

The Weatherly Weekly

October 15, 2017

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God's Open Doors

Michael W. McLemore

We must fully accept the fact that, here on earth, God has put open doors before us. The faithful are his agents among men. Paul wrote, "For a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries" (1 Corinthians 16:9, ESV).

With every door (opportunity) comes an adversary, or hinderer. In life we always find that the "open door" and the "many hinderers" go together. Very seldom can we have the one without the other. With Paul we share a common problem, the hindrance of progress.

When Paul first came to Ephesus, he proclaimed the truth, great miracles accompanying the preaching, and the word of God is said to have increased and "prevail mightily" (Acts 19:20). Yet, "about that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way" (Acts 19:23). Satan sought to undermine the good then as now. The Devil hasn't taken a day off.

Paul did much good in his lifetime. We read of the opportunities afforded him. We see him, time and again, passing through those open doors to lead others to Christ and build

up the weak and faint of heart. Yet, who faced more challenges than he? Frail health, difficulties and dangers in traveling, the willfulness of his traveling companions, men of base character, sudden and unexpected demands for his time and teaching, his persecuting enemies, even the sometimes difficult restraints and limitations placed upon his work by the Holy Spirit all seemed very real hinderers to opportunity. He never fainted. He pressed on.

Following his example, how do we meet the hinderers? First, fully accept that here on earth, God has put open doors before us. The faithful are his agents. Stepping through those doors, God will multiply the opportunity. But, at the same time, we must prepare for conflict. It will come. The hinderers are always with us and they have many forms. It may be our own human frailty. It might be a brother or sister of base character. It could be overwork, difficult circumstances. Whatever the hinderer, it will come—be prepared! Remember, no "hinderer" can prevent God's people from embracing their opportunities. □

WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

	THIS WEEK OCTOBER 15	NEXT WEEK OCTOBER 22
Sunday AM		
Announcements	Will Starks	Will Starks
Song Leader	Jared Jimison	David Jacks
Opening Prayer	Collis Terry	Will Starks
Scripture Reading	Searcy Hall	Phillip Dill
Closing Prayer	Steve Hagewood	Jim Ehl
Sunday PM		
Song Leader	Jared Jimison	David Jacks
Opening Prayer	Ed Dill	W.D. Patrick
Closing Prayer	Kirk Hatcher	Terry Childress
Wednesday PM	OCTOBER 18	OCTOBER 25
Song Leader	Phil Furlough	Collis Terry
Invitation	Ed Dill	Phil Furlough
Closing Prayer	Charley Carter	Terry Barnett
Group Meeting	Group 3	Group 4

QUARTERLY BIBLE CLASSES JULY – SEPTEMBER 2017

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

The Pastoral Epistles
Mike McLemore

ADITORIUM WEDNESDAY

Ezekiel
Mike McLemore



2018 WEATHERLY LECTURES

Lowell Sallee, Kevin Clark, Greg Chandler
May 3-6

MONTHLY OPPORTUNITIES

October	
Serving on the Lord's Table AM	Ken Cavender Wes Caudle Nick Holland Ron Harmon ** Gene Preston
** Overseer	Ryan Patrick Jim Ehl John Patrick
Lord's Supper PM	Murray Castleman ** Kirk Hatcher
Visitor Greeting	
Sunday AM	
Rear Door	Kim & Terry Barnett
Side Door	W.D. & LaNelle Patrick
Sunday PM	
Rear Door/ Side Door	Harmon & Starks
Communion Prep	Peggy Coward
Building Lockup	Mike McLemore

Weatherly's Shepherds

Louis Garrett	(256) 883-7785
Tommy Hill	(256) 883-0010
Will Starks	(256) 883-5273
Forest Summers	(256) 348-2251

Evangelist

Michael W. McLemore (256) 698-5941
Email: mmclmore@weatherlychurch.com

Weatherly's Deacons

Steve Hagewood	Ron Harmon	David Jacks
Hill Roberts	Collis Terry	Bobby Wright

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:00 p.m.

Relevancy Of The Scriptures

Bobby K. Thompson

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchers of the righteous, And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.” (Matthew 23:29-32). Relevancy is defined as: “bearing on or having reference to the matter at hand.” The scribes and Pharisees, whom Jesus was addressing, knew of the deeds of their fathers in killing the prophets. They said, if they had lived in that time, they would not have partaken with them in killing the prophets. Yet, in a short time, they would be crying for the death of the greatest of all prophets, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. They could see others, but they failed to be relevant with themselves. Jesus told them “Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?” (Matthew 23:31-33). These religious leaders saw the evil of their fathers, but they were destined not to see their own sins, which were even worse than their fathers. Jesus spoke with relevancy and pointed people to the matters at hand. We live in an age where people see the sins of others in the scriptures, but they fail to see the relevancy in their lives. The scriptures relate to all people both then and now. They reveal what some did then and what some would also do now. This Relevancy Is To Be Seen:

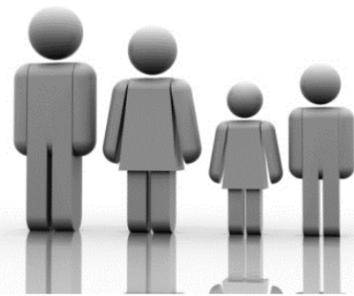
Regarding the truth. There were those who gladly obeyed it when they heard it. “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” (Acts 2:41-42). On the other hand, there were those who blasphemed and vividly opposed the truth and those who preached it. At Corinth, Paul encountered this, “And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.” (Acts 18:6). We read in the scriptures of some obeying and some rejecting the truth. Isn't it the same today? The relevancy of the scriptures is apparent as men and time exist! We shouldn't be amazed when there are those who are obedient to the truth, and also when men reject it. Men did it then and men will continue to

respond in the same manner. Our joy is when men obey the truth and are saved, as they did in the scriptures.

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” (Romans 6:16-18). The Relevancy Of The Scriptures Is Also Seen:

In faithfulness. We read in the scriptures of those who obey the truth, but do not continue faithful in following Christ. The parable of the sower reveals four soils of which only one class proved to be faithful. The wayside, rocky and thorny ground did not receive the blessings of the Lord for faithfulness. “But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.” (Luke 8:15). Though Paul wrote that “Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world”, he also spoke of Priscilla and Aquila, “my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.” (Romans 16:3-4). In the days of the apostles, there were those who became unfaithful and there were those who continued to be faithful. Isn't it the same today? Doesn't the relevancy continue to exist? When some depart from the truth today, some have been known to start questioning the power of the gospel and the word of God. We need to keep in mind that this happened then, when Christ and His apostles lived, and it also happens now. Though obeying the truth, some people are just not going to continue faithful. “From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.” (John 6:66-69). There were those who walked no longer with Christ, and then there were those who remained faithful to Him. They realized that there was no hope other than in Christ.

“To whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.” Men must believe and keep believing this truth. The word of God is just as powerful today as it was then. We have no reason to question the power of His word. Some departed then and some remained faithful. The relevancy continues to exist! □



Family matters

News and Notes of Interest
To Weatherly Members

Pray for Those in Need

Melvin Godette finally has a date for his back surgery, November 17th. We are rejoicing that he will be able to have this much needed surgery. Your prayers are desperately needed. I'm including a recent message from *Melvin*.

“It has been a long road to get to this point, but I pray everyday for God's guidance to see me through. With the help of my Weatherly family, my lovely wife, and my beautiful kids, God has truly blessed us. I can't say thank you enough for all that your prayers have meant to us.” **Melvin**

Caryl Ehl continues her recovery. We are so pleased that she is doing as well as she is. Your prayers on her behalf are coveted. We are looking forward to seeing her in our worship assemblies soon.

Glenda Cavender has been formally diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. It will take some time to get her medications working. Your prayers for *Glenda* are greatly appreciated.

Elaine Dorris' boot is off! We are so pleased to see the improvement. She's a blessing to us all. Please continue to pray for her and for *Gordon*.

Mike Coward underwent his second sleep study overnight on Wednesday. We are trusting that these tests will be beneficial in ad-

ressing *Mike's* various health challenges. Prayers for *the Cowards* are in order.

Ann Summers has an interest in our daily prayers. Please say her name to the Father as you pray.

Collis & Sue Terry's mothers, *Carlton Terry*, and *Lona Mae Brewer*, remain in our daily prayers.

Pray for *Carol Blackwood*, *Betty Reavis*, *Mike Gore*, *Marty McLemore* and *Vickie Stevens*.

Week #2 of Sunday Night Study Series

Our annual fall edition of Sunday Night Study Series is underway. With fall break behind us, our attendance should be superior tonight. It will be a great opportunity to grow in faith and love for the Lord. Come one, come all!

Special Gathering Oct 29

A 10 year reunion covered-dish will be held at *the Coward's* on the fifth Sunday in October for the “Old Group One and guests.” You know who you are. Please mark your calendar.

Group Three Meets Tonight

Group 3, led by *Murray Castleman*, will meet immediately after the evening service. Please attend your group meeting □

Weatherly Birthdays

10-22	Abbey Crank	10-24	Amanda Jimison
10-26	Chris Farrell	10-26	Dwight Ivey
10-29	Charlotte Hagewood		



Fruit Bearers

Michael W. McLemore

The Christian is compelled to glorify God if he is to be pleasing (1 Peter 4:11). Jesus said that God is glorified when we bear “much fruit.” God is not glorified when we bear “little fruit” or “no fruit” at all. The emphasis is on “abundance” as opposed to sparingly, paucity or scarcity.

A similar idea is discussed in the parable of the sower (Matt 13 and Mark 4) wherein the seed that was sown among thorns were unfruitful because of their pre-occupation and concerns with the needs of this world. They had no time to spend to cultivate in their lives the virtues required by God's word and they also failed to spend time and effort to do His work.

God expects significant changes in our lives and also the abundance of returns to God from our obedient service to Him. That is implied by the words, “thirty-fold, sixty-fold and hundred-fold”.

Jesus used the illustration of the vine and the vine-dresser (John 15:1-8) to teach us of the importance of abiding in Him (trusting Him and maintaining a loving, living, active working relationship with Him) and allowing His Words to stay in our hearts to guide us and mold us for greater service. The Bible exhorts us in James 1:22-25: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

It is self deceiving to live under the illusion that one can be pleasing to God and never bear fruit of any sort. The child of God would do well to reconsider such ill-conceived notions. It will make an eternal difference to us all. □

Weekly Walk!