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Programmer of the Month

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ers, conservative activists, and subject matter experts.

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JUNE 2015

WJLU 89.7 FM • WJLH 90.3 FM • DeLand/Daytona 97.3 FM • Deltona 102.7 • WMFJ 1450 AM

The Cornerstone Family of Stations



On your FM dial 89.7 WJLU New Smyrna Beach

90.3 WJLH Flagler Beach

91.9 WKWJ **Key West**

97.3 Deland, Daytona Beach

102.7 Deltona

Coming Soon 101.5 St. Augustine

On your AM dial 1450 Greater Daytona Beach

Reasons or Excuses? by Bill Powell



s there a difference between a reason and an excuse? I submit that there is, and you may ponder what does that have to do with the

price of rice in China. Well, let me explain and make this clear as mud. Or clear as crystal hopefully. In some circles it is all about results. Period. Have you heard anyone say, "I don't want to hear your excuses - I want results"? In the competitive world where we live, there are many venues where this is the mentality. Take football and many other sports. If you don't bring results, you are out. Too often in sports it's "Win and you're in" or "Winning isn't everything - it is the only thing." A common phrase is "Second is just the first loser." In many competitive circles there is no place for excuses. Any reason is just an excuse. "You could have tried harder. You should have prepared better. You didn't study enough. You should have anticipated. You need to learn to concentrate better. Pay attention."

Children are notorious for excuses. Have you ever heard one of these? "I forgot," or "I didn't know." How about "Why didn't someone tell me? I lost it. I can't find it. They made me do it." Flip Wilson, for those who can remember Flip Wilson, said "The devil made me do it." Too often a lack of effort, being ill prepared, complacent, indifferent or just plain lazy is the cause of excuses. Jesus taught us to count the cost before we start. "For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?" (Luke 14:28)

Here are a few proverbs that might help alleviate the excuses:

In everything the prudent acts with knowledge, but a fool flaunts his folly. (Prov. 13:16)

The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge. (Prov. 14:18)

The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it. (Prov. 22:3)

The scriptures are a wealth of knowledge that teach us how to succeed and develop the character necessary to avoid the pitfall of excuses. The Bible is a treasure trove given to us by the creator. Read it, study it, and meditate on it. No excuses.

Now am I saying there are no reasons why the outcomes were not good or expected? Are there only excuses? Absolutely not! Too often it is too easy to make an excuse, but many times there are reasons to explain why we don't succeed. Maybe the dog really did eat your homework. Your car did breakdown and caused you to be late. You did get a cramp. There was a wreck that caused you to miss the event. You did your best but it was just not good enough to win or finish. There is much truth to the saying "Just do your best." Winning is not everything. We can't all be superstars or geniuses. We will not enter God's Kingdom by our accomplishments. We are not saved by our works. We do not earn salvation. I do think, however, the Lord does expect us to do our best. We are saved by His grace. It is not of ourselves; it is a gift. I must now be honest. I have set you up.

Remember me telling you about St. Augustine? I said numerous times we would have it on the air by now. Well, it still isn't on the air. Here is what's going on, and you can judge if it is a reason or excuse. All we had left to do was have a site inspection to create a drawing and get a permit from the county.

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Looking Ahead

June 14 Flag Day

June 21 Father's Day & First Day of Summer

Check out the Community Bulletin Board at www.wjlu.org for more reminders about upcoming events, concerts, and special services.

Prayer Corner

have had some glitches with our plans for St. Augustine (see Bill's article), and we could use some prayer. We believe this is going to end with our antenna in an even more advantageous location, but there are some critical details to work out. Please join us in prayer as we push forward.



Scan The Cornerstone **QR** code with your iPhone or Android

You Are My Shepherd by Chris Johnson

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still

waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Psalm 23:1-3 KJV

from the heart of men who were moved by the and meat of his Word. Holy Spirit and are a great example of how He teaches us to pray.

These passages are especially useful to help guide us as we prepare our hearts for those times of life when the shadows of the valley grow darker. Those times will surely come to every man, and it is how we walk through those valleys that displays to the world where our faith truly lies. This month I found great encouragement from the song, "You are my

Shepherd" by Trisha Brock. Her lyrics remind us of the profound truth that as the people of God we will never want! I encourage you to mediate upon that truth. Our every need will be met by our gracious Shepherd! Now surely some of our desires for earthly pleasures might fall unanswered, but the one who keeps our soul for his eternal kingdom knows our every need and will always lead us to those still waters of his word and the rich green grass of his pasture. h how I love the Psalms! The depths Resolve through prayer and the power of the of these cisterns of truth are rich in Holy Spirit to be content in your circumstances humility and agony and fear and and look fully to the faithfulness of your Great faith. They bubble over with promises of hope Shepherd. Do you not know that he is the lover and assurance. When we come to them and and savior of your soul? In times of trouble drink, we taste the satisfaction of what Jesus David encouraged himself in the Lord, and we described as living water. They are expressions can do the same by faithfully digesting the milk

> May the words of the chorus from Tricia Brock's song bless your soul.

You are my shepherd in the wilderness Whom shall I fear? You are the God who goes before me My rock and my shield In troubled times you will provide And I shall not want You are, you are my God

Reasons or Excuses continued from page 1

We had a construction permit from the FCC, which has taken since 2003 to get. We had a lease for a tower to hang our antenna. All we needed was to get a simple building permit then install the equipment, and that would have only taken one or two days to finish. At the last minute the tower company told me they are tearing down the tower we had just gotten the lease for, and no one could climb it. There we were dead in the water. Either that is my excuse or the Lord had a reason.

We were given the option of another tower, which we are now in the process of getting FCC approval for. We believe it will pass muster. The great news is that we will be able to place our antenna higher (which is better), and the site is closer and more strategically placed to the population center. Praise the Lord! Be careful what you call an excuse - it just may be one of God's other reasons. There are all too many excuses made, but there are also many legitimate reasons. The scriptures teach us to know the difference. Choose wisely.



Focusing on the Essentials by Donna Bramlett



issues with my eyesight lately. Things that were very clear suddenly became fuzzy, followed by headaches and frustration. I really don't know

how Paul managed to glory in his weakness, because it has been anything but glorious. After three visits to different doctors, I have most of the issues resolved, but it has been a struggle that has dominated my days. I mean, everything I do demands good vision.

This truth extends far beyond eyesight, though. The way I view the world and people around me affects my attitudes and actions. If my vision is blurred, discolored, myopic, or nearsighted, I become less effective as an ambassador of Christ. My love withers as my world shrivels. In the midst of this eye problem, I attended the National Day of Prayer event at First Baptist Church Daytona Beach, and it was an effective vision corrector. This was

have been having some a community-wide event, and I would say it was the best one by far. It was not a performance, and the various participating churches were not competing for attention. In fact, the pastors who led prayers did not even mention which church they were from. We set aside our doctrinal differences for a couple of hours and just sought the Lord together in a spirit of unity. Amen.

> It's funny how the Lord will use a physical situation to teach me a spiritual lesson. There will be more of these prayer events, and I intend to be at each one. This is how we shape our community. Here is the secret to social reform - Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Keep an ear to your favorite Cornerstone station for announcements of future prayer gatherings - and join in! I'll see you there!

Where Do Our Fingers Point? by Mary Solari



ow many times during our childhood did we make a mistake and point the finger at someone else, like a sibling? I can't tell you

how many times, when faced with discipline as a child, that I too put the blame on someone else. As imperfect humans, it's only natural when the spotlight is on us, to shift the blame somewhere else.

In Genesis 3:11-13, even Adam pointed the finger at Eve for giving him the fruit which he ate, and then Eve pointed the finger at the serpent. Neither took responsibility for their own actions. For us today, a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves is required in order to stop focusing on the flaws and faults of others, and start turning the focus on ourselves.

Galatians 6:3-5 says: "If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, for each one should carry their own load."

Matthew 7:1-5 says this: "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

So how do we stop focusing on the faults of others and start looking inward? By humbly surrendering our will and purpose over to the care of God, asking him to remove our defects of character. Self examination is necessary to get to the root of our own insecurities that cause us to point the finger at others. Only after self examination will the love and compassion of Christ be able to dwell within us more fully.

