

# Weatherly Weekly

June 5, 2022

2022 Edition, Number 23

## THE CHURCH: PRODUCT OF DIVINE WISDOM

Michael W. McLemore

Many false religious practices result from man's tendency to be "wise above what is written." Eusebius, a 4<sup>th</sup> century historian, wrote in his answer to the heresy of Sabellius.

"As not inquiring into truths which admit of investigation, is indolence, so prying into others, where the scrutiny is inexpedient, is audacity. Into what truths ought we then to search? Those which we find recorded in the Scriptures. But what we do not find recorded there, let us not search after. For had the knowledge of them been incumbent on us, the Holy Spirit would doubtless have placed them there.... Let us not hazard ourselves in such a risk, but speak safely; and let not anything that is written be blotted out.... speak what is written, and the strife will be abandoned." *Life of Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, 23.*

While many modern churches and concepts of the church are the progeny of the fallible wisdom of men, the church of the New Testament is the product of the infinite and infallible wisdom of the eternal God of Creation. Paul wrote of the church to Christians in Ephesus – "that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and

authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord," *Ephesians 3:10-11.*

To alter it by addition, subtraction, or substitution is to be guilty of presumption and rebellion. It fails to first see what God has said, and leave off what He has not. It robs God of His glory. It is axiomatic that whatever God institutes for specific purposes is wholly adequate for the accomplishment of those purposes. Infinite wisdom does not produce inadequate results. Whatever is divine, a product of divine wisdom, is also all-sufficient. Divinity and all-sufficiency are inseparable attributes. We do not need "a 21<sup>st</sup> century church for an advanced age."

If the church were a product of human genius, perhaps change would be needed. The church is born of divine wisdom; perfect in conception and design. What the world needs is the restoration of a 1<sup>st</sup> century church to a 21<sup>st</sup> century people. This we preach, pray, work and hope toward. □

# Eventually a Mighty Man

"Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian" Judges 6:14

It was to the brave and stalwart soldier, Gideon, that these sage words were spoken. He was a man who truly deserved them. Well, eventually he deserved them. But, when first spoken to him, he was far from deserving of the implication of these words.

We have no record of Gideon wielded a sword before his introduction the Bible story. God called him from a threshing floor, where he secretly for fear of the Midianites, labored. Being told by the Lord to throw down Baal's altar, he did so - but under cover of darkness "because he feared his father's house and the men of the city." Before he would even attempt to organize an army he required not one, but two signs from the Lord involving a fleece and the dew of heaven. And before he was ready to go into battle, God had to grant him yet another omen, allowing him to overhear Midianite soldiers expressing their fear of Gideon. "Mighty man of valor," yes, but not yet. God was looking at what he would become, and not at what he was!

Simon's friends must have raised their eyebrows when Jesus called him Peter - a stone. He was unlike a firm-stone throughout the personal ministry! Yet following the resurrection and the encounter with Jesus by the sea, Simon was indeed Peter, exactly what Jesus challenged him to be.

God still deals with us in this way. In the past we observe Him speaking of the unconverted as His people, *Acts 18:10.* He speaks of new converts as saints, though possessing only the faintest hint of the holiness that is implied in the word. He calls them "the children of God," though they are only beginning to be "partakers of the divine nature." He says that they are sitting "together with Christ in heavenly

places," although they are still struggling with the flesh, and worldly habits.

What is our lesson? Some years ago a brother asked the preacher of the possibility of teaching the husband of a young woman who attended the services of the church sporadically. The preacher responded emphatically, "He's a lost cause!" A few years later, after moving to the community to do local work, I had the occasion to speak to the young wife privately about her situation, married to a non-Christian with apparently little interest in spiritual things. I cautioned her about her own faithfulness and commitment, urging her to attend services faithfully without her husband if he chose not to come. She did so and within a matter of weeks, he too, was attending. Within in a matter of months, he agreed to study the Bible and was baptized into the Lord. Today, he is one of the most faithful men I know. Lost cause? Far from it!

Our own children are all potentially faithful, devoted Christians. We must let them know this is what we expect. We must resist labeling them "bad" or "uninterested." They will make mistakes. They may make bad mistakes. But, we must deal with them as actions out of harmony with their true character. We are disappointed, but never disillusioned.

If Paul could write to the church in Corinth with all its problem, "I thank my God all concerning you," then surely we can speak positively to any modern local church. More is accomplished by encouraging and exhorting than by constant browbeating and faultfinding. Regular commendation of what is good lends effectiveness to rebuke when that is necessary. Even to the weak, we may say, "Go in this thy might!" □

Watch LIVE!

# FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



## FAMILY UPDATES

### Prayers:

**Julie & Shawn Singleton** were diagnosed last week with COVID. **Shawn** is much improved and is taking care of things at home. **Julie** had a set back on Thursday and Friday. On top of her diagnosis she has strep. She was better yesterday now that the medications have built up in her system. Your continued prayers for Shawn & Julie are appreciated.

**Edith Turner** remains on our daily prayer list. Please continue to say her name to the Father. Also, remember her daughter, **Glenda**.

**Ruth Mitchell** is improving. She had another steroid injection yesterday. She is regaining the range of motion in her good arm. The medications, especially at bedtime, are helping. Ruth wanted me to relay her thanks to everyone for your prayers and thoughtful encouragement during this pretty rough patch. We are all happy to do so!

We are thankful for the good report that **Peggy Shelton** received from her recent tests. She will see the Dr again Wednesday.

**Raymond Harbin**, **Maragem's** son, and brother of our **Jimmy**, is declining. Communication is slowly getting more infrequent. Jimmy said, "It's a very slow and painful thing to watch how the body and mind can endure." Your prayers are solicited for Raymond and his entire family.

**Mechi Hunts'** sister, **Zoila Herring**, continues in our daily petitions. Remember her and the family as she battles on.

**Ciera Elledge**, **Will & Sarah Starks'** granddaughter, is between treatments right now.

Will relayed that there are no real changes right now. Pray for Ciera, the children and her whole family. They are all understandably very concerned for her well being.

Pray for these. Each has their own particular health challenge. — **Laura Phillips, Jim Risner, Lane Roberts, Glenda Cavender, Edith Turner, Melvin Godette & Charlotte Hagewood.**

## TODAY AT WEATHERLY

**Sunday morning Bible Study** begins promptly at 9:30 am. Mike will conclude his study of the book of **Titus, chapter 3.**

**Sunday morning worship** begins at 10. Mike is continuing his series, **Cultivating Culture.** Today we will be exploring "growth." NT Christians are compelled to grow sufficiently in their knowledge of God's word so that they may be able to teach others. This morning we will be discussing the Hebrew writer's admonitions to grow. Join us as we talk about **Cultivating Growth at 10:00 am.**

**TONIGHT at 6** we will gather for **Bible Skillz** and our weekly open forum class on **Big Bible Questions.** We hope to see you all.

**Wednesday evening Bible study** begins at 7. Mike will be away on Wednesday this week. One of the men will be standing in for the Bible study period. We hope everyone will take advantage of the opportunity to participate.

**Tommy Hill** will preach in Mike's absence on **Sunday, June 12th.** His sermon is entitled, "Serving Our Lord."

**Sunday evening, June 12th,** we will be spending the hour in song worship. No skillz class will be held that night. ☐

## Relationships

*Michael W. McLemore*

Understanding people is no small feat. Most have had the experience of being mystified over exchanges with others, even with those closest to them. It's not easy work.

God created humans as relational creatures. In the Garden Adam and Eve had perfect communion. Then sin came. Since that day virtually every human interaction has been plagued by dysfunction, pain, or conflict at some point. What's the answer? Consider these...

**LOVE OTHERS FIRST** – Moses, Jesus, and Paul all challenged us, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love is selfless, other-centered action. The motive is to do what's best for other people, not what is preferred. Love others first!

**BE KIND ALWAYS** – How do you respond to kindness? How do you respond to harshness? See! "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience," *Col. 3:12.* Be kind always!

**FORGIVE NOW** – Paul concluded his remarks in Colossians 3:13, "bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." When we wrong others, we want forgiveness, so that is what we should offer them. Forgive now!

As we move away from self-focus and into selflessness, we will more often than not discover that we understand others better. Relationships will vastly improve. That pleases and honors God. ☐



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## TIMES OF SERVICES

**Sunday Bible Classes** 9:30 am  
**Sunday AM Assembly** 10:00 am  
**Sunday PM Assembly** 6:00 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

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**Will Starks** 256 883-5273

## Evangelist

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## Weatherly's Deacons

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

# Weatherly at Work

These are asked to assist in our labor.

## Sunday, June 5

**Welcome:** **Tommy Hill**  
**Song Leader:** **Hill Roberts**  
**Opening Prayer:** **Will Starks**  
**Lord's Table Lead:** **Bill Thompson**  
*Hebrews 5:11—6:12*  
**Sermon:** **Mike McLemore**  
*Cultivating Growth*  
**Closing Prayer:** **Ron Harmon**

## Sunday, June 12

**Will Starks**  
**Mel Ambrose**  
**Ed Dill**  
**Phil Shaver**  
**Tommy Hill**  
*"Serving Our Lord"*  
**Adam Hagewood**

## Evening Worship

**Bible Skillz** **Mike McLemore**  
**Songs Leader:** **David Jacks**  
**Opening Prayer:** **Marty Hunt**  
**Closing Prayer:** **Wes Caudle**

## Evening Worship

**Mel Ambrose**  
**Phil Furlough**  
**Bobby Wright**

## Wednesday, June 8

**Songs Leader:** **Collis Terry**  
**Invitation:** **David Jacks**  
**Closing Prayer:** **Tommy Hill**

## Wednesday, June 15

**Hill Roberts**  
**Bill Thompson**  
**Ron Harmon**

## 2022 Lectures TBA

## Quarterly Adult Classes June – September 2022

**AUDITORIUM SUNDAY**  
Lessons for Today from the Exodus  
**Mike McLemore**

**AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY**  
Exodus  
**Mike McLemore**

## Serving in June

Serving on the Lord's  
Table AM & PM  
\*\* Overseer

\*\* **Bill Thompson (6-5), Phil Shaver (6-12), Collis Terry (6-19), Marty Hunt (6-26)**

Communion Prep  
Building Lockup

TBA

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS



JUNE 5, 2022

6-7	Shelia Hagewood	6-9	Alex Thompson
6-11	Carley <sup>2</sup> Hill	6-13	Adam Hagewood
6-15	Murray Castleman	6-13	Adam Hagewood
6-15	Murray Castleman	6-16	Jaxie Rogers
6-16	Phil shaver	6-23	W.D. Patrick
6-26	Keion Godette	6-30	Susan Hand

## WEEKLY WALK

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