

Weatherly Weekly

May 5, 2019

2019 Edition, Number 18

Discover Life

Michael W. McLemore

Life expectancy in Colonial America was age 36. Some claimed that the church bells tolled for the dead so often, they were deemed by law to have become a public nuisance. And, while modern advances in prolonging life have extended life expectancy to 76-81 in 2019, death still comes too soon. It ultimately will come for us all. James asked, "What is your life?" then answered, "it is a vapor, quickly passing."

If this were the end of the story, life's prospect would be at best depressing. But, without equivocation, it is not the final word. Jesus assured His generation, "I have come that they may have life," John 10:10. He contrasts Himself as the true Shepherd with those who come without a thought for the welfare of the sheep. Some come to steal away the sheep for what it will mean to their pocket book. Others come to kill and destroy, to clothe and eat. Both had the same result, death for the defenseless sheep.

Jesus ushered in a new expectation for those who would follow Him — life. It spans the abyss and leaps from the tomb into life

eternal. He spoke of it to His disciples on the night of His betrayal, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life," John 14:6, having assured that He was departing soon to prepare them each a personal residence in heaven, 14:1-3.

But, Jesus assured His disciples of more than just eternal life in John 10:10. He promised His sheep an "abundant life" now. While Satan's cohorts came to destroy, Jesus came to lead His sheep into pleasant green pastures and along the banks of still waters.

The strange voices, that lead the sheep astray from God, promise no such life. Ruin lies at the end. Not so with the Lord. Jesus calls His sheep to trust Him. He is their guide. He is their protector. He knows their needs. He will fight against their enemies. He will search for them when they are lost. He will save them.

According to popular legend, Ponce de León discovered Florida while searching for the Fountain of Youth. He died in 1521 at age 37 in a quest to cure his aging. Jesus offered it all along. "In Him" we can all discover life. □

How the World Works

Jason Moore

"My soul clings to the dust; revive me according to Your Word. I have declared my ways, and You answered me; teach me Your statutes. Make me understand the way of Your precepts; so shall I meditate on Your wondrous works. My soul melts from heaviness; strengthen me according to Your word. Remove from me the way of lying, and grant me Your law graciously. I have chosen the way of truth; your judgments I have laid before me. I cling to Your testimonies; O Lord, do not put me to shame! I will run the course of Your commandments, for You shall enlarge my heart" (Psalm 119:25-32).

Psalm 119 offers wonderful insights into what the word of God does for honest readers. God's word enlivens hope. "Revive me according to your word," the writer said. He clung to the dust; his only hope was the grave. The word of God rescues even the sinner from despair.

God's word forces introspection. "I have declared my ways, and You answered me," said the psalmist. The Scripture forces a man to look at himself honestly. It is a mirror for the inner man.

God's word inspires awe. "So shall O meditate on your wondrous works," wrote the poet. You can't read of the mighty deeds of God without being struck by His greatness and man's smallness.

God's word fuels forbearance. It gives new motivation to the man whose "soul melts from heaviness," who is "weary in well-doing."

God's word produces repentance. "Remove from me the way of lying," represents a change of heart produced by a word that is "living and active."

God's word bestows discipline. "Your judgments I have laid before me," said the writer. The Bible causes a man to accept the discipline of the Lord — even to invite it — because it helps him.

God's word brings vindication. In spite of conflict with popular opinion, the believer says, "I cling to Your testimonies." He trusts in the Lord to vindicate His people, to "not put them to shame." God's word provokes perfection. "I will run the course of Your commandments," said the poet. He was not about to retire from service. The word inspires us to press on to growth and perfection. □

Watch LIVE





Jason & Jennifer Moore

Birmingham, Alabama

Real Confidence

Jason Moore

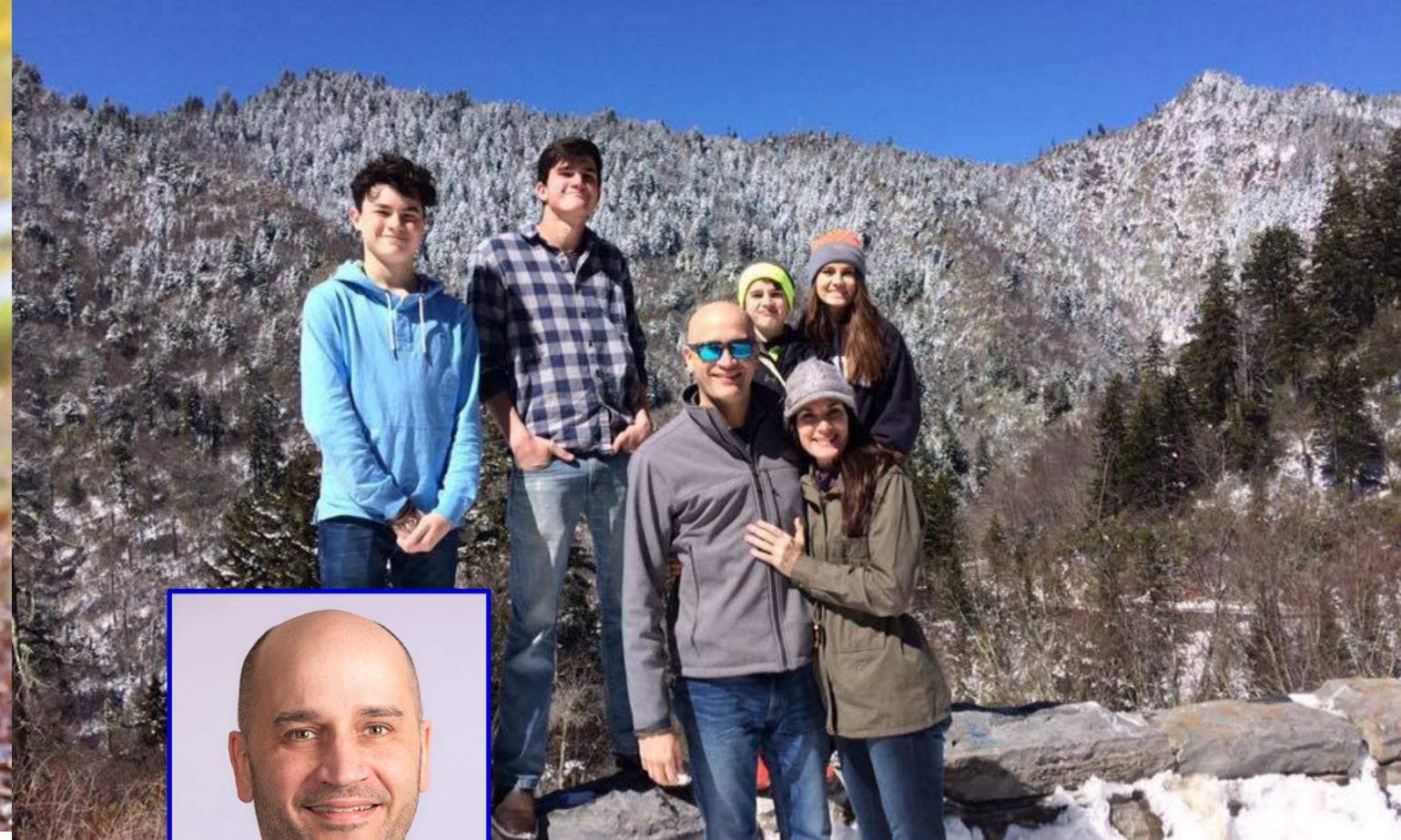
“The Lord is my portion; I have promised to keep Your words. I sought Your favor with all my heart; Be gracious to me according to Your word. I considered my ways And turned my feet to Your testimonies. I hastened and did not delay To keep Your commandments,” Psalm 119:57-60.

Self-assurance is a sacred value in our day. We applaud those who possess it. But self-assurance is an apparition—it’s a ghost, and not a friendly one. No man can be totally confident who has not first placed his total confidence in God. “You are my portion, O Lord.” The man who has faith in God, always knows whence tomorrow’s meal is coming. He doesn’t have to fight to achieve and stay on top while neglecting his spiritual needs. The Lord is his portion. That’s his confidence.

“Be merciful to me.” Forgiveness! Ah, what assurance it gives! The man who knows that God has forgiven him need not fear death. He need not reason from consequences. He need not despair over life’s inequities. He is forgiven. That’s his confidence. What else does he require?

“I thought about my ways, and turned my feet.” Men act with certainty. They exude confidence in their business decisions. They justify immoral behavior. But it’s all a facade. The child of God thinks about his ways in the light of God’s way, and gets on the right track. That’s his confidence.

“I made haste, and did not delay to keep your commandments.” Deadlines. Due dates. Appointments. So what if you keep them all, but never make an appointment with God? What have you accomplished? The believer doesn’t put off spiritual priorities. He doesn’t delay obedience. His priorities are in order. That’s his confidence. □



The Reynolds Family

Eric, Sarah (front) Grant, Jack, Sam & Sabrina (left to right)

Fayetteville, Tennessee

Hypocrites in the Church

Eric Reynolds

People often say they are repelled from Christianity by their experiences with Christians. They might say they respect Jesus but don't like his followers. Or they avoid church because of the hypocrites they find there.

I understand this sentiment. Who wants to be part of a group where there is arguing, pride, and people jockeying for prominence? I know of one such group where the treasurer was skimming off money for himself, and one of the leaders was overheard in public cursing and swearing. These same folks often failed to grasp, let alone live out, the most basic teachings of Jesus.

Would you want to join that group? The people I'm thinking of were the twelve that Jesus chose to be his ambassadors. If you look at the disciples themselves, you might be excused for wanting nothing to do with their group. But those who joined them did so because they were drawn to their Leader more so than his followers. People were converted to Jesus the Son of God, not his church. They joined the church, not because they had found the perfect group of people, but because they found people who shared their faith in the one perfect Person. □

It's All About the Party!

By Eric Reynolds

Have you ever noticed the celebration in each of the parables of lost things (sheep, coin, son—Luke 15)? In each story, something is lost and then found, then there's a party. Far from being an incidental detail, the party is actually the key event in all three of these parables.

In the parable of the lost sheep, the shepherd calls his friends together, saying "Rejoice with me." Jesus draws his lesson from this: "Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." (vs. 6-7)

The woman who finds her coin also calls her neighbors to share in her rejoicing. Again, Jesus states the main point: "Just so, I tell you there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (vs. 10)

And finally, in the Prodigal Son parable, the party is the main event. The older brother is not upset because his brother returned home, nor because his father received him with open arms. It is the celebration that causes his jealousy. "You never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends." The father answers: "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad." (vs. 29-32)

What is the significance of the celebration? Consider the surprising statement in Jesus' application of the lost sheep parable: there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than ninety-nine who need no repentance. Why is that? The lost son caused the Father grief and concern; the lost sheep caused the Shepherd to go out looking for him; and the lost coin caused anxiety for the woman. Perhaps we can understand the older brother's complaint. Why have a party? Why is there more joy for him?

This question gets at the heart of the purpose for these parables. Here is the context: "Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.'" (Luke 15:1-2) Jesus responds with the three parables mentioned above.

We can infer from the repeated mentions of the cele-

bration that Jesus was joyful at the response of these sinners—in contrast to the bitter disdain of the Pharisees and scribes. The parables justify the rejoicing that accompanied these sinners "drawing near to hear."

There is joy when a mission has been accomplished, rejoicing when a search is over. And of course, any parent can relate to the joy that one would feel over finding a lost child. When we understand the Father's love for his children, we can better appreciate the celebration for any who returns home.

Perhaps the party also indicates the difficulty of true repentance. Frankly, it's not that hard to "stay at home" like the older brother and do the right thing. It comes easily for some. But for one who has wandered off and become a slave to sin, turning his or her life around and having the humility to come home, the contrition to beg for forgiveness, and the determination to change—that's a cause for heavenly celebration.

Another lesson we can draw from these parables is this: you don't get a party for doing the right thing. The older brother who stayed home was blessed to be in the father's presence and had a great inheritance waiting for him. But he didn't get a celebration for doing what he was supposed to do. As Jesus says in another passage: "So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'" (Luke 17:10)

If you have never strayed far from home (spiritually speaking), how blessed you are! If you have avoided the pitfalls of various fleshly temptations, if you've always "just said 'no'", if you've never considered quitting the Lord and his church—wonderful. But don't expect a party. You're just doing what you're supposed to do.

If, however, you have left home and the Lord and gone out to see what the deceptive ways of sin have to offer, you've surely found that the world offers a hollow and short-lived satisfaction at best. Have the courage and good sense to realize you were better off in the Father's house. Come home. He's waiting to celebrate over you. □



Gary & Billie Patton
Decatur, Alabama

Lessons From a Candle

Gary Patton

Jesus used familiar things to teach important lessons. In Matthew 5:14-15 he used a candle to teach us about our lives being an example for others to see. We are all familiar with candles and I believe we can notice some additional lessons when we apply it to our lives.

The first lesson is one taught by Christ. The lesson of the candle being a light to ward off darkness. The Bible often pictures sin as darkness and the Christian life as light. Jesus said we are to be lights unto the world, showing how sin can be overcome by obedience to His way, thus dispelling the darkness — sin. In the dark a small light can be seen great distances. We as Christians often fail to realize the far reaching effect our life can have on others or how many different ones it can influence.

A candle also gives off heat, a form of energy. When one is cold and finds a source of heat, it can bring about a warmth that is comforting. If we could only realize the importance of being warm and friendly to those who are growing cold in the Lord's service. We can become a source of heat and warmth to others by encouraging them to come back and not fall away, thus letting them know we consider their souls to be important.

"For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matthew 16:26.

We must try and give them the desire to be energetic or active in the Lord's service.

The candle has another admirable trait, that of giving of itself. Whenever a candle burns, it is giving of itself and if it continues to burn it will eventually give all of itself. Often those who are unhappy with the Christian life have not learned the lesson of the candle, that to be effective you must give of yourself, all of yourself. The only thing that keeps a candle from giving its all is for its flame to be extinguished prematurely. When we as Christians stop giving of ourselves to the Lord, that means our light has gone out and no longer are we the example or encouragement we should be,

When a candle goes out it is missed. It is missed because no more light is given, the warmth stops and the energy ceases. When applied to our lives it is a tragedy if our candle is put out before its usefulness is complete. Yet one can be missed in a good way. When we remember the good example one was, the encouragement given to others, the constant effort and work (energy) put into the Lord's service until the end, we are encouraged.

“Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of righteousness”
Revelation 2:10

To be missed this way is good because we gave all of ourselves to the Lord and His work. When our life comes to an end, will it be written in the book of life that we gave our all to Him and His service?

Is your life a candle that is burning brightly? Has it recently begun to flicker and grow dim? Or, has it gone out completely? It will take constant effort on our part if we truly are to please God by being a “light of the world.” ☐

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Wanda Castleman is missed. Pray for her improvement. Remember Murray as well.

Debbie Harbin is struggling with a back injury. She is awaiting an MRI and praying that surgery will not be involved.

Brooke Hatcher was unable to at services on Wednesday evening. She better now. Say her name to the Lord.

Remember **Sylvia Henderson** and **Jim Risner** in their time of loss. Both are traveling this week.

Betty Reavis remains on our prayer list as she recovers from her treatments. Pray for her and for **Bill**.

McLemores have invited you and any guests who might be with you on Saturday morning to come to their home for a covered dish following the morning services. A map will be available for those who need directions.

Daily Prayer List:

Please remember these in your daily petitions to the Father:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara Woodard | Melonie Power |
| Melvin Godette | Glenda Cavender |
| Ken Cavender | Jeff Harbin |
| Aladean Jacks | Marty Haselden |
| Teresa Grizzard | Sylvester Collette |

2019 Weatherly Lecture Series



Study Series is in the Books!

The **2019 Spring Sunday Night Study Series** was a resounding success. Participation was excellent. Involvement was nothing short of phenomenal. Our family out did itself, but that comes as no surprise. Thirty-six (36) people participated in planning and helping with the series in some way.

Now! Let's get ready for Fall! ☐

Group One Meeting Today

Our **2019 Weatherly Lectures** is underway! We are looking forward to every lesson in the series. Pray for our preachers and for the effect upon good and honest hearers.

Weatherly members remember **the**

Group One, led by **W.D. Patrick**, is scheduled to meeting this afternoon immediately following the afternoon service. We will dismiss your early from the assembly.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5-7 Bill Reavis | 5-8 Hill Roberts |
| 5-9 Nick Holland | 5-9 Ruth Mitchell |
| 5-12 Betty Dubose | 5-12 Joe Pellegrini |
| 5-14 Sarah Starks | 5-15 Dot Summers |
| 5-17 Megan Caudle | 5-23 Terry Childress |
| 5-23 Melvin Godette | 5-26 Addison Ivey |
| 5-28 Terry Barnette | 5-31 Petra Carter |



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TIMES OF SERVICES

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Sunday Bible Classes | 9:00 am |
| Sunday AM Assembly | 10:00 am |
| Sunday PM Assembly | 5:00 pm |
| Wednesday Classes | 7:00 pm |

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WATCH:

LIVE Sermon archive or live stream during all Weatherly services



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 | Ben Little |
| Hill Roberts | Collis Terry |
| Bobby Wright | |

Weatherly at Work

These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, May 5

- Welcome: **Forest Summers**
Song Leader: **Charles Hill**
Opening Prayer: **Tommy Hill**
Scripture Reading: **Michael McLemore**
Sermon: **Gary Patton & Jason Moore**
Closing Prayer: **TBA**

Sunday, May 12

- Welcome: **Forest Summers**
Song Leader: **Hill Roberts**
Opening Prayer: **Will Starks**
Scripture Reading: **Philip Dill**
Sermon: **Ephesians 2:1-10**
Michael McLemore
"Saving the Walking Dead"
Closing Prayer: **Jim Ehl**

Evening Worship

Bible Skills

- Songs Leader:
Opening Prayer: **Lecture Week**
Closing Prayer:

Mike McLemore

- Hill Roberts**
Ron Harmon
Terry Childress

Wednesday, May 8

- Songs Leader: **Collis Terry**
Invitation: **Mike McLemore**
Closing Prayer: **Jimmy Harbin**

Wednesday, May 15

- Bill Thompson**
Mike McLemore
Louis Garrett

Group 4

2019 Weatherly Lectures

May 2-5

"Living in Christ"

Michael McLemore, Jason Moore, Gary Patton & Eric Reynolds

Group 1

Quarterly Adult Classes

April – June 2019

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Living Responsibly
Tommy Hill

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

Lessons from Isaiah
Mike McLemore

Serving in May

Serving on the Lord's Table AM
** Overseer

- Wes Caudle**
Ken Cavender
Jimmy Harbin
Phil Furlough **

- Marty Hunt**
Phil Shaver
Ryan Patrick
Will Patrick

Lord's Supper PM

Will Starks **

John Stokes

Communion Prep
Building Lockup

June Furlough & Diane Dill
Phil Furlough

