

# Weatherly Weekly

January 8, 2023

2023 Edition, Number 2

## The Desire for Heaven

MICHAEL W. MCLEMORE

As we age heaven becomes significantly more important to believers. It ought to become the most important consideration for any thinking person. Suffering and age both naturally increase the desire for rest, thus seem to motivate mankind's desire for heaven (eternal rest) and prepare the mind for relief from this life. Paul pled, "set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory," *Colossians 3:2-4*.

The sixteenth century English reformer, John Bradford (1510-1555), less than five months before his fiery departure from life for preaching in violent times, wrote to a friend of the glories of heaven he anticipated:

"I am assured that though I want here, I have riches there; though I hunger here, I shall have fullness there; though I faint here, I shall be refreshed there; and though I be accounted

here as a dead man, I shall there live in perpetual glory.

That is the city promised to the captives whom Christ shall make free; that is the kingdom assured to them whom Christ shall crown; there is the light that shall never go out; there is the health that shall never be impaired; there is the glory that shall never be defaced; there is the life that shall taste no death; and there is the portion that passes all the world's preferment. There is the world that shall never wax worse; there is every want supplied freely without money; there is not danger, but happiness, and honour, and singing, and praise and thanksgiving unto the heavenly Jehovah, 'to him that sits on the throne,' 'to the lamb' that here was led to the slaughter, that now 'reigns' with whom I 'shall reign' after I have run this comfortless race through this miserable earthly vale."

Perhaps one of the great advantages which adversity and infirmity gives to its casualty is the most important of all, it turns our eyes toward heaven and causes us to desire something very far better. □

# THE WAY

BY MICHAEL W. MCLEMORE

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

One of the most difficult truths of Christianity is that there's but one way to heaven: Jesus Christ. People would rather believe that all paths lead to God—and that no religion can exclude someone. But in John 14:6, Jesus claimed, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life," and explicitly said, "No one comes to the Father except through Me."

That raises an important question: How can Jesus be the ONLY way to heaven? It's not by means of religious rituals, merit, or self-effort—because even "our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment" before God, *Isaiah 64:6*. Scripture provides the answers to the challenges humankind faces because of sin and death.

**GOD** – Any person seeking to know either the source of power to reach heaven or the method of attaining it must begin with its possessor, God who founded all things. "The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours; the world and all that is in it, you have founded them, *Psalms 89:11*. Jesus is hailed as the Creator of all, *John 1:1-4*. Whose word would carry more weight than the Creator-God, Jesus?

**SAVIOR** – Man's need for a savior goes back to the beginning Bible story of the garden of Eden. Fellowship with God and access to the tree of life was obstructed from the beginning because of the man's own sin, *Genesis 3:23-24*. Adam and Eve needed a Savior to save them from death in

sin, cf. *Genesis 2:17*. Every sinner shares their need, and no sinner will enter God's home, *Romans 3:23*. God promised the "Seed of woman" as the Savior man desperately needs, *Genesis 3:15*. Jesus is the seed of woman, *Galatians 4:4*. Whose claim should be given place beyond that of the promised Savior, Jesus?

**ATONEMENT** – Justice demands a penalty for sin be exacted. The debt must be paid, *Ezekiel 18:20*. Humankind can make no claim on heaven apart from an atonement for his guilt before God; Jesus is the propitiate for the sins of the world, *Romans 6:23; 1 John 2:2*. Whose path back to God in heaven would be more trustworthy than that of the atoning sacrifice, Jesus?

**RESURRECTION** – The grave and eternal judgment loom in the future of every person, *Hebrews 9:27*. Long before man had seen or heard any promise of resurrection Job asked, "If a man dies, shall he live again?" *Job 14:14*. Death is the great human dilemma. No man can ascend the grave into heaven apart from Jesus. Only Jesus conquered death and the grave never to die again, *1 Corinthians 15:1-3; cf. 15:20*. Jesus conquered death and defeated every power that seeks to prevent humankind from being with God eternally, *Colossians 2:8-15*. Whose word will you accept above the resurrected Christ, Jesus?

Salvation is narrow. Rare, valuable and precious things are only carefully attained. Why wouldn't the path to Heaven be the same? Salvation through Christ is restricted to those who have faith in and obey Jesus. He is the only path that leads away from condemnation and into the eternal glory of heaven. Heed His word when He said, "I am the only true and living way!" Why wouldn't you give your allegiance fully to Him? □

Watch LIVE!



# FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



## Family Updates

### Prayers:

**John "Smitty" Besherse** is in Huntsville Hospital after being taken there by ambulance in the very early morning hours Thursday. They believe this is a recurrence of the DRESS Syndrome, but no real definitive answers have been forthcoming. At this printing medications that were being used to mitigate his pain are losing their potency. It is much harder to get his pain under control once it gets bad. Stacey's latest: "No answers, no plan, no help except for meds that are not a long term solution. Consulting with Vanderbilt." Your earnest prayers are solicited.

**Peggy Monroe** continues her recovery. Now they are working to increase her strength. She was moved to Regency Rehab to facilitate her recovery and now has no COVID restrictions. Pray for **Peggy & Riley**.

**Will & Sarah Starks'** granddaughter, **Ciera Elledge**, has begun six weeks of intense Chemo to address the recurrence of her cancer. Your prayers for her are requested.

Be sure to remember our sister, **Caryl Ehl**, as you pray this week. She has been having some heart issues recently.

**Elaine Dorris** is doing better after a bout with this prevalent upper respiratory illness that is going around. Her fever is gone but she is still dealing with some of the other lingering symptoms. Your prayers and expressions of concern are very meaningful.

**The Hatcher** family has been sick. They are trying to get better, but COVID had been rough this time. Please keep them in your prayers.

**David Hand's** procedure to remove both the stint and kidney stone were successful on Thursday. He is doing much better. The Hands appreciated your prayers.

**Becky Hill** is in the recovery phase following her fifth round of Chemo. Please continue to pray for **Becky & Tommy**.

**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. Also, remember **Marty's** aunt, **Sue Hunt** in prayer. She has lost two near family members and is struggling.

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** is continuing his 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 **He Makes All Things New** from **Isaiah 43:18-28**.

**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** began a very by verse study of the book of **First Thessalonians** on Wednesday evening. Come be a part of the study. ☐

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



JANUARY 8, 2023

1-9	Wes Caudle	1-9	Jacob Frazier
1-11	Elena Hagewood	1-11	Margaret Smith
1-15	Xavier Cole	1-19	Ed Dill
1-20	Edith Turner	1-21	Knox Ambrose
1-21	Noah Ambrose	1-23	Gordon Dorris
1-26	Marissa Hunt	1-28	Cooper Caudle

## Selfless Determination

Michael W. McLemore

During the Crimean War Florence Nightingale rose by 4:30 a.m. to leave for the battlefields, where inferior medical care caused British soldiers to die unnecessarily. After incredible exploits, saving lives with her contingent of trained nurses, Nightingale returned home to England. Restricted to her sick bed, she somehow managed to establish, at age forty, the Nightingale School and Home for Nurses in London. She created a medical revolution from her bed and continued to mastermind and direct those efforts until her death at age ninety.

Such unmitigated selfless determination is admired and applauded by all who observe it. But, Nightingale is not the first to exhibit great commitment in the face of cruel adversity. The first century physician and historian, Luke, recorded the apostle Paul's commitment to continue his mission despite the promise of arrest and the threat of death by both Jews and Romans — "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus," *Acts 21:13*.

The same Paul, later wrote to the church at Philippi this time from Rome, saying, "I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel," *Philippians 1:12-14*.

Nightingale and Paul each in turn changed the course of human history by their selfless determination. Such resolve begs for replication in modern local churches the world over! ☐

## WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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Weatherly Heights  
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](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: [mmclmore@weatherlychurch.com](mailto:mmclmore@weatherlychurch.com)

## Weatherly's Deacons

Phil Furlough	Steve Hagewood
Kirk Hatcher	David Jacks
Hill Roberts	Collis Terry
Bobby Wright	

## Weatherly at Work

These are asked to assist in our labor.

### Sunday, January 8th

Welcome: **Will Starks**  
Song Leader: **David Jacks**  
Opening Prayer: **Tommy Hill**  
Lord's Table Lead: **Ed Dill**

Sermon: **Mike McLemore**  
*He Makes All Things New*  
Closing Prayer: **Kirk Hatcher**

### Evening Worship

**Bible Skillz** **Mike McLemore**  
Songs Leader: **David Jacks**  
Opening Prayer: **Bill Thompson**  
Closing Prayer: **Dwight Ivey**

### Wednesday, January 11th

Songs Leader: **Collis Terry**  
Invitation: **Mike McLemore**  
Closing Prayer: **Riley Monroe**

### Sunday, January 15th

Welcome: **Tommy Hill**  
Song Leader: **Hill Roberts**  
Opening Prayer: **WD Patrick**  
Lord's Table Lead: **Marty Hunt**

Sermon: **Mike McLemore**  
*Mending the Break*  
Closing Prayer: **John Patrick**

### Evening Worship

**Bible Skillz** **Mike McLemore**  
Songs Leader: **David Jacks**  
Opening Prayer: **Phil Shaver**  
Closing Prayer: **David Jacks**

### Wednesday, January 18th

Songs Leader: **Mel Ambrose**  
Invitation: **Mike McLemore**  
Closing Prayer: **Bill Thompson**

## 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  
\*\* Overseer

\*\* **Steve Hagewood (1-1), Ed Dill (1-8),  
Marty Hunt (1-15), Phil Shaver (1-22), Tommy Hill (1-29)**

Communion Prep  
Building Lockup

TBA

