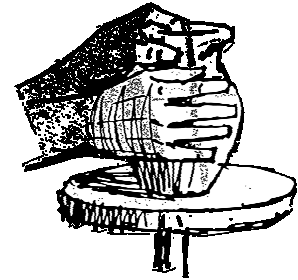


His Workmanship at Westside

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



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Isaiah 64:8

Christus Victor: the Conquering Messiah as King, by Shane Scott

The basic message of the gospel is that Jesus is King. The concept of kingship was well-known to the ancient world, but not familiar to us in the United States. Just exactly what does it mean to proclaim that Jesus is King of Kings? What did kings in the period of Biblical history actually do?

The King Who Fights Our Battles.

Ancient kings had many important responsibilities, but perhaps the most vital was to serve as the leader of the armies defending the nation. When the Israelites grew tired of Samuel and his family, they clamored for a king who would be a glamorous military leader like the kings of the nations. *"No! But there shall be a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles,"* 1 Sam 8:19-20.

If kings in general were to be valiant warriors, then certainly that was to be true of the ultimate King, the Messiah. And indeed many passages in the Old Testament speak of the Messiah breaking the nations with a rod of iron, Ps 2:9, putting His enemies under His feet, Ps 110:1, and triumphing over His enemies in majesty and righteousness, Ps 45:4-5.

Yet when Jesus the King returned to the royal citadel in Mk 11 and its parallels, He did not arm the disciples and

storm the Roman fortress by the temple. He didn't even ride a warhorse, but instead chose a humble donkey for His mount. And when the mob came to arrest Him, He did not defend Himself and rebuked Peter for trying to do so. From all outward appearances Jesus suffered a brutal, humiliating defeat on the cross.

So how do we reconcile the messianic expectation of a mighty warrior king with what Jesus did on the cross? Why do we sing that Jesus won *"a mighty triumph o'er his foes,"* that He was Christ the Victorious, *Christus Victor*? To begin, let's pose another question: Why did Jesus pick the Passover as the day on which to die? Jesus laid down his life, which means that He could choose the day of His death, and the day He chose was not the Day of Atonement (which would have made a lot of sense), but the Passover. So why that day? The answer to that question will help us understand the kind of victory Jesus came to win.

The Exodus as God's Victory. Let's go back and think about the very first Passover. The Passover was given as part of the series of plagues God inflicted upon the recalcitrant Egyptians. The tenth and last plague was severe, the

death of the firstborn. Only by slaughtering the lamb and applying its blood could Israel avert the horrible vengeance of God upon the Egyptians. As brutal as this punishment was, we must remember why God decreed this penalty. When the Lord called Moses at the burning bush, He gave him these instructions: *"Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord, 'Israel is my firstborn son, and I say to you, 'Let my son go that he may serve me.' If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your son,'"* Ex 4:22-23. God loved Israel as His firstborn son, and Pharaoh had oppressed God's son for many years, even slaughtering the baby boys of the Hebrews. If Pharaoh did not let God's son go, justice demanded that Pharaoh's firstborn would suffer retribution.

When the LORD executed His judgment of death, the Egyptians allowed Israel to leave. But, of course, Pharaoh changed his mind and sent his troops to pursue Israel, trapping the people at the Red Sea. God intervened and saved His *"firstborn son"* through the miracle of the exodus. But this was far more than a rescue from natural disaster. It was a military confrontation, pitting God against Pharaoh and his armies.

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Christus Victor, from p. 1

"Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, 'I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation! This is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him. The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is His name. Pharaoh's chariots and his host He cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea. The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power, Your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy. In the greatness of Your majesty You overthrow Your adversaries; You send out Your fury; it consumes them like stubble. At the blast of Your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.' You blew with Your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters," Ex 15:1-10.

As Moses said, *"The LORD will fight for you," Ex 14:14.* The exodus was the victory of God as a mighty warrior over the armies of Pharaoh. Why did God fight for His people? Here's the key point: He fought because God is the true King, and kings are warriors. So the song of Moses concludes: *"The LORD will reign forever and ever," Ex 15:18.*

As King, God was the great liberator, defeating the oppressor of His people. The exodus was so significant that in the rest of Israel's history it is the pattern for all great events of liberation. Centuries later, when the prophet Isaiah addressed the issue of the Babylonian exile, he cried out for the Lord once again to save His people, using the terms of the exodus, Is 51:9-11. As the people languished in exile and wondered if anyone would ever fight for them again, Isaiah comforted them with the promise that God would once more be their liberator. *"Can the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of a tyrant be rescued? For thus says the Lord: 'Even*

*the captives of the mighty shall be taken, and the prey of the tyrant be rescued, for I will contend with those who contend with you, and I will save your children. I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood as with wine. Then all flesh shall know that I AM the Lord your Savior, and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob,' "*Is 49:24-26.



Who Will Fight for Us? Near the end of the Old Testament, Israel was allowed to return home, but only because pagan rulers permitted them to do so, Ezr 1:1-3. A century after they returned, Nehemiah described the people as slaves in their own land, Neh 9:36. So the Old Testament ends with these questions unanswered: Who will fight for us? Who will redeem us? This brings us to the story of Jesus—which begins with the gospel of Messiah's kingdom. *Next week, The Promise.*

NC Protects Privacy, from p. 4

Even before the Charlotte Council had voted, Gov. McCrory and Lt. Gov. Forest (who presides over the Senate) had made it abundantly clear that they would act to protect North Carolinians. The Charlotte ordinance, Gov. McCrory warned, would *"create major public safety issues... It is not only the citizens of Charlotte that will be impacted by changing basic restroom and locker room norms,"* he wrote, *"but also citizens from across our state and nation who visit and work in Charlotte."* Lt. Gov. Forest was even more

direct: *"Girls' bathrooms are for girls, boys' bathrooms are for boys. The fact we are even debating this is a sad commentary on where we are as a society."*

But now there are consequences for the law's passage. The bullies are out in full force. Brietbart, via [Huffington Post](#), reported, *"Powerful businesses are now threatening to do harm to North Carolina's economy. Marc Benioff, San Francisco-based executive of the cloud computing company Salesforce that has a market capitalization of \$48 billion, is organizing other CEOs to hurt North Carolina. He has announced he is joining forces with Bank of America, the country's second largest bank, which is headquartered in Charlotte. Benioff ran a similar take-down in Indiana last year and is now threatening Georgia, where a similar bill was passed over the veto of the governor."* Georgia's Gov. Nathan Deal (R) caved in to threats by the Walt Disney Company and Marvel to stop filming future movies in Georgia if he signed the bill, but the legislature overrode his veto. Similar to what it did in Arizona over a religious freedom bill, the NFL is also threatening Georgia with not getting the Super Bowl.

These CEOs are not organizing to make money for their shareholders, but to control ideology. And these CEO's are not alone. WBTV reports: *"San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee has banned city employee travel to North Carolina after the state passed House Bill 2 this week. 'We are standing united as San Franciscans to condemn North Carolina's new discriminatory law that turns back the clock on protecting the rights of all Americans including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals,' Lee said in a statement. 'Effective immediately, I am directing City Departments under my authority to bar any publicly-funded city employee travel to the state of North Carolina that is not absolutely essential to public health and safety.' "*

There is great confusion about transgenderism. Advocates argue that people are "assigned" a sex at birth (by parents or a doctor), an "assignment" which (they say) may not comport with their eventual "gender identity" or "gender expression," which could include up more than 58 possibilities, according to

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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

NC Protects Privacy, from p. 2 Facebook, including something called "gender non-binary" where someone believes he is neither male or female.

According to a statement released this week by the American Academy of Pediatricians, the transgender ideology is a form of child abuse. The statement cites studies showing that children who are confused about their sex need psychological help and that nearly all children become clear about their sex by their mid-twenties. It points out that giving a child hormone treatment to halt puberty is highly dangerous.

Dr. Paul McHugh, former head of psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University, who closed the transgender surgery center at its hospital, says transsexual surgery is dangerous, does not turn men into women, and those who undergo such surgery end up as unhappy or more unhappy than before their castration. Both McHugh and the Academy point to the vastly higher rate of suicides among those who have gone through castration surgery, even in such "trans-friendly" countries as Sweden.

Walt Heyer, a business executive who lived for 8 years as a woman after undergoing castration, now regrets what he did. He now lives as a man and runs a website called Sex Change Regret, full of stories from men and women just like him who were taken in by the notion that they were born with the wrong sex.

Thank Gov. McCrory, Lt. Governor Forest, and Speaker Moore for their courage in the face of fierce opposition on social media, staged protests to disrupt debate, and Leftist drama as Democrats in the Senate walked out.

Discipleship Here At Home

Because they refused to be bullied and intimidated, North Carolina becomes the third state (after Tennessee and Arkansas) to protect its citizens in bathrooms and locker rooms. Take a moment to tell your elected officials that you support protecting the rights of the majority of Americans who continue to believe in Biblical sexuality and natural marriage.

"When He Was Still a Great Way Off," by Whit Sasser

After the prodigal son came to himself, he returned to his father. "But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him," Lk 15:20. What a reception! Of course, the father represents God and His attitude toward us when we come to our senses and return to Him.

Isn't it heartwarming to know that God is looking for us to come back to Him! He sees us while we are yet far away—He is eagerly looking for us! The prodigal son treated his father as if he were dead—and so we also live as though God is dead to us. We have sinned terribly and for a long time, but our God is so good and so full of mercies! He does not put us through a long, drawn-out period of probation, making us crawl all the way back in humiliation, just to show us how bad we have been. No, He runs to welcome us home with His loving embrace!

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
Kirk Johnson—MS; **Amanda Mailloux**—IBS
Virginia Menard—macular degeneration
Sandra Perry—diabetes complications; oxygen
Eric Perry—recent pre-diabetes diagnosis
Cheryl Reames—fibromyalgia; diverticulitis
Judy Sartin—rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis
Judy and Mike Strand—hepatitis treatment
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung weakness

Travel **Sarah McMurray** is in Iceland. The **Charos** are in Dallas 3/22-29 visiting family. The **Corrays** and the **Boyd**s are in mountains (different places) this weekend. **Letha, Mike, Mekiah Fink** are in Portales, NM, with Letha's mother. The **Szymanskis** are in IL Thur-Sun. **Michelle Franke** is away for spring break.

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

- **Janelle Hall**—biopsy, MRI last week for breast lumps; sonogram indicated lymph involvement; results tomorrow
 - **Mike Menard**, Virginia's son—untreatable cancer in abdomen, home for palliative care; Virginia wrenched leg, painful walking
 - the **Boyd**s' extended families are undergoing hardships: **Wendy's** father, **Dan Gutierrez**, back in care center with brain function, recognition issues either from stroke or brain bleeding; pray for **Eileen** and **Dan, Kenny's** sister and brother-in-law—divorce, some cult activity, **Kevin** buried his father recently; pray for **Jennifer, Kevin, Chloe, & Elijah Whittemore**
 - **Gary Boyd**—injured in T-bone car accident recently; neck, shoulder pain
 - **Samantha Harrod**—benign cyst removed from her back recently; 2-month recovery
 - **Linda Szymanski**—broken arm & wrist
 - the **Addys** ask our prayers for **Levi's** former boss in Odessa—**MacDonald** family: 17-year-old son murdered parents; 19-year-old sister survives
 - **Sarah McMurray's** mentee **Lakeisha Griffin**—age 12; moved to Sarah's house recently
 - **Judy Strand**—finished with chemo for liver transplant; testing in prep for transplant in April or May
 - **Sheryle McNeill**—pinched nerve
 - **Berney Charo's** brother **Eliud**—prostate cancer
 - **Ernesto Gonzalez's** father **Fidencio**—stage IV lymphoma; to rehab center to gain strength
 - **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 cold
 - **Brittany Tope's** mother **Gayle**—biopsy of spot on liver shows breast cancer has spread; **Brittany's** grandmother—on dialysis
 - **Sylvia Chapman, Brett's** grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; **Brett's** grandmother **Sue**, and Aunt **Connie Doss**—cancer returned
 - **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
 - **Andrea Songer Greer**, daughter of **Bill** and **Debbie S.**—chemo for stage I breast cancer
 - **Kay Ransom**, former member—mother in hospital weekly with terminal COPD; father's malignant melanomas removed from face
- Rejoice** The **Shreves** are expecting their first baby, a girl, in April. The **Addys** are expecting their third child, a boy, in May. The **Witheringtons** are expecting their first child in October. **Mekiah Fink** undergoing persecution at school for her faith; nominated for the Mayors' and Commissioners' Award, Clear Creek County.



Exposing current trends *sexual confusion*

NC Passes Bathroom Privacy Law, by Tony Perkins and Michael Ware

Leaders in North Carolina achieved more in a day last Wednesday than many state leaders have been able to accomplish in years. In a single-day special session, legislators passed and the governor signed into law protections for the privacy of children and women who use school and public bathrooms, showers, and locker rooms in the Tar Heel state.

Passed with unanimous support from Republicans, the bill makes it illegal for men and boys who claim to be or pose as a woman to use female facilities. Places such as public restrooms, showers, and locker rooms now will be off limits to these men. It also prohibits municipalities from passing so-called non-discrimination bills aimed at advancing the transsexual agenda.

The bill came up in special session in response to an "anti-discrimination" measure passed by the Charlotte City Council. That effort was led by a homosexual man, Chad Sevearance, who was later revealed to be a sex offender required to register yearly and who had to step down from his lead role at the Gay Chamber of Commerce. A month ago, the Charlotte City Council revived and passed a previously failed effort to establish special rights for people who identify as transgender. The ordinance added "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" (SOGI) to the list of protected classes like race, national origin, and sex to the city's nondiscrimination code. The change was billed as "tolerant" and "inclusive," but as we've seen time and again it effectively opened every public bathroom, every gym shower, and every school locker room in the city to anyone, regardless of biological sex.



Despite thousands of calls, emails, and testimony from Charlotte residents who have experienced first-hand the heightened hostility and discrimination against Christians who hold to a Biblical view of marriage and sexuality, the Council voted to force all businesses and places of public accommodation in the city limits to recognize every person's preferred "gender identity" or face heavy fines and penalties.

This is where the Left leads us when left unchecked by common sense: the privacy of women and children must be sacrificed on the altar of political correctness. This reckless abandon of common sense threatens the safety and freedoms of Americans from Seattle to Houston. Thankfully, state leaders stood up, and common sense prevailed in North Carolina after a day of testimony, days before the Charlotte ordinance was set to take effect. Chloe Jefferson, a high school junior, told lawmakers, "Girls like me should never be made to shower and undress in front of boys."

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DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

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Like us: 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**, studies on the attributes of God: "Show Me Your Glory," Jim Reingrover
- **sermon**, *Preaching Through First Corinthians (PTFC): chapter 15, "The Reality and Relevance of Jesus's Resurrection,"* Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon

- **worship in prayer**, Scripture, singing

Wednesday night study:

The Thessalonian Letters, final class

First Friday Joshua Study

Everyone is invited to an application study of Joshua 7-10 this Friday evening, April 1, 7 pm. See **elders** for details; please RSVP.