

# Weatherly Weekly

April 24, 2022

2022 Edition, Number 17

## THE BLESSING OF LOSS

Michael W. McLemore

**T**he word “blessing” has become synonymous with “gift,” hasn’t it? Many assume, “If I just listen and obey God, He’ll give me more and more!” We tend to think of blessings as new benefits He gives us to enjoy. Does obedience insure the extra blessing of a salary increase? Does following God’s will call for Him to respond with the blessing of happy relationships?

Some may be surprised to know that God often blesses by taking things away. Doubters may ask, “How can God benefit me by giving me less of what I enjoy?” This attitude reveals the problem of human pride, *Psalm 81:12*. Man tends to believe that he knows what is best for him: “If I enjoy something, then it has to be good and proper.” “The Lord should give me more!” Right?

Wrong! The Lord Jesus is no cosmic Santa Claus. Our shortsighted point of view keeps us from seeing the Divine perspective. God sees all things, from beginning to end. He knows whether a particular relationship or more money would ultimately be a blessing or a curse. In some situations, the best thing He can “give” is to take something away, or to give less.

God brings things into our lives what He knows will

bless us. Sometimes He chooses in His wisdom to “bless with less.”

New Testament Christians must resist the nefarious temptation to question whether God is acting in our best interest when a particular loss or disappointment is experienced. With time and perspective, you will see God’s loving care for you is demonstrated by taking something away. Perhaps these three thoughts will aid in trusting His blessing in His own time.

**CAST YOUR CARE ON HIM** — He knows our needs before we know them. He sees unforeseen future temptations and assaults against our faith. Trust Him with your cares.

**OPEN YOUR HEART TO NEW OPPORTUNITY** — Sometimes loss produces increased insight in new directions. Complacency is bred of affluence. When life is easy, we tend to the “eat, drink and be merry” syndrome. Losing makes us look up, then move forward.

**PRESS TOWARD THE MARK** — This life is not our future. It is but a field of service for every child of God. Paul manifest the spirit of “forgetting” and “pressing forward,” *Philippians 3:13-14*. He said, “Think this way!” □

# Knowing Our IDENTITY

By Doy Moyer

**I**t is not uncommon for people to go through what they describe as an “identity crisis.” That is often in the context of figuring out what we want to do with our lives and whether we like how we portray ourselves to others. Sometimes the feeling persists at a major turning point in life—what many call the “mid-life crisis.” Sadly, many will use these times as excuses to do evil rather than to draw closer to God.

Who are you? That answer is first given at the beginning of Scripture when we are told that God made male and female in His image and likeness, *Gen 1:26-28*. Dignity, honor, and respect are due to all people because all are made in God’s image. We can know that our value is founded upon the fact that God made human beings to be a special part of His creation and we that we are made to remain in fellowship with our Creator.

The problem we face is that sin damages us. We are marred and scarred by sinful attitudes and behaviors, which are the very opposite of what we are created to be as God’s image-bearers. This will, in turn, create an “identity crisis” as we try to navigate our responses to the damage done in our lives. We walk in futility, darkness, ignorance, and hardness of heart, *see Ephesians 4:17-19*. How can we really know who we are and why we are here if our minds have been so blinded by the god of this world, *2 Cor 4:4*? Our identity has been torn to pieces, and now we must be humble enough to admit that we are lost and in need of redemption.

That path to redemption is only through Christ. After telling his readers that they cannot continue walking in futility and darkness, Paul wrote: “But that is not the way you learned Christ!—assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness,” *Eph 4:20-24*.

Notice that Paul connects putting on the new self with being created after God’s likeness once again. We become a new creation that is renewed in the image of God in Christ. We may now be “conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn

among many brothers,” *Rom 8:29*. “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ,” *2 Cor 4:6*.

Christ is the perfection of God’s image because He is God in the flesh, *John 1:1, 14; Col 1:15-20; Heb 1:3*. When we are in Him, then we are reshaped to that image as God intended from the beginning. This changes everything about how we are to think about who we are and why we are here.

When we put on Christ, our identity is set. People talk about what they identify as in various contexts (from sexual to political), and in one sense it really does not matter when we are outside of Christ walking in futility. The world will be the world. But once we are in Christ, we have taken on a new identity as the new creation, and this identity is greater and more pervasive than any other by which we may be known. The passage that sums this up so well is *Colossians 3:3-4*: “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

Read that again: “you have died...your life is hidden with Christ in God.” If, as Christians, we insist on identities that take away from this fundamental truth or even deny reality, then we are glorifying self over Christ, and this is not acceptable. Identities that distract from our purpose and mission are to be put aside. When people see and know us, they should see and know that we find our identity in Christ as His image-bearers and that our citizenship is in heaven above and beyond any earthly identities, allegiances, causes, or agendas.

When our identity is set in Christ, then our allegiance is to His kingdom and truth. He defines how we are to think, act, and portray ourselves. He defines love, relationships, and gives purpose to our lives. In Christ, we must deny self in favor of hearing the voice of our Lord in all things (*Luke 9:23; John 10:27*). Worldly desires and pursuits must never take over who we are and what we are doing.

“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you...” *Col 3:5*. Read *Colossians 3*. Think about your identity in Christ. Know who you are ... in Him. □

Watch LIVE!



# FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



## FAMILY UPDATES

### Prayers:

**Gordon & Elaine Dorris** made a trip to Crestwood ER last Wednesday afternoon/evening. They didn't make it home till 1 am Thursday. We are thankful that Elaine is better and did not require hospitalization. Your prayers are always appreciated.

**Raymond Harbin**, son of our **Maragem Harbin** and brother of **Jimmy**, was hospitalized late last week. Please continue to pray for him and for his family. His condition has deteriorated significantly in recent days.

**Jimmy Harbin** was diagnosed with a skin cancer last week. Hopefully this was an early diagnosis and will be quickly resolved. He is scheduled for a surgical consult at UAB on Monday. Pray for **Jimmy & Debbie**.

**Ron Harmon** was able to be back with us on Wednesday evening for Bible Study. We are glad to see him improving from a recent medical procedure. You continued prayers for **Ron & Phyllis** are much appreciated.

**Ciera Elledge, Will & Sarah Starks'** granddaughter, began another round of Chemo Monday. Your prayers for her and her family during this time are solicited and appreciated. This is a rough time for Ciera.



**Collis & Sue Terry's** daughter, **Sharon**, was taken early last week to the ER. Thankfully medication and rest has her feeling better. "Thank you for your prayers."

**Zoila Herring, Mechi Hunt's** sister, needs our prayers for her as she continues treatment. Ask the Lord to watch over her and over those who love and care for her.

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

### Daily Prayer List:

<b>Glenda Cavender</b>	<b>Melvin Godette</b>
<b>Laura Phillips</b>	<b>Ron Harmon</b>
<b>Charlotte Hagewood</b>	<b>Lane Roberts</b>
<b>Bill Reavis</b>	

## TODAY AT WEATHERLY

**Sunday morning Bible Class** begins at 9:30. Today **Mike** is continuing his study of **2 Timothy** — **Fulfill Your Ministry**. Today we are beginning chapter 3.

**Sunday morning worship** begins promptly at 10. **Mike** is continuing his series — **Lessons from Jesus' Last Week**. His lesson today is titled **Eyes Wide Open** from **Luke 24:13-35**.

**Sunday evening worship** begins at 6. Our attendance continues to be strong. We love seeing so many of our little ones on the front for **Bible Skillz!** Tonight **Mike** will be discussing the 4th Big Bible Question. God asked Isaiah a really big question: "**Whom Shall I Send?**" We hope you'll come back tonight and see what the prophet said in response.

**Wednesday Mike's** class will continue the study of **2 Timothy**. Lord willing **Mike** will be concluding chapter 3. We meet at 7 pm for in person assembly. Of course all of our classes and worship periods are streamed. ☐

## Can Anyone Tell?

*Adapted*

A little old Jewish lady is flying out of New York City on her way to Miami Beach. She looks at the businessman sitting next to her and asks him, "Excuse me sir, but are you Jewish?"

The man responds politely, "No, ma'am, I'm not Jewish."

After a little while she again queries him. "You're really Jewish, aren't you?"

Again he responds, "No, ma'am, I am not Jewish."

Barely 10 minutes later, the little old lady asks him once more, "Are you sure you're not Jewish?"

To which, in exasperation and in a final effort to shut her up, he replies, "OK. OK! Yes, I am Jewish."

"Funny," she says, looking puzzled. "You don't look Jewish!"

I wonder, if anyone approached me and asked me, "Are you a Christian?" and I answered, "Yes", would they be inclined to say, "Funny, you don't look like a Christian?"

I'm not talking about looking like the world's stereotype of a Christian — a sour-looking guy with a scowl on his face, not enjoying life at all. I merely wonder if my Christianity is something that can be seen by the people who see me every day. I know what I believe, but is that belief translating? Can anyone tell?

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven," Matthew 5:14-16.

Do you look like a Christian? ☐

## WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## TIMES OF SERVICES

<b>Sunday Bible Classes</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
<b>Sunday AM Assembly</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Sunday PM Assembly</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>
<b>Wednesday Classes</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>

Stay informed and engaged online at  
[www.weatherlychurch.com](http://www.weatherlychurch.com)

### WATCH:

**LIVE** Sermon archive or  
live stream during  
all Weatherly services



## Weatherly's Shepherds

<b>Tommy Hill</b>	256 883-0010
<b>Will Starks</b>	256 883-5273

## Evangelist

**Michael W. McLemore** 256 698-5941  
Email: [mmclmore@weatherlychurch.com](mailto:mmclmore@weatherlychurch.com)

## Weatherly's Deacons

<b>Phil Furlough</b>	<b>Steve Hagewood</b>
<b>Kirk Hatcher</b>	<b>David Jacks</b>
<b>Hill Roberts</b>	<b>Collis Terry</b>
<b>Bobby Wright</b>	

## Weatherly at Work

These are asked to assist in our labor.

### Sunday, April 24

**Welcome:** **Will Starks**  
**Song Leader:** **Mel Ambrose**  
**Opening Prayer:** **Steve Hagewood**  
**Lord's Table Lead:** **Phil Shaver**

**Sermon:** **Mike McLemore**  
*Luke 24:13-35*  
**Eyes Wide Open**  
**Closing Prayer:** **Gene Preston**

### Evening Worship

**Bible Skillz** **Mike McLemore**  
**Songs Leader:** **Mel Ambrose**  
**Opening Prayer:** **Tommy Hill**  
**Closing Prayer:** **Marty Hunt**

### Wednesday, April 27

**Songs Leader:** **Collis Terry**  
**Invitation:** **Mike McLemore**  
**Closing Prayer:** **Ed Dill**

### Sunday, May 1

**Tommy Hill**  
**Hill Roberts**  
**Tommy Hill**  
**Will Starks**

**L**  
**Mike McLemore**  
**Cultivating Culture**  
**Searcy Hall**

### Evening Worship

**Mike McLemore**  
**Hill Roberts**  
**Will Starks**  
**David Jacks**

### Wednesday, May 4

**Phil Furlough**  
**Mike McLemore**  
**Kirk Hatcher**

## 2022 Lectures TBA

## Quarterly Adult Classes

March — June 2022

### AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Fulfill Your Ministry  
**Mike McLemore**

### AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

Second Timothy  
**Mike McLemore**

## Serving in May

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

\*\* **Will Starks (5-1), Marty Hunt (5-8), Steve Hagewood (5-15), Ed Dill (5-22), Kirk Hatcher (5-29)**

Communion Prep  
Building Lockup

**Mike McLemore**

## APRIL & MAY BIRTHDAYS



APRIL 24, 2022

4-25	<b>Sue Terry</b>	4-27	<b>Lauren Thompson</b>
4-29	<b>Harrison Smith</b>	5-2	<b>Cathy Preston</b>
5-7	<b>Bill Reavis</b>	5-8	<b>Hill Roberts</b>
5-9	<b>Ruth Mitchell</b>	5-11	<b>Gail Franklin</b>
5-12	<b>Betty Dubose</b>	5-14	<b>Sarah Starks</b>
5-17	<b>Megan Caudle</b>	5-20	<b>Becky Shaw</b>