

Weatherly Weekly

February 19, 2023

2023 Edition, Number 8

DON'T KEEP COUNT

Michael W. McLemore

Our own forgiveness is predicated upon our willingness to forgive those who have “trespassed against us,” *Matthew 6:12*. It’s a Bible fundamental. Forgive, don’t keep count. If one considers how much God has forgiven, how can he keep a running tally of the times that his brother or sister has sinned against him?

Peter asked Jesus how many times should he forgive his brother. He even magnanimously offered a number – “seven times,” *Matthew 18:21*. He believed himself pious in the gesture as the Jews taught that three times was sufficient. Jesus shockingly gave His outspoken disciple a number that bewildered even him – “seventy times seven.” In reality Jesus gave Peter a number for which he could never successfully keep a running tally. In other words, “Forgive him every time!”

Isn’t that what God has done for you and me? We have all been forgiven exponentially

more than we could ever forgive others in a thousand lifetimes. Our Father doesn’t keep count of our sins. He assures that He forgives us of all our sins, *1 John 1:9*. He takes them away as far as the east is from the west, *Psalms 103:12*. He covers them as though they never were. Then, he calls on me mercifully to do the same with my brother.

Jesus told His disciples a parable about an Unmerciful Servant, *Matthew 18:21-35*. The story is of a man so enormously forgiven a debt that he could never pay who couldn’t forgive his own debtor a debt that could be easily satisfied. When the Master learned of the unmerciful man’s egregious behavior, he restored his own debt and left him languishing in prison. Jesus offered these words of caution, “So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart,” *Matthew 18:35*. Forgive! Don’t keep count. □

Preaching & Personality

By Dee Bowman

Oratory is an important factor in the history of mankind. The contributions made by great speakers dot the pages of history. Ancient oratory reached its prime with speakers like Demosthenes and Aristotle, who were known for their eloquence. Modern times have produced great orators as well. Men like General Kitchener, who stirred his troops with emotion toward Flanders fields during World War I. Adolph Hitler—a man of meager talents and a poor education, but of extraordinary abilities to move people by oratory—induced his people to the brink of total immorality by his impassioned speeches in the 1930s. And it is said that Sir Winston Churchill once actually turned Parliament from one position to a totally opposite one by use of his unique oratorical skills.

The great orators of Jewish history—Noah, Moses, Joshua, Ezra, Daniel—admittedly guided by the Holy Spirit, but speaking in their own vernacular and in accordance with their own personalities, gave meaning to the will of God and caused people, by their grand speeches, to return to the old paths. While the preaching of the ancient Greeks lacked morality as the one ingredient to qualify it for greatness, God’s interjection of the same into the preaching of the Old Testament prophets by the Holy Spirit brought not only greatness but effectiveness to their speeches.

Preaching is “the gospel in personality” says Dr. Broadus in his *Preparation and Delivery of Sermons*. That fact is illustrated in every New Testament preacher. The preaching of John the Baptist gives us some idea of what kind of person he was—fiery, unmovable. Barnabas is called “the Son of Encouragement,” *Acts 4:36*, telling us something about his personality as well as his preaching. Peter’s impetuosity is continually in evidence

in his preaching, and Paul’s dedication was not only common to his preaching, it was part of his personality. Apollos is referred to as “an eloquent man,” *Acts 18:24*, a fact which would have been so whether or not he ever preached the gospel. Preaching is a blend of the personality of the preacher with the message of the Savior.

Amos was a preacher with little emotion, one who “was not a prophet nor the son of one,” *Amos 7:14*; his call was for justice, not mercy; while Jeremiah, sometimes called “the weeping prophet,” had an obviously different disposition. Jonah is an example of arrogance coupled with superb oratorical skills (he converted a huge city-state). Luke’s gospel is a manifestation of his own deliberate and cultured personality, and Paul’s concern in the book of 2 Corinthians shows us a side of him not seen in some of his other epistles. The books written by these men would lose some of their flavor, some of their appeal, if divorced from the personality of the writer.

It is somewhat of a paradox that the same message—unaltered, undisturbed by human innovation—is to be delivered in so many different personalities. What a disservice is done to the arrangement of God when we seek to make every man into a clone of what we have surmised in our imaginations to be the best preacher. What is the best preacher, anyhow? Is he timid or gregarious, loud or soft, verbose or concise? And who decides the matter?

God did not choose one man to write the Bible, nor did He choose only one kind of temperament to preach it. He put His gospel in personality. Certainly it is one gospel—complete, immutable—but we do it a great disservice when we try to make every man say its message in the same way, with the same emphases, the same inflections, and without respect to his own personality. □

Watch
LIVE!

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



Family Updates

Prayers:

W.D. Patrick underwent an outpatient surgical procedure on Wednesday at Crestwood Hospital. He is home recovering well. We are thankful that there was no unexpected finding during the surgery. W.D. will go back to the doctor tomorrow for a follow-up. Keep him and **LaNelle** in your prayers.

It was great to see **Ruth Mitchell** on Sunday. She has more recovery ahead but she is happy with the outcome of her surgery. Your prayers for her are appreciated.

Jenny Jacks is expecting her second in a series of steroid injections that she hopes will help with her Manières. We are praying that she will find the relief that she needs. It's been a rough several months.

Phil Shaver was in quarantine for a little over a week after his COVID diagnosis. He purposely stayed away from the publicly assembly because of a persistent cough. We are glad he is better. He wanted you all to know how grateful he was for your prayers.

Jim Ehl told me Sunday that **Caryl** is doing much better after a change in her medication. Though it sometimes impedes sleep, she seems stronger. Her plan was to be here today. We are continuing to pray for her.

With **Becky Hill's** chemo behind her she now is focusing on contending with the after-effects. These can be persistent. We are continuing to say her name to the Lord as we pray daily. We all are surely aware of the need for our prayers of thanksgiving to God for seeing her through yet another great challenge. Remember **Tommy** to the Lord, too, as he sup-

ports her so faithfully.

Peggy & Riley Monroe remain on our hearts as they deal with the developments in her declining health. Say their names to the Lord.

Leonard Downum, Betty Dubose's brother-in-law, continues to need our prayers as he and his wife, **DeeDee**, wrestle with the decisions related to his treatments.

Wes Caudle's mother, **Louise Caudle**, remains on our hearts and in our prayers.

Will & Sarah Starks' granddaughter, **Ciera Elledge**, has completed the planned treatment regimen. Now she anticipates the follow-up tests. Pray for a clear result.

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

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

This Week at Weatherly

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE class meets at 9:30. **Mike McLemore** is continuing his study titled "Maxims for Living" from Proverbs.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP follows at 10. **Mike** is continuing his series titled, **Overcoming Bad Choices**. Today's lesson, **Grace Upon Grace**, is taken from **John 1:16**.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP begins at 6. **Mike** will lead us in an informal devotional in an open forum setting. Let's all attend.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY begins at 7. **Mike** will continue his verse by verse study of the book of **First Thessalonians**. ☐

FEBRUARY & MARCH BIRTHDAYS



FEBRUARY 19, 2023

2-20	Lara Ambrose	3-6	Harold Smith
3-11	Evelyn Hall	3-12	Stevie Hagewood
3-13	Collis Terry	3-14	Becky Hill

Finding Joy

Michael W. McLemore

Modern readers have to be amazed by Paul's letter to the church in Philippi, an ancient city, because of its address of our own modern sensibilities and concerns. Every Christian in our age has or will find themselves in undeserved and deeply challenging circumstances in life. Paul provides powerful insight into how we process those circumstances.

Despite writing from prison, Paul's letter is filled with joy and gratitude, and he encourages the Philippians to find joy in all circumstances. He writes, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" *Philippians 4:4*. Paul's exhortation to rejoice is not conditional on our circumstances or feelings; instead, he invites us to find joy in the Lord regardless of our situation.

The apostle's own circumstances in prison did not dampen his joy or his testimony of Jesus. He writes that his imprisonment has served to advance the gospel, *1:12-14*. He encourages those Christians and us to have the same attitude, to "shine as lights in the world" holding out the word of life, *2:15-16*.

Ultimately, the joy that Paul describes is rooted in abiding faith. He calls Christians in every age to present our requests to God. He promises that His peace will transcend all understanding, and will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. ☐

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

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

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, February 19th

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

Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
John 1:16
Grace Upon Grace
Closing Prayer: **Will Patrick**

Sunday, February 26th

Welcome: **Will Starks**
Song Leader: **Mel Ambrose**
Opening Prayer: **Phil Shaver**
Lord's Table Lead: **Collis Terry**
Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
Deuteronomy 30:19-30
Choose Life
Closing Prayer: **Kirk Hatcher**

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz **Mike McLemore**
Songs Leader: **Bill Thompson**
Opening Prayer: **Alex Thompson**
Closing Prayer: **Ron Harmon**

Evening Worship

Mike McLemore
Songs Leader: **Mel Ambrose**
Opening Prayer: **Phil Furlough**
Closing Prayer: **Wes Caudle**

Wednesday, February 22nd

Songs Leader: **David Jacks**
Invitation: **Mike McLemore**
Closing Prayer: **Ed Dill**

Wednesday, March 1st

TBA
Songs Leader: **Mike McLemore**
Invitation: **Hill Roberts**

Quarterly Adult Classes

January – March 2023

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Maxims for Living
Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

1 & 2 Thessalonians
Mike McLemore

Serving in February

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

** **Phil Furlough (2-5), Bill Thompson (2-12), Collis Terry (2-19), Tommy Hill (2-26)**

Communion Prep
Building Lockup

Collis Terry

