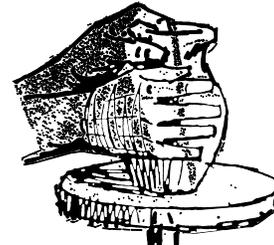


# His Workmanship at Westside

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



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Isaiah 64:8

## Beatitudes and Maturity: Peacemakers, Persecuted *from various articles*

Jesus taught His disciples to develop maturity in the sermon on the mount, “*You, therefore, must be perfect [complete], as your heavenly Father is perfect,*” Mt 5:48, and especially in the Beatitudes, Mt 5:3-11. But how many Christians really have a mind for these attitudes? As Christians, we need to develop a mind for the Beatitudes. But most of these Beatitude traits are the opposite of what is valued by everyone else around us. In fact, some of them sound weak. In the last two weeks we showed the difficulty of having a mind for the Beatitudes by turning them into a question. Today we will consider the last two Beatitudes. *Blessed are the peacemakers?* Ever try to bring peace into a situation? Ever try to mediate peace in a family dispute? We can go from being the bearer of peace to the target of everyone’s wrath in no time at all! What kind of blessing is that?

In a world full of anger and wrath, there is no wonder that you will be called a child of God when you work to create peace. With spiritual growth comes the realization that God has a special place in His heart for each person in His world. As His

child, it is your responsibility to show others how to walk in love with other people, to model to them how to build others up and not tear them down. A peacemaker does not participate in gossip, prejudice, or other things that work to divide God’s people. Peacemakers make it their goal to unite their Father’s children and bring them together.

If someone is outside of the will of God, you are permitted to show righteous indignation. Jesus did this when He made a whip out of rope and angrily flipped over all the money changers’ tables and poured out their money, Jn 2:13-17.

Working for peace is almost always difficult, and sometimes you find yourself the target of other people’s wrath—but the goal of peace is well worth the effort.

*Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of holiness?*

*Blessed are those who are insulted and persecuted and slandered for the cause of Christ?* That sounds like masochism to me—and since

when is masochism a virtue? **Will You Stand for Christ?** In today’s society, being a Christian is not very popular. Because of that, far

too many Christians choose to stay silent about what they truly believe instead of standing up for Christ and His righteousness. Some Christians are afraid that their radical beliefs will offend someone or even make them a target of ridicule. So they sit quietly and try to be politically correct. Many have even bought into the idea that, by being silent, Christians are somehow bringing glory to God by being meek or humble. But, as we see Jesus’s response to the money changers, being a meek Christian is not the same as being a weak Christian. As you experience spiritual growth, you will learn to be **bold** for Jesus!

### **How Do Mature Christians Respond to Unrighteousness?**

When someone phones a mature Christian to gossip, she doesn’t sit quietly and listen, assuming that it’s OK as long as she doesn’t join in. She stands up for righteousness and politely tells the caller she wants no part in that kind of conversation. When a co-worker jokes to a mature Christian about wanting to cheat on his wife with the secretary, he doesn’t just lightly chuckle and sit there

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## "...May you stand perfect and complete in all the will of God." —Colossians 4:12

like a little mouse. He stands up for righteousness and tells him that sort of joke makes him sad that many married couples don't seem to enjoy marriage as God intended them to. When it's time to vote for the best candidate, the mature Christian doesn't blindly pick a political party because that's what's popular with his friends. He stands up for Christ and votes as closely to the Word of God as his options allow. One of the true tests of spiritual growth is how we handle opposing spiritual viewpoints. Are we too afraid of persecution to speak up and be heard? Do we lack love in our hearts? Are we rude and hurtful? Or do we speak the truth in love, Eph 4:15, and allow God to use us to bring others to righteousness?

As far as persecution and insults are concerned, everyone experiences

them at some point in life. So the crucial question is not Will I suffer persecution?—because soon or later we all will. The key issue is For what will I be persecuted?—Will it be for doing evil, or will it be for following Jesus Christ? There's no peace in suffering for wrongdoing, but there is peace—and joy—in suffering for Christ, as Jesus indicated in the final beatitude. *"If it should be God's will that you suffer, it is better to do so for good deeds than for evil ones,"* 1 Pet 3:17; see also 2:20. Christ's joy and peace begin in this life; they reach their fulfillment in heaven. Peter put it beautifully in 1 Pet 4:12-19. *"... rejoice that you partake of Christ's sufferings, so that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are*

*you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you... on your part He is glorified... Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator,"* cf. 1 Pet 2:23; Phil 3:8-10.

Whether you fit the entire description of a mature Christian today or not, the fact that you are reading this means that you have a desire in your heart to grow and become complete in Christ. Pray and tell God that you are committed to your spiritual growth. Ask Him to develop these characteristics within you. Confess your faults to Him daily, and ask for His Holy Spirit to continue to work in you and mold you into His own work, a mature, godly Christian, so you may be complete, wholly dedicated to Him. Your God is faithful. He will do it!

## The World Is Upside-Down *by David Limbaugh (continued from p. 4)*

bigger issue." Boykin served more than 36 years in the Army, and since his retirement he's seen withering attacks on religious liberty. Among the incidents: ● a war games scenario at Ft. Leavenworth that identified evangelical groups as potential threats; ● A 2009 Dept. of Homeland Security memo identifying future threats as coming from pro-life groups and evangelicals; ● A West Point study released by the USMA's Combating Terrorism Center that linked pro-lifers to terrorism; ● banning prayers that mention Jesus at funeral services for veterans at Houston's National Cemetery; ● rescinding an invitation to Franklin Graham to speak at the Pentagon's National Day of Prayer service because of his comments about Islam; ● banning Bibles at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (a decision later countermanded); ● removal of crosses from a chapel in Afghanistan

because the military said the icon disrespected other religions; ● an order to Catholic chaplains not to read a letter to parishioners from their archbishop related to ObamaCare mandates. The Secretary of the Army feared the letter could be viewed as a call for civil disobedience.

But Boykin called last week's email the most egregious attack. "That kind of rhetoric is isolating the institution of the military from a large sector of the American population," he said. "This is an attack not only on the Christian [sic] faith, but on fundamental, traditional American values."

We see this kind of wrongheaded thinking with ever greater frequency in our culture. The idea that evangelical Christians and Catholicism can be listed as extremist organizations by anyone is troubling enough—but even more so in a publication paid for by taxpayer dollars

This episode may be isolated to the

Army spokesman, but the thought giving rise to this twisted perspective is anything but unique.

**2. Planned Parenthood Lobbyist Says Killing Infant Who Survives Abortion Is Decision of Mother.** In the Florida Statehouse, where legislators were considering a bill to require abortionists to provide medical care to an infant who survives an abortion—the same type of bill President Obama opposed as an Illinois state senator—Alisa LaPolt Snow, the lobbyist representing the Florida Association of Planned Parenthood Affiliates, testified that her organization believes the decision to kill an infant who survives a failed abortion is the prerogative of the mother and her abortion doctor. It must not escape your attention that Snow repeatedly affirmed that she was speaking not on her own behalf but on behalf of her organization. If this does-

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Psalm 133:1



**Fill your can-teen in 2013**

“May you be filled with all the fullness of God.”  
—Ephesians 3:19

**World Is Upside-Down** *from p. 2*

n't repulse you, you might need a stimulant to jump-start your moral blood pressure. If you think this is isolated thinking, then you might need to do a little more research into PP and the overall culture of death we are witnessing in this nation.

When Snow was pressed on her position, she reportedly betrayed no moral reservations. Rep. Jim Boyd asked her, "If a baby is born on a table as a result of a botched abortion, what would Planned Parenthood want to have happen to that child that's struggling for life?" She replied, "We believe that any decision that's made should be left up to the woman, her family, and the physician."

Stop right there. Pro-abortionists will still argue, disingenuously, I believe, that abortion does not involve the killing of a live human being, but no one can argue this is anything short of premeditated murder. Let me repeat: premeditated murder. Yet we have a woman, representing a major organization that is cherished by the political left and receives government funding [one for which President Obama risked shutting down the government if it lost its federal funding], arguing for the right to commit murder. There are no words for *shocking* and *depraved* that can adequately describe this evil.

## Discipleship Here At Home

**3. Professor Says Children Don't Belong to Families, but to State.** A professor at Tulane, Melissa Harris-Perry, has endorsed the concept of human ownership by the state. [This is the Perry who referred to a fetus as "that thing."] In a promo for her MSNBC show, she said, "We've always had a private notion of children, your kid is yours and totally your responsibility. We haven't had a very collective notion of these are our children." Collectivism, of course, is a tenet of socialism. Newbusters' Ken Shepherd wrote: "the notion of collective responsibility for children was a philosophy that undergirded the Cultural Revolution in Communist China under Chairman Mao." Defending her statements, Harris-Perry further stated, ""This isn't about me wanting to take your kids. This is about whether we as a society, expressing our collective will through our public institutions, including our government, have a right to impinge on individual freedoms in order to advance a common good." Do you think Professor Harris-Perry champions vouchers for school choice, so that you, the parent, can make decisions about your child's education? Of course not—nothing collective about your desires for your child's future. Think about it: those tiny ones who had their throats slit by abortionist Kermit Gosnell are the direct result of the Lean Forward campaign and Harris-Perry "expressing" their "*collective will through our public institutions,*" and you and I pay for it.

These incidents used to be rare, fringe occurrences, but have now elbowed their way into mainstream culture. I am saying the forces of evil have the upper hand and will ultimately prevail if the current attitude of apathy and moral indifference continues to imprison our will to fight for what is right. It's up to us.

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

**Matt Reames**—will be in ICU Mon-Fri to test his brain fluid pressure; a monitor will be placed after drilling into his skull

**Madge Wallace**—lung cancer; suffering pain and nausea

**Rod Green**—thyroid trouble

**Menards**—aging; **Lloyd**, staph infection on toes from diabetes; **Virginia**, now legally blind from rapid macular degeneration; high BP

**Mark Campbell**—full recovery expected from "brain bruise"

**Judy Strand's** son **Joe Huff**—recurrence of neurological symptoms, black-outs, from brain injury he suffered in a 2007 car accident

**Alexander Gintchin's** classmate, **Jack Miller**—2 brain tumors; age 6

**CHRONIC CONDITIONS**

**Logan Corray; Rocco Sangellino Jr;**

**Addison Tope; Pat Wilkes**—asthma

**Pearl Chapman**—leg pains; pancreatitis

**Nell Free**—heart; spinal pain

**Autumn Hadders**—epilepsy

**Jonathan Hadders**—RA

**Kirk Johnson**—worsening MS; needs help around his house

**Sandra Perry**—neuropathy from diabetes

**Cheryl Reames**—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia

**Lynda Szymanski**—COPD, lung

**Job concerns** **Andrew Tope** and

**Frank Savarese** are seeking jobs. **The**

**Menards'** son is out of work. **Cheryl**

**Reames** begins a new job next week.

**Expecting** **Marie Carlson**—July 1 girl;

**Amy Vander Kooi**—August, boy.

**Traveling** **Pat Campbell** is in AR

caring for her parents: **Ruth Hice**

fell and broke her arm; **Delmar Hice**

has recovered from pneumonia.

Cards to: 28345 Highway 69 W,

London, AR 72847. **Larry** will join

them Wed-next Sun (cancel last wk)



## Exposing current thoughts & trends

### **The World Is Upside-Down** by David Limbaugh

What right-minded person can deny the current applicability of the admonition by Isaiah, uttered some 2,700 years ago, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness," 5:20? Increasingly today, what is undeniably evil is depicted as good, and what most traditionalists, at least, used to agree is good passes for evil. What's striking to me is that many aren't merely rationalizing evil in an attempt to excuse their indefensible actions. Instead, they have systematically turned our entire moral code upside down. They have attacked the very basis for that code and declared that belief in its Divine author itself is evil—dangerous.

Many deny that there is an affirmative war against Judeo-Christian values; they apparently haven't heard or read the words of some of the New Atheists—or anti-theists—who conflate all religions and blame them all for most of the evil and war in the world. Others scoff at the notion that [Biblical] values are being assaulted, arguing that it's absurd to believe a majority belief system could be under attack.

Let me share just three disturbing stories that caught my attention the past few days.

#### **1. Army Calls Evangelicals, Catholics "Religious Extremists."**

During an Army Reserve Equal Opportunity training briefing on extremism this April in PA, evangelical Christians, Catholics, and Islamophobia were listed along with al-Qaida, Hamas, the Ku Klux Klan and others as examples of religious extremism. An Army spokesman confirmed that this occurred but told Fox News that this was an "isolated incident not condoned by the Dept. of the Army." This is no isolated incident. At least nine other incidents have been documented over the past year. Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Jerry Boykin, now with Family Research Council, told Fox News that all Americans should be concerned about a recent email sent by an Army Lt. Col. to three dozen subordinates at Fort Campbell, KY, which listed several family organizations as "domestic hate groups" because they oppose homosexuality and warned officers to monitor soldiers who might support these groups. "If this is the action of a single Army lieutenant colonel, it needs to be investigated," he said. "On the other hand, if what he reflects is a shifting policy or attitude of the Army or DOD, then I think it is a much

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## Westside church of Christ

meets at  
13789 W. 8th Avenue  
Golden, Colorado 80401  
(303) 233-5683

### **Pastors**

Larry Campbell (303) 462-4987

DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

### **Preacher**

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

## 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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This morning: *"Peace—What Does God Teach Us,"* by Jim Reingrover

This afternoon:

### **A Walk in Their Sandals Series**

*"Caleb,"* by Joel Walker

**Salida evangelism:** Kory Tope is preaching today.

**Memory verse:** *"Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God."*

—Psalm 98:1-3