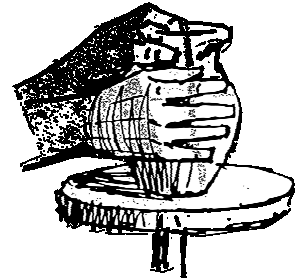


His Workmanship Westside

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



Vol. XXIII

May 25, 2014

No. 21

Isaiah 64:8

Memorial Day—Hopeful Memory Inspires the Present, by Craig M. Watts

"Remember the days of old. Consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will show you; your elders, and they will tell you," Deuteronomy 32:7.

In the later years of his life, the 19th century American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson suffered from an increasingly faulty memory. When things would slip his mind, he complained of his "naughty memory." Sometimes he would forget the names of objects. In order to speak of them, he would refer to them in a round-about way. For instance, when he could not think of the word "plow," he would call it "the implement that cultivates the soil." He could not remember the names of people who were quite familiar to him. At the funeral of his friend, the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Emerson commented to another person, "That gentleman has a sweet, beautiful soul, but I have entirely forgotten his name."

The loss of memory is sad. It cuts us off from days gone by. It strips away the treasured residue of past experience. It erases our personal history and leaves us unaccountably blank pages. We older people often stop and, after a moment's silence, remark, "I've forgotten what I was going to

say." When this happens frequently, we may confess, "It's so humiliating to have your memory go bad." Certainly it is inconvenient and at times embarrassing not to remember. Without a doubt, for some people the failure of memory is largely unavoidable.

But that is not always the case. Sometimes we are forgetful because we neglect events which have gone before us and become inattentive to those who have preceded us. We center all of our attention only on our own time and place. We act as though the present is all that matters and the past is some shabby thing that can be safely cast off and left behind like a worn-out pair of shoes. "Thus says the LORD: 'Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls.' But they said, 'We will not walk in it,'" Jer 6:16.

Reflection Promotes Past Values.

Here we are with Memorial Day upon us. We are called upon to remember and respect those who have died, those whose days are gone, especially our military. It is no surprise to us that many people do not reflect upon the past during this holiday any more than they do on any other day. In our age

of ever-accelerating change, we don't tend to look to the past to find our wisdom. We view what "has been" as largely irrelevant to what is now. The ancients are not our models. We place little value in traditions and inherited customs. So when Memorial Day rolls around, our thoughts do not automatically turn to the past and to the departed. Most people appreciate Memorial Day largely because it is an extra day off work for barbecuing and opening the pools. But although Memorial Day is not expressly religious, it can serve to promote a value that is elevated throughout the Scriptures, the value of remembrance. You see, a failure of memory is not just something which leads to personal inconvenience or social embarrassment. Forgetting is a spiritual danger. Forgetting those things which are most significant results in a failure of faith. Forgetfulness erodes the foundation of our relationship with God.

Throughout the scriptures we find references to monuments, memorial feasts, and ritually repeated stories, all serving to reinforce the holy memory of the people of God. In various ways the great acts of God were rehearsed

continued on p. 2

**“Sing praise to the LORD, You saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.”
—Psalm 30:4**

and retold so the people would not forget what God had done for them.

Joshua tells the story of the Israelites' long-awaited entry into the promised land. After forty years of wilderness wandering, the people finally reached their destination. The swollen Jordan River blocked their way into the land, but they did not stop. When the priests who were carrying the ark of the covenant began to place their feet in the river, the water ceased flowing, and the people crossed over on dry land, just as their forebears had crossed the Red Sea when they escaped Egypt. When they all finished passing over the Jordan, Joshua, their leader, had a simple monument built to commemorate the wondrous event. *"Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone from the river on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever,"* Josh 4:5-7. This served to remind the people that their progress—indeed, their very existence—was in the hands of the living God. A similar purpose was served by the Passover feast which Moses instituted; it was to remind the people that it was God and not they themselves who brought about their liberation from slavery in Egypt.

With pounding insistence the call to remember is repeated throughout scripture: Remember that God called your father Abraham in his old age

and promised him many children, Josh 24:2-3; Is 51:2. Remember that you were in bondage in a foreign land and were freed by divine power, Ex 13:3; Deut 5:15; 6:12; 8:14; 16:3, 12; 24:18, 22. Remember that God brought Israel to greatness, though she was weak, Deut 7:18; 8:2, 18; Josh 1:13; Job 36:24; Ps 78:42ff. Remember the commands of the Lord, Num 15:40; Deut 4:9, 23; 8:11, 19; Ps 103:18; 119:16, 52, 61, 83, 93, 109,

Hopeful memory does not drag us into the past and lock us there. Hopeful memory does not tell us that the best of life has already come and gone. Rather it thrusts us into the future.

141, 153, 176; Pr 3:1; 31:5; Hos 4:6; Mal 4:4. Remember the works of God, Ps 77:10-11; 78:7, 11, 35; 103:2ff; 106:13, 21; 111:4; 143:5; Is 46:8-11; 51:13.

"Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth, O seed of Abraham His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones!" Ps 105:5-6 (1 Chr 16:12).

Remembrance Keeps Us Grateful.

Those who forgot the past fell into thanklessness. It is unlikely that we will do any better. If we forget the value of our heritage and the source of our blessings, it will become very easy for us to take for granted all that we have and all that we are. It will be very easy for us to begin believing that we can make our own way without God, cf. Deut 8:10-20. With the blindness of pride we will very likely begin trusting in our own wisdom and power rather than relying upon the guidance and might of our Maker. Then in our wrong-headed self-confidence we will lose our way. For this reason it is crucial that we remember.

Every culture and country has its

memorials. The best memorials lift our sights above the mundane affairs of the moment in order to focus our attention upon the highest aspirations and accomplishments of those who have preceded us. When we visit the Lincoln Memorial or Washington Monument, it is natural to begin meditating upon the impressive deeds and high values of these patriots. These visits can help stimulate us to embrace more noble and exalted goals.

Rut of "Good Old Days" Mires Us in the Past.

Sometimes dwelling on the past is a means of escaping the problems of the present and the disturbing prospects of the future. Sometimes we are tempted to glorify days gone by. We all know people who seem to continually talk about how great things used to be. Life was simpler, friendships closer, motives purer, morals higher in the "good old days." The problem with looking back to the good old days is that we distort the past and come to believe that the best days have already gone by. Everything else that follows is anticlimactic. Consequently, some people who are disappointed with the present and distressed over the future tend to live in the past. Their memories are highly important to them, but they do not have hopeful memories. Hopeful memory does not drag us into the past and lock us there. Hopeful memory does not tell us that the best of life has already come and gone. Rather, it enriches the present and thrusts us into the future. When the prophets of old called upon God's people and told them to remember the works that the Lord had done in the past, this was to prepare them for the future. They were not called upon to remember the

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

Hopeful Memory, from p. 2
past for its own sake. The practice was not a self-indulgent diversion. Rather they were to remember the wonders of the past so that their lives would be open to the even greater wonders God would do for them in the future.
Resurrection Gives Us a Hope. The Lord's Supper is a hopeful memorial. It does not falsely glorify the past. When we partake of the bread and cup we remember the broken body and blood of the Lord. Images of deceit, betrayal, cruelty, and failure impose themselves upon us. The memorial feast confronts us with the disquieting fact that we humans are all too capable of striking out against true holiness and supreme goodness and treating it despitely if it does not work to our advantage. It is painful to remember our sins, but we must examine ourselves. But the Lord's Supper does more. It reminds us of the sacrificial love of God. It speaks to us of a love that will not let us go, grace which reaches out to us, in spite of our evil. It inspires our present. We eat and drink anew with our Lord in the kingdom of God, Mk 14:25. In the Lord's Supper we see even more. We also see the promise of Jesus that He will come again and that our bodies will be raised to meet Him. The Lord's Supper points us not only to the past and the present, but toward the promised future as well. The past, present, and future are made into vital contemporary reality for us by the presence of Christ. The meal is a memorial that stamps a hopeful memory in our minds

Discipleship Here At Home

and moves us to godly action in the present. With Memorial Day upon us, it is proper to think of the past and of those who have gone from this world. But for Christians, this is not exclusively looking behind and dwelling upon what has past. For we believe that wondrous glories are yet to come for people of faith who have already died. We live in light of the resurrection, and we believe that death will not be the end.

Welcome Erik and Samantha Borlaug today. Erik is preaching for us, and the church will gather to spend time with them tomorrow, 5/26, 5:30 pm, at the Reingrovers' house.

In 1969, Clarence Jordan died of a heart attack. Jordan was a black preacher in rural Georgia. His work had faced vicious opposition from many racists in his area during the 50s and 60s. In fact, when Jordan died, the local coroners and undertakers were of little help. He was buried in a plain cedar box on a hillside on his farm. Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat for Humanity, spoke at the funeral. Just after the casket was lowered into the ground and the grave was filled, something unexpected happened. Fuller's two-year-old daughter stepped up to the grave and began to sing the only song she knew. “Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday, dear Clarence, happy birthday to you.” Happy birthday at a funeral? How strange, and yet how truly appropriate. For when a Christian dies, it is a birthday of sorts, because death is not an ending but a new beginning. So when we think of our dead, may we do so with a hopeful memory, for an amazing future still awaits them—and the rest of us, as well.

Travel Brett and Kaysha Witherington travel Wed-next Mon to Nashville and on to Brett's cousin's wedding in KY.

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

Larry Campbell—fall from treadmill Thurs, unconscious to ICU, elevated white cell count; now therapy, room 504, St. Anthony's, with severe head pain, nausea, dizziness; call before visiting
Ed Fink—prostate cancer; current treatment for brain tumors; **PRAISE:** improved blood count
Nell Free—anemic and dehydrated; some valve leakage in her heart her doc is tracking
Giles Free—seizure last month; confined at home
Forrest Corray, Jordan's brother—addiction
Paul Hendrickson, a coworker of **Joel Walker** and **Gregg Geis**—quintuple bypass
Gregg Geis's friend **Becky** in CA—terminal cancer; searching for the truth
Randy Reames's mother, **Una**, in her 80s—cancerous colon tumor removed recently
Sandra Perry's cousin, **George Rupinen**, age 60—terminal cancer

Josh McDonald, friend of **Kory Tope**, and his daughter **Casey**—unwanted divorce
Mark Campbell—in own apt

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Rocco Sangellino Jr; Addison Tope; Christian Harrod; Pat Wilkes—asthma
Bill Dennis—heart issues
Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease
Jonathan Hadders—RA
Danielle Huelsman—vertigo, CV syndrome
Kirk Johnson—worsening MS; needs quick meals to heat up, like soup
Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak;
Virginia, macular degeneration; high BP
Sandra Perry—neuropathy from diabetes
Cheryl Reames—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia
Nell Free—pacemaker, heart; back pain
Judy Sartin—spinal stenosis; arthritis
Judy and Mike Strand—both beginning treatment for hepatitis
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung weakness

Job concerns Linda Szymanski

Directory addition: **Westin Cox** (dob 3/30) has chosen to be a part of Westside:
9352 Balsam Ct, Highlands Ranch 80126
720-413-1843 west7cox@gmail.com
Please welcome him and his sons **Forest**, 3/30/05, and **River**, 6/25/08

Rejoice! Congratulations to **Ethan Howell**, who graduated from Ralston Valley High School Friday night!



Exposing current thoughts & trends

Internet Gambling Puts Governors at Odds, by Tony Perkins

Legalizing online gambling is an all or nothing proposition. Even the American Gaming Association (AGA) knows this. Wednesday, the industry group representing the nation's casinos decided to withdraw its support of online gambling, citing differences between casino operators. They know from a strictly business perspective that online gambling would change the face of their industry; so it makes sense to be united moving forward. Too bad another, more powerful association thinks differently. The National Governors Association (NGA), the "collective voice of the nation's governors," issued a letter earlier this week to Congressional leaders raising concerns that a nationwide ban on internet gambling would, as authors Gov. Robert Bentley (R-AL) and Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin (D-WV) see it, interfere with states' abilities to regulate the issue themselves.

Internet gambling had been illegal until 2011, when the Department of Justice unilaterally reversed a decades-old law known as the Wire Act. Bipartisan legislation right now restoring this ban has been offered by Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) and Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC). Allowing gambling on every smart device and tablet would radically change how Americans gamble and the price the nation pays for it. Governors Bentley, Tomblin, and the NGA do not speak for all the governors. Governors Nikki Haley (R-SC), Rick Scott (R-FL), Mike Pence (IN), and Rick Perry (TX) have come out in support of restoring the nationwide ban on online gaming.

Tenth Amendment-style arguments for protecting state rights may sound conservative, but in situations like this they serve no one. Writing on National Review Online Wednesday, Gov. Perry—no state's rights slouch—laid out his argument in support of a national ban. "I believe in the U.S. Constitution and in the rights of states as spelled out by the Tenth Amendment. But by its nature, the Internet is a global network transcending state boundaries. Fifty states with 50 different laws regulating the Internet would put up digital roadblocks at every state border, putting a huge burden on commerce."

The choice for families is obvious. Internet gambling should be banned because the societal costs are just too high. The increase in crime, financial hardship, lost work, and the break-up of families have led Baylor's Earl L. Grinols to estimate the costs of gambling to outweigh its benefits 3 to 1. Unleashing unfettered, 24/7 access to gambling upon vulnerable Americans would be a further disaster to our weakening moral values, financial strength, and families. See Pr 13:11; 28:22; Jonah 1:7; 1 Tim 6:9-10; Heb 13:5.



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

Today:

- **morning adult Bible class**, "Taking Responsibility for Your Faith," Erik Borlaug

- **morning sermon**, "Children of Abraham," Erik Borlaug

- **afternoon sermon**, "Is Your City Besieged?" Erik Borlaug

Wednesday adult class for May-June:

Jeremiah and Lamentations: Warnings

This week: Jeremiah 34-39