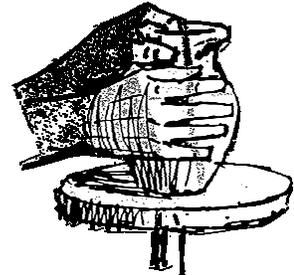


His Workmanship at Westside

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



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Isaiah 64:8

Christus Victor: *Binding the Strong Man, part 4*, by Shane Scott

"No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man," Mk 3:27 (Mt 12:29).

There is a good reason the Jews of the first century expected a conquering king as their Messiah. Many Old Testament passages promised just such a king! From Psalm 2 ("You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel") to Psalm 110 ("Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool") to Zechariah 14 ("Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle"), passage after passage in the Old Testament assured Israel that one day a king would come and fight for them.

And yet when Jesus came and presented Himself as the fulfillment of this grand prophetic hope, the people immediately questioned His credentials. Notice the exchange that took place during His first recorded sermon: "And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as was His custom, He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and He stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to Him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.' And He rolled

up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' And all spoke well of Him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from His mouth. And they said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' ...So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff," Lk 4:16-22, 28-29.

Why did the people struggle with accepting Jesus as the Messiah? Why could they not get past the fact that He was Joseph's son? The answer to this question lies in the identity of the enemy that Jesus came to conquer. His true adversary—Israel's true foe, all of humanity's true enemy—was the one whose very name means "the adversary"—Satan. And to conquer this foe would require a much different kind of warfare than most of the people in Israel were prepared to accept. To deal with this ultimate nemesis, Jesus attacked him on all fronts.

With His first miracles after His temptation, He cast out demons and healed the sick. In a Galilee synagogue, a man with an unclean spirit cried out, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy

One of God!" Lk 4:34. Jesus rebuked the demon, commanded him to come out of the man, and the people marveled and said, "'What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out,'" Lk 4:36. From the beginning of His ministry He asserted His power over demons.

Another front in this cosmic battle was disease. For example, a "woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years...[was] bent over and could not fully straighten herself," Lk 13:11. Jesus healed this woman on the Sabbath, a day not only meant to recall God's rest from creation, but also designed to remind Israel of its rest from bondage in Egypt, see Deut 5:12-15. When questioned by the Pharisees, Jesus explained: "And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" Lk 13:16. Jesus's ministry of healing was a direct assault on the devil's work in causing disease and disability.

Sometimes the diseases that Jesus confronted were directly connected to sin, such as in the case of the paralytic, Lk 5. Astonishingly, Jesus claimed to have the power to forgive sins and demonstrated the power of spiritual healing by an amazing display of physical healing: "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the

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Christus Victor, from p. 1

*Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'—He said to the man who was paralyzed—'I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.' And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, 'We have seen extraordinary things today,' "*Lk 5:23-26.

Jesus also attacked Satan's power over death, cf. Heb 2:14-15. He healed the centurion's servant, who was ready to die, Lk 7:2, just before He raised the widow of Nain's son from the dead, Lk 7:11-16. When the synagogue ruler Jairus begged Him to come to his house, Jesus was interrupted, and then ridiculed, Lk 8:41-56. He healed the woman with the issue of blood and then raised Jairus's daughter from the dead, showing His victory over death.

He conquered nature, as well. When the storm came upon Lake Gennesaret, He *"rebuked the wind and the raging of the water,"* Lk 8:24, and calmed the sea. His disciples marveled about His authority, *"He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"* 8:25. Immediately, they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, where He again asserted His sovereignty over Satan by casting out the legion of demons into the herd of pigs, Lk 8:26-39.

This deep and dark struggle against Satan was vividly and repeatedly displayed by His casting out evil spirits. In the account of the Gadarene demoniac the militaristic nature of this conflict comes to the forefront: *"When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before Him and said with a loud voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me.' For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Legion,' for many demons had entered him,"* Lk 8:28-30. A legion was a Roman military unit consisting of six thousand men at full strength. This poor man had been

overwhelmed by a demonic army, but despite its great numbers, it was no match for God's Anointed, and just like the "horse and rider" of the Egyptians, they were cast into the sea, 8:31-33.

On all fronts—disease, sin, nature, death, demonic possession—Jesus waged an intense campaign against the sinister forces of the devil. So that there could be no mistaking His purpose, Jesus explained His ministry like this: *"But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil,"* Lk 11:20-22; cf. Mk 3:27; Mt 12:28-30. In His preaching, His healing, His forgiving, His raising the dead, His calming of storms, His casting out of demons, Jesus was waging war on Satan, binding and plundering the strong man, freeing captives and taking the fight to the devil who had done his worst for too long. Jesus delivered the first blow in His dramatic victory at the temptation and continued to press the advantage in His ministry and that of His disciples. When they returned from the "limited commission" and recalled their successes in the battlefield against the demons, no wonder Jesus said, *"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven,"* Lk 10:18. But there was a climactic battle yet to be fought.

Next week, The routing of Satan—his power is broken, part 5.

Double Standard: Boycott, from p. 4
Bruce Springsteen & Bryan Adams Get to Follow Their Conscience, but the Baker and Florist Don't? What these corporate giants are doing is bad for representative democracy and self-government, but they have a right to do it. And yet, they want to deny the rights of bakers, florists, photographers, adoption agencies, and marriage counselors who only want the same liberty to follow their consciences. Big business is using its market freedom to deny small businesses and charities their religious freedom. Take Bruce Springsteen and Bryan Adams, who said their consciences

require them to deny their artistic gifts and talents to citizens of states that have enacted policy they disagreed with. Of course, they have that right. Adams wrote: *"I cannot in good conscience perform in a state where certain people are being denied their civil rights."* (He's wrong about the laws—they don't deny anyone civil rights. Instead, they protect civil rights. They protect religious freedom, which, as the liberal American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) once acknowledged, is a civil liberty.) But Springsteen and Adams are exercising their freedom of conscience by boycotting states that sought to protect the consciences of adoption agencies, religious schools, bakers, and florists. Would they not allow that freedom to others? **North Carolina and Mississippi Are Human Rights Violators, but Singapore and Cuba Are Great?** Finally, if these boycotts are really a matter of principle—and not just grandstanding—then why do so many of these same companies do business in foreign countries with terrible records on human rights in general, and for LGBT people in particular? North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory pointed out this hypocrisy.

After New York Governor Andrew Cuomo issued a travel ban for state employees to North Carolina, Gov. McCrory asked how it was consistent with Gov. Cuomo's trip to Cuba—with state business leaders—to promote trade with that country. Is Cuba better on human rights than North Carolina? Or is Cuomo being a bit hypocritical?

PayPal has decided not to relocate a planned 400-person facility in Charlotte, NC. PayPal cares. Or at least they want you to think they do, as they issue statements filled with bromides about fairness and equality in the wake of their decision. But do they really care? Then PayPal might want to explain why its international headquarters are in Singapore, where people engaged in private consensual same-sex acts can face two years in jail. It might also want to explain why it announced in 2012 that it would open offices in the United Arab

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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

Bathroom Double Standard, from p. 2 Emirates (UAE). While North Carolina placed some common sense limits on public bathrooms, the UAE jails homosexual and transgender people. PayPal is silent on the treatment of LGBT people on their long list of partner countries, including Saudi Arabia that executes homosexuals, as well as Cuba and Malaysia that jail them.

Now, PayPal has the freedom to locate wherever it likes, and we wouldn't presume to tell them otherwise. However, when it seeks to punish North Carolina for enacting a law regulating NC facilities to protect from transgender people people or anybody else using opposite sex bathrooms and locker rooms in public schools and other government buildings, PayPal is engaging in small-scale economic imperialism. PayPal is imposing its preferences on states that use democratic processes, while ignoring policies in countries that are truly hostile to their stated values.

Secularization. PayPal is hardly isolated in its preference for tyranny over democracy, as its protest is, in reality, part of a larger phenomenon, the secularization of American society, where California-like values are forcibly imposed by elites. Silicon Valley and Hollywood are exerting a corporate conformity to elite values rather than to democratically enacted laws and their underlying public support—but then turning a blind eye to egregious abuses overseas. Evidence of this phenomenon is pervasive. For example, take the anti-gay marriage Proposition 8, when Brandon Eich, former CEO of Mozilla, was fired because he supported the measure as a private citizen. Then, the

Discipleship Here At Home

US Supreme Court added insult to injury by disregarding the will of most states to preserve marriage. In Oregon and other states the First Amendment's explicit protection of an individual's freedom of religion is being disregarded. Democracy in North Carolina and across the country is being subjected to values arrived at yesterday by elites in the boardroom or the courtroom, but not on Main Street itself. If North Carolina officials determine there is a public safety issue at stake or if it decides to forbid male students from dressing up as females to get into the girl's locker room, who is PayPal to dispute?

What's Next? The left knows it can't win on the merits in the debate about religious freedom and bathroom privacy. These laws enjoy strong public support—that's why elected representatives are voting to pass them—and it's why corporate elites have to target governors to veto them.

Missouri is likely the next state to move a religious freedom bill, and we expect the same cast of characters to come out in opposition. But this time, the left and big business are entering the debate with one big disadvantage—they've been beaten. Gov. Phil Bryant of Mississippi and Gov. Pat McCrory of North Carolina have stood up to the bullies and shattered their aura of invincibility.

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Christian Harrod; Addison Tope; Rocco Jr.; Ann Cox; Logan Corray; Pat Wilkes—asthma
Orchid Cox—chronic blood clot condition
Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease
Jonathan Hadders—RA
Delmer Hice, Lynda Szymanski—COPD
Kirk Johnson—MS; **Amanda Mailloux**—IBS
Virginia Menard—macular degeneration
Sandra Perry—diabetes complications
Eric Perry—recent pre-diabetes diagnosis
Cheryl Reames—fibromyalgia; diverticulitis
Judy Sartin—rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis
Judy and Mike Strand—hepatitis treatment

Bereaved • **Ernesto Gonzalez's** father **Fidencio** passed away recently of congestive heart failure
Brandon Williams, father of **Adriana, Ava Kosik's** friend, passed away unexpectedly recently. Pray for **Adriana**, her mother **Savana**, & family.
Jordan Corray's grandfather **Glen Kowalski** passed away last week. Pray for **Jordan's** grandmother, **Marilyn Kowalski**, and family.

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

- **Judy Strand**—at St. Anthony's ICU with pneumonia; on breathing tube, non-responsive, room 313
 - **Sandra Perry**—in Lutheran Hospital with pneumonia
 - **Janelle Hall**—breast cancer; surgery 4/26
 - **Sarah Hadders**—recurring chest pains
 - **Brett Witherington's** mother **Cheryl**—breast cancer just diagnosed; **Sylvia Chapman, Brett's** grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; grandmother **Sue** and Aunt **Connie Doss**—cancer returned
 - **Mike Menard, Virginia's** son—pancreatic cancer; home, palliative care; **Virginia** pain walking from wrenched leg.
 - 10-year-old **Benjamin Hymel**, of Longmont church—brain cancer; home after surgery; to start year's chemo and radiation cycles at end of April; eye patch
 - **Valerie Greenwalt**—broke needle in arm Sat., to be removed by surgery today
 - **Brandon Thompson**—at least 2 viruses
 - the **Boyd's** extended families are undergoing hardships: **Wendy's** father, **Dan Gutierrez**, back in care center with cognitive problems either from stroke or brain bleeding; pray for **Eileen** and **Dan; Kenny's** sister and brother-in-law—divorce, b-i-l **Kevin** buried his father recently; pray for family **Jennifer, Kevin, Chloe, & Elijah Whittemore; Kenny's** employee, **Damon Todd**—great grandson killed and great granddaughter injured in collision with drunk driver last week
 - **Gary Boyd**—injured in car accident recently
 - **Samantha Harrod**—benign cyst removed from her back recently; recovery another month
 - **Linda Szymanski**—broken arm & wrist; **Tracy Corray**—sprained/broken foot
 - **Sarah McMurray's** mentee **Lakeisha Griffin**—age 12; missing from school, not located
 - **Sheryle McNeill**—boil removed last wk; pinched nerve
 - **Berney Charo's** brother **Eliud**—prostate cancer
 - **Ian Anderson, Mina Gonzalez's** nephew—rehab
 - **Letha Fink's** brother **Kenneth Morrison** of GA—liver disease, diagnosed with neuro-muscular disease
 - **Tyler Bennett's** fiancée's grandfather, **Richie Posadas**—in hospital with serious infection
 - **Bill Dennis**—improving; recurrent cold
 - **Brittany Tope's** mother **Gayle**—biopsy of spot on liver shows breast cancer has spread; **Brittany's** grandmother—on dialysis
 - **River** and **Forest Cox's** great grandmother **Martha Rowe**—in rehab for knee strengthening
 - **Judy Sartin's** friend **George Vernon**—stage 4 esophageal cancer
 - **Kim Howell's** coworker **Rachel Daniels**—new baby **Titus** has genetic disease; **Howells'** 19-year-old neighbor **Savannah Svensen** in Children's Hospital with leukemia; port and spinal tap Thurs
 - **Connor Boyd's** friend **Christian Lyons**, high school freshman—leukemia
- Travel** **Patricia Ward** in AZ for daughter **Stacy's** wedding



Exposing current trends *religious freedom, transgender*

Double Standards: Bathrooms, Boycotts, Hypocrisy, *Dustin Howard, et al*

If it weren't for double standards, some Liberals would have none at all. Liberals have displayed three distinct forms of hypocrisy: 1) CEOs of major corporations pledged boycotts and relocations against North Carolina and Mississippi, 2) Bruce Springsteen and Bryan Adams have canceled scheduled concerts in those states, and 3) Liberal governors and mayors signed travel bans to those states.

At issue are a Mississippi law that narrowly and carefully protects the rights of religious charities, small businesses, and select public servants; and a North Carolina law that reasonably protects privacy and safety in public restrooms, while leaving private institutions free to set their own bathroom policies. These laws, apparently, are now unacceptable to some voices on the left. But are they really? The hypocrisy in their opposition suggests otherwise.

Big Money and Big Business in Politics Are Bad, Unless They Support the Left? Liberals decry the influence of big business and big money in politics. They denounce, as a direct threat to democracy, the ability of corporations to engage in issue advocacy. They argue that politicians must answer to the people, not the highest corporate bidder. Or at least that's what they used to say. Liberals are now cheering Apple, PayPal, Salesforce, and countless other giant corporations threatening legislators and governors with boycotts if they pass popular laws that the left disapproves of. Even a pornographic website, XHamster.com, has concocted "a cunning plan, almost guaranteed to yield the repeal of the NC law (tongue in cheek)." The Huffington Post reports: "There's a new kink in North Carolina's LGBT controversy: A popular porn website is banning all computers from 'The Tar Heel State.' XHamster.com has been refusing to serve anyone from North Carolina since 12:30 p.m. EDT, Monday, 4/11. Instead, users with a North Carolina IP address are just seeing a black screen on their computer—no porn. The extreme measures will stay in place until North Carolina repeals House Bill 2, a law passed on March 23 that effectively prevents cities and counties in the state from passing rules that protect LGBT rights." These corporate elites didn't win an argument about good public policy. Instead, they threaten to boycott and transfer jobs out of states or cut services if the politicians don't do as they insist. They are "refusing service" to North Carolina, Georgia, and Mississippi residents based on their state government's decision to act to protect the religious freedoms of its citizens.

This economic coercion is a form of cultural cronyism. Big businesses use their outsized market share to pressure government to do their bidding at the expense of the will of the people and the common good. Hypocritically, the left cheers it on. Would a court find these businesses/icons guilty of bias or discrimination? Of course not. And therein lies the double-standard. It's acceptable for the self-proclaimed "tolerant" Left to refuse service based on their personal beliefs. Yet it is unacceptable for any Christian to deny services based on his personal (religious) beliefs.

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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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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**, "Courage to Live Holy Lives," DeWayne Howell

- **sermon**, Preaching Through First Corinthians (PTFC): chapter 10:1-22, "Temptation: No One Is Exempt," Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon

- **new sermon series Journey through Genesis**, "The Flood and the Tower," Genesis 6-11, Brian Shreve