

Weatherly Weekly

May 22, 2022

2022 Edition, Number 21

I AM WITH YOU!

Michael W. McLemore

God identified Himself as “I AM WHO I AM” when He spoke to Moses from the burning bush, *Exodus 3:14*. This sounds odd in modern English; what the Lord says is, “From eternity past to the present and into eternity future, I AM.” God is describing Himself as both self-existent and the origin of all that is. The name of God in the OT has become familiar to us – Jehovah or Yahweh, which in most modern versions is written “Lord,” generally using large or small capital letters.

The OT book of Exodus introduced Yahweh to the nation in a physical way. As He delivered them through a series of cataclysmic plagues sent upon His enemies, they observed his power over every aspect of nature and life. Leading the people through the wilderness, the Lord appeared day after day and night after night in the cloud and the fire, *Exodus 13:21*. He made bitter water palatable, and they associated His name

with healing, *Exodus 15:23,26*. In the Tabernacle, he met with His people above the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant, *Exodus 25:22*. Each manifestation of Yahweh visibly reminded His people of His everlasting presence.

When Yahweh assured Joshua, “No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you,” *Joshua 1:5*, Moses’ replacement confidently went forward. With Joshua God’s people in every generation may remain assured of His great promise – “Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go,” *Joshua 1:9*.

Our awareness of His presence today is assured. Yahweh continues to go ahead of us to prepare the way, *John 14:6*. Our Lord walks with us through every circumstance of life and gives us peace to guard our hearts, *Philippians 4:6*. □

Religion Worth Nothing!

By Michel W. McLemore

Having concluded his section about listening and doing, James, the Lord’s earthly brother, warns his readers not to be deceived by listening to the Word only and not doing it. Christians are doers!

James is far from finished. He says that if any of us think we are “religious,” yet we do not control our tongues, our “religion” is useless and we are deceiving ourselves. Doers mind their tongue. If one claims to love and follow God, but doesn’t actually follow His commands, then he doesn’t really love Him with full devotion. He calls it “useless religion.”

Christianity is often characterized as a relationship not a religion. Not exactly. It’s a vow. Religion, used twice in James’ treatise, *1:26,27*, is derived from the Greek noun *thrēskeia*, and its adjective root, *thrēskos*. *Thrēskos* means to be fearful or tremble and most often modifies the ceremonies of worship, or in our case service. The German classical scholar and lexicographer connects the word to “be a votary of,” referring one who has made a vow of dedication to service. James, when he uses the term, “religion,” *27*, or “religious,” *26*, is speaking of one who has made the “vow” or “claim” of dedication to Christ – a Christian.

James declared that our “claim of dedication” must involve doing, or it is useless – vain! Case in point? The tongue, *i.e.* our professed devotion to our God, is useless if we do not live as Christians ought to live — if we don’t control our tongue. James goes further.

James then transitions from a picture of useless religion to a picture of pure religion – “Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world,” *1:27*.

The Lord’s younger brother describes what our practice of Christianity ought to look like. The Christian religion is self-control, *1:26*, service, and sanctification – “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their afflic-

tion, and to keep oneself unstained from the world,” *27*.

PURE RELIGION IS DOING

“Doers of the word” put away sin; they control themselves – “let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger,” *19*. They put away the overflowing filth of their past, allowing the word, deeply implanted, to effect salvation, *20-21*. The faithful doer “will be blessed in his doing,” *25*. The value of one’s devotion to God is stopped in its tracks until sin is “put off.”

PURE RELIGION IS SERVING

“Pure and undefiled religion is this: to visit,” *27*. “Visit” is *episkeptomai* meaning “to look upon in order to help.” It involves caring and provide for any observed needs. Orphans and widows are the books ends of the “needy of this world.” The orphan is the “posterchild” of the helpless and the widow its “crown jewel.” He is calling for the “hands and feet” of the Gospel to spring into action and SERVE. “Passing by on the other side” has no place among “the pure and undefiled.”

PURE RELIGION IS CLEANSING

Doing is never complete when it comes to the Christian’s vow of dedication to Christ – “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded,” *James 4:8*. The child of God cannot pay a committee or hire an agent to keep himself unspotted from the world. “It is MY job,” based on MY commitment to the Lord and MY diligence with His word, to keep MYSELF unspotted from the world. The world is filled with temptations and opportunities that can stain and pollute the minds and hearts of God’s people. Pure and undefiled religion is one that remains unstained by the world.

What does this all mean? James paints a masterful portrait of both useless religion and pure religion. Avoid the one, and seek the other. Be devoted to God and His ways! Make this our focus. Martin Luther said this, “A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing.” Where truer words ever spoken? Let’s not have a religion that is worth nothing! □

Watch
LIVE!

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Sadness has overtaken the family of our sister **Edith Turner**. Her son-in-law, **Wolfgang Bradner**, passed away suddenly on Monday. Edith's daughter, **Glenda**, is understandably overcome with grief and was hospitalized. Your prayers for this family are solicited. Edith's son, **Jim**, traveled to Kansas City to help with the arrangements.

Also, **Edith Turner** did have her procedure on Monday. It went well and we are praying for its benefit in relieving her pain.

Ruth Mitchell underwent surgery late Thursday afternoon at Huntsville Hospital. After an overnight stay, she was released Friday and is home recovering. Except for the expected discomfort and stiffness from surgery, she is feeling good. After three weeks of excruciating pain, it is a welcomed relief. Ruth wanted me to relay her thanks to EVERYONE for all of your prayers. Please continue to pray for Ruth and those who love and care for her.

Joanne Abernathy went to urgent care on Thursday. She was still not feeling well. Another COVID test revealed that she was still positive, but further x-rays showed no pneumonia, just bronchitis. As of yesterday she was much improved. We are thankful.

Jim Risner was back with us for services on Sunday, AFIB and all. His doctors are going to continue treating him with medication for the time being. Your prayers are all appreciated.

The doctor overseeing the care of **Raymond Harbin**, **Maragem's** son, and brother of our **Jimmy**, has indicated that Raymond will

not be expected to live for more than a few weeks. The family feared this as the outcome. Your prayers for the Harbin family are appreciated. Maragem is of course saddened by this news. Your prayers for them mean so much.

Mechi Hunts' sister, **Zoila Herring**, remains on our daily pray list.

Ciera Elledge, Will & Sarah Starks' granddaughter, is in the throws of aggressive cancer treatment. Your most fervent prayers are requested. Also remember her young family.

Pray for these. Each has their own particular health challenge. — **Laura Phillips, Jim Risner, Lane Roberts, Glenda Cavender, Edith Turner, Melvin Godette & Charlotte Hagewood.**

TODAY AT WEATHERLY

Sunday morning Bible Study begins promptly at 9:30 am. Mike will continue his study in the book of **Titus, chapter 1**.

Sunday morning worship begins at 10. Mike is continuing his series, **Cultivating Culture**. Today we will be exploring "**Cultivating Service**." When our values, spiritual models, perceptions and assumptions find root in the Word of God, they will manifest themselves in acts of service to God and man. We are called to "serve." Join us as we talk about **Cultivating Service at 10:00 am**.

TONIGHT at 6 we will gather for **Bible Skillz** and our weekly open forum class on **Big Bible Questions**. We hope to see you all.

Wednesday evening Bible study begins at 7. Mike McLemore will be leading the auditorium class as we study **Titus, chapter 2**. We hope everyone will take advantage of the opportunity to participate. ☐

Thinking Out loud

Michael W. McLemore

The author of Ecclesiastes is a "practical theologian" who is offering powerful instruction on how to live. Many believe Solomon is responsible. He certainly seems to be.

With graduations taking place and commencement speeches being made in this time of year, I was thinking out loud about this important time of transition and decision. At a commencement the speaker hopes to impart wisdom that will be remembered, then internalized, and finally enacted. Young people are moving on to the next stage of life, making critical choices that will impact their life and eternity. Surely that was the author's hope for Ecclesiastes. It must be counted among the greatest such works.

Listen to him over and over as he expresses sadness and cynicism, "all is vanity," Admittedly he acknowledges that life has order and purpose, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven," *3:1*. Solomon exposes a great essential to life — Wisdom is not the same as knowledge. It's possible to have knowledge without being wise. Wisdom is knowledge and experience applied to living. It comes in many forms, but real wisdom comes from above, *James 3:17*.

His conclusion? When all has been heard, "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man," *12:13*. We will talk more about Solomon's work soon. ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 am
Sunday AM Assembly 10:00 am
Sunday PM Assembly 6:00 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

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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 22

Welcome: **Tommy Hill**
Song Leader: **Hill Roberts**
Opening Prayer: **Bill Thompson**
Lord's Table Lead: **Ed Dill**

Sunday, May 29

Will Starks
Mel Ambrose
WD Patrick
Tommy Hill

Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
Cultivating Service
Closing Prayer: **John Patrick**

Ephesians 4:9-16
Mike McLemore
Cultivating Maturity
Phil Shaver

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz **Mike McLemore**
Songs Leader: **Hill Roberts**
Opening Prayer: **Will Starks**
Closing Prayer: **Bill McCord**

Evening Worship

Mike McLemore
Mel Ambrose
Marty Hunt
Tommy Hill

Wednesday, May 25

Songs Leader: **David Jacks**
Invitation: **Mike McLemore**
Closing Prayer: **Collis Terry**

Wednesday, June 1

TBA
Mike McLemore
Bill Thompson

2022 Lectures TBA

Quarterly Adult Classes

March — June 2022

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Fulfill Your Ministry
Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

Second Timothy
Mike McLemore

Serving in May

Serving on the Lord's
Table AM & PM
**** Overseer**

**** Will Starks (5-1), Marty Hunt (5-8), Steve**
Hagewood (5-15), Ed Dill (5-22), Tommy Hill (5-29)

Communion Prep
Building Lockup

Mike McLemore

MAY & JUNE BIRTHDAYS



MAY 22, 2022

5-20	Becky Shaw	5-23	Terry Childress
5-23	Melvin Godette	5-24	John Beshorse
5-24	Lynn Franklin	5-26	Addison Ivey
5-31	Petra Carter	6-1	Ellaine Dorris
6-1	June Furlough	6-3	Rick Morgan
6-4	Ellie Pellegrini	6-4	Melonie Power

