

From The Ministers Desk

For The Greatest Good

For centuries, Romans 8:28 has been a favorite Scripture: "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God." Many find great comfort in it. Unfortunately, many do not understand this Scripture and doubt God when tragedy strikes their lives. In fact, it is one of the most misunderstood, misused, and misapplied verses in the Bible. People use this verse to say that if you love God, all things in this life are going to work out for you, but this is not what is being taught. A close examination and deeper understanding of this verse, however, gives us even greater comfort, because what is happening in our life is contributing to the greatest good in existence.

To begin with, we need to understand what this verse isn't saying. First, we must understand that God is not the source of tragic events in our lives – this is the claim of Calvinistic predestination. This doctrine makes God guilty of everything that happens including the evil that is in the world. What an insult to God! Tragedy is part of life and the natural world. Second, we must understand Christians will not be spared pain and suffering in this life (cf. Romans 8:35-39).

Now, let's look at what the verse means. The phrase "according to His purpose" is an adverbial phrase (in the Greek language). This means it must modify a noun of which the only one is "works." This means the works are done according to the purpose of God (i.e., God works everything together for the good of His purpose). This verse is not saying everything is going to be pleasant and work out all right; it is saying that God will use your life for the good of His purpose – even your sufferings. In other words, if we trust God He will even use our sufferings for good. Perhaps the best translation of this verse is found in the Revised Standard Version (RSV): "We know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose."

Romans 8:28 has nothing to do with God making good things happen; it has nothing to do with God preventing bad things from happening; it has everything to do with God being by your side in the midst of the tragedy, to comfort you and strengthen you. If we trust God, all things in our life whether good or bad can be used to contribute to His purpose – the greatest good of all.

Donald

Sermon Topics:

AM: "The Spiritual Battle"
Ephesians 6:11-12
PM: "The Family of Man"
Genesis 4:9

Hispanic Studies: JJ Espinoza

Class: Salmos 23
Sermon: "Somos Como Ovejas"
Salmos 23

Notes: _____

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January 21, 2018

Poteau church of Christ

Reaching Up, Reaching Out, Reaching In

Elder on Call for January 2018: Winfred Ashley 918-776-4034



Welcome to the Poteau church of Christ!

If this is your first time to worship with us, please know that we are thrilled to share in your journey of faith. We invite you to join in the singing of praises, praying, studying from God's Word; to enjoy the warmth of just being together with fellow seekers. Our prayer is that you will feel the love & grace of God during your worship experience this morning. We are honored to have you as our guest today and look forward to meeting you after our worship service. May God bless you richly and deeply.

DEACONS:

Danny Baker -Worship
Ben Bentley -Missions
Russ Campbell -Fellowship
Joe Harbuck -Building
Don Johnston -Building/Vans
Philip Kirkes - Youth
Bob Marchant -Benevolence
Brad McMillin -Missions
Tim Olive -Youth & Budget

ELDERS:

Winfred Ashley
Randy Lum
Dick Moore
Rick Parker
Rendall Thompson

MINISTERS:

Donald Cherry -Pulpit
J.J. Espinoza -Hispanic
Paul Fletcher -Youth
Robert Martin -Prison
OFFICE:
Sue Taylor Dunn - Secretary
Loretta Sisco -Secretary

Contact Information:

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sued@poteaucoc.org

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Or go to www.poteaucoc.org for prayer requests, our audio & video sermons and classes as well as upcoming events. You will also find online study tools and other information to help you grow stronger in your faith. We're also 'Live-Streaming' the 9:30 a.m. Bible Class, our 10:20 a.m. Worship Service and the 6:00 p.m. Evening Service.

By The NUMBERS

Week of January 14, 2018

Worship Attendance-AM	215
Bible Class	146
Auditorium Class	55
Jr. High & High School	52
College age 18-25	8
Women's Class	17
Hispanic Class:	5
Prison Class:	30
NewLife Behavior Ministries	25
Wednesday 1-17-18	135

Week of January 14, 2018

Contribution	\$8,275.
Budget -Weekly:	\$7,385.
Contribution-YTD	\$18,604.
Budget -YTD:	\$14,770.
Over/(Under):	\$3,834.

Monthly Events

First Sunday - Cake & Ice Cream for birthdays & anniversaries after evening worship.

First Sunday - Elders, Deacons and Minister's meeting after evening worship service.

Every Sunday - Elder's Prayer Meeting after worship service.

Second Sunday - Shepherd group meetings after evening service.

Third Sunday - Deacon's Meeting after evening worship service.

Sunday Morning - Women's Outreach Class @ 9:30 am. taught by Marilyn Ashley in the MPB.

Sunday Evening - The ladies meet for prayer meeting in the MPB after evening service.

Sunday Morning and Wednesday night - College age students - 18-25 - meeting in the MPB.

Wednesday Nights - Mid-Week Manna - 5:15 before Bible Study

Wednesday Nights Auditorium @6:30 - Leading small groups with purpose

Wednesday Night@ 6:30 - Relationship Class in the gym. (postponed until further notice)

Wednesday @ 6:30 -Ladies class: taught by Sue Dunlap, in the GAP classroom. (Postponed until further notice)

Second Thursday Game Night - 6:00 p.m. in the MPB.

Elders Prayer List

Note: First of the month: many will be removed from the list to keep it current. Submit new cards for requested prayers.

Health: Maxie Manlove (pneumonia/pacemaker recipient); Beulah Curry (possible heart issues); Chock Manley, health issues); Chris McCormick, Viola (blood disorder, pray not Leukemia); Darleen Seaman (Shingles/health issues); Debbie Little (recovery); Don Bentley (health); Elizabeth Ibison, Faylin's daughter (diabetes issues); Jennifer Powell, Philip Kirkes sister (recovery); Jerry, Larry Earls's uncle (not eating/health issues); Judy Crabtree (Sequoyah nursing home); Kaye Woodruff, Mary Scott's sister (stroke, recovery); Larry Earles (flu); LeeAnn Starts, Loretta's daughter (adj. medication for blood Platelets); Lonnie Renick (recovery from knee surgery); Malissa Kilgo (fall from car); Malita Tracy (asking for strongest treatments); Mary & Floyd Howard (faith/strength during this time); Mila Delyn Nix family (new born/organ problems); Mildred McClain, Larry Earls's friend (inner ear/dizziness); Ouida Moore (illness); Robyn Caddy, Chells' sister (recovery following hip surgery); Savannah Hansard, Roy & Judy's g'daughter (scoliosis/kidney problems); Sue Carty, Benny Bentley's sister (needs liver transplant); Tim Cauthen (recovery); Winfred Ashley (back pain).

Miscellaneous: Artemio (find and keep a job he likes); Work in India with Joe Evans; Beau Olive (working away from home); Dario (success of the play he wrote).

Bereavement: David Vaughan's family (Benney Thompson's step-sister's husband) passed.

Cancer: Jackie (Robin); Nancy Frier, Malita Tracy, LeeAnn Starts, Michelle Glassburner, Don Bentley, Sandra Lum.

Prisoners: Dwayne Ford, Tommy Jay, Shane Calico, Mack Hulse, Justin Moss, Raymundo Madrid, Daniel Jordan, Davis Marcus Ta-

Update List on Our Sick

- Martha Bell had surgery on Thursday at Mercy. Surgery went well and she is home recovering.
- The Carson Family is in need of prayers, Carlos's great aunt's health is deteriorating quickly. Doctors don't expect her to live much longer.
- Shirley Hollan, Brenda and Loretta's sister has cancer of the throat/esophagus. She is doing much better since starting treatments. Keep her in your prayers for continued recovery.
- Kevin Lashley is recovering from blood clots in his legs and lungs. Keep him and his family in your prayers.
- Larry Earl's uncle, Jerry, is still not eating. Pray that he will start eating on his own.

Responses

- Jackson Jones asking for strength to walk with God and to let God guide him.
- Jerry Lewis has a lot going on in his life, needing prayer for strength.
- Martha Bell asking for prayers from her church family for strength, faith, and trust.

Notice

- Deacons meeting after evening service.
- The Southern Christian Home will be here on February 13th to pick-up our donations. There is a new list on the bulletin board.
- FYI: When you use or work in one of the church buildings, you are responsible for cleaning up after yourself, turning out lights, turning down the thermostats, setting the alarm when you leave, and reporting any damages done or any appliance that is not working that you are aware of in that building to one of the building deacons (Joe Harbuck or Don Johnston). Thank you for your help and support.

- **To receive TEXT messages from the church,** do the following: text @Poteau to 81010.

"Leading Small Groups With Purpose"

Wednesday Night Class

Encouraging all members to be in attendance. If you are absent, you can view last Wednesday's lesson on the church website.

Poteau Church of Christ Purpose Statement:

To bring people to Jesus and membership in his family, develop them to Christ like maturity, and equip them for their ministry in the church and life mission in the world, in order to magnify God's name.

Vision:

To see every person, from the core of our church, to the ever growing community, connected in a healthy small group.

Mission:

To help spiritual seekers become transformed Christians who model purpose driven lives and motivate others to do the same.

Youth Announcements

- **February 9th at 6PM: "A Night to Shine"**
"A Night to Shine" is a prom for special needs students. We will go to the Westark Church of Christ in Ft. Smith to help serve at the prom for the special needs students. You can actually be a date for one of the students, but there are many other ways to serve. It will be Saturday February 9th at 6pm. You have to register online as a volunteer at nts@westark.org
- **March/April: Spring Retreats...** This is a new thing but we will do a weekend retreat in the spring. More information will be available soon.
- **June 3-9: Camp Wyldewood:** (Summer Church Camp)

Teachers for this trimesare:

There will be a teacher's meeting for the Spring Trimester teachers Sunday January 21st immediately following Sunday morning worship in the multi-purpose building gymnasium.

Sunday Morning: Gina Rogers, Rita Broom, Don Johnston, Joe S.

Wednesday Night: Mandy Kirkes, Tina Smith, Linda Lashley, Bailey Olive, Mia Lum.

Coordinators: Nina Bowen - Crafts; Bev Thomas - Curriculum and Mia Lum - Teachers.

We will have lunch together and have our meeting. It's very important that we continue going over these things and stay united as a team of teachers and coordinators. Thank you all for your service on behalf of our children! God willing, see you then and there!

- Paul