

# Weatherly Weekly

June 19, 2022

2022 Edition, Number 25

## Why Faith Fails

Michael W. McLemore

Soon after the Israelites made their trek toward the promised land, Moses chose twelve men from each of the tribes of Israel to spy out Canaan — “See what the land is, and whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many,” *Numbers 13:18*. Their task was inspect and advise.

When the spies returned, they gave their account. Only two gave a “faith-filled” report. Although all the spies saw the same things, their recommendations were very different. Caleb said, “Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it,” *Numbers 13:30*. Ten responded, “We are not able,” *13:31*. Why the different conclusions? Why did the bad report spread to the community? In short, what causes a faith failure? Consider these reasons...

**Fear of failure** – Coming up short is not a place any aspires to. It’s easier not to try.

**False information** – The ten all saw the

same land and people as did Joshua and Caleb. The majority carried the day. They fed the family false information. Faith took a back seat.

**Forgetting the past** – The God who smote Pharaoh’s pride, led them across the sea, drown the Egyptian army, fed millions of hungry people with manna from nowhere, drew water from a rock, ad infinitum, was forgotten.

**Failure of perspective** – They couldn’t see the Creator of the universe for the giants and the fortified walls of a few dozen cities. Their human eyes were unable to see through the Lord’s eyes.

**Focusing on obstacles** – They saw only defeat. God promised life from the land on which they tread. They had no clarity; it spelled doom.

“God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control,” *2 Timothy 1:7*. The Lord wants our faith to flourish as we trust and cling to His promises. We have every reason to believe God. Let’s learn from the past! □

## God Wants Me to be Happy



By Doy Moyer

This is one of the catch phrases we hear of what is sometimes called moralistic therapeutic deism. The idea is that 1) God wants us to be nice to others and 2) he wants us to be happy. For the most part, God is seen as deistic, not really getting involved in our lives unless we need him to resolve a conflict for us so that we can be happy again. In the end, good people (as we define it) get to go to heaven when they die. Other than that, there are not many restrictions or requirements. Just be good and do what makes you happy.

The phrase may be heard in the context of someone justifying an action that otherwise is considered as sinful. By this, one can justify any number of selfish actions. You can plug in just about anything:

God wants me to be happy.  
This action X makes me happy.  
Therefore, X must be what God wants for me.

Through this, we can justify leaving difficult marriages, entering other ungodly relationships, taking any number of drugs, or even worshipping God any way we want to if it makes us feel good. The question is not so much what is right according to an objective standard, but what makes me feel good subjectively (because that’s what makes me happy). Basically, this is the principle by which the world operates, and we have all bitten this fruit in some form or another.

Modern nations play right into the hands of this faith since the “pursuit of happiness” is one of the encoded rights. We have the right to pursue what makes us happy, and how we interact with God fits right in with this. God must surely want this for us, and if you say otherwise, you don’t really love me (and love gets redefined, too).

“Well you aren’t saying that God wants us to be unhappy, are you?”

No, but I am saying that the path to true happiness is not going to be found in our own selfish desires and actions. God’s path to happiness is one that takes the long view stretching into eternity. It involves the suffering Servant giving His life for our sins, and it involves our recognition that in order to truly live, we must deny self, die to self, and realize that our lives are intended to be lived to the glory of His praise, *Eph 1:3-14; 2 Cor 5:14-15; Luke 9:23*. Life is not just about being forgiven; it’s about being transformed

back into His image so that we are actually living according to the purpose for which we were created, *Romans 12:1-2*.

The irony is that the more people pursue their own version of happiness, thinking it is what God wants for them, the more miserable they become because it is out of step with God’s created purpose. Moralistic therapeutic deism is a failure because it requires us to redefine who God is, who we are, what morality is, what love is, and what our true purpose is. Something may feel good for a time, but lasting happiness won’t be found in temporary pleasures, *Hebrews 11:24-26*. Selfish pursuits do not end well. To this we can testify. Thank God for His grace!

What we finally will learn is that happiness does not come as a direct result of pursuit, but as a by-product of doing what is right by God’s design, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them,” *Ephesians 2:10*.

None of this means that God has not also given us temporary pleasures to enjoy, *cf. Eccl 5:18-20*. We can pursue both what is right and what delights us, but it is always to be with a mind toward glorifying God and understanding that there will be a judgment, *cf. Eccl 11:9*. We cannot claim something to be the will of God if it is manifestly against what He has revealed or contrary to the principles of His revelation.

“God wants me to be happy”? As long as we understand our terms properly and realize God’s set boundaries and purposes, we can agree. The way that this phrase is usually used? Not so much, for to use it this as a catch-all for doing whatever we want just won’t fly.

To put this in a context of temporary and eternal, consider this exhortation from *Hebrews 10:32-26*:

“But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.” □

Watch  
LIVE!



# FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



## Thanks in Order

Gwyn and I want to express our thanks for the prayers and encouragement of this family as we traveled to and from vacation. It was a wonderful experience only made possible by your support of us. We appreciate **Will** and **Tommy** for allowing us a bit of extra time to travel the distance and still be able to stay the week. I also want to thank all who spoke: **Tommy, Steve Hagewood, Bill Thompson**. We tuned in via live stream. Thanks guys! *Mike*

## FAMILY UPDATES

### Prayers:

**Collis Terry** is better after a sudden throat infection led to a series of concerning symptoms. He ought to be back to 100% soon. Thanks for your prayers for him.

**Peggy Shelton's** recent results from her tests revealed minimal blockages that can be treated with medication. The good news is no surgery will be necessary. Your prayers and encouragement are greatly appreciated.

**Ruth Mitchell** is doing very well. We are looking forward to having her back with us. We are all thankful that her surgery has proven helpful in relieving her ongoing pain. "Thank you for your continued prayers"

We are glad to hear that **Brenda Bradner, Edit Turner's** daughter, will be relocating to the Huntsville area. Following the loss of her son, then her husband, **Wolfgang**, it is best for Brenda to be near family to aid with her help and encouragement. Please keep this family in your prayers. Edith's son, **Jim**, is a tremendous help to her and the whole family. Especially,

keep Jim and his family in your prayers as he attends to these details.

**Julie & Shawn Singleton** are much improved after their bout with COVID. Julie was back last Lord's day. I know it was good for everyone to see her. Your prayers meant so much.

**Ellie Pellegrini's** surgery had to be temporarily postponed due to unforeseen insurance matters. It should be rescheduled soon.

Please pray for the **Harbin family**.

**Mechi Hunts'** sister, **Zoila Herring**, is preparing for upcoming liver surgery. Your prayers are appreciated.

**Ciera Elledge, Will & Sarah Starks'** granddaughter, continues to have an interest in our daily petitions on her behalf.

Pray for these. Each has their own particular health challenge. — **Laura Phillips, Jim Risner, Lane Roberts, Glenda Cavender, Edith Turner, Melvin Godette & Charlotte Hagewood**.

## TODAY AT WEATHERLY

**Sunday morning Bible Study** begins promptly at 9:30 am. Mike will address the subject "Profile in Courage" in today's class period.

**Sunday morning worship** begins at 10. Mike is continuing his series, **Cultivating Culture**. Today we will be exploring "Cultivating Excellence." God desires His people to pursue excellence in our lives and service.

**TONIGHT at 6** we will gather for **Bible Skillz** and our weekly open forum class on **Big Bible Questions**. We hope to see you all.

**Wednesday evening Bible study** begins at 7. Mike McLemore will continue his June series on courage. See you Wednesday. ☐

## A Story about Greed

Michael W. McLemore

Leo Tolstoy wrote of a greedy peasant named Pahom who was not satisfied with his circumstance in life. He wanted more of everything. One day he learned of an offer of land. He could buy all of the land that he could walk around in a single day for just 1000 rubles. The catch was that he had to be back at his starting point by sundown that same day.

The next morning very early he began walking a brisk pace. At midday he was very tired, but he kept going, covering more and more ground. Late that afternoon he began to realize that his greed had taken him to far from his beginning place. He quickened his walk and as the sun began to sink low in the sky, he began to run. He knew that if he did not make it back by sundown the land would all be lost.

AS the sun began to set, he came within sight of his goal. Frantic, he raced on, gasping for his next breath. His heart was pounding. He fell forward with his last bit of strength across the line. He had made it.

But, Pahom would never be a mighty land owner. He was dead! Greed had killed him. As his servant dug a grave, it was no more than any other, "Six feet long from head to heel." What was Tolstoy's title for his story? How Much Land Does a Man Need? ☐

## WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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## TIMES OF SERVICES

**Sunday Bible Classes** 9:30 am  
**Sunday AM Assembly** 10:00 am  
**Sunday PM Assembly** 6:00 pm  
**Wednesday Classes** 7:00 pm

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

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

## Evangelist

**Michael W. McLemore** 256 698-5941  
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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, June 19

**Welcome:** **Tommy Hill**  
**Song Leader:** **David Jacks**  
**Opening Prayer:** **Alex Thompson**  
**Lord's Table Lead:** **Collis Terry**

**Philippians 1:3-11**

**Sermon:** **Mike McLemore**  
**Cultivating Excellence**

**Closing Prayer:** **Searcy Hall**

### Sunday, June 26

**Will Starks**  
**Hill Roberts**  
**Steve Hagewood**  
**Marty Hunt**

**Ephesians 5:25-27**

**Mike McLemore**  
**Cultivating Integrity**

**Bill McCord**

### Evening Worship

**Bible Skillz** **Mike McLemore** **Mike McLemore**  
**Songs Leader:** **David Jacks** **Mel Ambrose**  
**Opening Prayer:** **W.D. Patrick** **Marty Hunt**  
**Closing Prayer:** **Riley Monroe** **Dwight Ivey**

### Wednesday, June 22

**Songs Leader:** **Mel Ambrose**  
**Invitation:** **Mike McLemore**  
**Closing Prayer:** **Ed Dill**

### Wednesday, June 29

**Bill Thompson**  
**Mike McLemore**  
**Phillip Dill**

## 2022 Lectures TBA

## Quarterly Adult Classes June — September 2022

**AUDITORIUM SUNDAY**  
Lessons for Today from the Exodus  
**Mike McLemore**

**AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY**  
Exodus  
**Mike McLemore**

## Serving in June

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

**\*\* Bill Thompson (6-5), Phil Shaver (6-12),  
Collis Terry (6-19), Marty Hunt (6-26)**

**Communion Prep**  
**Building Lockup**

**David Jacks**

## JUNE & JULY BIRTHDAYS



6-23	W.D. Patrick	6-26	Keion Godette
6-30	Susan Hand	7-3	Leslie McCary
7-10	Will Patrick	7-19	Jim Ehl
7-19	Peggy Shelton	7-27	Donna Godette

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