

# Weatherly Weekly

December 25, 2022

2022 Edition, Number 52

## No Greater King

ADAPTED

Society and culture alike have compromised obedience in favor of freedom. The latter has become so much of a priority, that submission remains an estranged discipline. Unfortunately, this is not “new” for humanity. It is the same old story that has been written for centuries.

As Samuel approached the finale of life, he recognized the need for leaders to continue after him, so he appointed his sons as judges over Israel. He knew that his own sons were poor candidates to lead Israel. While filling the role as leaders, they were actively disobedient to God by taking bribes and twisting justice, *1 Samuel 8:3*. Upon seeing the evil, the elders of the Israelites took it upon themselves to offer a solution. The nations surrounding Israel all had kings, which invoked a covetous attitude in the elders. The Israelite elders told Samuel, “Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint us a king to judge us like all the nations,” *1 Samuel 8:5*.

The request of the elders seemed honorable,

and even admirable. Though, the problem is rooted more deeply. If one continues reading in *1 Samuel 8*, God resents their decision because “they have rejected me from being King over them.” Israel opted for a completely foreign system of government. In attempting to solve their dilemma, the people of Israel sought an answer outside of God.

Several hundred years later, Paul argued “let not sin reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions,” *Romans 6:12*. Society may place a priority on freedom and self-will, but they fail to recognize that they are, in reality, serving the master of sin. In denying God as King, man becomes the subject and servant to sin. Scripture adamantly reminds us of both the sovereignty and mercy of God. The world is faced with the impossible task of finding a God who loves more, cares more, guides more, and blesses more than the Lord of heaven. Such a pursuit is destined to ruin; the generation of leaders who outlived Samuel will testify of the same. □

By the grace of God, we are given God’s revealed will. “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age...” *Titus 2:11-12*. Grace teaches us to follow God’s expressed will. To deny God’s will, then, would be to act contrary to God’s grace by showing a lack of gratitude.

Entering into and remaining in a covenant relation-

God’s gift, *Ephesians 2:8-9*. 2. God commands all men everywhere to repent or else they will face judgment, *Acts 17:30-31*.

Without question, we are saved by grace. Just as true is the fact that without repentance we will be lost. Are these two points contradictory? Can we say that because salvation is by grace, repentance is not really necessary in order to avert judgment? Does affirming *Ephesians 2:8-9* require denying *Acts 17:30-31*? Does affirming repent-

## GRACE & OBEDIENCE

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ship with God is either conditional (we need to obey Him) or unconditional (whether or not we obey is irrelevant). If it is unconditional, then why will anyone will be lost at all? One might say that it is a result of God’s will that some will be lost, but that runs contrary to God’s expressed desires:

“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance,” *2 Pet 3:9*.

“This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth,” *1 Timothy 2:3-4*.

Any position that runs contrary to God’s expressed desire is erroneous. These passages cannot be construed to say that God really does desire some to be lost. He is clear: He wants all to repent and be saved.

We have, then, two ideas that need to be reconciled: 1) God desires all to be saved, and 2) Many will be lost, *2 Thessalonians 1:8-9*. If it is God’s desire that all be saved, and yet some will be lost, then a covenant relationship with God must be conditional. In other words, obedience, while not meritorious, matters. If it were unconditional, none would be lost because God desires all to be saved.

Does this negate grace and therefore mean that salvation is earned? Not at all. Meeting a condition of the One who provides the grace and gives the commands in the first place cannot be taken to mean that salvation has been merited and now God owes it. Never shall obedience have the power to by-pass the cross and make Christ’s death void. Even so, if we remove the commands that God Himself has put in place, then we are the ones fundamentally trying to change God’s grace and turning it into something other than what He intended. For example: 1. We are saved by grace through faith; it is

ance mean that repentance earns salvation? If we think any of this, then our views of grace, obedience, or both are erroneous. If we take away the necessity of repentance, then we are changing the nature of God’s grace by turning it into a license to sin, *cf. Rom 6:1-2; Jude 4*. If we accept God’s grace, then we accept the necessity of repentance. While repentance is not the cause of salvation (God is the cause), it certainly accompanies salvation (as God is also the Originator of the command). In other words, repentance does not cause us to be saved, but we’ll still be lost unless we repent. None can rightly claim God’s grace who denies God’s commands.

Think about the problem of religious ritualism. Mere ritualism is just going through the motions without really having conviction in the heart. Outwardly, one can technically “obey” a command, yet in reality it may be an empty gesture. If salvation were merely a matter of earning something, one can go through all the motions, do all the right things outwardly, and then be saved regardless of other factors. This is not how it works. However, if one is convicted, the obedience from the heart will take place in conjunction with God’s grace. It is inconceivable that one would think to receive God’s grace and mercy while ignoring what God has plainly commanded. Failure to obey is a failure to accept the grace offered by God. Obedience of the faith naturally flows from those who recognize the grace of God, *cf. Romans 1:5*. Our obedience is itself an expression of gratitude for the grace God provides, *cf. Heb 12:28*.

God is a God of grace and mercy, and that is completely His realm. Our realm is submission to God’s will. Never ask, “What don’t I have to do?” Rather, let’s be thankful that God has provided His grace for forgiveness and seek to please Him through our faith and obedience. God will be faithful to His covenant. □

Watch LIVE!

# FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



## Family Updates

### Prayers:

"The Dubose girls," Betty, Sharon & Sandra, all have an interest in our prayers. Betty had a minor mishap in the kitchen last Sunday. She fell, but thankfully nothing was broken. Sharon is recovering from cataract surgery. And, Sandra is getting over COVID. Keep them in your prayers.

David Hand had a rough go of it for several days because of a kidney stone. A procedure was performed Wednesday. He will go back in two weeks to remove the stone. Remember him to the Lord as you approach Him.

Ciera Elledge, Will & Sarah Starks' granddaughter, remains in the forefront of our petitions. We will relay details about her treatments as we have them. Say her name to the Lord of healing.

This will be treatment week for Becky Hill. Remember to pray for her and for Tommy. It was a blessing that her good week came during the holiday. It enabled her to have some good days with family. We are so thankful that she is doing well and responding to her treatment regimen. She a mighty strong lady!

We are thankful that little Marissa Hunt is doing so well. She's a radiant light in our family. Say her name to the Lord every day.

Peggy Monroe is better following her diagnosed with COVID. Remember her in prayer.

Louis Caudle, Wes' mom, continues to have an interest in our prayers as she undergoes Chemo. Pray that she will continue to be strong enough to have the treatments as scheduled. This is a difficult time.

Zoila Herring, Mechi Hunt's sister, remains in our daily prayers.

Pray for these. Each has their own particular health challenge. — Peggy Monroe, Bill McCord, Jim Risner, Lane Roberts, Glenda Cavender, Edith Turner, Melvin Godette & Betty Dubose.

## The Last Word in 2022

This issue marks the end of another year of publication — my 14th year. It has been a joy to publish the Weatherly Weekly over these last months. I appreciate the words of encouragement and appreciation often expressed from our readers. I am looking forward to the upcoming year and pray that this endeavor will only ever serve as both a means of instruction and edification. I am praying that the year to come will be filled with opportunities to impact the hearts of our readers, persuading them to draw closer to the Lord. (MWM)

## This Week at Weatherly

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE** class meets at 9:30. Mike McLemore is continuing his study "What Can I Do?" from the book of Acts. This is a great study. Come be a part.

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP** follows at 10. Mike will continue his series on Luke 2 entitled, **Hope Has Arrived**. Today's lesson is **A Forgotten Town** from Luke 2:51-52.

**SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP** begins at 6. Mike will lead us in a devotional. Let's all attend.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY** begins at 7. Mike will continue his study of **The Compassionate Christ**. ☐

## Set Out From Shittim

Michael W. McLemore

The place known as Shittim is named in Hebrew for the acacia trees of that region. OT students know that God commanded Moses to use "acacia wood" for the construction of the Tabernacle including the structure of Ark of the Covenant, *Exodus 25:10*.

Everywhere Israel and the "acacia" Ark traveled, God was present and refuge in Him was enjoyed. God's mercy dwelt with them on the Mercy Seat. When Joshua sent the two spies into Canaan the record notes that the spies went "secretly from Shittim," *Joshua 2:1*. They left the refuge of the Lord to sojourn among unbelievers. Three things.

First, when the spies entered Jericho, God's protection went with them. They left Shittim for ungodly environments, but Jehovah's care remained present. Second, the spies' arrival signaled a turning point for Rahab, *2:12-14*. They carried God's Word into the world, resulting in a crucial decision to change the course of the future for a woman who would bear an early ancestor of Jesus, *Matthew 1:5*. Last, she became the means of their own salvation, *Joshua 2:15-24*.

Consider their mission as a portrait of evangelism. Isn't it time for us to "set out from Shittim" to walk among unbelievers. God will be present. The future will be changed. And, the cause will be strengthened. ☐

## 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  
Email: [mmclmore@weatherlychurch.com](mailto: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, December 25

Welcome: Will Starks  
Song Leader: David Jacks  
Opening Prayer: Phil Shaver  
Lord's Table Lead: Tommy Hill

*Luke 2:51-52*  
Sermon: Mike McLemore  
*A Forgotten Town*  
Closing Prayer: Will Patrick

### Evening Worship

**Bible Skillz** Mike McLemore  
Songs Leader: David Jacks  
Opening Prayer: Alex Thompson  
Closing Prayer: Wes Caudle

### Wednesday, December 28

Songs Leader: Collis Terry  
Invitation: Mike McLemore  
Closing Prayer: Mel Ambrose

### Sunday, January 1

Welcome: Tommy Hill  
Song Leader: Mel Ambrose  
Opening Prayer: Phil Furlough  
Lord's Table Lead: Steve Hagewood  
*Colossians 3:1-4*  
Sermon: Mike McLemore  
*Citizens of Another Age*  
Closing Prayer: Searcy Hill

### Evening Worship

**Bible Skillz** Mike McLemore  
Songs Leader: Mel Ambrose  
Opening Prayer: Will Starks  
Closing Prayer: W.D. Patrick

### Wednesday, January 4th

Songs Leader: Hill Roberts  
Invitation: Mike McLemore  
Closing Prayer: John Patrick

## Quarterly Adult Classes

January – March 2023

### AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Mike McLemore

### AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

Mike McLemore

## Serving in January

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

\*\* Steve Hagewood (1-1), Ed Dill (1-8),  
Marty Hunt (1-15), Phil Shaver (1-22), Tommy Hill (1-29)

Communion Prep  
Building Lockup

TBA

## DECEMBER & JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



DECEMBER 25, 2022

12-23 Charles Hill	12-26 Phil Shaver
12-27 Searcy Hill	12-29 Peggy Coward
12-29 Gene Preston	1-1 Sharon Dubose
1-4 Isabella Hatcher	1-6 Keria Godette
1-7 Bobby Wright	1-9 Wes Caudle
1-11 Jacob Frazier	1-11 Margaret Smith

