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April 19, 2026



The Purpose

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

Commentary from a common Terry *Don't let the shine come off*

The first significant purchase LaNelle and I made in our marriage was a dining table and chairs. In that first year of marriage, we were living in a furnished apartment building owned by the college. But the dining room set that came with it? A bit rickety, to say the least. It was a test of its stability to put a full pot of stew on it. Would it hold? What happens when we add bowls, tableware, napkins, and salt and pepper shakers?

The problem was there wasn't another dining table and chairs available for us. So we went shopping, took the plunge, and bought our first major household furniture. We were very proud. It was so nice. And we were very careful. Hot pads under the dishes. Nothing slammed down carelessly. No scratches. No scuffs. No problem.

Until there was. We had some rectangular wooden hot pads that had sharp corners. I'm not gonna say who, but *somebody* dropped one of those and it hit the table corner first. Put a nice, noticeable, no-way-to-hide-it indentation in the surface of our still new table.

From then on, we weren't near as careful about protecting our first big purchase.

The shine had come off.

When we become followers of Christ, we become *new*.

⇒ *If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation.* (II Corinthians 5:17)

⇒ *We have put on the new self, in the likeness of God, called to imitate Him in true righteousness and holiness.* (Ephesians 4:24)

⇒ *We walk in a newness of life.* (Romans 6:4)

⇒ *We have put on a new self, which is being renewed...* (Colossians 3:10)

God has started a work in this Christian age on this earth that will continue into eternity. There will one day be a *new* heaven and a *new* earth. (Revelation 21:1; II Peter 3:13) In the visions of the revelations Jesus delivered to John, he heard the One sitting on the throne say, "Behold, I am making all things *new*." (Revelation 21:5)

Renewal (in fact, the very word *new*) is a theme of the Bible. In some instances, it God's restorative action to change something that is

damaged, marred, or inadequate into something pure, perfect and enduring.

But there is also the renewal that is ongoing and perpetual, keeping us spiritually sharp and in ever-increasing synch with the steps of the Spirit of God. It refreshes the shine of salvation and our restored relationship to God.

This is where I ended last week's article:

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

This is to be an ongoing process. Paul was writing to people who were believers, not someone still thinking about stepping into the baptismal water. It is an essential *process* for us that we continue to detach ourselves from the world (conformity) and firmly attach ourselves to all that is holy and godly (transformation). This is renewal.

This idea of a "renewed" mind is the image of *renovation*. Our mind has been renovated from what it was to what it can be. Changed from what? When Paul wrote that we are not be "...conformed to this world....", the word for *world* is more literally *age*. We are not to be influenced by the thoughts, practices, philosophies, and lifestyle choices of this time we live in.

We are in a constant state of renewal. Those folks who can peel the layers from the Greek word meanings tell us that this is an *ongoing* inner change. In the previous verse, Paul said that we are to present our bodies as living sacrifices to God. We are *giving* ourselves to Him. This isn't first about what we *do*. It's first about what we *give*. This decision to give ourselves, including our minds, completely to God...well, that keeps the shine bright and our faith fresh.

Just like that dining table, we'll get beaten up, scratched, and damaged. But, unlike that dining table, God will continually renew us and lift us to healed heights we can't attain on our own. The light of salvation in us will always shine bright as we give ourselves to Him, being renewed.

Love one another,

Women's Bible Study group will meet on Tuesday

The next meeting for the *Women's Bible Study* group will be this coming Tuesday, the 21st. We meet in the home of Barb Henderson at 10 a.m. You can get the address from the church office. All are encouraged to join us.

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!

At the heart of worship, mission, unity, and holiness, then, we discover in Ephesians the vocation of the church. The church, united and holy, is designed to demonstrate to the hostile watching world that the God revealed in Jesus is the true God, the creator, redeemer, love, and glory of the whole world....

(T)he true humanity of Jesus' followers is designed to display to the world what human life was meant to be like.

~~N.T. Wright (modern day theologian)~~

from *The Vision of Ephesians: The Tasks of the Church and the Glory of God*

Today's Order of Worship

*Thank You Lord For Loving Me
Lord, We Come Before Thee Now*

Meet & Greet

Announcements & Reminders

Prayer

Scripture Reading:
Psalm 63:1-4

*As the Deer
Holy, Holy, Holy*

We Remember Christ's Sacrifice

Contribution Collected
More Precious Than Silver

Elder blessing & prayer

Light the Fire

Sermon

**The Invasion:
God's Church God's Way**

O To Be Like Thee

Unison Reading:
Ephesians 6:10-11

Victory In Jesus

Upcoming events, opportunities, and reminders:

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

The **MSCH Food Drive** is underway. There is information in the lobby as to what you can bring. There is also a list of items they *do not* need. This is the last week to contribute as the final day to bring items by the building will be next Sunday, April 26th. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday morning classes: The fellowship room class is a verse-by-verse textual study, led by Randy and Tom. Tom is currently leading a study of the book of **John**.

Terry's class, which meets in room #14, is entitled *What Am I Supposed To Do?* We will be in this study for a few more weeks.

The **Wednesday night Bible study group** meets at 6:30 in the fellowship room. We are currently studying the book of *Galatians*.

The Kitchen is a ministry to the homeless. We cook burritos on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and take them to the homeless shelter. You can help cook, deliver, or both. **It varies from week to week if we are meeting.** We will **NOT** meet this Wednesday, the 22nd.

Registration for this year's Northern Colorado Christian Camp continues. The camp is early this year, May 31st through June 6th. There is an informational flyer in the lobby. If you need financial assistance for the cost, please let Terry know as we have funds available. If you would like to help sponsor a camper (or two), also let Terry know this.

The **April Bible study plan guide handout** is in the lobby on the table.

We heard from the Morningstars yesterday. Avery was baptized on Friday! They are happy to share this news with their Westview family. We will pray for Avery as we celebrate her commitment.

Servers for Worship today (19th)

Scripture Reading Rand Morgan
Prayer Roy Moore
Tom Odle (communion prayers)
Randy McCrain (contribution prayers)
Chad Goodwin
Kim Hegarty
Abner Morales
Ian Sebold



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.



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.

Birthdays & Anniversaries:

4/20 – Percy Odle