

Weatherly Weekly

December 22, 2019

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Testimony & Good News

Michael W. McLemore

The word *testimony* is widely misused in the religious world. The New Testament use of the word *martyrion*, often translated witness, refers to the direct testimony of an eye witness, cf. *Acts 4:33*. Most commonly re-telling one's conversion story or talking about God's work in their life is called "giving my testimony." In Acts 4, the apostles were doing neither of those things. They were describing first hand their eye-witness to the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb.

The word *witness* is also commonly misused. Note, the English translation of these two terms – testimony & witness – spring from the same word, *martyrion*. Many use to the word to describe the action of telling others about the Lord. A more proper expression in keeping with New Testament use would be *evangelism*, from the Greek verb *euaggelizō*, to bring glad tidings or good news, *Luke 2:10*. To teach another about Jesus is to "do the work of an evangelist," *2 Timothy 4:5*.

These are important distinctions. Christians must prepare ourselves to meet unbelievers at the point of their own spiritual standing, not just tell our story. Philip, the evangelist, demonstrates this incorporation of "the good news" with the direct testimony of God's witness, *Acts 8:26-39*.

Philip by divine arrangement encountered a foreign Jewish convert who was attempting to reconcile the Prophet Isaiah's chapter 53 with recent disinformation. He was confused about what Isaiah meant. Philip asked a simple question, "Do you understand what you are reading?" *Acts 8:30*. Philip understood the Ethiopian's difficulty. That one question led the man to ask for help. "Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus," *Acts 8:35*. Philip began with the God's inspired testimony and *euaggelizō*, told him the good news about Jesus. God's evangelists wisely relied on the text at hand and the power of God's Word to meet every need. □



Gift Giving

By Bubba Garner



"TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING. My family and I have always celebrated this time of year as a family holiday, not a religious holy day. I enjoy the decorations, the weather, and the music of this season. But I especially enjoy the gifts.

Somewhere along the way, probably about the time my children were born, I started to learn why it is more blessed to give than to receive. There is something special about watching someone open a gift that you carefully picked out for them. And there's an even greater joy of hearing those three cherished words from the recipient: "Is that all?"

It's easy during this season to become so focused on what we are giving to others that we neglect giving to the Lord. When we do that, we rob ourselves of one of the greatest joys of life. This giving is for every season.

Both Mark and Luke record an event in the life of Jesus that would have been easy to overlook. It is only four verses in each gospel account, but Mark says that Jesus called His disciples to Him to point out what He saw. It involved "a poor widow" (Mark 12:42) and her gift that she put into the treasury. Through her mighty example, she still speaks about the joy of giving to the Lord.

Giving is not just about the amount of money. Money is involved of course because money is a gift from God. He blesses us with jobs so that we can earn wages to support our families and provide the necessities of life. These funds also enable us to "have something to share with him who has need" (Eph. 4:28). When we return a portion of our money to the Lord, we are recognizing that "every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17).

But what if you don't have a lot of money to give? Does that exclude you from this great joy? God forbid! Jesus saw "many rich people" putting in "large sums" of money into the treasury. He did not condemn them for doing such. But He also saw a poor widow put in "two small copper coins, which amount to a cent" (Mark 12:42). This coin, the Greek leptos, was the smallest denomination of money used by the Romans. Yet, Jesus said "she put in

more than all the contributors" (12:43). It is not necessarily the monetary value of your gift that matters to God but the measure of your faith in Him.

Giving is something everyone can do. In Jesus' day, to be a widow was to be neglected. Just the verse before, the Lord warned about the scribes "who devour widows' houses" (Mark 12:40). Most of them had no one to protect them or to represent them in court. And if you think being a widow was bad, what about a poor widow? What could she possibly have to offer? Still, Jesus said that she gave "out of her poverty" (Mark 12:44).

From the youngest to the oldest, from the newborn babe in Christ to the seasoned saint, everyone has something to give. You can give a handshake or hug. You can give an encouraging word. You can give a smile. You can give a warm welcome. You can give your time. You can give a lot. And when we do such things for one another, Jesus said, "to the extent you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me" (Mt. 25:40). Giving to your brethren is giving to the Lord.

Giving involves the greatest gift of all: yourself. Jesus saw a difference in the rich people who were putting in large sums of money and the poor widow who put in two small copper coins. She "put in all she owned, all she had to live on" (Mark 12:44). The selfish keep what they have from themselves. The selfless give for a higher purpose.

When we needed God the most, do you know what He gave? Himself. He so loved the world that He "gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16). The Father did not withhold Him who was beloved and precious to Him. When we give to the Lord, we should not choose out of a pile of things we were going to get rid of anyway. We should not select from a surplus that we didn't need in the first place. We should give the most valuable thing we possess: our whole heart and soul. Such is the response of those who first give "themselves to the Lord" (2 Cor. 8:5).

Give to God what He wants most. It's the only time you won't have to worry with a gift receipt. □

Watch
LIVE

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Jim Ehl suffered a stroke recently. In his words "it has left him unsteady." He expects to fully recover, but it will take a bit of time. In the meantime, we are expressing our prayers of thankfulness that it wasn't worse and asking our Lord to watch over his recovery.

Ron Harmon was transferred back to Huntsville Hospital on Friday. He required several units of blood due to a ruptured vessel in his urinary tract. His heart is doing well. To date he has had 5 units of blood. They believe that they now have that problem solved. Ron is very weak and remains in ICU. Pray for **Ron, Phyllis** and their entire family.

June Furlough's eye surgery went well. She anticipates having the other eye repaired soon. We've also been asked to pray for her sister, **Shirley Davis**, who had shoulder surgery last Thursday.

Steven Guice and mom, **Julie**, will be returning to MD Anderson January 21st. Steve is anticipating surgery to remove the other tumors which have been deemed unresponsive to chemo. In the meantime Steve has resumed his normal work schedule. Prayers for **Steven!**

Glenda Cavender remains on our daily prayer list. Ask the Lord for her strength and improvement.

Betty Reavis continues to undergo treatment for her cancer. Say her name daily.

Melvin Godette also remains in our daily prayers. Ask the Lord to watch over him, to relieve his discomfort and to hasten further surgery to give him relief. ☐

Daily Prayer List:

Glenda Cavender	Melvin Godette
Marty Haselden	Betty Reavis
Debbie Harbin	Sarah Jernigan
Barbara Jean Woodard	Dot Summers
Laura Phillips	

Brenda Dorris is Laid to Rest

Gordon Dorris' youngest sibling, **Ms. Brenda Dorris**, of Franklin, Kentucky, passed away Wednesday morning. She was 69. Funeral services were held in Franklin at 2 pm yesterday. Brenda was laid to rest in Greenlawn Cemetery. A native of Simpson County, she was the daughter of the late Mack Dorris and Ica M. Ferrell Dorris. She was a school teacher, finance company worker and factory worker. She was a graduate from Western Kentucky University. Survivors include two brothers, Gordon Dorris of Huntsville and Tommy Dorris of Lebanon, Indiana. ☐

Bible Skills

As promised we will resume Bible Skills this after at 5 pm. We apologize for the temporary interruption but we will get back to our normal schedule in spite of the season. We hope our families will be with us. We will begin promptly at 5 p.m.

Group Four Meets Tonight

Group Four, led by **Ron Harmon**, will meet immediately following evening class in the back classroom. **Tommy** will led the meeting.

DECEMBER & JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



12-23	Charles Hill	12-25	Betty Reavis
12-26	Phil Furlough	12-27	Searcy Hall
12-29	Peggy Coward	12-29	Gene Preston
1-1	Sharon Dubose	1-3	Laura McKnight
1-4	Isabella Hatcher	1-6	Keria Godette
1-7	Bobby Wright	1-8	Charley Skinner

"It's Not About Me!"

Michael W. McLemore

"It's not about me!" is a hard lesson. The reason behind motives, wants, perceived needs and my course of life is governed by the humble realization that I serve a risen Savior. This right is not earned. I brought nothing of value before God. The Jews proved it impossible. The Gentiles showed it could not be done as a law to themselves, *Romans 2*. Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:9 that God "has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus."

We serve the Lord through the blessing of the grace of God. When it enters the mind of men to forget this grace, lost is the blessing. All that we are and all that we can become will only be found in the knowledge that our purpose in life is a single thought: the privilege to serve the Lord.

When my life ends and I am ushered before the great and holy presence of God, these words will ring in my heart throughout the eternal ages: "Well done, good and faithful servant. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your Lord." *Matthew 25:23*. Praise God for His revealed purpose. ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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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

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



These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, December 22

Welcome: **Tommy Hill**
Song Leader: **David Jacks**
Opening Prayer: **Tommy Hill**
Scripture Reading: **Wes Caudle**

Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
Bethlehem's Gift to the World
Closing Prayer: **Bobby Wright**

Sunday, December 29

Welcome: **Tommy Hill**
Song Leader: **Jared Jimison**
Opening Prayer: **Steve Hagewood**
Scripture Reading: **Phil Shaver**

Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
Bethlehem's King
Closing Prayer: **Jimmy Harbin**

Evening Worship

Bible Skills	Mike McLemore	Jared Jimison
Songs Leader:	David Jacks	SINGING
Opening Prayer:	Hill Roberts	Collis Terry
Closing Prayer:	Jim Ehl	Riley Monroe

Wednesday, December 25

Songs Leader: **Bill Thompson**
Invitation: **Mike McLemore**
Closing Prayer: **Jared Jimison**

Wednesday, January 1

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

Group 4

2020 Weatherly Lectures
April 30th—May 3rd

Tadd Corder, Wilson Adams
& Matt Bassford

Quarterly Adult Classes
October – December 2019

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
& WEDNESDAY

The Gospel According to John
Mike McLemore

Serving in December

Serving on the Lord's Table AM	Jeremy Leshko	Ed Dill
** Overseer	Dwight Ivey	Bill McCord
	John Bersherse	Ryan Patrick
	Forest Summers **	Jim Risner
Lord's Supper PM	Gene Preston **	John Stokes
Communion Prep Building Lockup		Kim Barnett
		David Jacks

