

Weatherly Weekly

October 2, 2022

2022 Edition, Number 40

Fear & Perfect Love

Michael W. McLemore

John wrote, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love," 1 John 4:18.

Some are confused that the Bible teaches that we are to "fear God." John only seems to preclude its coexistence with perfect love. He is in no wise contradicting Scripture. The term "fear" often means "reverence, awe." John used the word "fear," (Grk *phobos* "fear, terror, reverential fear, attitude of one whose circumstances are guided by trust in God," W.E. Vine.) in the sense of dread, as careful consideration of the context will reveal.

It is within the capacity of every rational person to comply with Divine conditions relative to the forgiveness of sins, whether an alien sinner or a baptized believer. That such persons must perfectly comply with those conditions is Bib-

lically sound instruction. Man's compliance is rooted in the love for and absolute trust in God, and the efficacy of the sacrificial death of Jesus. God's revelation is trustworthy as to the integrity of its promises. Salvation thus enjoyed is a gift emanating from the grace, love and mercy of God.

It is a legalistic concept of Christianity that causes many to live in dread and terror that the eternal well-being of their souls looms undecided in spite of faithfully obeying the Lord. Paul makes it clear in his letter to the Romans that there is a righteousness which is attained by divine pardon on the basis of the shed blood of Jesus apart from legal righteousness (perfect obedience to law). "Not of works lest any man should boast," Eph. 2:9, does not militate against, "He who believes and is baptized," Mark 16:16.

Fear and perfect love are both motivators sent from God to function hand and glove. □

For God gave us not a spirit of fearfulness; but of power and love and discipline. Be not ashamed of the testimony of the Lord, nor of me his prisoner; but suffer hardship with the gospel according to the power of God..." (2 Timothy 1:7-8)

The Prussian king Frederick the Great was widely known as an agnostic. In striking contrast, one of his most trusted officers, General Von Zealand, was a

preaching must have provoked can be easily imagined. Noah's was a faith that blossomed in a spiritual desert against incredible odds.

Abraham was a kindred spirit. What amusement and disdain must have followed him out of Ur of the Chaldees as he left that pagan, but prosperous, city to go to some place about which he knew absolutely nothing! The only explanation he could offer was

that he went at the behest of the true and living God, risking everything on His promises. Folks that worshipped the likes of Nannar the moon-god would not have been much impressed. Abraham was all alone in his faith, a solitary figure walking out on

apparent thin air. It is no marvel that he is called "the father of the faithful."

And then there is Joseph – friendless in Egypt, with the vivid memory of his brothers' hate and the heartbreak of a presumed abandonment by his once doting father. He could easily have felt forsaken by God as well – all those dreams and visions, and now this! Whether Potiphar's wife was a beauty or a hag is not stated by Moses, but the young Joseph, in the flower of his manhood and perhaps on the edge of despair, was certainly vulnerable to her seductions. We marvel, therefore, at the courage of his lonely, but unyielding, faith when he resists her with the words: "...how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9). How he honored the God of his fathers!

And finally there is Moses and Joshua and Elijah and Jeremiah and Daniel and the "three Hebrew children" and John the Baptist and the Twelve and Paul. The list is long. But our names need to be added to it. We need a holy boldness about God and His Son as we live amidst a perverse generation – an open and unashamed conviction that attaches itself not only to who Jesus is, but to what He says – "the testimony of the Lord."

There is a very good reason why we need to be uncomfortable with a faith that fades and wilts and falls back at the first hint of social disapproval. Jesus said, "Whoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the son of man also shall be ashamed of him, when he comes in the glory of his Father and with his holy angels" (Mark 8:38). Must we have a supportive crowd before our convictions find a voice, or do we have the courage to speak up for Christ and the gospel even when we stand alone? It is a critical question which all of us must honestly face. □

Courageous Faith

PAUL EARNHART

deeply convicted believer. It is reported that during a very festive gathering of his general staff, the king created uproarious laughter with his crude jokes about the Son of God. Finally, after enduring this with much patience, Von Zealand arose quietly and addressed the king: "Sire, you know that I have not feared death. I have fought and won 38 battles for you. I am an old man; I shall soon have to go into the presence of one greater than you, the mighty God who saved me from sin, the Lord Jesus Christ whom you are blaspheming. I salute you, sire, as an old man who loves his Saviour, on the edge of eternity."

The room went deathly still, and with a trembling voice the king replied, "General Von Zealand – I beg your pardon! I beg your pardon!" and with that the party quietly ended.

It took courage for an old Prussian general to stand alone before his king and amidst his scoffing fellow officers and announce boldly and without shame his own deep faith in that God and His Son whom they were blaspheming, but that is just the kind of faith which being a follower of Christ requires. We cannot serve Him and be ashamed of Him, no matter what the odds or the dangers.

So many have stood entirely alone in defense of their confidence in the true God. Noah is a remarkable example. It is difficult to conceive the loneliness of being, with your family, the only one on earth who genuinely believed in God. (This may have included his father, Lamech, and grandfather, Methuselah, who, if the genealogy is complete, died just before the flood.) But Noah was not only steadfast, he was bold, preaching earnestly to warn his contemporaries of a rapidly approaching disaster (2 Peter 2:5) – and at last, in the final 100 years before the deluge, rearing three sons who shared his singular faith so strongly that they were able to convert their wives (2 Pet. 2:5). What laughter and contempt his boat and his

Watch LIVE!

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



Family Updates

Prayers:

Hannah Harmon, Ron & Phyllis' granddaughter, underwent an alation procedure on her heart last Friday morning. We are praying that this will remedy the issue with which she has been suffering. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Also, **Phyllis & Ron's** niece, **Megan**, and her husband **Clark**, arrived safely in Joplin, MO. last week, just in time for the birth of their baby girl. This adoption was arranged by Sacred Selections. We're thrilled and praying.

Remember **Joanne Abernathy** to the Lord. Last week was a rough week for her. Most of you are aware of the great loss she has suffered. Keep her close to your heart.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of **Glenda Cavender's** brother, **Billy Oakes**. Mr. Oakes was very well known in the Lacey Springs area. Please remember this family to the Lord as you pray.

We are continuing to remember the family of **Marty Haselden**. Your prayers and every expression of kindness toward both the **Roberts** and **Haselden** families are appreciated.

This is treatment week for **Becky Hill**. Please remember **Becky & Tommy** in your prayers as they courageously battle onward.

We are looking forward to seeing our sister **Wanda Castleman**. It takes times to get past the discomfort and to begin to feel yourself after such surgery.

Please continue to the **Godette family** as they mourn the loss of **Melvin's** nephew.

Donna Rovere and **Guy McDaniel**, both with deep ties to Weatherly, remain in our prayers.

Silvia Henderson and family are all progressing after COVID. Your prayers mean so much. Thank you one and all.

Mechi Hunt's sister, **Zoila Herring**, is continuing her Chemo. Continued prayers please.

The Stark's granddaughter, **Ciera Elledge**, has been through a great deal already. We are thankful for her progress and are continuing to pray for her future needs.

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

TODAY AT WEATHERLY

Sunday morning Bible class begins at 9:30. Mike is leading us in a study of "Lessons for Today from Exodus."

Sunday morning Worship begins at 10. Mike will begin a new series from Colossians that will explore "LIVING." His lesson this morning will be entitled "Living in Focus" from **Colossians 2**.

TONIGHT at 6 we will gather for **Bible Skillz** and then open forum class. **Tommy Hill** will be conducting a DEVO during the worship assembly tonight. We are looking forward to his thoughts tonight.

Wednesday evening Bible study begins at 7 with our study of **the Book of Exodus**. This is a great study. We are getting close to the end. We hope to see you all. ☐

10-6	Henry Frazier	10-10	Karen Thompson
10-11	Caryl Ehl	10-14	Janeth Hagewood
10-26	Mel Ambrose	10-26	Dwight Ivey
10-27	Jimmy Harbin	10-29	Charlotte Hagewood

Benn Wronged?

Michael W. McLemore

The reaction of Christians to ill treatment is seldom that of one who realized that the "servant is not greater than the Lord." The popular course of the unfaithful Christian, who desires to justify his unfaithfulness, is to list the instances of mistreatment which he has suffered. It seems never to occur to them that the Lord expects them to "live soberly, righteously and godly" regardless of what others do or fail to do.

Have you been slandered, betrayed, denied, unfairly condemned, abused, etc.? "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant his Lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his teacher and the servant as his Lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more them of his household?" *Matthew 10:24-25.*

The Christian needs to frequently remind himself that "Christ also suffered for you, leaving an example, that ye should follow in his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: **who when he was reviled, reviled not again: when he suffered, threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously,**" *1 Peter 2:21-23.*

Been wronged? What would be the lot of humanity if Christ had reacted to ingratitude and ill treatment as *WE* sometimes do? ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



159



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CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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

Michael W. McLemore 256 698-5941
Email: mmclmore@weatherlychurch.com

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, October 2

Welcome: **Will Starks**
Song Leader: **David Jacks**
Opening Prayer: **Phil Furlough**
Lord's Table Lead: **Bill Thompson**
Colossians 2:1-7
Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
Living in Focus
Closing Prayer: **Ron Harmon**

Sunday, October 9

Tommy Hill
Mel Ambrose
Ed Dill
Marty Hunt
Colossians 3:18-4:6
Mike McLemore
Revolutionary Living
W.D. Patrick

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz **Mike McLemore**
Songs Leader: **David Jacks**
Opening Prayer: **Ed Dill**
Closing Prayer: **Kirk Hatcher**

Evening Worship

Mike McLemore
Mel Ambrose
Will Starks
Riley Monroe

Wednesday, October 5

Songs Leader: **Hill Roberts**
Invitation: **Mike McLemore**
Closing Prayer: **Will Starks**

Wednesday, October 12

Phil Furlough
Mike McLemore
Marty Hunt

2022 Lectures Cancelled

Quarterly Adult Classes June – September 2022

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
Lessons for Today from the Exodus
Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY
Exodus
Mike McLemore

Serving in October

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

**** Bill Thompson (10-2), Marty Hunt (10-9), Collis
Terry (10-16), Phil Shaver (10-23), David Jacks (10-30)**

**Communion Prep
Building Lockup**

Bill Thompson

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



OCTOBER 2, 2022

