



“Tuesdays” with Pastor Jake

Where Theology Touches Life

Tuesday, August 12th,
in the year of our Lord, 2025



Summer 2025 Edition

“Albus Dumbledore” on my Favorite Passage

Many years ago, when Harry Potter first came out in the bookstores, there was quite a ‘hoopla’ among certain churches. Personally, I’m always glad to hear of responsibility to shepherd the flock under their book first came out, I thought it best that I was about. To my surprise, I discovered that author. I discovered that the book, and then the the classic struggle between good and evil set unlike J.R. Tolkien’s, *Lord of the Rings* trilogy,

One of the main characters is Professor Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. school and ensuring its success, he had the Potter. At one point he gives Harry the



churches exercising their God given care, ensuring their spiritual welfare. When the should at least read it to find out what all the fuss J.K. Rowling is quite a creative and interesting remaining six books, really portray something of in the world of witches and wizards. It is not or C.S. Lewis’ *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

Albus Dumbledore. He is the Head-Master of In addition to his responsibilities of running the responsibility of looking after the young Harry following advice:

*"It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are,
far more than our abilities"*

You can’t read the book of Proverbs without being appraised of the seriousness of the choices a person makes. It really is the choices we make that define us. In his book, Everyday Gospel, Paul Tripp helps us to understand the importance of our choices:

*“As I look back over my life, with all of its twists and turns and highs and lows, I can be sure of one thing:
I never could have written my own story. Every aspect of my life – every location, situation, relationship, triumph,
defeat, sunny day and dark night – was written into His sovereign book before I took my first breath.
My story has been written by the wise, powerful, and gracious hand of the King of kings.*

But something else is equally true. I have not been passive.

*I have made countless, mundane and dramatic decisions along the way, each one contributing to who I am, where I am,
whom I am with, and what I do. Each choice was formative. Every decision contributed to the shape, content, and
direction of my life. I was desiring, thinking, meditating, choosing, conversing, and acting all along the way.*

Nothing about my journey has been robotic.

His final thought mirrors what John Piper wrote about in his massive book on Providence blending the age old quandary between God’s Sovereignty and Human Responsibility. He writes: “God is completely sovereign and we are always responsible for how we act and what we choose.”

In our passage for the summer, we’ve dealt with the overwhelming terribleness of our spiritual condition in sin, how the wrath of God is justly being displayed throughout the world upon the ungodliness and unrighteousness of men – and how God’s grace in Christ comes to our rescue. We’ve observed some of the things God’s grace causes in the life of whom it is extended: they are made spiritually alive, they participate in the very life of Jesus Christ and finally today, this grace enables and empowers a person to exercise faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Paul will say it like this, emphasizing all he has already said:

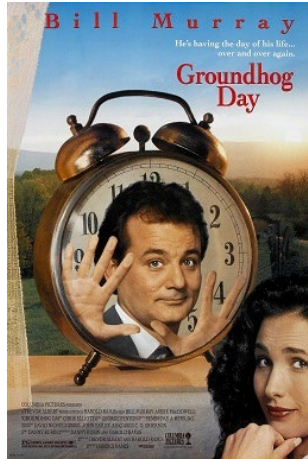
***For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you;
it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast.***

It is the gift of God that enables and empowers a person to believe. Yet it is the person himself/herself who needs to make the choice to believe!

So how does that work?

We have a great illustration from a familiar movie to help us understand this dynamic work of God. Have you seen the movie, Ground Hog Day? It features Bill Murray really likes Andie nothing to do with him. Something Ground Hog day – day after day after day. same day.

He begins to realize he can use this itself, it gives him an opportunity to learn she likes music, so he learns to play the various passages. She likes children, and local youths....the point being, after a she likes and what she doesn't like. This "wooing" her to himself! She comes actions towards her!



Murray and Andie MacDowell. To sum up the MacDowell, but he is such a creep that Andie has happens to him however, and he winds up *repeating* When he wakes up in the morning – it's still the

repetition to his advantage! So as each day repeats more and more about Andie. He begins to learn that piano. She likes French poetry, so he memorizes so he is seen having a snowball fight with some while, he knows Andie so well, that he knows what enables him to act in such a way that he winds up *willingly*, but it has been because of his gracious

That's similar to what God does upon the heart and will of a person. By His Spirit and through His Word, He calls a person to faith in such a way that they respond willingly to His overtures, and willingly choose to exercise faith in Jesus Christ!

Jesus said it like this to a grumbling crowd:

"Do not grumble among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him"

Later, He reinforced this thought to his disciples, saying,

"This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

Do you remember when Jesus asked his disciples who people thought he is? Remember Peter's great confession of faith? *"Thou are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."*

Then do you remember what Jesus said? He looked at Peter and said, *"Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! BECAUSE flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven."*

In writing to the Corinthian believers, Paul reminded his listeners, *"It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, 'let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'"* In the passage we are considering, Paul attributes a person's salvation to the effectual working of God's grace in their lives.

Salvation has *always* been, and will *always* be – from start to finish - the miraculous work of God's Sovereign grace so that no one would ever be able to boast, or attribute their salvation to their own moral achievements or wisdom. It is God who calls and enables, we respond in faith and in a life of gratitude.

Notwithstanding his own struggles, the great hymn writer, Robert Robinson wrote: *"Oh to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be. Let thy grace, Lord, like a fetter, bind my wondering heart to Thee."*

The words of Jesus and Paul, as well as the rest of the writers of Scripture are given to us by God to humble us before Him, recognizing our need for Him to act on our behalf. This humbling work of God leads a person to cry out for mercy and grace! As St. Peter will remind us, "God is always opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

May God, to the praise of His glorious grace, humble our hearts that we might cry out for mercy experiencing His grace that leads us to believe savingly upon the Lord Jesus. Next week we'll bring the study of our summer passage to a close, underscoring the marvelous truth that those whom God calls to Himself, He also equips for a life of service and good works.

I Sought the Lord – by Jean Ingelow, 1878

I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew
He moved my soul to seek Him, seeking me.
It was not I that found, O Savior true,
No, I was found of Thee.

Thou didst reach forth Thy hand and mine enfold
I walked and sank not on the storm-vexed sea.
'Twas not so much that I on Thee took hold
As Thou, dear Lord, on me.

I find, I walk, I love, but, oh, the whole
of love is but my answer, Lord, to Thee!
For Thou wert long beforehand with my soul, always Thou lovedst me.