

# Weatherly Weekly

April 28, 2024

2024 Edition, Number 17

## Pursuit of Perfection

Michael W. McLemore

Perfection is elusive. It is for us. It was for Paul. In and of ourselves, through mere human means, perfection is impossible. With Christ, it is not only possible, its price has already been paid. Many erroneously conclude from such observations, “Ah, Hah. I can’t be perfect. God makes me perfect and I have no role.” False.

Read of Paul’s determination and thereby observe man’s responsibility to reach God’s plan for the perfection of His people in *Philippians 3:7-16*. Especially note *verse 12*, “Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own” and *verse 14*, “I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

“Press” in both texts is the Greek *dioko*. It makes other appearances in the NT that relate man’s role in the pursuit of perfection in Christ. “*Strive*... for holiness without which no one will see the Lord,” *Hebrews 12:14*. “*Pursue* righteousness, godliness, faith, love steadfastness, gentleness,” *1 Timothy 6:11*. The apostle urges his readers in these same pursuits using his own life as an example as he seeks to “live out his own salvation” with the energizing forces of “rever-

ence and responsibility” driving him onward, *2:12*.

“Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own...” *13*. Paul knew that “apathy is the death knell of any order,” and that it must be defeated in the life of every Christian. He offers his own three prong prescription to living life going forward in pursuit of perfection: “This one thing I do...”

Forgetting what lies behind — Living in the past is a symptom of apathy. “I remember when” is its lyric. Paul happily laid his illustrious history of human triumph upon the trash heap of the past, and called the Philippians to do the same.

Straining forward to what lies ahead — Here Paul uses *epekteinomai* to describe the action of stretching forward. Work remains. New opportunities are in the future. Paul wrote, “I keep reaching for what lies ahead.”

I press on toward the goal — God does not promise his treasures to apathetic people. Paul did not run aimlessly. He lives with spiritual goals in view and controls his passions for the sake of those goals, *14*. He calls us to follow him in the effort. Don’t go backward. Press on! This is the “mature” way of thinking. □

# Practicing What We Know

“What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me — practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”

Philippians 4:9

By Michael W. McLemore

In Philippians 4:9 Paul implored, “What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.” Students should carefully examine the greater context for explanation of Paul’s exhortation.

**CHAPTER 1** — Paul preached in spite of hardship, trial and incarceration. God blessed his efforts and the cause of Christ was advanced, *1:12-18*. The apostle pled, “let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ,” *1:27*.

**CHAPTER 2** — Paul pointed to Jesus, who “emptied himself” to bring about human redemption, *2:1-11*. The apostle intreated, “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling... that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish... shine as light in the world,” *2:12-18*.

**CHAPTER 2** — Paul offered real world illustrations of men, Timothy and Epaphroditus, who sacrificed life and limb to make the gospel available to them, *2:19-30*. He then pled, “receive him (Epaphroditus) in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, for he nearly died for the work of Christ,” *2:29-30*.

**CHAPTER 3** — Paul reminded the Philippians that like Jesus had emptied Himself of divine prerogatives, he divested himself of every fleshly claim – “whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ... that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead,” *3:2-11*. Now he could confi-

dently say, “Follow me as I follow Jesus.”

**CHAPTER 4** — Paul begins, “Stand firm thus in the Lord,” *4:1*. Pursue spiritual minds that think the way God and His Son thinks, *4:8*. Then he comes to *verse 9*. It encapsulates the essence of discipleship and spiritual growth. It underscores the importance of not only acquiring knowledge (learn) but taking it to heart (receive). Paul does not simply encourage passive absorption of teachings (hearing and seeing) but emphasizes active implementation (practice).

“Practice these things” resonates deeply in the hearts of those who seek to follow Christ. It beckons us to embody the principles of excellence, humility, and sacrifice that Jesus exemplified in his earthly ministry. It challenges us to translate our faith into action, allowing it to permeate every aspect of our existence and service in the name of Christ.

Paul assures believers of the presence of the “God of peace” when they walk in obedience — practice what we know. This promised fellowship underscores the transformative power of living out the teachings of Christ. He reminds us that true peace, the peace that surpasses understanding, is found in the intimate fellowship with God cultivated through a life of obedience and faithfulness. We can be confident in the assurance that as we live out our faith, the God of peace walks alongside us, guiding, sustaining, and blessing our journey. □



Watch LIVE!



# FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



2024 A Mind to Work — Together, Nurturing the Believers' Mindset  
April: The Excellent Mind, "Think on these things."

**2024 WEATHERLY HEIGHTS LECTURES**  
May 2-5

**MAY 2-5**  
Thursday, 7:00 pm  
Jonathan Reeder  
Buc Chumbley  
Friday, 10:00 am  
Buc Chumbley  
Jonathan Reeder  
Friday, 7:00 pm  
Mitch Davis  
Wilson Adams  
Saturday, 9:00 am  
Mitch Davis  
Jonathan Reeder  
Buc Chumbley  
Sunday, 2:00 pm  
Jonathan Reeder  
Buc Chumbley  
Mitch Davis

930 Weatherly Road, SE • Huntsville, AL 35803  
www.weatherlychurch.com

lon Cancer. He will be meeting with a surgeon to address the malignancy right away. Pray for **Lynn & Gail**.

**Ron Harmon** is in room 737 at Huntsville hospital. **Phyllis** was taken by ambulance yesterday and admitted to the hospital with fluid on her lungs. Your prayers for the Harmons are solicited.

**Silvia Henderson's** sister, **Kiki Castaneda**, is not doing well. The chemo is very difficult. She will have 1 treatment each week for 3 weeks, then a week off. Prayers please.

**Davis Stoll** underwent an upper endoscopy on Wednesday. He's been having discomfort swallowing. Pray for good news.

**Erin Riggs, Leslie McCary's** daughter, had the battery in her defibrillator successfully replaced on Friday. She's home doing fine.

**Ciera Elledge** is in Houston for consultations at MD Anderson. So far it has not been encouraging. Pray for answers and for her decisions on how to move forward.

**Peggy Childress** continues to need prayer.

**Jack Taft** also needs our prayers.

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, Carolyn Barr, Betty Dubose, Ron Harmon, Jim Risner, Harold Smith & Wanda Castleman.** ☐

## Lecture Week, May 2-5

Are you ready for lectures? We begin this Thursday evening. Make your last minute plans to assemble for each gathering. Bring a friend. Invite area brethren with whom you are close. Ask a colleague or relative. **Remember next Sunday we will meet at 2 pm.**

**Saturday, May 3rd** a covered dish will take place immediately after the morning assembly at the home of **Carol & Hill Roberts**. This is not a function of the church, but a gathering of individuals and is a standing invitation to everyone, including any guests that may be able.

## Family Updates

Prayers:

**Lynn Franklin** has been diagnosed with Co-

## APRIL & MAY BIRTHDAYS



4-29	Harrison Smith	5-7	Bill Reavis
5-8	Hill Roberts	5-9	Ruth Mitchell
5-11	Gail Franklin	5-12	Betty Dubose
5-14	Sarah Starks	5-17	Megan Caudle

## Pressing On

Michael W. McLemore

If the Lord wills, in four days we will begin our annual Weatherly Heights Lectures. Our theme this year is especially apropos — Pressing On! It has been a long road. By my count we have planned at least three others that had to be cancelled, all because of COVID. 2019 was the last time we have been able to gather for this sort of study. I'm not sure about others, but I have missed it. I can't wait to get started.

One by one the men speaking in this year's series have sent their planned approach.

**Mitch Davis**, who preaches for the Franklin church of Christ, will be using Nehemiah as an example of purpose & vision, perseverance & resilience, unity & cooperation.

**Wilson Adams**, who lives in Murfreesboro and is engaged exclusively in meeting work, will speak Friday night about "Lighting the Fire Within Us All."

**Jonathan Reeder**, who has recently relocated to North Alabama to preach for the Jones Road church in Limestone County, will address "Deeper Discipleship" using Jesus' teaching and action as challenges to follow Him more closely.

**Buc Chumbley**, who preaches for the Capshaw church, will inspire us to "Look Up" using the Bible book of Colossians as his text.

It's gonna be great, ya'll! ☐

## WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



Mailing:

P.O. Box 4619  
Huntsville, Alabama 35815

Phone: 256 881-9535

Email: [contactus@weatherlychurch.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:mmclmore@weatherlychurch.com)

## Weatherly's Deacons

<b>Phil Furlough</b>	<b>Steve Hagewood</b>
<b>Kirk Hatcher</b>	<b>David Jacks</b>
<b>Hill Roberts</b>	<b>Collis Terry</b>
<b>Bobby Wright</b>	

## Weatherly at Work

These are asked to assist in our labor.

**Sunday, April 28th**

**Welcome:** Will Starks  
**Song Leader:** Hill Roberts

**Devotion**

**Bible Skillz** Mike McLemore  
**Opening Prayer:** Tommy Hill  
**Devotion Leader:** Phil Shaver

**Assembly Worship**

**Opening Prayer:** WD Patrick  
**Lord's Table Lead:** Phil Furlough  
*Philippians 4:1-8*  
**Sermon:** Mike McLemore  
*Think About This*  
**Closing Prayer:** Will Starks

**Wednesday, May 1st**

**Songs Leader:** Collis Terry  
**Invitation:** Mike McLemore  
**Closing Prayer:** Kirk Hatcher

**2024 Weatherly Heights Lectures**

**May 2-5, 2024**  
"Pressing On"

Buc Chumbley, Jonathan Reeder  
Mitch Davis & Wilson Adams

**Sunday, May 5th, 2 PM**

**Tommy Hill**  
**Mel Ambrose**

**Devotion**

**Mike McLemore**  
**Mike McLemore**

**Assembly Worship**

**Ed Dill**  
**Jonathan Reeder,**  
**Buc Chumbley & Mitch David**

**Wednesday, May 8th**

**Phil Furlough**  
**Mike McLemore**  
**Riley Monroe**

**Quarterly Adult Classes**  
April – June 2024

**AUDITORIUM SUNDAY**  
"Am I My Brother's Keeper?"

**Mike McLemore & Mel Ambrose**

**AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY**  
The Big Picture Bible  
**Hill Roberts**

## 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

Phil Furlough

