

Weatherly Weekly

October 30, 2022

2022 Edition, Number 44

A Life Filled with Promise

Michael W. McLemore

Living the Christian life is more than emptying one's life of evil. It must involve filling the new life with good. The Lord told a parable where an unclean spirit left a man and upon its return, finding the house empty, swept and neatly in order, it reentered the house taking with it seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and the last state of that man was worse than the first, *Matthew 12:43-45*. This parable demonstrates that it is not enough to empty one's life of evil, but one must also fill life with good. The temple of the demon must become the temple of God.

Endeavoring to live a life void of evil without replacing the evil with good robs life of meaning and purpose. The Christian life must not only be thought of in terms of what one should not do, but also in terms of what one should be doing. Godly living must be viewed

from a positive perspective thinking in terms of filling the new life with wholesome thoughts, right attitudes and good deeds. A close examination of the New Testament reveals that it implicitly or explicitly commends an act of righteousness to replace every ungodly act that it condemns.

In Ephesians chapter 4 Paul taught that telling the truth must supplant lying, 25; an honest days work would cause one to have no need of stealing, 28; filthy conversation is to be changed into a speech that will edify and minister grace to the hearers, 29. The works of the flesh must be displaced by the fruits of the spirit, *Galatians 5:19-24*.

The idle life is doomed to become the devil's tool. A life centered on Heaven's purpose is a life filled with promise. An untiring effort to have wholesome thoughts, to develop right attitudes, and to do good will drive out the former way of life and we will. □

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Church Autonomy

ROBERT TURNER

"Autonomy" is a compound word, composed of autos, meaning "self," and nomos, meaning "law." An ordinary dictionary will tell us the word means "self-ruled," so that an autonomous church is "self-governed, without outside control."

There are those who reject the concept of God and revelation, saying ultimate authority is in man. To them there would be no limitations placed upon self-rule. Of course most of our readers accept Christ as King, and know that a church which wishes to exercise "self rule" in all things is not the church of Christ. But our brethren are far from clear on the legitimate (scriptural) field of self rule, and how this affects the relation of one church to another. Some seem to think "autonomy" means the right to devise organizational arrangements for which there is no N.T. authority; while others think calling attention to such error violates the "autonomy" of the erring brethren.

A church can not "rule" on the importance of Christ's death, the necessity of faith, the meaning and purpose of baptism; for these are legacies of truth which Christ gave the world and by which we are called. The church is the product of the gospel, not its author. One would not violate some church's autonomy by teaching along these lines, for no church as a legitimate "say" in such things.

Does God give a local church the right to decide the day of worship? May they "rule" on the need for assembling, or the so-called "items" of acceptable worship? It is not clear that even in those things assigned as church

(team) activity, a distinction must be made in that which is part of "the faith, once for all delivered unto the saints" (over which the congregation has no rule), and such details as are left to human judgement. The field of church autonomy is that of human judgement, and that only.

As an example: God's word indicates the day on which saints are to partake of the Lord's Supper---but it does not specify the time of day. The time is left to human judgement, and therefore to the "rule" of brethren. A church exercises autonomy when it sets its own time of assembling---and we might add, that time rests upon human authority, not upon divine mandate. Each church has this same right and may choose different times. If one sought to unduly influence or alter another's time of meeting, this would be interfering with "autonomy."

But if one church should declare Thursday the Lord's Day, others could seek to teach them more perfectly the way of the Lord---and violate no legitimate "autonomy" in doing so---for no church has the scriptural right to "rule" in matters God has settled.

When brethren have honest differences in their understanding of what God has said, one church may believe their "ruling" is done in matters of judgement, while another may believe they violate plain teachings of God. If both parties are equally interested in serving God, neither will rest the case in "our rights," but will be happy to study God's word together so that God can rule supremely in all. □

Watch
LIVE!



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FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



Family Updates

Prayers:

Laura Phillips, mother of **Jenny Jacks**, is under hospice care at Huntsville Hospice Care on Serenity Drive. Her condition is deteriorating. Your prayers for this family are appreciated. Sister Phillips has served faithfully for many years. Pray for her comfort in her last days.

We are happy to know that while **Becky Hill** has a long way to go in completing her treatments, she is already showing improvement in the underlying symptoms that led to her recent diagnosis. We are continuing to pray for her as she gets ready for the next round. Also remember **Tommy** in your prayers.

Becky & Tommy Hill are great-grand parents again. **Carley Rodriguez** gave birth on October 28th to **Mila Noel**, 6 lbs. 4oz, 20.5" **Carley**. Jordan and **Mila** are all well!

John Beshorse is slowly regaining his strength as he continues to be treated for his condition. We are so thankful that he is getting better. Remember his sweet family to the Lord as we pray.

Officer Bruce Jansen, who regularly worships with us at Weatherly, underwent surgery last week. He is home after an overnight stay in the hospital. Bruce has a bit of follow-up left to do tomorrow before he can expect any sort of normal routine. Your prayers are solicited and appreciated.

Mike & Gwyn McLemore arrived home last Tuesday evening after a whirlwind three weeks. Mike will be back in place this morning as he resumes his regular duties. Please remember his dad, **Henry**, in the loss of Mike's mom. "Your prayer and kind expressions of

love and support have meant so much. Thank you."

Please pray for **Lorraine Tizola**, wife of **Jabulani**, who is hospitalized in very serious condition in Zimbabwe. The Tizola's sadly lost their expected child to intrauterine placenta detachment. The condition placed both lives in jeopardy. Please pray for this sweet family. Jabulani is one of the preachers with whom we have had fellowship in recent years.

Please continue to remember **Zoila Herring, Mechi Hunt's** sister, in prayer.

Ciera Elledge, Will & Sarah Starks' granddaughter, remains on our daily prayer list as she battles cancer.

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

This Week at Weatherly

Once again, thanks are in order for those who filled in for Mike the last few weeks. Your labor was superior and you are beloved by all. Thanks **Hill Roberts, Gary Patton, Tommy Hill, & Phil Shaver.**

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE class meets at 9:30. **Mike McLemore** is continuing his study "What Can I do?" from the book of Acts.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP follows at 10. **Mike's** lesson is "Living Courageously."

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP begins at 6. **Mike** will conclude our study of Galatians.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY begins at 7. **Mike McLemore** will continue our study of The Compassionate Christ. ☐

They or US?

Adapted

Words mean things, and we see something similar in the way certain people refer to the church. Specifically, we hear some who refer to the local congregation as "they" or "them," and others who speak of it as "we" or "us."

Those who speak of the church as "they" or "them" are showing a certain detachment from the other members. These folks typically like to criticize and complain about what "they" are doing. And while such complainers are quick to find fault with "them," they are very seldom found helping to resolve the problems. There is much discussion of what "they" did or didn't do, but there is precious little activity on the part of the one doing the criticizing. We think tense members would do well to read what Jesus taught about "beams" and "motes," *Matthew 7:1-5*.

We're thankful for those who consistently refer to the local church as "we" or "us." These demonstrate a connection to the body and are making a contribution to its work. They know that it's important that "we" all do our part to accomplish this growth. After all, "we" are a "body fitly joined together and compacted by chat which every joint supplies," *Ephesians 4:16*.

Do you refer to the church as "they/them," or do you speak of "we/us"? It makes a difference. ☐

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:



Sermon archive or
live stream during
all Weatherly services



Weatherly's Shepherds

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Will Starks 256 883-5273

Evangelist

Michael W. McLemore 256 698-5941

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Weatherly's Deacons

Phil Furlough

Kirk Hatcher

Hill Roberts

Bobby Wright

Steve Hagewood

David Jacks

Collis Terry



These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, October 30

Welcome:

Will Starks

Song Leader:

Mel Ambrose

Opening Prayer:

Tommy Hill

Lord's Table Lead:

David Jacks

Joshua 1:1-9

Sermon:

Mike McLemore

Living Courageously

Closing Prayer:

Will Starks

Sunday, November 6

Tommy Hill

Hill Roberts

Collis Terry

Ed Dill

Romans 8:31-39

Mike McLemore

The Life of Victory

Adam Hagewood

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz

Mike McLemore

Songs Leader:

Mel Ambrose

Opening Prayer:

W.D. Patrick

Closing Prayer:

Wes Caudle

Evening Worship

Mike McLemore

Mel Ambrose

Will Starks

Kirk Hatcher

Wednesday, November 2

Songs Leader:

Mel Ambrose

Invitation:

Mike McLemore

Closing Prayer:

W.D. Patrick

Wednesday, November 9

Collis Terry

Mike McLemore

Tommy Hill

2022 Lectures Cancelled

Quarterly Adult Classes

October – December 2022

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

"What Can I Do?"

Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

The Compassionate Christ

Mike McLemore

Serving in November

Serving on the Lord's

Table AM & PM

**** Overseer**

**** Ed Dill (11-6), Tommy Hill (11-13),**

Steve Hagewood (11-20), Marty Hunt (11-27)

**Communion Prep
Building Lockup**

TBA

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



11-1 Sandra Gore

11-8 Julie Singleton

11-20 Riley Monroe

11-1 Lane Roberts

11-12 Madelyn Thompson

11-21 Miles Hagewood

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