

Weatherly Weekly

May 7, 2023

2023 Edition, Number 19

A Lasting Lesson

Michael W. McLemore

Hebrews had a word among them with powerful implications for every man, but especially the Christian – **tom**. The first of its OT occurrences refers to the Philistine king Abimelech, who in honest “integrity of [his] heart” took Sarah only because of Abraham’s own duplicity in calling her his sister, a half-truth. The word is translated into English as “integrity.” For fear Abraham acted shamelessly. It is a lasting lesson of more integrity in a pagan than in a believer.

For the ancient Hebrew, “tom” recommended an action or person in possession of its manner as being “whole, complete, free of duplicity.” It is to hold integrity of character. The essence of integrity is allegiance. A person of integrity was compelled to stand firm for what is right without duplicity, double-mindedness, or divided allegiance.

Integrity is a critical word for our times. The origin of our own English is likewise instruc-

tive and fascinating. It is derived from the Latin “integer,” that literally means “whole or complete.” “Integer” itself came to be used in English as a whole number in mathematics. Its use among Romans described a person as “sound, virtuous, and upright,” and was commonly heard in their expression “*integer vitae*,” “blameless of life.”

The Greeks contrast their word for “one,” “*unus*” with “*duo*,” “two.” Pythagoras, the Greek philosopher and mathematician, is said out of superstition to have viewed “*duo*” as reflecting evil. His idea has come to be embedded in hundreds of our words (duplicity, dualism, doubt, etc.).

Abraham acted with duplicity in his interaction with Abimelech. He misguidedly sought to deceive for his own protection. God’s intervention exposed in perpetuity the need for integrity among God’s people and in leaders seeking to righteously guide their nations. This lasting lesson calls for repetition in every age. □

Since God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble, it stands to reason that humility is an attitude that we must seek in every action and word as we strive to do all in His name, cf. 1 Pet 5:5; Col 3:17. When we claim to follow

humility in that. It is pride that keeps me from learning and changing when I see that I am wrong, and it is also pride that keeps me from standing for truth.

What can we do to help keep the balance?

Pride, Humility, and Change

Doy Moyer

Christ and yet project pride and arrogance, we are not glorifying God or showing that we “have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God,” Col 3:3.

This is also true in how we study and teach Scripture. We are to accept humbly the Lord’s teachings, knowing that His words will judge us in the last day, John 12:48. Humility requires the utmost care in how we approach our studies and conclusions. We believe His word is truth. We believe that His truth can be understood. At the same time, we must have the humility to admit that there are some things we may not understand. It’s ok to say, “I don’t know” as we seek answers. We must grant that it is possible that we are wrong about some conclusions and be willing to listen, learn, and grow. If we cannot do that, then our pride has taken over and we are in the arena opposed by God.

Have you ever studied something and changed your mind because you realized your previous views were not correct? Rare would be the one who has not done this on something. We expect others whom we may teach to have that spirit, to recognize they could be wrong, and be willing to listen. Shall we ask that of others but refuse to admit this same attitude in ourselves?

This is not to defend a wishy-washy tossed-about by every doctrine kind of mentality. May it never be! We must strike a balance between knowing that our minds can be led astray on the one hand and knowing that God’s truth is attainable on the other. If I shut my mind to learning more and potentially changing, I may well be closing my eyes to God’s truth. If, in my pride, I refuse to change, then I am in opposition to God and His grace.

Yet humility does also mean that we submit ourselves to what the Lord teaches in His word. Some conclusions are just difficult to escape – not that we should want to escape them – and if we fail to stand up for what we know is right, then we cannot claim

1. Keep studying. Gain conviction through faith and stand for truth, but also stay open to learning more.

2. Invite others to the study. Listening to and learning from others is important because we are all essentially in dialogue with each other. There may be things I have not have thought about. There may be information I have missed. Others can teach me. Think Apollos here, Acts 18:24-28.

3. Do not change easily. I do not mean to be stubborn beyond reason. I mean that if conviction means anything, it is not going to cave in easily. I am willing to change, but if I am convinced something is the truth, I will not change at the whim of another who says I am wrong. I want evidence. I want sound argumentation. I need to be convinced that a set conviction is wrong. This is needed for stability.

4. When proven wrong, admit it and make the change. This is the pattern we see in someone like Saul (Paul), who did not change easily, but when he did he was, as we say, all in. It may take some doing to be proven wrong, and we ought to have the high standard of the Word, but once we see it, we need to accept it for what it is.

5. Submit everything back to God and His word. Study and learn, then study more, and keep God’s word front and center. Here is the familiar pattern: “Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so,” Acts 17:11.

All of this is to be done to the glory of God. The purpose of learning, embracing, and teaching the truth is not so that we win debates, get one up on others, and find new ways to show how wrong people are. The purpose is to glorify God. I don’t glorify God in pride and unreasonable stubbornness. I glorify God in humility and willingness to hear, learn, change, and be conformed to His image. □

Watch LIVE!

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



Joan Uptagrafft

Joan Uptagrafft was released from Crestwood hospital on Friday electing to be treated by hospice at home. Just as she seemed to be improving the sudden decline began. Joan, Dewitt, David and family have requested our continued prayers for her. Please also remember her precious grandchildren as they wrestle with this future sadness. We are all in disbelief at this development but will trust the Lord for her care. You may write to the Uptagrafft's at 7748 Donegal Drive SE, Huntsville, AL 358032.

Family Updates

Prayers:

Will & Sarah Starks' granddaughter, Ciera Elledge, did not receive the news she wanted from her recent scans this past week. Three areas of recurring cancer were revealed. She will be meeting with her doctors this week to determine the next forms of treatment that may be available to her. Please pray for Ciera.

Edith Turner is back home at Thrive on Cecil Ashburn Drive. She is still very weak and undergoing daily rehab.

Harold Smith is recovering after surgery last week. Please pray for Harold.

Becky Shaw is back home at Brookdale. She is settling in well and anticipating home health during the week. Pray for Becky.

Forest Summers will begin aggressive Chemo on Monday. Remember him in prayer.

Peggy Childress has improved in recent days. We are thankful to hear this good news and continue to pray for better days ahead.

Silvia Henderson continues her rehab. Pray that this will be helpful as she weighs options regarding her shoulder.

Gwyn McLemore's maternal aunt, Juanita "Nita" Ann Laiche, was laid to rest near her long time home of Poplarville, Mississippi. "Thank you for your prayers as we traveled. Also, thank you to those who led the assembly last Sunday evening." Mike & Gwyn

Susan Watson's mother, Janie Cheatham, remains on our prayer list.

Louise Caudle will meet with her Dr this next week to discuss her plan going forward.

Zoila Herring, Mechi Hunt's sister continues to have an interest in our prayers

Pray for these. Each has their own particular health challenge. — Peggy Monroe, 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 will continue to lead our study titled "Powerful Prayer." Today we will be looking at the Lord's prayer in the upper room.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP follows at 10. Mike's will return to his series titled "Firm Foundations" today, through the end of the month. Today's sermon: "A New Covenant. Our text is *Hebrews 9:11-28*.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP begins at 6. The elders have planned a singing for the evening.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY begins at 7. Mike will continue his verse by verse study of the *Gospel of Mark*. Come be a part. □

MAY BIRTHDAYS



MAY 7, 2023

5-7	Bill Reavis	5-8	Hill Roberts
5-9	Ruth Mitchell	5-11	Gail Franklin
5-12	Betty Dubose	5-14	Sarah Starks
5-17	Megan Caudle	5-20	Becky Shaw
5-23	Terry Childress	5-23	Melvin Godette
5-24	Lynn Franklin		

Think First

Michael W. McLemore

After a meeting with the women of a local church an older sister couldn't find her keys. She quickly gave herself a personal "TSA Pat Down." No keys!

Suddenly she realized that she must have left them in the car. Frantically, she headed for the parking lot thinking about her husband's many scolding's for leaving the keys in the car's ignition -- "Someone could steal your car!" he would chide.

Reaching the parking lot, her heart sank. He was right. The parking lot was empty. She pulled out her phone and immediately called the police giving them her location, describing the car and confessing to having left the keys in the car.

Her next call was the most difficult. She called her husband. He answered, "I really can't talk, honey!" Ignoring his odd response, she just blurted it out, "I left my keys in the car and it's been stolen." A long moment of silence followed. She thought she'd been disconnected, but then heard his retort, "Are you kidding me?" he barked, "I dropped you off!"

This time she went silent. Embarrassed, all she could think to ask was, "Well, can you come and get me?"

He snapped, "I will, as soon as I convince this officer that I didn't steal your car!"

Before we become too judgmental of the hasty somewhat hapless sister we ought to reflect upon our own speedy reactions. We've all done it, acted based on less than "all the evidence," or responded rashly and often hurtfully only to realize that we had forgotten a critical piece of information.

True are James' words, "let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger," *James 1:19*. □

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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
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Evangelist

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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, May 7th

Welcome: Tommy Hill
Song Leader: David Jacks
Opening Prayer: Marty Hunt
Lord's Table Lead: Ed Dill
Hebrews 9:11-28
Sermon: Mike McLemore
A New Covenant
Closing Prayer: Searcy Hall

Sunday, May 7th

Will Starks
Mel Ambrose
Phil Furlough
Phil Shaver
Matthew 15:1-9
Mike McLemore
Respect for God's Word
W.D. Patrick

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz Mike McLemore
Songs Leader: David Jacks
Opening Prayer: Will Starks
Closing Prayer: Wes Caudle

Evening Worship

Mike McLemore
Mel Ambrose
Tommy Hill
Ron Harmon

Wednesday, May 10th

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

Wednesday, May 17th

Collis Terry
Mike McLemore
David Jacks

Quarterly Adult Classes

April – June 2023

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Powerful Prayer
Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

The Gospel of Mark
Mike McLemore

Serving in May

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

** Ed Dill (5-7), Phil Shaver (5-14),
Steve Hagewood (5-21), Tommy Hill (5-28)

Communion Prep
Building Lockup

Collis Terry

