

# Weatherly Weekly

December 4, 2022

2022 Edition, Number 49

## Whether Many or Few

Michael W. McLemore

An investigation of Israel's history reveals her armies never measured in comparison to the heathen enemies who were often referred to as the sands upon the shore in multitude. After all, at least an entire generation of men had been destroyed because of their wavering faith in the wilderness before the nation entered the land of promise. Yet, Jehovah led Israel to many a victory despite their meager force. The fact is God's people were never left to rely upon numbers for victory. They relied on God.

An example of one Israelite's faith is observed in Jonathan's exclamation to his armor bearer "... for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few," *1 Samuel 14:6*. Jonathan stood before a massive force of Philistines, and, though the prospect for victory was to Saul's human perspective foreboding, the young war-

rior with one man at his side set the entire enemy to flight. Jonathan in faith vindicated our premise, whether few or many there is no restraint with God.

Paul teaches Christians "the things written aforetime were written for OUR learning," *Romans 15:4*.

This pattern of divine providence established firmly in OT example speaks to a dilemma faced by Christians today regarding number. When beholding our city and the enormity of the task to spread the borders of the kingdom in it, we shriek as Israel. Perhaps we, with the crowd "head for the hills" in fear or return to our tent and quake. Sadly, Christians in many circles have become openly skeptical about the prospects of a few accomplishing anything resembling victory in the quest to save souls. Friends and brethren, we must realize, "there is no restraint to the Lord to SAVE by many or by few!" □

The Bible is perennial. It never has to be reviewed and revised since it is pertinent to any age and applicable to any culture. It says the same thing to a nation with a Socialist government as to a free Democratic society. In fact, the Bible is so fixed by God that it will tolerate no change and condemns any effort to alter it in any way, *2 John 9-11*.

## Private Participation

DEE BOWMAN

The Bible is primarily for persons. Everything in it is intended to speak to an individual's relationship to God--how he can respect Him as God, how he can please Him--and man's relationship to man--how he can respect Him, how he can be of service to him. It has a very personal message, *Matthew 22:37*. The faith it causes is personal--between a man and God. Its various requirements call for personal decisions--those that come because a man has been stricken by some moral obligation. The promises it affords are intimate, based on a person's confidence that God will do what He has said. Nobody can obey the law of God for someone else. There is no such thing as substitutionary obedience. True obedience comes only when the person under obligation decides in his own mind to react to what is required of him. In short, the Bible is a private communication between a man and God.

However, while the Bible is intended primarily for individuals, it also contains instructions for how those persons are to act in groups. It tells them, for instance, how each person is to function in society, what his obligations are to government, and especially how he is to act in association with others in what is called "the church," other saved people. It should be carefully observed, however, that even when it addresses things having to do with behavior in a congregation, it begins with instructions to the individual regarding his own attitudes and conduct toward the group things. Even then, his attitudes and actions are directed toward the persons that comprise the group and not to some nebulous "corporation" of some sort.

For instance: when a person observes the Lord's Supper he is to do so only after having examined himself, *1 Corinthians 11:28*. When a person gives of his means, he is to do so having purposed in his own heart. And when a man sings, he should make melody in his own heart. Collective worship is acceptable to God only as the individuals who offer it are acceptable to God. Solomon says, "keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God." He says "thy foot," not their's. It's every person's job to be ready to worship.

Neither is service measured in corporate terms. Each

person's service is his own. True, it may have an effect on others, it may even be a part of what they do, but it is, in the final reality, his own service.

Each person chooses each day whom he will serve, *Joshua 24:14*. He may have influence from others--and often does. And rightfully so, for it is the obligation of each person to put himself at the disposal of others as he has opportunity.

But just because a group of individuals does something for the good of others does not necessarily mean that because you are identified with that group, you have done it. You can't serve by proxy. There are some things, too, that call for your participation because of what they

do for you, not just what they do for someone else. Participation is more than giving money, although it may include that. It is giving yourself. Notice, I said giving yourself.

Far too many folks think that because a certain congregation has a "good name," or is known to be active and functional, they are part of it. But to really be a part, you have to do your part. And that means more than just giving into a common treasury. If you are able, you need to participate. That means doing something, getting involved, partaking.

It seems to me that three things are necessary for personal participation:

Decide how you can help. Every person has his own talent, *Matthew 25*. Before you can manage yours, you must be aware of what it is. You know what you can do. Think about how you can use that to help with the plan being considered. Or if the occasion calls for it, do it by yourself. Many an opportunity has been lost because someone had to call someone to help get it done. Consider the good Samaritan. He just did what he could--and with no help. And remember, every talent is important or God would not have given it.

Make up your mind to do it. Nobody can make up your mind. Actually, as Jesus said, (Matt. 16:24), you must "take up your own cross." Other people may have an influence, of course, but, in the final reality, your choice is yours and nobody else's. Your cross is yours and nobody else's. Consider others, certainly, but be independent. Choose for yourself.

Run the risk. Sure, you may get embarrassed. You may even have to hurt a little--maybe even a lot. But do it anyhow. Yes, there may be some who can do it better than you, but does that absolve you of your responsibility or remove your obligation? I think not. More than that, don't let diffidence rob you of the personal satisfaction of having done what you could.

Remember, for the Christian, forgiveness, service, pain, and satisfaction are all personal. Be prepared to share them--personally. □

Watch  
LIVE!



# FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



## Family Updates

### Prayers:

**Marissa Hunt** is headed home today after a week in the hospital. She was taken to the ER last Sunday suffering from eye pain and strange change in her vision. With no answers **Marty & Mechi** took Marissa to Vanderbilt on Monday where she was admitted to the Critical Care Unit. Thankfully she is now improving with meds. We are praying this will continue.

**Louis Caudle, Wes'** mom, continues on our prayer list as she recovers from her most recent Chemotherapy treatment. Say her name to the Lord as you pray.

Last week was Chemo week for **Becky Hill**. Remember her to the Lord as she presses through the hard days. She's a remarkably strong person and an example to us all. Also, remember **Tommy** in prayer as he helps her.

Our prayers are for the family of our sister **Ann McDaniel**. Ann was laid to rest on Wednesday afternoon in Russellville, Alabama. Please pray for **Guy** and his family during these difficult days.

**Mike & Gwyn McLemore** arrived home from Phoenix late Thursday. **Little Olivia Claire** arrived home with her parents and big brother, **Liam**, in the late evening hours last night. We appreciate all of your prayers for us during these last few weeks. It's been a challenge.

**Riley Monroe** is continuing his improvement. We are looking forward to seeing him out and about. It takes time.

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

Remember to pray for **Ciera Elledge, Will &**

**Sarah Starks'** granddaughter, as she anticipates her surgery scheduled for Jan 25-Feb 8, 2023.

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.**

## See LaNelle or Julie

The last several weeks have presented many needs for flowers to be sent on our behalf in honor of lost members or the immediate family of members. While this is not a direct work of the church it is something that we believe is an important individual opportunity. **Julie Guice** and **LaNelle Patrick** do a wonderful job in attending to this for us. Our fund is significantly depleted. If you would like to help with this, please see one of these ladies. Thank you in advance for your interest.

## This Week at Weatherly

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE** class meets at 9:30. **Mike McLemore** is continuing his study "What Can I Do?" from the book of Acts. This is a great study. Come be a part.

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP** follows at 10. **Mike** will begin a series on Luke 2 entitled **Hope Has Arrived**. Mike will discuss the subject this morning from **Luke 2:1-21**.

**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 be back this week. We will continue our study of **The Compassionate Christ**. Thanks to Phil Shaver who filled in for me. ☐

## Essence of Leadership

*Michael W. McLemore*

**E**lihu Root, an American statesman, diplomat and principal cabinet member in both the Roosevelt and Wilson administration, is quoted as having said, "I observe that there are two entirely different theories according to which individual men seek to get on in the world. One theory leads a man to pull down everybody around him in order to climb up on them to a higher place. The other leads a man to help everybody around him in order that he may grow up with them."

It seems Mr. Root had it right. A political appointee for better than 38 years, he had a prospective of those about him which likely served well as his authority in leadership. The political spectacle of our modern era observed even casually reveals the rough and tumble characters as they struggle to demean the opponents about them that they might gain prominence with voters. Sadly, the political arena is not the only place such "characters" are found.

Among members of the Lord's church, their craft is sometimes observed. Once guilty himself of demeaning others to keep his position of prominence with those about him, Peter later argued for the essence of leadership — "Pastor the flock of God which among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for greed for gain, but of a ready mind... being ensamples to the flock," *1 Peter 5:2-3*. ☐

## WEEKLY WALK

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Weatherly Heights  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

930 Weatherly Road SE  
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

### Mailing:

P.O. Box 4619  
Huntsville, Alabama 35815

Phone: 256 881-9535

Email: [contactus@weatherlychurch.com](mailto:contactus@weatherlychurch.com)

## 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](http://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](mailto: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, December 4

**Welcome:** **Tommy Hill**  
**Song Leader:** **David Jacks**  
**Opening Prayer:** **Ed Dill**  
**Lord's Table Lead:** **Phil Furlough**  
**Luke 2:1-21**  
**Sermon:** **Mike McLemore**  
**Hope Has Arrived**  
**Closing Prayer:** **Searcy Hall**

## Sunday, December 11

**Will Starks**  
**Mel Ambrose**  
**Steve Hagewood**  
**Bill Thompson**  
**Luke 2:22-40**  
**Mike McLemore**  
**Christ the First Fruits**  
**Will Starks**

## Evening Worship

**Bible Skillz** **Mike McLemore**  
**Songs Leader:** **David Jacks**  
**Opening Prayer:** **Will Starks**  
**Closing Prayer:** **Dwight Ivey**

## Evening Worship

**Mike McLemore**  
**Mel Ambrose**  
**Kirk Hatcher**  
**Bobby Wright**

## Wednesday, December 7

**Songs Leader:** **Hill Roberts**  
**Invitation:** **Mike McLemore**  
**Closing Prayer:** **Ron Harmon**

## Wednesday, December 14

**Phil Furlough**  
**Mike McLemore**  
**Tommy Hill**

## Quarterly Adult Classes

October – December 2022

### AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

"What Can I Do?"

**Mike McLemore**

### AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

The Compassionate Christ

**Mike McLemore**

## Serving in December

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

**\*\* Phil Furlough (12-4), Bill Thompson (12-11),**  
**Collis Terry (12-18), Tommy Hill (12-25)**

**Communion Prep**  
**Building Lockup**

**TBA**

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



DECEMBER 4, 2022

12-4	Steve Hagewood	12-4	Tommy Hill
12-4	Gwyn McLemore	12-6	Kenneth Cavender
12-6	John Patrick	12-12	Ali Ambrose
12-13	Joanne Abernathy	12-15	Carol Roberts
12-17	Kayleigh Stovall	12-17	Bill Thompson
12-23	Charles Hill	12-26	Phil Shaver

