

Weatherly Weekly

November 24, 2019

2019 Edition, Number 47

From Faith Springs Thankfulness

Michael W. McLemore

The desperate longing for something that is out of reach possesses a powerful emotional magnetism. But gratitude requires the hard, recurring choice to focus on God's promise of something beyond this life. The children of God are to possess this attitude of gratitude for it alone creates contentment. Believers know that this world can never satisfy!

Gratitude springs from faith. Faith focuses on another world, *Psalm 17:15*. It trusts in His promises, *Psalm 16:11*. It hungers for life to come, *Luke 16:21*. It is more than a pay-check, *Luke 3:14*. Faith relies on God's care, *Hebrews 13:5*. It rejects worry, *1 Peter 5:7*.

With God's people throughout the annals of human history we are called to be thankful — "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful," *Colossians 3:15*. We have

been commanded to be thankful in worship, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God," *Colossians 3:16*. We have been challenged to be thankful in all we do, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him," *Colossians 3:17*.

In the story of the ten lepers Jesus showed the disciples what gratitude looks like in a sole leper now cleansed, *Luke 17:15-19*. When he perceived that he was healed, thankfulness turned him back to the Lord, *15a*, to proclaim his gratitude, *15b*. He "fell on his face" — the posture of the grateful, *16*. From faith sprang thankfulness and he received the Lord's saving pronouncement, "your faith has made you well," *19*. □

Watch LIVE

Our English word "worship" is derived from the Old English weorth (worth, value), and the suffix ship, which means condition or office. It was originally used to express the worthiness or dignity of some person or office. Today we use the word to describe certain actions, both mental and physical, which are used to extol or venerate God. Strictly speaking, worship is the adoring reverence of the creature for the Creator. Because of our regard for His high station and majesty, we worship Him.

Dee Bowman

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Worship is a privilege as well as a duty. To ask, "Do I have to attend worship services?" is to me like asking, "Do I have to eat this homemade ice cream?" Worship services will never seem to be drudgery to a God-fearing Christian, but an exalted privilege and opportunity to pour out his filial devotions of mind and heart toward his Father God.

Worship is an individual affair. It takes place in a man's heart, his mind. A person may appear to be worshipping God when he is not. Conversely, it is also true that a person may not appear to be engaged in worship when he actually doing so. Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4) that worship has not to do with the place, but with paying homage to the right object, God, with the right attitude, "in spirit," and "in truth." No acceptable worship can be extended to God without regard for these principles.

Sadly, some religionists today are of the mistaken notion that anything offered in devotion to God is acceptable worship. Such is not the case. Sincerity, by itself does not constitute worship. And to affirm that such is the case is to be either willfully mistaken or naive to a fault. In John 9:1-9, Our Lord condemned the "worship" of the Pharisees, saying, "full well ye reject the commandments of God that you may keep your own traditions." He has just warned that "in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men." Paul, in Romans 10:2-3, accuses his Jewish brethren of "having a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge," and of "going about to establish their own righteousness." Any extending of worship and service to God certainly must be sincere, but service to

Him in ways which are not approved are not worship, and are not acceptable service.

It is a serious matter to feign worship to God, One must be very careful that he does not just "go through the motions." Such is not worship at all—any more than worshipping in ways He has not approved. Because of the lack of heart-involved devotion in worship "many are weak and sickly among you," *1 Cor 11:30*. True worship, extended

with the proper disposition and respect will edify and strengthen us as it intensifies our faith and our hope. But worship that is merely "played at" is not only impotent, but tends to wash away our true spiritual character.

When you pray, do you truly worship God? When you sing, do you pour out the adoring reverence you feel for God? And do you reverently consider the message and significance of the song? When you partake of the Lord's Supper, is it merely a formalistic ritual that "we have always done" or do you truly discern the broken body and loving blood shed by Christ which is memorialized in the great supper of the Lord? If you cannot answer these questions properly it is a serious indictment of your devotion to the Lord, and should be attended to with due consideration and without delay.

What a blessed privilege worship is! Our worship should be guarded and attended to with love and with due grateful thoughtfulness for its worth and value to each of us. Let us be careful. Let us not let our devotion to God become some sort empty ritual to be observed, as if it were a recurring arduous task which we must observe. Rather, let us see it for what it is: a wonderful opportunity to exalt and praise our great God and Father, a glorious privilege to glorify his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, and a joy to give high feelings of thankful respect for the Holy Spirit for the word of salvation He has supplied for our use.

If we will pay attention to our worship, public or private the congregation here will be stronger and more influential than ever before. Acceptable worship always strengthens.

How about you? Is your worship a true reflection of you love and appreciation for God, or is it only an occasional remembrance of Him, and then mostly only when you need Him? Better be careful with your answer. □



FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Ron Harmon's surgery is scheduled for the week after the Thanksgiving holiday, December 4th. The Harmons are planning a family trip to Orlando for the holiday. Pray for their safe travel to and from. Your prayers for Ron & Phyllis and family are solicited.

Gordon Dorris' sister, Brenda, remains in ICU in Bowling Green at this printing. She has shown some signs of improvement. Reductions in medications to control potential seizures has been successful. Your prayers are appreciated. Gordon & Elaine are back.

Steven Guice was able to be with us on Sunday evening. We are praying for him as he recovers from surgery and awaits news on the course of treatment. We are thankful that he will be able to take his treatments at UAB, thus will not have to return to Texas.

Laura McKnight is visiting her daughter, Nicole Jackson who suffers from MS, in Florida this week. Pray for Laura & Nicole.

Bobby Ferguson continues under hospice care at home. Your prayers are appreciated.

Daily Prayer List:

Travis Barnett	Glenda Cavender
Melvin Godette	Marty Haselden
Betty Reavis	Debbie Harbin
Barbara Jean Woodard	Dot Summers
Laura Phillips	Sarah Jernigan

The Thompson's Happy News

Alex & Lauren Thompson are happy to an-

nounce the arrival of their daughter, **Madelyn James Thompson**, born November 12th at 11:05 am. Little Madelyn was 8 lbs., 3 ounces and 20" long.

Of course this makes Karen & Bill Thompson grandparents. We could not be more thrilled for the whole Thompson family. We know that Madelyn will be much loved and cherished by this loving and devoted family. It will be our privilege to get to see her grow up.



Sunday Night Study Series

Tonight marks the conclusion of our Fall Sunday Night Study Series. It has been a wonderful study. Our attendance has been excellent. It would be impossible for us to thank everyone who has helped with this series sufficiently. We are grateful for you one and all.

As is our custom on week 7, we will meet in the auditorium for the finale. Plan to be here tonight. □

Group Four Meets Tonight

Group Four, led by Ron Harmon, will meet immediately following evening class in the back classroom. Please plan to attend.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



11-24	Carolyn Holland	11-25	Debbie Harbin
12-2	Ryan Patrick	12-4	Steve Hagewood
12-4	Carley Hill	12-4	Tommy Hill
12-4	Ron Holland	12-4	Gwyneth McLemore

The Kernel of Life

James W. Adams

Our series on Living with Thankfulness is drawing to a close today. In my research I ran across a piece that appeared first in The Gospel Visitor in the late 1950's. I think most of our readers will find it valuable some 60 years removed from its original printing.

"The multitudes in our day are looking for the ultimate meaning and joy in life in the possession of "things." Ibsen once wrote, "Money may be the husk of many things, but not the kernel. It brings you food, but not appetite; medicine, but not health; acquaintances, but not friends; servants, but not loyalty; day of joy, but not peace or happiness."

A greater than Ibsen has said, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth," *Luke 12:15*. True peace and happiness result from what we are and not what we have. They are subjective, not objective, as to source. The ultimate meaning and joy of life, therefore, are to be sought in the realm of things spiritual. Here is the "kernel" of life." □

Gospel Visitor

10th & Francis Church of Christ
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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

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

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

Weatherly's Deacons

Phil Furlough	Steve Hagewood
Ron Harmon	Kirk Hatcher
David Jacks	Hill Roberts
Collis Terry	Bobby Wright

Weatherly at Work

These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, November 24

Welcome: Forest Summers
Song Leader: Jared Jimison
Opening Prayer: Collis Terry
Scripture Reading: Jim Ehl
Psalm 100:1-5
Sermon: Mike McLemore
The Fruit of Thankfulness
Closing Prayer: Steve Hagewood

Sunday, December 1

Tommy Hill
Charles Hill
Forest Summers
Ken Cavender
TBA
Gary Patton
Guest Speaker
Ron Holland

Evening Worship

Study Series: Finale
Songs Leader: Jared Jimison
Opening Prayer: Tommy Hill
Closing Prayer: Nick Holland

Evening Worship

Skills Class
Charles Hill
David Jacks
Nick Holland

Wednesday, November 27

Songs Leader: Collis Terry
Invitation: Phil Furlough
Closing Prayer: Bobby Wright

Wednesday, December 4

Phil Furlough
Mike McLemore
Ed Dill

Group 4

2020 Weatherly Lectures
April 30th—May 3rd

Group 1

Quarterly Adult Classes
October – December 2019

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY

The Gospel According to John
Mike McLemore

Serving in December

Serving on the Lord's Table AM ** Overseer	Jeremy Leshko Dwight Ivey John Bersherse Will Starks **	Ed Dill Bill McCord Ryan Patrick Jim Risner
Lord's Supper PM	Gene Preston **	John Stokes
Communion Prep Building Lockup		C & S C

