

Weatherly Weekly

March 21, 2021

2021 Edition, Number 12

THE RULE AND MISSION OF LIFE

Michael W. McLemore

Outrageous conduct is rarely for reasons of ignorance, but often springs from self-will, rebellion and one's own sinful desires. God reveals the key to break through to the rebellious heart. Believe it or not the story of Samson sheds light for the modern reader and the New Testament Christian as to the rule and mission of life.

God's purpose for your life as a Christian is greater than your biggest mistakes. Samson's spectacular ruin is observed in Judges 14. He knew God's commands concerning his consecrated life as well as his parents, yet he demanded "Get her for ME!" 3. Regardless of what God had said, "She was right in Samson's eyes," 7.

The original promise made by God to Samson's father, Manoah, was met with a follow up question, "What is to be the rule for the child's life, and what is his mission," 13:12. Manoah and his wife understood it. Samson did too. But Samson was a rebel. The rebel's reaction to or rejection of rule is founded in self-determination — "I am in charge of my life! It's my choice!"

God's command to "eat nothing unclean,"

13:7 fell by the wayside and his life reflected it, 14:9. In the true sense Samson reflected the New Testament's illustration of those "whose God is their belly." *Philippians 3:16-19*. The rebel's mantra is "If I desire it, I will have it!"

The servant of God's pursuit of happiness is not the pursuit of selfish desire, but the pursuit of holiness — "All that I commanded her let her observe," 13:14. Paul affirmed this as the recommended life leading to the Lord's crown — "I have kept the faith." 2 *Timothy 4:7*.

Samson finally realized his mission, but only after his spectacular failure. He learned that mission is enabled through God's strength, not his own, 16:28. His purpose was only effected when he died to self, 30a. In final analysis the rule Maker sees the end from the beginning, 30b.

Every action will either take you farther from or bring you closer to God. He has the power to change the heart of the most hardened rebel. If you have a mess in your life, trust God. He will show you His path to greater service. □

"Wired for Worship"

Michael W. McLemore

The fear of appearing foolish is real! It keeps her from raising her hand for fear her answer is wrong. It keeps him from asking for a date for fear she'll say no. It keeps us from changing majors or changing jobs. Worse, it keeps us from praying in faith, from worshipping God the way we could and should.

A curious principle is common to communication and has application to the Bible. It is known as the law of first mention. The idea is that a word's first use in written text is critical and serves as both a "key" in understanding the word's Biblical concept and the "foundation" for the word's development later, in our case the Bible.

The beginning Bible book of Genesis introduces the Hebrew word SAHA, worship. It's very first use surrounds an encounter Abraham had with Jehovah and the two messengers sent to warn Lot of the coming destruction of the cities of the plain — "He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth (SAHA)," *Genesis 18:2*. The word's first mention exposes both the "key" in understanding the word and serves as the "foundation" for its development in the Bible, cf. *Genesis 22*.

Abraham's almost involuntary response to God's commands suggest him to be a man wired for worship. By way of example in the Genesis account of Isaac's offering, just four chapters later, the reader should observe SIX distinct attributes of a worshipper who reaches back to the Lord, bowing down.

When God called out to Abraham his steadfast inclination to worship induced an immediate involuntary answer, "Here I am!" *Genesis 22:1*. But the worshipper's response was not merely verbal or superficial. God's command to offer his only son as a sacri-

fice was obeyed voluntarily out of a deeper sense of **submission**, 2-3. Abraham and Isaac, upon the arrival at God's appointed place, **separated** themselves to worship, 4-6. When questioned by Isaac as to the whereabouts of the sacrifice victim, the worshipper, **secure** in his implicit trust, rejoined, "God will provide!" 7-8. Abraham's true worship involves the willingness to **sacrifice** what is commanded above what might be preferred, 9-10. Abraham's true worship was met with heaven's approval as the worshipper demonstrated in action genuine **sincerity**, 11-12.

The first mention of the word worship implies many other ideas that are foundational for worshippers throughout the ages. Abraham's great-grandchildren were commanded by Moses to **prepare** for worship, *Exodus 19:10-11*. New Testament Christians are charged by the spirit inspired apostle to **consecrate** ourselves as living sacrifices, *Romans 12:1-2*. Worshippers are called to intense **concentration** as we look unto Jesus as we run the race before us, *Hebrews 12:1-2*. Paul called the young preacher, Timothy, to **immerse** himself in the daily practice of faith and worship, 1 *Timothy 4:15*. All true worship has as its end the **expectation** of the Lord's coming, 1 *Corinthians 11:26*.

In short, true worship is a reflection of my faith. It is both an involuntary and a voluntary response to who God is and what He has done. Worship is never reckless or common. This is and will always be the life demonstration of those "wired for worship." This is the worship and the action of the worshippers that the Lord will respect and for whom He will provide.

Worshipping God the way I could — the way I should — comes easier when one realizes that from the beginning we have been called to "reach back" to the One who made us, the One who loved us, the One who saved us! Where is the shame in that? □

Watch
LIVE!

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Peggy Childress has an interest in our daily prayers for her. She has an appointment on Tuesday of this week at Vanderbilt. We are praying for positive outcomes from her tests. We pray the medications planned for her will be helpful. Say her name daily. Also pray for **Terry**. He is understandably very concerned.

W.D. Patrick is scheduled to undergo a non-invasive surgical procedure on his bladder Tuesday of this week. He will be at Crestwood. Your prayers would be appreciated.

Marty's brother, **Mike Hunt**, is making slow progress. Wednesday he will have surgery to remove the blood clot filter and will start back on Chemo for four months. After that, they will look closer at the lungs to determine if there will be another surgery and/or if he will have radiation. Your prayers are much appreciated by **Mike, Karen & family**.

We are continuing praying for **Mechi Hunt's** family. Several in that family are struggling with health concerns. In particular, Mechi's twin sister, **Zoila Herring**, will be undergoing chemo for 16 weeks then surgery. Her first treatment went well, and she will have her second treatment next week. The family has solicited our prayers for Zoila.

Bill Reavis is still having tests. But, we are glad to report that he is improving. His doctor seems to be controlling his digestive issues with medication. He is beginning to regain some of the weight that he lost, and is feeling much better. Keep Bill in your prayers.

Please remember **Lane Roberts** to the Lord as you pray. She is under hospice care. We are

glad that she was able to see two of her great grandchildren last week.

Louis Garrett remains on our prayers list. Say his name to the Lord this week.

Becky Shaw was released from rehabilitation on Friday. We are glad that she is well enough to be home. Your prayers have been greatly appreciated.

Pray for those who are confined in care facilities and memory care — **Louis Garrett, Laura Phillips, Jim Risner, Lane Roberts, Dot Summers**. ☐

Daily Prayer List:

Glenda Cavender **Melvin Godette**
Laura Phillips **Dot Summers**
Charlotte Hagewood **Lane Roberts**

Directory Update

Searcy Hall was able to get his email issue rectified. He has returned to his original email address — searcy.hall@gmail.com

WEATHERLY UPDATES

Sunday Morning Bible Study will begin at 9:00 — Join us for Mike's live streamed study entitled **Reading the Psalms**.

Sunday morning will begin at 10. Mike is continuing his series, **Witnesses to the World**, in March. Today's lesson is **To Speak, or Not?** and is taken from **Acts 4**.

Sunday Evening "Virtual Devo" on Zoom at 7. We will email a link Sunday. Join in.

Wednesday Bible Study — Mike continues his quarter long study of **The book of Lamentations**. We stream at 7. No public assembly. ☐

He Cares; So Do We

Wilson Adams

Is the church a people-place offering help and hope for the wounded or a people-place of more wounded-ness and heaped-on shame?

It's not about ignoring sinful behavior or declaring the "whole counsel of God." We're on the same Spirit-page there. It's about a single statement uttered by an older saint: "I'd like to come away one time and hear that maybe I'm doing something right!"

Hell is real. I believe that. Hope is real. I believe that, too. It's easy to give people hell and fail to give people hope.

Our approach to Scripture must be balanced. Reprove and rebuke? Yes. There's a time for that, but not all the time. Pews are filled with hurting people (not always due to sin) who need hope to journey on through the shadows of their valley. They need hope that they are loved, hope they have worth, hope they are going to make it, and hope that God's strength is theirs to claim.

We must get down into the trenches with people. Encouragement is the core of edification and love is the core of encouragement. Do people know we care? Simple question.

There is a balm in Gilead. There is hope in the cross. There is life-giving [amazing] grace. There is forgiving-power in the blood. There is hope-filled water to refresh your soul.

"Rest of the weary, joy of the sad..." Hope. We must give hope to the hurting. Hope that says... He cares (and so do we). ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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Weatherly Heights
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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:

LIVE Sermon archive or
live stream during
all Weatherly services



Weatherly's Shepherds

Tommy Hill 256 883-0010
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Weatherly's Deacons

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



These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, March 21

Welcome: **Mike McLemore**
Song Leader: **Hill Roberts**
Opening Prayer:
Scripture Reading:

Acts 4
Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
To Speak, Or Not

Closing Prayer:

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz CANCELLED

Songs Leader:
Opening Prayer: **Virtual Devotion on ZOOM**
Closing Prayer:

Wednesday, March 24

Songs Leader:
Invitation: **Streamed Bible Study**
Closing Prayer:

None

2021 Planning Underway

Sunday, March 28

Mike McLemore
Hill Roberts

Acts 10
Mike McLemore
No Favorites with God

Evening Worship

CANCELLED

Virtual Devotion on ZOOM

Wednesday, March 31

Streamed Bible Study

None

Quarterly Adult Classes

January – March 2020

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Reading the Psalms
Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

The Bible Book of Lamentations
Mike McLemore

Serving in March

Serving on the Lord's
Table AM
**** Overseer**

**

Lord's Supper PM

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Communion Prep
Building Lockup

MARCH & APRIL BIRTHDAYS



MARCH 21, 2021

3-22	Thomas Hill	3-28	Adrienne West
4-2	Silvia Henderson	4-5	Carolynn Barr
4-6	Jerry Mitchell	4-8	William Hill
4-13	Sherrie Stovall	4-18	Peggy Monroe
4-20	John Stokes	4-21	Charley Carter
4-21	Dianne Dill	4-21	Mechi Hunt
4-23	David Jacks	4-23	Sue Terry

