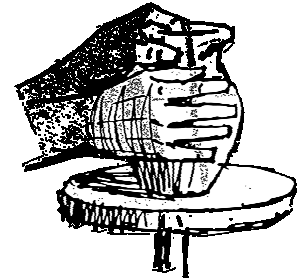


# His Workmanship: Westside

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

—Ephesians 2:10



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No. 2

Isaiah 64:8

## "It Is No Longer I Who Live, but Christ Lives in Me," by Tim Jennings

Can you summarize the purpose of the Bible story in just three words? Paul did. He said it is all about "Christ in you." The purpose of the gospel is captured in this powerfully pithy statement, "*God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,*" Col 1:27. Christ living in us is the grand goal of God's redemptive work. Our salvation hinges on the reality of Christ living in us. It is why Paul described his personal ambition by saying, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me," Gal 2:20.



God living in His people is a major Biblical theme, but what does it mean? The Biblical teaching on this subject differs significantly from the mystic concept that each person is a god and will ultimately be absorbed into the full essence of the divine. In the Bible a human is not God, and human people maintain their personality throughout future eternity. In addition, the scriptures that talk about "God living in us" do not always require a literal understanding, as though we are like a Russian nested doll with God residing

inside one of the layers.

**Creation.** To understand the importance of God living in us we must return to the account of creation. When God first contemplated the formation of humanity He said, "*Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...so God created man in His own image,*" Gen 1:26-27. The purpose of our humanity is to bear the divine image! However, sin entered and ruined the picture. Pain and death snuffed out life, and rebellion replaced righteousness. God's beautiful self-portrait on the canvas of humanity was soiled by sinful hands.

Then one day the Artist Himself entered our humanity, and for the first time we saw the image of God in flawless clarity. His grace and truth revealed the divine nature as never before, because He was the "*exact/express image*" of God in the flesh, Jn 1:14,17-18; Heb 1:3. Jesus is the perfect expression of God's original portrait of humanity. The purpose of God's redemptive work is to make us look like Him—Christ in you!

**Fellowship.** The stains of sin and death must first be removed from our lives before the divine image can shine through. How this is accomplished is the message of the gospel.

Jesus removed the ugliness of sin and death by His atoning sacrifice and glorious resurrection. As a result, we are able to reflect God's image.

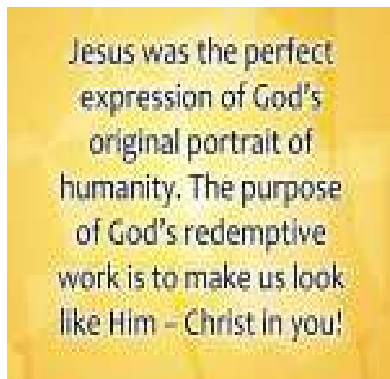
This is possible because fellowship with God is restored. In fact, many of the passages that talk about "*Christ living in us*" emphasize the reality of our fellowship with Him. For example, Jesus said, "*Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me,*" Jn 15:4. Jesus was emphasizing the necessity of our relationship with Him.

Similarly, John wrote in his first letter, "*Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God,*" 1 Jn 4:15. The acceptance and application of the gospel (confessing Jesus) places a person in fellowship with God. The phrase, "*God abides in him*" describes the intimacy of that relationship in much the same way as the phrase "*in Christ*" does scores of times in the New Testament. [See Jn 6:56; 14:20; 17:20-21,23; Rm 8:11; 1 Cor 3:16; 6:19; Eph 2:22; 3:17; Col 3:11; 2 Cor 6:16; 13:5; 1 Jn 3:24; 4:13.]

The wonderful truth is this: If "*Christ lives in me,*" that means that I have  
continued on p. 2

## “Do you not know...that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” 1 Cor 3:16, from p. 1

fellowship with God! I belong to Him. I bear His image. He made me sinless through the blood of the cross. He gave me eternal life through the power of the empty tomb, Rn 6:1-6. “*Christ lives in me*” is all about my identity! I’m no longer a flawed sculpture cast out with the rejects of humanity. My Redeemer remade me into His image.



**Formation.** I must, therefore, increasingly reflect Christ’s character in my life. This requires a vigorous, lifelong pursuit to know Jesus. Thankfully, the New Testament record contains the very “*mind of Christ*,” 1 Cor 2:16. In God’s revelation I discover how Jesus thought and acted, and these truths become the template of my life while

Christ is being formed in me, Gal. 4:19.

A significant number of the “*God lives in me*” passages describe the formation of Christ’s character in His followers. A startling example is found in 1 John 4:12 which begins, “*No one has seen God at any time.*” This is a clear reference to the same phrase at the beginning of John’s gospel, Jn 1:18. However, in the gospel it is Jesus who made the “unseen God” known, but to our astonishment the statement in John’s letter reads, “No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us,” 1 Jn 4:12. Amazingly, we are the ones who now make known the invisible God! How? We reflect the character Christ revealed to us.

Therefore Christ vitally lives in us when we carefully follow His will: “*He who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him,*” 1 Jn 3:24. This requires a continuous pursuit of His character. “*We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another,*” 2 Cor 3:18. Practically, this means that we think as Christ thought, say what Christ said, and do what Christ did.

[See Jn 15:1-8; 17:26; Rm 8:10,29; Eph 3:19; 5:1; 2 Pet 1:4; 1 Jn 2:6,24,27-28; 3:24; 4:16.]

This is the purpose of our existence! We are created to display the image of our Creator, but sin marred that portrait beyond recognition. However, through Jesus Christ the sin is removed, eternal life is restored, and we learn, like teetering toddlers, once again to walk like our Father. May we “*be filled with all the fullness of God,*” Eph 3:19.

Perhaps you know the hymn “*Christ Liveth in Me*” by Daniel W. Whittle  
*Once far from God and dead in sin,  
No light my heart could see;  
But in God’s Word the light I found,  
Now Christ liveth in me.*

*As rays of light from yonder sun,  
The flow’rs of earth set free,  
So life and light and love come forth  
From Christ living in me.  
With longing all my heart is filled,  
That like Him I may be,  
As on the wondrous thought I dwell  
That Christ liveth in me.*

*Christ liveth in me,  
Christ liveth in me;  
Oh! what a salvation this,  
That Christ liveth in me.*

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## Can God Count on You? by Ron Daly

Do you love God? How much? Are you willing to be fully committed to him in every way? Is there anything you would not do for God, Mk 12:29-30? We live in a world that is constantly at war, at war with sin, 2 Cor 10:3-6. Whose side are you on—the world’s or God’s?

Can God count on you to increase your knowledge of His word so you can defend it against false teachers and their disciples? “*Continue growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,*” 2 Pet 3:18. God wants us to go beyond a state of spiritual infancy and advance constantly to maturity, Heb 5:11-14. We do this when

we pray, study, and apply the word, Ax 17:11. Will you resolve to study the Scriptures on a daily basis?

Can God count on you to defend the truth against every foe? Too many people will defend the gospel if someone they do not like is perverting it. But if one of their friends perverts God’s word, they tend to be very tolerant, or they will make excuses for them. When truth is at stake, we should have no friends except God. Do you find yourself wetting a finger and sticking it in the air to see which way the wind is blowing before you take a stand on a controversial issue? The Bible says stand—

stand up, stand fast, stand in grace, stand in the gospel, “stand perfect and complete in all the will of God,” stand fast in the Lord, stand by faith, Rm 5:2; 11:20; 1 Cor 15:1; 16:13; 2 Cor 1:24; Gal 5:1; Eph 6:11, 13-14; Phil 1:27; 4:1; Col 4:12; 1 Thes 3:8; 2 Thes 2:15; 1 Pet 5:12; Jude 3.

Can God count on you to take an active role in the work and worship of the local church? God has not placed the responsibility for building up the church on the shoulders of only one or two persons. The evangelist’s role is to preach the word, 2 Tim 4:1-5; the elders oversee, Ax 20:17, 28-32; the deacons serve, Ax continued on p. 3



**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

**Two Crises**, from p. 4  
marker that awakens us to the consequences of our inaction. Perhaps January 7 will overcome our weariness in dealing with the threats we face, a weariness made worse by leaders who justify and cater to it. Perhaps January 7 will lead us to act with more of the bravery of the French cartoonists. Perhaps January 7 will be the day when fear masked as sensitivity gives way to a vigor that calls forth courage. In late 1936, Winston Churchill warned the House of Commons, “*The era of procrastination, of half-measures, of soothing and baffling expedients, of delays is coming to its close. In its place we are entering a period of consequences.*” [Lindsay Graham, US Senator from SC, said Wednesday: “*We’re in a religious war. These are not terrorists. They are radical Islamists who are trying to replace our way of life with their way of life. Their way of life is motivated by religious teachings that require me and you to be killed, or enslaved, or converted.*”]

**Two Enemies.** We face a crisis of Islam. We need to be clear-eyed about that. But we also face a crisis of the West. Only if we come to grips with that second crisis will this period of consequences turn out to be an occasion for renewal rather than another marker on the path to decadence. Only then will we show (to paraphrase William Gladstone) that the resources of civilization against terror are by no means exhausted. The desperate desire on the part of

## Discipleship Here At Home

**Two Crises**, Western leaders to proclaim Islam a religion of peace now looks farcical. But the problem isn't simply that real, existing Islam is not a religion of peace, as Sisi acknowledged. The problem is that the liberalism of the West has become a religion of appeasement of terror.

We have met the enemy, most recently in Paris, and it is violent jihad. But it would be a disservice to the brave men and women of Charlie Hebdo if we did not acknowledge after this week's events that we have also met the enemy, and he is (some of) us.

**Can God Count on You**, from p. 2  
6:1-6, and everybody is to work, 1 Cor 15:58; 2 Cor 9:8; Phil 1:6; Col 1:10; 1 Thes 4:11; 2 Thes 2:17; 3:10, 12; Tit 3:1; Heb 13:21; Jas 1:25; Rev 22:12! In short, we all must work if we are going to grow.

Can God count on you to be uncompromising in the fight against shame, sin, and immorality? When people in the workplace laugh at homosexuality, unscriptural multiple marriages, the use of alcohol and drugs among the nation's youth, or teen pregnancy out of wedlock, do you remain silent or do you plead God's case, 1 Cor 6:9-10; Gal 5:9-21; Heb 10:23? Jesus will present you holy and blameless to God “*if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard,*” Col 1:23; cf. Heb 3:14. If God can count on you, prove it!

“It is when we are at our darkest hour, when we can see no evidence that God loves us or that He is even there to listen to our prayers, much less answer them...and yet we still obey—it is then that the devil is reminded that his cause is lost.”

—Tom King

**Travel** **Andreas Duval** is in Wichita on Guard duty.

### PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

**Kaylee Chavez**—age 10, at St. Jude's in Memphis for brain cancer treatment; donate at [www.youcaring.com](http://www.youcaring.com), type her name at top

· **Chris Bennett**, former member—all tools for biz stolen; recovering from fall, fractured pelvis

· **Buford Wrather**, **Cheryl Reames's** dad—stroke, complicated by Parkinson's; in CO Springs

· **Frank Savarese**—surgery on salivary gland 1/19

· **Ed Fink**—prostate cancer; current treatment for brain tumors. Undergoing chemo this month

· **Christine Adams**—recovering from ankle surgery, using cane; has returned to work 1/2 days

· **Lloyd Menard**—unable to walk, memory failing

· **Judy Sartin**—rotator cuff injury and leg bruising from fall

· **Chad Meyers** of Smoky Hill—acute renal failure

· **Brittany Tope's** mother—breast cancer in spine; pain in broken ribs which tumor has injured; grandmother—on dialysis

· **Sharon Rupinen**, **Sandra Perry's** sister—surgery recovery

· **Melanie Baughn's** mother—in OK has renal failure and cellulitis

· **Jennifer Clayton**, former member—severe lyme disease; heart, spine, neuro issues

· **Sylvia Chapman**, **Brett's** grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; chemo

· **Judy Sartin's** son, **Dave Sartin**—PRAISE: new job; colitis; **Judy's** friend, **Vicky Keys**, radiation after mastectomy

· **Kenny Boyd's** coworker **Kim Phillips**—asks our prayers for heart problems

· **Rick Robbins**, friend of Howells—brain surgery

· Remember **Greg Geiss**, with spiritual challenges; **Paul Alfaro** and **Elaine Isbell**, who have returned to Christ and need prayers, support.

### CHRONIC CONDITIONS

**Logan Corray**; **Addison Tope**; **Christian Harrod**; **Rocco Jr**; **Pat Wilkes**, **Tim Huelsman**—asthma

**Bill Dennis**—adjusting pacemaker and meds

**Nell Free**—pacemaker, heart; back pain

**Autumn Hadders**—epilepsy; celiac disease

**Danielle Huelsman**—vertigo, CV syndrome

**Hannah Huelsman**—polycythemia, thickening of blood; heart murmur, acid reflux, chest pain

**Kirk Johnson**—MS

**Menards**—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak;

**Virginia**, macular degeneration; high BP

**Sandra Perry**—neuropathy from diabetes; heart valve issues recently diagnosed

**Cheryl Reames**—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia

**Judy Sartin**—spinal stenosis; arthritis

**Judy and Mike Strand**—hepatitis trtment

**Lynda Szymanski**—COPD, lung weakness—makes recovery longer from recent illness



## Exposing current thoughts & trends *Islamist jihad*

### **Two Crises**, by William Kristol

It did not take the attack on *Charlie Hebdo* to reveal that the Islamic world has a terrible problem. This assertion comes not from outside Islam or against Islam but from Islamic leaders themselves. On New Year's Day, the president of Egypt, in a major speech, called for a "religious revolution" in Islam that would replace an embrace of violent jihad with "a more enlightened perspective." "We have to think hard about what we are facing," President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi told the clerics of Al-Azhar University in Cairo. "It's inconceivable that the thinking that we hold most sacred should cause the entire Islamic world to be a source of anxiety, danger, killing, and destruction for the rest of the world. Impossible."

But as Sisi knows, and as his speech suggests, the fact that the Islamic world is a source of danger and destruction is all too conceivable. Indeed, it's been on display, in plain sight, for years—both throughout the Middle East and of course in New York on September 11, 2001, and now in Paris on January 7, 2015. [Ed. Note: Islam is an evil, godless religion. It was based on pride and violence; it was never a religion of peace.] The jihadist threat is real, and it must, obviously, be fought and defeated. But that raises another problem—not a problem with Islam, but a problem with the West.

**Sensitivity Trumps Courage.** We have lost our nerve. In recent years, the attitude of Barack Obama has prevailed over the spirit of *Charlie Hebdo*. The claims of sensitivity have trumped the attachment to freedom. Appeasement of jihad has supplanted the war on terror. Most fundamentally—let's be honest—fear has overwhelmed courage. And so the American president has been happy to proclaim, as he did at the United Nations in September 2012, "*The future must not belong to those who slander the prophet of Islam.*" He has not said that the future must not belong to those who kill in the name of the prophet of Islam. And he has certainly been unwilling to act to ensure that the future does not belong to the killers.

Liberal politicians and "enlightened" intellectuals throughout the West have precisely failed to stand with *Charlie Hebdo* when it mattered most. And faced with the real-world difficulties of not just standing for liberty but actually going on the offensive against the jihadists on behalf of liberty, the West has shrunk from the task. Only a few short years after 9/11, we in the West have not been willing to bear the burdens of a policy that takes jihad seriously.

Perhaps January 7, 2015, will be a marker, a dark and terrible

continued on p. 3



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DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

### **Preacher**

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**, Lesson 1, "**I Have Become A Christian! Now What?**" Jim Reingrover

- **Sermon**, "Lessons from First Peter," Jim Reingrover

### **Sunday afternoon**

- **Sermon**, "A 12-Year-Old Girl and a 12-Year-Old Illness: Lessons from the Life of Christ," Jeff Wilkes

### **Wednesday night: New study in**

**Daniel: Determined to Walk with God, Lesson 3, chapter 2.** Get materials for Wednesday adult classes from the church's website under "Member Files."