

Weatherly Weekly

January 15, 2023

2023 Edition, Number 3

Focused Ahead

MICHAEL W. MCLEMORE

When I was ten my father undertook the restoration of the fields on our new farm. Interest in learning has always been my bent so I quickly showed interest in operating the family's new Ford tractor.

To my surprise Dad was quick to take me up on my request, showing me how to operate the tractor with its breaking-plow. Soon I was alone on the machine. Quickly my dad would stop me and point out the crooked row I had just completed. He said, "You can't plow a straight row if you continuously look back. You must keep your eyes focused straight ahead." I've never received better advice.

The same is true with the child of God's walk. Plowing toward heaven is powered by faith in Christ, *Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6*. For that faith to stay the course — the straight and narrow way that leads to life — the Christian must forget the past and reach forward to those things that are

before, *Philippians 3:13*. Focusing on the past, what lies behind, will prevent us from effectively pursuing our future. Establishing meaningful and specific goals will provide direction for us to focus our energies on what lies ahead.

As this new year begins, let's take some time to evaluate our relationship with the Lord, establish worthwhile and distinctive goals for the new year, and reach forth. We should include our personal goals the aspiration to aid another to come to Jesus this year. Whether through direct instruction, setting up a class, inviting them to services, or taking time to point out specific truths at appropriate times during the coming days, weeks and months, we can do something.

This "focused ahead" approach will generate great opportunities. Remember, the Lord said, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest," *John 4:35*. □

Private Participation

BY DEE BOWMAN

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*.

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, *Matthews 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 per-

son'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 your-self.

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, *Matthew 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:

John "Smitty" Besherse is home. Though they have no real explanation as to what is causing the pain and high blood pressure, he is doing some better. They are consulting with Vanderbilt and plan further testing there going forward. Pray for **Stacey** and the children. They are all understandably very concerned.

W.D. Patrick was diagnosed with COVID late last week. He is receiving oral meds and must remain quarantined for the next week or so. Prayers for **LaNelle & Dub** are solicited.

Peggy Monroe remains at Regency Rehab. She is regaining her strength. The Monroes appreciate those who are helping with Peggy's meals. Pray for **Peggy & Riley**.

Will & Sarah Starks' granddaughter, **Ciera Elledge**, has begun six weeks of intense Chemo. Your prayers are solicited.

Jim & Caryl Ehl have completed their move to the Hampton Cove area. We are happy to have them home and continue to pray for Caryl as she deals with her heart challenges.

Elaine Dorris has finally turned the corner. She's had a rough few weeks. Your prayers are appreciated. **Elaine & Gordon** plan to be in the assembly this morning.

The Hatcher family went through the proverbial ringer with COVID and other medical issues the last couple of weeks. We were thrilled to see them back last Sunday.

Sherrie Stovall's brother, **Parker Jones**, was taken to the ER with stroke symptoms. He remains somewhat confused. At this printing he's undergoing more tests. Prayers please.

David Hand's procedure to remove both the stint and kidney stone were successful, but a second stint was placed temporarily. It will need to be removed soon.

Becky Hill continues her recovery from Chemo. One more round to go. Please continue to pray for **Becky & Tommy**.

Louise Caudle, Wes' mom, received great news from recent tests. She is scheduled for surgery on January 30th. Pray for her.

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** continues his January 2023 series entitled, **All Things New**. Today's lesson is **Mending the Break** from Jeremiah 30.

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



JANUARY 15, 2023

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

Don't Miss It Again

Michael W. McLemore

Another year has arrived. We look back. We look forward. We evaluate the year to determine if we did everything we planned to do this year. We ponder what the New Year will bring. Did we miss it again?

Did we miss an opportunity with your family? Did we miss the opportunity to show our family how much we love them? We promised we would. We started the year with grand ideas of what we were going to do, but work, recreation, and other "distractions" kept us away more that we were home. We missed it again.

Did we miss an opportunity with brethren? We were going to visit this year. We talked about it. They invited us visit. Then, something happened (we can't remember what it was) that cancelled the visit. The year is ending and we never got together. We missed it.

Did we miss an opportunity to show kindness? This year began with plans to help someone and do something kind for someone. We talked about it. We even prayed about it. We had everything in place to really do something meaningful. But, we never did it. We missed it again.

Did we miss an opportunity to share Christ? When the year began we made a commitment to share Jesus with at least one person. We read a book on how to do it. We attended a class at church that gave us instruction on what to say and what not to say. We had the perfect opportunity to mention Him, but we didn't. We missed it.

Not very encouraging stuff is it? Don't give up. There is hope. This is a new year. Tomorrow is a new day. There is still time in this day. You can start over. Give it another try! ☐

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

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	

Weatherly at Work

These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, January 15th

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

Sermon: Mike McLemore
Jeremiah 30
Mending the Break
Closing Prayer: John Patrick

Sunday, January 22nd

Will Starks
Mel Ambrose
Bill Thompson
Phil Shaver

Philippians 3
Mike McLemore
Pressing Ahead
Adam Hagewood

Evening Worship

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

Evening Worship

Mike McLemore
Mel Ambrose
Will Starks
Wes Caudle

Wednesday, January 18th

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

Wednesday, January 25th

David Jacks
Mike McLemore
Alex 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

