

This week was a fun week. I got to spend a lot of time with Wednesday. We always make sure and take that last week before she goes back to school and do a number of things. We have our own little routine, and she half remembers it. So, like, sometimes it's just a brand new idea that I have, and it's brilliant. And she loves it. And other times, she's like this is old. We've done this before. But either way, we get to spend that time together.

Well, I had to take a break and actually have some meetings this week. And in one of my meetings, I'm talking with this pastor, a friend of mine, and Wednesday's with me and Wednesday's singing, and she's dancing, and she's being Wednesday. And my friend is just laughing, because at some point I have to drink this potion that Wednesday made. And it's going to make me strong. And all of these things. And so she asked me how it tastes and I'm like, it tastes like garbage, but we do it. We drink it. I drank it, and she starts laughing. And she's like, I remember when my kids were that age and no matter what they made, it tasted awful.

And then she started to talk about her son and her son doesn't go to church anymore. He's a few years younger than me, and he stopped going to church because when he was a kid, he got in trouble for coloring too loud. His mom's the pastor, and he was in the back coloring. And the congregation, a couple of them came up and told him that he was too loud and needed to be quiet. So, the second he graduated, he stopped going to church. He'll go on Christmas. He'll go visit his mom, and when she's preaching, he'll go there. But he doesn't have a church at his home, and we talked about that. And I asked her, do you have anybody his age in your church at all? And she said, no.

If you look around, there's only a handful of us that are here most of the time. If I want to see my friends that came here with me, we're at a funeral. That's the only time that my generation goes to church anymore is for funerals. And that brings up a lot of concern for people, because if they're not here every Sunday, are they going to go to heaven? Who's protecting them if they're not here?

Some faiths, they're not going to go, even if they go on the holidays. Like, you used to be able to go on Easter and Christmas, and you were safe by some faiths. Those faiths now, believe that you're gonna go to hell. Some believe that as long as you send a check once a year, you're safe. That's good enough. That's good enough, doing God's work by giving money to a church. You don't have to do anything else.

And then there are others, like myself, that believe if you live a righteous life, it's great that you go to church. It's easier to live that life if you go to church. You've got more support here. We've got more friends. You've got more help. But you don't necessarily have to be here every week. But how do you live a righteous life if you don't go to church?

I asked everybody last week to read Hebrews 11. I'm not going to make Ron raise his hand and say that he did because I know Ron did, but I asked you to read it

because Hebrews 11 talks about the Old Testament and all the rules and how you're supposed to live. And it talks about all of the Covenants that God gave us and how all the prophecies were fulfilled through Jesus. So you don't have to do that anymore. So you don't have to memorize the 636 rules in Leviticus, which I can barely remember five let alone that many. But I asked you to read it so he can remember how Jesus came to live. So that we don't have to go through all of that. That makes it a lot easier living the righteous life because all you have to do is remember two rules. Love your God above all else, and treat other people like you want to be treated.

So, what about the first part? The second part's easy. You treat people how you want to be treated, you're doing good. What about the first part? How do you show God that you love them if you don't go to church? And what about our friends and family, that don't necessarily believe in God? The ones that don't know; the ones that question. Is it enough that God believes in them? That's a hard question. The easy answer is God loves everyone. And if they do live this life, then they will protect them, no matter what.

I don't actually know anybody who doesn't believe in God. I know a lot of people who claim to not believe in God, but when their family gets sick, they pray. When they get scared, they pray. When they're lost, they do a lot of blaming of God, but then they pray.

There's so many things that we don't know in life, but the one thing that we all know here is that God loves us, and they especially love those who are sick, those who are lost, those who are hungry, those who are cold. They especially love all of those people who can't love themselves. Those people that are lost and can't find their way back into the church for whatever reasons. They're angry because they're tired, because they're scared, because they feel they're going to be judged. There's a lot of those people. So, how do we help them? How do we get them here?

The Psalm today told us that as long as there's a little bit of love in their heart, God will protect him like an angel. They will engulf them in their wings and protect them from all the wrong that's out there and will help them when their time comes to join everyone in heaven. The biggest thing we can do is not make people come back. We want them here. We want them with us after this, but if we keep pushing them to come, they're not going to. But if we ask them to come and they don't come, don't worry. Just keep showing them that you love them, and eventually that love will grow and grow and grow in them. So, if they don't come here, at least start worshiping God somewhere, even if it's just in their own heart and their own house reading the Bible, watching our devotionals, Hearing God's word, and seeing it and recognizing that there is hope. And that there is a better place. Let us pray.