

Instilling Faith in Children

Michael W. McLemore

"How can I instill faith in my children?" is a great question. Faithful Christian parents are interested in its solution. Instilling faith in children involves two great essentials.

First, children must see your faith and values at work in you and in your family. It's not merely a sermon of word, but deed. Children will see the connection between your decisions and your faith. They should often hear you vocalize this connection: "I returned the money because it didn't belong to me and we don't take what doesn't belong to us," or "You will not talk to your mother in that tone of voice. We will respect one another because God has commanded us to be kind to one another." From the start our children should see our love for attending worship, witness our sacrificial support of the Lord's work and see us prepare to teach others.

Second, children must know that rewards and consequences are connected with what you believe. This isn't confined to what's taking place in your home. When things go

wrong at home, point out the principle or standard you or your spouse violated. When your family is rewarded for faithfulness, help them see the connection. Point out God's faithfulness whenever possible. You are shaping your children's worldview – the lens through which they will interpret every future life event. Take every opportunity to help them develop that framework.

The greatest lessons children must see are of a father and mother patterning their own lives after those examples discovered on the pages of God's word. Someone once said, "It's more effectively caught than taught." Moses taught the people of God to diligently teach their children "when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up, Deuteronomy 6:7.

When your children see your faith living in you, they come to desire that same devotion for themselves. Don't just preach it but live it boldly before them every single day.

JESUS "friends" showed to situation any better mind of God, they

probably figured things couldn't get any worse after he lost his possessions and children, after his wife's consolation was limited to "curse God and die." And then his "friends" showed up. Not knowing Job's situation any better than they knew the mind of God, they assumed Job's difficul-

ties must have been a curse from God for some wrongdoing on Job's part. Job's refusal to acknowledge any

such wrongdoing only convinced them further that he was rebelling against God.

ADAPTED

As frustrated as Job was at his friends' superficial explanation, he was even more so at God's failure to provide an accurate one. For chapter after chapter he beseeched God for the method to all the madness in his life. But throughout the ordeal he never questioned that God was in control or that God would eventually come to his defense (as eventually He did, Job 42:7-8). Perhaps the most eloquent statement of faith in all of Job's speeches is in Job 19:25 – "And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth." Since the New Testament nowhere applies this text to Jesus, we must accept the possibility that Job is simply speaking figuratively of the Father here – that God would make His justice known in the presence of Job and his detractors "on the earth." However, since the Father never literally came to earth (and the Son did), we can't rule out the possibility that Job spoke here prophetically of the coming of Jesus, who would "bring forth justice to the nations" and not break the bruised reed or extinguish the dimly burning wick, Isa 42:1-3.

The Greek words lutroo and exagorazo, rendered "redeem" in the New Testament, each have reference to financial transactions, where money or goods are exchanged for an item (or more frequently, a person) of value. The second of the two is used metaphorically for taking advantage of opportunities ("redeeming the time" or "making the most of the opportunity") in

Ephesians 5:16 and Colossians 4:5. The point is this: Satan is in possession of something God wants – a human soul; the price necessary to "redeem" the soul is the blood of His Son on the cross; God willingly pays that price so that anyone who wishes can be freed from Satan's rule.

As despicable as Job's physical state may have been, it pales when we consider the spiritual state of a soul separated from his God. We were slaves of sin, laboring day-in and day-out with only our inevitable wages waiting for us, *Romans 6:18-23*. But much as a man could purchase the freedom of a slave during Bible times, so Jesus "redeemed" us, paying with His own blood, *1 Peter 1:18-19*. We have a new Master now, and a new wage to look forward to – eternal life.

The New Testament particularly refers to the redemption process in reference to the Law of Moses. Prior to the gospel, the only remedy available for sin for the people of God was the perfect keeping of ordinances. The system itself guaranteed our disaster – not through any fault of the Law itself, but rather through our own fault as imperfect law-keepers. Paul writes for us in Galatians 3:13, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us" (see also Galatians 4:4-5). His point is that such teaching returns its followers to a system that was ultimately ineffective in reconciling them to their God, a system Jesus gave His life on the cross to

We are not left to do the best we can under a system of reconciliation that depends wholly and futilely on ourselves. We have been redeemed. Jesus' blood gives people of faith (like Job) the confidence that our toil is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58) – the confidence that He recognizes and appreciates our efforts in His cause. The missteps that previously would have merely added fetter to fetter in Satan's dungeon now can be forgiven when we confess our sins and rededicate ourselves to a life worthy of the sacrifice made on our behalf.





News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members

FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Ron Harmon has been transferred to ICU Progressive Care. He spent the day and evening in ICU after undergoing surgery to remove an infection related to his original heart surgery. Phyllis remains quarantined at home until February 14th due to a very contagious infection. Your prayers for Ron are solicited. We are asking the Lord to provide Ron the strength that he needs to get over the many challenges that he is facing. Phyllis' sisters will be here this week and **Gina** is scheduled to arrive Saturday.

Will Starks is doing "really good" following hip replacement surgery. He is moving around with the aid of a walker. And he said, "my old pain is gone." Praise God. He wanted me to thank everyone for your prayers.

Jim Ehl is home taking it easy. He will be on no weight restriction for a total of 8 weeks. We are praying for Jim. The repairs to both his leg and hip were fairly extensive, thus he will have a long recovery. We will do our part in praying for him and for Caryl.

Cathy Preston continues her recovery following back surgery. We are praying that she will be able to bounce back quickly and have minimal pain. She's had a few rough days. Say her name to the Lord as you pray.

Stacey Besherse is still "off of her feet." She is doing her best to do so this time. After about 4 more weeks of recovery she will begin physical therapy. Pray for Stacey and family.

Please remember Glenda Cavender to the Lord. She has been struggling mightily with discomfort. Say her name in prayer.

Steven Guice arrived home on Wednesday following his first round of Chemo. Your prayers for Steve are appreciated. We should see Julie today for worship. She will stay with Steve when needed.

Betty & Bill Reavis were able to be with us Sunday. We were all very excited to see Betty looking well. Your prayers for her are greatly

Melvin Godette is anticipating back surgery on February 26th. Please say his name in prayer. We are trusting the Lord's will to be done.

Rodney Summers, Sr., former Weatherly member, cousin of Forest, had hip replacement surgery last week. He went home from the hospital on Thursday.

Daily Prayer List:

Marty Haselden **Betty Reavis** Glenda Cavender Laura Phillips Barbara Jean Woodard

Video Improvements

Excuse our mess! Hill Roberts and Tommy Hill are working on installing new high resolution cameras for our live stream. It is a process that will require a couple of weeks to perfect. It will be great once complete. Thanks guys. We really appreciate both your expertise and your hard work.

Group Two Meeting

Group Two, led by Phil Furlough, will meet following worship this evening in the back classroom. Plan to attend.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Aaron Gore 2-13 Julie Guice 2-11 Glenda Cavender 2-14 **Brennan Ivey** 2-15 Olivia Holland 2-15 Hilda Wright 2-17 2-23 Layla Belle Besherse 2-27

Virginia Skinner

2-28

Penny Hill

"Lean Upon Christ" Michael W. McLemore

John G. Paton was a Presbyterian missionary to the New Hebrides, the colonial name for the islands in the South Pacific now called Vanuatua. Three months after arriving on the island of Tanna in 1858, Paton's wife and five-week-old son died. For three years, Paton worked with the hostile islanders, ignoring danger, seeking to teach them Christianity. His story has most recently been revived in a speech by John Piper: John G. Paton — You Will Be Eaten By Cannibals.

It is said that Paton was working one day on a translation of John's Gospel into the islander's native tongue. He was puzzling over John's favorite expression pisteuo eis, to "believe in" or to "trust in" Jesus, a phrase which occurs first in John 1:12. "How can I translate it?" He wondered. The island cannibals trusted no one. There was no word for "trust" in their language. His native servant came in. "What am I doing?" Paton asked. "Sitting at your desk," the man replied. Paton then raised both feet and sat back on his chair. "What am I doing now?" Paton's servant answered using a verb which means "to lean your whole weight upon." That's the phrase Paton used throughout John's Gospel to translate to "believe in."

I wonder. Have we learned to lean our whole weight upon Christ? Believe in the Lord.







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TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes 9:00 am **Sunday AM Assembly** 10:00 am **Sunday PM Assembly** 5:00 pm **Wednesday Classes** 7:00 pm

Stay informed and engaged online at www.weatherlychurch.com

WATCH:



Sermon archive or live stream during all Weatherly services



Weatherly's Shepherds

Tommy Hill 256 883-0010 Will Starks 256 883-5273 **Forest Summers** 256 348-2251

Evangelist

Michael W. McLemore 256 698-5941 Email: mmclemore@weatherlychurch.com

Weatherly's Deacons

Phil Furlough Steve Hagewood Ron Harmon Kirk Hatcher Hill Roberts **David Jacks Bobby Wright** Collis Terry



Welcome:

Sermon:

Song Leader:

Opening Prayer:

Closing Prayer:

Scripture Reading:

These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, February 16

Sunday, February 9

Tommy Hill

Hill Roberts

Collis Terry

Tommy Hill **David Jacks Marty Hunt**

Phillip Dill Jeremy Leshko 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Acts 2:36-47

Mike McLemore Mike McLemore God's Building Added by the Lord

Closing Prayer: Nick Holland Ken Cavender

Evening Worship Evening Worship

Bible Skills Hill Roberts Mike McLemore **Songs Leader:** Hill Roberts **David Jacks Opening Prayer: David Jacks** Hill Roberts Kirk Hatcher Phil Shaver

Wednesday, February 12

Mike Coward **Charley Skinner** Songs Leader: Mike McLemore Invitation: **Marty Hunt Charley Carter Closing Prayer: Gene Preston**

Group 2

2020 Weatherly Lectures

April 30th—May 3rd

Tadd Corder, Wilson Adams & Matt Bassford

Ouarterly Adult Classes January - March 2020

Group 3

Wednesday, February 19

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Galatians **Tommy Hill**

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

The Gospel According to John Mike McLemore

Serving in February

Serving on the Lord's Bill Thompson Adams Hagewood **Nick Holland** Table AM W.D. Patrick ** Overseer Jimmy Harbin Wes Caudle Steve Hagewood ** Will Patrick

Ed Dill ** Lord's Supper PM Jim Risner

Communion Prep Phyllis Harmon Building Lockup Ron Harmon

