

When Life Doesn't Make Sense

By Allen Webster (continued from last week)

Faith Must Be Tested to Be Genuine

Do you remember those public service announcements that began, "This is a test"? When going through trials, we can say to ourselves, "This is a test." Times of crisis prove our friendship with God and declare the authenticity of our faith. Do we love God because He provides gifts? Do we love those gifts more than we love the Giver? This was the accusation Satan made against Job (Job 1:8-12; cf. 1 Peter 1:6-9). All the things we cling to in this world will eventually disappear. The One who gives them is all that will ultimately remain.

Simple Answers Sometimes Are Enough

R. C. Sproul offers an interesting insight in his book, *Not a Chance*. He notes that when a child asks a complicated question, or one that he is not yet ready to understand, a parent's simple reply is, "Because." "Because" implies that there is an answer but does not give all of it. As God's children, sometimes it must suffice to accept "because" when we ask "why?" In Job's trial, as well as in ours, part of the test is not knowing the reason for the suffering. Jesus neither gave long explanations of evil nor ignored it (Luke 4:18-19).

Vance Havner remarked, "God marks across some of our days, "Will explain later." He continued, "One day of green pastures and still waters is followed by dark valleys and miry swamps, and a thousand 'whys' lie unanswered, tabled for future reference." Warren Wiersbe wrote, "God's people live by promises, not by explanations." What promises do we have when life does not make sense?

We have the assurance of God's presence. While God never promised life would be problem-free, He did promise to be with His people (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5; Psalm 46:5-7). God was with David in the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23). He was with the three Hebrew men in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3) and with Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6). God sent an angel to the garden to strengthen Jesus (Luke 22:43). God is not a disinterested spectator in our lives. He is neither distant nor disengaged. He does care (1 Peter 5:7). Even when we are afraid, through faith we can sing, "What a fellowship, what a joy divine, safe and secure from all alarms."

We have the assurance of God's peace (John 14:27; 16:33; 20:19-21; Ephesians 2:12-14; 1 Peter 5:14).

We have the assurance of God's providence (Romans 8:28). Rather than asking "Where is God?" or "Why me?" let us ask, "What can I learn from this?" and "Who can I help because of this?" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). College classes are not easy, but they prepare us to be of service after

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Dorlene Butler continues to have health problems.
- ◆ Nichole's uncle Charles Lansdown had a double knee replacement in Dallas this week.
- ◆ Leroy Collins is gravely ill after suffering a stroke.
- ◆ Cheyenne Morgan, daughter-in-law of Brian and Nikki Morgan, had surgery twice this week for a brain tumor.
- ◆ Trey Scott will have a scan Tuesday to see if he has brain cancer.
- ◆ Gavaghna Smith fell and broke her wrist.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Dorlene Butler, Ruth Strain, Norma Jones, Steve Siebels, Aleta Collins.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Jim Kirkland, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Leroy Collins, Nikki Smith, Brad Luna, Jenny James, Bill McFarland, Trey Scott.
- ◆ Those in GHCC: Ann Kruse, Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Jack Moyers Cyprus Spring. Wilbern Uchtman, Brook Haven in West Plains; Irene Corp in Care Manor.

Blessings

- ◆ Mark Lane had a scan this week and was clear of cancer.

Jesus reserved his hardest words for the hidden sins of hypocrisy, pride, greed, and legalism.

Some people appear on the outside as righteous, but on the inside are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Matthew 23:28


graduation. Life's problems are not easy, but they qualify us to serve in ways we never could otherwise.

(continued next week)

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
8-9	Paul Wade	8-29	Bill and Aleta Collins
8-12	Gunner Hambelton	8-29	Chuck and Amy Myers
8-18	Marsha Crisp	8-30	Corey and Hope Hillhouse

SOUL WINNERS WORKSHOP

Do you have friends and family you want to help go to Heaven?



GAINESVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Saturday, August 17, 2024
9:00AM – 3:00PM

with Evangelist Jon Rowe
Southwest Church of Christ
Phoenix, Arizona

9:00 - 9:50 AM	Principles of Preparation
10:00 - 10:50 AM	Personal Evangelism in Jesus' Life
11:00 - 11:50 AM	Generating a Gospel Discussion
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 - 1:50 PM	The Gospel Presentation, Part 1
2:00 - 2:50 PM	The Gospel Presentation, Part 2

True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less
-C.S. Lewis



Please mark your calendars for
Saturday, August 17th
9 a.m.—3 p.m.

August Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer	Communion & Closing Prayer
4th John Abraham	Vance Hambelton
11th David Stevens	Ryan Stevens
18th Don Luna	Halbert Smith
25th John Abraham	D. E. Pleasant

Song Leader: Titus Smith
Greeters: Don & Barbara Luna

The Family News
August 4, 2024
Gainesville Church of Christ
PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655
www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org
A Place to Call Home
We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services
Sunday
9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages
10:30 a.m. Worship Service: **Jesus Condemns Hypocrisy**
7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages Downstairs

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer
Kids Singing up Front

Worship God by Singing Praises
Communion Service
Song before Sermon
Sermon and Invitation
Invitation Song

Closing Song and Prayer
Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders	Deacons
Mark Lane 417-679-4835	Larry Butler 817-504-1604
Don Luna 417-712-1945	Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
David Stevens 417-679-4700	James Langston 870-315-4355
John Abraham 870-421-5632	Preacher
	Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us