

The Weatherly Weekly

November 5, 2017

2017 Edition, Number 45

What Can I Give?

Michael W. McLemore

Most have asked, "What could I possibly have to give to God?" Or, maybe more importantly, "How may I give myself in sacrifice to Him who has given so much?"

It's hard to imagine that anyone who has been a Christian very long has not reflected upon the magnitude of Christ's sacrifice and asked, "How could I possibly give sufficiently to Him who gave me everything?" In those sobering moments of reflection, we look at ourselves and think of how many times we have not measured up: "What does God see in me, and how can I ever repay Him for what He has done?" The Psalmist wrestled with this same question, "What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?" (Psalm 116:12). Micah asked, "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? (Micah 6:6). Asaph acknowledged, "He already owns all that is in the world" - Psalm 50:10 - "what could I ever give Him?"

We go a bit further with our quandary, begging, "What performance of duty could ever give me standing with God?" That an-

swer is simple, "None!" My acts of obedience are "filthy rages." When I've done all that is my duty, I remain "wicked and unprofitable."

We make a grave spiritual error when we look at God's gift of "grace through faith" and see it as a debt that can, or must be repaid. It will never be repaid. Thus, all Christians are faced with the living reality that we are called by "grace through faith" to serve by first giving our "bodies a living sacrifice" which is our "reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1). Then, we may only rejoice, like Paul, that we have been "counted faithful" and "appointed to his service" (1 Timothy 1:13). Grace does not militate with service, or service against grace.

We DO have something to give to God. We have "SELF" to give in sacrificial "SERVICE" to Him. Paul said, that sacrifice is "acceptable," "reasonable" and the essential "service" we have to give (Romans 12:1).

Will you bring to Him the only gift worth more than all the world? Have you given your life to Him as a holy sacrifice of service? ☐

Watch us
LIVE!

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WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

	THIS WEEK NOVEMBER 5	NEXT WEEK NOVEMBER 12
Sunday AM		
Announcements	Forest Summers	Forest Summers
Song Leader	Jared Jimison	Charles Hill
Opening Prayer	Steve Hagewood	Ron Holland
Scripture Reading	Nick Holland	Philip Dill
Closing Prayer	Jim Ehl	Searcy Hall
Sunday PM		
Song Leader	Jared Jimison	Charles Hill
Opening Prayer	Will Starks	Forest Summers
Closing Prayer	Ed Dill	Kirk Hatcher
Wednesday PM		
Song Leader	Collis Terry	Phil Furlough
Invitation	Jared Jimison	Mike McLemore
Closing Prayer	W.D. Patrick	Terry Barnett
Group Meeting	Group 1	Group 2

QUARTERLY BIBLE CLASSES JULY – SEPTEMBER 2017

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

The Pastoral Epistles
Mike McLemore

ADITORIUM WEDNESDAY

Ezekiel
Mike McLemore



2018 WEATHERLY LECTURES

Lowell Sallee, Kevin Clark, Greg Chandler
May 3-6

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

November	
Serving on the Lord's Table AM	Dwight Ivey Doyle Wray Ed Dill Phil Furlough ** Marty Hunt Terry Barnett Jim Risner Jerry Mitchell
** Overseer	
Lord's Supper PM	Collis Terry ** John Stokes
Visitor Greeting	
Sunday AM	Murray & Wanda Castleman
Rear Door	John Stokes
Side Door	Mike & Peggy Coward
Sunday PM	
Rear Door/ Side Door	Terry & Wright
Communion Prep	Kim Barnett
Building Lockup	David Jacks

Will Heaven Be Worth It?

Will heaven be worth it? I imagine your knee-jerk response to that question is a resounding "Yes!" You may even think it's silly to even ask because the answer is so obvious. Before you decide to stop reading, will you read the question again? The question is not "Will heaven be good?" or "Will you enjoy being in heaven?" or "Do you think you want to go to heaven?" It is, rather, **"Will heaven be worth it?"**

Heaven has a price. That means we must pay something if we hope to gain entrance. Will heaven be worth the price of admission? That's a more challenging question.

The price to enter is high. It costs everything I own and everything I am. If I am to enter, I must pay forward all my selfishness, all my personal ambition, all my dollars and all my vices. Paul shows us in Galatians that Christians crucify self-interest and forfeit their lives to serve their Lord (Galatians 2:20). Make no mistake, the price of heaven is nothing less than my very life. Will heaven be worth that?

Writing to Christians pondering the same question amidst a fearful and increasing persecution, Peter himself answers with a resounding, "Yes!" Heaven will be worth it. He writes...

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" 1 Peter 1:3-4.

Heaven will be worth it because it is **imperishable**. To perish means to decay or pass away. We may rightly make the point that heaven will be a happy and joy-filled place. The assurances concerning the joys of our spiritual abode are well documented. Hebrews describes a place of rest (4:1). Revelation describes what seems to be a reinvented Garden of Eden (22:1-5). Romans, simply and profoundly, speaks of being glorified (8:17).

Though Peter's purpose here is not to add to the list of joys, but to assure us that those joys never decay. Heaven is eternal. It lasts forever. We do not pay our lives in order to get hundreds of years, thousands of years, even millions of years with God. We pay the rest

of our lives on Earth in order to get God forever. That's the bargain. How many years do you have left? **Are they more valuable than an eternity?** Surely heaven is worth it.

Heaven will be worth it because it is **undefiled**. To defile is to ruin something or make it dirty. Defilement is Johnny Tamale's red salsa on your new white shirt. Defilement is a door ding in your new sports car. Sin defiles mankind, it ruins God's perfect creation. Sin defiles this world. Look around, you'll see. Sin is the ultimate culprit behind what happened in Vegas. This world has been ruined, because of us. We've made our bed and we must sleep in it. No hands are clean, none are righteous, all have participated in mankind's most common activity, transgression of God's law.

Heaven is undefiled. It is untouched by sin and all of its ugly consequences. "...and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will be no longer any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4). We have to put up with that here. Even those who desire to live Godly are bashed and beaten by sin. Even those with an inheritance "protected by the power of God" will find themselves "distressed by various trials" (1 Peter 1:5,6). We pay the rest of our lives in a defiled and cursed world in order to gain eternity in a home blessed by the presence of God. That's the bargain. What's keeping you from paying your life? **Is it more valuable than an undefiled home?**

I'm sure you mentally answered, "yes, of course," to the question that titles this article, but are you sure that's what you believe? When a lost person rejects the Lord's invitation to salvation, they declare their belief that heaven isn't worth the price. When a saved person knowingly chooses sin and jeopardizes their salvation, they doubtless declare that heaven isn't worth the price.

As has been said many times in this bulletin and from the pulpit to this church over the course of decades, "If you miss heaven, well, you've just missed all there is." Jesus said as much, "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?" (Matthew 16:26). Surely, heaven is worth it. After all, heaven is all there is. □



Family matters

News and Notes of Interest
To Weatherly Members

Pray for Those in Need

Our *Caryl Ehl* fell at home last Wednesday afternoon. Tests revealed a broken femur at the hip and a broken wrist. She had surgery Thursday afternoon. Thankfully she is resting at home. Your prayers are solicited.

LaNelle Patrick is making progress. We are looking forward to seeing her soon.

Peggy Childress had carpal tunnel surgery on Thursday. She went home the same day. *Peggy* wanted to get this out of the way while she's recovering from back surgery. Remember *Peggy* in prayer.

Carol's parents, *Jack & Carolynn Barr*, are not up to being out. Please remember them to the Lord.

Melvin Godette's surgery, November 17th, is getting closer. Please pray for his comfort and the success of this surgery. Also, remember his family by name to the Lord. They have all suffered greatly.

Ann Summers is very weak. She is really unable to get about without help. We are hopeful that a recent trip to the doctor will give an indication as to what if anything can be done. Prayers are appreciated.

Glenda Cavender remains on our prayer list. We are trusting the medications will begin to help her soon.

Collis & Sue Terry's mothers, *Carlton Terry*, and *Lona Mae Brewer*, remain in our daily prayers.



Weatherly Birthdays

10-29	Charlotte Hagedwood	11-1	Jake Curtis
11-1	Sandra Gore	11-8	Crystal Robinson
11-8	Julie Singleton	11-18	Samuel Holland
11-20	Riley Monroe	11-21	Miles Hagedwood

Some of *Mike Gore's* numbers have not been positive of late. He underwent his 13th blood transfusion this year a few days ago. Please pray for *Mike* and for *Sandra*.

Latest of Mike McLemore

"Most of you are aware that I had my 3 month checkup this past week that included an echocardiogram. I am glad to report to you that my progress has been amazing. The areas of my heart that were most affected by the heart attack show marked improvement. I won't need to see the cardiologist again for 6 months. Thank you for all of your prayers. God is good." MWM

Week #5 of SNSS

We are having a great series this fall. Thanks to all of those who have been so faithful in your participation in our Sunday Night Study Series. Come tonight!

Evening Services at 5

Remember our evening services will move to 5 p.m. Don't be late!

Group One Meets Tonight

Group One, led by *W.D. Patrick* will meet this evening immediately following worship. Make your plans to attend. □

DEFEATISM

Michael W. McLemore

Defeatism is an attitude, the spirit of despair. It is an outgrowth of "despair" in the heart of its victim. The following story illustrates well the spirit of defeatism.

"There is a legend that Satan once offered his tools for sale. His implements included hatred, falsehood, vice, strong drink, and many other degrading things. There was one set apart from all the rest, marked with the highest price. When asked the reason for this, Satan replied, 'That is my most useful tool. It has brought more people within my power than any other instrument I possess. It is called DESPAIR.'"

The utter loss of all hope is ruinous to humanity. Rudyard Kipling warned that such loss "may find expression in . . . suicide." Was this Judas' ruin after he betrayed Jesus? Despair can lead to a sad and tragic end for the tormented soul. The spirit of defeatism is the resignation to defeat. Those who succumb to this Satanic device are doomed lest they turn back.

Christians are not immune to this virulent contagion. What could have done more to hinder the cause of the Master than "the defeatist's spirit" among us? It is a deadly foe indeed. Fight against it. Rebel with all your might. □

Weekly Walk!