

The Weatherly Weekly

June 18, 2017

2017 Edition, Number 25

"THE ABUNDANT LIFE"

Michael W. McLemore

Our Lord longs for His children to have abundant, meaningful lives - "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). As His children, we are equipped and empowered to reach our God-given potential. That potential however is never achieved "overnight" and never by living independently of cooperation with the Holy Spirit's direction.

We are called by the Gospel, born into the kingdom of God as babes, to obedience. Some of His teachings are easy to follow; others difficult. With new allegiance we no longer choose our own way, but rely on His. Every act of obedience builds and purifies faith.

The Christian depends upon Him. In fact, we are often called to daunting duties that seem humanly impossible. By example, to forgive an atrocious act may feel entirely beyond our ability. But, when we cannot achieve what He requires, we rely on His strength to enable us. Our Mighty King will always supply the

power sufficient for His command (1 Peter 4:11).

The Father of our spirit persuades patience - wait on Him. We tend to want everything to happen on our own timetable, and in our own way. The temptation is to manipulate circumstances, which typically ends badly. God's way is always best; mature faith will trust, obey and then be patient.

In spite of all our good intention we fail. The Bible calls upon us to confess our sin and repent. Often our most profound lessons come from missteps. God never expected we would achieve perfection, but He promises to "perfect us" in His Son. The healthy response to shortcoming is change. Our faith is perfected in the heat of service.

"The abundant life" in Christ is more meaningful and fulfilling than any other. Won't you give yourself to Him in faith? Reach your God-given potential. He promises to be with you always (Matthew 28:20). ☐

WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

	THIS WEEK JUNE 18	NEXT WEEK JUNE 25
Sunday AM		
Announcements	Will Starks	Will Starks
Song Leader	Charles Hill	Jared Jimison
Opening Prayer	Will Starks	Nick Holland
Scripture Reading	Searcy Hall	Kirk Hatcher
Closing Prayer	Doyle Wray	Gene Preston
Sunday PM		
Song Leader	Charles Hill	SINGING
Opening Prayer	Ed Dill	Tommy Hill
Closing Prayer	Riley Monroe	Jim Ehl
Wednesday PM	JUNE 21	JUNE 28
Song Leader	Phil Furlough	Collis Terry
Invitation	Mike McLemore	Mike McLemore
Closing Prayer	Mike Coward	Louis Garrett
Group Meeting	Group 3	Group 4

QUARTERLY BIBLE CLASSES APRIL – JUNE 2017

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
Various Lessons
Louis Garrett & Mike McLemore

ADITORIUM WEDNESDAY
Building Up One Another
Michael McLemore



2017 FRIDAY NIGHT SINGING

Tim Stevens, John Kilgore and Jeff May
August 11th, 2017

MONTHLY OPPORTUNITIES

June	
Serving on the Lord's Table AM	Adam Hagewood Riley Monroe Bobby Wright Ron Harmon ** Steve Hagewood W.D. Patrick Jeremy Leshko Will Patrick
** Overseer	
Lord's Supper PM	Terry Barnett ** Doyle Wray
Visitor Greeting	
Sunday AM	Ann Summers
Rear Door	Susan Hand
Side Door	Mike & Gwyn McLemore
Sunday PM	
Rear Door/ Side Door	Jimison/Ehl
Communion Prep	Sarah Starks/Hilda Wright
Building Lockup	Will Starks

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: mmclemore@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	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:00 p.m.

CONFESSING Our Lord!

Michael W. McLemore

Few can relate to the dramatic churning of emotions in the mind of the apostle Peter that began the night prior to Jesus' death — from moral outrage at the idea that he could ever deny the Lord, to angry militancy when the Jews confronted Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, to confusion and dismay as he watched the trial from afar, to utter despair after realizing he had indeed refused to admit even knowing his Master. But all of us have at one time or another come to the realization that we were not as devoted to the Lord as we had thought.

Through the eyes of Peter, we can appreciate the total lack of understanding among the apostles regarding the cross. Shortly after Peter's great confession of faith, Jesus began to warn the apostles of His coming death (Matthew 16:21). In fact, several more subtle references had been made already (John 2:19; Matthew 12:39-40, etc.). But here, when Jesus states the fact of His future, Peter rebukes the Lord and is sharply chastised for it. Peter's picture of the kingdom was the same as that of his contemporaries — a physical, political entity with Jesus at the head (and hopefully, himself not too far below). His awakening would be a rude one.

When Peter is rebuked for his one-man assault upon the arresting officers (John 18:10-11), he flees with the rest of the apostles; however, his composure and devotion are enough to compel him to watch the trial proceedings from afar (Mark 14:53-54).

His best friend, John, had pulled some strings to get Peter within eyesight of his Lord (John 18:15-18); of course, for Peter's sake, this "favor" would have better gone undone. In quick succession, Peter denies the Lord three times, even emphasizing his point with oaths and profanity (Mark 14:66-72). And when the cock crowed, reminding Peter of the Lord's warning, he looked to his Lord and found Him looking back (Luke 22:61), no doubt with the most doleful expression imaginable. Peter is overcome with grief and cannot bear to be in his Master's presence another moment.

How often have we been there? Have we ever looked in retrospect at an opportunity to confess our Lord that we allowed to pass by? Have we found ourselves dreading religious conversations, knowing

that we will be called upon to distance ourselves from our friends in the world? Let us realize that when we do that — when we are ashamed to be associated with Him — we have fallen under the same condemnation as Peter. May God forgive us!

Our failures, too, are results of our lack of appreciation regarding the cross. Just as Peter and the rest of the apostles were blinded by personal ambition (Luke 22:24), we can be so consumed with our own agenda that we forget about the Lord's agenda. We must accept Him for who He is — the Master who graciously offered His life on the cross for our sins, not someone who promised us the position of prominence and prestige that we may want. When we have a clear view of the cross, we can more adequately see our own role.

Peter was slow to recover from this traumatic blow. He did not believe in the resurrection after Mary Magdalene's testimony of the empty tomb, nor after seeing it for himself (John 21:1-10). It appears to have taken a personal appearance from the Lord to revive his spirits (Luke 24:34, 1 Corinthians 15:5). We certainly can see his renewed enthusiasm when the Lord appears to the apostles in Galilee; he leaps into the lake and swims to the shore, not willing to wait for the small boat with the others (John 21:1-8). And here the Lord gives him three opportunities to confess his love for Him, as if to balance the three denials. We also see a new modesty in Peter. At the table that fateful night, Peter said, "Even though all may fall away, yet I will not," thus proudly vaunting himself above his friends. But in response to Jesus' first question — "do you love Me more than these" — he refuses to compare his devotion with that of the others, content with simply affirming it.

Peter had not arrived yet — his first response after hearing the Lord testify to his future sufferings is to inquire if a similar fate is waiting for John (John 21:18-22). Jesus rebukes him for this, telling him that John's fate has nothing to do with Peter's service. We, too, often judge the fairness of our own situation by comparing it to that of others. But when we learn to focus first on the Lord, and then on our own responsibilities rather than those of others, we too can be profitable servants of the Lord. □



Family matters

News and Notes of Interest
To Weatherly Members

Pray for Those in Need

Rebecca Pellegrini is home resting following her surgery Friday afternoon. She spent one night in the hospital under observation and was released last evening. Please pray for *Rebecca* to bounce back quickly.

Carol Blackwood is off the respirator and breathing on her own. It is a great cause for rejoicing. We are continuing to pray that she has no further setbacks. Undoubtedly, *Carol* will remain at UAB for some time.

Our prayers are for *Melvin Godette*. We are daily asking for his relief, his strength and for his consolation during these difficult days.

Erin Riggs remains on our prayer list. We are trusting that she will continue to grow stronger every day. She will be returning for a follow-up with her cardiologist Friday. Say her name to the Father as you pray.

We are pleased with the progress that *Glenda Cavender* is making. Your prayers for her and for *Ken* are greatly appreciated.

Jenny Jacks is on our prayer list. We will let you know as her appointment at Vandy draws near.

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

Our Fathers

Weatherly is blessed to have many faithful fathers in our ranks. You are



Weatherly Birthdays

6-23	Jared Jimison	6-23	W.D. Patrick
6-26	Keion Godette	6-30	Susan Hand

each a daily inspiration to us. The gift of your faithful commitment to the cause of God serves as a mighty example to us. Our prayer is for your health and strength. We pledge our constant support for all you do in the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. May God bless you in His service. You are truly a blessing to us and we are grateful.

Thanks Louis & Tommy

We appreciate *Louis Garrett & Tommy Hill* preaching and teaching in *Mike McLemore's* absence last week.

Mark Your Calendars

Remember our upcoming annual singing Friday, August 11th. Make sure to reschedule any conflicting obligations. How great would it be for every Weatherly member to be present?

Skills Class Tonight

Thanks *Nick Holland* for standing in last Sunday. Remember to be her at 6 pm tonight. We hope all of our families with little ones will attend.

Group Three Postponed

Group 3, led by *Murray Castleman*, will not meet today. The *Castleman's* are away. Group 3 will meet next Sunday evening instead. □

On Being Imitators

MICHAEL W. MCLEMORE

How is it possible to imitate God? Isn't vain effort to try if all of resemblance to God is beyond our reach? But this is not the case. While speculative theology is fatally successful in magnifying the distance between man and God, practical revelation is ever bringing us nearer to God. Consider...

We are like God by nature. God is a spirit, and we are spiritual beings. God made us in His own image. It is our work to revive that image where it has been obscured and to carry it up to higher resemblances.

We can imitate God in very small ways. Because He is infinite and we are finite we are not to infer that all common likeness is impossible. A small pool of water may bear the sun's perfect image.

We are susceptible for indefinite growth and improvement. Because we are sadly unlike God now it does not follow that we may never resemble him. "Beloved, now we are the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2).

God has revealed himself to us. We cannot imitate what we do not know. Mysteries of the Divine nature must ever lie beyond our sight. Nevertheless, something real about God we do know. For we have seen Christ, and he who sees Christ sees God (John 14:9).

We can know Him and we can be like Him in a very small way, growing daily to be more and more like our God. □

Weekly Walk!