

# Weatherly Weekly

March 1, 2020

2020 Edition, Number 9

## Mulligans & Second Chances

Michael W. McLemore

Golf is a frustrating experience to the novice and to the professional. How many times have we heard golf analysts explaining that a professional golfer is changing his swing? The casual golfer loves it when his fellow competitors say after a bad shot, "Take a mulligan!" In professional sports competition there are no "mulligans." A mulligan is a second chance. When things are not as we would like, getting a second chance is a great opportunity — a new job, new year, new start, new chance, new life!

Paul spoke of a new start in his letter to the Philippians — "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus," *Philippians 3:13-14*.

Paul has in mind a life change. Constantly resolve to improve. When Paul says he doesn't consider himself to have appre-

hended, he is talking about perfection. Perfection is what Paul desired, but he never felt he attained it. Consider Paul's two main points that will help in creating a changed life.

**"FORGET THE PAST."** He does not have in mind removing those things from memory, but don't let them obstruct our future effort. The past is forgiven. Move ahead.

**"REACHING FORWARD TO NEW OPPORTUNITY."** He means look to the future. By our actions, we can effect change in our future for good by making a determined effort.

Change requires both reflection and appraisal, but once that is done, Paul said, "press on." Don't know enough? Study more! Don't have a relationship with the Lord? Obey Him and pray more! Not involved? Serve more!

A changed life is not work for the faint of heart. It requires struggle and a willingness to take advantage of the second chance. You have your mulligan, "Press on!" □



## LIVING FOR CHRIST IN A CHANGING CULTURE

TIM JENNINGS

**My** little corner of the world is changing. A new mosque was built down the street. It is so popular the police must direct traffic on a busy six lane road to help worshippers attend daily prayers. A few miles away another mosque is as large as any American style mega-church. A few streets over a Hindu temple is built on a prized piece of property on a major highway.

Today when people ask, "Where do you go to church?" they no longer think solely of a "Christian church." In fact, the number of people in the United States who profess to be "Christians" has sharply declined in the last decade ("America's Changing Religious Landscape," Pew Research Center, 2015).

Not only is belief in Christ declining in America, but the number of people who claim no religious affiliation has more than doubled in the last twenty years to over 16% (ibid.). We increasingly encounter people who have never worshiped with a church and who do not know the basic message of the gospel.

The tectonic plates of the American belief system are shifting, and the tremors have fractured the foundations of the family. Families are increasingly fragmented and dysfunctional to the point that many people today lack the daily life skills which are traditionally learned at home like, manners, authority, dependability, work ethic, money management, etc. As a result, some "Christian" churches have sought to fill the gap by becoming a place to learn basic "life skills" without the messy message of discipleship.

In light of these present concerns I find my mind increasingly wrestling with the questions of, "How does a disciple

live for Christ in the midst of a changing culture? How do we effectively present the gospel to a multi-religious, irreligious, and disintegrating society?"

Please don't read me wrong. My eyes are not downcast. I am not wringing my hands in fear. I firmly believe God's word enables us to navigate the changing landscape before us with joy. More than that, it gives us the truth that can change the landscape into something that honors Him.

I believe the prophet Jeremiah has something to say to this generation. He too faced a morally and spiritually disintegrating society, but in the 29th chapter Jeremiah wrote a letter to the people of God who were exiled strangers in a foreign land. It contained three stabilizing decisions believers can make when the sands of culture are shifting under their feet.

### Maintain A Caring Attitude Toward Your Culture — *Jeremiah 29:1-9*

How shocking is this first demand! Care for Babylon? Pray for its wicked king? Crave the comfort of the very people who drug you away captive? God has little use for bitter people who arrogantly feel the light of God's blessing should only shine on them. Peter instructed the exiled believers of his day to "honor all people. Honor the king" (1 Pet. 2:17). Paul ordered us to pray and "give thanks for all men, for kings and all who are in authority" (1 Tim. 2:1-2). Yet, I hear us use such vicious words to describe our culture and our government officials. Culture is not something to rail at, but people to care for. Government officials aren't people to hate, they are people to pray for. Don't let the changing culture make you sour.

### Maintain A Hopeful Attitude Toward

### Your Future — *Jeremiah 29:10-14*

Life in a disintegrating society need not be bleak. The darkness of the day simply focuses our eyes on the brightness to come. Israel knew that in 70 years God would act. We are certain that "when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory" (Col. 3:4). We boldly proclaim, "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (Ps. 118:6; Heb. 13:6). The darkness of the night just makes us long more deeply for the dawn.

### Maintain A Discerning Attitude Toward Your Message — *Jer. 29:15-32*

In times of trouble a multitude of "saviors" arise promising the path to peace and safety. While their message is appealing they must not be heeded. This is a truth Israel needed as well as us. The further a culture drifts away from godly values the more we are tempted to conform the demands of the gospel to the will of the culture. In our efforts to stay culturally relevant we become culturally conformed (Rom. 12:1-2). Yes, when it comes to Christian liberties we must be willing to "become all things to all men" that we might save some (1 Cor. 9:22), but the mission of the local church and the message of the gospel must remain firmly rooted in the word of God alone. It is not the task of the church to walk with culture (or maybe a step or two behind), but rather, the first mandate of the gospel has always been, "repent." Watch out for the voices that say, "Conform."

Yes, our culture is changing. The evidence is well documented, but so is our reaction. We are not to react with bitter resentment, but with a confidence that God is in control. Since He is in control, then I choose to hold up my head. The world may tremor and shake (it will! Heb. 12:26-28) but we don't have to. □

Watch  
LIVE



# FAMILY MATTERS

## FAMILY UPDATES

### Prayers:

**Melvin Godette** had two surgical procedures; one on Wednesday and another on Friday. It has been a rough week for Melvin. He is enduring a good deal of pain and has not rested well at all. **Donna** is juggling his care and those of the children. Its hard for her too. Please pray for this good family. He is in room 437 at Crestwood, but really has not felt like receiving company. We will let you know when or if that changes. Prayer is what he needs.

**Mike Coward** is in AFIB, but right now they have not planned another ablation. Mike is weak but keeps pressing on. He is being evaluated either for an electrical shock to put his heart back in rhythm or to install a pacemaker. Pray for **Mike & Peggy**.

**Ron Harmon** remains in Huntsville Hospital room 655. He has a couple of procedures that need to be done before he can go to rehab. We will know more tomorrow. In the meantime your prayers and visits are encouraging. Please keep them up!

**Melody Young** is recovering from surgery and doing well. They have been staying with her mother in south Huntsville for the last several days. Your prayers for the Youngs are appreciated. **Matt & Melody's** address is:

2515 Green Mountain Road  
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

We were all thrilled to see **Jim Ehl** Wednesday evening at Bible study. We are rejoicing that our prayers have been answered. He looks great and is doing very well considering the extent of his injury. It's just not the same without him. Welcome back!

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS



MARCH 1, 2020

3-5	Liam Jimison	3-6	Harold Smith
3-11	Evelyn Hall	3-11	Chase Leshko
3-12	Stevie Hagewood	3-13	Andrea Leshko
3-13	Collis Terry	3-14	Becky Hill
3-18	Susan Ivey	3-22	Thomas Hill
3-28	Adrienne West		

## Repentance Illustrated

Michael W. McLemore

Friday I read the following social media post on my son-in-law, Bryan Garlock's, Facebook page. I thought it well illustrates repentance. I hope you will find it compelling.

What does repentance (change of mind and will) look like? A girl said to Peter, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean. But Peter denied it before them all, saying, 'I do not know what you mean,'" *Matthew 27:69-75*.

Days after the denial, Jesus said to Peter, "Follow Me," *John 20:15-19*.

Later we read, "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus... So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus," *Acts 4:5-20*.

Peter answered, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard," *Acts 4:19-20*.

Peter resolved to never deny Jesus again; and he didn't. That's repentance. *Adapted*

I find this a persuasive case for repentance illustrated and accept the challenge to "go and do likewise." □

## WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



3



Weatherly Heights  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

930 Weatherly Road SE  
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

### Mailing:

P.O. Box 4619  
Huntsville, Alabama 35815

Phone: 256 881-9535

Email: [contactus@weatherlychurch.com](mailto:contactus@weatherlychurch.com)

## 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](http://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](mailto:mmclemore@weatherlychurch.com)

## Weatherly's Deacons

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



These are asked to assist in our labor.

### Sunday, March 1

Welcome: **Forest Summers**  
Song Leader: **Charles Hill**  
Opening Prayer: **Phil Furlough**  
Scripture Reading: **Phil Shaver**

**1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

Sermon: **Mike McLemore**  
**A People on the March**

Closing Prayer: **Ron Holland**

### Sunday, March 8

Welcome: **Forest Summers**  
Song Leader: **Bill Thompson**  
Opening Prayer: **WD Patrick**  
Scripture Reading: **Searcy Hall**

**Isaiah 50:1-11**

Sermon: **Mike McLemore**  
**Marching in Reverence**

Closing Prayer: **Charley Skinner**

### Evening Worship

**Bible Skills** **Mike McLemore**  
Songs Leader: **Charles Hill**  
Opening Prayer: **Hill Roberts**  
Closing Prayer: **Jared Jimison**

### Evening Worship

**Hill Roberts**  
Songs Leader: **Bill Thompson**  
Opening Prayer: **Marty Hunt**  
Closing Prayer: **Bill McCord**

### Wednesday, March 4

Songs Leader: **Collis Terry**  
Invitation: **Phil Furlough**  
Closing Prayer: **Bobby Wright**

### Wednesday, March 11

Songs Leader: **Mike Coward**  
Invitation: **Mike McLemore**  
Closing Prayer: **Jim Risner**

### Group 1

**2020 Weatherly Lectures**  
**April 30th—May 3rd**

**Tadd Corder, Wilson Adams,**  
**Benjamin Lee & Matt Bassford**

### Group 2

**Quarterly Adult Classes**  
**January — March 2020**

**AUDITORIUM SUNDAY**  
Galatians  
**Tommy Hill**

**AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY**  
The Gospel According to John  
**Mike McLemore**

## Serving in March

Serving on the Lord's Table AM	<b>Riley Monroe</b>	<b>Gene Preston</b>
** Overseer	<b>Dwight Ivey</b>	<b>Bill McCord</b>
	<b>John Beshorse</b>	<b>Clark Boles</b>
	<b>Tommy Hill **</b>	<b>John Patrick</b>
Lord's Supper PM	<b>Kirk Hatcher **</b>	<b>John Stokes</b>
Communion Prep Building Lockup		<b>Sue Terry</b>
		<b>Collis Terry</b>

