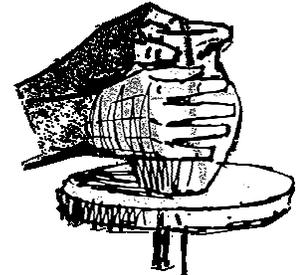


His Workmanship at Westside

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

—Ephesians 2:10



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Isaiah 64:8

Christus Victor: “Through Death He Might Destroy the Devil,” part 5, by Shane Scott

“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage,” Heb 2:14-15.

The night before Jesus was crucified He met with the disciples to prepare them for what was about to happen. He gathered with them in the upper room, and rather than defining the purpose of His death with an abstract theological discourse, He explained the significance of His death by eating a meal—the Passover.

Why the Passover? Have you ever wondered why Jesus chose that feast as the time of His death? Jesus laid down His life—in a very real sense He chose what day to die. He could have selected the Day of Atonement later that fall, for example, but He didn’t. He chose the Passover. Why that day?

In this series we have been tracing the theme of Jesus as a divine warrior, waging war against the enemy of God’s people—Christus Victor. In the experience of Israel, there was one event above all that encapsulated the triumph of God over Israel’s enemies—the Exodus. As Moses celebrated it in song, *“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,” Ex 15:1-3.

Each year on the Passover Israel remembered God’s deliverance from the brutality of Egyptian slavery through the miracles of the Exodus, encompassing the ten plagues and the Red Sea crossing. Jesus chose the commemoration of this time, this meal, because in a real sense His death was to accomplish a triumphant deliverance.

We are given a preview of what was to take place in the event known as the Transfiguration. All three synoptic gospels record this event, including the appearance of Moses and Elijah, Mt 17:1-8; Mk 9:2-10; Lk 9:28-36. But it is only Luke who explains what these representatives of the Law and the Prophets were discussing with Jesus. *“And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of His departure, which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem,”* Lk 9:30-31. They spoke with Jesus concerning His “departure” or “decease”—or in Greek His exodos, His exodus, *“which He was about to accomplish.”* Moses and Elijah understood that in His death and resurrection Jesus was going to achieve another mighty act of liberation.

As Jesus made His way toward Jerusalem for the Passover, Messianic expectations were at a fever pitch, as

they often were during that festival. Even the disciples “supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately,” Lk 19:11. The multitudes celebrated Jesus’s entrance into the city with these words: *“Blessed is the King Who comes in the name of the Lord!”* Lk 19:38. *“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”* Mk 11:9-10, quoting Ps 118: 26).

But what did the disciples and the multitudes mean by these Hosannas? They knew the Messiah was to come and liberate them from their enemy. But did they understand who that true enemy really was? Did they comprehend what genuine liberation would look like?

Power of darkness. As Luke recounts that final week, the bright expectations gave way to darkness. Suddenly re-emerging after his complete defeat in the temptation was the devil. *“Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot,”* Lk 22:3. Working through Judas as his accomplice, Satan set into motion the events that precipitated Jesus’s arrest. Later, Jesus warned Peter that Satan had his sights set on him: *“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,”* Lk 22:31. And in the gloom of the garden as the soldiers and chief priests came to ar-

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Christus Victor, from p. 1

rest Him, Jesus saw a greater opponent lurking in the shadows. *"This is your hour, and the power of darkness,"* Lk 22:53. Jesus knew that the power of darkness was about to unleash everything he had against Him to stop Him from His work of liberation.

On the surface Satan was successful. Jesus died a cruel, horrifying death. What about all the talk of the coming kingdom, liberation, and victory? Was Jesus wrong? Or was Jesus in some strange and unforeseen way really winning a victory?

Let's look at one other story in Luke. Two men who had been to Jerusalem during the Passover were on the way to Emmaus, when suddenly a stranger appeared to them, and asked them what they were talking about. Incredulous, they replied, *"Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"* And He said to them, *"What things?"* And they said to Him, *"Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a Man Who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered Him up to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we had hoped that He was the One to redeem Israel,"* Lk 24:18-21. These men were disappointed because they thought Jesus had been coming to redeem Israel but had failed. In their interpretive grid, they could only see the Messiah as a conquering king, not as one who would suffer first in order to conquer.

Notice Jesus's response: *"O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?"* And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself," Lk 24:25-27.

Jesus did indeed redeem Israel. But He did so not by breaking the military yoke of Rome, but by overcoming Israel's true oppressor, the devil. He conquered him by stripping him of his greatest weapons, sin and death. Through His sinless life, His faithful death, and His glorious resurrection, Jesus shattered the bondage of sin and

death. *"He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, triumphing over them by the cross,"* Col 2:15. Or as our opening passage beautifully explained, *"Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery,"* Heb 2:14-15.

In the accounts of Jesus's casting out evil spirits, the gospel writers often comment that the demons cried out when they saw Him, Mt 8:29-32 (Mk 5:7-9; Lk 8:28-31); Mk 1:23-26; 3:11; 9:25-27; Lk 4:33-35, 41. Can you imagine how the forces of darkness must have howled and screeched when they realized that what they saw as their greatest victory, killing the Lord's Anointed, was in fact the very means by which they would be destroyed? God ordained the mystery, *"the hidden wisdom"* before the ages for our victory and glory, but *"none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory,"* 1 Cor 2:8. And what better day could Jesus have chosen to depict the deliverance of His people than the Passover?

Through Jesus you and I can be liberated from the evil one and be conveyed into the kingdom of the Son of God's love, Col 1:13-14. We can share in the victory of Jesus as we are united in Him, His death, and His resurrection, Rm 6:1-6. And as we face the fury of the evil one, whose power is irretrievably broken but not yet completely destroyed, we can be more than conquerors through God's love, Rm 8:37-39, as we wait for our King to win the final victory, 1 Cor 15:24-26, 54-57; Rev 6:2.

Bathroom Wars, from p. 4

bathrooms, which the school created specifically to accommodate transgender students. But even this accommodation wasn't good enough. Hence

One more opportunity to attend the gospel meeting for the Smoky Hill Church of Christ this evening, 5:30 pm Daniel Broadwell on *"Dealing with Suffering"*

the lawsuit and Tuesday's ruling.

In a concurring opinion, Judge Andre Davis claimed the student is at risk of *"irreparable harm"* if forced to use a single-occupancy bathroom. Davis said that to support the claim of irreparable harm, *"G.G. submitted an affidavit to the district court describing the psychological distress he experiences when he is forced to use the single-stall restrooms."* Davis added that *"G.G. experiences daily psychological harm that puts him at risk for long-term psychological harm, and his avoidance of the restroom as a result of the Board's policy puts him at risk for developing a urinary tract infection as he has repeatedly in the past."* Davis concluded that for G.G. to use single-occupancy restrooms *"is tantamount to humiliation and a continuing mark of difference."*

Niemeyer, however, pointed out that the majority relied not on the actual text, history, or legal implementation of Title IX, but on a 2015 letter from the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education: *"The recent Office for Civil Rights letter, moreover, which is not law but which is the only authority on which the majority relies, states more than the majority acknowledges."* Indeed, that letter suggested that schools *"offer the use of gender-neutral, individual-user facilities to any student who does not want to use shared sex-segregated facilities."*

At the end of the day, it's hard to disagree with Niemeyer when he wrote, *"Any new definition of sex that excludes reference to physiological differences, as the majority now attempts to introduce, is simply an unsupported reach to rationalize a desired outcome."* This is merely an unaccountable agency (DOE) and an activist court rewriting Title IX and remaking bathroom policy across our nation.

Bathroom and locker room policies that protect privacy based on biology while also accommodating transgender students make good sense. And as Niemeyer explained, they comply with the law, too: *"When the school board assigned restrooms and locker rooms on the basis of biological sex, it was clearly complying precisely with the unambiguous language of Title IX and its regulations."*

2. Target First Retailer to Change Bathroom Policy, by Michael Ware

Target Corp said on Tuesday that
continued on p. 3



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

Bathroom Wars, from p. 2 transgender employees and customers can now use the bathroom that corresponds with their "gender identity," becoming the first big retailer to weigh in on an issue at the center of a heated national debate.

This announcement comes amid the firestorm surrounding North Carolina's controversial bathroom law, which requires people to use bathrooms and locker rooms in public facilities that correspond with their gender at birth.

Target joins other companies that have come out against the common-sense laws of North Carolina. They claim equality is their aim. But if this were true, where is the inequality in the NC law? There is nothing in the law that prohibits a transgender person.

In a blog post, Target said, "We welcome transgender team members and guests to use the restroom or fitting room facility that corresponds with their gender identity... Inclusivity is a core belief at Target. It's something we celebrate. We stand for equality and equity, and strive to make guests and team members feel accepted, respected, and welcomed in our stores and workplaces every day. We believe that everyone—every team member, every guest, and community—deserves to be protected from discrimination and treated equally. Consistent with this belief, Target supports the federal Equality Act, which provides protections to LGBT individuals and opposes action that enables discrimination."

What this means is that in every Target, you will find that any person can use any facility he/she/it chooses—not just the miniscule (3/10 of 1%) numbers of transgender people, but anyone with malevolent intent against women and children. Target's policy seems to be a

Discipleship Here At Home

noble stance against discrimination. But in reality, it is creating a danger and might scare off customers—not to make or effect social change, but because they value safety more than Target's service.

Target's blogger went on: "Everyone deserves to feel like they belong. And you'll always be accepted, respected and welcomed at Target." The question of belonging is a good one. Are there places that I do not belong because I am a man? It seems that to ask the question is to answer it. But we now live in a society that common sense answers are rejected for what "feels right." In a responsive blog, [MaryfromMargaret.com](#), "Cate" wrote to Target: "I am a woman. I am a frequent shopper in your stores. I am first and foremost a mother. Your recent change in policy of who you allow to use each restroom concerns me... As a business owner, I do understand your right to make a stand as a company. As a parent, I will never understand why you would trade the safety of our women and children for the sake of not hurting feelings. I realize that everyone needs to feel accepted, loved, and wanted. I know the struggles of a person [seeking] identity." She then cites statistics that dramatically show a 200 times greater risk for women to be raped than there are transgendered people in the US, a 150/X risk for girls under 18 reporting rape, and a 10/X greater risk for boys to report as victims of sexual assault. "You have taken the feelings of less than 1% of our population into account and in one swift statement told the entire country that the safety of our vulnerable women and children is of no concern to you or your staff." She asks some pertinent questions of Target about safety, including "Are you willing to send your wives and daughters into a restroom that is occupied by a man and trust that he is who he says he is?" and then ends: "Target, you have lost a loyal customer because you have betrayed my trust. My children's safety comes first."

Moving Topes are moving Sat, 4/30, and Kory needs help—give him a call.

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Orchid Cox—chronic blood clot condition
Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease
Delmer Hice, Lynda Szymanski—COPD
Kirk Johnson—MS; **Amanda Mailloux**—IBS
Virginia Menard—macular degeneration
Cheryl Reames—fibromyalgia; diverticulitis

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

- **Sandra Perry**—continues in Lutheran Hospital with pneumonia; **Judy Strand**—at home after ICU last week with pneumonia
- **Levi Addy**—facial plastic surgery after car accident last week
- **Janelle Hall**—breast cancer; surgery 4/26
- **Sarah Hadders**—recurring chest pains
- **Brett Witherington's** mother **Cheryl**—breast cancer just diagnosed; **Sylvia Chapman, Brett's** grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; grandmother **Sue** had a heart attack last week, 10% blocked; **Sue & Aunt Connie Doss**—cancer
- **Mike Menard, Virginia's** son—pancreatic cancer; home, palliative care; **Virginia** pain walking from wrenched leg.
- 10-year-old **Benjamin Hymel**, of Longmont church—brain cancer; home, at school after surgery; now starting year's chemo and radiation cycles; eye patch
- **Valerie Greenwalt**—home after surgery to remove broken needle in elbow last week
- **Brandon Thompson**—at least 2 viruses
- the **Boyd's** extended families are undergoing hardships: **Wendy's** father, **Dan Gutierrez**, back in care center with cognitive problems either from stroke or brain bleeding; pray for **Eileen** and **Dan**; **Kenny's** sister and brother-in-law—divorce, b-i-l **Kevin** buried his father recently; pray for family **Jennifer, Kevin, Chloe, & Elijah Whittemore**; **Kenny's** employee, **Damon Todd**—great grandson killed and great granddaughter injured in collision with drunk driver last week
- **Gary Boyd**—injured in car accident recently
- **Samantha Harrod**—benign cyst removed from her back recently; recovery another month
- **Linda Szymanski**—broken arm & wrist; **Tracy Corray**—broken bone in foot
- **Sarah McMurray's** mentee **Lakeisha Griffin**—age 12; missing from school, not located
- **Sheryle McNeill**—boil removed recently; pinched nerve
- **Berney Charo's** brother **Eliud**—prostate cancer
- **Ian Anderson, Mina Gonzalez's** nephew—rehab
- **Letha Fink's** brother **Kenneth Morrison** of GA—liver disease, diagnosed with neuro-muscular disease
- **Tyler Bennett's** fiancée's grandfather, **Richie Posadas**—in hospital with serious infection
- **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
- **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**, genetic disease; **Howells'** 19-year-old neighbor **Savannah Svensen** has leukemia; port and spinal tap last week; likely 80% to recover

Travel Larry Campbell is in IL until Tues visiting his mother



Exposing current trends *religious freedom, transgender*

Bathroom Wars Continue: 1. Federal Court Rules Schools May Not Provide Separate Bathroom Based on Biology, by Ryan T. Anderson

The Fourth Circuit Court ruled last week against a Virginia school district that sought to accommodate a transgender student while also protecting the privacy rights of other students.

The federal court concluded that Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972—which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex—should be interpreted as prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity, as a Department of Education letter suggested in 2015. The ruling allows a lawsuit brought by a transgender student to proceed.

The case involves a biological girl who identifies as a boy. The court's majority wrote: "G.G.'s birth-assigned sex, or so-called 'biological sex,' is female, but G.G.'s gender identity is male." Note the scare quotation marks around what the court calls "so-called 'biological sex.'" Biological sex, in fact, is precisely what Congress protected in 1972.

In a stinging dissent, Judge Paul Niemeyer pointed out that *"the majority's opinion, for the first time ever, holds that a public high school may not provide separate restrooms and locker rooms on the basis of biological sex."* It's hard to imagine that that's what Congress was prohibiting when it enacted Title IX in 1972.

Indeed, the court's ruling goes against human history, practice, and common sense. Niemeyer explained: *"This holding completely tramples on all universally accepted protections of privacy and safety that are based on the anatomical differences between the sexes. ...schools would no longer be able to protect physiological privacy as between students of the opposite biological sex. This unprecedented holding overrules custom, culture, and the very demands inherent in human nature for privacy and safety, which the separation of such facilities is designed to protect. More particularly, it also misconstrues the clear language of Title IX and its regulations. And finally, it reaches an unworkable and illogical result."*

Niemeyer said that students have privacy rights to exclude students of the other biological sex in their locker rooms: *"Across societies and throughout history, it has been commonplace and universally accepted to separate public restrooms, locker rooms, and shower facilities on the basis of biological sex in order to address privacy and safety concerns arising from the biological differences between males and females. An individual has a legitimate and important interest in bodily privacy such that his or her nude or partially nude body, genitalia, and other private parts are not exposed to persons of the opposite biological sex. Indeed, courts have consistently recognized that the need for such privacy is inherent in the nature and dignity of humankind."*

Nevertheless, G.G. sued the school district. Why? Because the district created a policy which says that bathroom and locker room access is primarily based on biology, while creating additional but separate accommodations for transgender students. Specifically, the policy is that only biological girls can use the girls' room, only biological boys can use the boys' room, and any student can use one of the three single-occupancy

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meets at
13789 W. 8th Avenue
Golden, Colorado 80401
720-295-4530

Pastors

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

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

info@thechurchingolden.com

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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**, "Courage to Live Holy Lives," DeWayne Howell

- **sermon**, Preaching Through First Corinthians (PTFC): chapter 10:1-22, "Temptation: No One Is Exempt," Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon

• **Kids' Questions Answered:**

- What Does "Amen" Mean?
- How Do Song Leaders Choose Songs?
- When Will Jesus Come?
- What Will Heaven Be Like?
- What Will Our Bodies Look Like in Heaven?

Jim Reingrover