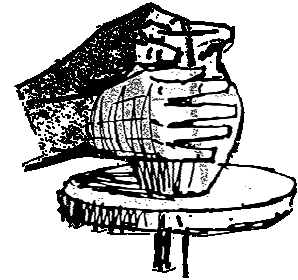


# His Workmanship Westside

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



Vol. XXIII

June 1, 2014

No. 22

Isaiah 64:8

## Keep Learning Christ's Lessons for Living, by David P. Nolte

They say, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." But this is no excuse for people, old or young, to quit learning. You are not an old dog, and it is not merely new tricks you ought to learn. All of us need to remember to learn—that graduation means we have reached a level, not the final level, from which we need to keep progressing, striving, growing, and learning. We need to learn lessons that impact our lives, that alter our personal relationships, that keep us from making the same foolish mistakes time and again. We need to learn lessons that improve the quality of life for self and others around us. We need to learn lessons that change the meaning of our years from mere existence to genuine abundant living in Christ. Some people don't want to learn anything new. But learning moves us out of our stale routines. Learning demands discipline. Learning may mean that we have been wrong and have to change! Learning threatens the status quo. Learning is often difficult. But learn we must, or stagnate we will.

And in all our learning, remember that we are greatly ignorant if we have failed to learn from Jesus Christ. His teaching amazed some, angered some, and motivated others. He

taught with authority and didn't merely echo the teaching of others, as did the scribes' teaching. Some obeyed Jesus's teaching, and some did not obey it. Listening to and doing what Jesus taught makes all the difference in whether we stand or fall. We can learn many lessons from Jesus.

**I. WE NEED TO LEARN SELF-DENIAL.** *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me," Mt 16:24.* To deny self means to learn to say, "No!" to our selfish desires and motivations and to mean it! We can trace nearly every sin back to selfish desire and a failure to deny self. Consider Absalom. The spoiled king's kid wanted to throw David out, even by death if need be, to become king. Consider Ahab. The evil king went along with Jezebel's plot and murdered Naboth to secure his vineyard. Think about this: self-centeredness is destructive. It ruins marriages. It destroys friendships. It breeds dishonesty, cheating, and even crime and violence. It leads to greed, covetousness, and other forms of idolatry. It sparks hostility, enmity, and war. *"What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so*

*you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures," Jas 4:1-3.*

Here's a piece dealing with childish logic that truly reflects the "me first" attitude of a 3-year-old: "If I think it's mine, it's mine. If it used to be mine and I gave it to you but want it back, it's mine. If it looks like mine, it's mine. If you laid it down for a minute, it's mine. If I didn't want it until you wanted it, it's mine." One youngster e-mailed this thought: "Dear Grandpa, Hi! I had no idea how many viruses there are, kinda like sin, huh? If you download the wrong stuff you start to do more stuff bad and spread it onto others. It's so sad, but if we spread God's news, we can kill some of the viruses (sin). I was just thinking about it and thought of sending you this letter. I love you!" The point: Selfishness is one of the worst viruses we'll ever encounter. We need to kill it or it will kill us. To kill it, we need to learn the lesson of self-denial.

**II. WE NEED TO LEARN COMPASSION.** *"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for*  
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**“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”  
—Matthew 6:33**

*one another,*” Jn 13:35. Compassion means to have pity, to feel distress for the problems of others, to be patient and kind in their failures, to be loving and gentle in their weaknesses, to be forgiving when they wrong you, to show kindness or good will towards the suffering and afflicted, coupled with a desire to help them. “But go and learn what this means, ‘I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,’ for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners,” Mt 9:13, quoting Hos 6:6; see also Mt 12:7; 1 Sam 15:22; Pr 21:3. To put compassion into action, seek out the lonely and overlooked and forgotten. Be a friend. Be a defender and advocate for the one everyone picks on or taunts. Be a healer and comforter to the one who is grieving, sorrowful, and sad. Be an admonisher and encourager for the one who is desperate, at wits end, and discouraged. Be a lifter, give a hand to the weak, stumbling, and failing. Welcome the newcomer to the community, school, or church. Seek them out to alleviate their difficulty. “And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity,” Col 3:12-14.

Despite his busy schedule during the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln often visited the hospitals to cheer the wounded. Once he saw a young soldier who was near death. “Is there anything I can do for you?” asked the compassionate President. “Please write a letter to my mother,” came the reply from the soldier who did not recognize the President. Lincoln sat down and

wrote as the youth dictated to him: “My Dearest Mother, I was badly hurt while doing my duty, and I won’t recover. Don’t sorrow too much for me. May God bless you and Father. Kiss Mary and John for me.” The young man was too weak to go on, so Lincoln signed the letter for him and then added this postscript: “Written for your son by Abraham Lincoln.” Asking to see the note, the soldier was

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”  
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

astonished to discover who had shown him such kindness. “Are you really our President?” he asked. “Yes,” was the quiet answer. “Now, is there anything else I can do?” The youth feebly replied, “Will you please hold my hand? I think it would help to see me through to the end.” The tall, gaunt man granted his request, offering warm words of encouragement until death stole in with the dawn. That’s compassion. That’s a lesson!

**III. WE NEED TO LEARN TO PUT JESUS FIRST.** *“Now as they were traveling along, He entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. And she had a sister called Mary, who moreover was listening to the Lord’s word, seated at His feet. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him, and said, ‘Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.’ But the Lord answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be*

*taken away from her;”* Lk 10:38-42. Martha, not sinfully, was occupied FOR Jesus. Mary, not lazily, was occupied WITH Jesus. Jesus wants us occupied for Him, but not if it interferes with being occupied WITH Him. Many times we hustle and bustle, fuss and muss, hurry and worry about a thousand things, but don’t take time with Jesus to settle, cf. Ps 131:2. We are busy and dizzy, rushed and flushed, uptight and in fright about this world’s activities, but neglectful about Jesus. We have time for school, work, play, sports, amusements, hobbies, newspapers, TV, and many other pursuits, but are negligent about Jesus. How significant is Jesus to me? How important, how central, how prime in my activities, thoughts, and life? We need to learn to sit quietly with Jesus, learning at His feet.

An African girl to whom Jesus was number one saw others bringing offerings to God and had nothing to give. One day she came and handed the preacher a single coin. He knew of her poverty and asked, “Why, where did you get this coin?” She said, “I went to a neighboring plantation owner and sold myself to him as a slave for that coin. I wanted to give Jesus an offering which satisfied my heart.” No question who was first in her life.

Lessons for living: Learn self-denial. Learn compassion. Learn to put Jesus first. If you succeed in learning those lessons, other things will fall into place. When we learn those lessons, we learn to say no to lustful and immoral desires. We learn to deal with people as Jesus would deal with them: forgiving those who wrong us, helping those in need. We learn to value what Jesus values and to hate

*continued on p. 3*



Psalm 133:1

**Let your faith be seen in 2014**  
 "I rejoice to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ."  
 —Colossians 2:5

**Keep Learning, from p. 2**

what He hates, to walk in ways that emulate Him and avoid ways that break His heart. We learn how frequently we fail and how mercifully He restores. We learn how unworthy we are and how gracious He is. We learn that while we cannot do anything to put ourselves right with God, Jesus has already done that. We learn that we come into right relationship with God by receiving Christ by faith and identifying with Christ in obedience, including baptism into His death. We learn Christ—believing Him, trusting Him, and obeying Him. The Master Teacher says, "Come, learn of me," Mt 11:28-30. Be a life-long learner. Will you come? Will you show that you are willing to learn from Him by trusting and obeying Him?

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**June 23-25**

9:15-11:45 am

*God Knows*

*About Water*



**Monday—Noah and the Flood**

**Tuesday—Crossing the Red Sea**

**Wednesday—Jonah and the Fish**

See Tracy Corray or Kim Howell for registration information

**Directory addition:** Westin Cox (dob 3/30) has chosen to work and worship as a part of Westside: 9352 Balsam Ct, Highlands Ranch 80126 720-413-1843 [west7cox@gmail.com](mailto:west7cox@gmail.com) Please welcome him and his sons **Forest**, 3/30/05, and **River**, 6/25/08  
**Job concerns** Linda Szymanski

## Discipleship Here At Home

**Why Not an Abundant Life?**

Why do you not have a satisfying life? Why does it seem life is just not abundant and fulfilling? It may be due to withholding yourself from Christ. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly," Jn 10:10. He taught us to give generously first, and then it will be given in return, abundantly and over-flowing. "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running

**Poudre Valley Gospel Meeting**  
**June 5-8, David Lanius**  
**"It's All About God"**

Thurs, 7 pm, The Unknown God  
 Fri, 7 pm, Reverence for God  
 Sat, 10:30 am, No Fear of God  
 Sat, 1:30 pm, singing  
 Sat, 2:30 pm, "Who is the LORD that I Should Obey His Voice?"  
 Sun, 9:30 am, Without God, Without Hope  
 Sun, 10:30 am, God's Redemption  
 Sun, 1:30 pm, Hope of Heaven  
**4202 N. Garfield Avenue**  
**Loveland, CO 80538**  
[www.poudrevalleychurchofchrist.org/](http://www.poudrevalleychurchofchrist.org/)

over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you," Lk 6:38. Paul said that if we sow sparingly, we will reap sparingly, 2 Co. 9:6. God said that the people of Malachi's day were not receiving abundant blessings because they withheld their tithes, Mal 3:8-10.

God has therefore made a principle—that as a man sows, so shall he also reap, Gal 6:7-9. One thing you can do to make your earthly life more abundant is never to shortchange the Lord in your offerings. One father gave this advice: *Always be sure to give the Lord His Sunday contribution, and things will be well with you.* That was Biblical advice. Your life will be richly blessed when you give richly to the Lord—God promised.

Congratulations to **Ethan Howell**, a graduate of Ralston Valley High School.

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

**Larry Campbell**—recovering from concussion  
**Bemey's mother, Ninfa Charo**—seriously ill following post-surgery infection  
**Frank Savarese**—bronchitis, 2 ears' infection  
**Leah Lamonica**—early labor; returned home  
**Sarah Hadders**—broken foot  
**Ed Fink**—prostate cancer; current treatment for brain tumors; **PRAISE:** improved blood count  
**Nell Free**—anemic and dehydrated; some valve leakage in her heart her doc is tracking  
**Giles Free**—seizure last month; confined at home  
**Ronda Love**, friend of **Judy Strand**—terminal cancer, young mother open to gospel  
**Kerrie Sartin**, **Judy's** daughter-in-law—hospitalized for severe abdominal pain  
**Paul Hendrickson**, a coworker of **Joel Walker** and **Gregg Geis**—quintuple bypass  
**Gregg Geis's** friend **Becky** in CA—terminal cancer; searching for the truth  
**Forrest Corray**, **Jordan's** brother—addiction  
**Randy Reames's** mother, **Una**, in her 80s—cancerous colon tumor removed recently  
**Sandra Perry's** cousin, **George Rupinen**, age 60—terminal cancer  
**Josh McDonald**, friend of **Kory Tope**, and his daughter **Casey**—unwanted divorce

**CHRONIC CONDITIONS**

**Logan Corray; Rocco Sangellino Jr; Addison Tope; Christian Harrod; Pat Wilkes**—asthma  
**Bill Dennis**—heart issues  
**Autumn Hadders**—epilepsy; celiac disease  
**Jonathan Hadders**—RA  
**Danielle Huelsman**—vertigo, CV syndrome  
**Kirk Johnson**—worsening MS; needs quick meals to heat up, like soup  
**Menards**—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak; **Virginia**, macular degeneration; high BP  
**Sandra Perry**—neuropathy from diabetes  
**Cheryl Reames**—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia  
**Nell Free**—pacemaker, heart; back pain  
**Judy Sartin**—spinal stenosis; arthritis  
**Judy and Mike Strand**—both beginning treatment for hepatitis  
**Lynda Szymanski**—COPD, lung weakness  
**Travel** **Tzvetanka, Alexander**, and **Anna Gintchin** are visiting family in Bulgaria; **Lazar** will join them soon.  
**Brett** and **Kaysha Witherington** are in KY through tomorrow for a wedding.



## Exposing current thoughts & trends

### Homeland Insecurity: Sudan Mom in Prison, by Tony Perkins

Based on last Thursday's Commerce-Justice-Science hearing, the Obama administration seems unaware of the case of Meriam Ibrahim, the Sudanese Christian who was sentenced to death for apostasy. While there's been some speculation that the government may have been working behind the scenes on Ibrahim's release from prison, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson put those rumors to rest with a jaw-dropping show of ignorance on her case and that of her two small American children, both imprisoned with her in Khartoum.

Congressman Trent Franks, R-AZ, a staunch advocate for religious liberty, took the opportunity to press Homeland Security on its plan of action for the 27-year-old doctor, whose faith is a death sentence under the nation's Sharia Law. "Her husband is a U.S. citizen, and she has two young children, one of whom was born just two days ago in her mother's prison. Now, both of these children are eligible for U.S. citizenship, and this case has become so high profile that many of us are deeply concerned about Meriam's safety in Sudan, especially if she wins her appeal and is released back into the Sudanese society at large. And my question to you, Mr. Secretary, is will you assure this Committee at large that you will prioritize this case and quickly review the possibility of granting Meriam a safe haven in the United States?" Johnson responded that he would "personally, along with the appropriate component heads, take a look at this case. It sounds troubling."

Eyebrows shot up at the last sentence, which seemed to imply that a Cabinet-level official was oblivious to the persecution of two of his own citizens abroad. Rep. Franks seemed taken aback and asked if this was a case the Department chief was even aware of. "I was generally familiar with the case—I think."

You *think*? The eyes of the international community have been trained on that overcrowded, bug-infested prison in Sudan since the story broke—yet one of America's top security leaders isn't even sure if he knows the citizen shackled there? That's appalling, but typical of an administration that only learns of things through the newspaper. As Tony Perkins told Fox News's Megyn Kelly Thursday night, at one time it meant something to be an American citizen. It meant that no matter where you were, no matter what you faced, you were not alone. Were it not for the global community sounding the alarm, Meriam Ibrahim would be alone. Her children's own government can't be bothered even to investigate the facts of her case. Surely, they can take a break from their gay pride preparations to rescue two little children, whose lives literally hang in the balance. Or do they not take anything seriously besides LGBT month?



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720-295-4530

#### Pastors

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

#### Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

[info@thechurchingolden.com](mailto:info@thechurchingolden.com)

## 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, *Inside Out, Growing a Spirit of Service***, Lesson 7, "A Sharing Spirit," DeWayne Howell

- **Sermon, "An Attitude of Obedience,"**  
Jim Reingrover

### Sunday afternoon:

- **Sermon, "Lessons from the Ethiopian Eunuch,"** Jim Reingrover

### Wednesday adult class for June:

*Jeremiah and Lamentations: Warnings*

This week: Jeremiah 40-44