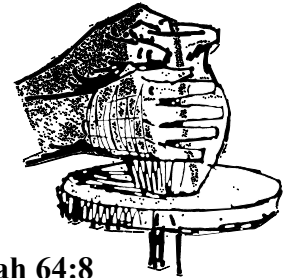


His Workmanship at Westside

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



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Isaiah 64:8

Neglect: A Way to Destruction by Bill Humble, in *The Preceptor*, Vol. 2, No. 5, March, 1953

The church has always faced a host of formidable enemies, and the present generation of Christians is no exception. There is denominationalism, confusing and ultimately un-Christian in its basic teachings. There is modernism, whose demoralizing and deadening influences have already engulfed a large segment of religion in the US and which has now begun to gnaw at the vitals of the church of our Lord. Yet there is another danger which is less spectacular but more insidious; it undermines the church from within rather than attacking it from without. It attacks Christians gradually; later it will begin to taint their basic attitude toward the church, and finally its hold becomes so strong that it becomes a way of life. This enemy is neglect! If neglect can become a way of life, what kind of way is it? And where will it lead?

Neglect—A Christ-Denying Way
The basic character of neglect is indicated by Christ's statement that "he that is not with Me is against Me; and he that gathers not with Me scatters," Mt 12:30. Some responsibilities in life are so important that they cannot be regarded carelessly or ignored with indifference. To neglect our family is to mistreat them, and to neglect Christ is to deny Him. Those

Jews who lived in Palestine contemporary with Christ were confronted with a personality Who could not be ignored. His claims were too lofty and His works too marvelous to admit such treatment. Yet many adopted this illogical attitude of "facing" the problem of Christ by ignoring Him. While Nazareth took a more definite stand by openly rejecting Christ, even planning to throw Him headlong over the brow of a hill to His death, Capernaum took no such attitude. Capernaum, located on the Sea of Galilee, was Christ's home during part of His ministry. The city had seen His works and heard His sermons, but its people neither accepted the Lord nor rejected Him like Nazareth. Ignoring all the logical implications of His Words and deeds, they were indifferent to the Savior. Jesus indicated that indifference is equivalent to an open rejection by rebuking Capernaum, "And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you," Mt 11:23-24. Capernaum's superior opportunities

demanding definite response to Jesus, and because they chose to treat Him with neglect, their neglect will be less tolerable in judgment than the open vice of wicked Sodom!

Hundreds of years before Christ lived in Capernaum, another city learned that neglect is sometimes tantamount to open opposition. This was the city of Meroz, probably a Palestinian village, but whose location is now unknown. When Deborah and Barak saved Israel from the oppression of Jabin, King of Hazor, they mobilized an army of ten thousand men and encamped on Mount Tabor. When the battle was fought in the Plain of Esdraelon, Israel was victorious. To commemorate their victory, Deborah and Barak sang a song of triumph. The song lauds the cooperation of the various tribes of Israel, and the only discordant note comes when they sang, " 'Curse Meroz,' said the angel of the LORD, 'Curse its inhabitants bitterly, because they did not come to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty,'" Jdg 5:23. Israel was fighting for its very life, the Canaanites under Jabin were a formidable oppressor, and men from various tribes were risking their lives in a supreme

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“Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; with great fervor I am zealous for her.' Thus says the LORD: 'I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, the Mountain of the LORD of hosts, the Holy Mountain.'

—Zechariah 8:2-3

effort to free Israel. Under such circumstances, indifference became evil; and when Meroz failed to “*come to the help of Jehovah*,” they were cursed by God’s angel. Indifference then was to deny God; indifference today is to deny Christ.

Neglect—An Easy Way One reason that neglect is such a deadly enemy of the church today is because of the ease with which a Christian may become a victim of it. There are many methods by which neglect becomes a particularly easy way of life in this generation:

1, Busy-ness. Our American way of life demands fast living, and few have enough time for everything. Nearly everyone finds it necessary to leave off something he would like to do, and often religion goes first. This does not mean that the too-busy Christian openly denies the Lord. Usually he treats the church indifferently, attending services only when it is convenient to do so. As he drifts further along the way of neglect, his indifference becomes more pronounced until, finally, life in Christ means no more to him than to a modernistic Episcopalian.

2, Influence. There is a prevailing indifference to religious responsibilities among the denominations, and this sometimes sets an example for weak Christians. “When my Methodist and Baptist friends go to church only occasionally and feel satisfied with their religion, why can’t I?” some brethren inquire, seeking to justify what they want to do. Modernism has so blighted denominationalism that indifference is nearly universal among their members, and some of

the church of the Lord treat their walk with God as membership in a club; they would like to regard their neglect as a better standard than the precepts of the New Testament.

3, Irresponsibility. Too often, Christians have not been properly taught about their responsibilities of living in Christ. They do not see themselves as important parts of the body of Christ; they do not understand Paul’s teaching in 1 Cor 12:12-27 that they are essential to the functioning of the local church. “*Do not neglect the gift that is in you*,” Paul exhorted in 1 Tim 4:14. These Christians do not use their spiritual gifts to serve God, the church, and others. They don’t realize that indifference is deadly. Neglecting worship and meetings of the church, they hear less teaching and become more in-different. A vicious circle is dragging them relentlessly down this easy road!

4, Focus. Some Christians focus on the wrong things. They are disputing about minor matters, and neglect more important things. “*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone*,” Mt 23:23. Hypocrites take special care in small matters; they can be remarkably scrupulous in the performance of external, ritual religion, but totally neglect the soul, spirit, and practice of godliness. They neglect the things which matter the very most: righteousness, which is choosing right from wrong; kindness towards the distressed and

miserable; and trust in God, love for Him, and faithfulness in keeping promises and speaking truth, see Mic 6:6-8. God must receive our first and best attention. Remember, “*He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is careless of his ways will die*,” Pr 19:16.

Neglect is, of course, reflected in many ways. It is responsible for Christians’ failing to attend gatherings of the church, particularly those other than Sunday morning. Why shouldn’t they come on Sunday morning? They must preserve a “front” of respectability, mustn’t they? They must salve their consciences. But they are indifferent and lukewarm, and God will “*vomit them out of His mouth*,” Rev 3:16. Indifference is responsible for purposeless giving, for the dust covered Bible, and for the idea that the days of gospel meetings are over. Purposeful giving causes us to rejoice: “*For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the grain, of the new wine and the oil, to the storerooms where the articles of the sanctuary are, where the priests who minister and the gatekeepers and the singers are; and we will not neglect the house of our God*,” Neh 10:39; see also 2 Cor 8:7-8, 17, 22. Bible study indicates a diligent heart: “*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*,” 2 Tim 2:15; see also Rm 12:8-11; Ps 77:6; Jude 3. A person not eager to attend meetings of the church lacks diligence, which is a sign of neglect and laziness and lack

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Psalm 133:1

“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven,” Matthew 5:16

Discipleship Here At Home

Neglect: Way to Death— from p. 2 of follow-through, see Pr 12:24, 27; 10:4; 21:5; Heb 6:11; 2 Pet 1:5-10; 3:14. All of these are only symptoms of an attitude, and it is this attitude which is deadly to a spiritual life. “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life,” Pr 4:23. It is a life and death matter.

The Lord is zealous about salvation, about lost souls, and about us. Many times in scripture His zeal *accomplishes* His purposes; see Ps 69:9 (Jn 2:17); 119:139; Num 25:11-13; 2 Kg 19:31; Is 9:7; 37:32; Ezek 5:13; Joel 2:18; Zech 1:144; 8:2. He is clad with zeal as a cloak, Is 59:17. He is zealous in His mercies towards us and yearns for us, Is 63:15. *Zeal is an aspect of love!* If we don't have zeal and neglect God, we do not love Him! If that is our condition, lukewarm, we must “*be zealous and repent,*” Rev 3:19. “*But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always,*” Gal 4:14. We are His own special people, “*zealous for good works,*” Tit 2:14. The word “*enthusiasm*” comes from a Greek root that indicates “*God within.*” Therefore, zeal is pleasing to Him, and apathy is not.

Neglect—A Disastrous Way

The sheer stark tragedy of neglect for the Christian lies in the fact that so easy a way of life could lead to so disastrous a destiny. Yet the Bible clearly indicates that the indifferent Christian has no hope of the glorious immortality which awaits the faithful in Christ Jesus. This conclusion is a

Travel The Lorenzo Gonzalezes are in WI and the Hadderses are in Bowling Green, KY, through today. **Patricia Ward** is in VA through today and will return with her mother, Mrs. Schoewen, for an extended stay. The **Budnys** are in IN through today. The **Wilkeses** are in NC through Wed.

Job concerns

Andrew Tope, Kay Ransom, and Frank Savarese are seeking employment. Rejoice with **Brett Witherington** over his new job.

necessary corollary to the proposition that neglect is a Christ-denying way, for how could any man hope to go to heaven when his life, even though he is a nominal Christian, actually denies Christ? The Old Law was ordained by angels in the hands of a mediator and was therefore great, but the New Law is far greater. And if that Old Law, “*proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation...?*” Heb 2:2-3. **We shall not escape!**

In the conquest of Canaan, “*there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes which had not yet received their inheritance. Then Joshua said to the children of Israel: ‘How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers has given you?’*” Josh 18:2-3. God wants us to possess His blessings, but we must actively seek them, conquering Christ's foes of sin and unbelief in our lives, including neglect. Neglect will prevent us from inheriting His blessings, both here and now, and hereafter.

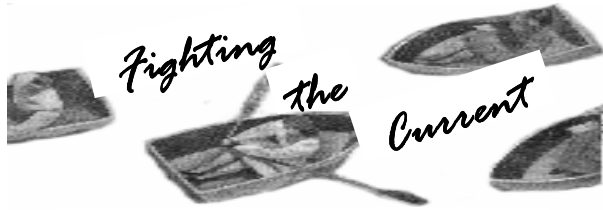
There is perhaps no greater enemy facing the church today than neglect. It is a destructive and disastrous way of life.

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

Becky Harlow, a former member—to donate a kidney to her sister **Ginger** 11/29; pray both recover from surgery. **Michael Bennett**, a former member—knee reconstruction surgery
Madge Wallace—lung cancer, 5 new polyps on lung; ulcer
Frank Savarese—pneumonia recovery
Wendy Boyd's friend **Alan Arney**—recovery from surgery for sciatic pain
Chris Hayes's mother **Cathy Hayes**—recovery from radiation for brain cancer
Brittany Tope's mother **Gayle Shrull**—return of breast cancer
Judy Sartin's aunt **Vallie Ek**, age 86 in CA—stage 4 uterine cancer; 2d round of chemo; spots on her lung
Gary Boyd's sister **Gail Storatz**—bone cancer
Tracy Corray's best friend **Meghan O'Donnell's** aunt **Kathy Dewey**—lung cancer; daily chemo for 4 more weeks
Letha Fink's brother, **Kenneth Morrison**—general health problems
Joe Mailloux's coworker **Phil Kelly**—in-laws have cancer, son heart murmur
Alexander Gintchin's classmate, **Jack Miller**—2 cancerous brain tumors; age 6; had brain tumor at age 3
Mina Gonzalez's uncle **Charles Hawkins**—colon cancer

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Carter Hayes; Rocco Sangellino Jr; Addison Tope—asthma
Pearl Chapman—leg pains; pancreatitis
Autumn Hadders—epilepsy
Jonathan Hadders—RA
Giles Free—seizures
Nell Free—heart; spinal pain
Kirk Johnson—MS
Menards—age; **Lloyd**, diabetes;
Virginia, eye problems
Cheryl Reames—diverticulosis
Dave Sartin—macular degeneration
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung



Exposing current thoughts & trends

What Can UPS Bully for You? by Tony Perkins

The Boy Scouts (BSA) are experts at survival, which certainly comes in handy when the Left is trying to shut them down. Despite relentless pressure to make its message more politically correct, the Boy Scouts have kept their commitment to keep the organization "morally straight." But not everyone in America respects that decision. Instead, their stance on homosexuality has often made the Scouts the target of harassment, ridicule, and now financial bullying.

After the July announcement that BSA would uphold its ban on homosexual scout leaders, corporate supporters have come out swinging. Computer giant Intel was the first to pull its support. Now, Georgia-based UPS is following suit. After years of generosity, UPS (whose policies are 100% aligned with the homosexual movement) said it was pulling the BSA's funding because its non-discrimination policy doesn't match UPS's. In a statement, UPS executives announced that they would "cease all future funding to the Boy Scouts until gay Scout leaders are welcome within the organization."

Unfortunately, it's not that simple. What UPS and other corporations refuse to acknowledge is that the Scouts' policy isn't a matter of intolerance—but security. After hundreds of cases of child sex abuse plagued the organization, the BSA tried to create a membership criteria in the best interest of kids' safety and parents' rights. Over the years, the Boy Scouts have paid millions—possibly hundreds of millions—to boys victimized by same-sex predators. And the financial toll was nothing compared to the emotional trauma of these children, whose lives are forever scarred by those encounters. For more than 100 years, the Scouts have focused on instilling character and leadership into America's boys. They aren't about to compromise that mission just to placate liberal companies and activists.

As usual, the Scouts responded to UPS's announcement with the grace and class that is so rarely extended to them. "We are disappointed to learn about this decision, but respect everyone's right to have and express a different opinion," said BSA spokesman Deron Smith. "Unfortunately, this decision will have a direct impact on the youth we serve in local communities." As a private company, UPS has every right to determine who it supports. By the same token, so do we. Will we stand for God and against homosexuality, Rm 1:18-32; Lev 18:22-23; 20:13; 1 Cor 6:9; 1 Tim 1:10?

Westside Church of Christ

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Golden, Colorado 80401 (303) 233-5683

Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 462-4987
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

Website

<http://www.thechurchingolden.org>
for online bulletin, log in as member,
then click **Westside Bulletins** on right
[http://www.thechurchingolden.org/members/
member-articles/](http://www.thechurchingolden.org/members/member-articles/)

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible Classes	9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:00 a.m.
Afternoon Worship	1:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes	7:30 p.m.
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Salida, CO, Evangelism: Rod Green
preaching

Giving My Best SERIES

this **AFTERNOON** at 1:30 PM:

**"Giving My Best in Using My Time
and Money,"** by Joel Walker