

Weatherly Weekly

February 26, 2023

2023 Edition, Number 9

A LACK OF COMMUNICATION

Michael W. McLemore

A woman visited a local lawyer and in distress implored, "My husband wants to divorce me. I need help." The lawyer questioned, "Does he have grounds?" She answered, "About twenty acres." With a bit of a smile, he again inquired, "No. Does he have a grudge?" Unwittingly, the lady answered, "No. I think it's carport." Now flustered, the lawyer asked even more frankly, "Does he beat you up?" Without a blink, the clueless wife answered, "No. I usually get up before him." The lawyer sat back confident that he now understood the problem and said, "I think what we have here is a lack of communication."

The woman in this amusing anecdote illustrates well the generation of whom Jesus said, "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive," *Matthew 13:14*. Like the lawyer and his clueless client, Jesus recognized the problem with His contemporaries.

"Hearing but not understanding" can have several root causes. Basic ignorance of the subject matter can present a challenge with com-

munication. Preconception can impede one from entertaining the truth though honestly presented. Prejudice can close one's mind to any need for change. The problem in Jesus' generation was not ignorance of, preconception with or prejudice toward God. It was tradition – "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men," *Matthew 15:9*. Jesus was not speaking to a people ignorant of God or His ways. Their minds were closed to any teacher or doctrine that did not comport with Jewish tradition.

Modern believers, be forewarned. Something as basic as completing communication became a mighty challenge even for Jesus. Long believed and practiced human tradition made teaching them virtually impossible because the people had closed their minds to the possibility of being in error. Would we not prefer to be among those disciples whom Jesus commended, "blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear," and not people incapable of hearing then understanding? Take heed lest you fall. □

Fundamentals of Following

Dan S. Shipley

"THEN JESUS SAID UNTO HIS DISCIPLES, 'If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me,'" *Matthew 16:24*

What a profound statement! In one short sentence Jesus sums up the essence of discipleship. Here is the heart of the matter: the decision, the duty, the denial and the direction — all of which are fundamental in following Christ. To begin with, note the conditional aspects of this following. "If" one follows Christ it is necessary that he do certain things (the doing of which in no way implies any merited or earned favor). "If" also implies the necessity of making a choice. One may or may not decide to follow Christ, but decide he must. The term "would" (Grk. *thelo*) indicates volition, an exercise of the will. Many would-be disciples have simply not made up their minds to be wholehearted followers of the Lord. Not that they have not changed a few externals; not that they have not decided to be religious or to "join the church" — they have just not settled the matter as to whether Christ will be Lord of their lives. That is the real decision and making that one also settles hundreds of little "side" issues so bothersome to so many. No man can be a faithful follower until this first "if" is decided, and even then, it is just the beginning.

Accordingly, deciding "yes" about following Christ means deciding "no" about serving self — "let him deny himself" Jesus says. This includes, but is not limited to, putting away things. It means developing proper attitudes toward self; learning that ...ye are not your own; for ye were bought with a price," *1 Corinthians 6:19,20*. Here is the real bat-

tleground of the soul; self must be conquered and controlled if Christ is to be followed, *Romans 7:22,23; 1 Corinthians 9:25-27*.

Then every follower must "take up his cross" — this involves every duty and responsibility in connection with serving the Lord. As the term "cross of Christ" is sometimes used in a general way to show all that Christ has done for sinful man, *1 Corinthians 1:18; Galatians 6:12*, taking up our cross includes all that we do for the Lord. And, as indicated in *Luke 14:27*, each must bear his "own cross." There can be no representative involvement. As Christ's cross was peculiarly His and none other could have done what He did, so it is with ours. You must bear your cross, you must do the will of the Father as Jesus did, *John 17:4*. (It is neither legalistic nor anti-grace to teach that men MUST do something to please God — in fact it is unscriptural and anti-scriptural to teach otherwise!) Without this personal cross-bearing Jesus says, you "cannot be my disciple," *Luke 14:26*.

Finally, following Christ involves the matter of direction, as is clearly suggested in "come after me" and "follow me." Remember, the initial decision was WHETHER to follow Christ, not HOW. To do as "self" pleases and call it "following the Lord" violates every fundamental that Jesus addresses in this proclamation. To follow is to live by His word, *Matthew 4:4*; to do ALL in His name, *Colossians 3:17*; to abide in His doctrine, *2 John 9*. "Where He leads me... I will follow." Will you? □



FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



Family Updates

Prayers:

W.D. Patrick was doing well enough that he was able to take their annual visit to Florida. We are thankful for the good report and that he is back to doing the things that he enjoys. Keep **LaNelle & Dub** in your prayers.

Becky Hill was back with us for every service last week. She's remarkable. The Hill's were able to travel to the beach this week. It's been a while since they were able to do that. We are so happy for **Tommy & Becky**. Remember them to the Lord as they travel.

Ruth Mitchell continues to make progress. We are thankful. Remember her name before the Lord as you pray.

Jenny Jacks received her second injection on Tuesday of last week. **David** indicated that she is seeing some benefit. We are praying that she will be helped by the treatments.

It was great to see **Phil Shaver** back in his customary spot last week. He isn't 100% but he's back at it. We are grateful that his case was relatively mild.

We are all so thankful to have **Jim & Caryl Ehl** back. **Caryl** is better than she was and we are thankful. It's going to take time for her to be able to do all of the things that she loves the most. Coming to worship is surely her number one. Pray for her strength.

We are continuing to say **Peggy & Riley Monroe's** names to the Lord as we pray.

We received a note from **Carrie Lu** recently. **Huy, Carrie & little Cindy** have returned to the west — Big Bear California. Huy has a new position out there. This will put them much

closer to home. Remember them in prayer.

Our hearts go out to **Leonard & DeeDee Downum, Betty Dubose's** brother-in-law and sister. Leonard's tests revealed that his cancer is beyond treatment. He has elected to forgo treatment and enjoy his remaining days. They have put off hospice until he needs it. Please pray for the Downum's and those that love them.

Wes Caudle's mother, **Louise Caudle**, has begun her Chemo. We are praying for the benefit and for the side-effects to be mild.

Ciera Elledge remains in our prayers as she regains strength and prepares for her follow-up tests. Pray for a good result.

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, Maragem Harbin & Betty Dubose.**

This Week at Weatherly

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE class meets at 9:30. **Mike McLemore** is continuing his study titled "Maxims for Living" from Proverbs.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP follows at 10. **Mike** concludes his series titled, **Overcoming Bad Choices**. Today's lesson, **Choose Life**, is taken from **Deuteronomy 30:19-30**.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP begins at 6. **Mike** will lead us in an informal devotional in an open forum setting. Let's all attend.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY begins at 7. **Mike** will conclude his verse by verse study of the book of **First Thessalonians**. ☐

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



FEBRUARY 26, 2023

3-6 Harold Smith 3-11 Evelyn Hall
3-12 Stevie Hagewood 3-13 Collis Terry
3-14 Becky Hill

Fear of Truth

James W. Adams

My daughter's friend expressed great interest in the doctrine of

"Premillennialism." It so happened that I was at that time engaged in a series of studies involving the subject on a television program. My daughter suggested to her friend that she might tune in, watch, and listen. Her friend said, "Is he for it or against it?" When informed I was opposed to it, my daughter's friend said,

"In that case, I don't want to hear it!"

There are many who feel the same way. They refuse to hear or read anything contrary to their pre-conceived beliefs and practices lest they find their cherished idols to be mortal delusions. On the other hand, truth has nothing to fear from investigation. Like pure silver, the more you rub it, the more it shines.

It is said that "a philosopher of Florence could not be persuaded to look through one of Galileo's telescopes lest he should see something in the heavens that would disturb him in his belief of Aristotle's philosophy" (Buck). So it is with many; they fear testing their beliefs by the word of God lest they find them to be untrue. *Words Fiftly Spoken, 60.*

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

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, February 26th Sunday, March 5th

Welcome:	Will Starks	Tommy Hill
Song Leader:	Mel Ambrose	Hill Roberts
Opening Prayer:	Phil Shaver	Phil Furlough
Lord's Table Lead:	Collis Terry	Ed Dill
	Deuteronomy 30:19-30	Matthew 7:24-27
Sermon:	Mike McLemore <i>Choose Life</i>	Mike McLemore <i>Firm Foundations</i>
Closing Prayer:	Kirk Hatcher	John Patrick

Evening Worship Evening Worship

Bible Skillz	Mike McLemore	Mike McLemore
Songs Leader:	Mel Ambrose	Bill Thompson
Opening Prayer:	Phil Furlough	W.D. Patrick
Closing Prayer:	Wes Caudle	Bobby Wright

Wednesday, March 1st Wednesday, March 8th

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

Quarterly Adult Classes

January — March 2023

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
Maxims for Living
Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY
1 & 2 Thessalonians
Mike McLemore

Serving in March

Serving on the Lord's Table AM & PM
** **Ed Dill (3-5), Steve Hagewood (3-12), Phil Shaver (3-19), Marty Hunt (3-26)**
** **Overseer**

Communion Prep
Building Lockup
Mike McLemore

