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# DEALING HONESTLY WITH MY SIN

### Michael W. McLemore

# "How should we respond to suffering caused by our own sin?"

in demands a consequence. And as a result suffering is unavoidable. It comes without warning. Consequent hardship can shatter or strengthen us, just as it can destroy or deepen our faith. The outcome hinges not on the nature or source of adversity, but on the character and the attitude with which one responds to it. Our question is this, "How should we respond to suffering caused by our own sin?"

First and foremost rebellion against God always has a consequence. Thus, may we ask, "How can we respond to suffering that is the result of our own willful choices?" The following are some steps I would like to offer which we hope will be helpful in dealing honestly with the consequences of our own sin.

Assume responsibility. Don't look for someone else to blame. The Christian must avoid thinking about what would have happened if another person had acted differently. Instead, own up to our mistakes. I must admit to myself that I face adverse circumstances because of my own doing.

Confess and repent of sin. To confess is to agree with God regarding disobedience. Have I acknowledged that I have sinned? This is not just saying that I've merely made a mistake or had an accident. Repentance requires a conscious decision to turn away from sin. This may entail ending relationships, finding new employment, apologizing to a person wronged, or returning something unlawfully taken. To repent is to make every arrangement necessary to avoid repeating the same failing.

Don't complain! Suffering because of our own ac-

tions gives no license for complaint. We must not spend our energy trying to get people's sympathy. Focus on getting right with God.

Ask God to help you discover the weakness through which sin creeps into our life. Is there a flaw in my thinking? Have I adopted ideas that are contrary to Scripture? Do I have any unaddressed insecurities? Are my friends dragging me down? Is someone or something in our lives which are a constant source of temptation? Questions like these can help us identify how sin enters our lives and finds a resting place.

Recognize that God wants to use adversity for good in our lives. Regardless of the source, adversity is always a powerful tool in the Lord's hands—when we cooperate with how He wants to use it in our life. When did we last from bended knee acknowledge, "I know that I am suffering because of my own doing. But I trust that You will use this time of adversity to deepen my faith and strengthen my commitment to You"?

Thank God for revealing our sins. True repentance is followed by genuine gratitude. God disciplines those He loves, and no one finds that process pleasant, *Hebrews 12:11*. But when we understand suffering from God's viewpoint, we come to appreciate that He plans to use trials to accomplish good.

No matter what hardship sin has caused in our lives, we do not have to be defeated by it. As children of God who desire to glorify Him through our faithful lives, adversity will not put us down for the count. Initially moments of shock and confusion may come, but the man or woman who views life and eternity from God's perspective will emerge victorious through any trial.  $\square$ 







News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members

#### **FAMILY UPDATES**

#### Prayers:

Lori Eakes is home recovering from surgery. She is doing well and awaiting pathology reports on her case. Lori & Sam have repeatedly expressed their appreciation for your prayers for them. Pray for a good report.

Betty Reavis continues at home under the care of home health. She is taking medication for pain and remains very weak. Your prayers for her are requested and appreciated by Bill and the family. We will relay any changes as we learn about them.

Ron Harmon is home and glad to be there. He will continue to undergo rehab with home health. Our prayer is that he will grow stronger day by day. Please pray for Ron & Phyllis.

Forest Summers will be undergoing one treatment every two months as a maintenance for his condition. Continue to remember him and **Dot** in your daily prayers.

Glenda Cavender remains in our daily prayers. She is missed by our family. Remember Glenda & Ken to the Lord.

Gwyn McLemore's mother. Linda Beber. fell in her kitchen Wednesday and suffered a serious laceration. She is home doing better.

Kathryn Wall, Edith Turner's sister, was no longer showing any symptoms of the COVID virus as of last week. We have not heard about her latest test result. Pray for her.

We learned last Sunday evening that Collis & Sue Terry's daughter and family were being tested for COVID after potentially being exposed. We do not have word on the result but are asking for you prayers for them.

### Daily Prayer List:

**Betty Reavis** Jean Woodard Glenda Cavender Laura Phillips Melvin Godette **Steven Guice** 

#### **WEATHERLY UPDATES**

STARTING TODAY we will begin singing aloud in the auditorium the invitation song and the closing song. This will require an adjustment to our plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS will be before the assembly so as to shorten the length of time we are together at the end of the assembly.

**SEATING** will be directed by one of the ushers before worship begins. We have naturally begun congregating toward the back of the auditorium, as Weatherly is prone to do. We need to spread out a bit better, so one of the men will direct you to a seat.

This is progress but no plan is perfect. Please be patient with us as we work toward a more normal assembly worship. Every action is being taken out of an abundance of caution.

Sunday Morning Bible Study will begin at 9:00 — Mike is continuing his live stream Bible class series on Lessons from Joshua

Sunday morning worship will begin at 10. Mike is beginning a new series for the month of August entitled **Starting Anew!** His text is Matthew 28:16-20.

Sunday Evening "Virtual Devo" will begin on Zoom at 7 pm. We will email a link Sunday.

Wednesday Bible Study — Mike is beginning the textual study of 1 Peter. Class streams at 7 pm. No public assembly Wednesday.

### **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**



AUGUST 2, 2020

8-10 8-11 **Phyllis Harmon Peggy Childress** 8-19 8-24 Mike Coward 8-24 Marty Hunt 8-26 Kirk Hatcher

8-2

Wanda Castleman **Clark Boles** 

8-28 Adelaide Hatcher 8-6 **Forest Summers Natalie Frazier** 8-10

Anna Holland 8-14 Janice Schrimsher 8-23 8-24 Lucas Hatcher

8-25 **Ron Harmon** 8-27 Bill McCord

# Pursuit of Happiness Michael W. McLemore

Happiness for many seems illusive. Difficult relationships, financial challenges, unfulfilling employment, and poor health all militate against finding it. But, man's quest for happiness is often misguided. He has mistakenly equated happiness with the pleasure found in material things and with ease in life. I read the following last week. It shed light upon man's quest for happiness.

"A wise teacher once brought balloons to school, told her pupils to blow them up and write their name on one. After the children tossed their balloons into the hall, the teacher moved through the hall mixing them all up.

The kids were given five minutes to find the balloon with their name on it, but though they searched frantically, no one found their own balloon.

Then the teacher told them to take the balloon closest to them and give it to the person whose name was on it. In less than two minutes, everyone was holding their own balloon.

The teacher said to the children, "These balloons are like happiness. We won't find it when we're only searching for our own. But if we care about someone else's happiness it will ultimately help us find our own."

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others," Php 2:4







#### Mailing:

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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

# **Evangelist**

Michael W. McLemore 256 698-5941 Email: mmclemore@weatherlychurch.com

## Weatherly's Deacons

Phil Furlough Ron Harmon **David Jacks** Collis Terry

Steve Hagewood Kirk Hatcher Hill Roberts **Bobby Wright** 



These are asked to assist in our labor.

#### Sunday, August 2

Sunday, August 9 Mike McLemore

Jared Jimison

Welcome: Mike McLemore Song Leader: Jared Jimison

**Opening Prayer: Scripture Reading:** 

> Matthew 28:16-20 Romans 1:1-17

Mike McLemore Mike McLemore

Starting Anew! Power for a New Beginning

**Closing Prayer:** 

Sermon:

### **Evening Worship**

**Evening Worship** 

**Bible Skillz** CANCELLED CANCELLED

**Songs Leader:** 

**Opening Prayer:** Virtual Devotion on ZOOM Virtual Devotion on ZOOM **Closing Prayer:** 

#### Wednesday, August 5

Wednesday, August 12

**Songs Leader:** 

Invitation: Streamed Bible Study Streamed Bible Study

**Closing Prayer:** 

#### None

# 2020 Weatherly Lectures

April 30th—May 3rd

We rearet to announce that our 2020 Lectures have been cancelled.

# **Ouarterly Adult Classes**

None

July - September 2020

### **AUDITORIUM SUNDAY**

Lessons from Joshua

Mike McLemore

**AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY** 1 Peter Mike McLemore

# **Serving in July**

Serving on the Lord's Table AM

\*\* Overseer

Lord's Supper PM

**Communion Prep Building Lockup** 

