

Weatherly Weekly

May 2, 2021

2021 Edition, Number 18

God's Promised Kingdom

Michael W. McLemore

Over seven hundred years before Jesus, the ancient prophet, Isaiah, promised God's people a kingdom that would be like no other place on earth, the church. It is available to you today!

Using the Israelite word for the city of God, Isaiah assured, "Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and those in her who repent, by righteousness," *Isaiah 1:27*. He promised a day in which divine justice would prevail. "In her," the church, God will redeem mankind by righteousness.

Listen to Isaiah – "It shall come to pass," *Isaiah 2:2*. He answers so many questions. When? "In the later days." What? "The mountain of the Lord's house." Where? "Established as the highest mountain and lifted above the hills." Result? "All nations shall flow to it!"

The Lord's promised house, Zion, is no ordinary place, *Isaiah 2:3-4*. It is a welcoming place – "Many peoples shall come, and say: 'Come, let us

go up to the mountain of the Lord.'" Zion is a place of instruction – "that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." The Lord's promised house is a place of direction and example – "For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem..." It is God's place of new beginning – "and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

Zion is the church and it is no afterthought; it was God's plan all along. Its path is marked by teaching and in His kingdom Divine justice produces unity. Isaiah pled, "Let us walk in the light of the Lord," *Isaiah 2:5*. And, "Stop regarding man," *2:22*.

God calls sinners out of the world to a kingdom of promise, a home open to all. It's a place of forgiveness and reconciliation. Its path is illuminated by the light of Christ. Come to the house of the Lord. □

"How are the Garretts doing?" I could never put a number to how many times that I've been asked that question. Among conservative churches of Christ, Louis and Margie Garrett, were household names in most places. They touched more lives than we will ever know. With Louis' passing on Friday morning it is truly the end of an era.

Since I didn't travel in the "FC" circle, I did not know the Garretts before coming to Huntsville for the first time in the fall of 2008. Twelve years later it is hard for me to imagine life without them.

Louis grew up in Ohio. He was poor enough that he remembered his mother preparing greens for the family meals from dandelion leaves. Who knew that was a thing? He cherished his Ohio heritage and spoke often of it. His own great faith in Christ can surely be traced to his early instruction in God's word. The Gospel's appeal was profound enough to keep him from pursuing a career in the law, as he had originally thought. Instead, Louis Wilson Garrett became a life-long student, a teacher and a preacher. He excelled in all.

Many know that Louis was a great fan of baseball, but few knew that he was actually a great pitcher in his time. "The boys" at Florida Christian College, where Louis served as a professor and later as Dean of Students, often admit their sound defeat in student-teacher baseball games because of Louis' prowess on the mound and at the plate.

Louis attended both Freed-Hardiman College and Florida State University where he began to prepare himself to preach the Gospel. He memorized reams of Scripture — the book of Romans, James and others were quickly committed to memory. It never left him. His son-in-law, Rod, mentioned in a correspondence a few days ago, "as Louis lay near death, he was heard in low tones reciting Ephesians chapter one."

Brother Garrett, as I referred to him, was a master of the Word. He handled it with care and expected the same from any who took to the lectern, either in a class or sermon. I know he expected it of me. He struggled to restrain his displeasure when it was misused or if the teacher in his view was not adequately prepared. "He could do better," he once remarked to me after sitting through a poorly taught Bible class. Louis meant no disrespect to the man who taught it, he simply had very high expectations when it came to the proper handling of the Word.

Many at Weatherly first knew Louis Garrett as Dr. Garrett

or Dean Garrett in their two years at Florida College. Upon my first introduction to Louis, he referred to Mike Coward as one of his "C-students." We all laughed. I later learned that Mike Coward went on to Texas A&M University to become the youngest PHD candidate to date at that auspicious university. Louis Garrett, Mike Coward, Tommy Hill & Neil Hagewood,

along with their wives, were the very first Weatherly members that Gwyn and I met. From the first Louis forbade me to ever call him Dr. Garrett. Of course, in just the right moments, I

would slyly slip it in. It was always met with a firmly clinched first pointed directly at me, with a twinkle in his eye and a wry grin.

I've taken pleasure in reading many Facebook comments and fielding phone calls over the last few days from Louis's former students. One by one they all reported of his profound impact on their lives. They described him as their favorite professor and the best Dean. Even those who found themselves in front of him for disciplinary decisions speak of his fairness, his generosity and his grace. Having served along side of Louis for the last almost 13 years I can attest that those attributes followed him all through his life.

Brother Garrett was a tremendous preacher. I think it can be properly said that "He went everywhere preaching the Word!" He preached for local churches all around the Tampa area during his time there. In North Alabama he preached for a number of years in Albertville and for many years he was our "go-to-guy" when the local preacher was sick, out of town, or away in meetings. The response when Louis preached was always the same – "WOW, I bet that guy could quote the whole Bible!" Tommy Hill told me the story of his first introduction to Louis many years ago. He and Becky were living in Florida at the time and happened to visit one Sunday where Louis was preaching. Tommy was so impressed by Louis' sermon that he asked for permission to use it the next time that he was asked to speak where they worship. Brother Garrett calmly pulled his note page from his Bible and handed it to Tommy. The two never could have imagined that they would later serve together as elders for more than 15 years.

Personally, I loved to hear Brother Garrett preach and teach. Even when he preached in my absence, as a general rule I would listen to the recording of his work. It was first rate, always superb. Though, by his own admission, he was not as quick in these last years, he was a wonderful teacher and a great

Louis Wilson Garrett

In Tribute of My Brother

Michael W. McLemore

Watch
LIVE!

preacher. He served our family well in his time and he is irreplaceable. He will be greatly missed. Weatherly Heights church of Christ has been mightily blessed by having had him as a member, elder and preacher.

In another way Louis played a very important role in the kingdom of God; not because of his faith, his work, his preaching or even his leadership. Though he was most certainly important in those areas. Brother Garrett was our link back to many of the great restoration preachers, teachers and leaders of his youth. These men have been gone for generations, but they influenced Louis Garrett. He in turn influenced us for the better. We are indebted to Him.

One of Louis' closest colleagues and friends was Homer Hailey. They shared many years alongside of one another in study, in the classroom and in the pulpit. Margie edited many of Hailey's commentaries. I was thankful to have her edit one of my own published works. But Homer and Louis were also gym partners as far back as the 1950's. Unless you knew Louis well, you didn't know that he worked out lifting weights three days a week, late into his 80's. If you ever grabbed one of his biceps, you knew that he was very strong. It wasn't a matter of vanity, but I think instead it was a testament to his diligence in every worthwhile undertaking to which he placed his hand.

Louis was not a perfect man, far from it. He never claimed it; he admitted it. But Louis kept the faith. He not only preached "the grace of God," he relied upon it. Louis wanted to leave this world prepared to meet God. He spent his life preparing for that day.

And so, Louis and Margie are gone to be with God. I love them both. They made me better. I can not imagine life without them. I will miss them until I see them. I know you will, too! ☐

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members

A Vacant Chair

Prayers:

In the early morning hours Thursday, April 29th, our beloved **Louis Garrett** (92) peacefully departed this world for the land of fadeless day. It was the day for which Louis spent a lifetime preparing. Though we as those who loved him feel a deep sense of loss in his death, we rejoice for his release from the body that had grown weary. His loss was greeted among God's people with sadness, but the commentary upon his life example to us is powerfully motivating and encouraging. So, we sorrow not as others. We would invite your prayers for his daughters, **Jan & Dana** and their families. A private family only service will be held.

This morning our Weatherly family will devote the sermon portion of our worship hour to honor our brother's legacy among us. Our elders, **Tommy Hill & Will Starks**, will speak, then Mike McLemore will address the assembly.

FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Peggy Childress is scheduled to see her doctor in the next few days to discuss the next step. We are praying for a quick and successful remedy so that she is able to move forward in addressing her lung issues. Your prayers are solicited.

Peggy Shelton was able to be with us Sun-

MAY BIRTHDAYS



5-2	Cathy Preston	5-7	Bill Reavis
5-8	Hill Roberts	5-9	Nick Holland
5-9	Ruth Mitchell	5-12	Betty Dubose
5-14	Sarah Starks	5-15	Dot Summers
5-17	Megan Caudle		

day. We are all excited to see her. Pray that the treatments she is undergoing will bring her some relief from her pain.

Please pray for **Hill's** mom, **Lane Roberts**. She remains under hospice care.

We learned that **Joanne Uptagrafft** fell recently. She is pretty banged up. Your prayers for her are appreciated.

Cyndi Vanatta, **Phil Shaver's** sister, **Zoila Herring**, **Mechi Hunt's** twin sister, and **Mike Hunt**, **Marty's** brother, are all fighting cancer. Pray for them as they undergo Chemo.

Pray for those who are confined in care facilities and memory care — **Laura Phillips**, **Jim Risner**, **Lane Roberts**, **Dot Summers**. ☐

Daily Prayer List:

Glenda Cavender	Melvin Godette
Laura Phillips	Dot Summers
Charlotte Hagewood	Lane Roberts
Bill Reavis	

WEATHERLY UPDATES

Sunday Morning Bible Study will begin at 9:00 — Mike is continuing his quarterly Bible Class series **Christ Clashing with Culture**.

Sunday morning will begin at 10. Today we will leave our planned series in favor of remembering our brother Louis Garrett. Today's lesson is entitled **A Vacant Chair**.

Sunday Evening "Virtual Devo" on Zoom at 7. We will email a link Sunday. Join in.

Wednesday Bible Study — Mike is continuing his study of **The book of Colossians & Philemon**. We stream at 7 p.m. No public assembly. ☐



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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:

**LIVE**

Sermon archive or
live stream during
all Weatherly services

Weatherly's Shepherds	
Tommy Hill	256 883-0010
Will Starks	256 883-5273

Evangelist
Michael W. McLemore 256 698-5941
Email: mmclemore@weatherlychurch.com

Weatherly's Deacons	
Phil Furlough	Steve Hagewood
Kirk Hatcher	David Jacks
Hill Roberts	Collis Terry
Bobby Wright	





These are asked to assist in our labor.

	Sunday, May 2	Sunday, May 9
Welcome:	Mike McLemore	Mike McLemore
Song Leader:	Hill Roberts	Hill Roberts
Opening Prayer:		
Scripture Reading:	1 Samuel 20:18	1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Sermon:	Mike McLemore A Vacant Chair	Mike McLemore Tending His Temple
Closing Prayer:		

Evening Worship		Evening Worship
Bible Skillz	CANCELLED	CANCELLED
Songs Leader:		
Opening Prayer:	Virtual Devotion on ZOOM	Virtual Devotion on ZOOM
Closing Prayer:		

	Wednesday, May 5	Wednesday, May 12
Songs Leader:		
Invitation:	Streamed Bible Study	Streamed Bible Study
Closing Prayer:		

None	None
2021 Planning Underway	Quarterly Adult Classes April – June 2020
	AUDITORIUM SUNDAY Christ Clashing with Culture Mike McLemore
	AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY The Challenge of Colossians Mike McLemore

Serving in May	
Serving on the Lord's Table AM	
** Overseer	**
Lord's Supper PM	**
Communion Prep Building Lockup	