

Michael W. McLemore

wo generations ago two questions were prominent: Did Jesus really rise from the dead historically, bodily? Or, Did He not rise from the dead? This became a line of demarcation between believers and unbelievers. Today, the questions commonly pondered seem diverse from other ages — Does it really matter to me? Do I care? Do I find it helpful? — but are they?

Jesus' resurrection from the tomb was met with mixed responses. Luke records Peter and John, empowered by the Holy Spirit, fearlessly declaring the truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ before the council and the people, *Acts* 4:13. Their confidence and boldness stemmed from their firsthand experience of encountering the risen Savior and being transformed by His power. They saw the resurrection not as a mere historical event but as the pivotal moment validating Jesus as the Son of God and inaugurating a new era of redemption and hope.

The council, comprised of religious leaders and authorities, viewed the resurrection of Jesus as a threat to their status quo and perceived it as detrimental to their influence and control over the people. They saw Jesus as a disruptor of the established order, whose teachings and claims challenged their traditions and authority. Rather than embracing the truth of the resurrection, they sought to suppress it, fearing its implications for their power and prestige, *Acts* 4:17-18.

Lest we immediately assume ourselves the former of the two, what other areas of "faith" do we believe unhelpful to our present life? Jesus said of marriage, what God has "joined together, let not man separate," *Matthew 19:6*. Some retort, "My happiness is important, this is unhelpful to me." The Hebrew writer cautioned Christians about "neglecting to meet together," *Hebrews 10:25*. Some say, "but it doesn't work for *ME*." While it may seem innocuous, it is far from true.

Doubt & Faith

Michael W. McLemore

OUBT among believers is often viewed as a dissonant thread, threatening to unravel the fabric of faith. Yet, paradoxically, it is through the interplay of doubt and faith that faith can be refined and strengthened. Enter "Doubting Thomas," *John 20:24-29*. His early doubt soon turned to a catalyst for later deeper trust in Christ.

Doubt unveils the depth of our humanity and the limitations of our understanding. As Thomas famously declared, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe," *John 20:25*. Thomas's doubt was not a sign of weakness but a testament to the genuine humble struggle of the human heart to grasp the mysteries of God. In acknowledging our doubts, we admit our finite nature and our need for divine revelation.

Doubt compels one to seek truth with greater earnestness and sincerity. Interestingly, Jesus did not rebuke Thomas for his doubt. Rather He graciously invited examination of the evidence and believe – "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe," *John 20:27*. Doubt, when approached with humility and openness, can propel seekers on a quest for deeper understanding and intimacy with God. It prompts good hearts to wrestle with Scripture, to engage in earnest prayer, and to seek divine guidance.

Doubt serves as a crucible for refining and purifying faith. Like gold tested by fire, seeking answers to one's doubt exposes the impurities of faith—whether they be misconceptions, idols, or misplaced trust—and refines them into a stronger, more resilient faith. Peter spoke candidly about the necessity of "various trials" as the proving ground for genuine faith — "so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ," 1 Peter 1:7. One's reservations function similarly if

room is given to search for truth. It is in the midst of hesitation that we are confronted with the choice to cling to our doubts or to trust the divinely endorsed process of "examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things are so," *Acts* 17:11.

Doubt, when surrendered to God, becomes a pathway to a deeper, more authentic faith. Thomas's confession — "My Lord and my God!" — remains not a lasting legacy of skepticism, but a powerful testimony to the transformative power of doubt when met with the revelation of Christ, *John 20:28*. When those seeking faith bring their doubts to the throne of God, embracing His Word and seeking a relationship with the living Christ, the resultant faith transcends mere intellectual assent but anchors itself in the foundation of God's revelation of Himself to man. Seeing Christ's revelation Thomas believed.

Doubt reveals God's omniscience. Jesus knew the very words Thomas had spoken, revealing his doubt about the resurrection, *John 20:24-25*. The risen Christ provided His seeking disciple needed. Jesus' awareness not only underscores His deity but also demonstrates God's ability to provide answers to our doubts even before we articulate them, or even become aware of them. It speaks to the intimate knowledge God has of each of us, understanding the doubts that plague our hearts and offering reassurance and revelation precisely when we need it most. In this encounter, we are reminded of the comforting truth that God is not distant or aloof but intimately acquainted with our struggles, ever ready to meet us in our doubts with grace, truth, and understanding.

John 20:24-29 might be understood as the interplay of doubt and faith reminding readers that doubt, far from being a hindrance to faith, can be a catalyst for its growth and maturation. Perhaps you are wrestling with doubt. Seek understanding. Plead in prayer for guidance and wisdom. Draw near to the One who is the author and perfecter of faith, *Hebrews 12:2*. Trust the He will provide what is needed. You can find His answer.. Thomas did. \square







News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members

2024 A Mind to Work — Together, Nurturing the Believers' Mindset March: Resurrection, "Faith to believe for the unseen."

Family Updates

Prayers:

Milton Charles "Chuck" Weatherbee (86), brother of our own Doris DeCelles, passed away on Tuesday in Birmingham. Services were held yesterday in Red Bay. Please pray for Doris and her family.

John Stokes was diagnosed with pneumonia on Monday of last week. Thanks to his friends, John says that he is "able to take it easy." Please pray for John.

Phyllis Harmon remains in Regency Rehab. Unfortunately, Ron fell at home last Monday. He was taken to Huntsville Hospital but later released. Later this week, Thursday, he returned to the hospital with a resurgence of an infection that has plagued him for some time. Tests are being run to determine if he may need surgery. Pray for both Ron & Phyllis.

Both Doyle & Janice Wray continue to suffer from respiratory issues. Doyle has bronchitis and pneumonia in his left lung. Pray for him. Janice is better but still coughing.

June Furlough was able to be back with us on Sunday. We are thankful for her improvement. We are continuing to pray for her.

Peggy Childress got the news that her lung tests indicated that the function is "OK." While it is not the best result it is better than feared. Say her name to the Lord as she tries to grow stronger. Pray for Peggy & Terry.

Remember Searcy Hall in prayer this week. We are looking forward to hearing good news.

We are continuing to pray for Edith Turner following the loss of her sister, Kay Wall.

Ciera Elledge, Will & Sarah Starks' granddaughter, remains on our prayer list. She is deciding on what is next.

Silvia Henderson's sister, Kiki, underwent a CT scan on Tuesday. We are praying that the tumor has shrunk enough to allow surgery.

Jack Taft is undergoing Chemo. He will be undergoing Chemo for five consecutive days in four week intervals. Pray for Jack & Shirley.

Please be mindful of those in our family who struggle with chronic illness or the effects of aging — Peggy Childress, Peggy Monroe, Glenda Cavender, Edith Turner, Melvin Godette, Maragem Harbin, Carolynn Barr, Betty Dubose, Ron Harmon, Jim Risner, Harold Smith & Wanda Castleman.

This Week at Weatherly

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE class meets at 9:00. Mike McLemore will lead his study of "Joshua" to the United Kingdom," Lesson 13.

BIBLE SKILZ will meet after class at 9:35. Today's **DEVOTION** will be led this morning by Mel Ambrose.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP follows at 10:10. Mike McLemore's lesson today is entitled, "My Lord, and My God" from John 20.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY begins at 7. Mike conclude his class "Joshua to the United Kingdom." Be sure you are here.

MARCH & APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Calendar Sun Mon Tue Wed The F1 Set 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	3-28 4-5	Adrienne West Carolynn Barr	4-2 4-6	Silvia Henderson Jerry Mitchell
	4-13 4-20 4-21	Sherrie Stovall John Stokes Mechi Hunt	4-18 4-21 4-23	Peggy Monroe Dianne Dill David Jacks

MARCH 31, 2024

We Are Seen

Michael W. McLemore

he Blitz was a German bomb-▲ ing campaign against Brittan during WWII. In 1940 and 1941 the Germans conducted mass air attacks against industrial targets, towns and cities, beginning with London. The British press coined the phrase "The Blitz" from the German word, "Blitzkrieg," or "lighting war."

During the terrible days of The Blitz, a father, holding his small son by the hand, ran from a building that had been struck by a bomb. In the front yard was a very deep shell hole. Seeking shelter as quickly as possible, the father jumped into the hole and held up his arms for his son to follow. Terrified, yet hearing his father's voice telling him to jump, the boy replied, "I can't see you!"

The father, looking up against the sky tinted red by the burning buildings, called to the silhouette of his son, "But I can see you. Jump!" Without hesitation the boy jumped. What was the cause of the innocent boy's implicit trust? He knew his father's voice. He trusted in his father's care.

Our faith is no blind leap into the darkness hoping for a good outcome. It is the innocent trusting in our Father's proven power, care and love. Faith believes the unseen. It enables us to face life or meet death, not because we can see, but with the certainty that we are seen.





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 Devotion** 9:35 am **Sunday Assembly** 10:10 am **Wednesday Classes** 7:00 pm

> Stay informed and engaged online at www.weatherlychurch.com

WATCH:



Sermon archive or live stream during all Weatherly services



Weatherly's Shepherds

256 883-0010 Tommy Hill Will Starks 256 883-5273

Evangelist

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

Weatherly's Deacons

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



These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, March 31st Sunday, April 7th

Will Starks Tommy Hill Welcome: Song Leader: **David Jacks** Mel Ambrose

> **Devotion Devotion**

Mike McLemore Bible Skillz Mike McLemore

Will Starks **Opening Prayer: Alex Thompson** Mel Ambrose Hill Roberts **Devotion Leader:**

Assembly Worship Assembly Worship

Opening Prayer: WD Patrick Steve Hagewood Bill Thompson Lord's Table Lead: Ed Dill

John 20 Philippians 1:3-11 Sermon: Mike McLemore

Mike McLemore "My Lord and my God"

Battlefield of the Mind

Closing Prayer: Riley Monroe Doyle Wray

Wednesday, April 10th Wednesday, April 3rd

Songs Leader: Hill Roberts Collis Terry Mike McLemore Invitation: Mike McLemore **Closing Prayer:** Wes Caudle Riley Monroe

2024 Weatherly Heights Lectures

May 2-5, 2024

Buc Chumley, Jonathan Reeder

Mitch Davis & Wilson Adams

Quarterly Adult Classes January - March 2024

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Joshua to the United Kingdom Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY Joshua to the United Kingdom

Mike McLemore

Serving in April

Serving on the Lord's

Table AM & PM ** Overseer

** Bill Thompson (4-7), Phil Shaver (4-14), Marty Hunt (4-21), Phil Furlough (4-28)

Building Lockup

Collis Terry

