—gangrene from diabetes
Sharon Rupinen, Sandra Perry's sister—heart
Kay Ransom's mother, **Zona**—COPD
Brittany Tope's grandmother—dialysis
Andrea Arvola (in FL), **Justin Hambrick**, and **Gary Boyd**—spiritual strength
Travel **Andreas Duvall** has National Guard duty in Wichita, KS, this weekend.
Rejoice Sandra Hampton, daughter of the Reameses, has returned to the Lord, and she needs prayer for her strength and her family's protection



Exposing current thoughts & trends

From Hearers of the Word to Doers, by Randy Garcia

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says," Jas 1:22. See also Mt 7:21; Lu 6:46; 11:28; Ro 2:13; 1Jo 3:7.

Have you ever noticed that many people diminish the importance of living by Biblical convictions? Actor Matthew McConaughey was being interviewed about his newborn son, Levi. He sounded spiritual when he said, "I named my son, Levi, because in the Bible, Matthew is often referred to as Levi. And my favorite verse in the Bible is Mt 6:22, and that is the time he was born." Then he was asked, "Are you considering marrying your girlfriend now that you have a son together?" He said, "No, I'm not ready for marriage—I don't want to go there." A new movie called *Religulous* features Bill Maher, contending that being a Christian "stops people from thinking" and that people who hold to the authority of Scripture have nothing but "blind faith." He makes vulgar jokes about the virgin birth and about the Holy Spirit.

When we hear these reports of the decline of morals and convictions in our nation, we are reminded that it is time to take a stand! One way that we can be doers of the Word is by voting. There are many reasons why we as Christians must vote. One reason is because America has a distorted view of what issues are most important. Many people have their personal opinion about what is the most important issue in any election. The economy. Oil and gas. Health care. Taxes. War. Environmental issues. But then, there are spiritual issues, such as abortion and same-sex marriage.

How do we prioritize these issues? How about if we prioritize them according to God's Word? In the Bible there are approximately 613 mandates that God gives His people on how to govern the land. But God prioritized them by giving us His Top Ten—the Ten Commandments are the most important of the 613 mandates. If they are important to God, they should be important to you and me. Which of today's issues are on God's Top Ten list? Abortion is. "Thou shalt not kill," (take the life of the innocent). The issue of same-sex marriage is also on God's priority list: "Thou shalt not commit adultery," (don't ruin God's plan for marriage). Religious freedom is also important to God: "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." In Florida, a 67 year old man was jailed because he handed a stranger a gospel tract. A man in California was jailed for three days because he was playing gospel music in a public park. Our spiritual freedom is under attack. The issue of economy is important, but not as important as the spiritual issues we are facing. Jesus said, *"What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and yet loses his soul?"* Mk 8:36. The economy may fail, but my God will not—and He will take care of us. Jesus also said, *"But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness,"* Mt 23:23. It is not just our right to vote, but it is also our responsibility. Take the journey from being merely a hearer to being a doer of the Word.



meets at
13789 W. 8th Avenue
Golden, Colorado 80401
720-295-4530

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
---------------	---------

Sunday morning

- **adult Bible class**, *Portraits of Discipleship*, Lesson 1, "What Is Discipleship? A Disciple's Identity," Kenny Boyd

- **Sermon**, "Maintaining Your Identity in a Godless Culture," Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon

- **Sermon**, "The Fruit of the Spirit Is... Kindness," Kory Tope

Wednesday night: Studies from Ezekiel.

Get materials for both Sunday and Wednesday adult classes from website under "Member Files."