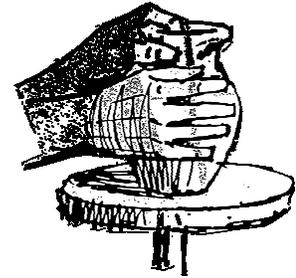


His Workmanship: Westside

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

—Ephesians 2:10



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Isaiah 64:8

The Legacy of Jesus, John 13-16: Part 9-10, Persecution and Joy, by John

In John 13-16 Jesus revealed His legacy to His disciples—and to those of us who know and love Him. This legacy includes our most treasured possessions. We have looked at the first eight of these ten treasured possessions: **1)** the proof of His love, 13:1-12; **2)** the prospect/hope of heaven, 14:1-3; **3)** the guarantee of power, 14:11-12; **4)** the assurance of supply, Jn 14:13-14; 16:24; Phil 4:19; **5)** the gift of the Holy Spirit, 14:16-18; 15:26-27; 16:13-15; **6)** the possession of truth, 14:6,17; 15:26; 16:7,12-13; **7)** the promise of peace, 14:27; 16:27-33; and **8)** the production of fruit.

The **ninth** legacy is the only negative one—to keep His promises realistic. Jesus left us the pain of persecution. One thing we can expect is to be persecuted. We cannot be His people in this world without opposition. *“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you,”* Jn 15:18. Jesus was saying, *“Don’t be shocked. You’re going to go out there with My message, and you’ll be excited to tell it to everyone, but you will realize that they hate you. Don’t be surprised. After all, they hated Me.”* Frankly, there was nothing in Him to hate, and there truly are some things in us that are not lovable. *“If*

you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you,” 19.

What Jesus meant is that the world is Satan’s evil system. The moment you were saved, you were translated out of that system: *“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son,”* Col 1:13. By faith in Christ and obedience to His will, we are out of the world, taken out of the world—in a different spiritual dimension. We have overcome the world, and what is it that overcomes the world? Our faith. *“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”* 1 Jn 5:4-5. We stand aside from the world, apart from the world. We are not the world, so the world doesn’t accept us. *“Remember the word that I said to you: ‘The servant is not greater than his lord.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept My saying, they will keep yours also,”* Jn 15:20. Some in the world will believe; the majority will persecute.

“But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him Who sent Me,” 21. They’re not

really after the disciples. It’s not that they dislike us. It’s that they hate Jesus and resent Him, because they do not know the Father. *“If I had not come and spoken unto them, they would have no sin. But now they have no cloak [excuse] for their sin,”* 22. The thing they reject, the thing the world hates, you see, is the message of sin. Isn’t that right? The reason they reject Christ is because He comes and unmasks everyone, and the world cannot hide its sin any longer, cf. Jn 3:19-21. So they hate us, and so they hate Him. *“He who hates Me hates My Father also,”* 23. They hate Jesus, His Father, the Holy Spirit, and all disciples. *“If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘They hated Me without a cause,’ ”* 24-25. You see? They—the world—wouldn’t have had that profound revelation of sin unless they had seen Christ. *“Now they have seen and hated both Me and My Father... They hated Me without a cause.”* Don’t be shocked and offended about their hatred. *“These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the*

continued on p. 2

“Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them and known surely that I came forth from You; they believe that You sent Me,” —John 17:7-8

time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me,” 16:1-3. Indeed, Jews and Gentiles did that. Acts records that the world threw the Christians out of the synagogue. “*Yes, the time comes that whoever kills you will think he does God service,*” 16:2. That’s a prophecy of Saul of Tarsus—and there were others. The reason they persecuted Christians is because they did not know Jesus or the Father. “*Get ready,*” He said. “*I have to promise you this, too. It isn’t going to be easy. Because you’re going to be identified with Me, the world that hates Me is going to hate you.*” We will not—we cannot—fit into the world’s system, and so the system rejects us. But that doesn’t mean we go and sulk in a corner and try to bring out our obnoxious qualities to exalt ourselves in that situation. No, we want to be as loving and gentle and kind and thoughtful and generous as we can be—as Jesus was—in the midst of the world, and we should make sure that if they do hate us, it isn’t that they hate us for our personality, but rather for the truth that we speak. All these things are ours—even persecution and opposition. We have to expect them. I’m thankful He warned us about this, aren’t you? If He had not, it would shock us because we wouldn’t expect it.

The **tenth** and last gift He gave us was the **pledge of joy**. This is a wonderful legacy. “*These things have I spoken to you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full,*” Jn 15:11. Whose joy? Christ’s joy. Jesus revealed all this legacy—He gave all these things—so that we might be joyful. Beloved, the reason joy is the final gift is because joy is the result of everything else Jesus gave. When we think of everything He has left us, we can’t

help but be joyful! Even though we have trouble in life, we still can’t be anything but joyful, because we know that when the trouble is over, great blessings await us.

“*Verily, verily I say to you, you shall weep and lament, and the world will rejoice, and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy,*” 16:20. I like that. “*Your sorrow will be turned into joy.*” Now, what does that mean? Some people say, “*Well, it means that you’ll have some terrible circumstances and some sorrowful ones, and then later, the Lord will bring you some happy ones, but then you’ll have more bad circumstances*”—but that isn’t what it means. The illustration in v. 21 makes the meaning clear. “*A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world,*” 21.

A woman has intense pain and agony right at the hour of delivery, and she cries and asks to be delivered from the anguish. “*But as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembers no more the anguish for joy that a person is born into the world.*” The point of verse is that the same event that causes the pain causes the joy. This is a very important truth. Jesus said, “*In childbirth, there is terrible anguish, but immediately it results in joy, and the anguish is forgotten.*” Our Lord promised this: we will have distressing circumstances, but those are the very circumstances out of which will come the greatest joy. The way out of trials is through them. This is what we learn in 1 Cor 10:13. The end of the tunnel is light and joy. Jesus did not say, “*Oh, I’ll give you different, happy circumstances instead of your sad ones.*” Instead, He said, “*Right out of painful situations will come joy—if you believe and wait for it.*”

What a legacy, beloved. The proof of love, the hope of heaven, the guarantee of power, the assurance of supply, the promise of the Holy Spirit, the possession of truth, the promise of peace, the production of fruit, the pain of persecution, and the pledge of joy—all of these blessings are ours. Do you know why all these things are ours? Because Jesus is ours. When He went away, He never really went away at all. You say, “*Well, what do you mean by that?*” “*I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you. A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you,*” Jn 14:18-20. He said, “*I will not leave you comfortless.*” What’s the next line? “*I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me.*” Where is Christ? “In you.” He left physically, but He would remain in them—in us—in spiritual form. “*If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him,*” 23. Look, the reason that all the legacy of Christ is mine is because Christ is mine. He went away physically, but He dwells within every single believer with His own marvelous presence. This is ours when we believe.

Thank You, Father, for Your truth, how it penetrates our hearts, how it draws gratitude out from us. I pray, Lord, that You would teach us in practical terms to apply what we’ve learned, and that we would praise You for the gifts that You have given so freely to us by Your gracious spirit. Help us to reach our hands out to take Your legacy by faith and to remember daily your gifts. May Your Spirit move in our hearts. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Our Identity and the Land-Nation Promises, by Berry Kercheville

Remember those three promises to Abraham and his offspring in Gen 12:1-3? You know them: *nation, land, and blessing to all*. But how do you understand those promises? If you are like me, you believed that the nation and land promises were fulfilled in the physical nation of Israel, while the all families promise was the salvation of Jesus Christ for all the world. But this understanding diminishes the picture of God's purpose for us and our identity as His people. As you know, the nation and land promises were fulfilled in the physical nation of Israel in only a limited way.

Nation Promise: Physical or Spiritual Israel? It is not difficult to see that the physical nation of Israel was never God's true Israel. Paul said, *"For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham,"* Rm 9:6-7. In other words, not all physical Jews are God's true Israel. Paul gave an allegory of Sarah (Isaac) and Hagar (Ishmael), Gal 4:21-31. He referred to physical Israel as those *"born of the flesh"* and compared them to Hagar, Mt. Sinai, bondage, and the *"Jerusalem which now is."* But the spiritual nation is the nation of promise, from Sarah and Isaac, free, born of the Spirit, and the *"Jerusalem above which is free and the mother of us all."* If God's nation promise was merely fulfilled in the physical nation, it was a big failure! How many hundreds of years did Israel exist as a nation under the rule of a foreign power? Their subservient position profaned God's name when the Gentile nations boasted that their gods were more powerful than *Yahweh*. God could not make them His nation, as Paul quoted from Isaiah, *"All day long I have stretched out my hands to a disobedient [rebellious] and contrary people,"* Rm 10:21 (Is 65:2). In fact, God

Discipleship Here At Home

bemoaned the fact that because of Israel's rebellion he was unable to fulfill in them the nation promise: *"Oh, that you had heeded my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea; your offspring would've been like the sand, and your descendants like its grains; their name would never be cut off or destroyed from before me,"* Is 48:18-19. Clearly the physical nation failed, and as Paul argued in Romans 9-11, their only hope to be a part of God's nation (kingdom) promise was to come to Christ. *"And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God,"* Gal 6:16. We, the spiritual people of God, are the fulfillment of the nation promise because the whole purpose of the promise was for God to make a holy people who would *"proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light,"* 1 Pet 2:9. The kingdom of the Messiah is repeatedly described in the prophets as the means by which God would restore Israel and make it a "kingdom of priests" and the "holy nation" which God had promised, Ex 19:5-6. *"After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tabernacle of David which has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, so that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord Who does all these things,"* Ax 15:16-17, James quoting Amos 9:11-14. James agreed that the *"tabernacle of David which had fallen down"* was now *"raised up, its damages repaired, and its ruins rebuilt as in the days of old,"* Am 9:11. In Christ, we are the restoration of the *"tabernacle of David,"* the nation which God promised, and we are fulfilling what God intended for his holy nation, to glorify His name in the earth. Israel failed; if we are truly God's nation, we will not fail! **Next week: Ezekiel and the Land Promise.**

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

· **Kaylee Chavez**—10, CO Springs, to begin trtmt for aggressive brain cancer (near spinal cord); donate at www.youcaring.com, type name at top
· **Hannah Huelsman**—tonsillectomy Tues
· **Owen Bredehoff**—concussion after fall Tues
· **Mark Campbell**—recovering from auto accident
· **Frank Savarese**—to have surgery on salivary gland 1/18
· **Chris Bennett**, former member—fell from ladder, fractured pelvis; restricted work 2 mos
· **Rick Robbins**, friend of Howells—brain surgery
· **Lloyd Menard**—unable to walk, memory failing
· **Melanie Baughn's** mother—in OK has renal failure and cellulitis
· **Jennifer Clayton**, former member—severe lyme disease; heart, spine, neuro issues
· **Tracy Corray**—testing for allergies
· **Chad Meyers** of Smoky Hill—acute renal failure
· **Brittany Tope's** mother—breast cancer in spine; pain in broken ribs which tumor has injured; grandmother—on dialysis
· **Christine Adams**—recovering from ankle surgery, using walking cast, returns to work next wk
· **Sharon Rupinen, Sandra Perry's** sister—surgery 1/9
· **Sylvia Chapman, Brett's** grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; chemo
· **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**, radiation after mastectomy
· **Kenny Boyd's** coworker **Kim Phillips**—asks our prayers for upcoming heart surgery
· Remember **Greg Geiss**, who has some spiritual challenges. **Paul Alfaro** and **Elaine Isbell**, who have returned to Christ and need our prayers and help.
Travel! **Caleb Howell** in Idaho. **Michael Fryman** is in KY, **Michelle Franke** in TN until Mine classes resume in Jan. The **Campbells** are in FL this week visiting Jude and family; return Thurs

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Bill Dennis—adjusting pacemaker and meds
Nell Free—pacemaker, heart; back pain
Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease
Danielle Huelsman—vertigo, CV syndrome
Hannah Huelsman—polycythemia, thickening of blood; heart murmur, acid reflux, chest pain
Kirk Johnson—MS
Sandra Perry—neuropathy from diabetes
Judy and Mike Strand—hepatitis trtmt
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung weakness



Exposing current thoughts & trends

Arkansas Town Repeals Transgender Law *by Kirsten Anderson*

Men and women who want to use the opposite sex's bathrooms and changing facilities will no longer be able to do so in Fayetteville, Arkansas, after voters overturned a controversial ordinance—with help from the Duggar family of TLC's *19 Kids and Counting*. Ordinance 119, passed by the city council in August, barred the city, employers, property owners, and business owners from discriminating based on several categories, controversially including "sexual orientation," "gender identity," and "gender expression." The section of the law that sparked the repeal movement made it a crime to "deny, directly or indirectly, any person the full enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and accommodations of any business establishment or place of public accommodation" based on "gender identity" or "gender expression." In other localities where such legislation has passed, it has consistently been used to force businesses, schools, and employers to allow self-identified "transgender" people to use the bathroom, locker room, or other sex-segregated facilities of their choice, regardless of their biological sex.

In a pre-recorded phone message, Michelle Duggar tried to block the ordinance before it was passed: It "would allow men—yes, I said men—to use women's and girls' restrooms, locker rooms, showers, sleeping areas and other areas that are designated for females only. I don't believe the citizens of Fayetteville would want males with past child predator convictions that claim they are female to have a legal right to enter private areas that are reserved for women and girls. I doubt that Fayetteville parents would stand for a law that would endanger their daughters or allow them to be traumatized by a man joining them in their private space."

After the Fayetteville council passed the ordinance, local church leaders organized to mount a repeal effort and gathered enough signatures to force a special election to reconsider the law. Despite their opponents running multiple shuttle buses the day of the vote to get ordinance supporters to the polls, the citizens of Fayetteville voted 52-to-48 percent last week in favor of repeal. "We wanted to repeal the ordinance because we didn't believe it made Fayetteville a fairer city or a freer city," *Repeal 119* leader, Duncan Campbell, told KFSM News. "It did just the opposite. It was called the Civil Rights Ordinance, but it was misnamed. It was an ordinance that actually took away civil rights and freedom from people."

Update: Attorney General Eric Holder announced Thursday a new interpretation of the Civil Rights Act—to prevent employers from discriminating against people who claim the status of a transgendered person.



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DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

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**, Lesson 10, "Strangers and Pilgrims: the Disciple's Walk of Faith," Kenny Boyd

- **Sermon**, "Developing Lasting Zeal," Jonathan Hadders

Sunday afternoon

- **Lord's Supper, Questions Answered**, DeWayne Howell

Wednesday night: final studies from Ezekiel.

Sign up for Bible reading in the new year. See Joel Walker for schedule.