



# “Tuesdays” with Pastor Jake

*Where Theology Touches Life*

Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>,  
in the year of our Lord, 2024



## A Biblical Worldview – *The Fall*

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” Romans 3:23

In the early 1900’s the story is told that The Times of London posed a question to several prominent authors: ‘*What’s wrong with the world today?*’ G.K. Chesterton, the well known Catholic writer responded:

“Dear Sir, I am. Yours, G.K. Chesterton.”

While Jesus himself reminded us that it is very easy for us to see the ‘speck’ in the lives of others while ignoring the ‘log’ in our own lives, sooner or later (and hopefully it’s sooner) we all realize that there is something deeply wrong in the heart of each of us. If we want to understand the Gospel, it is *vital* that we grasp and understand our own sinfulness.

In his book, Not the Way It’s Supposed to Be – A Breviary of Sin, Cornelius Plantinga, Jr. tells the following story:

“In the film *Grand Canyon*, an immigration attorney breaks out of a traffic jam and attempts to bypass it. His route takes him along streets that seem progressively darker and more deserted. Then the predictable nightmare happens: his expensive car stalls on one of those alarming streets whose teenage guardians favor expensive guns and sneakers. The attorney does manage to phone for a tow truck, but before it arrives, five young street toughs surround his disabled car and threaten him with considerable bodily harm. Then, just in time, the tow truck shows up and its driver – an earnest, genial man – begins to hook up the disabled car. The toughs protest: the truck driver is interrupting their meal. So the driver takes the leader of the group aside and attempts a five-sentence introduction to metaphysics:

“Man,” he says, *the world ain’t supposed to work like this. Maybe you don’t know that, but this ain’t the way it’s supposed to be. I’m supposed to be able to do my job without askin’ you if I can. And that dude is supposed to be able to wait with his car without you rippin’ him off. Everything’s supposed to be different that what it is here.*”

The world is not the way it’s supposed to be – and, as G.K. Chesterton will remind us, the problem with the world is us! It’s not my brother or my sister, but it’s *me* standing in the need of prayer. You nor I don’t need so much to be *convinced* of this as we need to *feel* it. C.S. Lewis reminds us “we are not merely imperfect creatures who must be improved: we are, as Newman said, rebels who must lay down our arms.” Self-deception about our sin is a narcotic, a tranquilizing and disorienting suppression of our spiritual nervous system. A diagnosis of sin and guilt, however, allows for hope.

A Biblical Worldview instructs us that **sin is a religious concept, not just a moral one**. Sin isn’t so much a failure to do what is right (omission) or a willful doing of what is wrong (commission). It is at heart, a failure to “*love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*” This failure first revealed itself in the Garden and the rest of humanity has willfully followed suit. All we have to do is look at our own hearts to see how prone we are to sin.

The awareness of our own sin and guilt is a pre-requisite for understanding the Gospel. C.S. Lewis wrote: “A recovery of the old sense of sin is essential to Christianity. Christ takes it for granted that men are bad. Until we really feel this assumption of his to be true, though we are part of the world he came to save, we are not part of the audience to whom His words are addressed. When men attempt to be Christians without this preliminary consciousness of sin, the result is almost bound to be a certain resentment against God as to one who is always making impossible demands and always inexplicably angry....when we merely say that we are bad, the ‘wrath’ of God seems a barbarous doctrine; as soon as we *perceive* our badness, it appears inevitable, a mere corollary from God’s goodness.” The root cause of all human misery and angst is our rebellion against God.

Once we understand the depth of our sin; and unless and until we understand how much of a ‘*wretch*’ we are – ‘*guilty, vile and helpless we,*’ then, and only then do we find the grace of God ‘*amazing.*’ Knowing Jesus has “*not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance*” gives hope...and life...and forgiveness...and deliverance to all who entrust themselves to Him.



# The Stump Roger and Stella Quiz!

**Roger Zottarelli and Stella Becker are Music and Movie aficionados...let's see whether we can 'stump' them! (I'll report next week on how well they did!)**

*You, of course, are welcome to try to guess as well 😊*



## FAMOUS MOVIE LINES:

1. "Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world, she walks into mine."
2. "I like it!"
3. "I'll get you, my pretty – and your little dog too!"
4. "The stuff that dreams are made of."
5. "Here's your hat, what's your hurry?"
6. "You don't understand! I coulda had class. I coulda been a contender. I could've been somebody, instead of a bum, which is what I am."
7. "It was beauty killed the beast."
8. "All right, Mr. DeMille, I'm ready for my close-up."
9. "Why don't you come up sometime and see me."
10. "I reckon so."
11. "Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway."



## VERSES FROM FAMOUS SONGS

1. Just remember that I've been true to nobody else but you, So just be true to me.  
Don't go walking down lovers' lane with anyone else but me.  
Don't start showing off all your charms in somebody else's arms, you must be true to me  
I'm so afraid that the plans we made underneath those moonlit skies will fade away and you're bound to stray if the stars get in your eyes. So, don't sit \_\_\_\_\_ with anyone else but me.
2. I'll never laugh again what good would it do? For tears would fill my eyes  
my heart would realize that our romance is through  
I'll never love again I'm so in love with you. I'll never thrill again to somebody new.  
Within my heart I know I will never start to \_\_\_\_\_ until I smile at you.
3. Moonlight and love songs are never out of date Hearts full of passion, jealousy and hate.  
Woman needs man and man must have his mate that no one can deny  
It's still the same old story. A fight for love and glory. A case of do or die.  
The world will always welcome lovers \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ there will be songs to sing although the snow covers the hope of spring.  
Somewhere a hill blossoms in green and gold and there are dreams all that your heart can hold.  
Someday we'll meet again my love someday whenever the spring breaks through.



Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Tonight, there comes music from beside the waters of Long Island South. NBC's microphones are present at Glenn Miller's smart opening in the Glenn Island Casino, mecca of music for moderns. Just off the show road at New Rochelle, New York. Now may we proffer our invitation to dance to Glenn Miller's Orchestra?

5. I stand at your gate and the song that I sing is of moonlight. I stand and I wait for the touch of your hand in the June night. The roses are sighing a \_\_\_\_\_. The stars are aglow and tonight how their light sets me dreaming. My love, do you know that your eyes are like stars brightly beaming? I bring you and sing you a \_\_\_\_\_.