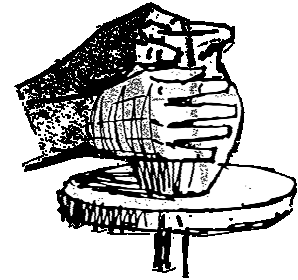


His Workmanship: Westside

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

—Ephesians 2:10



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Isaiah 64:8

Legacy of Jesus, John 13-16: Part 2 & 3, Hope & Power, by John MacArthur

Last week we began a series about the inheritance that Jesus gave His disciples at the Last Supper. In John 13-16, He told His disciples that He was leaving them, but that He was giving them a legacy, the things of value that He wanted those disciples, and all of us, to have. The first of these treasured possessions was the assurance, the proof, of His love.

The **second** of this legacy of Jesus Christ is in Jn 14:1-3, **the hope of heaven**. The disciples were saying, "Lord, You're going to go somewhere, and we don't even know where You're going, and we don't know how You get there, and You're not leaving us any tickets. We're in a lot of trouble." So He said, "Stop letting your heart be troubled," Jn 14:1. Calm down, guys; don't be so sad. "You believe in God—you trust God, don't you?—then trust Me." He put Himself on an equal plane with God. If you trust God, you trust Jesus. If God's Word is secure, so is His. That's equality of deity. Then He pictured His Father's house. "In My Father's house are many rooms," 14:2.

That's exciting. In those days in Israel, the father of a family had a simple house, with a patio in front of it. When his son married, he would add another apartment onto the father's house, and

they would continue to build it until they built it into a square. The whole family lived around the central area. They would all come out of their private section and eat together. That was patriarchal family life. All the sons brought their wives to live in the father's house. Often, a daughter might marry a proselyte from a foreign land, and he, too, would add his room to the father's large house. They would decide how to build, join the whole house together, and everyone would be in the father's house. Generation after generation had the same land and the same house in Israel. That's how heaven is. We're all in the Father's house. Jesus is there getting our rooms ready.

"If it were not so, I would have told you," Jn 14:2. Do you know that He doesn't keep any secrets? He was not trying to deceive the apostles. He was going away, but there would be something for them in heaven. "I go to prepare a place for you," 14:2. That is so good! One thing the Lord is doing right now is preparing a place for us. Sometimes a person says he doesn't feel secure, feels he might not go to heaven. But does he suppose the Lord is there building places that'll never be occupied? If He is preparing it, it is

going to be occupied! "I go to prepare a place for you." How do you know? "And if I go and prepare a place," if that's true, "I will come again and receive you unto Myself," 14:3. He doesn't make places for people who aren't going to be there; there aren't any vacant areas of heaven. In His great sovereignty, in His great grace, He knows who His children are, and He's preparing a place for them.

You can think about heaven in different ways. In the Bible, heaven is called a country because of its vastness. It's called a city because of the greatness of its population. It's called a kingdom because of the rule and authority of Christ—its structure and order. It's called a paradise because of its beauty. But don't you think the best name for Heaven is "My Father's house"? The thought of being with my Father, Who loves me and cares for me, of living in my Father's house is exciting. The New Jerusalem described in Revelation 21 is 1500 miles cubed. That is 2,250,000 square miles—2 and a quarter million miles. Do you know how big London is? 140 square miles. More than 2 million square miles is plenty of room for us, me and you, and the rest who are

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“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love,” John 15:9

going to be there; the Lord knows that. Plus you have the whole universe to roam around. It's many rooms, a big, big house.

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also,” 14:3. The best part of heaven will be to be with Christ. When I was a kid, I used to think that if I were in heaven, maybe I could get an appointment to spend some time with Jesus. He would be busy, with all those Christians wanting to check in and talk with Him. But Jesus was saying, *“I'm going to bring you to Myself.”* There'll never be a moment in heaven and throughout all eternity that I will not be in the presence of Jesus Christ. That's heaven. So He said, “I am giving you the proof of love and the hope of heaven.”

The **third** part of His legacy is the **guarantee of power**. Understand how the disciples felt, because Christ had been the resource for everything they had and they felt next to invincible when they were around Him. Peter could do anything when he was near Christ. He walked on water and said wonderful things, and he had so much courage, even in the garden, that he took a sword and tried to fight the whole Roman army by himself. He seemed to be nudging Christ, saying, “If I get in trouble, zap them.” Peter and the rest had an invincible feeling when Christ was around. But now that He was leaving, they were beginning to feel all their power draining away. But He gives them the guarantee of power. *“Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves,”* Jn 14:11. Believe that I AM the same as God. Believe My words that I claim. Believe that I claim to be God. Believe it. Or *“believe Me for the very works' sake.”* If you won't believe the words, then let the works prove the words. You've seen what I've done.

And they would say, “Oh, we have.” He was talking to Philip. *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father,”* 14:12. The word works in v. 12 is added by the translators the second time, but it may be better to read it, *“The works that I do shall he do also and greater than these.”* Not greater works, but greater in a different sense. What does it mean? There's a lot of confusion about this statement. But Jesus is saying, *“If you believe on Me”—and that covers Christians—“the works that I do, you will do.”* Keep in mind, this is primarily to the apostles. Did the apostles raise the dead? Yes. Did they heal the sick? Yes. Did they give hearing to the deaf? Yes. Sight to the blind? Voices to the dumb? Yes. They did it. That primary reference is to them.

But in a spiritual dimension, Jesus Christ came with regenerating power. He regenerates men's lives, and that's the heart of what He was saying. Did the disciples do that? Did they carry the gospel of regeneration and see transformed lives? Absolutely. And do we? Yes. What does it mean by *greater*? Some people say, “Well, we're actually doing more stupendous miracles than Jesus did.” Baloney. Some say, “Well, we have a greater kind of power than He did.” That's ridiculous. He is God. There isn't any greater power. So it can't mean we're going to have greater power. “Well, no, we're going to do greater works.” What's greater than raising the dead? What's greater than raising Himself from the dead? What's greater than ascending into Heaven, leaving and going right up to sit by the Father? What's greater than walking through a wall? What's greater than healing the masses of humanity? What's greater than creating fish and bread, so people could eat? What's greater than walking on

water? There isn't anything greater in kind than that. There isn't any greater power than divine power. You say, “Well, then what does *greater* mean?” It means simply greater in its extent—greater in time and space. Jesus was limited to His time on earth and the place in Palestine where He walked. But His church has extended to all the time since the first century and all the continents of the world.

We can't do anything greater than Jesus did. That would be ridiculous in terms of kinds of miracles. But a broader extension of the work of transformed lives than Jesus saw actually in His own life exists today and has existed since the church began. Some contemporary gospel preachers who preach on the radio or television, former blasphemers, sinners saved by grace, have preached to more people than Jesus did in His whole lifetime. There are many people living in the world today who have brought more people to a knowledge of God in their lifetime than Jesus did in His ministry of three years. Now, understand—of course, Jesus is the One Who brings everybody to God. But in the actual time of His ministry, He faced mostly rejection. There have been evangelists, missionaries, and Christians throughout history who have extended the gospel far beyond where Jesus ever did. He never went outside of Palestine. It's 200 miles long and about 50 or 60 miles wide. There weren't any radio, television, or newspapers. The apostle Paul extended the gospel further than Jesus did. The number of miracles was extended beyond what Jesus did. When the early church was energized with the Spirit of God and the apostles went out doing miracles and churches were established everywhere, immediately these greater things began to be done. Not greater in kind, not greater in power, but

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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

Legacy of Jesus, from p. 2 only greater in extension. Today, you and I are really following in that same line. We are seeing things greater than Jesus saw in His own lifetime, as the gospel penetrates the world. Literally every day, people all over this globe are coming to a knowledge of Jesus Christ, and lives are being transformed. Spiritual wonders are going on continually in the lives of people.

So Jesus said to the disciples, "You needn't feel bad that I'm leaving. You can get excited about it, because when I leave, you're going to see greater extension of the ministry than you ever saw with Me here." When the Spirit of God came on the Day of Pentecost, they started preaching. They revolutionized the whole city of Jerusalem, something that did not happen during the life of Jesus. After Jerusalem was turned upside down, the city threw them out. They scattered and preached the gospel all over Samaria, Judea, and then to the uttermost part of the earth, and they went everywhere, founding churches and winning people to Christ, and you and I are still in the process. Jesus said, "Don't feel bad that I'm going. You're going to have so much power. You're going to see a greater extension of these things than you've ever seen when I was here." What a promise! Ah, just to be a part of that is glorious. We say, "Where does that power come from?" It comes from the Holy Spirit, Ax 1:8: "you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." Jesus went back to the Father, sent the Spirit, and Paul said, "Now to

Discipleship Here At Home

Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen," Eph 3:20-21. So Jesus left us the **guarantee of power**. Add that to the **hope of heaven and the proof of love**. Next week: The **assurance of supply**, a promise to provide for all our needs.

4th Quarter Sunday Afternoon Schedule

11/16 - Living Like Christ class
 11/23 - Questions answered*
 11/30 - Singing
 12/7 - Living Like Christ class
 12/14 - Living Like Christ class
 12/21 - Questions answered*
 12/28 - Singing

* Please submit any questions you have about scripture, religion, or any other spiritual matters to DeWayne Howell for discussion and answers.

Rejoice The **Cliff Cox** family has decided to work and worship with the Westside church. Contact: 18877 E. Linvale Pl, Aurora 80013 **Cliff**, 615-916-0623; **Orchid**, 615-957-6096 cliffcox@icloud.com **Kindred (KJ)**, 9/13/98; **Levi**, 7/22/02; **Janell (Nellie)**, 5/6/04
Mina Gonzalez's 6th grandchild, **Raiden Kermit Gonzalez**, was born 11/6/14

 "There are only two questions that human beings have ever fought over, all through history: How much do you love me? and Who's in charge?"

—Elizabeth Gilbert

Before you enroll in an Obamacare health insurance plan (online enrollment began yesterday), wait for ten days until after Thanksgiving. A new analysis of plans for pro-life believers from the Charlotte Lozier Institute is coming out then, and we will give you the info. There are over 1036 plans that offer coverage for elective abortions. **Friends don't let friends subsidize abortion.**

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

Judy Strand—in St. Anthony's hospital with bleeding
Jennifer Clayton, former member—severe lyme disease; heart, spine, neuro issues; cards to: c/o Leslie Monroe, 3846 Young Wolf Dr, Simi Valley, CA 93065 jc@imagesbyjc.com
Frank Savarese—to have surgery on salivary gland next week
Chad Meyers of Smoky Hill—acute renal failure
Brittany Tope's mother—breast cancer back; grandmother—on dialysis
Hadderses' nephew **Zeke**—broken femur in KY
Christine Adams—recovering from ankle surgery with 14 pins & plate; homebound till Dec see **Judy Sartin** to co-ordinate meals
Virginia Menard—ankle injury; knee pain
Sylvia Chapman, Brett's grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; chemo
Giles Free—seizure from fall; confined at home
Ed Fink—prostate cancer; current treatment for brain tumors. Undergoing chemo this month
Judy Sartin's son, **Dave Sartin**—colitis and severe depression; needs new job; **Judy's** friend, **Vicky Keys**, to begin radiation after mastectomy
Kenny Boyd's coworker **Kim Phillips**—asks our prayers for her heart condition
 Remember **Sandra Hampton, Paul Alfaro**, and **Elaine Isbell**, who have returned to Christ and need our prayers and help
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
Jonathan Hadders—rheumatoid arthritis
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 trtment
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung weakness

Thanks to the men who put up the sign on the church building: Gary Boyd, Berney Charo, and Jeff Wilkes



Exposing current thoughts & trends

Tony the Tiger Gets His Gay Stripes, by Gary DeMar

Latest studies show that homosexuals make up about 1.5 percent of the population. It's shocking how militant gays control the media, the film industry, the courts, and big-name companies. It's likely not that these companies support same-sex sexuality; it's that by defining deviancy down, they can justify their own sexual appetites. Why does Kellogg's and one of its signature cereal brands Frosted Flakes really need to be pushing same-sex sexuality? Who's running this company, and what's its target audience? Kellogg's put its very visible support behind The Atlanta Gay Pride March and festival. Apparently, Tony the Tiger wants to make sure you and your kids 'wear your stripes with pride.' The company's ad reads: "Wear your stripes with pride. At Kellogg, we're an evolving culture that respects and accepts employees' sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression so that all employees can be authentic and fully engaged."

Does Kellogg's really expect to sell more Frosted Flakes to homosexuals? Where's the marketing upside?

I've never understood the thing about "pride." Who takes pride in a particular sexual practice that has a high incidence of disease? The CDC reports: "Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) have been increasing among gay and bisexual men, with recent increases in syphilis being documented across the country. In 2012, men who have sex with men (MSM) accounted for 75% of primary and secondary syphilis cases in the United States. MSM often are diagnosed with other STDs, including chlamydia and gonorrhea infections."

Is normalizing homosexual "pride" the thing that parents want their children supporting and learning about? Have parents actually seen a 'Gay Pride Parade'? The images are so disgusting that they would make Tony the Tiger to run to tall grass: according to the American Family Association's (AFA) Facebook page, '[Kellogg's] even put an ad in the 'Pride Guide.'

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) blog rates Kellogg's with a perfect score, "due to Kellogg's efforts to support the LGBT community." Kellogg's owns treats from Keebler, Famous Amos, and Rice Krispies. Confusing lions and tigers (with the word "pride") is what we should expect, since the LGBT community promotes gender confusion issues.



Westside

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 |
|---------------|---------|

Sunday morning

- **adult Bible class**, Lesson 45 "*The Vine and the Branches: the Disciple's Dependence on Christ*," Kenny Boyd

- **Sermon**, "What Makes Jesus Unique and Authentic," Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon

- **Lord's Supper**, "Living Like Christ" lesson, Kory Tope

Wednesday night: Studies from Ezekiel.

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