

# Weatherly Weekly

October 20, 2019

2019 Edition, Number 42

## Optional Works of God?

Whit Sasser

I often hear when encouraging participation in some Christian duty, “that it is optional.” This gets me to thinking. Is anything optional with God? It strikes me as dangerous to think “we don’t have to do this good work...it is not required.” I think I know what is meant, that certain things are not commanded of us, but permitted of God, but the attitude is dangerous and here is why.

The Bible says things like “Be ready unto every good work,” or “If you know to do good and do not do so, it is sinful,” or “Be zealous for good works,” or “Maintain good works.”

I am concerned that some are seeking to dumb down their salvation to the least bit required. How slow can a person go, and still cross the finish line? Missing: is the “Extra Mile” mentality.

And how do we determine which good

works the Lord has both instructed us to do and through His providence given opportunity to do, are optional? Is that not judging God's word?

Deciding which is required and which is optional? James 2 says we are not to judge God's word. We are to be doers of the work. □

(I appreciate Whit Sasser’s challenge to rethink the standard by which many have come to judge what faithful service looks like. The modern notion of “tell me what is required and what is optional” is not only unfortunate, it’s dangerous. From the very start of His earthly ministry Jesus said, “It’s not about being compelled to serve, it’s about going far beyond expectation,” *paraphrase Matthew 5:41*. Becoming an “extra mile servant” is not easy, but when we begin to serve the Lord that way, it becomes a powerful motivator to all who see and experience it! *MWM*)

# Marriage Counsel to the Young

*“Your relationship with your mate has a higher priority than your relationship to your parents, your children, or your friends.”*



**Strong marriages** are not accidental nor are they the result of following after human wisdom. Entering into marriage ought not to be an uncharted course into the fog. Faith requires dependency on God, *2 Corinthians 5:7*. Therefore, an excellent starting point for all who enter into marriage is to realize that “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it...” *Psalms 127:1*.

Young people can and must enter into marriage with a firm grasp of what makes it successful. Every marriage requires adjustments. But, there are three fundamental principles which must be accepted by those seeking to prepare themselves for the lifelong work of building a Christian home.

Make God the primary partner in your marriage relationship. A Christian marriage is not about “the two of us.” Solomon tells us that “a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken,” *Ecclesiastes 4:12*. Make your marriage a three-strand relationship, centered around God as the primary focus of your lives.

Make your spouse first in all earthly relationships. To him or her there is no rival. In the beginning, God said that “a man shall leave his father and his mother and

hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh,” *Genesis 2:24*. Your relationship with your mate has a higher priority than your relationship to your parents, your children, or your friends. It has a higher priority than your job, your recreational pursuits, or any civic cause in which you might engage. Therefore, steadfast loyalty is required in a Christian marriage.

Make the unselfish attitude of Christ your constant pursuit as you seek to meet the needs of your spouse. Paul says: “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others,” *Philippians 2:3-4*.

Instead of merely asking if your prospective mate has obeyed the Gospel and is a member of the Lord’s church, perhaps, you should be asking if he or she puts God first in their life, if he or she is willing to make you their number one priority among all earthly relationships, and if he or she is the kind of person who is genuinely unselfish and humble in the way they treat you.

Above all, be the kind of person you want to marry. You cannot change others, you can only change yourself. Know that your church family wants you to succeed in this most precious of earthly relationships. □

Watch LIVE

# FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



## FAMILY UPDATES

### Prayers:

**Steven Guice** was released from UAB on Thursday and is resting at his new home in Toney. We are thankful that he is doing better. Steve still has a long road ahead as his medical teams work out the direction of his treatments to contend with the remaining tumors. Pray for him please. If you would like to write to Steve you may do so at his new address.

27717 Copeland Road  
Toney, Alabama 35773

**Edith Turner** was able to be back in the assembly last Lord's Day morning. She has been awfully sick the last few weeks. Your prayers for her are so meaningful.

**Bobby Ferguson** remains at **Tammy & Scott Woodard's** home in Athens. His MRI showed no anomalies, thus offered no explanation for his pain. Thankfully the steroids have given him some relief in recent days. Pray for Bobby.

**Betty Reavis** has concluded her radiation regimen. She will still be undergoing chemo. Your prayers for her are solicited. It was great to see her Sunday. We are thankful for her good days. Pray for both **Betty & Bill**.

**Debbie Harbin** remains on our prayer list. Say her name to the Father as she struggles with nagging discomfort.

**Melvin Godette** may have to undergo additional surgery at some point. We daily pray for his comfort and for the care of his family as he wrestles with daily pain. Say Melvin's name to the Lord.

**Laura Phillips, Jenny Jacks'** mom, remains on our prayer list. Say her name to the Lord this week each time you approach the Lord. Sister Philips has been stalwart in her faith all of her life. We know the Lord will watch over her. Ask the Lord to give her comfort. ☐

### Daily Prayer List:

**Travis Barnett**                      **Glenda Cavender**  
**Melvin Godette**                **Marty Haselden**  
**Barbara Jean Woodard**

## Sunday Night Study Series

The fall edition of Sunday Night Study Series is underway. We had a great crowd last Sunday evening in spite of fall break.

Our theme this Fall is **God Works Through His People: "I Want to Be a Worker."** We hope every member of our Weatherly family will participate heartily in these evening assemblies.

Tonight the auditorium class will be led by Tommy Hill. We will be studying from Nehemiah 3 — "Work Side by Side." As God's people were are many parts, but we labor as one body. Our desire is to rediscover passion for the work in God's kingdom. ☐

## Group Meetings

Group Three, led by **Murray Castleman**, will meet immediately following evening worship in the large back classroom. Please plan to attend your group meeting.

Group Four, led by **Ron Harmon**, needs to meet briefly Sunday evening following services. The short meeting will be held in the classroom just off the foyer.

## OCTOBER & NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



10-20	Don Roberts	10-24	Amanda Jimison
10-26	Dwight Ivey	10-27	Jimmy Harbin
10-29	Charlotte Hagewood	11-1	Sandra Gore
11-1	Lane Roberts	11-8	Crystal Robinson
11-8	Julie Singleton	11-17	Brody Besherse

OCTOBER 20, 2019

## A Faithful Steward

Michael W. McLemore

Epaphroditus is not the most well known disciple of Jesus. But, he epitomized genuine servanthood. Again and again he demonstrated the mark of the true steward. He was faithful, *1 Corinthians 4:2*. Faithful dependability — trustworthiness — is a characteristic enjoined upon every child of God. Observe it in Epaphroditus from Paul's Philippians letter.

### PAUL COUNTED ON HIM, 2:25

— Paul relied on Epaphroditus. In one verse the apostle identified five characteristics of dependability: "my brother... fellow worker... soldier... your messenger," and "minister to my needs."

### PAUL KNEW OF HIS COMPASSION, 2:26

— Epaphroditus longed for the Philippians believers. He was distressed because of their concern for him. His love and concern for the help he could be endeared him to others.

### PAUL BOASTED OF HIS COMMITMENT, 2:29-30

— This trusted messenger and servant completed his self-imposed duty without regard for himself. Epaphroditus was so committed that he almost died for the work.

The Lord needs faithful stewards today. Can He count on you? "It is required of stewards that they be found faithful." ☐

## WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



3



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](mailto:contactus@weatherlychurch.com)

## 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**

Stay informed and engaged online at  
[www.weatherlychurch.com](http://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  
**Forest Summers**                      256 348-2251

## Evangelist

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

## Weatherly's Deacons

<b>Phil Furlough</b>	<b>Steve Hagewood</b>
<b>Ron Harmon</b>	<b>Kirk Hatcher</b>
<b>David Jacks</b>	<b>Ben Little</b>
<b>Hill Roberts</b>	<b>Collis Terry</b>
<b>Bobby Wright</b>	

## Weatherly at Work

These are asked to assist in our labor.

### Sunday, October 20

**Welcome:** **Will Starks**  
**Song Leader:** **David Jacks**  
**Opening Prayer:** **Will Starks**  
**Scripture Reading:** **Jeremy Leshko**  
*1 John 2:12-17*  
**Sermon:** **Mike McLemore**  
*Leaving the Spirit of this World*  
**Closing Prayer:** **Gene Preston**

### Sunday, October 27

**Will Starks**  
**Jared Jimison**  
**Phil; Furlough**  
**Wes Caudle**  
*1 John 5:1-12*  
**Mike McLemore**  
*Other World Living*  
**Steve Hagewood**

### Evening Worship

<b>Study Series</b>	<b>Tommy Hill</b>	<b>Bill Thompson</b>
<b>Songs Leader:</b>	<b>David Jacks</b>	<b>Jared Jimison</b>
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	<b>W.D. Patrick</b>	<b>Tommy Hill</b>
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	<b>Hill Roberts</b>	<b>Bobby Wright</b>

### Evening Worship

### Wednesday, October 23

**Songs Leader:** **Phil Furlough**  
**Invitation:** **Mike McLemore**  
**Closing Prayer:** **Jared Jimison**

### Wednesday, October 30

**Collis Terry**  
**Mike McLemore**  
**Jimmy Harbin**

### Group 3

**2020 Weatherly Lectures**  
*April 30th—May 3rd*

### Group 4

**Quarterly Adult Classes**  
*October — December 2019*

**AUDITORIUM SUNDAY  
& WEDNESDAY**

The Gospel According to John  
**Mike McLemore**

## Serving in October

<b>Serving on the Lord's Table AM</b>	<b>Charley Skinner</b>	<b>Bill Thompson</b>
<b>** Overseer</b>	<b>Bobby Wright</b>	<b>Ron Holland</b>
	<b>Jim Ehl</b>	<b>Clark Boles</b>
	<b>Ron Harmon **</b>	<b>Will Patrick</b>
<b>Lord's Supper PM</b>	<b>Ed Dill **</b>	<b>Phil Shaver</b>
<b>Communion Prep</b>		<b>Peggy &amp; Mike Coward</b>
<b>Building Lockup</b>		<b>Murray Castleman</b>

