

Weatherly Weekly

December 29, 2019

2019 Edition, Number 52

YOUR VALUE TO THE LORD

Michael W. McLemore

My friend and brother in the Lord, Jason Hunt, is an ornithologist. He moved to Katy while I was preaching for the church at Fry Road to study the Attwater Prairie Chicken, a very rare species of bird indigenous to the Texas Gulf Coast. Just beyond the reach of the urban sprawl of the city of Houston lies the Attwater Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. Jason considered the opportunity a great blessing to study this bird in its protected but natural habitat. He took Jesus' advice "Look at the birds of the air" to heart.

The Anglican theologian John R. W. Stott called Jesus "a birder," a term used by the English to refer to birdwatchers. Jesus continued, "They neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them," *Matthew 6:26*. God not only cares about the birds, He feeds them. On cold winter days He provides. In the dry heat of summer, the birds eat as from God's own hand. But then the

Lord asks humankind a question for the ages, "Are you not of more value than they?"

Later in Matthew's account Jesus referred to small birds that were sold for food – "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?" *10:29*. Luke records Jesus once asking, "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies?" The fifth sparrow is so worthless that if you bought two, the seller threw in the fifth for free. Again, Jesus powerfully reminds His disciples, "And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows," *Luke 12:6*.

Every bird on the face of the earth flits and flies under the eye of God and depends upon Him for its food. The Attwater Prairie Chicken is not just any bird. It's special and protected. God sees the sparrows. He see the prairie chicken, too. More than that, God sees you! Your value surpasses them all! ☐

Something New

Adapted

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." *2 Corinthians 5:17*

Something new, here's nothing quite like it. Some new product that works better. Some new way to get there faster. Some new fidelity to make it sound better. Some new wrench that works smoother. Some new machine that's stronger. Some new story that tickles your fancy. Some new drug that makes your health problems easier to bear. There's just something special about new stuff.

One of the best of all new things is new beginnings, the sheer joy of just being able to just start over. I used to work math problems until I just got totally frustrated. In desperation, I'd wad the paper up, throw it at the trash can, and just start over again. A clean sheet of paper is a beautiful thing. It's just great to be able to start over.

You will usually do it better the second time around.

Forgiveness makes possible the most beautiful of all new beginnings. Forgiveness means a new start, a new page, a new chapter to write. Forgiveness means that what was there before—sin with all its guilt—is no longer present, that sin—that which once blighted your character and distorted your view of things—is no longer present. It's gone. It's been sent away. Never to return. It's like having a new sheet of paper.

When a person—one with faith and a penitent heart—is baptized into Christ, *1 Corinthians 12:13*, he becomes a new creature, a new creation. His old person is taken away and he is made new, *Romans 6:3-7*. Paul talks about our becoming "new creatures in Christ." Hear him. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new," *2 Corinthians 5:17*. In other words, when a man obeys the gospel of Christ, he becomes something entirely new, a new creation, one forgiven and clean, one totally devoid of his old sins.

They've all been washed away. It's as if they never existed. What a joy to know that when God forgives, He forgets. It's the best of all new things, the first and most important of all new beginnings, forgiveness is.

But a new beginning is just that—a new beginning. Now you have to get on with this new life. There is learning to be done, corrections that need to be made in all your courses of life, new focuses to be engaged, new horizons to view, new determinations to be made, a new hope to embrace. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that you labor is not in vain in the Lord." We have to press on toward the mark, abound in the work of the Lord, make our calling and election sure, work out our own salvation, *Philippians 3:12-14*; *2 Peter 1:10*, *Philippians 2:12*. The new beginning is just the start of all we now have to do.

Paul puts this new beginning into the proper focus when he says, "For our conversation ('citizenship' NKJV) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved," *Philippians 3:20-4:1*. We're in a probationary period, and we still have lots to think about, lots to do, before we get where we're going.

And so, it behooves each of us to make our new beginning all that it was intended to be. Let's be workers for the Lord. It's the only life that makes any sense. And it's the only way the new beginning can have any real worth in our lives. ☐

Watch LIVE



FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Evelyn Hall was hospitalized two days before Christmas. A cardiac catheterization revealed no blockage. She was released from Crestwood Tuesday afternoon only to return to Huntsville Hospital ER on Saturday. At this printing she's being treated for weakness and nausea. We will update her condition in the morning announcements. Pray for **Evelyn & Searcy**.

Jim Ehl is better and planning to be here today. Great news! It has truly been an answer to our fervent prayers for him.

Ron Harmon was moved back to Encompass Health yesterday, room 316. We are praying that he will begin to regain his strength quickly. Your prayers are appreciated.

June Furlough underwent her second eye surgery Monday. She is doing very well. We are thankful.

We are thankful that **Gordon & Elaine Dorris** made it back safely from Kentucky. They were able to be with us Wednesday. Continue to pray for them as they suffer from the loss of Gordon's sister, **Brenda**.

Please continue to pray for **June Furlough's** sister, **Shirley Davis**, as she recovers from shoulder surgery.

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 is missed greatly by our

family at Weatherly. Remember her to the Lord as you pray daily.

Betty Reavis continues her treatments to manage her cancer. Pray for her and for **Bill**.

Melvin Godette also remains in our daily prayers. Ask the Lord to watch over him. **Donna** is leaving for Kuwait January 3rd. Pray for her as she travels to and from. ☐

Daily Prayer List:

Melvin Godette **Marty Haselden**
Sarah Jernigan **Dot Summers**
Barbara Jean Woodard **Laura Phillips**

Goodbye 2019

It doesn't seem possible that another year has passed. 2020 is upon us and 2019 is becoming mere memory. Weatherly has faced both joy and sadness. Families have gained additions and given up the dearest on earth. We praise God in all and give Him glory that is due Him. We are truly a blessed people.

Our prayer is that God has been pleased with our effort in the past, and that He would open for us doors of opportunity to serve Him with greater devotion and fervency in this new year. While we say goodbye to the old, we embrace the new with zeal and enthusiasm. May God be pleased in all we do.

Welcome 2020. The future is bright! ☐

No Group Meeting

This being the fifth Sunday, no group will be meeting tonight. Guest cards should be passed to **Phil Furlough** or **Mike McLemore**.

DECEMBER & JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



DECEMBER 29, 2019

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
1-9	Wes Caudle	1-9	Jacob Frazier
1-11	Elena Hagewood	1-11	Margaret Smith
1-15	Xavier Cole	1-19	Ed Dill

Racoons & the Soul

Michael W. McLemore

In his book *Where the Red Fern Grows*, Wilson Rawls has the grandfather of his main character, Billy Coleman, teaching him the surefire way to trap a raccoon.

Billy's grandfather tells him that he first needs a tool for drilling holes and some nails. You drill a hole in the log and put something shiny in the bottom. Then you drive nails along the shaft, so the raccoon can get his hand in. But once he grabs the shiny object at the bottom, he can't get it out and he's stuck.

Do you see a flaw here? Billy does, too. He asks his grandpa why the raccoons won't just open their little paws and drop the object. The peculiar thing about raccoons, his grandpa tells him, is that once they grab onto something they won't let go, ever!

People are not unlike raccoons. We cling to things that wreck the soul. The addict, the alcoholic, the immoral all share this common trait. But, other things that on the surface appear harmless can have equally devastating effects. Work, relationships and recreation can become life's focus. We can cling so tightly to them that our life in Christ is lost.

Most laugh at Billy Coleman's raccoons. But when it's the soul that's at stake, it's not so funny. ☐

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:

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	Hill Roberts
Collis Terry	Bobby Wright

Weatherly at Work

These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, December 29

Welcome: **Tommy Hill**
Song Leader: **Jared Jimison**
Opening Prayer: **Steve Hagewood**
Scripture Reading: **Phil Shaver**
Matthew 2:1-12
Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
Bethlehem's King
Closing Prayer: **Jimmy Harbin**

Sunday, January 5

Forest Summers
Charles Hill
Phil Furlough
Jimmy Harbin
Exodus 3:1-15
Mike McLemore
The Great I AM
Ken Cavender

Evening Worship

Bible Skills **Jared Jimison**
Songs Leader: **SINGING**
Opening Prayer: **Collis Terry**
Closing Prayer: **Riley Monroe**

Evening Worship

Mike McLemore
Charles Hill
Charley Skinner
Will Starks

Wednesday, January 1

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

Wednesday, January 8

Mike Coward
Marty Hunt
Jim Risner

Group 4

2020 Weatherly Lectures

April 30th—May 3rd

Tadd Corder, Wilson Adams & Matt Bassford

Quarterly Adult Classes

January — March 2020

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
 TBA
Tommy Hill

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY
 The Gospel According to John
Mike McLemore

Serving in January

Serving on the Lord's Table AM	Ken Cavender	Marty Hunt
** Overseer	Bobby Wright	Ron Holland
	Kirk Hatcher	Clark Boles
	Collis Terry **	Terry Mitchell

Lord's Supper PM	Phil Furlough **	Phil Shaver
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Communion Prep	Hilda Wright & Doris DeCelles
Building Lockup	Bobby Wright

