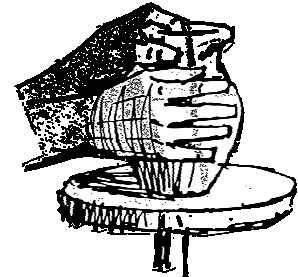


His Workmanship: Westside

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



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Isaiah 64:8

Resolutions: Set Your Mind and Take Action, by B. Carmichael

Admit it. Some people are going to make elaborate resolutions to start the new year only to get three months into 2015 having rationalized their way so far from their plans that they no longer even remember what they were going to do. The rest of us are going to say up front, *"I don't make New Year's resolutions,"* partly because of negative experiences with lack of success.

Why don't New Year's resolutions work? When we look at the meaning of the word *"resolution"* or its root word *"resolve,"* there is one eye-opening definition: **Resolve—to make progress from dissonance to consonance.** The word *"dissonance"* means lack of agreement or consistency between beliefs and actions. *"Consonance"* means the opposite—harmony or agreement. These are often musical terms—a dissonant chord that needs to be resolved into a more pleasant sounding, harmonious chord. Music without some resolution of the dissonant chord is just noise.

Many of us live our lives in noisy dissonance. We fail to keep resolutions because we do not have a proper handle on living in accord with God's will. We do not understand what it means to have a *"resolution"* of matters which cause us discord. We

may not know how to *"resolve to do"* something. We may never have made a commitment—such as assembling in Bible study even if it's Christmas Eve. We fail to resolve because we continue to have *"dissonance"* in our chosen area of improvement. Either we know what to do and don't do it, or we start doing what we should but haven't settled in our minds how to do it. Resolve takes a mindset—to set our minds, to decide, to determine. Jesus *"steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem"* to meet His death, Lk 9:51, 53.

The Bible is clear on what we should do to make transformation in our lives. Paul said, *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed (changed) by the renewing of your mind so that you can carry out the good and perfect will of God,"* Rm 12:2. James tells us to *"Be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only-- deceiving yourselves,"* Jas 1:22.

The keys are to renew or change our thinking concerning a matter and then actually to take action. James further warns us, *"Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin,"* Jas 4:17. We deceive ourselves if we plan to do good but don't follow through on our plans. This is the same deception that

takes place year after year with our resolutions.

The only guarantee of progress is to minimize the dissonance between what we know to do and what we actually do. Make progress from dissonance to consonance in 2015 in the following ways:

1. **Seek God.** Set priorities that harmonize with your faith. *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you,"* Mt 6:33.

2. **Ask God for wisdom.** *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding,"* Pr 9:10.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God Who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him," Jas 1:5-6.

3. **Think context.** Our goals should reflect our identity as children of God with responsibilities and purpose given by our Creator. Everything we do as a child of God is in this context.

4. **Set your minds on things above, not on things of the earth.** Read *Colossians 3:1-17* daily to help set your mind on holy living and encourage yourself to harmonize your actions to God's will.

Ezekiel and the Land Promise, by Berry Kercheville

How can a land promise be given to a spiritual kingdom? Wasn't this promise fulfilled when Israel entered Canaan?

Let's go back to Ezekiel 36-37. Sprinkled throughout are repeated references to God bringing Israel back to their land. What seems peculiar is that these promises are placed within the context of the days of the Messiah: "When the Lord will give you a new heart and a new spirit...you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God," Ezek 36:26-28. And again, "I will make the fruit of the tree and the increase of the field abundant that you may never suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations," 36:30. Look at one more text: "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places shall be rebuilt. And the land that was desolate shall be tilled, instead of being the desolation that it was in the sight of all who passed by. And they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the Garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.' Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I am the Lord; I have rebuilt the ruined places and replanted that which was desolate. I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it," 36:33-36.

First, notice that it is "on the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities" that God would fulfill this land restoration. Ask yourself this question, "when Jesus came, did that happen for the nation of Israel...physically? Did the desolate land become like the Garden of Eden? Did it ever happen, even when Israel returned from captivity?" Obviously not. In fact, a remnant of Israel did come back to their land in 536 BC, but the period of time in which they again inhabited the land was a time of trouble

and insecurity until 70 AD when the nation fell. That is exactly how Daniel described this time frame in his "70 weeks" prophecy, Dan 9:24-27. So we have two problems with Ezekiel's renewal of the land promise: (1) the fulfillment of the promise is placed in the time in which the Messiah would cleanse the people and put his Spirit within them, and (2) the literal fulfillment of the land promise prophecies never happened. Ezekiel 37 in some ways adds to the dilemma. Ezekiel was given the vision of the valley of dry bones, 37:1-14. These dry bones illustrated the complete death and desolation of the nation that was in captivity at the time Ezekiel wrote. Could these bones live again? Can the nation come back to life? Yes! God promised, "I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, and I will bring you into the land of Israel," 37:12. But then God gave the same promise in a different way two verses later: "And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land," 36:14. Here again the "Spirit promise" is tied to the land promise. The Spirit promise was clearly fulfilled in the days of the Messiah.

Later in chapter 37 we are given confirmation that the land promise would be fulfilled in the time of the Messiah: "My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes. They shall dwell in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children's children shall dwell there forever, and David my servant shall be their prince forever. I will make a cove-



nant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore. My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst forevermore," Ezek 37:24-28 ESV. Now we know for sure that the days of the fulfillment of Ezekiel's land promise are the days of Christ: "My servant David shall be king over them." This is not a reference to a 1000-year reign on earth or a perfect physical Israel nation dwelling in a little landmass call Canaan. Other prophets spoke of the same land promise in the time of the Messiah, and those passages are quoted in the New Testament. For example, Isaiah spoke of the days of the Messiah as a time when "the wolf shall dwell with the lamb," but then said, "In that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek him, and his resting place shall be glorious," Is 11:6, 10. When will the "wolf dwell with the lamb" and the Lord's "resting place be glorious"? It will be "when the Gentiles shall seek him." Paul quoted this very passage in Romans 15:12 to argue that the Gentiles are now accepted. If the "wolf is not yet dwelling with the lamb" and God's resting place is not yet glorious, **then the Gentiles are not yet able to seek the Lord!**

So what is the answer? How can the land promise be fulfilled in the time of Christ, and how could it be fulfilled in such glorious fashion when we see no evidence of that physically? The answer is the land promise never was simply a promise of a piece of land; it was a promise of **rest** and **security**

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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

Ezekiel’s Land Promise, from p. 2 from enemies, Gen. 22:17. The fulfillment of the physical land promise for Israel, Josh 21:43-45, was predicated on Israel’s continued obedience and only foreshadowed a greater and more perfect rest and security that would come in Christ.

God intends his secure rest to attract the nations to him as they realize that His steadfast covenantal love can be found in the Messiah King. Thus our message is a message of hope. It is an evangelistic message. What could be more exciting than knowing that God has made us the fulfillment of an eternal promise to create a nation that would be his own special possession, who would dwell securely protected from all enemies, and would be his sons and daughters transformed into his image, and thus fill the world with his glory! Indeed, look what God has done! To Him be all praise and glory!

Gay Activist Charged, from p. 4

Seefried’s civilian attorney has suggested that by moving ahead with a court martial despite the Article 32 investigator’s recommendation to drop the case, the Air Force is trying to send a message that it’s taking accusations of sexual abuse seriously. He asked presiding judge Col. Ira Perkins to dismiss the case, arguing that his client is being prosecuted unfairly due to his superiors’ fear of being perceived as taking a rape claim lightly. But Burke denies having any ulterior motive for Seefried’s prosecution. “I base my decisions on the evidence,” Burke said at Monday’s

Discipleship Here At Home

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

- Logan Corray; Addison Tope; Christian Harrod; Rocco Jr; Pat Wilkes, Tim Huelsman—asthma
- Bill Dennis—adjusting pacemaker and meds
- Nell Free—pacemaker, heart; back pain
- Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease
- Danielle Huelsman—vertigo, CV syndrome
- Hannah Huelsman—polycythemia, thickening of blood; heart murmur, acid reflux, chest pain
- 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
- Travel** Mina Gonzalez is in El Paso with Ernie’s family; her parents (Vernon & Sue Hawkins) and sons Lorenzo and Ben and families are also there. Michael Fryman is in KY, Michelle Franke in TN until Mine classes resume in Jan. The Hadderses are in CO Springs; Witheringtons in FL; Sarah McMurray in Pittsburgh; Walkers in TN; Lucases in IN.

Feeding on His Word Reading

Everyone is invited—including friends, neighbors—beginning Jan 9 to an open Bible reading every first Friday evening, 6:30 pm pizza, 7 pm reading; and every third Sunday afternoon, 4 pm reading, pizza following. See Joel Walker for schedule, location, and Bible book(s) and passages.

hearing. Col. Perkins is now deliberating whether to dismiss the case or to reopen the Article 32 investigation to gather more evidence, as Seefried’s attorney requested in a separate motion. He is expected to make a decision sometime this month. In the meantime, Seefried’s trial is scheduled to move forward in January.

Thanks to the men who are teaching and preaching while Jim is on vacation.

“A determined soul will do more with a rusty monkey wrench than a loafer will accomplish with all the tools in the machine shop.” —Robert Hughes

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

- Kaylee Chavez—10, to St. Jude’s in TN for brain cancer treatment; donate at www.youcaring.com, type name at top
- Hannah Huelsman—tonsillectomy recovery
- Frances Blackwelder—angioplasty Fri success; home in Grand Junction
- Frank Savarese—surgery on salivary gland 1/18
- Ed Fink—prostate cancer; current treatment for brain tumors. Undergoing chemo this month
- Christine Adams—recovering from ankle surgery, using walking cast; returns to work Monday
- Lloyd Menard—unable to walk, memory failing
- Judy Sartin—rotator cuff injury and leg bruising from fall Tracy, Alivya, Capri Corray—flu
- Mark Campbell—recovering from auto accident
- Chris Bennett, former member—fell from ladder, fractured pelvis; restricted work 2 mos
- Chad Meyers of Smoky Hill—acute renal failure
- Brittany Tope’s mother—breast cancer in spine; pain in broken ribs which tumor has injured; grandmother—on dialysis
- Sharon Rupinen, Sandra Perry’s sister—surgery 1/9
- Melanie Baughn’s mother—in OK has renal failure and cellulitis
- Jennifer Clayton, former member—severe lyme disease; heart, spine, neuro issues
- Sylvia Chapman, Brett’s grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; chemo
- Judy Sartin’s son, Dave Sartin—colitis and severe depression; needs new job; Judy’s friend, Vicky Keys, radiation after mastectomy
- Kenny Boyd’s coworker Kim Phillips—asks our prayers for upcoming heart surgery
- Rick Robbins, friend of Howells—brain surgery
- Remember Greg Geiss, who has some spiritual challenges. Paul Alfaro and Elaine Isbell, who have returned to Christ and need our prayers and help.
- College Prez Apologizes for Comment**
Smith College president, Kathleen McCartney, was forced to apologize last week after students called her out for writing in a mass e-mail that “all lives matter.” They took offense that she did not use the phrase “black lives matter” when she sent the email as a show of support for protests against the grand jury decisions in Ferguson and New York City. Many students also chastised McCartney on social media. One student told the The Daily Hampshire Gazette that “it felt like she was invalidating the experience of black lives,” while another said McCartney had “minimized the anti-blackness of this current situation.”



Exposing current thoughts & trends

Air Force Gay Activist Charged with Forcible Sodomy

by Tony Perkins

December 2014 was a bad month, publicity-wise, for homosexual activists. Just two weeks after a cofounder of the high-profile pro-gay Human Rights Campaign (HRC) was arrested and charged with raping a 15-year-old boy, the homosexual Washington Blade news service has broken a story about another possible rape by a prominent activist in the movement.

According to the Blade, Air Force Lt. Joshua Seefried, the activist behind the repeal of the U.S. military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy regarding homosexuality, has been charged with forcible sodomy and is facing a court martial after allegedly raping another service member after a party in 2012. Seefried, 28, reportedly raped Marine Lt. Edgar Luna after the two had attended a get-together with other homosexual military officers celebrating the repeal of DADT. The group initially met at a restaurant for drinks, then Seefried invited several of the officers to his hotel to enjoy the spa. Luna took him up on the offer. Later on, Seefried, Luna, and a third officer, Coast Guard Lt. Commander John Fiorentine, went back to Seefried's hotel room. Luna says he was so intoxicated that he doesn't remember anything that happened after they left the restaurant, aside from a vague memory of Seefried making sexual advances he said were not consensual. At some point during the evening, he passed out. When he awoke around midnight, he was nude and confused. When he asked Seefried what had happened, Seefried told him that he had seen him engaging in sex acts with Fiorentine.

Luna filed complaints against both Seefried and Fiorentine, arguing that he was too intoxicated to consent to sexual contact. As a result, the officers were charged with wrongful sexual contact and forcible sodomy.

Fiorentine faced an Article 32 hearing (similar to a civilian grand jury hearing) to determine whether he would face a court martial trial, but the investigator in that case found insufficient evidence to proceed, and the case was dropped. The Article 32 investigator in Seefried's case also recommended dropping the charges due to lack of evidence. But Major General Darryl Burke, commander of the Air Force District of Washington, overrode the investigator's recommendation, and Seefried's commanding officer, Lt. Col. Michael Goodwin, added a third charge of abusive sexual contact.

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meets at
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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
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Sunday morning

- **adult Bible class**, Lesson 12, "An Apologist: the Disciple's Answer," Kenny Boyd

- **Sermon**, "Where Does God Sit?" Kory Tope

Sunday afternoon

- **Lord's Supper, singing**

Wednesday night: Begin new study in Daniel: Determined to Walk with God.

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