

Weatherly Weekly

May 30, 2021

2021 Edition, Number 22

Being a Christian

Michael W. McLemore

Many struggle with what it means to be a Christian. I've heard it said of people I knew who had no interest whatsoever in Christ or in being a Christian: "He was a good Christian man." Really? Let's look.

It's my conviction that one need look no further than the New Testament to determine whether one's "religion" is or is not "true," and further, precisely and exactly what it means to be a Christian. The disciples of the apostolic period were Christians. More than that, in religion, they were Christians only. Since they were under direct guidance of the Holy Spirit, if we can succeed in being what they were, we can be absolutely confident that our position is indeed true.

Since a Christian is a follower of Christ, to be a Christian demands an intimate, personal relationship to a living being; that is, to have absolute faith in and be totally committed (body, soul and spirit) to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as prophet, priest and king. Such religion is the only "true" (valid) religion be-

cause such commitment to Jesus and spiritual union with him afford the only means of access to and union with God the Father. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me," *John 14:6*. Later, John, the Lord's apostle, wrote, "And we know the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, even his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life," *1 John 5:20*.

The characteristics that identify the Christian are produced in the life of an individual in proportion to his faith in and submission to Jesus Christ as God. To the Christian Jesus Christ is his only and all-sufficient prophet, priest and king. A fact often overlooked in this connection is that Jesus not only taught men to believe in him John but also to follow him, *John 8:24, Matthew 16:24*. A Christian is one whose implicit trust in the Living Christ impels him to yield himself unreservedly to His will. □

Watch LIVE!

Did God Write a Mystery Book?



Adapted

The words "mystery" and "mysteries" are used 27 times in the King James Version of the New Testament. Each occurrence is a translation of a single Greek word, "mysterion." Strong's Concordance gives it an extensive definition, but, in essence, it means, "a hidden or secret thing, not obvious to the understanding." In its Divinely inspired usages, the word refers to the eternal truth that is the Word of God.

Because this word is used in reference to spiritual matters, does that mean that God intended to hide His truth from mankind? Did God give us a mystery book that we'll never be able to understand? In light of the error that is being taught regarding the direct operation of the Holy Spirit today, is it the case that we can only understand the Bible if the Spirit enlightens, reveals or explains it to us?

The first question can be correctly answered in the negative. Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free," *John 8:32*. In that God is not willing that any should perish, *2 Peter 3:9*, it is His desire that all be freed from the bondage of sin. Since spiritual freedom comes through knowing God's truth, it would be inconsistent with the character of God to hide His truth from mankind. Spiritual freedom comes via knowledge of the truth. If we cannot know the truth because God has shrouded it in mystery, we cannot be free.

The second question can also be answered in the negative. Anyone who claims to be a Christian admits by that claim that there is something about the Bible that they can understand. How could one even call himself or herself a Christian if they did not grasp the concept that there is a Christ and, specifically, that Jesus is that Christ? If we can understand that Christ exists, then there's at least one Bible truth that is not a mystery. If we can understand one Bible truth, can we not understand more?

The third question deserves a negative response as well. It is NOT the case that we can only understand the Bible if the Holy Spirit enlightens, reveals or explains it to us. It is, on the other hand, the case that a person can pick up the Bible, read it, understand it and obey it with-

out any direct intervention from above.

According to *1 Corinthians 2:10*, the "things which God hath prepared for them that love him" were revealed to inspired men by the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul wrote the words that the Holy Spirit gave him, *1 Corinthians 2:13*. The words recorded in the Bible are God's revelation. They are the revelation of the mind of God, *1 Corinthians 2:11*. Basically, that's all the Lord needed to say. If the Holy Spirit is needed to explain what has been written, would that not be a revelation of the revelation? God has revealed what He wants us to know, *Deuteronomy 29:29*. Not only have there not been additional revelations since the final word of the Bible was originally penned, there have not been revelations explaining the original revelation that is the Bible. It's just not necessary. The Scriptures are sufficient, *2 Timothy 3:16-17*. They are God's revelation. He doesn't need to reveal His revelation.

Now let's go back to "mystery." Taking in hand a good concordance like Strong's, look at each passage in which the word is used. Notice how many times when the word is used the writer talks about the mystery being revealed or explained at that moment. For example, having devoted several verses to the husband-wife relationship in Ephesians 5, Paul wrote, "This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church," *Ephesians 5:32*. To what was Paul referring in the sentences leading up to that recorded in *verse 32*? By inspiration of the Holy Spirit he revealed that he had been using the husband-wife relationship to illustrate the relationship between Christ and His church. There was a mystery there, but Paul explained it by Divine inspiration. In essence, it is not a mystery now because it has been revealed. There are abundant examples of this when "mystery" or "mysteries" are used.

God's Word can be understood. You don't need to be "called." You don't need to have to rely on a member of the "clergy" to explain it to you. You don't need intervention by the Holy Spirit. God has given His revelation. It is the Bible and it is all we need, *2 Peter 1:3*. □



FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Mike Coward fell in the garden on Thursday afternoon. Initially he picked himself up and went about his work, but **Peggy** noticed that he had struck his head on something leaving a cut. After insisting that they go to Crestwood ER it was discovered that in fact he did have a brain bleed from the blow to the head. He was transferred to Huntsville Hospital NICU where he remains at this printing. He is alert and showing no signs of a problem except for a recurrent headache, but because of Mike's other heart issues and the medications necessary to treat them, this is a very serious situation. Your prayers are appreciated.

Marty Hunt saw a specialist on Monday after a two-day hospitalization from an inexplicable event at work. At this printing we have no word on their finding. We will relay that information when we have it from the Hunts. Please keep them in your prayers.

Peggy Childress' coil procedure went off without a hitch last week at Vanderbilt. She was released from the hospital on Wednesday and is home. We are praying that all will continue to go well for Peggy. Remember **Peggy & Terry** to our Father in heaven.

Cathy Preston was able to be at worship on Sunday. It was great to see both **Cathy & Gene**. This is a process. Pray for her to be as comfortable as possible while she endures the therapy essential to regaining her mobility.

June Furlough was also able to be with us on Sunday for worship. **Phil** indicated that she has seen a bit of relief. We are praying that it will not only continue but that the benefit will

increase. Pray for June.

Cyndi Vanatta, Phil Shaver's sister, continues her chemotherapy. Your ongoing prayers are solicited for Cyndi and her family.

Zoila Herring, Mechi Hunt's twin sister, is continuing chemo on a regular basis. Prayers are appreciated for her.

Mike Hunt, Marty's brother, is enduring a difficult battle against a recurrent cancer. Pray for **Mike & Karen**.

It was awesome to see **Ron & Phyllis Harmon** on Sunday! We have missed them.

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

Bible classes begin NEXT Sunday at 9:30 am.

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! No Excuses**.

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 assembly. ☐

MAY & JUNE BIRTHDAYS



MAY 30, 2021

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	6-13	Adam Hagewood
6-14	Jeremy Leshko	6-15	Murray Castleman
6-16	Jaxie Rogers	6-16	Phil Shaver

Faith or Fear?

Michael W. McLemore

The world is gripped by fear. In business, in life, in religion, fear-mongers are everywhere.

John wrote, "fear hath torment," *1 John 4:18*. Fear is a vicious taskmaster that taxes one's energy, enthusiasm, attitude and effort. Even though it seems to have taken center stage in our society, it is nothing new. Fear was in Eden's Garden after sin, *Genesis 3:10*. Fear became Israel's guide as they stood before the promised land, *Numbers 13-14*. Fear enshrouded the city of Jerusalem 2,000 years ago. It was in the Garden of Gethsemane, *Mark 14:50-52*. Fear moved about the streets of Jerusalem, engendered by the Jewish leaders, *John 9:22; 12:42* urged the citizens to cry for Jesus' crucifixion, *Mark 15:11*. It made its way into the Roman court as Pilate gave in to the people, *John 19:12ff*. It led to the murder of the sinless Word who became flesh and dwelt among us, *John 1:14*.

What brought on the climate of fear? Fear is the antithesis of faith. Where there is faith, there is no fear, *1 John 4:18*. Where faith fails, fear grows and dominates, *Revelation 21:8*.

The solution? Faith: the faith that comes by hearing the Word of God, *Romans 10:17*. The climate of fear is like a heavy fog on the hearts of each of us. We must not allow it to enshroud us and doom us to lives of worry and misery. "And this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith," *1 John 5:4*. ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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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
Email: mmclmore@weatherlychurch.com

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 30

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

Genesis 3:8-13

Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
No Excuses

Closing Prayer:

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz CANCELLED

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

Wednesday, June 2

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

None

2021 Planning Underway

Sunday, June 6

Welcome: **Mike McLemore**
Song Leader: **Hill Roberts**
Opening Prayer: **Collis Terry**

Acts 1

Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
Christianity 101

Closing Prayer: **Bill McCord**

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz CANCELLED

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

Wednesday, June 9

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

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 June

Serving on the Lord's Table AM
**** Overseer**

**** Phil Furlough, Ed Dill, Steve Hagewood, Tommy Hill**

Lord's Supper PM

Communion Prep
Building Lockup

