

His Workmanship at Westside

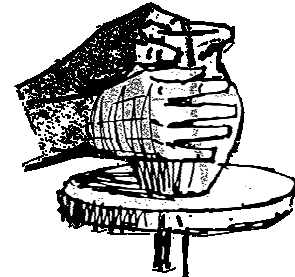
"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."

—Ephesians 2:10

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Isaiah 64:8

"We Beheld His Glory," by David McClister

God's presence is an indescribable glory. In Biblical scenes where God appeared to men, the word "glory" usually pops up in the text. When Israel complained about food, Moses told them "in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord," which is exactly what happened: "they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud," Ex 16:7,10. Moses described what he saw: "The glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses from the midst of the cloud. And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the mountain top," Ex 24:16-17. While the word "glory" does not appear in the story of the burning bush, Ex 3, it is clear that Moses had seen the same thing there.

Perhaps the closest anyone came to seeing God in his glory was Moses. After he had been near God on Mt. Sinai, he asked to see God's glory. God replied: "'You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!' Then the Lord said, 'Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock; and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be

seen,'" Ex 33:20-23. In a similar scene, when Solomon's temple was finished and dedicated, "the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God," 2 Chr 5:14. God's glory was fearful and overpowering, and yet it was also strangely attractive.

As impressive as those experiences must have been, none of these people saw anything near the fullness of God's glory. But God spoke of the day when his people would see His glory in an unprecedented way. The prophet Haggai said, "The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former," 2:9. Isaiah predicted that the wilderness (a metaphor for God's people in this context) "will blossom profusely and rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God," 35:2.

In the fullness of time, John said, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father," 1:14. Paul, using language borrowed from the creation account, said, "For God, who said, 'Light shall shine out of darkness,' is the One Who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ," 2 Cor 4:6.

Just exactly what about Jesus was so

glorious? His appearance? His words? His actions? Was John referring to what he saw at Jesus's transfiguration? The answer lies in the statements of Jesus Himself. As the time for His death drew near, He said, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit," Jn 12:24. Clearly, Jesus spoke about His death. On the way to Gethsemane where He would be taken into custody by His enemies, He said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him," Jn 13:31. He said, "if I AM lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to myself," Jn 12:32. The "lifting up" was not His ascension to heaven but His being lifted up on the cross. Like the burning bush of Exodus 3, Jesus's death would be a spectacle full of the glory of God that would attract people to it.

So what was the glory of God that was so visible in Jesus? What was so glorious about His death? It was God's power, plan, and love, which were fully displayed in the death of Jesus on the cross.

Power. The cross shows God's power over death. He was "declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead," Rm 1:4. In speaking of His "bringing many sons to glory," the Hebrew

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“To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever,” —Ephesians 3:21, from p. 1

writer said that Jesus shared in flesh and blood, “that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage,” Heb 2:10, 14-15. The same power that raised Him from the dead, Jn 10:18; 1 Cor 6:14; 15:43; 2 Cor 13:4, also is the power He has to forgive sins, Mt 9:6 (Mk 2:10; Lk 5:24). Because of His mighty power and resurrection, He has been made king, 1 Chr 29:11; Ps 63:2; 145:11, with all dominion and power and authority—He has the right to be the Lord of our lives. Paul prayed that we would know “what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power,” Eph 1:14. Of course, in the end, all will see His power and His glory, Mt 24:30 (Mk 13:26; Lk 21:27), some to be “punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,” 2 Thes 1:9, and others to praise and enjoy His glory and power forever, Jude 25; Rev 4:11; 5:12-13; 7:12; 15:8; 19:1.

Plan. God’s plan from the beginning was to save mankind from sin. Jesus said, “Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth,” Mk 1:38 (Lk 4:43). He came “to seek and to save the lost,” Lk 19:10 (Mt 18:11). He was “delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God,” and crucified and put to death, Ax 2:23. “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil,” 1 Jn 3:8. Jesus told Martha that when she saw the resurrection, which was God’s plan for those who believe, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?” Jn 11:40. His plan was for believers to be one with Him, and by the first resurrection (in baptism) to behold His glory, and then to behold His glory fully in the second resurrection: “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that

they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world,” Jn 17:24. (“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life,” Rm 6:4.)



Love. By His power and His plan, God was showing His great love and goodness. Jesus died because of God’s love and compassion for us, Jn 3:16. That great display of God’s love, mercy, and grace is designed to touch our hearts and draw us to God. It fulfills God’s words: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness,” Jer 31:3. Like Moses at the burning bush, when we see the outpouring of God’s love on the cross of Jesus, it is designed to get our attention and make us want to go near and understand it more perfectly. The gospel story is the story of how God loves us and sent Jesus to die for us. This is why Paul calls it “the glorious gospel,” 1 Tim 1:11; see also 2 Cor 4:4.

When John said, therefore, that “we saw His glory,” John meant that he had seen, above all, the death of Jesus and had come to understand that it was a proclamation of God’s great love. The death of Jesus, announced in the gospel, was the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prediction that people would see the glory of the Lord. John also added that the glory he saw in the death of Jesus was

“full of grace and truth.” This is exactly what God tried to convey to Moses. You remember that scene where Moses asked to see the glory of God? This was God’s first response to that request: “I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion,” Ex 33:19. In other words, God was saying to Moses, “The most glorious thing about me is My Name—that is, all my attributes—declaring My name shows My glory. My glory is My goodness. My glory is My mercy, grace, and compassion.” And that is what was on full display in the cross of Jesus.....

The Need for Vision, by W. Sasser

In our efforts to please God and go to heaven, we need vision. Most anything we do that is important requires motivation, and the best motivation is a vision of the accomplished objective. For instance, a medical student has to see himself as a doctor one day. It is what keeps him going when one day seems to be just like the next and monotony sets in as he studies for years.

The Christian needs to keep focused on the reward to come at the end of life. Yes, it is true that we enjoy heavenly blessings even now, but we must “not grow weary in well doing,” Gal 6:9, and be sure we keep our eyes on the prize.

We often accomplish this in our church gatherings; hymns and sermons are a constant reminder of what life is all about and where we are going. We meet together frequently to keep us in the right way and excited about heaven.

A final word about vision—we desperately need to keep a sharp image of heaven in our mind as we go about everyday life. Imagine daily how beautiful eternal life with God will be, to be in God’s presence, with no more temptation from the Evil One, and enjoying the bliss of that wonderful place forever!



Psalm 133:1

God's harvest we'll glean in 2016 "Please let me go to the field and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." —Ruth 2:2

An Acrostic for 1 Corinthians

Use the following mnemonic-acrostic for your study Sunday mornings in 1 Corinthians (each letter is for a chapter):

Maturity in Christ

- M**ind of Christ: be of same mind, judgment; **m**ighty confounded by weak (1)
- A**ll one; **a**ll given by the Spirit (2)
- T**emple of God; carnal, babes (3)
- U**gly boasting destroys **u**nity; **U**ncover hidden things (4)
- R**emove fornicator, uncleanness (5)
- I**nternal judgment among yourselves to **I**nherit eternal life (6)
- T**eaching marriage (7)
- Y**ield to weak brother's conscience in meat

Instructions re: Paul's authority as apostle and preacher; **I**ncorruptible crown; **I**n subjection (9)

No offense; **N**o backsliding; **N**o idolatry

Christ is Head; **C**over head; **C**ome together to worship; **C**ommune; **C**up of blessing
Holy Spirit gives gifts, e.g. healing; honor to body when work in unity (12)

Rules of love (13)

Interpreting tongues; **I**f prophesy, then edify—**I**t is understood **I**n peace & silence

Salvation; **S**tand in gospel; **S**ee Christ in resurrection; **S**ubject to King, Who **S**ubdued **S**in and death; **S**econd man **S**piritual; at **S**ound of trump, **S**leeping rise; **S**tint of **S**in is death, **S**trength of **S**in is law; **S**t steadfast (15)

Treasury; Paul to tarry in Ephesus; **T**imothy and others toil—tell them (16)

"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb,"—Psalm 139:13

Discipleship Here At Home

March for Life Has Hope, from p. 4

billion dollars a year in taxpayer money pulled from the organization. PP claims this doesn't fund abortion, but let's be honest—it's claiming that dumping water in the deep end of the pool doesn't affect the shallow end.

Though this issue will never be resolved until the yearly number of abortions is zero, there are encouraging prospects to note as we consider the sanctity of human life. And every life saved is a victory.

More and more public figures are pointing out the absurdity of a movement centered on choice that leaves a woman no choice at all. *Online for Life* is using the power of the Internet to reach out to those who search for pregnancy options. Former Planned Parenthood nurse Abby Johnson's ministry *And Then There Were None* is giving a voice and a choice to those who desire no longer to work for the nation's largest abortion mill. *Project Rachel* and *Abortion Changes You*, among many other such services, are coming alongside the hurting women who have already experienced the pain of abortion. *Save the Storks* takes compassion to those who are in need with a mobile resource center housed in a luxury bus. *Students for Life* has a wide presence on college campuses.

Question to ponder: What can you do to help those who are struggling with a crisis pregnancy or the pain of a past abortion?

Bereaved Scott McClelland's grandfather recently passed away in Amarillo, TX.

Becky Harlow's father passed away recently. **Becky** was formerly with Westside.

Directory Updates **Levi** and **Samantha Addy** have chosen to join with the Westside church in worship and work. They live at 4817 Eldorado Springs Dr, Boulder 80303, with their preschool children **Jude** and **Jordan**. **Samantha's** cell 432-889-1165 se_agnew@yahoo.com **Levi's** cell 830-358-6666; stantonaddy@gmail.com **Pearl Chapman** has moved to the Verandas, 9495 W. 49th Ave, Rm 9 East, Wheat Ridge 80033; house phone: 303-425-6328. Pearl is recovering from broken hip surgery in Dec.

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

- **Kory Tope's** uncle, **Skeeter Schulz**—broke hip three weeks ago
 - **Frances Blackwelder**—home from ICU in Gr Junction after fever and infection
 - **Brittany Tope's** mother **Gayle**—biopsy of spot on liver shows breast cancer has spread; **Brittany's** grandmother—on dialysis
 - the **Savarese's** grandchildren, **Frankie Kosik**, **Lorraine** and **Christian Harrod**—breathing difficulty, using nebulizer, or inhaler and steroids
 - **Jordan Corray's** colleague and mentor **Craig Smith**—in ICU with brain injury after fall from roof; friend **Kylie Cabalka**—staph infection complications; out of ICU to rehab and making progress
 - **Sarah McMurray's** mentee **Lakesha Griffin**—age 12; safety, stable home place
 - **Connor Boyd's** friend **Christian Lyons**, high school freshman—leukemia
 - **Berney Charo's** brother **Eliud**—prostate cancer
 - **Judy Strand**—preparing for liver transplant by chemo
 - **Sheryle McNeill**—pinched nerve
 - **Ernesto Gonzalez's** father **Fidencio**—stage IV lymphoma; to rehab center to gain strength
 - **Mary Ellen White**—recovering at sister's house after hip replacement on Christmas Eve; cards to 5307 E. Yale Ave, #306, Denver 80222-6928
 - **Letha Fink's** brother **Kenneth Morrison** of GA—liver disease, diagnosed with neuro-muscular disease
 - **Bill Dennis**—sick
 - **Larry Campbell's** FL partner **Terry Hargadine's** wife **Michelle**—recovering from mastectomy; **Terry**—recovering from knee replacement surgery
 - **Kayla Knighten**, **Christine Adams's** daughter, needs our prayers; **Judy Strand** requests prayer for her son **Joe**; pray **Ed's** son **Rodney Schulz** and **Sheryle's** daughter **Tiffany** receive the gospel;
 - **Sylvia Chapman**, **Brett's** grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; **Brett's** grandmother **Sue**, and Aunt **Connie Doss**—cancer returned
- CHRONIC CONDITIONS**
Christian Harrod; **Addison Tope**; **Rocco Jr. Ann Cox**; **Logan Corray**; **Pat Wilkes**—asthma
Orchid Cox—chronic blood clot condition
Jonathan Hadders—RA
Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease
Kirk Johnson—MS; **Amanda Mailloux**—IBS
Menards—**Lloyd** diabetes, Alzheimers; fell last week; **Virginia** deciding on his nursing home
Sandra Perry—diabetes complications; oxygen
Cheryl Reames—fibromyalgia; diverticulitis
Judy Sartin—rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis
Judy and **Mike Strand**—hepatitis treatment
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung weakness
- Rejoice** The **Shreves** are expecting their first baby in April. The **Addys** are expecting their third child.
- Travel** **Patricia Ward** is visiting her mother in VA; she will return Tues.



Exposing current trends abortion

March for Life Has Renewed Hope, by Tony Perkins and others

For more than four decades, families have traveled over miles of wintry highways to protest the ugly legacy of Roe v. Wade: to be a voice for the voiceless. Yesterday's *March for Life* was a stark contrast to the frustrations of the Left, highlighted in the complaints of one of its abortion standard-bearers, DNC Chairman Debbie Wasserman Schultz. "Here's what I see," she said, "a complacency among the generation of young women whose entire lives have been lived after Roe v. Wade was decided." Yesterday's *March for Life* was overflowing with engaged teenagers who are more determined than ever to end what the Supreme Court started.

As former *March for Life* President Jeanne Mancini pointed out, "Young people can see through something that isn't true and isn't empowering. Young people see abortion as the human rights abuse of today, and they're really the best ambassadors for life because they haven't been jaded, they're not cynical, and their energy and love for life is just contagious." The polling bears that out. Most millennials reject the extremism that this administration has championed. Some 54 per cent want to outlaw abortion (with the basic exceptions for rape, incest, and the life of the mother). A heartening 76 percent would ban abortion entirely after the first trimester. Maybe what Wasserman Schultz sees isn't youthful complacency—but enlightenment.

Abortion is done in the name of "choice." The only choice the abortionists ever give anybody is "Tuesday or Friday? When do you want to have the abortion?" Abortions for incest, rape, and the life of the mother constitute less than 2% of the total number of abortions in this country, and yet they constitute 98% of the rhetoric of the pro-abortionists. Thankfully, many Christians are providing alternatives to abortion. There are now more crisis pregnancy centers than abortion clinics. Many are seeing abortion for what it is and are repenting of having anything to do with it. And there is mercy and grace from the Lord for those who repent and call on Jesus.

Fifty-eight million children have been caught in the nets of "choice," an injustice that's only deepened under the avalanche of the president's radical abortion policy. But abortions have been on a steep decline (12 per cent) in the last five years, thanks to the strong effort on the local level. With record wins for states' pro-life laws (288 in five years), the sea of faces at yesterday's *March* was hoping to build on the progress with a commander-in-chief who makes the unborn a priority—not a target.

The biggest news in the last year on this front was, of course, the undercover videos exposing Planned Parenthood for trafficking in unborn baby parts. While it was long known that Planned Parenthood is the nation's largest abortion provider, it was not common knowledge that the organization was harvesting organs and other tissue for sale. The revelation led to a funding battle on Capitol Hill, as pro-lifers sought to have half a

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Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

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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**, studies on the attributes of God: "Show Me Your Glory," Jim Reingrover
- **sermon**, "Expository Study of 1 Corinthians (Preaching through First Corinthians, PTFC): The Power and Wisdom of God," Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon

- **questions answered**: "Does Everyone Need to Be Baptized?" Larry Campbell

Wednesday night study:

The Thessalonian Letters