Neweletter of the Weatherly Heights Church of Christ

| Character | Character

"Go to Him..."

Michael W. McLemore

"THEREFORE LET US GO TO HIM OUTSIDE THE CAMP AND BEAR THE REPROACH HE ENDURED. FOR HERE WE HAVE NO LASTING CITY, BUT WE SEEK THE CITY THAT IS TO COME. THROUGH HIM THEN LET US CONTINUALLY OFFER UP A SACRIFICE OF PRAISE TO GOD, THAT IS, THE FRUIT OF LIPS THAT ACKNOWLEDGE HIS NAME. DO NOT NEGLECT TO DO GOOD AND TO SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE, FOR SUCH SACRIFICES ARE PLEASING TO GOD," Heb 13:13-16.

The final chapter of Hebrews makes a mighty appeal to comradery with Jesus. The natural question that occurs from the invitation to join Jesus outside the camp is, "What reproach did Jesus endure?" The answer: Death! Are we really called to die with our Savior? Yes, we are!

This summons is properly connected to seven decrees that begin the chapter, 13:1-9. We are called to join Jesus in His death — to die to the former life driven by human passion. Love your brother, don't hate him. Love strangers, don't ignore them. Love your spouse alone and no other. Don't love money; be content with

what God provides. Follow the leaders God

endorses, not the world's seducers. Trust the Lord's word, not the untaught and misinformed.

The Holy Spirit leaves readers a goldmine of motivation to lift them up and move them to serve Jesus in a profound way. He reigns supreme, and His unwavering, unchangeable nature and message are to be loved, trusted and praised. "Go out to Him. Die there with Him." This life offers nothing lasting, "For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come," 14. He calls upon the Christian to be motivated by the Abraham mentality, 11:10. Like Abraham of old, we are called to pursue Heaven with singular focus and perseverance.

Hebrews begs God's people, "Don't go back!" Positively it urges us to go forward in league with Jesus, "continually," constantly and always, offering praise to God for all He has done and has promised to do in Jesus. Negatively, the writer pleads "do not neglect"—act as though you don't care—doing good and sharing your abundant blessings. "Go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured."

HOW CAN WE KNOW?

Adapted

The Bible is a marvelous body of knowledge. It is, literally, the word of God. Thus, through its message we gain some understanding of the mind of God and of His Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible provides us with abundant instruction as to how to live our lives in a godly manner. Those instructions are both positive and negative. Some of them teach us how to act, what to do. Others instruct us as to what not to do, what to abstain from. The Bible even gives us insight as to how to view someone who claims to be a teacher of God's word.

First, we need to understand that God holds each of us personally responsible for knowing His word thoroughly enough to know what He expects of us in our daily lives. "...always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear," 1 Peter 3:15. God gave us His word to guide and equip us to live according to His will, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, and He expects us to know His word well enough to be able to do that. If someone should lead us astray through false teaching, shame on them for teaching us falsely. But shame on us also for believing false teaching when we should know the truth.

What should our attitude be toward someone who claims to be a spiritual teacher? What about someone who claims to be a worker of miracles? John is direct is his admonition to be careful as to what we believe: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world," *1 John 4:1*. What is the test we are to run to check the truthfulness of one claiming to be a spiritual teacher?

The Bible lays out its own test of a prophet:

"When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him," *Deuteronomy 18:22*. If someone, supposedly speaking prophetically, predicts that something will happen, but it does not happen, then that prophecy did not come from God.

If somebody teaches something that clearly contradicts God's word, even if that person supposedly performs some miracle in connection with their teaching, their teaching is to be rejected, *Deuteronomy 13:1-15*. Teaching from God will not contradict God's word already revealed to us in the Bible. Paul warned that even if an angel from Heaven were to preach a different gospel than that which has already been revealed to us in scripture, "let him be accursed," *Galatians 1:8*.

How can we know what is right, who is right? The Bible is God's word; its teachings are right. We are to believe, go by, live by God's word. We will not go wrong by so doing.

This brings us to the beginning. In order to be able to distinguish between genuine truth, and error that may be taught as though it were God's word. we are going to have to have a reasonably good working knowledge of the scriptures. There is no way to get around our need to know the teachings of the Bible. And, there is no way to learn those teachings without, by one means or another, studying God's word, 2 Timothy 2:15.

How can we know? God's word has the answer. Study the Bible, and you can know. □



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OCTOBER 6, 2019

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members

FAMILY UPDATES

Pravers:

Barbara Woodard is home following a procedure to improve blood flow to her lower left leg. Her doctor assures the family that the circulation will be dramatically better, thus helping to heal the wound on her heel. Please say her name this week as you pray. She has several appointments in the coming week to evaluate other issues of concern.

Bobby Ferguson is not feeling well in recent weeks. He can hardly get around. He went to Tammy & Scott Woodard's for a few days. **Todd** arrived from California a few days ago and is here with him this week. Pray that Bobby will improve.

Betty Reavis continues the radiation regime. Please continue to say her name to the Lord daily. We are trusting Him to see Betty through this arduous ordeal and to heal her body. Pray for both Betty & Bill.

Debbie Harbin has graduated from rehab but is still dealing with nagging leg pain. Your prayers for her are requested and greatly appreciated.

Edith Turner is fighting infection again. The recurrence and new antibiotics resulted in an adverse reaction, thus prolonging treatment. Pray that the new medication will be effective and that she will soon be well enough to rejoin us for worship. She is missed in our assembly!

Guy McDaniel is home doing much better. We are thankful for our Lord's watchful care of our brother.

Laura Phillips, Jenny Jacks' mom, has returned to The Cottages and is under the care of home health. The family hopes the improvement in surroundings will help sister Philips to regain a measure of strength and get her moving again. Pray for her and for the family as they faithfully attend to her. \Box

Daily Prayer List:

Barbara Woodard Glenda Cavender Marty Haselden

Melvin Godette Pam (West) Davis **Travis Barnett**

Fall Study Series, October 13th

One week from today, Sunday, October 13th at 5:00 p.m. the fall edition of Sunday Night Study Series begins. Our theme this year is God Works Through His People: "I Want to Be a Worker." Each Sunday evening we will observe lessons on purpose, passion, persistence, purity, prayer, and praise! Nehemiah is an extremely profitable and germane example for how God's people live in any generation.

Our hope is that every member of our Weatherly family will participate heartily in these evening assemblies. In the end it will make us better. \Box

THANKS IN ORDER: We were blessed to have Tadd Corder and family with us last Lord's Day evening. We appreciate the report on his good work in south central Africa.

Group One Meeting

Group One, led by W.D. Patrick, will meet immediately following evening worship in the large back class room. Please plan to attend your meeting tonight.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



Henry Frazier 10-6 10-10 Karen Thompson Caryl Ehl 10-11 10-14 Janeth Hagewood Don Roberts 10-20 10-24 Amanda Jimison Jimmy Harbin 10-26 **Dwight Ivey** 10-27 10-29 **Charlotte Hagewood**

A Calf of Our Own

Michael W. McLemore

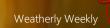
The evils of idolatry are not relegated to the annals of Old Testament history. They are alive and well in this modern age. Man must have an object of worship. When he forgets God, he replaces Him with something of his own creation. Israel asked for a Golden Calf in Genesis 32, but do we have a calf of our own?

Idolatry constitutes the assumption of arrogant license and constitutes a violation of our vow with God. It degrades all it touches, and robs God of the glory that belongs exclusively to Him.

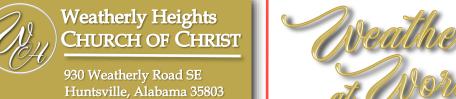
We assault the faltering Israelites in the "Golden Calf," but are we exempt from judgement? Can you see yourself in Genesis 32?

We want God on our time table, 1. We can find a leader who will comply, 2. We will sacrifice for what suits us, 3. We can remake God after our image, 4. We will worship when we please, 5. We can make worship what we please, 6-7. Idolatry begins when we forget, 8, progresses because of arrogance, 9, and always ends in ruin, 10.

Our faithful commitment means patiently waiting on God. It demands respect for His authority. It will always cost something. And, remember, commitment "runs counter" to carnal craving. We have God, we don't need a calf of our own.







Sermon:

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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:



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: mmclemore@weatherlychurch.com

Weatherly's Deacons

Steve Hagewood

Kirk Hatcher

Ben Little

Collis Terry

Phil Furlough Ron Harmon **David Jacks** Hill Roberts **Bobby Wright**

These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, October 13

1 John 4:1-6

Sunday, October 6

Welcome: Will Starks Will Starks **Charles Hill** Hill Roberts Song Leader: **Opening Prayer: Forest Summers Marty Hunt** Scripture Reading: Searcy Hall Philip Dill

2 Corinthians 4:1-10

Mike McLemore Mike McLemore The Spirit of the Age **Testing the Spirits**

Closing Prayer: Nick Holland Charley Skinner

Evening Worship Evening Worship

Bible Skillz Mike McLemore **Sunday Night Study Series**

Songs Leader: Charles Hill Hill Roberts **Opening Prayer:** Ed Dill Collis Terry **Closing Prayer:** Jim Risner Kirk Hatcher

Wednesday, October 9

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

Group 1

2020 Weatherly Lectures

April 30th—May 3rd

Ouarterly Adult Classes October — December 2019

Group 2

Wednesday, October 16

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY

The Gospel According to John Mike McLemore

Serving in October

Bill Thompson Serving on the Lord's **Charley Skinner Bobby Wright** Table AM **Ron Holland** ** Overseer Jim Ehl Clark Boles Ron Harmon ** Will Patrick Ed Dill ** Lord's Supper PM Phil Shaver

Peggy & Mike Coward **Communion Prep Building Lockup** Murray Castleman

