

Weatherly Weekly

October 17, 2020

2020 Edition, Number 42

Truth's Best Defense

Michael W. McLemore

We live in a changing world. While that is a true statement, its curious how man has changed little since God made him. The sins of today were the sins of yesterday and will be the sins of tomorrow. The human tendency today was the human tendency 3000 years ago. Solomon confirmed our thesis — “A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin,” *Proverbs 26:28*.

It would seem that the liar would be hated by him whom he has done hurt, and perhaps he is on occasion, but invariably it is the liar who is the hater of his victim. Of course, it is not true that every lie is motivated by hate, but it is often so. Could it not also be argued that the sinner hates him whom he has sinned against? Again our proposal is that the injurer hates him whom he has injured.

Consider Adam and Eve. They hid themselves from God. Had God ever done anything that should have caused them to fear? What then was the cause of their fear? It was their own sense of guilt. The one-talent man accused his

Lord of being hard and unbending. Why? His own sense of guilt concerning his sloth made him the accuser of his benefactor.

In a political season we are bombarded with messages that are often at best “misrepresentations” of another. Aspersions are suggested about the character, or lack thereof, of another. Hearsay, inuendo and blatantly false charges are being hurled. Why? “A lying tongue hates its victims!” Having misrepresented another, the guilty party has a bitter spirit of enmity against him whom he has misrepresented.

Such behavior has no place among God’s people. Conversations and social media posts should never lead the child of God to become complicit in relating even slightly spurious information about another, politician or not.

Let us carefully guard our own tongues and social media actions. Truth’s best defense is truth. He who would resort to misrepresentation to defend or promote truth, whatever the pure motive, defeats himself in the process. □

“Open your hand wide,” was the posture Moses instructed Israel to have toward the poor, *Deut. 15:7-11*. But, what the Old Law had put on paper, Jesus put in flesh. He was the One who taught us about the good Samaritan, and fed the crowds when they were hungry. He was by far the most magnanimous, generous, most lavish giver the world had ever seen. He humbly confessed, “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a

easily than an individual. This restriction did two things, it liberated the family to experience the blessings of personal sacrifice and service, and it enabled the church to help others.

In light of these verses I don’t believe the question is, “Is the local church limited in the expression of its generosity?” but rather, “In what areas is the church limited?” I find it compelling that among the many examples of the

Limited or Unlimited Benevolence?

By Tim Jennings

ransom for many,” *Mark 10:45*. Those two verbs, “serve” and “give,” tell you almost all you need to know about what made Jesus, Jesus.

That same gracious, giving attitude should be seen in His disciples, and indeed it was. The early chapters of Acts are full of a wonderful spirit of generosity that pervaded the whole church, *Acts 2:45; 4:32-37*. Those who had received the abundant grace of God could not contain their desire to give graciously themselves. That’s the only way you can explain how the Macedonians gave. Paul says that out of their great affliction and deep poverty they “abounded in the riches of their liberality imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints,” *2 Cor. 8:2,4*. Here’s the poor begging not to get, but to give! Now, how do you explain a desire like that? Paul says, “There is only one word to explain what they did, and that word is grace.” If we are interested in restoring New Testament Christianity then we must devote ourselves to generating the same joyful, sacrificial, gracious generosity that characterized those first believers.

When we begin to examine the generosity of those early disciples we find there were times when the expression of their generosity was to be limited. For example, Paul taught the church in Thessalonica, “If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat,” *2 Thess. 3:10*. It is not a blessing to aid the lazy in their lifestyle. In addition, Paul instructed Timothy that the church should show honor to their widows by providing for their needs, *1 Tim. 5:3-16*. And yet, he placed restrictions on the type of widow who could be supported on a permanent basis by the church. She had to have a certain character, and if she had a believing family that was able they were to supply her needs. Why? Certainly the church could have supplied for her needs more lavishly and

church’s liberal generosity the recipients were always Christians*. One revealing instance is in Acts 11. The disciples in Antioch learn of a devastating famine and determine “to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea,” *Acts 11:29*. Why did they limit their gifts to the brethren? Was it because they did not care for the suffering of unbelievers? Certainly not. I believe it’s just another evidence of the limited nature of a local church’s mission in the area of financial assistance. The church must not be distracted, in focus or resources, from its primary purpose of making disciples, *Matt. 28:19*.

There is no shortage of evidence that the disciple is to “do good to all,” *Gal. 6:10*. The above verses do not negate this responsibility. I might suggest, however, that as we read these passages we remain aware of who is under consideration. Is this something the author expected the local church to do collectively? Or, is this something the author intended to be expressed in the daily life of the disciple? We don’t have this problem when we come to passages about the home or the workplace. We understand they find expression in the individual Christian’s daily walk. Using that same faculty will help us see that the disciple’s responsibility toward the world differs from the local church’s assignment in regard to financial assistance.

Those in our government proposing “Faith Based Initiatives” for the care of the needy will not understand our desire for a “thus says the Lord,” before we participate. We may be labeled ugly names for not changing our focus. However, when they look at our lives they should be able to say two things. First, “They certainly have a respect for the Words of their God.” And second, “Their lives definitely demonstrate an undeniable, sacrificial, liberal generosity.” May it be so! □

Watch LIVE!

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Charlotte Hagewood has not been doing well since she suffered the strokes last month. The family decided it would be best for her to move in with her daughter and son-in-law, **Melissa & Lavaughn Davis**, in Athens. Please pray for her as she makes this transition. Charlottes 88th birthday is coming up on October 29th. It would be great if she received an abundance of cards from us at her new address. Charlottes' new address is:

25609 Barksdale Road
Athens, Alabama 35613

Bobby Wright will be going back to the oncologist on October 26th for the results of his recent tests. Your prayers for Bobby are coveted. Also remember **Hilda** and the family to the Lord as you pray.

Sue Terry's youngest brother, **Jackie Brewer**, is home after more than a week in the hospital in Columbia, TN. He is still on oxygen, but glad to be home. Your prayers are appreciated.

Please continue to pray for **Betty & Bill Reavis**. Betty remains about the same. Your prayers are so meaningful.

Forest & Dot Summers need our prayers. Say their name when you approach the Father.

Elaine Dorris is anticipating her next renal procedure on the 27th of October. She is doing well under the care of her personal physician, **Dr. Gordon!**

Remember those in our family who are confined to their assisted living homes. This is for their own protection from the virus: **Laura**

Phillips, Louis Garrett, Lane Roberts, and Jim Risner. We miss them one and all.

Daily Prayer List:

Betty Reavis	Laura Phillips
Melvin Godette	Glenda Cavender
Steven Guice	Dot Summers

Goodbyes Are Hard Enough

When **Caryl Ehl** called to tell me of her and **Jim's** plans to move, she said, "We would like to go quietly without a lot of fanfare." I think there is something to be said for that. It's an elegant way to end one's tenure after 27 years. **The Ehl's** need no send off. It wouldn't do them justice. What could we give them even in the absence of COVID? The void left by their absence will be long felt and never filled. Their example to us of quiet service, where the right hand doesn't know what the left is doing, has enriched our lives. They are loved and will be missed beyond words. ☐

WEATHERLY UPDATES

This Week at Weatherly:

Sunday Morning Bible Study will begin at 9:00 — Join us for Mike's streamed Bible class on **Recognizing Daily Needs** from James 1.

Sunday morning worship will begin at 10. Mike continues his "Prophetic Living Today" series. Today his lesson is entitled **Living with Integrity**. His text is **1 Samuel 12**.

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

Wednesday Bible Study — Mike is starting a textual study of 2 Peter. Class streams at 7 pm. No public assembly Wednesday. ☐

10-11	Caryl Ehl	10-14	Janeth Hagewood
10-24	Amanda Jimison	10-26	Dwight Ivey
10-27	Jimmy Harbin	10-29	Charlotte Hagewood

Think on These Things

Michael W. McLemore

One night a wife found her husband standing over their baby's crib. Silently she watched him. As he stood looking down at the sleeping infant, she saw on his face a mixture of emotions: disbelief, doubt, delight, amazement, enchantment, skepticism.

Touched by this unusual display and the deep emotions it aroused, with eyes glistening she slipped her arm around her husband. "A penny for your thoughts," she said.

"It's amazing!" he replied. "I just can't see how anybody can make a crib like that for only \$46.50."

Sometimes our thoughts are not as grand as they might be. We partake of the Lord's Supper and ought to have our thoughts centered on the sacrifice of our Savior. Instead, we think about what we're going to have for lunch. We see a spectacular sunset and ought to be led to reflect on the glory and grandeur of God the Creator. Instead, we wonder who's winning the ball game.

You get the idea. As difficult as it is to keep our lives and our tongues under control, it seems so much more difficult to bring our "every thought into captivity," **2 Corinthians 10:5**. If we're not careful, our thoughts tend to wander into forbidden territory. Solution? Paul said, "Think on these things." Look'em up, **Phl 4:8**. ☐

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

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, October 18

Welcome: **Mike McLemore**
Song Leader: **Jared Jimison**
Opening Prayer:
Scripture Reading: **1 Samuel 12**
Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
Living with Integrity

Closing Prayer:

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz CANCELLED
Songs Leader:
Opening Prayer: **Virtual Devotion on ZOOM**
Closing Prayer:

Wednesday, October 21

Songs Leader:
Invitation: **Streamed Bible Study**
Closing Prayer:

None

2020 Weatherly Lectures
April 30th—May 3rd

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

Serving in October

Serving on the Lord's Table AM
** Overseer

**

Lord's Supper PM

**

Communion Prep
Building Lockup

Sunday, October 25

Welcome: **Mike McLemore**
Song Leader: **Jared Jimison**

Scripture Reading: **1 Samuel 13**
Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
Facing Crisis

Evening Worship

CANCELLED

Virtual Devotion on ZOOM

Wednesday, October 28

Streamed Bible Study

None

Quarterly Adult Classes
July — September 2020

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Lessons from Joshua
Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

Hope in Exile: A Study of 1 Peter
Mike McLemore

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



OCTOBER 18, 2020

