

# His Workmanship: Westside

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

—Ephesians 2:10

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## **Neglect—A Way to Destruction**, by Bill Humble

The church has always faced a host of formidable enemies, and the present generation is no exception. Denominationalism confuses and is finally un-Christian in its basic teachings.

Modernism's demoralizing and deadening influences have already engulfed a large segment of religion in the US and has now begun to gnaw at the vitals of the church of the Lord. But another danger is less spectacular but more insidious; it undermines the church from within rather than attacking it from without. It attacks Christians gradually; later it will begin to taint their basic attitude toward the church, and finally its hold becomes so strong that it becomes a way of life. This enemy is neglect! If neglect can become a way of life, what kind of way is it? Where will it lead?

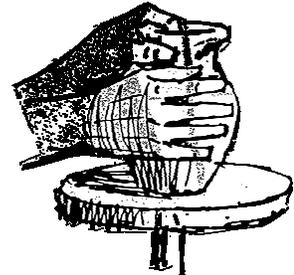
**Neglect—A Christ-Denying Way.** The basic character of neglect is indicated by Christ's statement that "he who is not with Me is against Me; and he who gathers not with Me scatters abroad," Mt 12:30.

There are some responsibilities in life which are so important that they cannot be regarded carelessly or ignored with indifference. To neglect our family is to mistreat them, and to neglect Christ is to deny Him. Those Jews who lived in Palestine at the same time as Christ were confronted with a personality Who

could not be ignored. His claims were too lofty and His works too marvelous to admit such treatment. Yet many adopted this illogical attitude of facing the problem of Christ by ignoring Him.

While Nazareth took a more definite stand by openly rejecting Christ, even planning to throw Him headlong over the brow of a hill to His death, Capernaum took no such attitude. Capernaum, located on the Sea of Galilee, was Christ's home during part of His ministry. The city had seen His works and heard His sermons, but its people neither accepted the Lord nor rejected Him like the people of Nazareth. Ignoring all the logical implications of His Words and deeds, they were indifferent to the Savior. Jesus indicated that indifference is equivalent to an open rejection:

*"And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you,"* Mt 11:23-24. Capernaum's opportunities demanded definite response to Jesus, and because they chose to treat Him with neglect, their neglect will be will be punished with a punishment greater than the punishment for the open vice of wicked Sodom!



## **Isaiah 64:8**

Hundreds of years before Christ lived in Capernaum, another city learned that neglect is sometimes tantamount to open opposition. This was the city of Meroz, probably a Palestinian village, but whose location is now unknown. When Deborah and Barak saved Israel from the oppression of Jabin, King of Hazor, they mobilized an army of ten thousand men and encamped on Mount Tabor. When the battle was fought in the Plain of Esdraelon, Israel was victorious. To commemorate heir victory, Deborah and Barak sang a son of triumph. The song lauds the cooperation of the various tribes of Israel, and the only discordant note comes when they sang, "*Curse Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, 'Curse its inhabitants bitterly, because they did not come to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty,'*" Jdg 5:23. Israel was fighting for its very life, the Canaanites under Jabin were a formidable oppressor, and men from various tribes were risking their lives in a supreme effort to free Israel. Under such circumstances, indifference became evil; and when the village of Meroz failed to "*come to the help of Jehovah,*" they were cursed by God's angel. Indifference then was to deny God; indifference today is to deny Christ.

**Neglect—An Easy Way.** One reason why neglect is such a deadly enemy of continued on p. 2

## “God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him,” —Hebrews 11:6

the church today is because it is so easy for a Christian to become a victim of it. Neglect is a particularly easy way of life in this generation:

1. Busy-ness. Our American way of life demands fast living, and few have enough time for everything. Nearly everyone finds it necessary to leave off something he would like to do, and often our service to God is the first to be undone. This does not mean that the too-busy Christian openly denies the Lord. Usually he treats the church indifferently, attending worship only when it is convenient to do so. As he drifts further along the way of neglect, his indifference becomes more pronounced until, finally, the life in Christ means no more to him than to a modernistic Methodist.

2. Influence. There is a prevailing indifference to religious responsibilities among the denominations, and this sometimes sets an example for weak Christians. “When my Methodist and Baptist friends go to church only occasionally and feel satisfied with their religion, why can’t I?” some brethren inquire, seeking to justify what they want to do. Modernism has so blighted denominationalism that indifference is nearly universal among their members, and some of the Lord’s church treat their walk with Him as membership in a club; they would like to regard their neglect as a better standard than the precepts of the New Testament.

3. Irresponsibility. Too often, Christians have not been properly instructed in the responsibilities of living in Christ. They do not see themselves as important parts of the body of Christ; they do not understand Paul’s teaching in 1 Cor 12:12-27 that they are essential to the functioning of the local church. “Do not neglect the gift that is in you,” Paul exhorted in 1 Tim 4:14. These Christians do not use their spiritual gifts in service to the church. They don’t realize that

indifference is deadly. Neglecting worship and meetings of the church, they hear less teaching and become more indifferent. A vicious circle is dragging them relentlessly down this easy road!

4. Focus. Some Christians focus on the wrong things. They are disputing about minor matters, and neglect more important things. “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone,” Mt 23:23. Hypocrites take special care in small matters; they can be remarkably scrupulous in the performance of external, ritual religion, but totally neglected the soul, spirit, and practice of godliness. But they neglect the things which matter the very most: righteousness, which is choosing right from wrong; mercy and kindness towards the distressed and miserable, Ax 6:1; and trust in God, love for Him, and faithfulness in keeping promises and speaking truth, see Mic 6:6-8. God must receive our first and best attention. Remember, “He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is careless of his ways will die,” Pr 19:16.

Neglect is, of course, reflected in many ways. It is responsible for Christians’ failing to attend gatherings of the church, particularly those besides Sunday morning. Why do they come on Sunday morning? They must preserve an appearance of respectability, mustn’t they? They must salve their consciences. But they are indifferent and lukewarm, and God will “vomit them out of His mouth,” Rev 3:16. Indifference is responsible for purposeless giving, for the dust-covered Bible, and for the idea that the days of gospel meetings are over. Purposeful giving causes us to rejoice: “For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the grain, of the new wine and the oil, to the

storerooms where the articles of the sanctuary are, where the priests who minister and the gatekeepers and the singers are; and we will not neglect the house of our God,” Neh 10:39; see also 2 Cor 8:7-8, 17, 22. Bible study indicates a diligent heart: “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth,” 2 Tim 2:15; see also Rm 12:8-11; Ps 77:6; Jude 3. A person not eager to attend meetings of the church lacks diligence, which is a sign of neglect and laziness and lack of follow-through, see Pr 12:24, 27; 10:4; 13:4; 21:5; Heb 6:11; 2 Pet 1:5-10; 3:14. All of these are symptoms of an attitude, and it is this attitude which is deadly to a spiritual life. “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life,” Pr 4:23. It is a life and death matter!

The Lord is zealous about salvation, about lost souls, and about us. Many times in scripture His zeal “accomplishes” His purposes; see Num 25:11-13; 2 Kg 19:31; Ps 69:9 (Jn 2:17); 119:139; Is 9:7; 37:32; Ezek 5:13; Joel 2:18; Zech 1:144; 8:2. He is “clad with zeal as a cloak,” Is 59:17. He is zealous in His mercies towards us and yearns for us, Is 63:15. Zeal is an aspect of love! If we don’t have zeal, but neglect God, we do not love Him! If that is our condition, lukewarm, we must “be zealous and repent,” Rev 3:19. “But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always,” Gal 4:14. We are His own special people, “zealous for good works,” Tit 2:14. The word “enthusiasm” comes from a Greek root that indicates “God within.” Thus, zeal is pleasing to Him, and apathy is not. Neglect—A Disastrous Way. The sheer stark tragedy of neglect for the Christian lies in the fact that so easy a way of life could lead to so disastrous a destiny. Yet the Bible clearly indicates that the indifferent Christian has no hope of the glorious immortality which awaits the faithful in Christ Jesus. This 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

**Government and Marriage, from p. 4**

Speaking a few years after same-sex "marriage" was legalized in Canada, Hellquist said, "Now that we can get married, everyone assumes that we don't have any issues any more. A lot of the deaths that occur in our community are hidden; we don't see them. Those of us who are working on the front lines see them, and I'm tired of watching my community die." Hellquist's testimony is heartbreaking—but it also reflects reality. While many LGBT activists call these scientific facts "hatred" or "bigotry," the government can't forsake the health of its citizens. Instead, the U.S. government and state governments should look to the CDC, which finds that people who identify as gay or lesbian make up just 1.6 percent of the population. Nevertheless, gay men account for two-thirds of all new HIV/AIDS victims.

Laws influence society, and the U.S. government should not give its stamp of approval to the devastating harms of same-sex sexual relationships. This is especially the case given the public funding of health care. By promoting dangerous sexual practices they do double the damage: first by encouraging harm directly, and then again by depleting the public treasury of monies that will be needed to treat the ailments resulting from the dangerous behavior.

Third, the government has a vested interest in protecting liberty. The LGBT movement used to declare that it wanted *tolerance*. However, now that the movement has achieved prominence, it refuses tolerance of dissenting opinion. It is becoming an epidemic in America and a pandemic in Canada and other

## Discipleship Here At Home

nations where children and parents are being forced to accept the redefinition of marriage or face government persecution. In the US, we can see this persecution as business owners, military and naval chaplains, and others lose their religious liberty, as well as their rights to property ownership and expression of speech, simply because they won't abide by the 'new orthodoxy' of homosexuality.

The US has spent the last 50 years hearing the sermon of the Sexual Revolution, with little objection from the pulpits. This isn't just true for same-sex relationships; pulpits have been mostly silent on the issues of divorce and extramarital sexual relations, among other moral evils. Thanks to this silence and the effective campaign run by LGBT activists, many Americans consider support for real marriage as equivalent to racism. However, the truth is that only those who dare oppose same-sex "marriage" care enough about those with same-sex attraction to let them know that their sexual behavior is physically, emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually damaging. Since the Supreme Court has undermined the familial structure created by God and evidenced by nature, it falls to Christians to prepare for the coming persecution and to take the stand for truth and justice that recent generations have abandoned.

**Neglect Destroys, from p. 2**

conclusion is necessary to the proposition that neglect is a Christ-denying way, for how could anyone hope to be saved when his life, though he is a nominal Christian, actually denies Christ?

The Old Law was ordained by angels in the hands of a mediator and was therefore great, but the New Law is far greater. If that Old Law, "proved steadfast, and every transgression & disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation...?" Heb 2:2-3. We shall not escape!

In the Conquest of Canaan, "there remained among the children of Israel seven

**PRAY FOR healing, protection, help**

- **Eric Perry**—at home recovering from appendectomy last week
- **Ed Fink**—home from hospital; prostate cancer worse
- **Marie Sangellino**—thyroid cancer; surgery 7/9
- **Rod Green**—staph infection; still weak
- **Danny Dodd**, formerly of Westside—full brain radiation at St. Anthony's Hospital as outpatient
- **Jesse Walker**, formerly of Westside, now in Chicago—mother's oldest sister Denise passed away last week
- **Kaylee Chavez**—age 10, cancer; improving,
- **Bill Dennis**—home following rehab on infected knee drainage; pseudo-gout; getting stronger
- **Aubrie and Aaron Andrews**, friends of **Boyd's**—**Aaron** lost foot in motorcycle accident; pray they will be receptive to the gospel
- **Sandra Perry**—possible kidney failure, may need dialysis or transplant; heart valve issues recently diagnosed; neuropathy from diabetes
- **Sylvia Chapman**, **Brett's** grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; **Brett's** grand-mother Sue, and Aunt Bonnie Doss—cancer returned
- **Brittany Tope's** mother—breast cancer; broken ribs healed; doing better; grandmother—on dialysis
- **Gregg Geis's** friend **Taylor Olson**—overdosed; pray for his family

**CHRONIC CONDITIONS**

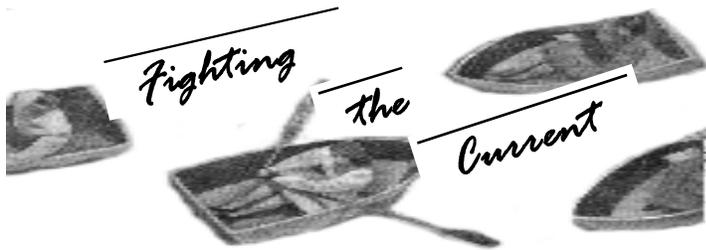
- **Logan Corray**; **Addison Tope**; **Christian Harrod**; **Rocco Jr.**; **Pat Wilkes**—asthma
- **Autumn Hadders**—epilepsy; celiac disease
- **Jonathan Hadders**—RA
- **Kirk Johnson**—MS; pelvic bone atrophying
- **Menards**—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, Alzheimers;
- **Virginia**, macular degeneration; high bp
- **Cheryl Reames**—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia
- **Judy Sartin**—rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis;
- **Lynda Szymanski**—COPD, lung weakness

**Travel** **Sarah McMurray** is in IN visiting family **Ethan Howell** is in CA to deliver a motorcycle. **Gintchins** are in Bulgaria visiting family until Aug **Shreves** in Australia; **Walkers** in TN

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tribes which had not yet received their inheritance. Then Joshua said to the children of Israel: 'How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers has given you?' " Josh 18:2-3. God wants us to possess His blessings, but we must actively seek them, conquering His foes of sin in our lives, including neglect. Neglect will prevent us from inheriting His blessings, both here and now and in the hereafter.

There is perhaps no greater enemy facing the church today than neglect. It is a destructive and disastrous way of life.



**Exposing current thoughts & trends** *homosexuality*

**Why the Government Should Promote Marriage**, by John-H Westen

The U.S. Supreme Court decided that America should become the 18th nation in the world to redefine marriage. They struck down laws defining marriage as it can only be—between a man and a woman.

Marriage cannot change, despite what the Court rules. God has ordained it and defined it. Furthermore—for the sake of children, other marriages, people with same-sex attractions, liberty, and society as a whole—governments have a vested interest in promoting marriage, not abandoning it. Here is the case for marriage:

First, the government has a vested interest in supporting relationships that propagate the human species in an environment most conducive to health and wellbeing. That environment is the freely chosen, lifelong, loving union of one man and one woman that is open to new life. Children have the right to be conceived, raised, and cared for in the loving union of a husband and wife. Studies and simple observations show having a mother and a father is best for children, and they also show that children raised by same-sex couples suffer emotional damage. Like single parenting, this is something that governments should not promote, and, in fact, should actively avoid or prevent.

The abusive practice of in vitro fertilization, too common among heterosexual couples and virtually a necessity for same-sex couples who wish to raise non-adopted children, is no answer. IVF treats a child as a commodity, producing children artificially and turning them from a gift to be embraced to a choice to be discarded at will. The child's conception, which is meant to take place in the loving embrace of committed spouses, instead comes as a result of scientific manipulation.

Second, government has a vested interest in protecting the health of all of its citizens. Many studies have demonstrated the harm of heterosexual sexual relationships outside of one man and one woman for life. The STD epidemics pale in comparison to the emotional and psychological trauma that accompanies such damaging relationships.

Those harms, both the physical and psychological, are also seen, and often more frequently, in same-sex sexual relationships. More convincing than any study, however, are words of former Canadian LGBT activist Gens Hellquist, "We have one of the poorest health statuses in this country," Hellquist told government officials in 2009. "Health issues affecting queer Canadians include lower life expectancy than the average Canadian, suicide, higher rates of substance abuse, depression, inadequate access to care and HIV/AIDS... There are all kinds of health issues that are endemic to our community. We have higher rates of anal cancer in the gay male community, lesbians have higher rates of breast cancer." continued on p. 3



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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, "Marriage Boot Camp: Basic Training in Communication,"** Jim Reingrover

• **Sermon, "Apathy: Is It a Sin?"** Jim Reingrover

**Sunday afternoon, "Let It Be to Me According to Your Word (Luke 1:38),"** Payton Miller

**Third quarter Bible studies:** Sunday "The Gospel of John"; Wednesday, "Traditions of Men"

**Feeding on His Word Reading**

Everyone is invited to an open Bible reading of Acts this evening, June 28, at 4 pm, at the Wilkeses' house in Erie, light supper to follow. See Joel Walker for schedule.