

Weatherly Weekly

September 10, 2023

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A Living God

Michael W. McLemore

A defendant was on trial for murder. Strong evidence indicated his guilt, but there was no corpse. In the defense's closing statement the lawyer, knowing that his client would probably be convicted, resorted to a trick: "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I have a surprise for you all," the lawyer said as he looked at his watch. "Within one minute, the person presumed dead in this case will walk into this courtroom."

He looked toward the courtroom door. The jurors, somewhat stunned, all looked on eagerly. A minute passed. Nothing happened.

Finally the lawyer said, "Actually, I made up the previous statement. But you all looked on with anticipation. I therefore put it to you that there is reasonable doubt in this case as to whether anyone was killed and insist that you return a verdict of not guilty."

The jury, clearly confused, retired to deliberate. A few minutes later, the jury returned and pronounced a verdict of guilty.

"But how?" inquired the lawyer. "You must have had some doubt; I saw all of you stare at the door."

The jury foreman replied: "Oh, we did look, but your client didn't."

Oops! It was evident from the way he acted that the defendant didn't really believe the victim was still alive. Question: As the world looks at our lives, is it evident that we believe in a living God?

Oh, I know we've made the case, we've argued the evidence, we've proclaimed the truth that "Our God, He is Alive!" But the world may be looking not so much at the evidence we present, as our demeanor, to see if it matches what we say we believe.

"For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe...." *1 Timothy 4:10-12.*

If believers are to persuade men, it must be evident to the people around us by the way we act that we serve a living God! □

Being Like God's Children

By Michael W. McLemore

It's not always good for us to forget. Those years, in which our personality, values, and character were formed, should not be forgotten. Qualities in children that are desirable in grown-up men and women must be kept alive. Adults can become so carried away with their day to day affairs that they forget what it is like to wonder, to enjoy, to dream and hope. Time becomes so valuable that we are too busy to enjoy our children or glory in the beauties of our world.

If this describes you, please consider what Jesus said in Mark 10:14, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Notice, "of such is the kingdom of God." In Matthew 18:1-6, Jesus says four things about little children that we should heed: We must not cause "one of these little ones" to sin; We must show hospitality or friendship to a child, in doing so we are doing it for Christ; We must be humble as a little child to be regarded as "great in the kingdom"; and not until we "become as little children" will we be able to "enter the kingdom of heaven." Christ is not encouraging childishness or immaturity; He reminds His disciples to keep some qualities of childhood.

Children are dependent upon their parents for almost everything. They are not embarrassed to depend upon another. Christ reminds us from whom all blessings flow. Should we not recognize our dependence on God for the very sustenance of life and be

thankful? Watching children at play we see the art of give and take. They can exhibit the qualities of fairness and self-defense in the same moment, all the while being ready to forgive and go on about their playing. It takes an adult to hold a grudge, to prolong anger toward another for an extended period of time. When will we learn to be like little children?

Children are generous not materialistic. Ask a child for a bite of their ice cream and they are likely to hand over the whole thing. They enjoy the simplest toy, often even the box in which it came. Never does the child look with disdain upon those with less money, power, prestige or education.

The child is the essence of innocence, free from sin. What parent has not stood looking down at their sleeping child, marveling at their innocence? Said Jesus, "except ye turn, and become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven," *Matthew 18:3.*

No creature is so dedicated to learning as a little child. Their questions often overwhelm us, and their thirst to know "why" reminds us of our own ignorance. We must see to it that their thirst for learning is satisfied, especially about God and His Creation, His Word and His promises.

All our lives we have heard, "Grow up!" Yes, we must mature, but don't forget those lessons we learn from "little ones." □



FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



Family Updates

Prayers:

Becky Shaw began suffering from the symptoms of a stroke on Thursday and was taken by ambulance to Crestwood Hospital. Tests revealed a "brain bleed." Medication was administered to reduce the bleeding and Becky was placed in ICU where she remains. At this printing (Saturday) she is awaiting an MRI to determine if the affected area has increased or diminished. We will update Becky's condition in the morning announcements. Please pray for Becky. At 94 years of age she has already proven tremendous resilience.

It was great to see **Margaret Smith** in the assembly last Lord's Day. She is feeling much better. We are thankful that her symptoms have diminished and that her discomfort appears to be behind her. Your prayers were greatly appreciated.

Peggy Childress was better yesterday but still has no appetite. She is terribly weak. Your prayers for her are needed. Say her name when you pray. Also, remember **Terry** to the Lord.

Your continued prayers for **Elaine Dorris** are appreciated. She is making incremental progress. She tells me that she'll be back on her feet one day! We are all praying for it.

Bill McCord's at home physical therapy is ongoing. He is working to gain enough strength in his legs to be able to endure the aftermath of knee replacement surgery. The goal is to get mobile after surgery.

Betty Dubose tells me that her son-in-law, **Jackie Taft**, is up and moving around. Hospice care continues for him. Your prayers are solicited. We are thankful for his good days.

Guy McDaniel, former Weatherly evangelist, remains in our thoughts and prayers.

Will & Sarah Stark, granddaughter, **Ciera Elledge** is anticipating another scan. Those results will determine what's next for her. Your prayers are requested and cherished.

Susan Watson's mother, **Janie Cheatham** remains on our prayer list. Say her name to the Lord as you pray daily.

Zoila Herring, Mechi Hunt's sister continues to have an interest in our prayers.

Please be mindful of those in our family who are confined either at home or in health care facilities. Remember them to the Lord by name as you pray. Also, pray for their caretakers. Pray for these. Each has their own particular health challenge. — **Peggy Monroe, Lane Roberts, Glenda Cavender, Edith Turner, Melvin Godette, & Maragem Harbin.**

A few of our older folks are still able to attend our regular services. They amaze us with their dedication and their fortitude — **Carolynn Barr, Betty Dubose, Ron Harmon, Jim Risner & Harold Smith.**

This Week at Weatherly

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE class meets at 9:30. **Tommy Hill** will continue his study: **Building Strong Homes**. We hope to see you all.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP follows at 10. **Mike's** lesson today is titled "My Soul Anchor" from **Acts 27:22-44**.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP begins at 6. **Mike** will lead us in a devotion. We hope you will plan to gather with us.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY begins at 7. **Mike** will continue his Mark study. ☐

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



9-14 Brooke Hatcher
9-25 LaNelle Patrick
9-20 Sophia Hunt
9-28 Doris DeCelles

Would You Be Found?

Ralph Joiner

Paul Harvey reported on a 73 year old man who was pinned beneath his farm tractor for three days and two nights in a driving rain and freezing temperatures. Concerned friends finally went to see about him; apparently just in time. He survived the ordeal even though he lost one of his legs below the knee.

Although the report was centered upon the amazing fact that the man survived after being pinned beneath the tractor for so long, a more amazing fact is what caused his friends to go see about him. He had missed midweek Bible study. That's all. He missed one service! I believe there are two conclusions we can draw from the incident.

First, we could suppose that this man was so faithful and regular in his church attendance that everyone knew if he was not there something was wrong. A question: What if you had been the one pinned under the tractor? Would your absence have been noticed? Or are you so irregular in attendance that everyone would assume that you decided to sleep in or got to the lake? How many services have you missed in the last three months? Could you honestly classify yourself as a faithful, regular worshiper of God?

On the other hand, we could presume that the people in this man's congregation had such concern for the souls of their members that when anyone, no matter how regular or irregular, missed a service, they went to see about them. ☐

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
Email: 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, September 10th Sunday, September 17th

Welcome:	Will Starks	Tommy Hill
Song Leader:	Mel Ambrose	David Jacks
Opening Prayer:	Marty Hunt	Collis Terry
Lord's Table Lead:	Steve Hagewood	Tommy Hill
	Acts 27:22-44	Judges 17-18
Sermon:	Mike McLemore	Mike McLemore
	My Soul Anchor	When Religion Has No Authority
Closing Prayer:	Will Starks	Searcy Hall

Evening Worship

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz	Mike McLemore	Mike McLemore
Songs Leader:	Mel Ambrose	David Jacks
Opening Prayer:	Jim Ehl	Alex Thompson
Closing Prayer:	Wes Caudle	Phil Shaver

Wednesday, September 13th

Wednesday, September 20th

Songs Leader:	Collis Terry	Hill Roberts
Invitation:	Mike McLemore	Mike McLemore
Closing Prayer:	Bobby Wright	Ed Dill

Weatherly Heights Singing 2024 Lectures

May 2-5, 2024
Speakers TBA

Quarterly Adult Classes July – September 2023

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
Building Strong Homes
Tommy Hill

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY
The Gospel of Mark
Mike McLemore

Serving in September

Serving on the Lord's Table AM & PM
** Overseer
** Ed Dill (9-3), Steve Hagewood (9-10), Tommy Hill (9-17), Bill Thompson (9-24)

Communion Prep
Building Lockup

Lynn Franklin

