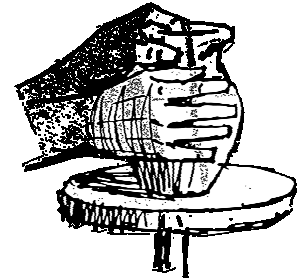


His Workmanship: Westside

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

—Ephesians 2:10



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Isaiah 64:8

Living Water, from notes by Lonnie Branam and John Van Schepen

In John 4:14 Jesus said to the woman of Samaria, *"Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."* The Lord made a similar statement in John 7:37-38: *"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."* The passages speak of two kinds of water, 1) water that comes from the rains and oceans and 2) living water of Christ's making. One is earthly water which God placed on the planet at creation; the other is spiritual water which Christ created when He visited this planet in the first century. By drawing comparison between earthly water and heavenly water, Jesus taught us a very important truth. There is something Christ has to give which we need more dearly than physical water. It is more essential than the water we drink every day. Since Jesus used earthly water to teach about spiritual water, there must be a striking similarity. If we do not understand our critical need for physical water we will not understand our need for living, spiritual water.

First, the water which God placed on this earth at the creation is a wonderful and powerful substance indeed. About

three fourths of the surface of the earth is covered with water. Earth is known as the water planet, for it is the only planet in the solar system covered with water. This fact should teach an enquiring world that the other planets were not created for human habitation. Rejecting the Bible, they are trying to find the origin of life on Mars, perhaps from a speck of water that might have existed there in the remote past. God's answer to such nonsense is *"The fool has said in his heart there is no God,"* Ps 14:1; 53:1. NASA spent 400 million dollars trying to find a drop or a molecule of water on Mars. Rejecting the God of the Bible as the Originator of life, they do not know how life started on the earth. Perhaps, they suppose, life accidentally originated on earth from Mars. But that is not science; that is a myth. Consider how much more sense the Bible makes on this subject. *"Make a joyful shout to Jehovah, all you lands. Serve Jehovah with gladness. Come before His presence with singing. Know that Jehovah, He is God. It is He Who has made us, and not we ourselves,"* Ps 100:1-3.

Water is powerful enough to destroy multitudes of people and form great mountains and canyons. On December 26, 2004, an enormous earthquake under the Indian Ocean fractured the crust of the earth and caused a tsuna-

mi. A huge wave of water, 80 feet high in some locations, came crashing down on the shores of many countries, including Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Thousands of people were killed. That is the power of water. On the other hand, if we do not get enough water to drink we will get thirsty and we will die. Like food and air, water is a physical necessity of our lives; without it we will die. Where there is no water, the human race cannot exist, much less flourish. Perhaps nothing illustrates more simply and impressively the fullness of God's providential care over our lives than the abundance of life-sustaining water of the earth. Water is so easy for most people to get that they seldom think how necessary it is for man, animal, and plant. Next to the air we breathe, water is probably the most important thing in our lives. Without it, everything would die. A normally healthy person can live only seven to ten days without water. Over two thirds of the human body is water. Blood is 90% water. Water is so essential to life that a loss of 20% of it will result in painful and horrible death. Let us learn to appreciate such a wonderful, though common, blessing. Let us thank God that He *"has not left Himself without witness to mankind in that He has done good and has given us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling*
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"For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water," Jeremiah 2:13,

our hearts with food and gladness," Ax 14:17.

In addition to the inward use of water in the body and the many outward uses for cleanliness, power, refreshment, sports, and commercial enterprises, God has ordained the use of earth water for certain religious uses. Under the Jewish religion in Old Testament times every priest was required to take a full bath and put on clean garments before entering the temple, and that temple was a type of Christ's church. Water is a cleansing agent, and it thus fitly represented the kind of moral cleanliness needed by the priests to serve in the Temple of God. Their souls and not just their bodies needed to be clean. Water was also used for cleansing the Jews from various transgressions of the Mosaic law. Jesus announced that to enter into the kingdom of God every person had to be born again, "*born of water and the Spirit,*" Jn 3: 3-5. The exact meaning of this statement was made clear in His great commission for saving the world: "*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned,*" Mk 16:15-16. Any person who has obeyed that command has been born of the water and Spirit. Paul tells us that Jesus died for the church that He might "*sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*" Eph 5: 25-26. This means that every soul is cleansed and saved by God and by a response to God (in faith, repentance, and baptism) before it is added to the church, Ax 2:47. In this way the whole church is sanctified and cleansed with the washing of water by the word of truth. Let no one stumble in unbelief at the importance of physical water in its application to spiritual uses in the kingdom of Christ.

But we have more than physical needs in our lives. We need peace and

happiness, fulfillment and satisfaction; we need to be connected to others. Even though someone may be alive physically, he may be dead emotionally, socially, psychologically—and spiritually. Many are dying of thirst, desperately crying out for relief. The thirst of our spiritual lives cannot be satisfied with physical water, not even the best bottled water money can buy. Neither will having friends, or a good job, a loving wife, and three children fill this spiritual thirst within us. In order to quench this need, Jesus says we need what He calls, "*living water.*" "*Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life,*" Jn 4:13-14.

There are at least **three things** we can learn from this passage: First, why do we need this living water? Second, from where does it come? What is the source of this living water? Third, what is this water for? What is the effect of this living water in our lives?

First, then, **why do we need this water?** When Jesus said, "*everyone*" He meant we all need it. I do, so do you, and everyone around you. If we want to quench the inner thirst in our lives, we must drink of this water. Whether we are rich or poor, female or male, old or young, religious or not, fair skinned or not, it matters not a whit! We all have this inner thirst, and we all need the living water that Jesus offers.

We may not always recognize our need for living water, because we think we have all our bases covered in life. Perhaps we are like the man who said to himself, "*You have plenty, of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry,*" Lk 12:19. Almighty God assigned him the name "*fool,*" 12:20. There are any number of ways by which we may fool ourselves, but the fact is Jesus offers us living

water because He knows that we are dying of thirst.

This Samaritan woman knew she had a physical thirst. That's why she came to the well in the first place. She knew that without water she would die, especially in that hot, arid, climate. It is likely that she also was suffering deeply from social and psychological thirst. When Jesus asked her for a drink, she immediately brought up one of the social barriers that was well known to her, the barrier of prejudice. "*How is it that you, a Jew, are asking me a Samaritan, for a drink?*" According to their traditions, they did not associate with one another. Have you experienced that social thirst because your last name isn't quite like those around you? Or because your speech still carries a slight accent? Or because you aren't in on the jokes? Social thirst can drain the life right out of us in a heartbeat.

There were other social and emotional needs that had left this Samaritan woman's life as dry and dusty as the road she was walking on. All the women of the town went to the well in the cool of the morning talking about their children or sharing a joke as they got the day's supply of water—but not this woman. Only when it was noon, when the sun was blazing down on her, the time mid-eastern people take their siesta, when the roads were empty so that no one would spit on her or curse her, only then did she dare go for water. After all, she was an adulteress, a slut, far below the standards of the rest of the other women. And she obviously was looking for love—in all the wrong places, looking to men and sex to meet her needs. Jesus knew that, yet he was waiting for her. He had intentionally sat down by the well. He had an appointment to keep with this woman who was dying of thirst. When she

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Psalm 133:1

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

Living Water, from p. 2

came, Jesus asked her for a drink. When she hesitated because of her social barriers, He offered her a remedy, "living water." But she didn't understand it. Jesus said water, but all she could think about was the water in the well. So she asked, "How will you get this water? You don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep." She thought she knew what she needed to quench her thirst, but it is clear from Jesus's words that she really didn't. "If you drink this water," Jesus said, "you will be thirsty again tomorrow, but the water I want to give you will quench your thirst forever."

"Wow! Magic water! How cool is that!" This could be the ticket to satisfy all the needs of her life, she thought. "No more coming back to this well; no more suffering the abuse of my neighbors looking down their long, turned up noses at me. Pour it on, whoever you are!" Like her, we also think we know what we need to fix our lives. "Wow! If I could only get a job; if I only got my degree; if only we had a bigger house; if I just made a little more money; if we could take one of those vacations to Hawaii or Acapulco; if the stock market would just move the right way. Then, maybe, we wouldn't have to put up with that cranky neighbor across the street; we wouldn't have to worry about being fired by the boss we don't like; we wouldn't worry about retirement..." So we go through life dreaming magical dreams. But do we realize that all we are doing is going back to our own wells in a vain attempt to satisfy our thirsty souls?

"Wait a minute," said Jesus. "Go get your husband and then come back here." Jesus wanted to give her His living water, but He knew the black holes of

Discipleship Here At Home

sin in her life that had to be dealt with before her life could hold the living water. He knew the issues in her life that were causing her life to leak like a sieve. He knew the roots of these issues: sin; separation from Almighty God.

Should she get angry because Jesus was getting too personal? Should she lie because it was none of His business? She looked Jesus in the eye and said, "I have no husband." A half-truth, like the language of the old serpent in the garden when he said to Eve, "God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God," Gen 3:5. "You're right," said Jesus. "The fact is you've had five, and the man you're living with now is not your husband either." Jesus knew her life, utterly, just as He knows mine and yours. Jesus always tells it like it is. Sin is sin. This is no time for playing games. Sin is a big deal to God because sin separates us from Him, from each other, and even destroys our own identity. Jesus knows that. When this woman tried to change the subject by asking, "Who's right about the worship wars, the Jews or the Samaritans?" Jesus answered, "The time is come to worship God in Spirit and in truth," 4:21-24. He was saying, "Worship is important, but it's important personally—to you. Let's talk about you getting straight with God and about you worshipping Him."

The woman responded, "But I know for that to happen I need the Messiah, I need a Savior. When He comes he will explain it all." What she was saying is both profound and crucial. She was admitting that for the sin in her life and getting her life straight with God there is only one solution—and that is God Himself. Jesus answered, "I Who speak to you, I AM He." We need Christ's living water because we are thirsty—we have sinned, and we are separated from God.

Think about Christ's answer this week. The rest of the article continues next week: What is the source of living water? And what is the effect of this water in our lives?

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

- **Judy Strand**—broken arm, post-surgery pain; hospitalized last week for toxins, concern re: liver implant
- **Sheryle McNeill**—pinched nerve
- **Tracy Corray**—tom tendon in right foot
- **Linda Szymanski's** mother—fall yesterday, broke ankle, surgery at Swedish Hospital
- **Letha Fink's** brother **Kenneth Morrison** of GA—liver disease, recent diagnosis of neuro-muscular disease
- **Patricia Ward**—infection
- **Danny Dodd**, formerly of Westside—home after full brain radiation in Denver; improving; 275 Country Meadow Rd, Ignacio, CO 81137
- **Kaylee Chavez**—age 10, cancer; at St. Jude's in Memphis for treatment; fighting fluid in lungs (pulmonary embolism) and infection, with fever
- **Bill Dennis**—home recovery following rehab
- **Sandra Perry**—diabetes complications; back on oxygen; port to be inserted in Nov for dialysis
- **Aubrie and Aaron Andrews**, friends of **Boys**—**Aaron** recently lost leg in motorcycle accident; pray they will receive the gospel
- **Larry Campbell's** FL partner **Terry Hargadine's** wife **Michelle**—cancerous lymph nodes removed, latest scan shows improvement; picc line inserted for chemo
- **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 **Bonnie Doss**—cancer returned
- **Brittany Tope's** mother—breast cancer, improving; grandmother—on dialysis

• CHRONIC CONDITIONS

- Logan Corray; Addison Tope; Christian Harrod; Rocco Jr.; Pat Wilkes**—asthma
- Autumn Hadders**—epilepsy; celiac disease
- Jonathan Hadders**—RA
- Kirk Johnson**—MS
- Menards**—**Lloyd** diabetes, Alzheimers;
- Virginia**, blindness from mac degeneration; high bp; her 92nd birthday was last week
- Cheryl Reames**—fibromyalgia; diverticulitis
- Judy Sartin**—rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis
- Judy and Mike Strand**—hepatitis trtment
- Lynda Szymanski**—COPD, lung weakness
- Rejoice Merrit Zollars** has chosen to work and worship with Westside. Phone is 740-398-1599
- 590 Merlin Dr, #103, Lafayette, CO 80026
- mjzollars@gmail.com
- Levi Cox** put on his Lord in baptism recently and has joined himself with this church. **Sheryle McNeill's** daughter **Tiffany** began a Bible study in John recently—thank you for your prayers; continue to pray.
- Travel** The **Campbells** are in AR helping Pat's father move.
- Moving** The **Lucases** will soon move back to Brazil; their last Sunday with us will be 8/30.



Exposing current thoughts & trends *religious freedom*

CO Judge Rules Against Religious Freedom *by Casey Harper*

A Colorado judge ruled last Thursday that a Lakewood bakery could not refuse to bake cakes for sodomy-based “weddings.” The Colorado Court of Appeals said that refusing to bake a cake for a couple engaged in sodomy was discrimination not protected by the right to religious freedom. *“The fact that an entity charges for its goods and services reduces the likelihood that a reasonable observer will believe that it supports the message expressed in its finished product,”* the court ruled. *“Nothing in the record supports the conclusion that a reasonable observer would interpret Masterpiece’s providing a wedding cake for a same-sex couple as an endorsement of same-sex marriage, rather than a reflection of its desire to conduct business in accordance with Colorado’s public accommodations law.”*

The case is one of several across the country where wedding service providers have refused to work for engaged sodomites because of their faith. It is possible the case could go to the Colorado Supreme Court.

“Jack [Phillips, the owner of Masterpiece Cakes,] simply exercised the long-cherished American freedom to decline to use his artistic talents to promote a message with which he disagrees,” Alliance Defending Freedom Senior Legal Counsel Jeremy Tedesco, who argued the case, said in a statement. *“The court is wrong to deny Jack his fundamental freedoms.”* Phillips has owned Masterpiece Cakeshop for more than 20 years. He closes down for Sunday and won’t bake cakes for Halloween because of his religious convictions.

Charlie Craig and David Mullins came to the Masterpiece Cakeshop in July 2012 and asked for a cake for their same-sex wedding ceremony. Phillips declined, citing his religious conviction. Craig and Mullins filed a complaint and joined up with the ACLU. The Colorado Civil Rights Commission decided in May 2014 that Phillips must make cakes for same-sex ceremonies or face legal consequences. Phillips and his staff were also ordered take re-education classes and file quarterly compliance reports for two years. *“Once a business opens its doors to the public, it has no right to ignore anti-discrimination laws and impose its religious beliefs on its customers,”* Alex Luchenitser, Americans United’s associate legal director, said in a statement.

Tedesco told The Daily Caller News Foundation last month that this case, or one like it, will likely go before the highest court. *“Americans are guaranteed the freedom to live and work consistent with their faith. Government has a duty to protect people’s freedom to follow their beliefs personally and professionally rather than force them to adopt the government’s views.”*

The decision seems to follow the argument that the First Amendment’s right of freedom of religion includes only freedom to worship and not freedom to exercise religion in the workplace, marketplace, or society. However, this was not what the Founders meant by freedom of religion.



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DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

info@thechurchingolden.com

<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**, *“A Life-Changing Encounter with God’s Word from the Gospel According to John,”* Jonathan Hadders

- **Sermon**, “Idols in the Heart,” Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon, Questions Answered: “Are We Alone?” DeWayne Howell

Feeding on His Word Reading

Everyone is invited to an open Bible reading of the gospel of Mark next Sunday, August 23, 4:15 pm, at the Wilkeses’ house, supper to follow. See **Joel Walker** for schedule.