

Weatherly Weekly

April 26, 2020

2020 Edition, Number 17

Blessings For Those Who Seek

Dan Lankford

Here's something you can take to the bank: When God's creatures do God's will, they receive God's blessings. This was true of Creation. When God spoke ("let there be light," etc.) and the universe obeyed, the narrative says, "It was very good." And when God's people followed his laws and lived by his wisdom during the time of David & Solomon, he blessed them with riches and power and influence. And when the church lived for Christ in the first century in spite of all the persecution they faced, he blessed them with love for one another, with peace in the midst of suffering, and with growth across the whole known world.

When God's creatures do God's will, they receive God's blessings.

Let's be clear: that's not the same message as the Prosperity Gospel. That message says that if

you do God's will, he will give you good health and abundant wealth. It is self-serving religion for those who are seeking blessings. True spirituality is different.

First, the promises are not the same as the Prosperity Gospel. Look back at the examples mentioned above; God's blessings come in many forms. It's not all about health and wealth.

Second, and even more importantly, true spirituality is for those who are seeking God himself—not just his blessings. For those who find satisfaction just in knowing him, they will need no other blessing than that. But it is the nature of the God whom we serve that once we are satisfied to enjoy his love and do his will, he will open his hand with abundant blessings. You can count on it. ☐

Gospel or Gimmickry?

"Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to fables,"

By Sewell Hall

2 Timothy 4:2-4

These verses clearly indicate that there are times when gospel preaching is in season and out of season. History indicates the same. In the first century in most places it was in season; in the middle ages it was out of season. There was a thrilling season for the gospel in middle America in the early nineteenth century, while at the same time it was largely out of season in France and Europe.

In our own lifetime, we have seen the same situation change. I remember days in Chattanooga when non-Christians attended meetings in large numbers for no other reason than to hear the gospel, and ten or twenty baptisms were not uncommon in such a meeting. Simple gospel preaching does not now seem to have such drawing power.

What are we to do when gospel preaching is out of season; when people are more interested in education, entertainment, recreation, and social activities than they are in preaching; when the wisdom of the world has more appeal than the wisdom of God?

COMMON ANSWERS

"You have to take people where they are," we are told. "We have to give them what they want to attract attention. Then we can reach them with the gospel." On this basis, all kinds of gimmicks are used to entice the worldly. Many churches have turned into little more than community centers and social clubs. They are more involved with ball teams and scout troops than with Bible teaching. The highways are crowded with their buses taking various age groups to every kind of amusement area in the country from Disney World to Lake Wannepesauka. Their advertising reads for all the world like a circus flyer, offering prizes, free gifts, and fun. Often, no promise is made of anything spiritual at all.

Others realizing that the gospel "is the power of God unto salvation" limit their activities more to preaching. But even here, appeal is still to the worldly tastes of our generation. If possible, preachers are obtained who have made a big reputation in sports, in entertainment, or in government. Otherwise, great emphasis is given in advertising to the educational attainments of the speaker or to his gifts as a "dynamic, powerful, eloquent" speaker.

GOD'S WAY

The problems of disinterested people is not new. It existed in some places even in the first century. It existed in Corinth. "For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness," 1 Cor. 1:22,23.

Paul had the power to offer signs to the Jews and the knowledge to compete with the Greeks in worldly wisdom. The philosophy described above would have suggested advertisement of a lecture on "The Judaistic Philosophy in the Roman World." Obtaining his audience with this, he could then slip in a little about Jesus and the cross. This wasn't Paul's approach, as he told us: "For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified," 1 Cor. 2:2. Human philosophy and wisdom had no place in Paul's plan for saving the lost in Corinth.

Preaching only the gospel, of course, Paul could have announced himself as "Dr. Paul, graduate of the University of Gamaliel, noted author, world traveler, inspired and dynamic lecturer." Rather, he says, "And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God...I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God," 1 Corinthians 2:1,3-5.

Worldly appeals simply cannot save lost men. And to attach them to the gospel is to cheapen the good news of Jesus Christ. By such appeals we may increase numbers and even "make waves," but such individuals in the local church are liabilities rather than assets. As materials in God's building they are classified as "wood, hay, and straw." Paul warns again building such material into the church: "According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it...Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work," 1 Corinthians 3: 10,12,13. ☐

Watch LIVE!



FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Forest Summers is five treatments into his eight treatment regimen. He is doing well. We are grateful. Continue to pray for the full benefit of the medications. Also, remember **Dot** to the Lord as you pray.

Please continue to pray for our brother, **Ron Harmon**, who remains at Signature Health. Because he has completed his quarantine, he has been able to move to **Room 100**. He is doing well and getting stronger. His left leg is still weak which makes balance challenging. Please keep **Ron & Phyllis** in your prayers. We are praying that he will continue to progress.

WD Patrick remains in our heart and our prayers. He is anticipating his surgery in the next few weeks. Please continue to say his name to the Lord as you pray each week. Also remember **LaNelle**.

Glenda Cavender also remains in our prayers. Keep both **Glenda & Ken** in mind as they meet the challenges that come their way. Their children have been most helpful to them during the last several weeks of confinement.

Peggy Shelton suffered a fall the week before last. Thankfully she didn't break anything, but she was pretty banged up. Pray for her recovery.

Melvin Godette and his whole family need our daily prayers. Say their names to the Lord.

Melody Young remains on our prayer list. Remember **Matt, Melody & Ray**.

Steve Guice is doing well. He is awaiting word from his Oncologist with what is next. We saw him on the Zoom Virtual Devo last

Sunday night. He looks good. Pray for him and his whole family. ☐

Daily Prayer List:

Betty Reavis **Laura Phillips**
Jean Woodard **Melvin Godette**

Barnett's Move

As most are aware **Terry & Kim Barnett** have moved to southern Alabama. They closed on the sale of their home in south Huntsville the week before last. Kim retired from her government position after 35 years of service. They will be missed by our family greatly. I have included their new address. Please make note of it.

12475 State Highway 180, Lot 9
Gulf Shores, Alabama 36542

WEATHERLY UPDATES

Sunday Morning Bible Study will begin at 9:30. We are studying **Hinges of Christianity: God's Sovereignty**.

Sunday morning worship will begin at 10. Mike will conclude his series on **The Salvation of Saul of Tarsus: Amazing Grace Revealed**.

Sunday Evening "Virtual Devo" will begin on Zoom at 7 pm. We will email a link Sunday.

Wednesday Bible Study — Mike McLemore's study of 1 John will be streamed live at 7 pm — No assemblies at the building.

Our "virtual attendance" has been strong. 105 specific viewers (210+ souls) on Sunday morning and 50 souls for Zoom Bible study Sunday night. ☐

APRIL — MAY BIRTHDAYS



5-2	Cathy Preston	5-4	Jean Woodard
5-7	Bill Reavis	5-8	Hill Roberts
5-9	Nick Holland	5-9	Ruth Mitchell
5-12	Betty Dubose	5-14	Sarah Starks

The Dreaded Sin

Michael W. McLemore

It was never guilty of wrong action. But on its account, lives have been lost, trains wrecked, planes crashed, ships sunk, cities burned, battles lost and nations fallen.

It never struck a single blow, nor spoke an unkind word, but because of it homes have broken up, friends have grown cold, laughter of children has ceased, wives have shed tears, brothers and sisters have been forgotten and fathers and mothers have died broken-hearted.

It has intended no evil, but because of it talent and genius have come to nothing, courtesy and kindness have failed, the promise of happiness and success has been turned to sorrow and disaster.

It has no color but the blackest black, no sound but the most silent silence, no cause for its being itself, and no progeny except disappointment.

Perhaps the worst of all, it keeps the children of God from doing the work of obedience to which God has called them. It lessens giving, silences prayer, puts off worship, impedes example, neglects the needy, deters service and keeps many from heaven.

You ask, what is the dreaded sin? It is NEGLECT! "how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?" *Hebrews 2:3*. ☐

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.

Stream ONLY — Sunday, April 26

Sunday, May 3

Welcome:	Mike McLemore	Mike McLemore
Song Leader:	Jared Jimison (arrangement)	Jared Jimison (arrangement)
Opening Prayer:		
Scripture Reading:		

Sermon:	Galatians 1:11-24 Mike McLemore <i>Amazing Grace Revealed</i>	Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Mike McLemore <i>The Book of Life</i>
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Closing Prayer:

Evening Worship

Evening Worship

Study Series **CANCELLED** **CANCELLED**

Songs Leader:		
Opening Prayer:	Virtual Devotion on ZOOM	Virtual Devotion on ZOOM
Closing Prayer:		

Wednesday, April 29

Wednesday, May 6

Songs Leader:		
Invitation:	Streamed Bible Study	Streamed Bible Study
Closing Prayer:		

None

None

2020 Weatherly Lectures
April 30th—May 3rd

Quarterly Adult Classes
April — June 2020

We regret to announce that our 2020 Lectures have been cancelled.

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY
Hinges of Christianity
Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY
Letters from John
Mike McLemore

Serving in May

Serving on the Lord's Table AM	Ken Cavender	Ed Dill
** Overseer	Jimmy Harbin	Phil Shaver
	Bobby Wright	Ryan Patrick
	Phil Furlough **	Jim Risner

Lord's Supper PM	Collis Terry **	John Stokes
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Communion Prep
Building Lockup

