

Weatherly Weekly

July 17, 2022

2022 Edition, Number 29

“By My Spirit”

Michael W. McLemore

Falling into the trap of believing that ingenuity, resources and mental prowess are key to growing the local church is easy. We are conditioned to believe power and might are essential. Boot strap mentality permeates the American culture. But what may be true in achieving the “American Dream” does not necessarily correlate to saving souls.

Zechariah 4 chronicles God’s message to the beleaguered captives as they attempted to rebuild both the kingdom and their lives in Judah following Babylonian Captivity. After 70 years the children of God returned to their decimated homes. They began well. Zerubbabel led them in quickly laying the foundation of the temple, *Ezra 3:10*. But, the daily work of “rebuilding life” soon took precedence and the unfinished temple lay dormant for the next 14 years, *Haggai 1:4*.

Listen to God’s message to Zerubbabel as He sought to spur the renewed commitment to kingdom work – “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power,

but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts,” *Zechariah 4:6*. All effective kingdom work takes place through His Holy Spirit, not by means of human power or might. Far from being aimed at preachers, elders or Bible class teachers, this is an essential truth for all believers.

Christians rely not on our own wisdom, strength or will power, but on the power of the Holy Spirit inspired Word of God. The struggling believers at Corinth, “saints by calling” are charged to honor Him with a life of obedience, expressed through faith and service, *1 Corinthians 1:2*. Again and again Paul calls that local family back to the truth of the Holy Spirit’s teaching.

Regardless of circumstance, Christians are called to rest in Christ, to abide in Him, and to seek His will. Zerubbabel completed the task to which he was assigned, not by His power but by the power of the Holy Spirit of God. We must follow that inspired lead, focusing not on circumstances but on the power of His Son to accomplish His work. □

Faith and Evidence

Shane Scott

Several years ago I decided I needed a hobby. I had many interests – basketball, fantasy baseball, music – but I engaged in all of these past times with members of the church where I preached, or with fellow Christians in the area. I needed a hobby that would put me in contact with people from all walks of life. So I looked up the closest chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, and over the last 17 years I have made a large and diverse bunch of friends.

As it happens, several of my barbershop singing friends are from Sweden, and – typical of the very secular climate in Sweden – they are not believers. A few of them are quite belligerent about their atheism. Last fall, I fell into a discussion on Facebook with one of them, a discussion I was frankly hesitant to engage in, given the nasty reputation that debates on social media have earned. But in this case, I am glad to say that my fears were misplaced. Over the course of nearly three weeks, several atheists and agnostics in Sweden as well as in the States joined in and presented arguments against Christianity, and gave me a very courteous hearing as I responded.

What actually precipitated the discussion was a post one of my atheist friends made in which he said no one believed in Christianity because of evidence, but simply because it provided a hope for an afterlife. When I responded that through the centuries believers had offered many powerful rational arguments for belief in God based on evidence, he replied with this statement:

Sorry but you just cannot argue that there is any kind of evidence whatsoever that supports Christianity. If there were, it wouldn’t be called “belief”.

In his mind, Christianity is a belief based on no evidence whatsoever.

This viewpoint is based on a gross misunderstanding of what “faith” is. Christianity has never claimed that faith is “belief without evidence.” To the contrary, from the earliest days of the preaching of the apostles, great emphasis was placed on logical argumentation. Notice these examples from Acts:

And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for

the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ” (17:2-3)

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there (17:16-17).

And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks (18:4)

Mark Twain may have thought that faith is “believing what you know ain’t so,” but that is not what the apostles believed! They used reasoning and logic to argue from the evidence found in the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah. If someone wants to challenge whether the apostolic belief in Jesus was justified, that is fair, and Christians are eager to take up that challenge and look at the evidence. But what cannot be disputed is that the apostles claimed it was a justified belief. They didn’t simply argue on the basis of wishful thinking.

It is true that at a very basic level, faith involves an intellectual commitment to believe in unseen realities. “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). We can’t see God, and we didn’t see the risen Lord. But this exhausts only the most juvenile definition of faith. The fuller concept of biblical faith has to do with confidence and trust. “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Even though we cannot see God, we believe that the evidence for His existence is overwhelming in the order of nature (as Paul argued in Acts 14:16-17). And even though we did not witness the resurrection of Jesus, we believe the testimony of the apostles has decisively demonstrated its truthfulness (as Paul claimed in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8). And because this evidence is so powerful, we are willing to place our total trust, our complete confidence, in Christ. That is what faith means to a Christian. Complete trust in Christ on the basis of evidence. □

Watch LIVE!



FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

June Furlough is recovering from surgery at home. She is doing very well with instructions to take it easy for the next few weeks. We are thankful that, though two areas were discovered by the surgery, it was not as bad as feared. She should recover well. Thank you all for your prayers for June and family.

Evelyn Hall remains in the hospital today. Her doctors are trying to regulate her sodium and potassium. The culprit seems to have been a new heart medication. Please continue to pray for her and for **Searcy** as he helps to attend to her needs.

Betty Dubose's cardiology visit revealed that she is still in AFIB. She is scheduled for a cardioversion tomorrow at Crestwood. Please remember Betty to the Lord as you pray.

Ruth & Jerry Mitchell were both diagnosed with COVID early last week. At last report their symptoms were mild. Please keep them in your prayers. Others are also suffering from the effects. Y'all be safe out there!

Glenda Bradner, Edith Turner's daughter, remains on our prayer list. She is in Huntsville Hospital and hoping to transition to a new place. Updates will follow as we know.

Edith Turner also needs our ongoing prayers for her back discomfort. Say her name to the Lord as you pray.

Ellie Pellegrini was with us for class and worship last week, boot and all! She's doing well. We look forward to seeing her 100% soon. Thanks for your prayers.

Zoila Herring was able to have her surgery

last Monday. She remains in the hospital as expected. Updates will follow.

Hill & Carol Roberts are still dealing with lingering effects of COVID. Pray for them.

Jenny Jacks was back with us this week after her second bout with COVID. It is great to see her doing well. Her mom is back home and doing better after a trip the ER last Saturday.

Benevolent Opportunity

The elders will be sending benevolent aid for the needs of our brother Monroe Calipjo following the Sunday, July 24th deadline. If you would like to help with this please pass your part to Tommy Hill or Will Starks by next Sunday. We are trying to meet his most immediate need of \$3,000. Thank you all.

Ciera Elledge, Will & Sarah Starks' granddaughter, continues in our prayers.

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 worship begins at 10. Mike continues his July series entitled "Belonging." Today we consider Peter's statement, "What I do have I give," *Acts 3:6*.

TONIGHT at 6 we will gather for **Bible Skillz** and our weekly open forum Bible study.

Wednesday evening Bible study begins at 7. Mike's study of Exodus continues. ☐

Captive to Fear

Michael W. McLemore

In 1947 a government accounting clerk in Soviet Russia named Vladimir Zenchenkov returned home from a night of overindulging with vodka to discover that he had misplaced 400 ration cards belonging to his employer. Since ration cards were a prized commodity in postwar Russia, he was sure he was bound for Siberia. His wife insisted that her husband hide, and the next day told her husband's coworkers that he had run off with another woman. According to later reports, the terrified Zenchenkov never once left his house for the next twenty-two years.

In 1969 Mrs. Zenchenkov died, and her husband went to the local police station to turn himself in. It was only then that he learned that the ration cards had turned up in his desk drawer the day after he disappeared in 1947. Fear had held Mr. Zenchenkov captive for more than two decades. Fear can imprison us too. Paul reminded his young pupil in the faith, "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control," *2 Timothy 1:7*.

In his work "Facing the Future without Fear" Lloyd Ogilvie said, "There are 366 'Fear nots' in the Bible, one for every day of the year, including Leap Year! God doesn't want us to go a single day without hearing his word of comfort: 'Fear not!'" Don't be captive to fear! ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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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

WATCH:

LIVE Sermon archive or live stream during all Weatherly services



Weatherly's Shepherds

Tommy Hill 256 883-0010
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, July 17

Welcome: Will Starks
Song Leader: David Jacks
Opening Prayer: Phil Shaver
Lord's Table Lead: Ed Dill
Acts 3:1-26
Sermon: Mike McLemore
What I Do Have, I Give
Closing Prayer: Ron Harmon

Sunday, July 24

Tommy Hill
Hill Roberts
Marty Hunt
Steve Hagewood
Acts 6:1-7
Mike McLemore
Preaching? Or Tables?
Wes Caudle

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz Mike McLemore
Songs Leader: David Jacks
Opening Prayer: W.D. Patrick
Closing Prayer: Alex Thompson

Evening Worship

Mike McLemore
Hill Roberts
Ph Furlough
Riley Monroe

Wednesday, July 20

Songs Leader: Phil Furlough
Invitation: Mike McLemore
Closing Prayer: Bill Thompson

Wednesday, July 27

Bill Thompson
Mike McLemore
Collis Terry

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 July

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

**** Phil Shaver (7-3), Phil Furlough (7-10), Ed Dill (7-17), Steve Hagewood (7-24), Tommy Hill (7:31)**

Communion Prep
Building Lockup

Needed. Please see the list in the foyer.

JULY BIRTHDAYS



JULY 17, 2022

7-19 Jim Ehl
7-27 Donna Godette
7-31 Phillip Dill
7-19 Peggy Shelton
7-29 Mike McLemore

