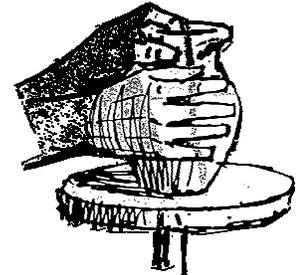


# His Workmanship at Westside

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

—Ephesians 2:10



Vol. XXV

June 19, 2016

No. 25

Isaiah 64:8

## A 100% Guaranteed Way to Sin Less, by Josh Hunt

Put the word in your heart. *"Bible memorization is absolutely fundamental to spiritual formation. If I had to choose between all the disciplines of the spiritual life, I'd choose Bible memorization, because it's a fundamental way of filling our minds with what it needs. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth. That's where you need it! How does it get in your mouth? Memorization,"* ("Spiritual Formation in Christ for the Whole Life and Whole Person," Dallas Willard, *Vocatio*, Vol. 12, no. 2, Spring, 2001, p. 7). A professor said that every student graduating from seminary should be required to learn one thousand verses word perfect before s/he graduates. Chuck Swindoll wrote, "I know of no other single practice in the life of a Christian more rewarding, more practical, than memorizing Scripture.... No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your praying will be strengthened. Your witnessing will be sharper and much more effective. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified," (*Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life* [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994], p. 61).

One reason Martin Luther came to his great discovery in the Bible of justification by faith was that in his early years in an Augustinian monastery he was influenced to love Scripture by Johann Staupitz. Luther devoured the Bible in a day when men became doctors of theology without even reading the Bi-

ble. Luther said that his fellow professor, Andreas Karlstadt, did not even own a Bible when he earned his doctor of theology degree, nor did he until many years later (Richard Bucher, *Martin Luther's Love for the Bible*). Luther knew so much of the Bible from memory that when he saw the truth, he said, "Thereupon I ran through the Scriptures from memory," in order to confirm what he had found.

Here are a few reasons why so many have viewed Scripture memorization as essential to living in Christ:

1. Conformity to Christ. Paul wrote that "we all, ... beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another," 2 Cor 3:18. If we want to be like Christ, we must steadily see Him. This happens in the word. "The Lord revealed Himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord," 1 Sam 3:21. Bible memorization has the effect of making our gaze on Jesus steadier and clearer.

2. Daily triumph over sin. "How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.... I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you," Ps 119:9, 11. Paul said that we must "by the Spirit... put to death the [sinful] deeds of the body," Rm 8:13. The one piece of armor used to kill is the "sword of the Spirit" which is the word of God, Eph 6:17. As sin lures the body into sinful action, we can call to mind a Christ-revealing word of Scrip-

ture and slay the temptation with the superior worth and beauty of Christ over what sin offers.

3. Daily triumph over Satan. When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, he recited Scripture from memory and put Satan to flight, Mt 4:1-11; Lk 4:1-13.

4. Comfort and counsel for people you love. The times when people need you to give them comfort and counsel do not always coincide with the times you have your Bible handy. Not only that, the very word of God spoken spontaneously from your heart has unusual power. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver," Pr 25:11. That is a beautiful way of saying, "When the heart full of God's love can draw on the mind full of God's word, timely blessings flow from the mouth."

5. Communicating the gospel to unbelievers. Opportunities to share the gospel come when we do not have the Bible in hand. Actual verses of the Bible have their own penetrating power. And when they come from our heart, as well as from the Book, we share and show that they are precious enough to learn. We should all be able to sum up the gospel under four main headings: 1) God's holiness/law/glory; 2) man's sin/rebellion/disobedience; 3) Christ's death for sinners; 4) the free gift of life by faith in Christ. Learn a verse or two relating to each of these and be ready in and out of season to share them.

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## 100% Way to Sin Less, from p. 1

6. Communion with God in the enjoyment of His person and ways. The way we commune with God is by meditating on his attributes and expressing to Him our thanks and admiration and love; and by seeking His help to live a life that reflects the value of these attributes. Therefore, storing texts in our minds about God helps us relate to Him as He really is. For example, imagine being able to call this to mind through the day: *"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust,"* Ps 103:8-14.

The word "enjoyment" in number 6, "communion with God in the enjoyment of his person and ways," is intentional. Most of us are emotionally crippled—all of us, really. We do not experience God in the fullness of our emotional potential. How will that change? One way is to memorize the emotional expressions of the Bible and speak them to the Lord and to each other until they become part of who we are. For example, we say, *"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me. Bless His holy name!"* Ps 103:1. That is not a natural expression for many people. But if we memorize this and other emotional expressions from the Bible, and say them often, asking the Lord to make the emotion real in our hearts, we can actually grow into that emotion and expression. It will become part of who we are. We will be less emotionally crippled and more able to render proper praise and thanks to God. There are other reasons for memorizing Scripture. I hope you find them in actual practice.

**MEMORY VERSE LIST Adults/Kids**  
**Luke 1:37; 12:15**      **Matthew 26:41**  
**Colossians 3:2**      **Galatians 6:2**

## 22 Things Christians Need to Stop Doing—Now, by Chuck Tate

Preachers often talk about the purpose or mission of God's people: God has called Christians to do many things in this world, and our task to make disciples and take the gospel to the nations is immediate and apparent. But there are other things that we should seek to cease in our lives. Charisma magazine gives us 22 key things and attitudes that we need to cut out of our lives.

**1. Quit expecting the world to like you.** Jesus said it would hate you, Jn 15:18-27; Mt 10:22.

**2. Quit throwing your own teammates under the bus.** We're called to build each other up, not tear each other down. In fact, Jesus said that our love for each other proves to the world that we are really His true disciples, Jn 13:35; 1 Thes 5:11.

**3. Quit gossiping.** This includes sharing "juicy prayer requests" without the consent of the person you're praying for, Ps 34:13; 101:5; Eph 4:29.

**4. Quit replacing prayer with "good vibes" and "positive thoughts." No. Just no.** Prayer moves the hand of God, and the hand of God moves the world. Prayer is much more effective than making someone feel warm and fuzzy inside. By the way, not that positive thoughts and good vibes are wrong (and they may make you feel good), just that prayer is more powerful than both, 2 Cor 1:11; Phil 1:19; Eph 6:18; Jas 5:16.

**5. Quit saying repentance isn't necessary. It is.** Jesus said so. And just so you know, there are 53 references to repentance in the New Testament. Now go repent, Mt 5:17; Ax 3:19; Rm 2:5; 2 Pet 3:9; 1 Jn 1:9.

**6. Quit saying that the "portions of the Bible that make you feel uncomfortable" are irrelevant and nothing more than dated writings.** All 66 books, 1,189 chapters, and 31,102 verse are the inspired Word of God. So the next time you think about throwing out the Old Testament, just remember that Jesus quoted it numerous times in all four gospels, Jn 1:1-4, 14; 2 Tim 3:16.

**7. Quit expecting unbelievers/non-**

**Christians to understand the Bible and/or to live like Christ.** It's hard enough for Christians to live like Christ, and it's impossible to live like Him without Him (until the blinders are removed), 2 Cor 4:4; 5:17; Gal 5:24-25.

**8. Quit acting like the Great Commission ("Go into all the world and preach the gospel") is the Great Suggestion.** It's a command. Go and make disciples already, Mt 28:18-20; Mk 16:15-16.

**9. Quit thinking that it's OK to be silent about your faith.** Yes, it's just as important to represent Jesus by how we live, but people can't respond to the Good News without hearing it—and they can't hear it if no one opens their mouth, Mt 10:27; Rm 10:14-15.

**10. Quit being more passionate about your political affiliation than your relationship with Jesus.** If 99% of what you post on social media consists of bashing government officials and presidential candidates—you're doing more damage than good, Rm 13:1-7; 2 Chr 7:14.

**11. Quit using the Bible to beat the "hell" out of people.** That doesn't work. Ever. Not even if you're right—if you're a jerk, nobody is listening. Love wins! 1 Cor 13.

**12. Quit your legalistic rants, knee-jerk reactions, and judgmentalism.** You're turning people off. You're making good news bad news. Jesus befriended sinners. Try it and great things will happen, Mt 9:10-13; Lk 5:27-32; 1 Tim 1:15-16.

**13. Quit calling yourself a Christian if you believe there are multiple paths that lead to salvation.** Jesus said that He's the only way to heaven. If you don't believe Him, you're not a Christ-follower, Jn 14:6; 1 Jn 2:4.

**14. Quit living like everybody's going to heaven and nobody's going to hell.** Jesus died so the whole world could be saved, but He said the way to heaven is narrow and few find it. And for the record, He preached more about hell than heaven—but He did it without

*continued on p. 3*



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

**22 Things to Stop**, from p. 2 using a bullhorn and manipulative scare tactics, Mt 7:13-14.

**15. Quit acting like you're better than those who don't know Jesus.** You're not, Lk 18:19; Ax 10:34; Rm 2:11-13; 3:23.

**16. Quit criticizing loving believers who take a Biblical stand for godly morals.** Jesus didn't call us to be politically correct. Develop some backbone, Ax 4-6.

**17. Quit pointing out the speck in your neighbor's eye while ignoring the plank in your own eye.** By the way, I can hardly see my computer as I type this because of the log in my own eye, Mt 7:3-5.

**18. Quit being a jerk, period.** Whatever your position is (on anything), if you can't communicate it in love, you're a clanging cymbal and your message is worthless, 1 Cor 13.

**19. Quit defending sin. Quit hating sinners.** These are equally important. Oh, yes, and lose your critical lens, Ps 97:10; Mt 22:37-39.

**20. Quit using the phrase "he who's without sin cast the first stone" out of context, i.e., as an excuse for sin.** The next thing Jesus said was, "Go and sin no more," Jn 8:1-11.

**21. Quit using grace as a license to live however you want.** Jesus is grace, so don't trample Him under your feet, Rm 6:1-2; 1 Jn 2:4; Heb 10:26-31.

**22. Quit using the phrase (when inviting people to church) "come as you are" if you're going to complain when they start showing up,** Mk 2:14-17; Mt 18:11; Lk 15:1-32.

## Discipleship Here At Home

### Me Before You, from p. 4

They all caved. They all encouraged, facilitated, or were actually present at Will's suicide the way he wanted it. And a morally unformed reader will think, "Maybe it's not so bad after all. Maybe, by being present, that was the loving thing to do." No, it's not.

Would the characters have been present if Will had killed a child? Then why would they be present when Will killed himself? His life is just as unrepeatably, just as irreplaceable, as a child's. Life, our own or someone else's, is not ours to take. Moreover, Will couldn't have gotten to the suicide clinic without their help. So his act of suicide actually turned into their act of homicide. Had they refused to "help" him, especially when, as a result of Louisa's involvement in his life, he admitted those were the best six months of his entire life, Will might have gone on to thrive in a world of human connection and a world of you before me. But we will never know. Because he's dead. And they helped kill him.

Will was obsessed with control and argued that he should end his life because it was the one thing he could control. But he could control more than death—he could control his perspective. Holocaust survivor Dr. Viktor Frankl wrote in Man's Search for Meaning, that "everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances..." When someone is despairing so much that he can't see that he can choose his attitude, it's the job of people who care to help him see this, not to feed into his despair. One palliative care website says, "In our experience, the issue of physician-assisted suicide often arises as a response to a complex set of problems which we help people sort through and address."

The movie was released this June, and unsuspecting moviegoers who've seen the trailer may have no clue it's actually about assisted suicide. Please boycott the film and encourage others to do the same. And when someone asks why, you can begin by explaining, "You before me is better than Me Before You..."

### PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

- **Mike Strand**—in St. Anthony's rehab, recovering from broken ribs, tibia, fibula, ankle, collapsed lung, surgical repair
  - **Janelle Hall**—chemo for breast cancer
  - **Jennifer Clayton**—battle w/Lyme disease for last 18 mos; symptoms worsened in April, including muscle & joint pain, neurological issues; pray 2-mo regimen to kill babesia, bartonella, and parasites will be effective, not require additional treatment, and not prevent Jennifer from work and worship
  - **Brittany Tope's** grandmother—on dialysis, in ICU recently in Colorado Springs; **Brittany's** mother **Gayle**—breast cancer spread, 3 tumors on liver, spine; upcoming surgery
  - **Judy Sartin**—fall last week; chronic rotator cuff pain; spinal stenosis
  - **Brett Witherington's** mother **Cheryl**—last week's lumpectomy ;successful; radiation; **Sylvia Chapman, Brett's** grandmother—3rd stage pancreatic cancer; grandmother **Sue** recent heart attack; **Sue & Aunt Connie Doss**—cancer
  - **Mike Menard, Virginia's** son—pancreatic cancer; home, weakening; **Virginia** wrenched leg; macular degeneration
  - the **Boyd's** extended families are undergoing hardships: **Wendy's** father, **Dan Gutierrez**, back in care center with cognitive problems; pray for **Kenny's** sister **Jennifer**, family **Kevin, Chloe, & Elijah Whitemore**
  - **Sheryle McNeill**—boil removed recently; 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
  - **Bill Dennis**—improving; recurrent infections
  - **River and Forest Cox's** great grandmother **Martha Rowe**—in rehab for knee strengthening
  - **Noah Hadders's** teacher **Sharolyn Elmore**—radiation for breast cancer ; **Randy Reames's** co-worker **Diane (D.D.) Estes**—ocular melanoma surgery successful; regaining eyesight
- CHRONIC CONDITIONS**  
**Christian Harrod; Addison Tope; Rocco Jr.; Ann Cox; Joel Walker; Logan Corray**—asthma  
**Orchid Cox**—chronic blood clot condition  
**Autumn Hadders**—epilepsy; celiac disease  
**Delmer Hice, Lynda Szymanski**—COPD  
**Kirk Johnson**—MS; **Amanda Mailloux**—IBS  
**Sandra Perry**—breathing and diabetes complications after hospitalizations in April and May  
**Cheryl Reames**—fibromyalgia; diverticulitis  
**Travel Howells** in Hawaii to 6/24; **Letha Fink** ends 3-week trip to NM and GA; **River** and **Forest Cox** end 3-week camping trip with mother in the West; the **Wilkeses** are in NC house hunting and visiting family



## Exposing current trends assisted suicide

**'You Before Me' Better Than Me Before You**, by Stephanie Gray

"Wait for it...It's going to make you raaaaage." That's the text from my friend who told me about the book and new movie, Me Before You. She suggested I read it, not because it would be worth my time (or hers), but rather because she had just attended a pro-life apologetics presentation I gave on assisted suicide and euthanasia, and she thought I should be aware of the story because my future audiences might mention it.

So on the weekend, as it poured rain, I curled up and got caught up in the world of the main characters Louisa Clark and Will Traynor. So would I recommend it? Absolutely not. It's dangerous—very dangerous. Setting aside the obvious problems of blasphemous language and sexual references, the storyline supports assisted suicide—but it does so in a sneaky way, making it all the more dangerous.

Initially Louisa, hired to be a companion and helper to wheelchair-bound Will, was my hero. She was from a family that, while it had its own dysfunctions, overall lived a self-less philosophy: Louisa worked so as to help provide for her poverty-stricken family. You before me. Her parents welcomed her sister home when faced with an unplanned pregnancy and helped care for their grandson. You before me. Her mom quit work to care for the family's ailing grandfather. You before me.

But her world of you before me was about to collide with another world—the ugly world of me before you. By the world's standards the Traynor family had it all: unlimited wealth and the ability to go wherever and do whatever. But they were all miserable because they lacked love.

Mr. Traynor was having an affair (not his first). Me before you. When Will's sister Georgina visited and learned of his plan to have assisted suicide in six months, she got angry that he would do it; but instead of using the six months to give him the gift of time, attention, and love, to try to convince him that he is valuable and should stay alive, she returned to Australia, saying, "This was just a visit...It's a really good job, the one I've been working toward for the past two years...I can't put my whole life on hold just because of Will's mental state." Me before you. Will himself, pre-accident, led a life of self-indulgence. Me before you.

So why was Louisa my hero initially? When she learned that his parents had agreed to assist Will in his suicide in six months' time, she quit because she didn't want to be part of killing. Louisa, you're my hero. Then she decided to return to work, realizing she could spend the next few months trying to make Will's life as wonderful as possible so he wouldn't choose suicide. Louisa, you're my hero. Then she took Will on a life-creating and spirit-building vacation and told him she wanted to devote her life to loving and serving him, but he refused her, saying he still planned to commit suicide; so she cut him off in a decision to remove herself from the killing. Louisa, you're my hero.

But then it all went downhill. Almost every single character caved: Mr. & Mrs. Traynor, Georgina, Mr. Clark, Louisa's sister—and Louisa herself.

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DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

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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," Kenny Boyd

- **sermon**, Preaching Through First Corinthians (PTFC): chapter 16, "Receive Traveling Evangelists; Let All Be Done in Love," Jim Reingrover

### Sunday afternoon

- **sermon**, "Jacob's Lessons and Prophecy, (Genesis 49)," Merrit Zollars