

Weatherly Weekly

May 19, 2019

2019 Edition, Number 20

Defeating Apathy

Michael W. McLemore

The message of the little Old Testament book of Haggai is cloaked in words spoken over 2300 years ago. Delving beneath the historical context of the words we can cultivate the courage to overcome adversity and defeat apathy toward God's work in the modern age.

When the captives returned from Babylonian Captivity under Zerubbabel, they immediately began working, laying the foundation of the temple, but the work stalled, *Haggai 1:2*. The people became distracted. Zeal and enthusiasm for God's work waned. It laid untouched for fourteen years. God sent His prophet Haggai rebuking the people, "Consider your ways!" *1:5*.

Why are we prone to distraction from God's priorities? Sometimes it's because people don't have a vested interest – "I'm unqualified, thus excused from participation." Others don't want to impede their lifestyle – "I have to feed my family and put a roof over their head. With all that I have no time left." Some view personal priorities as God's priorities – "We really don't gain much from that sort of work, but

have other interests that we value." We tend to stumble under pressure from opposition – "I'm no longer interested because my work isn't valued." At the end of the day most feel like others will get the work done, failing to realize that "everybody's business is nobody's business"!

How do we fend off this tendency to apathy? Haggai leaves God's people with three lessons. First, **recognize misplaced priorities**, "These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord," *1:2-4*. Second, **realize that God removes blessing**, "Consider your ways. You have sown much, and harvested little..." *1:5-6*. Third, **respond correction with obedience**, "Then... all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the Lord their God..." *1:12*.

Is there an area of neglect in your life that is in need of correction? Don't wait. Don't resign yourself to being mere a master mediocrity. Begin to move in faith, anticipate His renewed favor and presence in your service — "I am with you, declares the LORD," *1:13*. □



Watch LIVE

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Confusion and Transgression



Sewell Hall

Have you ever heard anyone say, as an explanation for some sinful action, "I have become so confused I don't know what is right anymore"? As a rule, the person who says such a thing is one who has had clear convictions but has acted, or is about to act, contrary to them. This must be what the Holy Spirit was saying about Eve in 1 Timothy 2:14. "Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression."

To say that she was deceived is not to say that she was ignorant. She quoted perfectly what God had said: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die'" (Genesis 3:2-3). She was deceived when she thought there could be any valid reason for disobeying God.

There is no evidence of confusion regarding the right and wrong of eating or the wisdom of abstaining. They were happy ignoring it. But along came Satan to draw Eve's attention to the tree she had been avoiding. He drew her attention to the beauty of the fruit and somehow convinced her, perhaps by eating of it himself, that it was good for food. If he did eat of it, the fact that he did not die surely gave support to his contention that she would not die. One can see the confusion mounting. The arguments she had considered conclusive against eating were rapidly being matched by arguments for doing so. Which arguments were valid? Both seemed to be.

Had Adam been nearby, or had God spoken again, she might have been reminded once more of the strong reasons for rejecting the fruit. But as it was, the voice of God grew weaker in her memory as the desirability of the fruit was magnified by Satan's glib lies. All that was needed to tip the balance was the final suggestion of an apparent virtue in eating—the thought that she would become like God. Never mind the legalistic prohibition; surely one could not be blamed for wanting to be like God.

"She took of the fruit and ate" (Genesis 3:6). Tragic words! Tragic consequences! Consequences reaching down through countless generations even to us! The great mistake of Eve was in allowing herself even to begin thinking about disobedience. This was the mistake of Achan when he first saw the Babylonian garment (Joshua 7:21), of David when he first saw his beautiful neighbor bathing (2 Samuel 11:2) and of Judas when he first thought of betraying Jesus. It is the same mistake each of us makes—men and women alike—whenever we sin.

The Bible says as much: "Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death" (James 1:14-15).

But all too often, in the name of open mindedness and objectivity, we feel we are obligated to look at the other side, to consider the "arguments in favor of" sin. We may even be so

foolish as to parrot the existential line: "I must get away to myself and sort things out." If this means getting away for Bible study, meditation and prayer, fine! But this is seldom what it means. As a rule, what it means is: "I want to be left alone to rationalize my way through the sin that entices me without having to reason with those who would logically or scripturally expose my folly."

Such conflict between conscience and passion, between logic and emotion, between authority and anarchy, between flesh and spirit will indeed produce confusion—confusion bordering on insanity. But it is a confusion for which we are responsible. It is the peculiar malady of "those who perish because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved" and who "did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thessalonians 2:10,12). It is never surprising when such a person, "being deceived," falls into transgression. In Jesus' day, "there was a division among the people because of Him" (John 7:43). They were confused by the contradictions between His claims and the accusations of their rulers. Jesus stated clearly who would not be confused: "If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak of My own authority" (John 7:17).

Wanting to do God's will saves us from the confusion, deception and transgression into which our mother fell. □

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Edith Turner was involved in a minor incident in her car last week. It was a parking lot accident but has left her with a broken right ankle. She is in a boot for the next few weeks. Prayers for her are appreciated.

Sharon Dubose underwent surgery last week. All went well. She has already begun limited rehab, but it will take some time before she is able to do anything significant. Her range of motion is already good, which is a head start on recovery.

Wanda Castleman is missed in our assemblies. She is a very important part of our Weatherly family. It is difficult to see her going through this challenge. Keep her in the forefront of your prayers please.

Betty Reavis is awaiting the results of her most recent PET Scan. Prayers for a good result are appreciated.

Debbie Harbin was able to be with us on Sunday. We were really glad to see her. They are still working to get her tests completed.

Please continue to pray for the mother of **Jenny Jacks**. She fell at home leaving her with broken ribs. Your prayers are solicited.

Evening Services

For the time being our evening services will remain at 5 p.m. on Sunday. The elders are in the process of making a final decision on the matter. If you would like them to consider 6 as an alternative, be sure to put your reasoning in writing so it can properly be con-

sidered. Thanks for your understanding in the mean time.

Daily Prayer List:

Please remember these in your daily petitions to the Father:

Barbara Woodard	Melonie Power
Melvin Godette	Glenda Cavender
Ken Cavender	Jeff Harbin
Aladean Jacks	Marty Haselden

Adult Class Today:

Tommy & Becky Hill are away today. **Mike McLemore** will fill in for Tommy in the auditorium class this morning.

Notes of Sadness:

Many of you have come to know, **Megan Caudle's** parents, **Gail & Lynn Franklin**, from Cookeville, Tn. We learned that Gail's sister, **Carleen Flatt**, passed away on Friday. She was 84 and had been ill for sometime. **The Caudles** are in Cookeville today with their family. Please pray for the Franklins & Flatts.

Shelia Hagewood's aunt, Eva Siress, passed away on Tuesday in Benton, Kentucky. Funeral services are being held today in Benton. Prayers for the family are appreciated. ☐

Group Three Meeting

Group Three, led by **Murray Castleman**, is scheduled to meet after worship tonight. We will dismiss you early from the assembly. Plan to attend.

MAY & JUNE BIRTHDAYS



5-23	Terry Childress	5-23	Melvin Godette
5-26	Addison Ivey	5-28	Terry Barnett
5-31	Petra Carter	6-1	Elaine Dorris
6-1	June Furlough	6-4	Ellie Pellegrini
6-7	Shelia Hagewood	6-12	Erin Riggs
6-13	Adam Hagewood		

MAY 19, 2019

Attention to Detail

Michael W. McLemore

Everything we do, or fail to do, can end up snowballing into completely unexpected consequences. I once read of a decision to remove the timber wolves from a park. That action ended up killing all of the trees. How did one action lead to such an unexpected conclusion?

The park ranger said, "We removed the wolves that controlled the deer. The deer population exploded and they soon ate all there was to eat. They began to eat the bark off of the trees which not only killed the trees directly, but allowed the proliferation of a disease which killed even the trees the deer didn't eat!"

Everything we do, or fail to do, has a consequence. That is why those who follow Christ must give close attention to detail in the matter of the conduct and influence. Wasn't it so with Jesus? He was as concerned with the large and important as he was with the struggling individual. Surrounded by thousands of people he often stopped to address the concerns of individuals: one leper, one blind man or one ailing woman.

In the flesh, Jesus was able to give us insight into the Father's attention detail. He said, "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered" (Matthew 10:29-30, ESV). We serve a God who tends to the details. It is imperative that we imitate our Master and do our best to give attention to detail. ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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Weatherly Heights
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:00 am
Sunday AM Assembly	10:00 am
Sunday PM Assembly	5:00 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

Louis Garrett	256 883-7785
Tommy Hill	256 883-0010
Will Starks	256 883-5273
Forest Summers	256 348-2251

Evangelist

Michael W. McLemore 256 698-5941
Email: mmclmore@weatherlychurch.com

Weatherly's Deacons

Phil Furlough	Steve Hagewood
Ron Harmon	Kirk Hatcher
David Jacks	Ben Little
Hill Roberts	Collis Terry
Bobby Wright	

Weatherly at Work

These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, May 19

Welcome: **Forest Summers**
Song Leader: **David Jacks**
Opening Prayer: **Collis Terry**
Scripture Reading: **Searcy Hall**
Ephesians 2:11-22
Sermon: **Michael McLemore**
"No Hope Without God"
Closing Prayer: **W.D. Patrick**

Sunday, May 26

Welcome: **Forest Summers**
Song Leader: **Jared Jimison**
Opening Prayer: **Steve Hagewood**
Scripture Reading: **Kirk Hatcher**
Colossians 1:15-23
Sermon: **Michael McLemore**
"One in Christ"
Closing Prayer: **Marty Hunt**

Evening Worship

Bible Skills: **Hill Roberts**
Songs Leader: **David Jacks**
Opening Prayer: **Forest Summers**
Closing Prayer: **Kirk Hatcher**

Evening Worship

Jared Jimison
Singing
Ed Dill
Gene Preston

Wednesday, May 22

Songs Leader: **Terry Childress**
Invitation: **Mike McLemore**
Closing Prayer: **Bobby Wright**

Wednesday, May 29

Collis Terry
Mike McLemore
Riley Monroe

Group 3

2019 Weatherly Singing
August 9th

Tim Stevens, John Kilgore
& Jack Bradford

Group 4

Quarterly Adult Classes
April – June 2019

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Living Responsibly
Tommy Hill

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

Lessons from Isaiah
Mike McLemore

Serving in May

Serving on the Lord's Table AM	Wes Caudle	Marty Hunt
** Overseer	Ken Cavender	Phil Shaver
	Jimmy Harbin	Ryan Patrick
	Phil Furlough **	Will Patrick

Lord's Supper PM	Will Starks **	John Stokes
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Communion Prep	June Furlough & Diane Dill
Building Lockup	Phil Furlough

