

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:45am
Morning Assembly 10:35am
Evening Assembly 6:00pm

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00pm

RADIO PROGRAM

The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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*"...doing honest work
with his own hands,
so that he may have
something to share"*

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
All Classes
Lev 1-5

Next Sunday
All Classes
Lev 6-10

This info is provided
to help everyone stay
in synch during our
three-year study thru
the Bible (Sunday AM).



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
ROGERS, ARKANSAS

Contending earnestly for the faith since 1866

January 7, 2018

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, U.S.
The sick: Mary Lou Lewis, Shirley Cole, Kathy Fletcher, Sylvia & Arvis Tatom,
Margaret Abel, Sandra Walsh, Richard Wike, and Nellie Shell
Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young and Helen Weiser

FIRST SUNDAY SINGING & ELDERS' REPORT: Tonight will be our monthly elders' report and singing. Can you join us?

SENTENCE SERMON – While the optimist thinks this is the best possible world (and the pessimist fears that it is), the Christian knows better.

Ruined Sermons

Have you ever heard a sermon that seemed completely disorganized? Or, perhaps the delivery was flawed? I've heard such sermons, and some would say I have done more than a few just like that. If a preacher is to preach, he should certainly learn **how** to preach and do the best he can each time he stands in the pulpit. But, the preacher is not the only one who can ruin a sermon.

When an audience fails to heed the warning, or repent at the rebuke, or take courage from the exhortation, whose fault is it? A preacher can do no more than

faithfully preach God's message. The duty to **receive** that message falls to the audience (Mt 13:18-23).

Of course, in one sense, a good sermon cannot be ruined. If the truth is preached in such a manner that people can understand it, then it has accomplished its purpose. As God spoke through Isaiah, "My word... shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please" (55:11). After all, it will judge us on that day. So, whether we choose to accept it (unto life) or reject it (unto damnation), the capable preaching of God's Word is never wasted.

- WKing

Through Ancient Eyes

The New Year is often filled with planning and goal setting for the year ahead. Sadly, for some those goals and aspirations will have already gone by the wayside before the end of January. Thusly, gym memberships are never used, new skills are never learned, and characters are never developed. So, how do we keep our character growing as Christians?

2 Peter 1:3-10 encourages us to keep growing. After his greeting, Peter informs his readers it is a goal worth striving for, because we can partake of Jesus' divine nature through knowing Him and His promises. The divine nature, he describes in part as "having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire." (2 Pe 1:4). The way he

suggests we do that, is by building our faith in God and His Promises.

Thus, he names faith first, because the other parts just support our trust in God. When we live virtuously, it becomes easier to trust a virtuous God. Consequently, when we grow in each of the areas he mentions we are more easily able to believe in a God with those same characteristics.

So, in our lives we are constantly able to trust God more by having self-control, by learning, by practicing commitment, and by loving as God loved. These characteristics are the pieces of the divine nature that Peter mentions of which we can partake (2 Pe 1:8). So take his encouragement and keep growing closer to God!
-JVenuso

"... for if you do these things you will never stumble." - 2 Peter 1:10

Another Perspective

What God's Love Looks Like

(Joseph's sermon last Sunday reminded me of the following story. It's something to think about, especially in hard times. *wk*)

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed fervently for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store up his few possessions. But one evening, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his hut in flames, smoke rolling up to the sky. The worst had happened — everything was lost.

He was stunned with grief and anger. "God, how could you do this to me?" he cried. Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

Discouragement comes easily when things are bad; but, we shouldn't lose heart. God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering. Remember, next time your little hut is burning to the ground — it may just be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God.

- Author Unknown

