

Weatherly Weekly

September 12, 2021

2021 Edition, Number 37

Only a Step to Forgive

Michael W. McLemore

The English playwright Sir Arthur Wing Pinero quipped, "It is only a step from toleration to forgiveness." Forgiveness is the hope of man. But for this grace in the character of God all of us would spend eternity in the Devil's hell. We are all sinners. The wages of sin is death. Only because of the forgiveness of God can we stand in judgment and be declared, "Just!"

No clearer fact is taught in the New Testament than the truth that our forgiveness is predicated upon our forgiving those who have sinned against us. In the model prayer, Jesus prayed, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors," *Matthew 6:12*. He reminded his hearers in the same breath, "if you do not... neither will your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses," *6:14-15*. None is exempt from this solemn divine proviso.

For many the honorable Pinero's single "step" is a bridge too far. One of the chief failures of men

to obey the Lord's command is their impatience and intolerance of others. Paul joined the Lord in his instruction to the Ephesians, "walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love," *3:1-2*. The importance of "forbearing" one another is enjoined again and again throughout Scripture. It is commanded as our duty as Christians. Listen to Paul again — "bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive," *Colossians 3:13*.

If the Lord had the attitude of tolerance toward me as a sinner against Him, can I not manifest His spirit toward my fellowman and brethren who have sinned against me? When one sins against me, he is a "fellow sinner," in need of saving, as am I! The Lord has forgiven me, am I not able, or willing to forbear, and forgive? It's only a step to forgive! □



"I Press!"

A Tribute to my Friend, Dee Bowman

Michael W. McLemore

He said that "Preaching is the Gospel in personality!" Oh, and what personality Dee Bowman brought to the pulpit every time he stood up. He left this world a little before noon on Thursday, September 9th, 2021, but his legacy of kindness, godliness and of a ferocious pursuit of heaven speaks more powerfully than did his spoken words.

I first met Dee Bowman in 1985 in Anahuac, Texas. Gwyn and I traveled with our friends David and Cindy Crews to hear him preach. We arrived at the meeting house just before time to begin in the midst of a southeast Texas torrential rainstorm. Since we drove our car that meant I had to drop everyone off at the front door then wade through ankle deep water. Years later I reminded brother Bowman of our first meeting, he responded wryly, "You should've just sat'n the car!" I'm glad that I didn't.

I still remember that sermon. He hooked me and I learned what "preacheritis" was. Dee is my favorite preacher! He is the favorite of many. It wasn't just his powerful oratory or his incredible vocabulary or the hundred other things that he did well. Dee loved truth and he loved people; and it showed! We loved him back!

My path crossed countless times with Dee after that. He was with us during some of our most difficult days. Dee preached my uncle Fred "Gail" Sanders' funeral when died at the age of 49. Uncle

Gail had served as a deacon in the Southside church where Dee preached for many years. My aunt, Evelyn, and cousin, Jeff, are members there to this day. (That's Jeff's hat in the picture.) When my younger brother died in 97' Dee drove from Houston and sought to comfort my devastated family by offering words of consolation before a packed assembly. People in my hometown are still talking about that funeral. When my grandmother Gertrude Adams and a few years later my grandfather, James W. Adams, passed away Dee was there again to say special words that remain with us to this day. He is special to me.

Dee and I were able to be together in just about every work where I served as the local preacher. His work was always superior. He was generous with his time and humble in his interactions. His preaching was stupendous. That's how he was. Dee left everything he touched better than he found it. I love him for that.

I had the pleasure of serving the Fry Road church in Houston for almost a decade. That enabled many occasions to see and associate with brother Bowman. It was in that setting that I was able to see the diligence of my brother up close. He was a tireless laborer. He visited the weak, the sick and the hospitalized. Dee usually had a young preacher in tow, showing what preaching really entails. Too, Dee spent hours calling to check on and encourage the saints. In my grandfather's last years, without fail Dee would

Watch LIVE!

call to check on him regularly. It would be hard to explain how much those phone calls meant to an old tired preacher who found little comfort left in this life. Those calls were medicine for Pop's soul. Lest some think that Dee only showed up to preach when asked, think again. He worked hard in the kingdom. Dee practiced what he preached. He pressed toward the mark!

Brother Bowman authored a book several years ago entitled "It's All About the People." The book is a collection of short accounts of people with whom he interacted in life. I think this is the greatest lesson Dee left me. Preaching is "All about the people." It's about lifting up people. It's about strengthening and teaching people. It's about loving people. It's about showing people that God cares by showing them that you care. We knew he cared!

Dee always encouraged us "to press" toward the upward call. He didn't just talk about it. He modeled what pressing toward the mark looked like. Personally, I'll not forget it. I'll always think of his encouraging wink and sharply pointed finger when I do well and of his stern reminder and helping hand when I don't. Most of all we will all remember his parting reminder, "If you miss heaven, you've just missed all there is!"

I will miss Dee. The kingdom will miss his presence and his broad influence for truth and right. Our sorrow is not as those who have no hope. We will see him again. In the meantime, "I press!" Dee taught me that.

I'm certain that those little folks who walked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus had a visitor on his first day there. Dee always wanted to meet them. I bet he did. I want to see him there. Maybe he'll introduce me. ☐

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Betty Dubose was admitted at Crestwood Hospital on Sunday with what was thought to be merely a spike in blood pressure. It turned out to be AFIB. A procedure on Tuesday morning to restore her heart to its proper rhythm was successful and she was released that afternoon. **Sharon** wanted me to thank all of you for your prayers.

Debbie Harbin was diagnosed with COVID. Thankfully she was vaccinated and able to receive the monoclonal antibody infusion on Tuesday. She is doing better and moving in the right direction. We are thankful! **Jimmy** also passed along some news about his mom, **Maragem Harbin**. Sister Harbin has been having strength issues especially walking. Her primary care doctor fears that she may have a problem best treated by a Rheumatologist. Pray for Maragem.

We are thankful that **Elaine Dorris** continues to do well. Your prayers and kind expressions of interest are greatly appreciated.

Wanda Castleman was able to be with us for Zoom Sunday night. It was great to see her. She has been battling the effects of arthritis and other chronic issues of late. Please continue to pray for her and for **Murray**.

Peggy Childress continues to amaze! We are thrilled with how far she has come and are praying for her daily. Keep **Peggy** & **Terry** in the forefront of your thoughts and prayers.

Sandra Ivey, Terry Childress' mom, remains on our prayer list. Ask the Lord for her care.

Zoila Herring, Mechi Hunt's sister, also has

an ongoing interest in our prayers for her as she battles cancer. We will update you as we learn more about her surgery and treatments. Thank you for your prayers.

Please continue to remember **Edith Turner's** daughter, **Glenda**, in your prayers.

Buddy Taft, great-grandson of **Betty Dubose**, has an ongoing interest in our prayers. Say his name to the Lord.

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

Daily Prayer List:

Glenda Cavender	Melvin Godette
Laura Phillips	Dot Summers
Charlotte Hagewood	Lane Roberts
Bill Reavis	Ron Harmon

WEATHERLY UPDATES

THIS WEEK: We are very encouraged by our family's supportive approach to the challenges presented by COVID. It's not easy to refrain from greeting one another with hugs and handshakes. Thank you for helping maintain and healthy environment at our assembly.

Sunday morning Bible Class begins at 9:30. Mike is continuing his series **Divided We Fall**.

Sunday morning worship begins promptly at 10. Mike's lesson today is entitled, **The Best Quest** and his taken from **Matthew 7:13-14**.

Remember our **ZOOM Devo** at 7 Sunday evening. If you haven't participated, you will benefit from giving it a try.

Wednesday our **1 Corinthians** study, **Abounding Together** continues at 7 pm. No public assembly Wednesday. ☐

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9-14	Brooke Hatcher	9-17	Aurora Leshko
9-20	Sophia Hunt		
9-23	Dylan Craig*		
9-25	LaNelle Patrick		
9-28	Doris DeCelles		

*Melonie Power's grandson

WEEKLY WALK



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TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 am
Sunday AM Assembly 10:00 am
Sunday PM Assembly Zoom 7:00 pm
Wednesday Classes Stream 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

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

Weatherly's Deacons

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

Weatherly at Work

These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, September 12 Sunday, September 19

Welcome:	Will Starks	Tommy Hill
Song Leader:	David Jacks	Mel Ambrose
Opening Prayer:	W.D. Patrick	Phil Furlough
Scripture Reading:	Matthew 7:13-14	Matthew 12:30-31
Sermon:	Mike McLemore <i>Choose Adventure: The Best Quest</i>	Mike McLemore <i>Adventure Motivation</i>
Closing Prayer:	Riley Monroe	Ron Harmon

Evening Worship Evening Worship

Bible Skillz	CANCELLED	CANCELLED
Songs Leader:		
Opening Prayer:	Virtual Devotion on ZOOM	Virtual Devotion on ZOOM
Closing Prayer:		

Wednesday, September 15 Wednesday, September 22

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

None None

2021 Lectures Canceled

Quarterly Adult Classes July – September 2021

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Divided We Fall
Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

First Corinthians
Mike McLemore

Serving in September

Serving on the Lord's Table AM	
** Overseer	** Bill Thomson (9-5), Ed Dill (9-12), Will Starks (9-19), Collis Terry (9-26)

Lord's Supper PM **

Communion Prep
Building Lockup

