

Weatherly Weekly

June 18, 2023

2023 Edition, Number 25

The Long Road Home

Michael W. McLemore

The road home is always the same. Sin takes every man far from God. In our own ways we have all fallen from the fellowship we once enjoyed in innocence with our Father. Our own bad decisions have left a wake of ruin behind. Littering the way is waste — wasted resources, wasted opportunity, wasted lives. Jesus’ prodigal parable, *Luke 15:11-32*, assures that far from our present life of sin, our Father waits at the other end of the road with tender heart.

His wounds were deep when His son left. In avarice and disdain the boy demanded that his life was his own and he intended to live it.

From the day he left the Father wondered constantly, the way any parent would. News of His son’s bad choices found their way home. Concern bore against His heart.

Still, He waited patiently. As parents weep for their renegade and rebellious children, the Father waited. Counting the hours since he left, He had but one desire — come home.

His thoughts were never far from His son. He watched for Him. Peering in the distance, His eyes perpetually kept vigil to see if today might perchance be the day. Day after day He waited. Bad news traveled from a far, yet still his Father waited for His lost son to “come to himself.”

Sooner rather than later was what the Father wanted. He wanted His son to come home before it was too late. The what — what he had done — was not the concern, but the when.

One day it came. His eye saw a familiar form breaking the horizon of His gaze while yet a long way off. Unhesitatingly He ran to meet him. He kissed him in spite of his filth. The words of His confession mattered not nearly as much as the heart that had compelled it. His son was home and it was cause to celebrate.

The road home is always the same. At the end is our “welcoming Father.” He is ready to forgive those who come to Him in humble repentance. He is willing if we will begin the long road home! □

Sin: A Reproach

“Righteousness exalts a nation,
but sin is a reproach to any people,” *Proverbs 14:34*.

Adapted

Cultural acceptance of behavior that is clearly contrary to God’s word is nothing new. Christians and non-Christians alike are appalled by senseless crime, mass shootings, abortion, or immorality. Proverbs 14:34 is on the tip of every tongue and the Amens are all around. But, are we among those calling for tolerance and acceptance for what might be termed “socially acceptable sin?”

Christians at Corinth were touched by culture. Theirs was a permissive society. Common societal philosophies had been allowed to distort their concept of what was sin. It was Christians that Paul asked in *1 Corinthians 6:9-10*, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.” He warned, “Do not be deceived!” Earlier in *1 Corinthians 5* Paul identified a brother who was practicing such things, but nothing was being done about it. Paul said it is unacceptable for Christians to engage in this behavior, don’t condone it!

This list of sinful practices is similar to those mentioned in other passages, *Romans 1:26-32*, *Galatians 5:19-21*. They were common problems then and they are common problems now. Adultery and fornication in the list forbids sex outside of the bonds of marriage. Homosexuality was accepted

and practiced openly. The Greco-Roman society of Paul’s day was riddled with immorality. In fact, Nero, emperor at the time Paul wrote *1 Corinthians*, was about to and did marry the boy Sporus and also later married his freedman Doryphorus according to Suetonius’, *The Twelve Caesars*. Fourteen of the first fifteen Roman emperors practiced some form of homoeroticism. Such behaviors were acceptable by cultural standards, but not to God!

Paul does on to identify many more forms of transgressions that affected God’s people in his generation. Idolatry: those who participate in the worship of false gods or those who attend the sacrificial feasts. Thieves, the covetous, and extortionists are those who are greedy of gain and do whatever (extort, swindle, and rob) it takes to achieve gain. Drunkards. Revilers: an archaic term that describes slanderers, or those who make uniformed accusations. Paul tells them that those who participate in these things cannot inherit the kingdom of God.

Sin may be socially acceptable to Culture, but it will never be acceptable to God. As Christians we have been “called out” of the dark world. Paul reminded the Corinthians, “such were some of you,” *1 Corinthians 6:11*. But, the faithful put it behind them. Sin was part of their past, not their present. “Do not be deceived” society may accept and even glorify these behaviors, but God said they are barriers to our residence in Heaven and Fellowship with God’s people in this life. He considers them a “reproach to any people.” □



FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



Family Updates

NEEDED... We need our men to check the "Building Lockup" duty list and choose a month. Please take your turn. We need to get this completed for the rest of 2023.

Prayers:

Jerry Mitchell is slowly improving. We are thankful. Jerry's latest injection helped him enough that he is able to do his physical therapy. Pray that he will soon recover completely.

Both **W.D. Patrick & Riley Monroe** are better. We are glad. W.D. was with us for Bible Study on Wednesday. Riley has been able to see and help with **Peggy's** care at Regency. We know that is good medicine for him. Prayers of thankfulness are in order.

Ciera Elledge, Will & Sarah Starks' granddaughter, had five consecutive days of radiation last week. She felt well enough to make a family trip afterward. Please continue to pray for Ciera and her family.

Elaine Dorris is slowly improving. Please say her name to the Father as you pray. She's remarkable and has the very best care for which anyone could hope. Please remember **Gordon** to the Lord, too.

Harold Smith was able to be at worship on Sunday morning. It is always awesome to see him. He overcomes so many obstacles to be present for worship. He is a great encouragement to all of us. Keep **Harold & Margaret** in your daily prayers.

Silvia Henderson's sister-in-law, **Ann Henderson**, was still hospitalized at this printing. Keep praying for her. Silvia is concerned.

Pray for **Susan Watson's** mother, **Janie**

Cheatham. She is doing well considering.

Louise Caudle remains on our prayer list as she undergoes radiation therapy.

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

Susan Woodard, Steve's wife, has been diagnosed with cancer. Pray for her.

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 & Harold Smith.**

Singing Scheduled, August 11th

Our annual singing has been scheduled for **Friday, August 11th.** Both **Tim Stevens** from Lindale, Texas and **Jim Deason** from Cullman are slated to lead. We are preparing advertisements for the event. The success of this effort will be up to our family to participate. Plan now!

This Week at Weatherly

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE class meets at 9:30. **Mike McLemore** will continue to lead our study titled "Powerful Prayer."

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP follows at 10. **Mike's** is beginning at series entitled "A Man After God's Design." Today's lesson is titled "A New Generation," from **Deuteronomy 6:4-9.**

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP begins at 6. **Mike** will lead us in a devotion. We hope you will plan to gather with us.

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

JUNE & JULY BIRTHDAYS



JUNE 18, 2023

6-23	WD Patrick	6-16	Keion Godette
6-30	Susan Hand	7-3	Lesli McCary
7-8	Brenden Ferritiz	7-10	Will Patrick
7-14	Barry Slaton		

Precious Time

Michael W. McLemore

The brevity and uncertainty of life emphasizes the importance of time. Many fill their days with too many wholly useless things, leaving no time for God and His church. The reason that many do not have time to do the work of the Lord is that they waste too much of their available time doing unessential even sinful things. Consider God's wisdom:

Lack of Application: "Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise, *Proverbs 6:6.*"

Lack of Organization: "Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men," *Proverbs 22:29.*

Lack of Circumspection: "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he," *Proverbs 23:7 KJV.*

Unholy Entertainment: "Abstain from every form of evil," *1 Thessalonians 5:22.*

Reviewing Past Mistakes: "But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus," *Ph 3:13-14.*

Worry: "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life," *Matthew 6:25.*

Sleep: "Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread," *Proverbs 20:13.*

Time is precious! Be wise with its use. God shows us how. ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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Weatherly Heights 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
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, June 18th

Welcome: **Will Starks**
Song Leader: **Hill Roberts**
Opening Prayer: **Steve Hagewood**
Lord's Table Lead: **Collis Terry**
Deuteronomy 6:4-9
Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
A New Generation
Closing Prayer: **Will Patrick**

Sunday, June 26th

Welcome: **Tommy Hill**
Song Leader: **Mel Ambrose**
Opening Prayer: **Tommy Hill**
Lord's Table Lead: **Bill Thompson**
Acts 13:22
Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
Man After God's Own Heart
Closing Prayer: **Jim Ehl**

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz **Mike McLemore**
Songs Leader: **Bill Thompson**
Opening Prayer: **Alex Thompson**
Closing Prayer: **Phil Furlough**

Evening Worship

Mike McLemore
Songs Leader: **Mel Ambrose**
Opening Prayer: **Marty Hunt**
Closing Prayer: **Bobby Wright**

Wednesday, June 21st

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

Wednesday, June 28th

Songs Leader: **Collis Terry**
Invitation: **Mike McLemore**
Closing Prayer: **Phil Shaver**

Quarterly Adult Classes April - June 2023

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
Powerful Prayer
Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY
The Gospel of Mark
Mike McLemore

Serving in June

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

** **Marty Hunt (6-4), Phil Furlough (6-11), Collis Terry (6-18), Bill Thompson (6-25)**

Communion Prep
Building Lockup

Will Starks

