

Weatherly Weekly

April 21, 2024

2024 Edition, Number 16

“I Sacrificed It All”

Michael W. McLemore

Paul’s letter to the Philippians challenges every conventional notion of success and significance. Amid a backdrop of personal achievement and societal accolades, the apostle to the Gentiles offers a weighty representation of what “sacrifice all” for Jesus looks like — “But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ,” *Philippians 3:7*. Can we say, “I sacrificed it all”?

RADICAL REEVALUATION – Students of this letter note a radical shift in Paul’s perspective regarding his previous accomplishments and status. He renounces all that he once esteemed highly in Judaism in light of his commitment to Christ. Along with the Philippian Christians that he loved dearly, Paul shows us what it means to “sacrifice all” for Jesus.

REASSESSMENT OF RETURN – Paul’s use of our “gains” derives from the Greek “*kerdos*,” meaning “advantage,” or “gain.” Interestingly he is the only NT writer to use the term. It is

descriptive of his former privileges, achievements, and advantages, including his religious pedigree, adherence to the Jewish law, and status among his peers. These all are transient, their “return” would be eternally inconsequential, thus led him to reassess the value of these gains. He now considers them as “loss” — damaged goods — in comparison to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. This signifies a complete reversal of his previous mindset, where he viewed his achievements as markers of success.

DIVINE DEVOTION – “For the sake of Christ” highlights the reason behind Paul’s reassessment. Devotion to Christ surpasses any every personal gain or accomplishment. Relinquishing his former status and privileges for the sake of Christ and His mission, challenges believers to prioritize their commitment to Christ above all. It calls us to reassess our values and attachments in light of the gospel. Like Paul, consider “knowing Christ” worth more than everything. □

THE SPIRITUAL MIND

Michael W. McLemore



Our world is consumed with carnality. God’s spiritual people are being barraged with the non-spiritual. It’s a constant stream of stimuli bombarding our minds, especially in cable news and social media. How do we navigate our thoughts amid this flood of information? How do we develop then maintain spiritual minds? Are we passive recipients, subject to the whims of external influences, or do we possess the agency to shape our own mental landscapes?

The Bible book of Philippians provides guidance for developing the “spiritual mind” — “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you,” *Philippians 4:8-9*.

Think about truth – In a world rife with falsehoods, being anchored in truth is paramount. Jesus Himself emphasized the importance of “truth,” declaring that it sets us free from deception, *John 8:31-32*. Lies alienate and have no place in the pursuit of virtue.

Think about honesty – Honesty must permeate our thoughts and actions. Living with integrity is critical. God’s people are honest, even to their hurt — “fear the Lord; who swears to his own hurt and does not change,” *Psalms 15:4*.

Think about justice – Justice is paramount in relationships and our larger community. God’s judgment comes against those who deal unjustly with their fellow man. “O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” *Micah 6:8*.

Think about purity – Both language and behavior will be adjudged for impurity. Those who seek communion with God must be “holy as He is holy,” *1 Peter 1:16*. To think pure thoughts is to pursue His righteous state of mind. The Lord chastised Peter for “thinking” like a man, and not centering His mind on the things of God, *Matthew 16:23*.

Think about the lovely (acceptable) – Dwelling upon areas of life that are unacceptable is ruinous to spirituality.

Paul warned Christians, “We are the temple of the living God,” asking, “For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols?” *2 Corinthians 6:14-16*. We are called to center upon the “acceptable,” to focus on the “lovely,” the things that God deems pleasing.

Think about praise – Does this bring glory to God or invite His praise? If not, leave it off. If a matter is not commendable, fostering an environment of goodwill, then it is carnal and not spiritual. Jesus’ baptism of John invited such praise — “a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” *Matthew 3:17*.

Think about virtue – Moral courage is indispensable and must characterize the believer’s mindset. Moral excellence and divine righteousness, should be cultivated in our thoughts and deeds, as was with Job of old — “There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil,” *Job 1:1*.

The spiritual mind is led by thoughts and bent upon actions that elicit praise, such as diligence, moral living, and spiritual discipline. In spite of distractions that threaten to derail focus, the spiritual mind of God’s man is undeterred from “His things.” Reflecting on the nature of our thoughts becomes imperative. Are they aligned with righteousness, or do they veer towards wickedness? As Christians, our thoughts should mirror our beliefs and inform our actions. The journey with God begins with the mind. It must feed upon spiritual things if it is to be spiritually inclined.

Paul’s admonition to “think on these things” serves as a roadmap for cultivating a virtuous and God-honoring thought life. By aligning our thoughts with truth, honesty, justice, purity, the commendable, virtue, and praise, we embody the values of pure Christianity. Through continuous prayer and reflection, we guard against the encroachment of worldly distractions, ensuring that our minds remain steadfast in their devotion to God. In short, we develop our spiritual minds. □

Watch LIVE!



FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



2024 A Mind to Work — Together, Nurturing the Believers' Mindset
April: The Excellent Mind, "Think on these things."

Family Updates

Prayers:

Ron Harmon continues his recovery in room 598 at Huntsville Hospital. He was able to undergo the repair of an aneurysm in his left leg on Thursday and is doing well. He is mentally clear and resting comfortably. His next step with be rehab. **Phyllis** is investigating prospective rehab facilities at present. **Bobby & Rosie** are here until the 28th at which time **Ron & Sharon** are slated to return. Their son, **Tim**, returned to Houston yesterday. Your prayers have proven invaluable.

Lynn Franklin will undergo more tests on Thursday of this week. Please pray for Lynn.

Silvia Henderson's sister, **Kiki Castaneda**, was not able to start her new Chemo on Tuesday. She should be able to on Tuesday of this week. Prayers are requested.

Ciera Elledge, Will & Sarah Starks' granddaughter, remains in our prayers as she navigates her serious medical decisions.

We are glad that our **Peggy Shelton** is feeling "a little better" and was able to attend Bible study on Wednesday.

David Jacks is still not well enough to resume song leading duties, but he is better. Thank you for your prayers.

Peggy Childress remains at home. Please continue to say her name to the Lord this week. Also, remember **Terry**.

Jack Taft remains on our prayer list as he

undergoes treatments. He has been hospitalized for several days. **The Dubose's** are hopeful that he will go home soon. Pray for Jack.

Please be mindful of those in our family who struggle with chronic illness or the effects of aging — **Peggy Childress, Peggy Monroe, Glenda Cavender, Edith Turner, Melvin Godeette, Maragem Harbin, Carolyn Barr, Betty Dubose, Ron Harmon, Jim Risner, Harold Smith & Wanda Castleman.**

This Week at Weatherly

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE class meets at 9:00. **Mike McLemore** will teach Lesson Two of "Am I Brother's Keeper?" — Restoring My Brother.

BIBLE SKILZ will meet afterward. **Steve Hage-wood** will lead today's **DEVOTION**.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP follows at 10:10. **Mike McLemore's** lesson today is entitled, "Count Everything Loss" from Philippians 3.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY begins at 7. **Hill Roberts** will lead the class. □

PRESSING ON
2024 WEATHERLY HEIGHTS LECTURES
May 2-5

MAY 2-5
Thursday, 7:00 pm
Jonathan Reeder
Buc Chumley
Friday, 10:00 am
Buc Chumley
Jonathan Reeder
Friday, 7:00 pm
Mitch Davis
Wilson Adams
Saturday, 9:00 am
Jonathan Reeder
Buc Chumley
Sunday, 2:00 pm
Jonathan Reeder
Buc Chumley
Mitch Davis

930 Weatherly Road, SE - Huntsville, AL 35803
www.weatherlychurch.com

APRIL & MAY BIRTHDAYS



4-21	Dianne Dill	4-21	Mechi Hunt
4-23	David Jacks	4-25	Sue Terry
4-27	Lauren Thompson	4-29	Harrison Smith
5-7	Bill Reavis	5-8	Hill Roberts
5-9	Ruth Mitchell	5-11	Gail Franklin

Epitome of Sacrifice

Michael W. McLemore

The US committee investigating the sinking of Titanic determined that 1517 people perished on the evening of April 15th, 1912. On its maiden voyage the White Star Line's flagship vessel, RMS Titanic, slipped beneath the frigid North Atlantic at 2:20 am. Though considered the pinnacle of comfort and luxury, it became the tomb for hundreds that fateful night.

Among those onboard were millionaire John Jacob Astor IV, the world's richest man in that age. Yet when faced with looming death, he chose what he deemed morally right and giving his place in a lifeboat to save two frightened children. Also, the multi-millionaire Isidor Straus, co-owner of "Macy's," the largest department store of that era, refused to "enter a lifeboat before other men." Straus' own wife, Ida, also refused to board the lifeboat, insisting that a maid appointed for the trip, Ellen Bird, take her own place, that she could spend her last moments of life with her husband. As Ms. Bird entered the boat, Mrs. Straus gave the young woman her full-length Mink coat to keep her warm until rescued.

Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends," *John 15:13*. In spite of their enormous wealth, these sacrificed their lives so others would live. History has rightly deemed them the epitome of what it means to love sacrificially unto the death. □

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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	9:00 am
Sunday Devotion	9:35 am
Sunday Assembly	10:10 am
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: mmclemore@weatherlychurch.com

Weatherly's Deacons

Phil Furlough	Steve Hage-wood
Kirk Hatcher	David Jacks
Hill Roberts	Collis Terry
Bobby Wright	

Weatherly at Work

These are asked to assist in our labor.

	Sunday, April 21st	Sunday, April 28th
Welcome:	Tommy Hill	Will Starks
Song Leader:	Mel Ambrose	Hill Roberts
Devotion	Devotion	
Bible Skillz	Mike McLemore	Mike McLemore
Opening Prayer:	Alex Thompson	Tommy Hill
Devotion Leader:	Steve Hage-wood	Phil Shaver
Assembly Worship	Assembly Worship	
Opening Prayer:	Collis Terry	WD Patrick
Lord's Table Lead:	Marty Hunt Philippians 3:1-21	Phil Furlough Philippians 4:1-8
Sermon:	Mike McLemore Count Everything Loss	Mike McLemore Think About This
Closing Prayer:	Davis Stoll	Will Starks

	Wednesday, April 24th	Wednesday, May 1st
Songs Leader:	Philip Dill	Mike McLemore
Invitation:	Mike McLemore	
Closing Prayer:	John Patrick	

2024 Weatherly Heights Lectures

May 2-5, 2024
"Pressing On"

Buc Chumley, Jonathan Reeder
Mitch Davis & Wilson Adams

Quarterly Adult Classes January – March 2024

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
"Am I My Brother's Keeper?"
Mike McLemore & Mel Ambrose

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY
The Big Picture Bible
Hill Roberts

Serving in April

Serving on the Lord's Table AM & PM
** Bill Thompson (4-7), Phil Shaver (4-14), Marty Hunt (4-21), Phil Furlough (4-28)
** Overseer

Building Lockup

Phil Furlough

