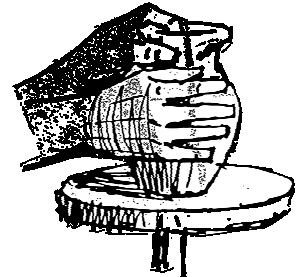


His Workmanship at Westside

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



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Isaiah 64:8

The Lord Alone Must Be Exalted, Isaiah 2, part 3 by Brent Kercheville

The first chapter of Isaiah is a condemnation of Judah for its sinfulness. God's declaration ends with a promise of redemption to those who repent. Isaiah two begins a second prophecy that pictures the contrast between the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of the Messiah.

A. When the Glory of the Lord Is Exalted (2:1-5). Isaiah described the coming of the glorious kingdom offering hope to the people of God. The *“last days”* or *“latter days”* point to the arrival of the Messianic, or church, age. In this new era God would create new relationships with Israel and with the world. The mountain of the house of the Lord would be established as the highest of the mountains. Mountains carry the symbolism of a kingdom, authority, rule, or power; cf. Jer 51:25. Therefore, the coming kingdom of the Lord would be greater than all other kingdoms.

Isaiah further pictured the nations of the earth flowing to this glorious kingdom. Why are they going there? *“Many peoples shall come and say: ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths,’”* Is 2:3. People will go to the mountain because they will have the desire to be taught by God and to walk in His paths. This was a contrast to the physical nation which was rebelling against God. Isaiah pictured people all

over the earth desiring to participate in the glorious kingdom when it arrives. People would flow to this kingdom (Mt. Zion) because it would be the place where God's instruction went forth. God would be the teacher, and people would flow to Him to listen to Him. When the people came to Him, they would trust God and submit to His just



decisions, 2:4. God's word would be the standard by which all matters were judged. Further, this kingdom would not be defended or extended by fleshly warfare; cf. 2 Cor 10:3-5; Eph 6:10-17. Rather, this kingdom would be defended and extended by the preaching of the message of peace and reconciliation; cf. Eph. 2:17.

In predicting the coming of Christ's kingdom, Isaiah was describing Christians and the way God's glory would be shown in His kingdom. We must ask ourselves if we fit this description. True followers of Christ desire to hear the word of the Lord. They want to be

taught in the ways of the Lord so that they can walk in the Lord's paths. They long to enjoy the scriptures and invite others to learn and enjoy, too. The Messiah's people do not have the attitude that they *“have to read the Bible”* or *“must worship together.”* According to Isaiah, spending time in the scriptures and serving God is what they want to do. They invite one another, *“come and let us walk in the light of the LORD,”* 2:5.

B. When Glory Is Misplaced (2:6-11). Isaiah then turned from the picture of the coming of the glorious kingdom to the failure of the people in his day. It is a failure that continues in people today who, like Israel, are glorifying the wrong things. He began with the solemn, sorrowful words that the Lord had rejected His people. Rather than desiring the word of the Lord and conforming to God's teachings, they put their desires and their trust in the wrong things: 1. The people were filled with worldliness, 2:6. God described the people acting like the surrounding nations and embracing their pagan customs. The scriptures repeatedly warn against conforming to the thinking and actions of the nations. *Do not be like them. Do not act like them. Do not adopt their practices,* 2 Cor 6:14-18. We are called to be holy people, and holy people act differently from the world. Peter said that we would be different to such a degree that

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“Enter into the rock and hide in the dust from the terror of the LORD and the glory of His majesty,” —Isaiah 2:10, p. 1

the world would think we are strange for not doing the same things it is doing, 1 Pet 4:3-5.

2. The people trusted in their wealth,

2:7. Isaiah declared that the land was full of silver and gold and that there was no end to their treasures. Their hearts had been stolen away from the Lord. They had found their satisfaction in their wealth.

3. The people trusted in their horses

and chariots, 2:7. In other words, the people relied on their military might rather than on the Lord. They felt secure in their homeland defense. God had warned of these problems, knowing that trusting in physical security causes a nation to lose its reliance on the Lord, Deut 17:14-17.

4. The land was filled with idols, 2:8.

The people were not seeking the Lord. Their hearts had turned to false gods. How foolish to put trust and confidence in things humans have made! Therefore, God would humble the people through judgment. There would be no forgiveness, because the people would not change, 2:9. God attributes this idolatry to stubborn pride, 2:11.

It is arrogant to think that acting like the world is going to bring us happiness and joy. It is arrogance when we trust in our wealth as if we are in control of our prosperity. It is arrogance when we trust in our nation's armies, as if this nation will last forever or has matchless power. It is arrogance when we trust in idols, which are

any objects or pursuits that take our attention, time, and desire away from passionately pursuing the Lord. It is arrogance because we think these idols will bring us satisfaction. Sadly, even Christians will act just like Israel, filling themselves with everything but God and His word! God says that He will take that pride and shatter it. We show our pride when we think



that the world's pleasures rather than the treasures of the Lord can satisfy the longings of our soul. The Lord alone will be exalted in that day, 2:11!

C. The Lord Alone Will Be Exalted

(2:12-22). God declared this truth twice, vs. 11 and 17, to drive it into the hearts of the people and into our hearts. No one will be in the Messiah's kingdom who does not exalt the Lord alone. God will show everything we put our trust in to be a false hope and a false deliverer. These idols always disappear; they always let us down. Glory belongs to the Lord, not to us. There is nothing within us deserving of glory or attention. The Lord alone must be exalted!

Dating to Display Jesus, from p. 4

we just want a relationship or we liked the man/woman, and we never had the opportunity. Maybe all the suggestions and advice we've collected has become a confusing mess of good-intentioned contradictions. It's enough to leave us like a six-year-old, asking, "Mom, where do weddings come from?"

Expecting More from Marriage. The vision of marriage we see in God's word—the beautiful, radical display of God's infinite, persevering love for sinners—makes it worth it to date and date well. The world's approach can provide fun and eventually even some level of commitment, but it cannot lead to the life-giving Jesus after Whom our marriages are to take their cues. God created us to enjoy and thrive in love that lasts, like Christ's lasting love for His bride.

God engineered romance to express itself in fidelity and loyalty—in oneness, Gen 2:24; Mt 19:9; 1 Cor 7:2-13. Because dating is only a means to marriage, God's design for our marriages speaks to his design for our dating relationships. Dating that connects too quickly or dumps too carelessly does not reflect God's intention. Friends who try sex with "no strings attached" may find pleasure, but not the peaks, security, and true love waiting on the other side of mutual promises. The happiness of marriage is not only or even mainly

physical. With the sex, there ought to be a deep sense of safety, a sense of being loved and accepted for who we are, a desire to please without the need

“God created you to enjoy and thrive in a love that lasts. Hearts weren't built to be borrowed.”

to impress. When God engineered the sexual bond between a man and a woman, He made something much more satisfying than the act itself.

Those who recklessly give themselves to "hooking up" without really dating, of romantic rendezvous without Christ and commitment, are settling. They're settling for less than God intended and less than He made possible by sending His Son to rescue and repurpose our lives, including our love-lives, for something more—glory. More happiness. More security. More purpose.

The more is found in a mutual faith in and following of Jesus. With this "more," we can say to the watching world, "don't settle for artificial and thin loyalty, affection, security, and sexual experimentation when God intends and promises so much more through a holy union." A glorious, holy union can only be found through Christians' dating with Christ in mind—or with the mind of Christ. If dating as Christians—the intentional, selfless, and prayerful process of pursuing marriage—sounds like slavery, that is not reality. If low-commitment sexual promiscuity sounds like freedom, that is not reality. Jesus may ask more of us, but He does so to secure and increase our greatest and longest-lasting happiness (including sexual happiness).

How Then Shall We Date? For those whose roads are marked more by mistakes than selflessness, patience, and sound judgment, take hope in the God Who truly and mysteriously blesses our broken road and redeems us from it, and Who can begin in us a new, pure, wise, godly pursuit of marriage today. Next week we will present a list of

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Psalm 133:1

God's harvest we'll glean in 2016 "Please let me go to the field and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." —Ruth 2:2

Dating to Display Jesus, from p. 2 eight principles of dating to help in our relationships. In the meantime, singles, like all Christians, should be killing sin.

Killing Sin While You're Single.

Some single Christians live lives of passivity. Often there is little to no accountability in their lives. Therefore, secret sins survive and corrupt. Singles may indulge in different kinds of sexual immorality, spend their free time idly, give little to nothing of themselves to the church, scarcely attend Sunday worship, rarely read the Bible or pray, and pay little attention to the sin that still abounds in their hearts. Much of this was true for me in my singleness. But when couples wed, an uncomfortable truth is discovered: the single self still resides inside the married self. If we're lazy, irresponsible, selfish, prideful, greedy, and/or lustful when we're single, we will be just as (or more) lazy, selfish, irresponsible, etc., and/or lustful after we say I do.

It is essential that we not put off the habit of watching and killing sin in our lives. The sins that entangle us as singles will inevitably continue to entangle us in marriage. Nevertheless, singles shouldn't kill sin simply because we want to be good spouses; we should kill it because we want to live happy and holy lives—to glorify God—whatever our marital status.

Paul warned us that the "wages of sin is death," Rm 6:23, and that we should be about the business of putting to death "what is earthly in [us]," Col 3:5. The command is for us all, not simply for the married. If we don't kill sin now, it will kill us later, unless we repent.

Discipleship Here At Home

Don't Put Off Killing Sin. Paul uncovered the great danger in putting off the practice of killing known sin in our lives: "Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves... For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions... And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of wickedness... Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them," Rm 1:24-32. God gave them up because "they knew God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die" but continued in such things instead of repenting. This passage warns us all of the risk in delaying (for whatever reason) the killing of sin. I say this especially to single people because we live without the day-in, day-out accountability of a spouse. It is dangerous to be given over to our sin. It is frightening to know that we can one day reach a point where we're unable to see the suicidal foolishness of our transgressions. It is spiritually and eternally irresponsible to put off the business of killing sin as a single—in hopes that a different life (marriage) will make us holier and happier. Only Jesus can make us holy and happy. Regardless of our current circumstances, life is better with Jesus. Run to Him. Repent of your sins. Drink from the only fountain that can quench the thirst that is inside of us all. Marriage does not instantly change us. God, because of Christ and through His Holy Spirit, will change us when we've surrendered ourselves to Him, whether married or unmarried.

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease
Orchid Cox—chronic blood clot condition
Kirk Johnson—MS; **Amanda Mailloux**—IBS
Menards—Lloyd diabetes, Alzheimers; fell;
Virginia providing care with CNA home hospice; pray **Lloyd** gets room in facility soon
Judy Sartin—rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis

Directory Addition **Robert Chavez** has chosen to join himself to work and worship with the Westside church: 10648 Huron St, Apt 302, Northglenn 80234 720-377-8451

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

- **Sarah Hadders**—nerve block last Wed for upper back pain
 - **Linda Szymanski**—broke arm & wrist on ice
 - **Jordan Corray's** father, **Glen Kowalski**—home after ICU for diabetic complications
 - **Judy Strand's** daughter **Shawntiel**—broke leg on ice, had surgery to insert pin
 - **River** and **Forest Cox's** great grandmother **Martha Rowe**—in rehab after diabetic coma for knee strengthening
 - **Kory Tope's** uncle, **Skeeter Schulz**—broke hip last month
 - **Brittany Tope's** mother **Gayle**—biopsy of spot on liver shows breast cancer has spread; **Brittany's** grandmother—on dialysis
 - the **Savareses'** grandchildren, **Frankie Kosik, Lorraine** and **Christian Harrod**—breathing difficulty, using nebulizer, or inhaler and steroids
 - **Kim Howell's** coworker **Rachel Daniels**—recently had baby, **Titus**, with genetic disease; pray for family
 - **Jordan Corray's** colleague and mentor **Craig Smith**—in ICU with brain injury after fall from roof; friend **Kylie Cabalka**—staph infection complications; out of ICU to rehab and making progress
 - **Sarah McMurray's** mentee **Lakesha Griffin**—age 12; safety, stable home place
 - **Connor Boyd's** friend **Christian Lyons**, high school freshman—leukemia
 - **Berney Charo's** brother **Eliud**—prostate cancer
 - **Andrea Songer**, daughter of **Bill** and **Debbie**—diagnosed with stage I breast cancer
 - **Judy Strand**—finished with chemo for liver transplant; tests tomorrow to determine whether chemo effective
 - **Sheryle McNeill**—pinched nerve
 - **Ernesto Gonzalez's** father **Fidencio**—stage IV lymphoma; to rehab center to gain strength
 - **Mary Ellen White**—recovering at sister's house after hip replacement on Christmas Eve; cards to 5307 E. Yale Ave, #306, Denver 80222-6928
 - **Letha Fink's** brother **Kenneth Morrison** of GA—liver disease, diagnosed with neuro-muscular disease
 - **Bill Dennis**—made dr. appointment, improving
 - **Lary Campbell's** FL partner **Terry Hargadine's** wife **Michelle**—difficult recovery from mastectomy; **Terry**—recovering from knee replacement surgery
 - **Kayla Knighten, Christine Adams's** daughter, needs our prayers; **Judy Strand** requests prayer for her son **Joe**; pray **Ed's** son **Rodney Schulz** and **Sheryle's** daughter **Tiffany** receive the gospel;
 - **Sylvia Chapman, Brett's** grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; **Brett's** grandmother **Sue**, and Aunt **Connie Doss**—cancer returned
 - **Jeremiah & Cynthia, Eric Perry's** coworkers
 - from Northgate church: **Andy Schmoldt's** mother—terminal cancer; **Pat Johnson's** brother—pancreatic cancer
- Travel** The **Reameses** are in FL until Friday visiting daughter **Amy** and family.



Exposing current trends Valentine's Day

Dating to Display Jesus, by Marshall Segal

Dating is dead. So says the media. "Women, stop expecting men to make any formal attempt at winning your affections. Don't sit around waiting for a man to make you a priority, communicate his intentions, or even call you on the phone. Exclusivity and intentionality are ancient rituals, things of the past, and misplaced hopes." I beg to differ. It's not that this new line of thinking is necessarily untrue today, or that it's not the current and corrupt trend of our culture—it's that it's wrong. One of our most precious pursuits, that of a life-long partner for all of life, is tragically being relegated to tweets, texts, and Facebook pokes, to ambiguous flirtation and fooling around. It's wrong.

Dating That Preserves Marriage. There is a God. He created His world and rules it, including men, women, the biological compulsions that bind them together, and the institution that declares their union and keeps it sacred and safe. Therefore, only He can prescribe the purpose, parameters, and means of our marriages.

If fullness of life could be found in sexual stimulation, or if it was merely a matter of making babies, the world's "forget formality and just have sex" approach might temporarily satisfy cravings and cause enough conception. But God had much more in mind with romance (and marriage) than orgasms or even procreation, and so should we. So must we.

When people in the world are expecting less and less of each other in dating, God isn't—so among singles we have to work harder in our not-yet-married relationships to preserve what marriage ought to picture and provide.

"Mom, Where Do Weddings Come From?" Nothing in my life and faith has been more confusing and spiritually hazardous than my pursuit of marriage. From far too young, I longed for the affection, safety, and intimacy I anticipated with a wife. Sadly, my immature and unhealthy desires predictably did much more harm than good. I started dating too early. I stayed in relationships too long. I experimented too much with our hearts and allowed things to go too far. I said, "I love you," too soon. And now my singleness is a regular reminder that I messed up, missed opportunities, or did it wrong.

Our relationships may end because of a specific character flaw or failure. Things about us—weaknesses or patterns of behavior—may disqualify us for marriage with a particular person. But it does not nullify God's grace to and through us. Sin in relationships is some of the most visible and painful. As we let each other further and further into our lives and hearts, the sin is more likely to show itself and to cut the other person more deeply. In the right measure, it is the good and proper risk of all fellowship among Christians. As people come closer (and we especially need closeness in the church), our sin inevitably becomes more dangerous. Our mess is more likely to splash onto others, and theirs on us. So dating relationships may be hard for us, for these reasons or others.

Maybe Mr. (or Ms.) Right has started to look like Mr. (Ms.) Myth. Maybe

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meets at
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Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 246-8810
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

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Like us: 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**, studies on the attributes of God: "Show Me Your Glory," Jim Reingrover
- **sermon**, "Preaching through First Corinthians, (PTFC): Faithful Stewardship," Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon

- **sermon**, "Philip and the Ethiopian: Acts 8:26-40," Scott McClelland

Wednesday night study:

The Thessalonian Letters