

Weatherly Weekly

May 17, 2020

2020 Edition, Number 20

Between Disillusionment & Denial

Gary Henry

On either side of real faith there are dangerous extremes. On the one hand, there is the foolish idealism which pretends that the Christian life is problem-free. Those who have been led into this way of thinking can only stay there by refusing to deal with life's unpleasant realities. They tend to be superficial, and often self-righteous, toward those who admit to struggling with sin in their lives. But on the other hand, there is the unfortunate cynicism that spreads bitterness in the name of honesty. Those with this outlook tend to be fatalistic, and often condescending toward those they deem to be less honest about life.

It is possible, however, to have a balanced faith that is both realistic and hopeful. Peter spoke of such a possibility when he said, "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ," *1 Peter 1:13*. Given the death-dealing realities that surround us, it is

hazardous to have anything less than a sober mind, a mind which is girded for clear thinking and decisive action. But although the difficulties are real, they are not the TOTALITY of what is real. Let us not lose our bearings.

A day draws near when the entire sum of all that has ever opposed God will be seen to have been a reality far less "weighty" than even the least part of His glory, *2 Corinthians 4:16-18*. If this is our confidence, the quandaries of this broken life will still break our hearts, but we can meet them with a mind refreshed and firmly fixed on "the grace that is to be brought to [us] at the revelation of Jesus Christ." There is no need to deny our pain. But neither need we deny that the problem of pain was dealt with at the Cross. A King died there "that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage," *Hebrews 2:14-15*. □

Luke 7 introduces two people that Jesus encounters in the home of a Pharisee, *36-50*. The first is the host, Simon by name. Simon's motive for inviting Jesus to dinner in his home remains unknown; but Jesus had a long-anticipated meeting that would forever establish the precedent of God's love for the worst and the best. The second is an uninvited guest, "a woman of

lender more?" *43*. Simon doesn't realize that Jesus is telling the story to expose him, so he answers – "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt."

"You have judged rightly," answered Jesus, who then contrasts the behavior of Simon, the host of the dinner party, with that of the sinful woman, *44-46*. The three behaviors that Jesus mentions were the traditionally ex-

Forgiven Much, Spared Much

Michael W. McLemore

the city, who was a sinner," *37*. She came in shame but left with faith and the peace that her past was forgiven.

Simon's dinner party surely read like a Who's Who of Jerusalem Pharisees, billed as a sit down with Jesus. Those most well-versed in the Old Testament Scriptures were at the ready to take potshots at the Lord. Yet, when the presumed prostitute stepped out of the shadows, the conversation took an undesired course for the tastes of the self-righteous.

"How did she get in to such an important party?" is among the most often asked questions. When a dinner was thrown for a famous person like Jesus, the doors of the house were open for onlookers to listen to the prevailing conversation. It was a spectacle, but it allowed this woman, her "chance meeting" with the Savior. That is one answer. The other answer is that as much as she came there to see Jesus, He came there to see her.

The crowd was aghast as she began kissing his feet and anointing them with ointment from an alabaster flask she brought for the task. Its value was extreme, estimated at a year's wages. The worst of it was that Jesus didn't do anything to stop her. Not one thing.

Two attitudes are apparent from the story. This woman didn't care what anybody else thought or said, she was determined to demonstrate an extravagant love for Jesus. The Pharisee was appalled at both the woman's behavior and Jesus' lack of intervention. Not only was the woman of ill repute, her carrying on with Jesus appeared erotic and in very poor taste. No good Pharisee would have anything to do with a woman like that, let alone permit her to touch them.

Jesus called the Pharisee by name, Simon and proceeded to tell him a story, *41-42*. The two debtors in Jesus' story owed a moneylender differing amounts. One 500 denarii, equivalent to about 20 month's salary and the other 50 denarii or 2 month's salary. The money lender astonishingly cancels the debts of both men. Jesus then asks the key question "Which of these two debtors will love the

pected acts of hospitality for such an event – Water to wash feet, a kiss of welcome, an anointing of the head with oil. Simon had not even fulfilled the traditional customs. Why? Was Simon's guest of honor also despised? Perhaps. At the very least He was taken for granted. The sinful woman had done all at great personal expense in an extravagant display of love for Jesus. The Pharisee, who enjoyed the great benefits of the Lord's Law did nothing.

Jesus' story exposes the answer. The woman was worshipping Jesus through this out pouring of extravagant love, while his host despised both Him and her. How could Jesus equate a distinguished Pharisee's sins to hers? How could she garner the attention of God? How could this despicable woman become the focus of the evening? This was no chance meeting. It was long planned in the purpose of God. But, Jesus was not there merely to meet her, He was there to show the Pharisee (and US) something about ourselves.

"Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little. And he said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven,'" *47-48*. Jesus cancelled her great debt and exposed the profound advantage of His people whom He has spared a life of sinful sorrow as they live by His precepts.

WE often fail to embrace the full implication of Jesus' illustration, seizing upon the extravagant forgiveness of the 500 denarii. The answer is later observed, again in Luke's account, in the response of the Prodigal's Father, "My son,' the Father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found,'" *Luke 15:31-32*. Salvation is deserving of celebration, no matter the betrayal.

Jesus showed great respect for a woman whose sins were great, but sought to teach God's people the prodigious benefit we enjoy as His people. She loved Him much because He had forgiven much. Should we not love Him much, because He has spared us much? □

Watch LIVE!

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:
Ron Harmon is home doing well. Home health is coming and all seems to be good.
Forest Summers had his eighth antibody treatment Wednesday. That is the last in that portion of his series. We will let you know what happens next. Your prayers for him and for **Dot** are requested and appreciated.
Steve Guice is still in a holding pattern at this point. We generally get an update from **Julie** on Sunday night following our Zoom Devo. Prayers for Steve are appreciated.

We are trusting the Lord to continue to watch over **Glenda & Ken Cavender**. Please continue to say her name as you pray.

Betty Reavis continues maintenance chemo treatment once each month. This requires follow up fluid IV's. She is doing well and able to get out in the car with **Bill**. That is good medicine. Your prayers are sustaining the Reavis family. Keep them up!

Nick Holland & Family are in our prayers following the loss of his grandmother, **Elizabeth "Betty" Martin**. ☐

New Grandbabies!!

Joanne Abernathy's third grandson arrived Monday. **Silas Reed Archer** was born at 12:23 pm, 8 lbs, 3 oz, 19 inches long. All is well with **Samantha & Silas Reed**. Pictures soon.

Karen & Bill Thompson welcomed **Miles Dean Owen**, 7 lbs 8 oz, 19.5 inches long on Wednesday morning. Both mother and son are doing well. Pictures to follow! ☐

Daily Prayer List:
Betty Reavis
Jean Woodard
Laura Phillips
Melvin Godette



Zoom Devo at 7 pm Sunday

ZOOM Devo is going very well. We had our best attended gathering yet on Sunday Evening (54). Though it is not optimal, it is most encouraging to be "together." We will see you at 7 tonight!

WEATHERLY UPDATES

Sunday Morning Bible Study will begin at 9:30. We are studying **Hinges of Christianity: Christ, Born of a Virgin**.

Sunday morning worship will begin at 10. Mike is the middle of a series on **The Book of Life: Applying the Word of Life**. Look for the handout in your email on Sunday morning.

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

Wednesday Bible Study — Mike McLemore's study of 1 John will be streamed live at 7 pm — No assemblies at the building.

MAY BIRTHDAYS



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|------|----------------|------|-----------------|
| 5-17 | Megan Caudle | 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 |

Looking Ahead

Jeff Himmel

In the first century, Roman engineer Sextus Julius Frontinus was so impressed by his world that he said, "Inventions have reached their limit, and I see no hope for further development." In 1895, British scientist Lord Kelvin declared, "Heavier than air flying machines are impossible." In 1932, the great physicist Albert Einstein said, "There is not the slightest indication that nuclear energy will ever be obtainable." In 1977, computer industry pioneer Ken Olsen remarked, "There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home."

It's hard to tell what the future will bring, isn't it? "No man knows what will happen, and who can tell him what will come after him?" *Ecclesiastes 10:14*. The future's uncertainty is exciting. Each day brings new opportunities and challenges. Lay hold of them, *Psalms 118:24*.

The future's uncertainty is also humbling. "Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow... Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that'" *James 4:13-15*.

But some aspects of the future are certain. We know that "it is appointed for men once to die," and that "after this comes judgment" *Hebrews 9:27*. Not knowing when makes it all the more urgent that we prepare now to meet God, *Matthew 25:13*. ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Heights CHURCH OF CHRIST
 930 Weatherly Road SE
 Huntsville, Alabama 35803

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 P.O. Box 4619
 Huntsville, Alabama 35815
Phone: 256 881-9535
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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:
 Sermon archive or live stream during all Weatherly services

Weatherly's Shepherds

Tommy Hill	256 883-0010
Will Starks	256 883-5273
Forest Summers	256 348-2251

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.

Stream ONLY — May 17		Sunday, May 24
Welcome:	Mike McLemore	Mike McLemore
Song Leader:	Jared Jimison (arrangement)	Jared Jimison (arrangement)
Opening Prayer:		
Scripture Reading:	Matthew 13:1-23	Psalms 119:97-108
Sermon:	Mike McLemore <i>Applying the Word of Life</i>	Mike McLemore <i>Guided by the Word</i>
Closing Prayer:		

Evening Worship		Evening Worship
Study Series	CANCELLED	CANCELLED
Songs Leader:		
Opening Prayer:	Virtual Devotion on ZOOM	Virtual Devotion on ZOOM
Closing Prayer:		

Wednesday, May 20		Wednesday, May 27
Songs Leader:		
Invitation:	Streamed Bible Study	Streamed Bible Study
Closing Prayer:		
	None	None

2020 Weatherly Lectures <i>April 30th—May 3rd</i>	Quarterly Adult Classes <i>April — June 2020</i>
<i>We regret to announce that our 2020 Lectures have been cancelled.</i>	AUDITORIUM SUNDAY Hinges of Christianity Mike McLemore
	AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY Letters from John Mike McLemore

Serving in May

Serving on the Lord's Table AM ** Overseer	Ken Cavender Jimmy Harbin Bobby Wright Phil Furlough **	Ed Dill Phil Shaver Ryan Patrick Jim Risner
Lord's Supper PM	Collis Terry **	John Stokes
Communion Prep Building Lockup		

