

## AGAIN, WHY?

During the past couple of days, I've been listening to politicians, political pundits, and experts from various fields discuss the 'why' of the recent school shooting in Uvalde, Texas that snuffed out the lives of 19 innocent children.

This occurred just 10 days after a gunman went on a shooting rampage at a Tops supermarket in Buffalo, New York where 10 people were shot and killed whose only crime was going grocery shopping.

### **Why are there so many of these mass shootings in America?**

Predictably, calls are made for stricter gun laws. Many have said we have a mental health crisis in America that needs to be addressed. Others suggest more armed security officers in schools, and even allowing teachers to carry guns. Most are demanding hardening soft targets like schools.

While there is some validity to all the various reasons and suggestions given by the experts, our problems go beyond gun control, mental health, or greater security.

### **So, what's the answer?**

Reflect on a statement made by our 30th President, Calvin Coolidge in his 1921 commencement address at Wheaton College: *"We do not need more material development; we need more spiritual development. We do not need more intellectual power; we need more moral power. We do not need more knowledge; we need more character. We do not need more government; we need more culture. We do not need more laws; we need more religion. We do not need more of the things that are seen; we need more of the things that are unseen."*

### **We are facing a spiritual crisis in our country.**

The farther people get away from God and the precepts and principles of His Word, the more wicked, corrupt, and lawless they become. This can be seen in Genesis when "every intention and thoughts of man's heart was evil continually" (Ge 6:5). The sad state of moral putridity during the period of the judges is encapsulated in a single statement, "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judg 21:25).

We live in a country of broken homes, where there is no moral

guidance of a father and a mother. Where same-sex marriage is celebrated. Where the sanctity of human life is devalued. Where 63 million babies have been murdered since 1973 when Roe v Wade became law. Where there are more porn websites than McDonalds. Where drug and alcohol abuse is rampant. Where God is mocked, and Christianity is ridiculed.

Add to this the incessant drumbeat over the past 50-60 years that there are no moral absolutes; that Truth is decided by what's best for me and that your truth may not be my truth; and the humanistic view that religious considerations should be excluded from civil affairs and public education.

Mix in the problem of insolation, loneliness, the devaluing of social interaction and relationships, and excessive time looking at a screen – and here we are.

Bill Bennett's observation in his 1990's best-seller, "The Book of Virtues," is more applicable than ever. "I submit to you that the real crisis of our time is spiritual." Furthermore, Bennett asserts "A

human being without faith, without reverence for anything, is a human being morally adrift."

There is no doubt that America needs a course correction. Of course, in an election year, we're assured electing the right candidate will solve our problems. But as Cal Thomas once wrote in *Christianity Today*, "Real change comes heart-by-heart, not election-by-election, because our primary problems are not economic and political, but moral and spiritual."

While the tone of this post may sound rather bleak and our problems insurmountable, there is help. And there is hope. It begins in my heart. My home. My community. And my church. I cannot solve all the problems of the world, but I can be accountable to God. Take personal responsibility, commit to Biblical values and do my best each day to practice the Golden Rule and the two great commandments.

You and I may not change our country, but we **can** change our little corner of the world.

- Ken Weliever (edited for space)

## 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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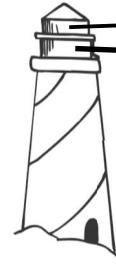
**This life offers us many  
choices, but eternity  
offers only two.**

## 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**

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## Training Preachers

The church is the “pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Ti 3:15). While there is nothing inherently wrong with a higher education – even religious education – there is no better training ground for young preachers than a local church, under the oversight of qualified elders (Ti 1:9-11) and, if possible, a preacher who can provide the guidance and model the work of preaching (1 Co 11:1).

Sadly, it is not easy to find men who have the desire to preach. It is a commitment few are willing to make – or for that matter, should make (Ja 3:1). It’s not about the job, or the money, or the accolades. It’s

about getting the message of the gospel out to a lost and dying world, and doing so with passion, with accuracy, with a genuine love for the souls of people – and with a driving desire to do the work. As one older preacher put it, ‘One should not preach if their conscience will let them do anything else.’ True that.

And so, we are blessed to have two men joining us for just that purpose. It’s not the members’ job to critique their work with a fine-tooth comb. It is our job to encourage them in their work – and to model what a faithful congregation can look like. Let’s do this!

- **WKing**

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.  
*Sick:* Gary Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Rai Starr, Diane Willis, Js Swim, Tricia Deen  
*Shut-ins:* Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis  
*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**WELCOME** – We welcome the Griggs family to our number – Lucas, Carrie, Jordan, Cameron, and Kendall! Let’s welcome them into our family!

**NEW TRAINEES** – We also welcome Hayden Cathey and Sam Bunyard into our family! They have begun work in our preacher training program!