

Weatherly Weekly

October 3, 2021

2021 Edition, Number 40

Where Are the Nine?

James W. Adams

While on earth, Jesus healed ten lepers, but only one returned to thank him and give God glory. This caused Jesus to pose the question, "Where are the nine?" *Luke 18:12-18*. One wonders if this small percentage of those who profess to be Christians in our time are truly grateful for the gift of salvation, *Romans 6:23*.

Philip Bliss, author of many of our most cherished hymns, considered this incident in poetic style,

Wand'ring after from the dwellings of men,
Here the sad cry of the lepers — the ten;
"Jesus have mercy!" brings healing divine;
One came to worship, but where are the nine?

Loudly the stranger sang praise to the Lord,
Knowing the cure had been wrought by His word,
Gratefully owning the Healer Divine;
Jesus says, tenderly, "Where are the nine?"
"Who is this Nazarene?" Pharisees say
"Is He Christ? tell us plainly, we pray?"

Multitudes follow Him seeking a sign,
Show them His might works, Where are the nine?

Jesus on trial today we can see;
Thousands deriding ask, "Who is He?"
How they're rejecting Him, you Lord and mine!
Bring in the witnesses — Where are the nine?

Ingratitude and neglect on the part of professed Christians are two of the greatest impediments to acceptance of the gospel on the part of unbelievers. Nothing is more important in the life of the professed believer than the demonstration of the validity of his faith by his personal holiness, sacrificial service to man, and devotion to God and things spiritual. He can thus cause Christ to live again before men, bring honor and glory to God, and be the instrument of their salvation. May none of us be among the nine! Rather, let us sing with Mary, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior," *Luke 1:46-47*. □

You — Yes, You! Are Responsible for Caring for the Needy

Matthew W. Bassford

The older I get, the more I appreciate the law of unintended consequences. It posits that every time you act, there will be a result that you anticipated and a result that you didn't anticipate. The members of the human race tend to focus so hard on what they want to accomplish that they don't see what they will accomplish without intending to.

I think this principle has been at work in the non-institutional churches of Christ ever since the brotherhood controversies of the 1950s and '60s. In that time, many preachers argued—correctly, I think—that churches are not authorized to provide for the needs of the world's poor. As the saying goes, general benevolence is to be a work of individuals, not a work of the church.

In many churches, this preaching and teaching accomplished its end. Even now, I am part of a congregation that does not go beyond what has been written in the way it spends the Lord's money. However, I believe it also accomplished something its adherents did not intend—a neglect of the individual Christian's responsibility to care for the poor.

When I was growing up, I heard countless sermons on "the issues". These sermons relied on texts ranging from the familiar ("Let not the church be burdened!" in 1 Timothy 5:16) to the obscure ("Hock their horses!" in Joshua 11:6). I learned that James 1:27 does not authorize the church to act, but I heard much less about what it meant for my actions. When it came to the poor, "If a man does not work, neither should he eat," received much more play. I wonder if, even as

brethren were careful to separate the work of the church from the work of the individual, they conflated the work of the individual and political activism.

As I have written before, it is difficult to know how to apply the law of Christ in the voting booth. It is simple to know how Christians should care for the poor and vulnerable. James 1:27 is a good start. So is Luke 12:33. So is everything that the Bible says about mercy.

Honestly, this is a struggle for me, as I think it is for many Christians. I don't want to get played by a con artist. I struggle with the extent to which many poor people are responsible for their own problems, and therefore may not deserve help (Note: if you are giving something to someone who deserves it, that is justice, not mercy). By God's grace, though, I think I'm making progress.

I assemble with many Christians who are better at this than I am, but I think we all have room to grow here. We have to be more concerned with showing compassion and less concerned about looking foolish. We must learn to see more clearly the value that Christ places on everyone.

This has nothing to do with politics and everything to do with His call to discipleship. No, general benevolence is not a work of the church, but it has to be our work as individuals—filling the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of everyone we encounter. There are lots of ways for us to do this, but every one of us needs to be doing something. When God has been so merciful to us, we must show mercy to others. □

Watch LIVE!



FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Bobby Ferguson was taken by ambulance to Athens Hospital this morning after suffering a heart attack. It has been determined that he is sceptic and at this point there is really nothing that can be done. Please pray for Bobby and his family.

Mike Coward had his pacemaker implanted on Friday. He was able to come home the same day. Mike is feeling much better. We are thankful. **The Cowards** wanted me to relay their thanks: "Thanks for all the prayers, calls and cards. Love you all so much. Feeling so blessed. In Him, **Mike & Peg.**"

Michael Preston was released from the hospital on Thursday. We are relieved that he seems to have turned a corner. Michael says that he feels winded and weak, but better. Please pray for his continued recovery. Your prayers are appreciated.

We are continuing to remember **Betty Dubose** in our prayers. She says that she's "fine and dandy." Betty plans to be here today.

Peggy Childress is to undergo a bronchoscopy on Wednesday. If all goes well she should get to come home to Fayetteville. The Childress' are grateful for your prayers.

Debbie Harbin is not quiet back to 100%. Her cardiologist is adjusting her medication to help with the shortness of breath. We are thankful that she is better. Say **Debbie & Jimmy's** names to the Lord.

Please continue to remember **Maragem Harbin** to the Lord as you pray this week.

Please continue to remember **Barry Hume**

as he recovers from surgery and several setbacks. We are happy to play a part in his work.

Mike McLemore's cousin, **Steve Smith**, remains on a ventilator in a Grand Junction, CO hospital. Steve is being treated for COVID. Pray for him and his family. Thankfully his wife, son and sister have been able to visit him. He is sedated heavily and unaware of their visit.

Zoila Herring, Mechi Hunt's sister, continues in our prayers. We are praying that her recent surgery will prove effective.

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

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

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

Sunday morning worship begins promptly at 10. Mike is beginning a series on OT feasts and their NT application. Today we will look at the Feast of Booths: "What's with the Tent?" from **Leviticus 23:33-36.**

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. ☐

MY FATHER DOES!

Michael W. McLemore

My maternal grandfather, James W. Adams, knew C.R. Nichol, a man of great stature among preachers of the Gospel in the 1900's. Though born and educated in Tennessee, brother Nichol preached with distinction in the state of Texas for many years. In addition to preaching he served as the president of Thorpe Springs Christian College and was a guest teacher at Abilene Christian College, both in Texas.

My grandfather described brother Nichol, who authored some 21 books in his lifetime, as a man of great personal pride which was always reflected in the way he lived, dressed, talked and walked. He told the story of brother Nichol's encounter with a woman on a West Texas street early one morning. She said, "Brother Nichol, you walk like you own the world."

Brother Nichol quickly replied, "No, I don't own the world, Sister, but my Father does." Telling that story, my grandfather would always chasten, "Our Father owns the world, so we should walk (i.e. live) like we own the world, not as though the world owns us!"

John admonished, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world..." **1 John 2:15-17.** Never should we compromise our dignity by living by the world's standards. Walk with Him who owns it all! ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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Weatherly Heights
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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, October 3

Welcome: **Tommy Hill**
Song Leader: **Hill Roberts**
Opening Prayer: **Tommy Hill**
Scripture Reading:

Leviticus 23:33-36

Sermon: **Mike McLemore**

What's with the Tent?

Closing Prayer: **Jim Risner**

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz

CANCELLED

Songs Leader:

Opening Prayer:

Closing Prayer:

Virtual Devotion on ZOOM

Wednesday, October 6

Songs Leader:

Invitation:

Closing Prayer:

None

2021 Lectures Canceled

Sunday, October 10

Will Starks
Mel Ambrose
Ed Dill

Exodus 13:3-10

Mike McLemore

"Leaving in a Hurry!"

Ron Harmon

Evening Worship

CANCELLED

Virtual Devotion on ZOOM

Wednesday, October 13

Streamed Bible Study

Streamed Bible Study

None

Quarterly Adult Classes July – September 2021

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Divided We Fall

Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

First Corinthians

Mike McLemore

Serving in October

Serving on the Lord's

Table AM

**** Overseer**

**** Steve Hagewood (10-3), David Jacks (10-10),**

Bill Thompson (10-17), Phil Shaver (10-24),

Phil Furlough (10-31)

Lord's Supper PM

Communion Prep

Building Lockup

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



10-6	Henry Frazier	10-10	Karen Thompson
10-11	Caryl Ehl	10-14	Janeth Hagewood
10-26	Dwight Ivey	10-27	Jimmy Harbin
10-29	Charlotte Hagewood		

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