eatherly

March 27, 2022

Toning It Down

Yeerl

Robert Turner

A "country meeting" had gone exceedingly well, and elders from another community asked the preacher to work with them the following year. He came at the appointed time, and found his reputation had spread, and the building was packed. The elders met him at the car, told him they had never had such a gathering of Methodists, Baptists, and no-church folk, so he must be very careful lest he offend someone with his forthright teaching.

Being young and brash, and having no more tact than to tell the truth, he reminded them of the undiluted lessons that had been given at the neighboring church in the previous year. He said that since he had not been in that section of the state before, the previous year's work must have drawn this year's crowd; and certainly was the reason he had been asked to come. He concluded, "If you expect to hold and convert these people with something other than the kind of preaching that brought them together, I'm afraid you have the wrong man. I'll get back into my car and go home."

With much confusion — "Oh no, you must

have misunderstood us" etc., the preacher was persuaded to stay, and the meeting began. The preaching was strong, and seemed to get a little stronger; but the people continued to come, and several were converted.

2022 Edition, Number 13

I do not now believe, nor did I then, that "skinning the sects" is good preaching. Some folk will turn away from straight, plain truth, no matter how fairly we seek to present it. But we are dead wrong in thinking we can convert people to Christ with anything other than the Bible message. It will convict the world respecting sin, righteousness, and judgment; and many won't like that. But we are looking for the "few" who will like it, and will genuinely turn to God.

"Toning it down" will produce only "toned down" members of a "toned down" church. You may keep the money, the politicians, and silkstocking row; but you will lose the backbone and fiber that is necessary for a church to prevail and please the Lord. And if "members" are not interested in pleasing the Lord and saving souls, why bother with any preaching at all? \Box

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but in the unsearchable mind of an all-wise God

oes it "feel good?" Does it feel "right?" If so, today's culture says, "go for it!" Thus, we make "right" what our feelings say it is, rather than what it really is. Somehow, we have reached the point in contemporary reasoning that most say that one can pursue his individual dream without having to confront the consequences of bad or wrong choices. Believe in God, or not; accept Christ, or not; live morally, or not--to those people, it is all the same. Do what you want to do, what you feel like doing, what you think is right in doing, and God will just set aside HIS rules to approve of you regardless. We confuse civic freedom with divine approval, and so long as it is "legal" (and some are not too "picky" about that), it is seen as acceptable.

The question is, "Is our standing with God determined by our feelings, or by the rule of divine law?" Is it a matter of God's will, or ours? Serious consequences follow the reasoning described above:

IT NULLIFIES THE BIBLE AS A DEFINING BOOK

In fact, the Bible becomes largely useless, since it can at any point be superseded by one's personal feeling. No doubt we "feel" like it has some value, but it can always be overridden by our feelings. There is no sense of responsibility to conform to its message.

IT GLORIFIES HUMAN WISDOM AND AUTHORITY

The highest court of appeal becomes the human mind and thought, rather than the mind of





Aubrey Belue

The solution to mankind's problems lie not in human minds,

God. If what I feel is right, even if it contradicts what God teaches in His word, then MY idea is seen as better than His; my authority as greater than His. In so doing we minimize the greater wisdom and power of an Almighty God.

IT RESULTS IN ANARCHY AND CHAOS

Rejecting a common source of authority -the written word of God -- each becomes his own source. There are as many "rights" as there are people to think them up. No wonder we live in troubled times. No wonder our children are so confused as to morals and religion. Countless competing human ideas bombard them (and us) with equally justifiable claims to what is "right."

IT IGNORES GOD'S PLACE IN OUR UNIVERSE

He has defined right from wrong, sin from righteousness, truth from error. Any course conflicting with His "law" exacts terrible penalties.

The Truth? The solution to mankind's problems lie not in human minds, but in the unsearchable mind of an all-wise God. As we have observed before in this column, it is His world, we eat His bread, drink His water, and breathe His air. In addition to being ill-equipped by nature and inclination to determine "right," we belong to Him, and are obligated to be obedient. Man's way never "fixes" anything important, nor moves us one step toward fellowship with God. This may not be the popular line, but we are interested in truth, not compromise, and all human objections aside, God's word is still true, and His way is still the only way, John 14:6.



News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members

OUR NEWEST BROTHER!



Our entire Weatherly family is rejoicing with the angels in heaven following the baptism of Lynn Franklin on Friday afternoon. Lynn's conversion is a monumental event in the Franklin family. One could not help but be moved by the emotion of watching little **Cooper** as his grandfather put Christ on in baptism. Praise God! He is truly good!

FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

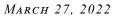
We learned yesterday of the passing of sister Madelene Britnell, grandmother of our own Julie Singleton. Sister Britnell is widely known to many in this area. Your prayer for this good family are in order. At this printing we do not have detailed arrangements. We will relay them as soon as they are available.

Mackenzie Steele, granddaughter of Cathy & Gene Preston is continue to undergo tests to confirm a recent diagnosis of fibromyalgia. Please continue to remember Mackenzie and her family to the Lord as you pray daily.

Glenda Cavender remains on our prayer list. Say her name to the Lord today! Also pray for Ken and the children.

MARCH & APRIL BIRTHDAYS

	(Cale	end	lar		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	13	14	15	16	17	18
12			22	23	24	25
19	20	21		3	0 3	11
26	27	28	19		-	





Ciera Elledge, granddaughter of Will & Sarah Starks is battling an aggressive cancer. Your prayers for her are solicited as she continues her treatments.

Mechi Hunt's sister, Zoila Herring, needs our daily petitions on her behalf. Say her name and that of her family as you lift your voice to the Lord this week.

Pray for those who are in assisted living facilities and memory care - Laura Phillips, Jim Risner, & Lane Roberts.

Daily Prayer List:

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

Sunday, April 3rd, at 6 pm we will resume evening services for the first time in two years. We are especially looking forward to resuming our Bible Skillz drill class. See you then!

Silvia Henderson

Jerry Mitchell

Sherrie Stovall

John Stokes

Meeting the Critic Michael W. McLemore

When Robert E. Lee was a cadet at West Point, a classmate took a violent and irrational dislike to him. The animosity persisted into later life. For many years, this fellowofficer made malicious attacks on Lee. One day a mutual acquaintance asked Lee what he thought of this individual. To the questioner's surprise, Lee spoke in the highest terms of him. Then the questioner said slyly, "I guess you don't know what he's been saying about you for years." Lee replied, "You have not asked me for his opinion of me. You have asked me for my opinion of him."

Christians so desperately need this kind of spirit toward one another. It would be hard to fathom something more difficult to muster than a willingness to ignore the criticisms others may publicly sling. Paul was forced to silently muse while slanderous men undermined his labor and character. Countless Christians in tribulation suffered a similar fate. But, these were "followers together" of Paul, even as he was of Christ.

Oh that we could develop such a spirit when criticized and attacked. The church would be made stronger because of it. Our descendants will bask in the high moral character of their fore-parents as we do. And, God would be glorified by all! \Box







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TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes		9:30 am
Sunday AM Assembly	1	L 0:00 am
Sunday PM Assembly	Zoom	7:00 pm
Wednesday Classes		7:00 pm

Stay informed and engaged online at www.weatherlvchurch.com



Sermon archive or live stream during all Weatherly services

f You (Tube)

Weatherly's Shepherds

Tommy Hill Will Starks 256 883-0010 256 883-5273

Evangelist

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

Weatherly's Deacons

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



3-28

4-5

4-8

4-18

Adrienne West

Carolynn Barr

Williams Hill

Peggy Monroe

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TODAY AT WEATHERLY

Sunday morning Bible Class begins at 9:30. Mike will be continuing our study of 1 Timothy - Holding Faith in a Good Conscience.

Sunday morning worship begins promptly at 10. Mike is continuing his series — "Just Like Your Son." His lesson today is titled Make Me a Servant from Mark 10:45.

Remember our **ZOOM Devo at 7** Sunday evening. Zoom in with us tonight!

Wednesday Mike's class continues on 1 Timothy. We hope you will be with us for the Bible classes. We meet at 7 pm.

4-2

4-6

4-13

4-20



These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, April 3

Tommy Hill

Will Starks

Collis Terry

Bill McCord

CANCELLED

Mike McLemore

Mel Ambrose

Sunday, March 27

Welcome: Song Leader: **Opening Prayer:** Lord's Table Lead:

Will Starks Hill Roberts Steve Hagewood Tommy Hill Mark 10:45 Mike McLemore

Sermon:

Closing Prayer:

Evening Worship

Dwight Ivey

Bible Skillz

CANCELLED

Songs Leader: **Opening Prayer: Closing Prayer:**

Virtual Devotion on ZOOM

Make Me a Servant

Wednesday, March 30

Songs Leader: Invitation: **Closing Prayer:**

Mel Ambrose Mike McLemore Marty Hunt

Mel Ambrose

Kirk Hatcher David Jacks

Wednesday, April 6

Luke 19:28-44

Evening Worship

Blessed Be the King!

Bill Thompson Mike McLemore Alex Thompson

2022 Lectures TBA

Ouarterly Adult Classes March – June 2022

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Faith & A Good Conscience Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

First Timothy Mike McLemore

Serving in April

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

Lord's Supper PM

Bill Thompson (4-17), Phil Shaver (4-24) ** Collis Terry (4-3), Phil Furlough (4-10),

** Collis Terry (4-3), Phil Furlough (4-10),

Bill Thompson (4-17), Phil Shaver (4-24)

Communion Prep Building Lockup

Phil Furlough