

Weatherly Weekly

August 1, 2021

2021 Edition, Number 31

CONVICTION

Michael W. McLemore

Conviction for the Christian is like an anchor fastened solidly in the word of God holding the child of God steady on the tempestuous seas of human opinion and the temptations of life. We must also reflect upon how powerfully that stability influences our peers, especially fellow Christians, during life's seminal moments. When I think of Biblical conviction Daniel always comes to mind.

Daniel impacted everyone with whom he came in contact. His critics despised him, but from fellow companions in captivity to the most powerful rulers of world empires, he was admired for his conviction. He knew who he was and what Jehovah wanted him to be. Daniel's purpose was not to impress others, but his convictions had an effect on everyone who came in contact with him. The word of God was his benchmark, *cf. Daniel 1:8; 6:5*.

It was Daniel's convictions, not his environment

or his peer group, that determined his behavior. Compromise is easy; there is always some reason to acquiesce. Being certain of one's beliefs ahead of time makes the difference in standing firm in obedience to the Lord. Be sure the world will mock your values. Stand in spite of their jeers. Some will lose respect for the failure to stand upon conviction and resist temptation. Future influence hangs in the balance.

The pressure to conform is as old as man. Standing fast upon conviction is not without risk. Critics will complain and may even assault the faithful physically. Conviction comes with a price. Paul wrote, "be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain," *1 Corinthians 15:58*.

Daniel's name is synonymous with conviction. Be a Daniel in your own generation. The world will take notice. □

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Where is GOD?

BY Michael W. McLemore

Trouble is everywhere all the time! Natural disasters, loss of property or life all invite the inevitable question, "Where is God?" Human tragedy, as in the recent shooting in Charleston, or national tragedy, as in the shocking political decisions where evil seems to be gaining the upper hand in national matters, cause some to ask, "Where is God? Why would He allow such things to happen?" May I ask in response, "Where is faith?" Our God is still on His throne. He is not weak or ineffective. He is not disinterested. He is not evil Himself, because evil is in the world.

God is not evil, nor does He engage in any form of evil. He is holy (1 Peter 1:16), and only responds from pure motives (James 1:13). God doesn't distance himself from His creation, in that He is unaware of what is happening or unavailable to care for it. Paul reminded the Colossians that all things were made through God in Christ, and that in Him all things consist, or hold together (Colossians 1:16-19). The answer to the question, "Where is God" then is, He's where he always been, in charge of all His creation.

God created humanity with free will, the ability to choose how one lives. He created us able to make decisions for ourselves, whether to serve Him or live for self, which is to live in sin. Sin comes with consequences, altering how creation functions, being cursed (Genesis 3:17-18). Paul states, "For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope" (Romans 8:20), and adds, "For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now" (8:22). Sin is the reason

our world is filled with evil and all its dreadful consequences.

Where is God? He is where He has always been, fulfilling His eternal purpose. Paul reminds us, "For what if some were without faith? Shall their want of faith make of none effect the faithfulness of God? God forbid" (Romans 3:3-4). The psalmist reminds us, "God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne" (Psalm 47:8). The theme of Revelation is that God's purpose will be triumphant, no matter what humanity does. There is a day when all sin, all evil, will be dealt with in His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:10).

What do I do in the mean time? Listen to the prophet of God to a crumbling nation:

"Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'" *Isaiah 46:9-10*.

It's easy to second guess our faith when the pressure of cultural collapse and trials mount. God reminds us, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

The question isn't "Where is God?" as if He has departed, but whether or not we are willing to trust the sovereignty of God in this and all circumstances. □

Watch
LIVE!



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AUGUST 1, 2021

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Peggy Childress walked a half mile last week. Her progress is phenomenal and we are thankful. Truly the Lord has seen her through to this point. We are continuing to pray for **Peggy & Terry**. Again, cards may be sent to their home address.

We are happy to report that following our COVID incident at Weatherly no transmission has revealed itself. Those in our family who were diagnosed with COVID are much improved. This is cause for rejoicing. While we know the Lord is to be praised for His care of our family, we also want to thank our Elders for their diligence in balancing reason with our responsibility to gather for worship. Thanks, guys — Job well done!

We are continuing to remember **Wanda Castleman** as she recovers from her knee issue. We are praying that she will be better soon.

Cathy Preston has an interest in our daily petitions on her behalf. It takes time to get over knee replacement surgery.

Please continue to pray for our brethren in Zimbabwe. **Reason P. Marara** and his wife have been personally impacted. Your prayers are appreciated.

Your daily prayers for **Mechi Hunt's** sister, **Zoila Herring**, who is being treated for cancer, are so meaningful. We are thankful for the progress thus far, but Zoila has a long road ahead.

We have been made aware of many brethren around the country who have been hurt

by the tragedy of COVID. Some have lost loved ones and others are dealing with prolonged difficulties as a result of the illness. Remember these to the Lord. He knows their names.

Pray for those who are in assisted living facilities and memory care — **Laura Phillips, Jim Risner, Lane Roberts, Dot Summers.** ☐

Daily Prayer List:

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

WEATHERLY UPDATE

UPDATE: If the Lord wills our plan is to gather at 9:30 for Bible Study next Sunday morning, August 8th. We would caution those present to use great care in your personal interaction. As difficult as that may be, treat one another as though you are a COVID carrier. Too, if you have had contact with someone who is ill with respiratory-like symptoms or has run a fever during the intervening 7 days, be cautious and stay home. Watch the LIVE-stream. We appreciate your understanding as we implement our safety measures.

THIS WEEK: Sunday Bible Class will stream live at 9:30 am. Mike is continuing his series **Divided We Fall**. Morning worship will begin at 10. Mike's lesson today is **Called to the Faith** from **Romans 4:13-25**.

Remember our ZOOM Devo at 7 Sunday evening. If you haven't participated, you will benefit from giving it a try.

Wednesday our **1 Corinthians** study, **Abounding Together** continues at 7 pm. No public assembly this week at Weatherly. ☐

The Battle Belongs to God

Michael W. McLemore

The conflict with Goliath was more than a fight between Israel and the Philistines. For David it was the defense of the Lord's name against those skeptical of His supremacy. He believed only by the Lord's hand could a boy with a boy's weapon defeat a giant warrior like Goliath.

David showed immense courage and faith, in confronting the giant. Yet, it was righteous indignation that drove him face to face with Goliath — "For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God," 1 *Samuel* 17:26. David knew someone had to cast away the reproach of Israel caused by Goliath's insults. Since no one else would step forward, he volunteered to defend Jehovah's name.

Modern audiences read this account and regard it as merely a battle scene where the inexperienced underdog toppled an ancient kind of superman. We console ourselves that we will likely never contend with such a scenario. What really happened is that David stood up for God. Given how our modern culture heckles both the Father and His Son Jesus, we will surely one day find ourselves in David's sandals. Will we stand and fight to defend the scandalous attack of God's name?

One needs no degree in theology to combat those who would mock God. A few "smooth stones" of simple truth gathered from the water of life (the Bible) will do. No enemy, no matter how formidable, can stand against God's word. Whatever the outcome, the battle belongs to the Lord. ☐



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

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes Stream 9:30 am

Sunday AM Assembly Stream 10:00 am

Sunday PM Assembly Zoom 7:00 pm

Wednesday Classes Stream 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	Steve Hagewood
Kirk Hatcher	David Jacks
Hill Roberts	Collis Terry
Bobby Wright	



These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, August 1

Sunday, August 8

Welcome:

Song Leader:

Opening Prayer:

Scripture Reading:

Romans 4:13-25

Romans 10

Sermon: **Mike McLemore**

Mike McLemore

Called to the Faith

Calling on the Name of the Lord

Closing Prayer:

Evening Worship

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz

CANCELLED

CANCELLED

Songs Leader:

Opening Prayer:

Virtual Devotion on ZOOM

Virtual Devotion on ZOOM

Closing Prayer:

Wednesday, August 4

Wednesday, August 11

Songs Leader:

Invitation:

Streamed Bible Study

Streamed Bible Study

Closing Prayer:

None

None

2021 Singing Cancelled

Quarterly Adult Classes
July — September 2021

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Divided We Fall

Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

First Corinthians

Mike McLemore

Serving in August

Serving on the Lord's

Table AM

**** Overseer**

**** TBA**

Lord's Supper PM

Communion Prep

Building Lockup

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



AUGUST 1, 2021

8-2	Wanda Castleman	8-6	Forest Summers
8-10	Clark Boles	8-10	Natalie Frazier
8-11	Phyllis Harmon	8-19	Peggy Childress
8-23	Janice Schrimsher	8-24	Mike Coward
8-24	Lucas Hatcher	8-24	Marty Hunt
8-25	Ron Harmon	8-26	Kirk Hatcher
8-27	Bill McCord	8-28	Adelaide Hatcher

WEEKLY WALK

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