

Weatherly Weekly

January 1, 2022

2023 Edition, Number 1

Wishes for the New Year

MICHAEL W. MCLEMORE

Someone has composed the following list of wishes for the new year. These were obviously written some time ago, but still apply:

“May your hair, your teeth, your face-lift, your abs, and your stocks not fall; and may your blood pressure, your triglycerides, your cholesterol, your white blood count and your mortgage interest not rise.

May you get a clean bill of health from your dentist, your cardiologist, your gastroenterologist, your urologist, your proctologist, your podiatrist, your psychiatrist, your plumber, and the IRS.

May December 31 have found you seated around the table, together with your beloved family and cherished friends, ushering in the New Year ahead. You will find the food better, the environment quieter, the cost much cheaper, and the pleasure much more fulfilling than anything else you might ordinarily do that night.

May you wake up on January 1 finding that the world has not come to an end, the lights work, the faucets flow, and the sky has not fallen.

May what you see in the mirror delight you, and what others see in you delight them.

May you remember to say “I love you” at least once a day to your spouse, child and parents.

May we live as God intended, in a world at peace with the awareness of the beauty in every sunset, every flower’s unfolding petals, every baby’s smile and every wonderful, astonishing, miraculous beat of our heart.

May God bless you with happiness, great health, peace, and much love during the next year and all those that follow.”

To the list above may I add one thing: I pray also that “the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom, and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe...”

Ephesians 1:18-20. May God bless you ALL. □

What Will You Do with Them? PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

BY MICHAEL W. MCLEMORE

The renowned English poet William Wordsworth once challenged, “Life is divided into three terms – that which was, which is, and which will be. Let us learn from the past to profit by the present, and from the present to live better for the future.” In essence the poet of old declares our lives are divided moment by moment. What has been is past, what is is present, what will be is future. The question is, what will man do with them — past, present and future?

The pleading is for the inspection of time past and present for their respective benefit. God knows the end from the beginning. Man does not. Men rely upon life experience to guide their futures. Today marks the beginning of a new year. Many will mark today as the time to make changes in the course of life. In principle they are closing the door to the past and opening a new into the future. These changes are well known as the often made but seldom kept “New Year’s Resolutions.”

Though heaven played no part in establishing 12:00 a.m. January 1st, as the beginning of our new year, it is a perfectly natural division of time. The coming of a new year has a dramatic impact upon all humanity. It seems a worthy for Christians and congregations of the Lord’s people to view the new year as a time to begin anew. Paul said, “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves,” *2 Corinthians 13:5*. Granted this should be a daily task to which all Christians are devoted. Nevertheless, the closing of a year and the beginning of a new one seems a good opportunity for Christians to reflect and resolve.

Wordsworth’s charge demands three facets of examination – retrospective, introspective and prospective. The New Testament Christian has a threefold responsibility to Heaven’s authority: to know where he stands (introspective), where he has stood (retrospective) and where he will stand (prospective). Where the Christian stands and has stood will have everything to do with where he will stand eternally.

WHERE DO YOU STAND?

One’s standing before is our most important consideration. Paul enjoined the continual “examination” of one’s standing. This inspired manifesto is literally incorporated as a regular part of Christian worship first by Jesus then by Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:28: “But let a man examine him-

self, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup.” Examination of our present condition, introspection, is our greatest safe guard. All questions regarding repentance and obedience have this as their hinge. Inspiration once appealed to Jerusalem’s occupants, “Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord,” *Lamentation 3:40*. Their resistance of God’s challenge ultimately brought their demise at Babylon’s hand. Israel’s service to Jehovah was frustrated by their failure to search and try their ways. Without such an investigation they could not correct the past nor prepare for the future. If Christians are to stand upright before God and man, they must know where it is they are presently standing.

WHERE HAVE YOU STOOD?

Mistakes of the past are man’s textbooks for the future. Cicero once said, “Any man may make a mistake, but none but a fool will continue in it.” David, a man after God’s own heart, was a man who learned from past mistakes. David never lingered in the past, but he did look at it and learn from it that he might profit in the present.

When bringing the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord out of the house of Abinadab near Gibeah, David and the priests transgressed God’s law and Uzzah was stricken as a consequence. David was devastated. Why had God done this thing? David was afraid and he froze. Why? He knew where he stood for God had demonstrated to all his displeasure. What David didn’t know was how to correct his error, thus asking, “How shall the ark of the Lord come to me?” After he found a suitable place for the Ark to be stored, David began his examination of God’s will comparing his and the priest’s actions. There the king discovered not only the answer to what caused God’s wrath to be displayed, but how he would please God in the future. David’s future application of this tragic mistake is demonstrated in his restoration of true worship in Israel.

As Christians it is imperative we look back at the past that we might know how we came to be in our present condition. None should suggest that we take up residence in the past, whether grimly dwelling upon failures or arrogantly glorying in successes. Without doubt such an approach to the work of the church can quench enthusiasm and positive action, and excuse negligence as acceptable behavior in light of past success or failure. Paul said,

Watch
LIVE!

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of this the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” *Philippians 3:13-14*. Paul did not discount the past, it was ever before him and served him as a reminder. The apostle never allowed the past to hinder his present labor but to exalt it. Likewise, we must not become servants of the past. Instead, let the past become our servant that we may profit from it in the present.

WHERE WILL YOU STAND?

We often sing “Someday you'll answer the question of life, What will your answer be?” The song speaks to our point. Our answer to the question of life is sure and certain. Its surety is established in both the past and present conduct of our life. If correction of past errors is ignored and past faithfulness is forsaken, present standing is jeopardized.

Paul set the past in the past and reaches into the future by faithful living in the present. He knew as we must that past accomplishments or failures will not defeat nor excuse present action. We must with Paul reach forth, literally, “to stretch out towards” (Thayer), the mark and its prize. We cannot change the past, but we can learn from it. The future is yet unwritten. The future of this author and evangelist God has left me to write. Likewise, your future has been left for you and you alone. The year 2023 and the work of this congregation during it will depend upon each of us.

Can I urge you all toward one common goal in the coming year? May each of us devote ourselves fully to Christ and be loyal and unified in every thought, word and deed. May God bless our collective labor. If God be with us, who can be against us? ☐

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



Logan Lucile Thompson

Congratulations **Thompson family**. **Logan Lucile Thompson** was born at 11:32 am on Thursday, December 29th, 8 lbs., 5 ounces. Mother, baby and **big sister MJ** are doing well. We are very excited that we get to watch little Lucile grow up. Please help us congratulate the entire Thompson family.

Family Updates

Prayers:
Peggy Monroe was taken to the doctor after Riley noticed her legs where swelling and she was in pain. His doctor sent Peggy immediately to the ER at Crestwood where blood clots in her lungs were discovered. The clots were likely from her recent bout with COVID. She was transferred to Huntsville Hospital where a surgical procedure was performed to remove the clots. Peggy is still testing positive for COVID but is otherwise doing well. Please pray for her speedy recovery.

Caryl Ehl has been having some heart issues recently. She would appreciate prayer.

The Hatcher family is in Tennessee visiting family. Unfortunately **Kirk**, his parents and sister all have COVID. **Brooke** has kidney stones, two other infections simultaneously. NOT fun! Your prayers are both solicited and appreciated.

David Hand is dealing with the ongoing kidney stone issue. He will have the stint removed in the next few days.

Ciera Elledge, Will & Sarah Starks' granddaughter, needs our prayers. Say her name as she begins further treatments.

Becky Hill has her fifth round of treatments behind her. Last week was a challenge, but she made it through once again. Pray for better days to come soon.

Louis Caudle, Wes' mom, continues to undergo her treatments for cancer. Say her name to the Lord as you pray.

Zoila Herring, Mechi Hunt's sister, remains in our daily prayers.

Marty Hunt has asked us to remember his aunt, **Sue Hunt** in prayer. She has experienced great loss on recent weeks. Please ask for the Lord care and comfort for her.

Also, June Furlough asked us to pray for her sister, Shirley Davis, who has COVID.

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

This Week at Weatherly

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE class meets at 9:30. **Mike McLemore** will begin his new study entitled “**Maxims for Living**” from Solomon’s book of Proverbs. This is a great study. Come open the book with us. It will be of great benefit to each of us.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP follows at 10. **Mike** will begin his January 2023 series entitled, **All Things New**. Today’s lesson is **Citizens of a New Age** from Colossians 3:1-4.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP begins at 6. **Mike** will lead us in a devotional. Let’s all attend.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY begins at 7. **Mike** will begin a study of **First Thessalonians**. ☐

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



1-1	Sharon Dubose	1-4	Isabella Hatcher
1-6	Keria Godette	1-7	Bobby Wright
1-9	Wes Caudle	1-11	Jacob Frazier
1-11	Margaret Smith		

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CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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

You Tube

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

Evangelist
Michael W. McLemore 256 698-5941
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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, January 1	Sunday, January 8
Welcome:	Tommy Hill	Will Starks
Song Leader:	Mel Ambrose	David Jacks
Opening Prayer:	Phil Furlough	Tommy Hill
Lord's Table Lead:	Steve Hagewood	Ed Dill
	Colossians 3:1-4	Isaiah 43:18-28
Sermon:	Mike McLemore	Mike McLemore
	Citizens of Another Age	He Makes All Things New
Closing Prayer:	Searcy Hall	Kirk Hatcher

Evening Worship	
Bible Skillz	Mike McLemore
Songs Leader:	Mel Ambrose
Opening Prayer:	Will Starks
Closing Prayer:	W.D. Patrick

Wednesday, January 4th	
Songs Leader:	Hill Roberts
Invitation:	Mike McLemore
Closing Prayer:	Mel Ambrose

Wednesday, January 11th	
Songs Leader:	Collis Terry
Invitation:	Mike McLemore
Closing Prayer:	Riley Monroe

Quarterly Adult Classes	
January – March 2023	
AUDITORIUM SUNDAY	Maxims for Living
	Mike McLemore
AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY	1 & 2 Thessalonians
	Mike McLemore

Serving in January	
Serving on the Lord's Table AM & PM	** Steve Hagewood (1-1), Ed Dill (1-8), Marty Hunt (1-15), Phil Shaver (1-22), Tommy Hill (1-29)
** Overseer	
Communion Prep Building Lockup	TBA