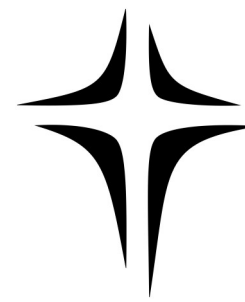


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Westview Church of Christ Greeley, Colorado

September 27, 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 2

Sometimes it's a *both/and* circumstance. We can have both this and that. It's always great when that happens! We get the results we want and we don't have to pay a huge sacrifice or go through a hard time.

But, most of the time, when it comes to our Christian walk and the choices we make every day, it's an *either/or* proposition. My assertion in this series of articles is that modern Christianity has devolved into a *both/and* hope instead of reconciling our faith to the *either/or* realities of the committed godly life.

Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament. It was probably written during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. The Jews, exiled to Babylon for several decades, had returned to their home land and to Jerusalem, God's Holy City. They had been forced into that Babylonian captivity because of their ongoing attraction to idolatry, violating the first and foundational commandment. *I am the LORD your God...you will have no other gods before Me.* And then the second one—*You shall not make for yourself a carved image....* Exodus 20:2-4

It appears from the post-exile prophets that God had resolved the idolatry issue with them. But that didn't mean there weren't spiritual problems. They replaced the foreign gods and idols with new "idols," more in keeping with what we would recognize today. They had gotten swept up in their concerns for the day-to-day. They were distracted from God by jobs, money, daily demands, and time constraints. God was waaaaay down the list of priorities. Sound familiar?

But, they convinced themselves that they could do what they were doing and still be treated as God's chosen, standing strong in the covenant. They wanted *both* this *and* that. God showed them that if they would make an *either/or* decision, then they would indeed be blessed. He even told them to test Him in these things.

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. Malachi 3:10

Just exactly what were they doing? They were giving God the leftovers. They were treating earthly matters as more important than Him. They brought the worst of their flock to the temple for sacrifice instead of the best. "I mean, c'mon, if I bring the best, that costs me more, right?" So, they brought the lame little sheep or the one that was blind—the one that would fetch very little in the market place. They sacrificed to God, "...what is blemished." Malachi 1:14

God then told them, "I am a great King...." But they sure didn't respect Him as a great King...or a great God. He showed absolute disdain for their "sacrifices." In chapter one—and this is my summary, not a quote—He basically said, "You honor all kinds of people greater than you honor Me. Sons honor their fathers more than they honor Me. Slaves honor their masters more than they honor Me. *I'll bet you'd never give the governor the sickly little lamb you're willing to offer Me.*"

But, they wanted both this and that. They wanted to give to God as little as possible, with as little cost involved, and still be God's chosen people and receive all the blessings that goes with that. They were genuinely puzzled by God's lack of blessing. Yet, they offered inferior sacrifices. They had stopped tithing. The priests had stopped being the godly priests they needed to be.

It's *either/or*. Either they choose to go down that selfish path or they choose to serve God first, even above their own needs and desires. So, as I wrote a few paragraphs ago, God challenged them. "Test Me," He said. Act like covenant people and then experience the blessing of being true covenant people.

But, just five verses after, "Test Me," God then warned them. *Don't test Me.* The first one? Follow God's will and desire and see what happens. Put the promise into reality. The second one? Don't be so arrogant and evil that you think you can manipulate God and get what you want from Him without offering anything to Him that He wants.

I'm just getting started on this one. And it's not going to be easy. This lands squarely in our 21st century wheelhouse!

Love one another,

Terry

The two adult Bible classes this morning will be combined. We will meet in room #14 (Terry's classroom).

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!

MSCH fall food drive continues for three more weeks

We will continue to collect grocery supplies for the Mountain States Children's Home for three more weeks. You need to have your donation in the lobby by Sunday, October 18th. A complete list of what they need (as well as what not to donate) is in the lobby. You can also donate through gift cards.

Today's Order of Worship

*Lord, I Lift Your Name On High
Great Are You Lord*

Meet & Greet

Announcements & Reminders

Prayer

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sermon

The Invasion:

*The belly of the beast (4)
Do you trust Me?*

'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus

Scripture Reading:

Hebrews 12:1-3

*Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
The Lord Is In His Holy Temple*

We Remember Christ's Sacrifice

Contribution Collected

What a Friend We Have In Jesus

Sing Hallelujah To the Lord

Elder blessing/prayer

I Come To the Garden Alone

Unison Reading:

Colossians 3:1-2

News, updates, events, opportunities, and reminders

Servers for Worship today (27th)

Scripture Reading Steve Sebold
Prayer Todd Zwetzig
Troy Wallace (communion prayers)
Brandon Adkins (contribution prayer)
Doug Seaman
Tyler Wade
Dean Weber
Taylor Wikum

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

The October *Daily Bible Reading* plan is now in the lobby. You will also receive it through email.



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

Eastern European Missions contribution next month

We will have a special contribution to support EEM on Sunday, October 25th. We encourage you to begin praying now how you can give to this amazing ministry.

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

Families Discovery Group meets next Sunday

The next get-together for the Families Discovery Group will be next Sunday, October 4th, at 5 p.m. We’ll meet at Cory & Katie’s house (you can get the address from the church office). The menu is a nachos bar. Check with Cory & Katie for more information.

MSCH gala dinner and auction on October 10th

The Mountain States Children’s Home will host its annual *Gala Dinner & Auction* on Saturday, October 10th. Complete details are on their website. Go to www.msch.org and scroll down to “upcoming events.” There is a link to the gala information.

Quotes from *Love Does: Discover a Secretly Incredible Life In an Ordinary World* by Bob Goff

Failure is just part of the process, and it’s not just okay; it’s better than okay. God doesn’t want failure to shut us down. God didn’t make it a “three-strikes-and-you’re-out” sort of thing. It’s more about how God helps us dust ourselves off so we can swing for the fences again. And all of this without keeping a meticulous record of our mistakes.

Actually, the real game of Bigger & Better that Jesus is playing with us usually isn’t about money or possessions or even our hopes. It’s about our pride. He asks if we’ll give up that thing we’re so proud of, that thing we believe causes us to matter in the eyes of the world, and give it up to follow Him. He’s asking us, “Will you take what you think defines you, leave it behind, and let Me define who you are instead?”



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.



Be sure to grab some Westview cards in the lobby and take them with you to distribute and handout this week.