

The Weatherly Weekly

February 19, 2017

2017 Edition, Number 8

Rely on God

Michael W. McLemore

Facing severe adversity can sometimes be the impetus for the loss of faith. Perhaps you know someone who endured comparable conditions with the opposite outcome, their faith was actually reinforced.

What makes the difference? Could it be that one person knew the source of his or her strength and the other did not? One trusted the Lord and His ways and gained confidence in His power. This individual relied upon God's strength in times of weakness.

Admitting our limitations should not be that difficult, but pride far too often clouds our perception of who we are and what we can achieve in our own strength. We don't like to admit, "I'm weak!" We want to be in control and never helpless.

In reality, we must learn that in our weakest moments, the Lord is free to do His greatest work in us. It is in these trying times that we can experience God's strength. Paul understood. This godly man, revered by Christians everywhere in his time, maybe the most influential messenger of the gospel of all time,

acknowledged weakness. Listen to his words to the church at Corinth: "When I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom . . . I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling" (1Corinthians 2:1-3).

Why would Paul say this? In his second letter he wrote again, "Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong" (1 Corinthians 12:10). Paul learned a life-changing truth through perseverance and suffering: all the strength he needed was available to him through Christ.

I want to tell you that what the Lord did for Paul, He's doing for us today. And the same power and strength that prevailed through Him then still prevails today. If you are facing an insurmountable trial in your life, do not be afraid to admit that you can't handle it alone. Instead, confess your weakness to the Lord, and draw from the deep well of His everlasting strength and love. □

Watch us LIVE!

www.weatherlychurch.com

WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

	THIS WEEK FEBRUARY 19	NEXT WEEK FEBRUARY 26
Sunday AM		
Announcements	Will Starks	Will Starks
Song Leader	David Jacks	Jared Jimison
Opening Prayer	Ron Holland	Louis Garrett
Scripture Reading	Kirk Hatcher	Phillip Dill
Closing Prayer	Phil Furlough	Jim Ehl
Sunday PM		
Song Leader	David Jacks	SINGING
Opening Prayer	Collis Terry	Will Starks
Closing Prayer	Doyle Wray	Bobby Wright
Wednesday PM	FEBRUARY 22	MARCH 1
Song Leader	Phil Furlough	
Invitation	Searcy Hall	Louis Garrett
Closing Prayer	Terry Childress	
Group Meeting	Group 3	Group 3

QUARTERLY BIBLE CLASSES JANUARY – MARCH 2017

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Galatians
Gene Preston

ADITORIUM WEDNESDAY

New Testament Worship
Michael McLemore



2017 WEATHERLY HEIGHTS LECTURES

"Magnify the Lord with ME"
David Banning, Jonathan Reeder, Tim Stevens
and Lowell Sallee, May 4th—7th, 2017

Weatherly's Shepherds

Louis Garrett	(256) 883-7785
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

Steve Hagewood	Ron Harmon	David Jacks
Hill Roberts	Collis Terry	Bobby Wright

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Assembly	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:00 p.m.

MONTHLY OPPORTUNITIES

February	
Serving on the Lord's Table AM	Wes Caudle Dwight Ivey Ed Dill Ron Harmon ** Marty Hunt Ron Holland Ryan Patrick Jerry Mitchell
** Overseer	
Lord's Supper PM	Collis Terry ** John Stokes
Visitor Greeting	
Sunday AM	Janice Schrimsher
Rear Door	Steve & Shelia Hagewood
Side Door	Charles & Penny Hill
Sunday PM	
Rear Door/ Side Door	Jimison/Roberts
Communion Prep	Phyllis Harmon & Janice Wray
Building Lockup	Ron Harmon

FOCUS

Michael W. McLemore

Modern cameras are amazing. Point and shoot has become a cinch. Auto focus does it all. Wouldn't life be amazing if focus was so easily achieved as pointing a shooting. Unfortunately there is no auto-focus when it comes to life. Life requires special attention on our part.

A failure to maintain focus in most endeavors can have unpleasant results, even real disaster. For the brain surgeon it is critical: life is at stake. But, how much more important is focus when eternity is in the balance? The Christian must maintain focus. If we fail to keep our focus spiritual disaster looms.

Consider three obvious areas that require constant focus:

FOLLOW THE LEADER

It's follow the leader, but it's no game! Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27). If we are to "follow his steps" (1 Peter 2:22), then we need to pay attention to where His steps lead. Most of us get involved in too many different activities in life - school, work, community, home. Sadly, few involve acts of kindness or service to others. Without those actions, are we truly following our Leader?

First century saints that were running "the Christian race" were exhorted to look "unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:1, 2). Paul said of himself, "For to me to live is Christ" (Philippians 1:21). Keep focus! Follow the Leader. Make Jesus the center of our focus.

The B-I-B-L-E

Children sing it. But, it's not just for children! The child of God must stay focused on the word of God. A "thus saith the Lord" for all we do is for many "to traditional." That disheartening attitude has no place among God's people. 21st-century Christians spend

far too little private time studying God's word. Too many are calling for Bible classes to be little more than a social hour. Brethren, we have to keep our attention on the word of the Living God! It is God's word that "is able to save your souls" (James 1:21). Nothing else can do that. It is God's word that serves as a lamp for our feet and a light for our path (Psalm 119:105). Nothing else can do that. It is God's word that can build us up and give us an inheritance among the sanctified (Acts 20:32). Nothing else can do that. We must "desire the pure milk of the word, that you (we) may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:2). The Bible must be the center of our focus.

Going to Heaven

It's not just a cliché! Disciples of Jesus are focused on heaven. Going to heaven is what our life is all about. Going to heaven is the power that motivates. It is the reward that compels us. It must therefore be the singular goal upon which our attention is focused. By faith Abraham "waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10). He and others in his family desired "a better, that is, a heavenly country" (11:16). Do you share Abraham's focus?

Hear the stern warning in Paul's words to the young preacher, "No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, in order that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier" (2 Timothy 2:4). Don't become entangled or consumed with the affairs of this earthly life. Keep focus! Jesus taught, "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:20, 21). Our focus must be on "things above, where Jesus sits at the right hand of God" (Colossians 3:1,2).

The devil wants to distract us from our focus. Don't let him blur your focus and cost you heaven! □



Family matters

News and Notes of Interest To Weatherly Members

Welcome "Olivia Ray Holland"

Friday, February 17th, *Olivia Ray Holland* was born to *Carolyn & Nick Holland*. *Little Olivia* weighs 7 lbs, 8 ounces. Both mother and daughter are well. Our Weatherly family is rejoicing with the entire *Holland family*, especially *Sam, Anna & Ron*.



days relaxation in Florida.

Sue Terry was back with us Wednesday after a bout with pneumonia. We are glad that she is better.

Linda Cuddington, daughter of *Edith Turner*, remains in the ICU in LaGrange, Georgia, but she is off the respirator and breathing on her own.

That is a tremendous step in the right direction. Though she is very weak, *Linda* is slowly improving. Your prayers are appreciated.

Mike Gore, *Sandra's* husband and *Steve Gittings*, *Joanne Abernathy's* bother-in-law, are in our prayers as they undergo treatment for cancer.

Pray for Those in Need

Glenda Cavender has unfortunately not enjoyed much improvement from her steroid injection. Please pray for her improvement and for her strength.

Ann Summers was able to attend worship on Wednesday evening! We were thrilled to see her after 12 long weeks out. Your prayers have made the difference. Please continue to say her name to the Father.

Ann will be receiving her physical therapy at home. We are in hope that she will grow stronger.

Becky Hill had her most recent follow-up blood work on Thursday, No results yet. Pray for her good report. *The Hills* are away for a few

Photos Today!

Brooke Hatcher will be making "new member photos" today! Please make sure to get your photo made today.

Spring Study Series

Our Spring Sunday Night Study Series is one month away, March 19th. Make your plans to be here each Sunday.

Group Three Meets Tonight

Group 3, led by *Murray Castleman*, will meet tonight following evening services. Please attend your group meeting. □

Weatherly Birthdays

2-27	Penny Hill	3-5	Gina Curtis
3-6	Harold Smith	3-11	Evelyn Hall



Do What You're Good At

Alan Smith

A little boy was overheard talking to himself as he strutted through the backyard, wearing his baseball cap and toting a ball and bat. "I'm the greatest hitter in the world," he announced.

Then, he tossed the ball into the air, swung at it, and missed. "Strike One!" he yelled. Undaunted, he said again, "I'm the greatest hitter in the world!" He tossed the ball into the air. When it came down he swung and missed. "Strike Two!" he cried. The boy spit on his hands and rubbed them together. He straightened his cap and said once more, "I'm the greatest hitter in the world!" Again he tossed the ball up in the air and swung at it. He missed. "Strike Three!" "Wow!" he exclaimed. "I'm the greatest pitcher in the world!"

It's important that we find what we're good at and do it with all our might. Not everyone can be a great hitter. If you can't hit, then work at being a great pitcher. If you can't do that, then be a great base runner or maybe a fan in the stands!

One of the great aspects of the Lord's church is that not everyone is expected to excel in the same areas. Some are great preachers. Others are great encouragers.

Paul used the illustration of a human body, each part having a different function, and each one essential to the well-being of the body as a whole.

"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ." (1 Corinthians 12:12) □

Weekly Walk!