

Weatherly Weekly

August 4, 2019

2019 Edition, Number 31

An Approved Workman

Michael W. McLemore

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed,” *2 Timothy 2:15*. The apostles’ charge invites the natural question, “What are the characteristics of an “approved workman”? The immediate context suggests three.

RIGHTLY HANDLING THE WORD OF TRUTH

An approved workman is a teacher who cuts a straight path with the truth. Paul instructed Timothy to put Christians in mind to “avoid disputing about words,” *14*; to “shun godless chatter,” *16*; and to “avoid senseless (foolish) controversy,” *23*. Careful study of the word of God prepares one to pattern his or her life after the Lord. It brings God’s people ever closer together. Paul said study that which profits and avoid and shun impediments to harmony.

DO NOT WANDER AWAY FROM THE TRUTH

“Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity,” *19*. The ap-

proved workman is a teacher who does not wander away from the truth, but lives a pure life. Vessels of honor are “cleansed of what is dishonorable,” and are by that cleansing “set apart as holy” for honorable use by the Master, *20-21*. An approved workman is not only “ready for every good work,” *21*, but also willing to “flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace,” *22*. He’s cleansed and pure.

LEADS PEOPLE BACK TO THE TRUTH

The Lord’s approved servant does not quarrel, but is kind without prejudice. He is willing to patiently endure evil and gentle when correction is in order, *23*.

We represent God to mankind. We are responsible to teach, not for the hearer’s response. We are His hands. Prepare your heart and be ready. God’s desire is to save, and we live as His approved workmen to that end. □

Care is not a material property or a material thing that we can touch. It is not composed of material stuff. It cannot be quantified, touched, weighed, or tested in a science lab. Nothing in brute materialism accounts for or explains the concept of “caring.” Of course, we can say the same for many other non-material concepts: love, joy, peace, anger, justice, jealousy, kindness, mercy, intelligence, etc. Most of what humans consider important are non-material concepts.

Why do we care about anything at all?

What explains this interesting, non-material feeling that we ought to care about anything, and why does that matter at all?

Have you ever had someone tell you, “I really don’t care what you think,” then continue to argue with you in order to 1) explain why you are wrong, and 2) try to get you to change your position? That person cares about their own position, and they care about what you are saying, even in their denial. When we don’t really care about something, we move on without giving it the time of day.

The point, though, is that the fact that people care about anything demonstrates the empty nature of materialism as having explanatory value about what matters most to us. We don’t care about people and things as a result of being products of mindless, purposeless, chance processes that accidentally arose from raw material, which in turn came from nothing. We care because we reflect the image of a Creator who cares. This is not “material stuff,” but “mind stuff.” Raw material does not account for it.

If we really don’t care about anything, then we know there is something wrong, and the effects of sin have been hardened over a calloused heart. If that is the case, then we might as well have been products of brute materialism because we certainly aren’t acting like honorable human beings.

Not only do we care, we also believe that others ought to care about particular ideas and situations. We tell people that they should care. But why? With God, concepts expressing should and ought are rooted in ultimate intelligence and reason, expressing concerns that are universal and necessary. Without God, concepts like should and ought are arbitrary matters of personal preference with no universal standards and no ultimate reason why such care is needed or even why it would be part of our material being.

People often judge others on the basis of what they care about. If we act like we do not care about something considered important to others (e.g., human rights), then we are judged to be immoral and evil. But why? This can only make sense if there is an universal moral standard by which to judge and make moral decisions. With this, a case may rightly be made that all people ought to care about particular issues. Otherwise, judging people

for not caring when there is no universal standard and no final reference point for moral matters means that we are just using

our own opinions and preferences to say that others are wrong. If we are mere products of mindless, purposeless, accidental, chance processes, then there is ultimately no reason why anyone should care about anything at all and we are hypocritical for demanding that others care just because we have a preference.

The question, then, is this: which worldview makes sense of the moral ought that is associated with the responsibility to care about anything? Even responsibility is not a material product and so rests upon a greater moral foundation. Other than saying, “that’s just the way it is” (which is not an answer), how can a worldview absent God or any final, universal standard explain what is a non-material, moral ought? In the end, caring or not caring would make no difference. Caring would be no more meaningful than not caring.

Yet, we care. We care deeply about what we consider to be the most important matters of life. We care about being on the right side of significant issues. We care about the fact that others are wrong, that they disagree with us, or that we might possibly be wrong about something. We care at an emotional level. We have feelings of compassion, pity, and love. Do we really think that all of this is just material, chemical processes messing with our minds (and what in the world would a mind be)? Has material stuff deluded us into thinking that some things really matter and that we ought to care about them? Does this make any sense? (And what is sense? On we can go.)

We believe that God is the answer. We are made in God’s image, and we care about important matters because we are made in the likeness of a caring God. To be human is to care, and to care is to reflect the divine ... “because He cares for you” *1 Peter 5:5*. □

Why Do We Care?

Doy Moyer



Watch LIVE

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Jim Risner underwent tests last week to evaluate his Afib. A simple adjustment of medication should address the issue.

Remember **Debbie Harbin** in prayer. Her surgery is slated for August 19th.

Evelyn Hall is continuing her recovery from her recent knee dislocation. She is in a brace for the time being. Pray for her.

Continue to pray for **Melanie Power**. We are so thankful that she is able to be with us at worship.

Betty Reavis remains on our prayer list as she undergoes periodic treatment. Pray for the restoration of her health.

Friday Night Singing:

Friday evening is our annual singing. We look forward to this all year. If we will each attend, our meeting house will be filled and overflowing. You'll be encouraged! ☑

Summer Study Series

Tonight is our final week, #7, of our Summer edition of Sunday Night Study Series. We've had a great series. Thank you to all who have participated. Let's make tonight the best!

Tonight we will be studying "Promised Land: A Nation Makes a Kingdom a Home."



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



AUGUST 4, 2019

8-6	Forest Summers	8-10	Natalie Frazier
8-11	Phyllis Harmon	8-14	Anna Holland
8-19	Peggy Childress	8-23	Janice Schrimsher
8-24	Mike Coward	8-24	Lucas Hatcher
8-24	Marty Hunt	8-25	Ron Harmon
8-25	Ben Little	8-26	Kirk Hatcher
8-28	Adelaide Hatcher		

Weatherly Heights

2019 FRIDAY NIGHT SINGING

Tim Stevens, John Kilgore
Lane Alexander

AUGUST 9
7 PM

Daily Prayer List:

Barbara Woodard	Melvin Godette
Glenda Cavender	Ken Cavender
Pam (West) Davis	Laura Phillips
Brenda Dorris	Melonie Power
Marty (Roberts) Haselden	

Thanks in Order

"I am indebted to all of those who stepped in while I was preaching in Mississippi this past week. We are grateful to **Gary Patton** for his splendid work. **Louis Garrett, Ben Little, Phil Shaver & Jared Jimison** all did a great job. Thank you, one and all!" *Mike M.* ☑

Group One Meeting

Group One, led by **W.D. Patrick**, will meet tonight immediately after evening worship. Please make plans to be present.

Rooted in Deep

Michael W. McLemore

A plant with shallow roots will wither. Oh, it may flourish temporarily, even initially flowering with radiance, but when the heat of the day, or strong winds drive against it, the plant will wilt and may even die. The Lord assured the same is true of those who receive the word but don't put down roots deep into a good heart.

"And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture," Luke 8:6. Jesus further explained, "they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away," 8:13. Roots provide stability in stress; and access deeper nutrients, promoting a stronger trunk. Roots prevent dryness when water (encouragement) is sparse, promoting vitality. Roots also support immunity to disease.

Paul prayed that the Lord would grant the Ephesians to be strengthened with power, "rooted and established, through the Spirit" in their inner man. Many cling in pride to their past, obstinately refusing to be instructed. The unwillingness to learn and grow is a choice to not be rooted in deep. But, its not too late.

Admit your weakness, that your roots are shallow. Open the book; sink your faith deep in Christ. Invest the time and energy necessary to take hold of Christ's nourishment, clearing away the rocks and every impediment to growing faith. Finally, start now!

Storms and trials are coming. The only way to survive the assault is to be rooted in deep. ☑

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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

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, August 4

Welcome: **Forest Summers**
Song Leader: **Charles Hill**
Opening Prayer: **Bill Thompson**
Scripture Reading: **Jeremy Leshko**
Matthew 4:12-22
Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
Fishers of Men
Closing Prayer: **Charley Skinner**

Sunday, August 11

Welcome: **Forest Summers**
Song Leader: **Hill Roberts**
Opening Prayer: **Ben Little**
Scripture Reading: **Phillip Dill**
Psalm 103:8-18
Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
The Mercy of the Lord
Closing Prayer: **Marty Hunt**

Evening Worship

Summer Series **Mike McLemore**
Songs Leader: **Charles Hill**
Opening Prayer: **Phil Furlough**
Closing Prayer: **Terry Childress**

Evening Worship

Mike McLemore
Songs Leader: **Hill Roberts**
Opening Prayer: **Collis Terry**
Closing Prayer: **Bobby Wright**

Wednesday, August 7

Songs Leader: **Phil Furlough**
Invitation: **Mike McLemore**
Closing Prayer: **Gene Preston**

Wednesday, August 14

Songs Leader: **Collis Terry**
Invitation: **Mike McLemore**
Closing Prayer: **Riley Monroe**

Group 1

2019 Weatherly Singing
August 9th

**Tim Stevens, John Kilgore
& Lane Alexander**

Group 2

Quarterly Adult Classes
July – September 2019

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

More Lessons from Isaiah

Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

Philippians: "God Blessed Me With You"

Mike McLemore

Serving in August

Serving on the Lord's Table AM	Riley Monroe	Marty Hunt
** Overseer	Jeremy Leshko	Phil Shaver
	Jimmy Harbin	Wes Caudle
	Will Starks **	Jim Risner

Lord's Supper PM	Ron Harmon **	John Stokes
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Communion Prep Building Lockup	Gwyn McLemore & Amanda Jimison	Kirk Hatcher
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