

Weatherly Weekly

May 23, 2021

2021 Edition, Number 21

Why Faith Falters

Michael W. McLemore

The Lord powerfully demonstrated His power and care for the enslaved Israelites. In spite of repeated demonstrations of His faithfulness – His miraculous deliverance, parting the Red Sea for their escape, leading them in the wilderness — when they arrived at the border of Canaan, their faith faltered.

Joshua and Caleb encouraged the nation to trust the Lord who promised to give them the land. Instead, they listened to the ten unfaithful spies. They cried all night and wanted to go back to Egypt, *Numbers 14:1-4*. It is easy to ask, "How could they doubt?" It is much more difficult to acknowledge how prone we ourselves are to faltering faith.

James warned his readers of faltering faith in our prayer life, "Ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord," *James 1:6-7*. Rather than merely reading this

and making condescending judgments about the weakness of others, this admonition ought to invite personal introspection: "Why does MY faith waiver?"

The ten spies returned fearful from what they observed. They outnumbered Joshua and Caleb who faithfully pleaded, "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it," *Numbers 13:30*. Faith falters when negative counsel is headed.

The giants in the land, the high walls of the fortified cities and their lack of military skill all militated against reason. They said, "We are not able to up against this people," *Numbers 13:31*. Faith falters when trust conflicts with human reason.

God asked Moses, "How long will this people despise me?" *Numbers 14:11*. Israel didn't believe God despite His overwhelming demonstrations. Israel forgot that "He is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble," *Psalms 46:1*. Faith will fail if we do not account for Him in every circumstance. □

FATAL STEP TO SECTARIANISM

Robert F. Turner

History is replete with examples of zealous reformers in religion; men whose honesty is unquestioned, whose efforts required sacrificial costs, and yet who succeeded only in forming another religious "sect." So often is this the case that much needed reform is discouraged. Criticism of current practices, with legitimate "Back to the Bible" pleas, are smothered under charges of "heresy" and "new sect."

Must we conclude that tradition is divine authority? What error turns honest, knowledgeable and needed reformers into "another sect?" Genuine heresy has many faults, but we are here concerned with one fatal step that changes the face of heroic restoration to ugly sectarianism.

"Heresy" is, essentially, "self-willed opinion, substituted for submission to the power of truth," and a "sect" is "the division or party formed" when truth is abandoned. (See Vine's Expository Dictionary of N. T. Words) Notice that TRUTH must be determined, its standards established, before "heresy" can be defined. We can not know if one has departed from home, until we fix a place or residence.

The Jews charged Paul with "heresy" (Acts 24:5, 14) and if we could accept their standard of truth (Judaism) we would agree their charge was just. Roman Catholics said the early reformers were "heretics," and this was so -- by R. C. standards. But one is not a heretic BEFORE GOD -- UNLESS HE DEPARTS FROM GOD'S STANDARD OF TRUTH.

A small group may (as in the case of Paul and his brethren) leave a large and popular religious body (the Jewish religion) and, in the eyes of that large body, become a "sect." In reality, before God, they are simply turning to TRUTH; and it is the so-called "mother" group that puts human traditions before divine authority. But

why do so many of these honest efforts to go "back to truth" actually end in the formation of another sect? Since complete truth is the principle by which heresy is determined, the answer is deeply hidden in a subtle change of attitude toward truth. When a party begins to consider its PRACTICE as the equivalent of TRUTH, the fatal step to sectarianism is made.

This is a cunningly deceptive step, so easily taken. We reason; the true church is that body of people who accept and obey the truth - right? We accept and obey the truth, therefore we are the true church -- right? Then only those who do as we do are members of the true church! The switch from divine to human standard is made so smoothly that many members of a group called "Church of Christ" never recognize its presence.

Other steps follow. We tend to rely upon "our" scholars to provide the answers to doctrinal problems; and what "our" brethren establish must be safe and sound. "Our" practice must not be questioned, especially if the majority of "our" brethren accept it. Before we realize it we are judging the law of God by "our" standards.

If any should seek to drink from the pure fountain of God's word without the "benefit" of "our" traditions and nomenclature, we cry "heresy;" and if we succeed in driving them from "our" building, we cry "sect." THE FATAL STEP took place long before, -- when we lost our objective view of God's Truth; and ourselves subjects, not judges of the law. Jas. 14:7-12). (Read carefully, 2 Cor. 10:12-18)

Some may use this article to justify petty and irrational hobby-riding, and others may choose party standards rather than risk being associated with such "crack-pots;" but the principle remains. We learn individual obligation and dedication to God's word, or we are lost in sectarianism. □

Watch LIVE!



FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



Charles & Penny Hill are pleased to announce that Carley Noel Hill and Jordan Fernando Rodriguez we're married March 20, 2021 at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens.

FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

We are all very concerned about our brother Marty Hunt. He suffered an episode at work on Thursday and was transported to Huntsville Hospital by ambulance. Tests revealed no real cause for the event. He spent two nights in the hospital and is scheduled to see a specialist on Monday. Please pray for Marty, Mechi & the girls.

Cathy Preston continues her rehab following knee replacement surgery. Please continue to pray for her as she regains her strength.

June Furlough's procedure went well on Wednesday. We are praying that it will be helpful in relieving the discomfort that she has been dealing with for some time now.

Peggy Childress will have the coil procedure at Vanderbilt on Tuesday. Pray for her as she undergoes this very serious procedure. Also, say Terry's name to the Lord as you pray.

Sandra Gore is better and we are thankful. We are praying that she won't overdo it as she gets back to work.

Cyndi Vanatta, Phil Shaver's sister, Zoila Herring, Mechi Hunt's twin sister, and Mike Hunt, Marty's brother, continue their battles against cancer. Pray for them and their family.

Pray for those who are confined in care facilities, memory care and home — Laura Phillips, Jim Risner, Lane Roberts, Dot Summers, Ron Harmon. ☑

Daily Prayer List:

Glenda Cavender	Melvin Godette
Laura Phillips	Dot Summers
Charlotte Hagewood	Lane Roberts
Bill Reavis	Ron Harmon

WEATHERLY UPDATES

Sunday Morning Bible Study will begin at 9:00 — Mike is continuing his quarterly Bible Class series **Christ Clashing with Culture**.

Sunday morning will begin at 10. Today's lesson is entitled **#OWNIT! Be Separate**.

Sunday Evening "Virtual Devo" on Zoom at 7. We will email a link Sunday. Join in.

Wednesday Bible Study — Mike is continuing his study of **The book of Colossians & Philemon**. We stream at 7 p.m. No public

MAY & JUNE BIRTHDAYS



MAY 23, 2021

5-23	Terry Childress	5-23	Melvin Godette
5-24	John Besherse	5-26	Addison Ivey
5-28	Terry Barnett	5-31	Petra Carter
5-31	Nancy McCord	6-1	Elaine Dorris
6-1	June Furlough	6-3	Rick Morgan
6-4	Ellie Pellegrini	6-4	Melonie Power
6-7	Shelia Hagewood	6-11	Carley Hill, #2

Croakers Croak!

Michael W. McLemore

Complaint is never pleasant. It disrupts, disturbs and discourages. I wonder if those on the listening side of complaint wouldn't do well to put less stock in the croaking of the complainer? Consider...

A man moved from the city to his first home in the country and quickly came with a proposition for a local restaurateur, "Could you use a million frog legs?" The proprietor asked, "Where would get so many frogs?" The homeowner continued his proposal, "I have a pool just full of them, and they disturb me day and night!"

They agreed on a price for several hundred frog legs and the new "frog-farmer" returned for his harvest. The next day, the man returned with only two scrawny frogs, "I guess I was wrong," he stammered, "There were only two frogs in my pond. But, they sure were making a lot of noise!"

The recipients of complaints would do well to heed the lesson of the frog-farmer - "It's just croaking; and croakers are going to croak." The temperature, the time, the song selection, the lesson subject, *ad infinitum*, are their common themes. Granted, it is foolish to equate "complaint" with well placed and appropriate "critique," which enhances, instructs and promotes growth. But, the next time you hear a lot of noise about what's wrong, remember it may just be two scrawny croakers who have nothing better to contribute than to grouch and croak. ☑

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



Weatherly Heights CHURCH OF CHRIST
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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
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Weatherly's Deacons

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

Weatherly at Work

These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, May 23

Welcome: Mike McLemore
Song Leader: Hill Roberts
Opening Prayer:
Scripture Reading:

2 Corinthians 6:14-18
Mike McLemore
Be Separate

Closing Prayer:

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz CANCELLED

Songs Leader:
Opening Prayer: Virtual Devotion on ZOOM
Closing Prayer:

Wednesday, May 26

Songs Leader:
Invitation: Streamed Bible Study
Closing Prayer:

None

2021 Planning Underway

Sunday, May 30

Welcome: Mike McLemore
Song Leader: Hill Roberts

Genesis 3:8-13
Mike McLemore
No Excuses

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz CANCELLED

Virtual Devotion on ZOOM

Wednesday, June 2

Streamed Bible Study

None

Quarterly Adult Classes April – June 2020

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
Christ Clashing with Culture
Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY
The Challenge of Colossians
Mike McLemore

Serving in May

Serving on the Lord's Table AM	**
** Overseer	**
Lord's Supper PM	**
Communion Prep Building Lockup	

