

Weatherly Weekly

May 16, 2021

2021 Edition, Number 20

The Road Not Taken

Michael W. McLemore

Robert Frost's famous poem, The Road Not Taken, ends with these words: "...two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." The path taken by God's people mirror's Frost's meaning, and it has made all the difference.

Christians reject the path traveled by the majority. We are different in every way. We look different, act different, talk different. Christians are set apart. The Psalmist said it this way: "I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore," *Psalm 16:1-7*. God's word

is our instructor. The Lord is our guide.

Why are so many concerned about living lives in accord with culture and of peers? Is it just me or do a majority of people in our society concern themselves inordinately with fitting in? We hear much about "Mainstream America." The plea is everywhere: CONFORM! For Christians, we would do well to note that this runs counter to the path set forth by Christ. Conformity to the world's standard, the broad path, leads to destruction.

The appeal of our society to conform is nothing new, nor will it stop. "The norm" of American culture is becoming increasingly foreign to the Divine pattern. It is a far cry from the life that God would have us live. The traditions that America were based upon are under attack, and as Christians we need to stand up and let our faith be seen.

God's people purposely choose the road not taken; it makes all the difference to the Lord. ☐

Finding Shelter

Michael W. McLemore

We long for security. Great adversity will be hurtled to find a place of safety. We want to feel safe. But do we not far too often go looking for it in all the wrong places?

Many feel money will give us a sense of security, add the advantage or give a sense of immortality. They are deceived. Rich and poor fled the fury of a storm. Both opulent and meager possessions succumb to the same torrent. It is a psychological rather than a factual thing! What the world is missing has been available at least since David wrote Psalm 34, a thousand years before Jesus was born.

David wrote Psalm 34 on the heels of an episode of escape from a Philistine king who was trying to kill him. It is actually an acrostic poem in which the first ten verses constitute a personal testimony. Then *verses 11-22* deliver an exhortation to others in Israel based on the king's experience. The key to everything in the psalm is found in these verses taken from the KJV:

"I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from my fears. They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them," *vs. 4-7*.

A remarkable principle is enunciated here that is so easy to miss because of preconceptions were often bring to the Bible. Let me illustrate by asking a question: "Whom does God hear, save and bless?" Chances are our immediate response is something like this: "Good people. People who do right. People who obey the Lord, stay out of trouble, and do good deeds." Don't misunderstand. We should all be "good people." We should all "do right." In fact, we should be doing many things most of us aren't. Most of David's troubles were all rooted in David's sins. So are most of mine. So are most of yours.

Consider the question again: "Whom does God hear, save and bless?" The answer in this poem celebrates the wonderful truth that He comes to the aid of people who are in trouble because they have messed up and are in jeopardy because of their own foolishness. Note by carefully reading the poem again that the "Lord's" solidarity is not with "good" people, but with people who know they are helpless, have nowhere else to go, and run to Him. He shows mercy to the broken-hearted. He gives strength to the exhausted. He gives salvation to the sinner. And He reflects His personal glory off tear-stained, dirty and even angry faces that turn to Him and ask for help.

Contrary to our experience and expectation, God does not side with the folks who already have everything but with those who are so bankrupt that they know they have nothing! Here is the New Testament version of this psalm and its truth:

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son; much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life," *Romans 5:6-10*.

What's the matter with our world? "There is no fear of God before their eyes." Our confidence is misplaced. Our arrogance has placed us in jeopardy. Men and women are seeking security, but in all the wrong places. The answer? "Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man," *Ecc. 12:13*.

Are you crushed in spirit because of your sins? Are you broken-hearted over your failures and troubles? Cry out to Him. Obey His will. Embrace His desire for your life. Find safety! ☐

Watch
LIVE!

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Cathy Preston began rehabilitation last Wednesday as she works to get moving on her new knee. Her knee replacement on Tuesday went well. This is a difficult recovery and your prayers for her would be greatly appreciated.

June Furlough is scheduled for her procedure at the Surgery Center on Wednesday, May 19th. Please pray for June. We are trusting this will relieve the discomfort from which she has been suffering.

Peggy Childress will have the coil procedure at Vanderbilt on Tuesday, May 25th. We are thankful she will be able to have the much needed repair to allow her to proceed with the next phase of her treatment. Your fervent prayers are solicited for both **Peggy & Terry**.

Sandra Gore was diagnosed with pneumonia last Monday. She thought that she was suffering from allergies. Thankfully she is improving. As it happened she was already scheduled to be on vacation last week and did not miss work. Pray for Sandra.

Cyndi Vanatta, **Phil Shaver's** sister, **Zoila Herring**, **Mechi Hunt's** twin sister, and **Mike Hunt**, **Marty's** brother, are all fighting cancer. Pray for them as they continue to undergo very difficult Chemotherapy.

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

Daily Prayer List:

Glenda Cavender **Melvin Godette**
Laura Phillips **Dot Summers**

Charlotte Hagewood **Lane Roberts**
Bill Reavis **Ron Harmon**

COULDN'T RESIST

With a very little encouragement from **Sandra Gore** and her sisters, our Weatherly family ganged up on their mom, **Betty Dubose**, to overwhelm her with cards on her very big day. We won't say what the day was, but she's had 88 of them! HA



WEATHERLY UPDATES

Sunday Morning Bible Study will begin at 9:00 — Mike is continuing his quarterly Bible Class series **Christ Clashing with Culture**.

Sunday morning will begin at 10. Today Mike will continue his series **#OWNIT**. Today's lesson is entitled **Tending His Temple**. We will be discussing purity in our lives.

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

Wednesday Bible Study — Mike is continuing his study of **The book of Colossians & Philemon**. We stream at 7 p.m. No public assembly. ☐

A Friend to Man

Adapted

Is not the heart of the Christian moved with compassion to the needs of those around him, above his own? Few deny, in word, the Biblical charge to go the "second mile," but what of our deeds? Are we content to express our concern in word? Or, are willing in action to sacrifice?

A great difficulty faced by every child of God is the placing of one's self in a strait to not only show concern, but display it through sympathetic gesture. Men and women have become so busy with this and that, saying, "We just don't have time" to be a friend to man. James called the purely religious to arms, not to do battle, rather to "visit the fatherless and widows," *James 1:27*. It is doubtless this inspired commission spans the spectrum of those in need. The sensitivity of God's people toward mankind is to be highly regarded and sought.

In the heart of the Christian is no thought of repayment. The child of God is given to hospitality and all that it requires. The good done by a simple sympathetic act cannot be measured. One wrote of the gifts given by others, "It is my joy in life to find at every turning of the road the strong arm of a comrade to help me onward with my load. And since I have no gold to give, and love alone must make amends, my only prayer is, while I live, God make me worthy of my friends." ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



Weatherly Heights
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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
Will Starks 256 883-5273

Evangelist

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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, May 16

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

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
 Tending His Temple

Closing Prayer:

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz **CANCELLED**

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

Wednesday, May 19

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

None

2021 Planning Underway

Sunday, May 23

Welcome: **Mike McLemore**
Song Leader: **Hill Roberts**

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
 Be Separate

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz **CANCELLED**

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

Wednesday, May 26

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

None

Quarterly Adult Classes

April — June 2020

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
Christ Clashing with Culture
Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY
The Challenge of Colossians
Mike McLemore

Serving in May

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

**

Lord's Supper PM

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Communion Prep
Building Lockup



MAY 16, 2021

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|------|-----------------|------|----------------|
| 5-15 | Dot Summers | 5-17 | Megan Caudle |
| 5-23 | Terry Childress | 5-23 | Melvin Godette |
| 5-24 | John Beshers | 5-26 | Addison Ivey |
| 5-28 | Terry Barnett | 5-31 | Petra Carter |
| 5-31 | Nancy McCord | | |

