

# The Weatherly Weekly

March 26, 2017

2017 Edition, Number 13

## Christianity

Michael W. McLemore

The life we enjoy in Christ escapes us far to often. May I ask, "Do you enjoy your life as a Christian?" Paul called the Philippians to "rejoice in the Lord always." Are we? Do we? Many years ago I discovered a piece that describes well what Christianity ought to bring to our lives. Yes, the hope of heaven propels us through adversity, but our life in Christ ought to bring light and vitality today, while we live. I hope you will be moved by Hugh Elmer Brown's wondrous description of Christianity.

Christianity is not the religion of sorrow and gloom: it is the religion of the morning, and it carries in its heart the happiness of heaven. Christianity is not a restraint but an inspiration — not a weight but wings; not subtraction

but addition. It brings bloom for faded hearts, rejuvenation for the prematurely old, imagination for the dry, literal mind.

Christianity is not a kill-joy at the feast of life, nor a kind of incarnate "don't": it bristles with great affirmatives, fires the soul with permanent enthusiasms and durable loyalties.

Christianity leaves a trail of light wherever it goes; it can keep you cool under any confusion, bring you up smiling from any deeps and utterly banish your fret and worry.

Christianity brings zest and sparkle to life; it is sunshine on the flowers rather than moonlight on the snow; it is life more abundant; it is leaving the little narrow life behind and leaving it forever. ☐☐

### WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

	THIS WEEK MARCH 26	NEXT WEEK APRIL 2
<b>Sunday AM</b>		
Announcements	Forest Summers	Louis Garrett
Song Leader	Jared Jimison	David Jacks
Opening Prayer	Ron Holland	Gene Preston
Scripture Reading	Charley Carter	Jim Ehl
Closing Prayer	Melvin Godette	Marty Hunt
<b>Sunday PM</b>		
Song Leader	SINGING	David Jacks
Opening Prayer	Gene Preston	Forest Summers
Closing Prayer	Riley Monroe	Collis Terry
<b>Wednesday PM</b>	<b>MARCH 29</b>	<b>APRIL 5</b>
Song Leader	Jared Jimison	Phil Furlough
Invitation	TBA	Louis Garrett
Closing Prayer	Mike Coward	Ron Harmon
Group Meeting	Group 4	Group 1

### 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

### MONTHLY OPPORTUNITIES

<b>April</b>	
Serving on the Lord's Table AM	Kiel Adams Ken Cavender Nick Holland Forest Summers ** Terry Barnett Kirk Hatcher Jonathan Matlock John Patrick
** Overseer	
Lord's Supper PM	Gene Preston ** Terry Childress
Visitor Greeting	
Sunday AM	
Rear Door	Terry & Kim Barnett
Side Door	W.D. & LaNelle Patrick
Sunday PM	
Rear Door/ Side Door	Harmon/Starks
Communion Prep	Petra Carter
Building Lockup	Terry Barnett

### TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:00 p.m.

# JESUS

# OUR REDEEMER

Hal Hammons

Job probably figured things couldn't get any worse after he lost his possessions and children, after his wife's consolation was limited to "curse God and die". And then his "friends" showed up. Not knowing Job's situation any better than they knew the mind of God, they assumed Job's difficulties must have been a curse from God for some wrongdoing on Job's part. Job's refusal to acknowledge any such wrongdoing only convinced them further that he was rebelling against God.

As frustrated as Job was at his friends' superficial explanation, he was even more so at God's failure to provide an accurate one. For chapter after chapter he beseeched God for the method to all the madness in his life. But throughout the ordeal he never questioned that God was in control or that God would eventually come to his defense (as eventually He did, Job 42:7-8). Perhaps the most eloquent statement of faith in all of Job's speeches is in Job 19:25 - "And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth." Since the New Testament nowhere applies this text to Jesus, we must accept the possibility that Job is simply speaking figuratively of the Father here - that God would make His justice known in the presence of Job and his detractors "on the earth". However, since the Father never literally came to earth (and the Son did), we can't rule out the possibility that Job spoke here prophetically of the coming of Jesus, who would "bring forth justice to the nations" and not break the bruised reed or extinguish the dimly burning wick (Isaiah 42:1-3).

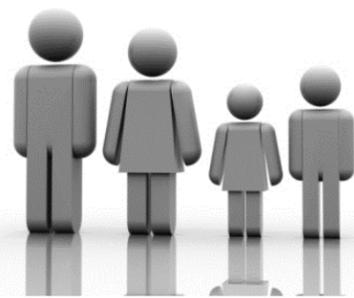
The Greek words *lutroo* and *exagorazo*, rendered "redeem" in the New Testament, each have reference to financial transactions, where money or goods are exchanged for an item (or more frequently, a person) of value. The second of the two is used metaphorically for taking advantage of opportunities ("redeeming the time" or "making the most of the opportunity") in Ephesians 5:16 and Colossians

4:5. The point is this: Satan is in possession of something God wants - a human soul; the price necessary to "redeem" the soul is the blood of His Son on the cross; God willingly pays that price so that anyone who wishes can be freed from Satan's rule.

As despicable as Job's physical state may have been, it pales when we consider the spiritual state of a soul separated from his God. We were slaves of sin, laboring day-in and day-out with only our inevitable wages waiting for us (Romans 6:18-23). But much as a man could purchase the freedom of a slave during Bible times, so Jesus "redeemed" us, paying with His own blood (1 Peter 1:18-19). We have a new Master now, and a new wage to look forward to - eternal life.

The New Testament particularly refers to the redemption process in reference to the Law of Moses. Prior to the gospel, the only remedy available for sin for the people of God was the perfect keeping of ordinances. The system itself guaranteed our disaster - not through any fault of the Law itself, but rather through our own fault as imperfect law-keepers. Paul writes for us in Galatians 3:13, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us" (see also Galatians 4:4-5). His point is that such teaching returns its followers to a system that was ultimately ineffective in reconciling them to their God, a system Jesus gave His life on the cross to replace.

We are not left to do the best we can under a system of reconciliation that depends wholly and futilely on ourselves. We have been redeemed. Jesus' blood gives people of faith (like Job) the confidence that our toil is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58) - the confidence that He recognizes and appreciates our efforts in His cause. The missteps that previously would have merely added fetter to fetter in Satan's dungeon now can be forgiven when we confess our sins and rededicate ourselves to a life worthy of the sacrifice made on our behalf. □



## Family matters

News and Notes of Interest To Weatherly Members

### Pray for Those in Need

*Pat Gamble, Sheila Hagewood's* mother, is doing well following surgery, but is a bit low because of her confinement. *Sister Gamble* has been a very active person and her new limitations are unfamiliar. Perhaps a card of encouragement?

**Pat Gamble**  
1953 Slickback Road  
Benton, KY 42025

*Terry Childress* was briefly hospitalized Thursday for tests. Those proved negative for any heart issues, but he still doesn't know the source of his chest discomfort. Pray for *Terry*.

*Jenny Jacks* has been ordered to stay away from crowds for now. We know this is very hard, especially with Sunday Night Study Series underway. Pray for *Jenny* to get better.

*Glenda Cavender* is undergoing regular acupuncture that seems to be helping her pain. Please pray for *Glenda*. We sure miss her!

*Betty Eubanks*, sister of *Margaret Smith*, is in the hospital in Florida. She is not doing well at all. We have been asked to pray for *Betty*.

*Mike Coward* has undergone the procedure to put the dye into his system. He will now have a series of scans. Pray for a positive finding.

*Linda Cuddington*, daughter of *Edith Turner*, has moved to an independent living facility in Birmingham. She is improving everyday. She has asked that we relay her appreciation

for the prayers, cards and expressions of love. Her new address is:

**Linda Cuddington**  
202 Mount Royal Towers  
Birmingham, AL 35309

At this printing *Chuck Furlough, Phil's* brother, should be home. We are rejoicing in his good outcome. Continued prayers are solicited.

*Art Miller, Mike Gore, Steve Gittings*, and *Vicki Stevens* remain on our prayer list.

### Our Weatherly Lectures

The 2017 Weatherly Lectures are just 6 weeks away! Mark your calendar for May 4-7. Our theme this year is "Magnify Our Lord with Me."

### Week 2 Spring Study Series

Sunday Night Study Series is underway. We are off to a great start. Attendance was excellent on Sunday, but we can do far better. Let's all make plans to attend.

### Group Four Meets Today

Group 4, led by *Ron Harmon*, will meet following morning worship at the home of *Ron & Phyllis* for a covered dish and group meeting.

A new group list is being posted. It has been some time since we have shifted our groups around. It will take a bit to *regroup*, but we are looking forward to the changes. □

### Weatherly Birthdays



3-27	Jonathan Matlock	4-2	Silvia Henderson
4-5	Carolynn Barr	4-6	Jerry Mitchell
4-8	William Hill	4-9	Mandi Adams

## Victory Through Faith

Michael W. McLemore

God's people were never left to rely upon numbers for victory. Victory was assured only when the nation relied on God. It was never secured in number.

An example of one Israelite's faith is seen in Jonathan's exclamation to his armor bearer "...for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few" (1 Samuel 14:6). Jonathan stood before a massive force of Philistines, and, though the prospect for victory was to Saul's human perspective foreboding, the young warrior with one man at his side set the entire enemy to flight. Jonathan in faith vindicated our premise, whether few or many there is no restraint with God.

Paul teaches Christians "the things written aforetime were written for OUR learning" (Romans 15:4). This grand pattern of divine providence established firmly in Old Testament example speaks to a dilemma faced by Christians today regarding number.

It would be easy for the child of God in the modern age to be discouraged by the daunting task of reaching our city with the Gospel. Beholding our city and the enormity of the task to spread the borders of the kingdom in it, we shriek as Israel. Perhaps, we, with the crowd "head for the hills" in fear, or return to our tent and quake. Sadly, Christians in many circles have become openly skeptical about the prospects of a few accomplishing anything resembling victory in the quest to save souls. We must take to heart that victory is through faith: "there is no restraint to the Lord to SAVE by many or by few!" □

## Weekly Walk!