

## Light and Life

## All Need Repentance

“There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish’” (Lk. 13:1-3).

When bad things happen, it can feel like we are being singled out for punishment for one reason or another – and it can be discouraging. Sometimes difficulty is discipline from God (Heb. 12:5). Or, we may have to endure hardship to teach others a lesson (Job 1:6-12; I Pe. 2:18-3:2). Or perhaps, some events are simply a matter of “time and chance” (Eccl. 9:11).

Whatever the cause, we don’t always have control over the things that happen to us in this life. But we **do** have control over how we respond to them – and what we choose to learn from them. Jesus told the people who inquired about the slain Galileans that it did not happen because they were worse than others. But their misfortune still carried an important lesson about sin and its consequences!

He provided another example. “Those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Lk. 13:4-5). Jesus’ audience was wrong to assume that God had killed these people as punishment for their sin. But Jesus told them that if they did not repent of their sins they would suffer a similar fate! The reality is, all have sinned (Rm. 3:23) and are **therefore in need of repentance!**

Rather than making assumptions about the misfortunes of others, let’s realize the consequences of our own actions – and repent!

- Sam Bunyard

## Another Perspective

## The Resurrection

Do we understand what the word ‘resurrection’ means? It is not a synonym for ‘life after death’, or ‘eternal life’, or ‘immortality of the soul’. Most of the pagan world (Greeks, Romans, etc.) believed in some kind of ‘life after death’. This was not new to Christianity.

Resurrection refers to the human **body**. The **body** of a human being will be resurrected. Paul notes in Romans 8 (vss 11 & 23) that our “mortal body” will be redeemed. What God did to the body of Jesus He will do to the body of everyone. We wait “for adoption, the redemption of our bodies” (v 8). He does not redeem only some of me. Jesus is the model and pattern for our resurrection, which is why He is called “the first fruits” (1 Co 15:20).

The incarnation and resurrection of Jesus go hand in hand in the Bible’s teaching. The person God raised from the dead is the same person who was incarnate in the flesh. All that He was before, He remains – glorified. When Peter preached in Acts 2 about Jesus being “raised up”, and that “He was not abandoned to Hades [the realm of the dead], nor did His flesh experience corruption”, he must have remembered that just a few days before, Jesus had chided the disciples, declaring that He was **not** a ghost (Lu 24:36-40)!

Resurrection is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. We need to know what it means. God is redeeming our body – the body that He made. The Word literally **became flesh** so that God could save all that He has made. His incarnation (God taking on human flesh, He 2:14) is God’s greatest compliment to the universe – and His resurrection is God’s denial of Death’s power over His creation.

The ancient church confessed, “I believe in the resurrection of the body.” And we should confess the same!

- Bobby Valentine (edited for space)

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

### Sunday

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

### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

Pray “for kings and  
all who are in high  
positions, that we  
may lead a peaceful  
and quiet life”

1Ti 2:1-2

## Downtown Church of Christ

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Everything you see will  
one day die and rot; so  
live for what is eternal.

## ELDERS:

Otis Hardin  
Perry Johnson  
Ken Parker  
Alan Revier  
GW Walsh

## DEACONS:

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



# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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## It's Not Just Grilled Steaks

Most firemen don't complain when the bell rings in the middle of the night. That's because it's part of the job. It's what they do. They weren't hired simply to cut the station's grass and grill steaks. They were hired to prevent a smaller fire from turning into a widespread inferno.

Kinda like Christians.

We didn't sign on as a disciple of Jesus simply to enjoy the perks. And there are perks. They “broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts” (Ac 2:46CSB). The Ethiopian eunuch “went on his way rejoicing” (8:39). Joy – it's better than grilled steaks!

But sometimes the bell rings in the middle of the night. The Jerusalem disciples who were “joyful” early in their walk, soon became the object of intense persecution (Ac 8:1). The book of Hebrews records how they had “endured a hard struggle... and joyfully accepted the plundering” of their property (10:32-34). But notice – even with the persecution, they were joyful! Why? **Because that's what they had signed on for!**

“Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus” (2 Ti 2:3). Soldiers, firefighters and Christians – it's hard work. Be okay with that, because it's what we signed on for!

- *WKing*

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

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

*Sick:* KFletcher, Swims, JMarshall, RStarr, MiBader, KHeilighenthal, JTerrell

*Shut-ins:* Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Susan Wiese, Virgil Carter, AHopper

*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES** – From Jan to Feb the elders (auditorium) and Warren & Sam (H.S.) will teach “Making My Family a Godly Family”.

**SENTENCE SERMON** – It's not just about cutting off sin; it's about loving God so much that your desire to sin no longer exists.