

Weatherly Weekly

April 16, 2023

2023 Edition, Number 16

"IT'S WHAT GOD KNOWS"

Michael W. McLemore

Jesus reassured His disciples whom He sent out under His limited commission, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell," *Matthew 10:28*. Other men will not approve of God's appointments but what power do they have in God's ultimate scheme or in His final analysis? I don't care if others don't approve of me. They're not my ultimate judge. I will stand before God, not them. It's what God knows that matters.

Paul later asked a rhetorical question of his Galatian critics, "For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ," *Galatians 1:10*. His point? He formerly sought approval of those who stood in the path of his career as a Jewish prosecutor. No more. All of that changed once confronted with the truth of Jesus' resurrec-

tion, *Acts 9: 1-20*. Note Paul's interesting choice of the word "servant" from the Greek "doulos," that culture's word for slave. What slave is concerned with what someone who is not their master thinks? Would a slave focus more on what other people think about them or what their Master knows about them? It's what God knows that matters.

The more a child of God matures the less concerned he becomes with what unbelieving or even weak-minded Christians think of him. The faithful "servant" wants only to please God. Many didn't put their faith in Christ for fear of the Pharisees, *John 12:42-43*. It is a sad state of affairs that what others think could become the determining factor over what one should or should not believe about Jesus. The fear or concern of what others think must never be allowed to become a stumbling block to faith, *Proverbs 29:25*. Who cares what men think. It's what God knows that matters. □

www.weatherlychurch.com

Living in the Far Country

Michael W. McLemore

Luke chapter fifteen has long been a favorite of many Bible students. This wonderful chapter serves as God's 'lost and found' of the Bible. In it we read of a lost sheep, a lost coin, and two lost boys, *Luke 15:11-32*. In this piece, we want to focus our attention on the more famous of the two lost boys – the prodigal son.

Most know the story well. The prodigal son requests his inheritance, which certainly was an insult to his living father, *11f*. The text then set forth the following: "And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal (wasteful) living," *13*. In the far country,

the son who had been sick of home suddenly became homesick when he realized the mistake he made. Therefore, having come to himself, he determined to return to the father he had forsaken. The homecoming of the son to his father has a way of bringing tears to the eyes; through it we see the sheer joy of reconciliation. The happiness of the occasion is evident in the father's response. He calls for his servants and gave a great feast in honor of his son that was dead but was alive again; who

was lost but was found, *20-24*.

Why do so many chose to leave the confines of their spiritual home, the church to live in the far country? Living in the far country is never without its cost. We forfeit a great deal by choosing to live in the far locale of sinful living. Consider that living in the far country means that we have chose to live:

FAR FROM THE FATHER

When the prodigal left the father the relation-

ship they had was severed, *cf. 24*. Leaving the light of God's way for the darkness of the world relinquishes fellowship with God and His Son Jesus, *John 1:5-7*. Why do we make such decisions? Thanks be to God that we have a Father who continues to wait for you and me to come to ourselves that the relationship between us might again be made whole through Christ, *cf. 1 John 1:9; Acts 8:22*.

FAR FROM PRODUCTIVE LIVING

Jesus described the prodigal's life in the far country as "wasteful," *13*. Any life that is devoid of glorifying God becomes a useless life, *Isaiah 43:7; 1 Corinthians 10:31*. Let us make sure that we never waste one hour in the pursuit of sinful living.

FAR FROM BLESSING

In the far country the prodigal son was "in want," *14*. Sin had taken him farther than he had ever wanted to go. When we choose to live in the far country of sin, we cut ourselves off from the innumerable blessings found only in Christ, *Ephesians 1:3*.

FAR FROM HAPPINESS

The happiness experienced by the prodigal was short lived at best, *13; cf. Hebrews 11:24, 25*. The Prodigal would never know real, genuine happiness until he was at home again with his father. The same holds true for those who would stray from their heavenly Father. Sin offers some pleasure, but its end result is death, *James 1:12-16; Romans 6:23*. If you've wandered away, won't you return to the place where real rejoicing is found *Philippians 4:4*.

Are you living in the far country of sinful living? God is still calling the prodigal today. Come home while you still can. □

Sin had taken him
farther than he had ever
wanted to go. When we
choose to live in the far
country of sin, we cut our-
selves off from the innu-
merable blessings found
only in Christ,

Ephesians 1:3

Watch
LIVE!



Weatherly Weekly

62

APRIL 16, 2023

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



Family Updates

Prayers:

Silvia Henderson was not able to have the expected surgery. The surgeon removed a spur and cleaned the area. She has a follow up appointment with him in two weeks. She will do rehab for the next four to six weeks.

Becky Shaw remains in Crestwood Hospital, Room 405. She suffered from what appears to be several small strokes. Thankfully she has no physical impairment, but will need rehab to help restore her strength. She is scheduled to be released tomorrow. As soon as we know which facility we will update everyone. Pray for Becky.

John Stokes was uncharacteristically absent from our assemblies last week due to a bad cold. He says that he is doing great. We look forward to seeing him at worship.

Wes & Megan, Cooper & Levi Caudle are all improving after being hit with this “bad cold” that is circulating. The boys still have a bit of a cough. Pray for the Caudles.

Lynn Franklin is much improved. He still has a bit of a cough but is otherwise on the mend. He was well enough for both he and **Gail** to travel to Tennessee for a few days. They’ll be home for Wednesday night Bible class.

LaNelle Patrick’s brother, **Don Patton**, continues to make remarkable progress after heart by-pass surgery. He preached last Sunday and taught class Wednesday.

Peggy Shelton’s brother, **Sam Eaves**, remains on our prayer list. Say his name to the Lord this week as you pray.

Susan Watson’s mother, **Janie Cheatham**,

also remains on our prayer list. It was good to have Susan back with is Sunday.

Please continue to pray for **DeeDee Downum, Betty Dubose’s** sister as she grieves the loss of her husband, **Leonard**.

Wes Caudle’s mother, **Louise Caudle**, will have her last treatment this week. They will do scans and hopefully begin radiation afterward.

Ciera Elledge continues to do well. Keep her in your prayers. The family appreciates every expression of concern.

Zoila Herring, Mech Hunt’s sister, remains in our daily prayers. Say her name to the Lord.

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

This Week at Weatherly

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE class meets at 9:30. **Mike McLemore** will continue to lead our study titled “**Powerful Prayer.**” This will be a great study and will be most encouraging of our faith in God’s willingness to hear and respond to our fervent prayers.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP follows at 10. **Mike’s** is continuing his look at the at the Lord’s Supper. Our theme is “**Remember ME!**” Today’s lesson asks **Why Every Week?** Our text is **Acts 20:7.**

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP begins at 6. **Mike** will lead us in an informal devotional.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY begins at 7. **Mike** is beginning a verse by verse study of the **Gospel of Mark.** Come be a part of our study. ☐

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



APRIL 16, 2023

4-18	Peggy Monroe	4-20	John Stokes
4-21	Dianne Dill	4-21	Mechi Hunt
4-23	David Jacks	4-25	Sue Terry
4-27	Lauren Thompson	4-29	Harrison Smith

Into the Unknown

Michael W. McLemore

Modern Americans would struggle to imagine the flood of emotions that overwhelmed Christopher Columbus as he stood at the bow of the Santa Maria, his flagship, as it plows through the Atlantic waves. With a determined gaze and a hand raised towards the horizon, Columbus leads his crew into the vast unknown, driven by a vision of discovery and adventure. His venture would forever change the course of human history.

It may be that these same imaginations beset another pilgrim pioneer, Abraham, as he tread the lonesome road toward an unknown destination. But Abraham was not commissioned by man, he was led by God. Though he knew nothing of the place he was going, His God did. Like Columbus, this proved a seminal event in human history.

Abraham was born in Ur of the Chaldeans, a thriving city in Mesopotamia. God spoke to him and commanded him to leave his familiar surroundings and go to a land that He would show him. Despite the uncertainties, Abraham obeyed in faith. He left everything and embarked on a journey into the unknown. But, his unknown was no earthly land. He sought an enduring home in Heaven and thereby became a pattern for every believer who would come after — “For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God,” *Hebrews 11:10.* ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



63



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

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, April 16th

Welcome: **Will Starks**
Song Leader: **Hill Roberts**
Opening Prayer: **Phil Shaver**
Lord’s Table Lead: **Bill Thompson**
Acts 20:7
Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
Why Every Week?
Closing Prayer: **Jim Ehl**

Sunday, April 23rd

Tommy Hill
Mel Ambrose
Bill Thompson
Phil Furlough
Luke 24:13-35
Mike McLemore
New in My Father’s Kingdom
Will Starks

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz **Mike McLemore**
Songs Leader: **David Jacks**
Opening Prayer: **Tommy Hill**
Closing Prayer: **Dwight Ivey**

Evening Worship

Mike McLemore
Mel Ambrose
Marty Hunt
Bobby Wright

Wednesday, April 19th

Songs Leader: **Mel Ambrose**
Invitation: **Mike McLemore**
Closing Prayer: **Murray Castleman**

Wednesday, April 26th

Collis Terry
Mike McLemore
W.D. Patrick

Quarterly Adult Classes

April – June 2023

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
Powerful Prayer
Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY
The Gospel of Mark
Mike McLemore

Serving in April

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

**** Marty Hunt (4-2), Tommy Hill (4-9), Bill Thompson (4-16), Phil Furlough (4-23), Collis Terry (4-30)**

Communion Prep
Building Lockup

Will Starks

