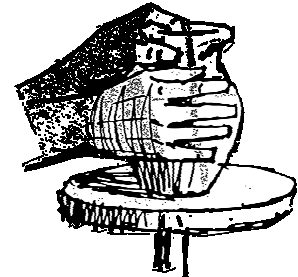


His Workmanship: Westside

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

—Ephesians 2:10



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No. 20

Isaiah 64:8

“Cleanliness Is Next to Godliness,” by Bobby Thompson

We have often heard folks quote “cleanliness is next to godliness,” as from the Bible. It is not found in any of scripture and might be classified as what we term a “chimney corner scripture,” or a common quotation accredited to the Bible but not found in the Bible. Perhaps when people use the phrase “cleanliness is next to godliness,” they are thinking of physical cleanliness. That kind of cleanliness is not to be belittled, but there is a cleanliness that is far more important—spiritual cleanliness, which is holiness or godliness. Godliness is the Greek word *eusebius*, which means “reverence, devotion, piety, especially the gospel scheme [as in 1 Tim 3:16].” Godliness or holiness is taught throughout the New Testament. God calls us to holiness, 1 Thes 4:7, and we are to “pursue holiness,” Heb 12:14; cf. 1 Tim 2:2; 6:3-11. Paul said: “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God,” 2 Cor 7:1. We want to be clean because of the promises Paul declares in 6:16-18: “And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’ Therefore ‘Come out from among them

and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.’ ‘I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,’ says the LORD Almighty.” These promises to us were first in the Old Testament: A) the covenant of peace with Israel to be their God and dwell among them appears at least 9 times, including Ex 29:45; Lev 26:12; Jer 31:33; 32:38; Ezek 11:20; 36:28; 37:26; and Zech 13:9. “They shall be My people, and I will be their God, in truth and righteousness,” Zech 8:8. B) The promise to be received by God is related to salvation in the Messiah, Ps 49:15; 73:24; Hos 14:2; Isa 52:11-53:12. C) The promise of sonship bestows the blessings of relationship and inheritance in Ex 4:22-23; 1 Chr 17:13; 22:10; 28:6; Ps 2:7; Jer 31:1, 9; Isa 43:1-6, 21; 45:4, 11; 29:22-23; 63:16; 64:8; Hos 11:1; cf. Heb 2:10-12. In order to belong to God, to be His people and His family, we must be cleansed from our unrighteousness; then, He will receive us and dwell with us.

Holiness is the very whole, complete, beautiful character of God—He is the essence of holiness, the Holy One (Christ, Ps 16:10 [Ax 13:35]; 71:22; 78:41; 89:18; Pr 9:10; 30:3; Jer 50:29; 51:5; Dan 4:134, 23; 8:13; Hos 11:9, 12; Hab 1:12; 3:3; Lk 1:35; 4:34; Ax 2:27; 3:14; 1 Jn 2:20; and 29 times I Isaiah); the Holy

God (Josh 24:19; Dan 4:8-9, 18; 5:11); and the Holy Spirit in 95 verses. Holiness is godliness, and we are to reflect that holy character of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Holiness is the incomparable nature of God: “Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?” Ex 15:11. God speaks in/by His holiness, Ps 60:6; 89:35; 93:5; 108:7; Am 4:2. Paul admonished Timothy: “But reject profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come,” 1 Tim 4:7-8. Spiritual cleanliness is godliness, for godliness demands:

A cleansing act. Ananias told Saul of this cleansing act: “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord,” Ax 22:16. Saul needed to be baptized to complete his obedience to the Lord so that his sins might be washed away. Baptism is the cleansing act preceded by faith, repentance, and a confession of faith in Christ. “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water,” Heb 10:22. Our faith works in our cleansing: “...to turn them from darkness to light, and from the continued on p. 2

**“His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by glory and virtue,”
—2 Peter 1:3**

power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me,” Ax 26:18. “In their faithfulness they sanctified themselves in holiness,” 2 Chr 31:18. Christ Himself cleanses us by His blood; He gave Himself for the church, “that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,” Eph 5:26. As every individual obeys the word of the Lord in being baptized into the body, God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—washes him in the water by the word, 1 Thes 5:23; Heb 13:12; Rm 15:16. No matter how filthy our sins, no matter how unrighteous, Christ’s blood has the power to cleanse us, cf. 1 Cor 6:11; Heb 10:10, 14, 29; Jude 1. “But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life,” Rm 6:22, 19.

A clean conscience. One of the blessings of the New Covenant is the offer of a clean conscience to the obedient. “How much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” Heb 9:14. Baptism is the answer of a good conscience toward God as it turns to Christ’s resurrection: “The like figure now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” 1 Pet 3:21. God demonstrates His love by cleansing our conscience, and we respond to His salvation with thanksgiving and love: “Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from unfeigned faith,” 1 Tim 1:5. The Lord will “make us increase and abound in love to one another and to all...so that He may establish our hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints,” 1 Thes 3:12-13. A person cannot

relieve his life, but he can obey the gospel and be forgiven by God. “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded,” Jas 4:8. Anyone who draws near to God can have a conscience that is clean and be empowered by God’s grace to live righteously and godly. “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age,” Tit 2:11-12. As a Christian, when we sin, we can confess our sin to God, and God is faithful to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, 1 Jn 1:9.

A clean heart. Godliness demands a clean heart, which God, in His grace, provides. “Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.



Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence; and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me,” Psalm 51:9-11. People who have a clean heart are pure in heart. “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God,” Mt 5:8. God gives us a new heart, “created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness,” Eph 4:24. Our words indicate whether we have a pure heart or not. Jesus told the Pharisees, “O generation of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks,” Mt 12:34. Our speech betrays our hearts! “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer every man,” Col 4:6. Vulgar, filthy speech is unclean, and it

is not godly. God can cleanse our mouths and put His word into them. His word works like Clorox on our lives: “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth,” Jn 17:17 (cf. Jn 17:19; Ax 20:32; 1 Tim 4:5; Tit 1:1). It is necessary for us to maintain our hearts as clean before God, cf. 1 Jn 1:9 and 1 Pet 3:15: “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” If we are adding virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, love, brotherly kindness, love, and godliness to our faith, 2 Pet 1:3-11, then we can be assured that God is cleansing us from all unrighteousness, 1 Jn 1:9. “For he who lacks these things [faith, virtue, knowledge, etc.] is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins,” 2 Pet 1:9.

Clean habits. Godliness involves being spiritually minded. “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace,” Rm 8:5-6. The spiritually-minded follow the teaching of the Spirit in developing clean habits of godly living. “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,” 1 Pet 2:11. Godliness does not exist in the midst of unclean habits and disregard for the will of God. “What? Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit Who is in you, Whom you have and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s,” 1 Cor 6:19-20. Yes, spiritual cleanliness is godliness! We must not forget to add godliness to our lives. “Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, we might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life,” Lk 1:74-75.



God makes my heart clean in 2015 “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” —Ps 51:10

Attacks of Students’ Faith, from p. 4 *enduring relationships, some students prefer a series of brief and meaningless flings.* Mature Christians know how difficult it is to juggle a relationship with Jesus while engaging in activities that are not God-honoring. One or the other will win out, and for college students the winner is not usually their faith. The Higher Education Research Institute found that while more than 50% of incoming freshman report regular attendance at religious services, by the end of their junior year, it drops below 30%.

Considering this multi-pronged attack against the faith of college students, what can be done to support them as they face the “freedom” of university life? For godly parents, this is a mission that has been underway for the past 18 years; all that’s left now is being supportive, accessible, and spending lots of time praying. To come alongside your kids or grandkids who will be heading off to college, you might make these suggestions. Challenge them to:

- Know what you believe and why you believe it. The more solid your Bible knowledge, the less vulnerable you will be to professors and students who try to “enlighten” you. Be prepared with answers to faith questions, 1 Pet 3:15.
- Recruit an accountability partner. If you aren’t being held accountable for your promises and actions, it’s much easier to slip up and eventually slide off or drift away, Heb 2:1.
- Make moral decisions in advance of

Discipleship Here At Home

circumstances. This is the best way to prepare for challenges. You’ll be encouraged to drink and pressured to “hook up.” Determine before you leave home how you will respond and what your boundaries are, Nah 2:1; 3:14.

- Find a like-minded church and attend small group. The life in Christ is designed to flourish around community, Heb 10:25.

Everyone should pray for college students because they are future leaders. As you pray, ask God to:

- Reveal truth to professors
- Bring moral conviction to campuses
- Be a light in darkness
- Give courage to Christians on campus

The Spirit of Elitism, by Whit Sasser

There is no room for the spirit of elitism among us. Jesus flatly forbids it when He says that none of His brethren are to elevate themselves above the rest by calling themselves Father or Rabbi or Teacher, Mt 23. But it is a mistake to limit that elitism to giving titles alone. Some of the first elitists were likely the gnostics of the first century. They professed to have superior knowledge to most brethren and were likely snobbish and condescending, looking down their nose at the others. Paul said, “*knowledge puffs up*,” 1 Cor 8:1. It is so true.

Note the tone of voice of some who talk about “*stuck-in-the-mud traditionalists*.” See the angst when some discuss weak or dead members that fill many churches. Listen to the derogatory words and phrases used to put down Christians who take responsibility to guard the entire brotherhood from error.

When we gain in knowledge, grow strong spiritually, or act zealously as the Lord would have us, we might “*let it go to our head*” and allow the devil to create in us a spirit of elitism. But remember: we are no better than any other member of the body of Christ. Period. “*He who glories, let him glory in the LORD*,” 1 Cor 1:31

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

- **Marie Sangellino**—mass on thyroid; biopsy results this week
- **Matt Reames’s** fiancée—her daughter took her own life last week
- **Ed Fink**—prostate cancer; treatment for brain tumors
- **Judy Strand**—recovering from heart valve surgery at home
- **Kaylee Chavez**—age 10, improving, MRI clear; but treatment continues at the hospital
- **Pat Wilkes**—surgery recovery for torn shoulder tendon/rotator cuff
- **Bill Dennis**—home following rehab on infected knee drainage; pseudo-gout
- **Sandra Perry**—possible kidney failure, may need dialysis or transplant; heart valve issues recently diagnosed; neuropathy from diabetes
- **Sylvia Chapman, Brett’s** grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; chemo
- **Brittany Tope’s** mother—breast cancer; broken ribs healed; doing better
- **Kim Howell’s** niece **Tonya Robison**—delivered 32-week, 2 lb, 5 oz **Malachi Taylor Robison** several wks ago; in NICU in Louisville, KY
- **Kenny Boyd’s** coworker **Kim Phillips**—asks our prayers for heart problems
- **Rick Robbins**, friend of Howells—brain surgery

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

- **Logan Corray; Addison Tope; Christian Harrod; Rocco Jr.; Pat Wilkes**—asthma
- **Autumn Hadders**—epilepsy; celiac disease; her medication is being changed over the next few months, so she is home in early evenings with one of her parents
- **Jonathan Hadders**—RA
- **Kirk Johnson**—MS
- **Menards**—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak;
- **Virginia**, macular degeneration; high bp
- **Cheryl Reames**—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia
- **Judy Sartin**—rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis; arthritis
- **Lynda Szymanski**—COPD, lung weakness

Beginning Wed, 5/27, through 7/31, Payton Miller will work with Westside. Jim will mentor Payton.

Returning **Tianna Smith** is back from Hong Kong and will be married to Luke Gillian in July.

Vacation Bible School June 8-11, 9-11:15 am, ages 2 to 11. **DANIEL’s Courage in Captivity!** Explore how God is with us, just like He was with Daniel and his friends in a land far away from home. **God is with us wherever we go!**



Exposing current thoughts & trends attacks on faith

Gospel Twisted on Campus, by Diane Markins

American Christians are increasingly criticized, mocked, and berated for their beliefs, particularly regarding moral issues. Nowhere is this more pronounced than for university students. One reason for this is the dominance of liberal-thinking professors incorporating their views into curriculum, but the bottom line is that college life seems to be diminishing faith.

Evangelical author Chelsen Vicari's new book, Distorted: How the New Christian Left is Twisting the Gospel and Damaging Faith, says that many evangelical churches have been caught up in a trend of not teaching Biblical truths on hard-pressing issues and focusing simply on Jesus's love and faith, rather than doctrine and morality.

At a recent Family Research Council discussion, Vicari said that she wanted to "give the grownups a glimpse into the world of a millennial and what we deal with in churches, in youth group, and on college campuses where our parents think everything should be fine and dandy and that we should be protected—and that is not necessarily the truth." As her strong conservative convictions were tested and condemned by liberal groups of Christians on campus, Vicari says she began to "fold" her convictions to believe it's acceptable for Christians to be accommodating toward sinful behavior.

She is not alone. The Institute for Jewish and Community Research released a study finding that 53% of college professors admitted to "unfavorable" feelings about evangelical Christians. No other religious group (including Muslims) was even close to this number. The American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) said, according to a multi-year study, almost half of students surveyed found that professors "frequently" inject politics into class, and almost one third said they felt they had to agree with the professors' views to get a good grade.

In addition to indoctrination from professors and peer pressure from campus groups, there are plenty of other ways the faith of college students is being attacked. Most secular institutions are viewed and rated as "party schools." University life cultivates an atmosphere of unrestrained sexual promiscuity and drinking. According to an article in the New York Times, surveys found that more than eight in 10 college students drink and that four in 10 are binge drinkers. According to a study of college students from the University of Portland, more than 59% reported having sex at least once a week and 31.6% reported having more than one sexual partner in the past year. A newsletter from West Virginia University said, "Invariably, though, hooking up is a casual encounter, and for many, these encounters replace dating. The result? Instead of forming

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Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Westside-Church-of-Christ/276475819148309>

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, "Marriage Boot Camp: Basic Training in Communication,"** Jim Reingrover

- **Sermon,** Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon, Lessons from the Life of Jesus, "The Insurmountable Debt," Mt 18:21-35, Brian Shreve

Feeding on His Word Reading

Everyone is invited to an open Bible reading of Exodus 1-20 this evening, May 17, at 4 pm, light supper after, at the Reingrovers' house. See **Joel Walker** for schedule.