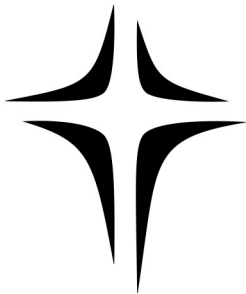


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Westview Church of Christ Greeley, Colorado

September 20, 2026

The Purpose

From here to heaven... Following God wherever He leads us.

Commentary from a common Terry *Either/Or faith in a both/and world 1*

My thoughts have percolated on this particular reality of faith for years! I've mentioned it, occasionally, in different contexts of sermons and classes. I've always said, "Someday I am going to develop this study more fully."

Someday starts today.

We live in a *both/and* world. If there is anyway possible, we will do everything we can to secure both the best possible outcome *and* not have a serious negative consequence or price. That's not really all that strange. And, to be fair, it's not a universal principle. We even have an idiomatic phrase that criticizes the person who tries this: *Have your cake and eat it, too*. Unrealistically hoping for the best of both worlds.

I want to be clear. There *is* a both/and reality to our walk with God in the Spirit through Jesus. We can have a fulfilling, joyful, hope-filled life in this world **AND** can anticipate and look forward to an eternal life in the new heaven and earth.

However, to receive that, we are faced often with *either/or* challenges when it might be our nature to want the benefits of both sides. Some who choose the life of faith also want to continue the life of the world in complimentary lockstep with it. They ask, "How can I belong to God, receiving the benefits of that relationship, without giving up what I enjoy most in this world? I want *both* this **and** that." A *both/and* world.

I want to be able to eat what I want, as much as I want, no matter the calories and carbs and saturated fats, **AND** I want to be healthy and fit and trim and all my numbers on my blood test are perfect.

I want to pursue all MY interests and hobbies and favorite pastimes **AND** have a spouse who isn't fazed by the lack of attention I give.

I want to spend money I don't have on anything and everything that comes along **AND** still have no financial worries or money shortage.

There are a lot of times the *both/and* mindset just won't work. There are choices and decisions. We must establish, often, the line of demarcation as we opt for our directions in life.

This is absolutely true of Christianity as well. There are far too many proponents of a type of

Christianity that somehow makes the case that believers can pursue whatever they want, continuing to indulge their own carnal desires, **AND** still be in solid and strong standing with God.

Isaiah 58 is an astounding chapter! God speaks to Israel through the prophet, taking on their voice as He speaks to them.

The people's complaint? ***Why have we fasted and you (God) see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?*** verse 3

In the same verse, God answers them. ***Behold, in the day of your fast, you seek your own pleasure....*** still verse 3

God then listed several offenses they continued to commit while at the same time doing the religious things that they believed would make them right with the Father. They oppressed workers. The quarreled and fought wickedly. They had no humility (which is a cornerstone of fasting). They did not help those in need.

We want to continue to do whatever we want, listening to our worldly heart...but we still expect to receive God's blessing.

The Old Testament's last book, *Malachi*, spoke to the same problem. For the Jews, they had been back in Jerusalem and their homeland for about 100 years, finally released from the exile to Babylon. They had a temple, but it is smaller. They were becoming more and more focused on the day-to-day and not the spiritual day-to-day.

They were covering the altar of God with tears, weeping and groaning and wondering why God did not accept their offerings. They asked the question about the rejection of their sacrifices. *Why does He not accept them?* It seems that the people had resolved the issue of idolatry because of their time in Babylon. But, had they really? Or had they simply replaced the physical idols and the worship of them with some less tangible, the vague "idols" of a world dictated by self and self-interest.

We will dive into *Malachi* next week, a book that's 2,500 years old and has a message for us.

Love one another,

Terry

Ladies Prayer Group meets on Tuesday

The next meeting for the Westview Ladies' Prayer Group will be this Tuesday, September 22nd. We meet at 10 a.m. in the home of Margy Lininger (you can get the address from the church office). The ladies are encouraged to join us. We meet the fourth Tuesday of the month unless otherwise announced.

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are thankful you are with us today as we worship our God and Savior. Our prayer is that you will encounter Him today.

A nursery for small children is available in the east hall off the lobby.

What will you experience at Westview?

- **Praise through song.** It is the tradition of our heritage to sing a cappella (without instruments) as we encourage everyone to be involved in uplifting praise.
- We value the **Bible**. You will hear God's Word read and all sermons will give the utmost respect and priority to Scripture.
- We share the **Lord's Supper** every week remembering Christ's sacrifice that provides us forgiveness as we celebrate our salvation through Him.
- **We do not expect our guests to give financially** to our work. We depend on the generous and godly giving of all Westview members to provide the funds needed to implement God's plans for this church.

We invite you to stay for Bible classes following our worship time. We hope you have been blessed today!

Today's Order of Worship

Blessed Be Your Name

Hide Me Away, O Lord

Meet & Greet

Announcements & Reminders

Rushing Wind

Prayer

Scripture Reading:

I John 4:7-11

When My Love To Christ Grows Weak

We Remember Christ's Sacrifice

Contribution Collected

We need Jesus medley

Elder blessing/prayer

Sweet Are the Promises

Sermon

The Invasion:

The belly of the beast (3)

The spiritual advantage

We Will Worship the Lamb of Glory

Unison Reading:

John 14:3-4

There Is a Habitation

News, updates, events, opportunities, and reminders

Servers for Worship today (20th)

Scripture Reading James Pascoe
Prayer Roy Moore
Tom Odle (communion prayers)
Cory Newton (contribution prayer)
Dan Esposito
Chad Goodwin
Kim Hegarty
Abner Morales



The Westview Men’s Coffee is every Tuesday morning from 6 to 8 a.m. in the fellowship room.

The Westview Women’s Coffee is every Wednesday morning from 9 to 11 a.m. in the fellowship room.

The Wednesday night study group meets at 6:30 in the fellowship room (studying *James*, taught by Randy).

The September *Daily Bible Reading* plan is in the lobby.

Families Discovery Group meets this afternoon

The next get-together for the Families Discovery Group will this afternoon at 5 p.m. We’ll meet in the fellowship room at the building. The menu is Italian. Check with Cory & Katie for more information.

The *MSCH Fall Food Drive* is underway

We have received information from the **Mountain States Children’s Home** for their fall food drive. That info is printed and in the lobby. You can leave your donation in the lobby in and around the storage bins. We will be collecting through mid-October.

Tuesday night singing with the worship leaders—7 p.m. at the building

Sunday morning classes: The fellowship room class is a verse-by-verse textual study. Tom Lininger is currently leading a study of the book of **Hebrews**.

Terry’s class, which meets in room #14, has started a new study. It is *Great Words and Themes of the Bible*. It will not necessarily look at the very most dominant overarching themes of scripture, but those key teachings and words that emerge from them. Our first theme is *Overcome*.

Cards for you to use are in the lobby

We have printed small cards (business card size) that have general information about Westview on them. These are for you to use and distribute. Take a few—maybe three to five at a time—and give them out. This is an easy way to let people know about your church family and extend an invitation to people to come visit us. They are on the counter under the TV screen. (One side is English and the other side is in Spanish.)



The kids’ worship handout is on the table at the back of the auditorium.

Quotes from *Gentle and Lowly* by Dane Ortlund

The same Christ who wept at the tomb of Lazarus weeps with us in our lonely despair. The same one who reached out and touched lepers puts his arm around us today when we feel misunderstood and sidelined. The Jesus who reached out and cleansed messy sinners reaches into our souls and answers our half-hearted plea for mercy with the mighty invincible cleansing of one who cannot bear to do otherwise.

He doesn’t handle us roughly. He doesn’t scowl and scold. He doesn’t lash out, like many of our parents did. And all this restraint on his part is not because he has a diluted view of sinfulness. He knows our sinfulness far more deeply than we do. Indeed, we are aware of just the tip of the iceberg of our depravity, even in our most searching moments of self-knowledge. His restraint simply flows from his tender heart for his people.



Prayer reminders

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

We do not include personal information, such as the prayer list in our online bulletin. If you would like that information, it is available in the hard copy bulletin at the building. Or, you can contact the church office to receive a copy.