

The Weatherly Weekly

January 7, 2018

2018 Edition, Number 1

WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

	THIS WEEK JANUARY 7	NEXT WEEK JANUARY 14
Sunday AM		
Announcements	Will Starks	Will Starks
Song Leader	David Jacks	Jared Jimison
Opening Prayer	Will Starks	Tommy Hill
Scripture Reading	Nick Holland	Phillip Dill
Closing Prayer	Doyle Wray	Jeremy Leshko
Sunday PM		
Song Leader	David Jacks	Jared Jimison
Opening Prayer	Phil Furlough	Forest Summers
Closing Prayer	Ron Harmon	Kirk Hatcher
Wednesday PM	JANUARY 10	JANUARY 17
Song Leader	Mike Coward	Phil Furlough
Invitation	Phil Furlough	Mike McLemore
Closing Prayer	Charley Carter	Louis Garrett
Group Meeting	Group 1	Group 1

QUARTERLY BIBLE CLASSES JANUARY – MARCH 2018

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
January – Lessons from Jesus
Mike McLemore

ADITORIUM WEDNESDAY
Ezekiel
Mike McLemore



2018 WEATHERLY LECTURES

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

MONTHLY OPPORTUNITIES

January	
Serving on the Lord's Table AM	Ken Cavender Wes Caudle Nick Holland Forest Summers ** Collis Terry Ryan Patrick Jim Risner John Patrick
** Overseer	
Lord's Supper PM	Gene Preston ** Kirk Hatcher
Visitor Greeting	
Sunday AM	Louis Garrett
Rear Door	
Side Door	Forest & Dot Summers
Sunday PM	
Rear Door/ Side Door	Cavender & T. Hill
Communion Prep	Hilda Wright
Building Lockup	Will Starks

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

Phil Furlough	Steve Hagewood	Ron Harmon
Kirk Hatcher	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	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:00 p.m.

Gift of Grace

Michael W. McLemore

The "gift of grace" is an essential upon which every believer must rely. God freely offers His favor through the Gospel. Jesus secured salvation, purchasing forgiveness for all who will come to Him in faith. Paul described grace as "the gift" (Ephesians 2:8-9). It is beyond man's reach through meritorious work. It cannot be earned. Man's best deeds are filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). But, for any gift to be exchanged it must be offered and accepted. God offers His "gift," grace, and man accepts, faith.

Paul beautifully phrased the believer's position in Christ to Roman Christians: "Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:2). It is obedient "faith in Christ" which gives man access to this abundance of divine favor. It is this grace which gives man hope of escape from his former hopeless existence. Hence, the gift of grace is predicated upon faith, as our beginning text, establishes: "For by grace you have been saved through faith" (Ephesians 2:8).

Grace is no license to be lazy. It is not a

pass to continue sinning. Faith trust's God to cover former failures. Grace trains "us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions; to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age" (Titus 2:11). The recipients of divine grace are called to serve the Lord daily.

Accepting divine grace freely offered is only the beginning. Living a life of gratitude for the selfless gift secured on Calvary is the lifelong expression of love and appreciation for His gift of countless benefits. It is our daily duty. Paul said, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).

God's people rejoice in the promised "gift of God." Such a bequest no sinner deserved, but the divine Creator of heaven and earth saw potential in us; opened a door of opportunity, not only to receive a gift He alone could provide, but also to be sharers of the gift to our fellowman. With Paul, as God's redeemed children, we have become servants of this "gift of grace" (Ephesians 3:8). □

Watch us
LIVE!

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Ultimate Deliverance

Doy Moyer

Thanking God for being able to meet together for worship "without fear of molestation" or persecution is common. We certainly ought to be thankful. Most of us do not worry much about that when we meet in nice buildings, and while we know that this isn't the case everywhere, we typically have no expectation here in America of being physically persecuted for our faith in Christ.

What if that changed? What if we found ourselves in the same type of situation that early Christians faced? What if we actually were being put to death because we are Christians? What if we could no longer think in terms of having no fear of persecution? What if our prayers needed to change in order to reflect the fact that persecution is very real in our lives? How would we handle this? What would be our attitude about this?

We certainly have enjoyed an unprecedented period of time in which Christians are able to meet freely, and generally not fear repercussions or interruptions. However, that has also been challenged lately in our present culture, and it is fitting for us to consider our attitudes toward facing such extreme difficulties.

Consider the apostle Paul's attitude toward dealing with persecution:

In writing about those who wanted to harm him, Paul told the brethren at Philippi, "For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death" (Phil 1:19-20).

Paul's view of "deliverance" is interesting here, isn't it? He says that He's confident that he will be delivered, and he includes within the scope of that deliverance both life and death. In other words, deliverance, in his view, wasn't just the idea of getting physically free from the difficult circumstances. Even if he had to give his life, he considered himself delivered by God.

Deliverance even by death? Yes. How could he say that? It's all about perspective, and this requires a greater outlook than merely focusing on the here and now. He was looking not at the things that are seen, but at the things that are not seen (2 Cor 4:18). Whether by living another day to tell others about Jesus or dying and going home to be with Jesus, the Christian can be confident of being delivered from evil. We must avoid thinking in

terms of deliverance as only being a physical rescue. Part of the reason we are Christians is because we see, by faith, a much greater reality.

As Paul came face to face with his own death, he was able to look ahead to the great reward in Christ. To this end, Paul wrote to Timothy, "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing" (2 Tim 4:6-8). Then, toward the end of same chapter, he wrote this:

"The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen" (2 Tim 4:18).

Paul considered that being rescued from every evil deed was ultimately fulfilled by being brought safely to the Lord's heavenly kingdom. In other words, the Lord taking us from this world and bringing us to Him IS being rescued. It IS deliverance. There is no greater deliverance.

The idea here, that through physical persecution and death one may be brought safely into eternity, is powerful. It is a message of faith and hope. While we tend to think we aren't safe unless we have some physical way to defend ourselves (though we try to protect our families), the real, ultimate safety is found in such a relationship with God that when we are taken from this life, even if violently, we will be brought safely to His heavenly kingdom.

Perhaps, then, Christians, secure in their relationship with God, ought not to think, "we are not safe." If we are in fellowship with God, then we are safe, no matter how much violence and evil the world throws at us. Why? Because we see a much bigger picture of deliverance than merely being spared our physical lives. True deliverance, ultimate deliverance and safety, is found in our eternal home, not in our own might and strength.

"If anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name ... Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right" (1 Pet 4:16, 19). □



Family matters

News and Notes of Interest
To Weatherly Members

Pray for Those in Need

Becky Hill was released from Huntsville Hospital Friday afternoon. **Becky's** surgery was a great success. She was up walking within hours of the procedure. While she is not setting any land speed records, she is pain free in her lower extremities and **the Hills** are rejoicing for that outcome. All of your prayers and expressions of support for **Becky & Tommy** are greatly appreciated. You have made this difficult time bearable. Thank you!

Mike Coward was admitted to Huntsville Hospital on Thursday afternoon, after a visit to his physician recorded that his heart was again out of its proper rhythm. An electrical shock was performed on Friday morning and he was released to go home shortly thereafter. Pray for **Mike's** well being.

Ruth Mitchell had carpal tunnel surgery on Wednesday and went home the same day. Now comes the healing. Pray for a good outcome for **Ruth**.

Sue Terry will be undergoing a hip replacement later this month. She has been working to get her pre-operative testing completed. Please pray for **Sue** as she anticipates this procedure.

Ann Summers, Melvin Godette, Jack Barr, Glenda Cavender and **Mike Gore** remain at home. Each has their

own peculiar need. Please pray for them by name daily.

Phil Furlough's brother, **Chuck**, was hospitalized early last week with Pneumonia and Bronchitis. While he was being admitted, his own wife, **Dee**, suffered a stroke in the waiting area. We are happy to report that **Dee** went home on Friday evening and **Chuck** on Saturday. "Amazing what prayer and medications can do. Thanks for all the prayers. **Phil & June**"

Pray for **Collis & Sue Terry's** mothers, **Carlton Terry**, and **Lona Mae Brewer**.

Slowly our members are recovering from illnesses that have been circulating. We are grateful for their progress. Please remember the others as they recover. Remember to use our live stream if you are confined.

New Quarter Begins Today

Our classes begin a new quarter today. **Mike McLemore** will stand in for **Tommy Hill** in the auditorium class during the month of January while **Becky** recovers from surgery.

Group One Meets Tonight

Group One, led by **W.D. Patrick**, meets immediately following evening worship in the classroom off the foyer. Please plan to attend your group meeting. □

Weatherly Birthdays



1-7	Bobby Wright	1-9	Wes Caudle
1-9	Jacob Frazier	1-11	Elena Hagewood
1-11	Margaret Smith	1-14	Doyle Wray
1-15	Xavier Cole	1-18	Rob Crank
1-19	Ed Dill	1-20	Edith Turner

JANUARY 7, 2018

Encouraging the Young

Michael W. McLemore

Some time ago the following appeared in a Birmingham, Alabama, newspaper.

"Our youth love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for their elders, and love to chatter in places of exercise. They no longer rise when others enter the room. They contradict their parents; they chatter before company; they gobble their food and terrorize their teachers."

Reading these words one might assume that the youth of our day have gone to the dogs. What hope is there for future generations? How can our young people be what they ought to be when there is such a rebellious spirit? The truth is, young people of today do not face any more dangers than any other generation, for the article just quoted was written by Socrates over 2,500 years ago! There may be new and different kinds of temptations today, but the devil has always been hard at work deceiving the young in heart in turning them away from the paths of truth and right. Young people have always needed encouragement, just as much today as at any time in history! The question is, "What are YOU doing to help encourage them to live a righteous life and go to heaven when this life is over?"

Consider your part in the lives of our young. Are there some words that need saying? Are there some opportunities that need buying? Redeem the time! □

Weekly Walk!