

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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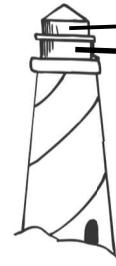
**A mistake is just an
opportunity to try again.**

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Joel Heiligenthal
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

December 26, 2021

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: Gary Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Rai Starr, and Diane Willis

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis, and

Margaret Abel

Military: Logan Dickey, Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

CONGRATULATIONS to Jagger Sullins, who was recently baptized into Christ. Let's make it a point to encourage all our young people!

SENTENCE SERMON – When the Good Lord threw our sins into the Sea of Forgetfulness, He posted a 'No Fishing' sign.

Special Case Logic

I heard a sermon years ago and the preacher made a significant point regarding temptation: *each of us tend to think of ourselves with special case logic.* That is, we think that something about ourselves, our situation, or our sin is somehow unique, and therefore excusable. Ah, the human mind is a wonderful thing, isn't it? Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, faster than a speeding bullet, and able to deceive itself over and over again.

Lawyers often use special case logic to defend their guilty clients. "There is a reason why this murderer should be set free while

this other one should be sentenced to death", they may argue. Doctors sometimes use special case logic with their patients. Why else would they prescribe more medication to someone who has an addiction? Parents might use special case logic with their children. "Little Johnny is just tired, that is why he kicked you..." Special case logic does have a place in our lives and our laws allow for it; but too often it amounts to nothing more than an excuse for bad behavior. With God, there are no special cases. There is sin or obedience. "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad

is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life..." (Matthew 7:13-14).

If special case logic were valid with God, then Moses would have a claim to it. He was angered by the Israelites' constant complaining when he struck the rock, defying God's command. David noticed a beautiful woman bathing on her rooftop and he was lonely. Peter was afraid for his life, so he denied Christ three times. Paul wrote, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians 10:13) You will not experience a temptation unique from any other person. You and I have no special case! We must take responsibility for our actions.

But God has promised a way of escape. He promises a way, but not necessarily an easy way. Again, this preacher pointed out that we will never be left with only wrong choices. Did you get that? God will never leave us in a situation where there are only wrong choices. We will never need to choose the lesser of two evils. If we are, there is something wrong. The lesser of two evils is still evil! Now, I am not talking about choosing the next President of the United States. I am talking about sin. Often, the way out is simply to say "No!" Nancy Reagan had it right in her "Just Say No" campaign. Other times it may be more difficult. It may even be the most difficult thing we have ever had to do, but it is the right way. Think about it.

What are you going to do? Believe God and His promises – or give in to special case logic?

*- Michael J. Walls
(edited for space)*

Another Perspective

Finding the Order

How do you make sense of what makes none? The reason we struggle is because we expect order. Seasons change. Order. Darkness follows daylight. Order. Drop an object and it falls at a constant rate of speed every time. Order. After all, God is not the "author of confusion," but order. We impose additional order with clocks and calendar, schedules and appointments. Order.

But order doesn't always prevail. Accidents happen. Tragedy strikes. Not everyone lives to be fourscore. What happened to... order?

A middle-aged man works to fight off heart disease that runs in his family and is diagnosed with cancer. Order? A woman is raped as she jogs near her home. Order? A husband takes his family on a much-awaited trip and is hit by a drunk driver, and he loses a wife and child. Order? A family lives in a neighborhood for years only to have their home and lives shattered by a tornado. Order?

How do you make sense of it all? You don't. That's why the Job and Joseph stories take up so much space. They learned that behind the apparent randomness of suffering is the existence of an awesome God – to comfort and give hope – even when life makes no sense.

They also learned that in suffering, God gives us our greatest power: the power to choose our response. Job and Joseph's responses (unknown to them) had repercussions beyond what they could see. Their lives, choices, and faith mattered. So do yours.

When it comes to tragedy, I have more questions than answers. But I know this: "I will put my trust in Him." I pray you will, too.

- Wilson Adams