

Weatherly Weekly

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Prejudice

Michael W. McLemore

Prejudice has no place among God's people. In truth it has no place anywhere. Racism, injustice, hatred and violence are subjects constantly bandied about today in the press, on social media and in printed medium. How does the Christian respond? What can we do as the people of God? These questions invite our attention.

What is the attitude God expects us to have toward those of a different race, color, language, nation, or even social status? Jesus put the attitude perfectly when he said in *Matthew 7: 12*,

“Whatsoever you would that men should do unto you, even so do you also unto them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

This rule was not given for the Jewish people alone, but for all people of all races and nations. It is the perfect end toward which all the law and the teaching of the Lord are directed. It requires that each one put himself in the place of the

other. We do not want others to be prejudiced against us; we want them to understand us. Hence we are not to be prejudiced against others, but try to understand them. What mighty changes in daily interactions could be wrought with this little rule as the standard!

No matter what position in which we may find ourselves, we want to be treated with consideration, fairness, kindness, even sympathy, and sometimes with compassion and mercy. Why? Because it's right. We are, therefore, to treat others in the same manner. This is a very simple principal and easy to understand. If we would follow it, no matter what others may do, it would go far in removing all prejudice and misunderstanding of others, and would also go far in removing the prejudice of others toward us.

May the Lord grant us the intelligence and faith to understand and accept His wisdom and to practice it in our attitude toward others. □

For This I Am Grateful

Michael W. McLemore

In looking back over the old year, even with the challenges of COVID, there are many things for which I am grateful. They did not come about through my efforts alone, nor even primarily, for their blessing to me is far greater than my effort could ever have produced. They are the gift from God, and to Him I am grateful for...

LIFE — Life itself is a great gift from God. I would never have existed but for the grace of God. I am grateful that I was born, and that God has given me the years He has given me. They have been good years, and for all that they have held I am grateful. Life this year has been challenging but it has been filled with blessing, if for no other reason that God has given it. Life is precious. I am grateful for it.

BEING A CHRISTIAN — For the privilege of being a child of God, I am grateful. This is an especially great blessing, one that has brought happiness and tranquility in spite of a year that has been filled with despair. It has brought faith and hope out of discouragement. Being a child of God has given fullness and richness to life that could have been received from no other source, and has provided a perspective that sees this world as a proving ground for something very far better. As a Christian I believe and am persuaded that there is One upon whom I can depend and in whom I can trust completely, One who is far wiser and mightier than I, whose hand is not weakened nor his arm shortened in bestowing an abundance of blessings upon His children. I am privileged to be called by the name of His Son. I am grateful that I'm counted as one of His.

FOOD, SHELTER, & CLOTHING — The comforts and pleasures of the past year have exceeded any needs that could have been mine. These have been all that could have been needed or asked; actually the riches of Solomon could not have brought so much in this day. They have made life very pleasant and I'm grateful.

FRIENDS & BRETHERN — The family fellowship that I have among the community of believers is God's gift to a needy servant. The kind of friends who love, who care, who may be unable to gather in a public assembly, yet are an ever present help, have made God's work flourish in this past year. Kind words, thoughtful expressions and a myriad of deeds of service flow like a raging torrent from those whom God has placed in my path. The Lord has said, “for none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself,” and that is assuredly true, for “it is not good that man should be alone.” And with the kind of brothers and sisters that are in the body of Christ, no one need ever be alone. I'm grateful.

PRECIOUS MEMORIES — Memories enrich the present and the future. Seeing God's work accomplished in the face of great adversity will not be forgotten. Remembering the smiles and tears of souls born to the kingdom of God are recalled for generations. Memories of less stressful times cause one to know that better days are ahead. Recalling the joy in past assemblies, classes, devotionals, singings and our children's study series makes the wait worth the effort. Joyous anticipation of what is to come is their natural byproduct.

ENCOURAGING WORDS — For every encouraging word, for every smile that has helped a day to be a little brighter, for every heartfelt “Thank you” that has been said, and for every privilege of doing the things that have brought the “Thank you,” for every fist bump and “air-hug” as an awkward greeting, and for every expression of understanding I am deeply grateful.

2020 was a year that will never be forgotten. COVID has received all the press and garnered all the attention, but my great God has been busy. He's been busy blessing each and every one of us in very special ways. So with the Lord's help I will try to follow His lead and be a blessing in this new year and make it all that the last might have been. □



