

## 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

P.O. Box 447  
201 W. Chestnut Street  
Rogers, AR 72757  
479-636-3575  
www.downtowncoc.net



“Welcome to our assembly;  
but, you’re in my pew.”

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Today  
All Classes  
Lev 11-17

Next Sunday  
All Classes  
Lev 18-23

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

## 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, Diane Willis and Nellie Shell  
*Shut-ins:* Betty Jo Young and Helen Weiser

**GOSPEL MEETING** – Our gospel meeting with J.R. Bronger is scheduled for March 25-28. Mark your calendars now and make plans to be with us!

**OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER:** Spring Singing is April 20, VBS is set for July 15-19, & our Youth Lectureship (with Stephen Rouse) is August 3-4.



## DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ROGERS, ARKANSAS

*Contending earnestly for the faith since 1866*

January 21, 2018

## A Day at the Museum

A connoisseur of fine art, I am not. So, when I had the opportunity to accompany my daughter to the Museum of Fine Art in San Jose, I accepted. Perhaps this country boy could learn a thing or two.

A few pieces of art really stood out. For example, there was the huge piece of canvas smeared with clay. No pattern. Looked like someone had just left an old tent in the barn for a few months. And, there was a small canvas with three horizontal lines and a green triangle. This one had been jealously guarded since the 1930's. I'm not sure why.

And, so it went. It reminded me of the Emperor's New Clothes — the king parading around naked, thinking he was wearing magnificent clothes. No one had the nerve to tell him — until a small child finally spoke up and stated the obvious.

It is easy to get caught up in the haughtiness and arrogance, the glitz and the glamour of this life, thinking we have found something of worth. It takes a child-like heart of humility to see through the tinsel to the substance — and to live our lives accordingly (Mt 18:1-4).

- WKing

## Through Ancient Eyes

*“Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, ‘Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contribute out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on’”* (Lu 21:1-4). This powerful observation Jesus made demonstrates how we should give our all in serving God, and not just our extra time and resources.

However, Jesus was teaching something else here as well. The Old Law, especially the book of Deuteronomy, had a strong focus on not taking advantage of the widow, the fatherless, and the sojourner. Additionally, Israel’s failure in this area was one of the reasons they were sent into captivity (Jer 22:3-5).

Just before Jesus saw this poor widow, He said, *“Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love greetings in the marketplaces and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, who devour widows’ houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation”* (Lu 20:46–47). The reason she only had two copper coins is because they were not taking care of their widows.

Sometimes great devotion comes from difficulty; but, that is not an excuse to avoid helping those pushed aside by society (Ja 1:27).

*-JVenuso*



## Another Perspective

## Reactions to Rebuke

The instrument of any wise rebuke is the word of God (2 Ti 4:2). Rebuke from the word of God is a blessing both to the one who receives it and to the one who gives it. To the one whose sin and error is rebuked by truth, the blessing is clear: by heeding the rebuke given, the sinner will repent and be forgiven. To the one who gives the rebuke there is the blessing of turning a sinner from error and death (Ja 5:19-20).

But, some have no stomach for either giving or receiving rebuke from the word of God. Like the blind watchmen of ancient Israel whom God rebuked with words of condemnation, some today are *"silent dogs"* who *"cannot bark"* because *"they look to their own way"* and their *"own gain"* instead of the salvation of lost and dying souls (Is 56:10-11). There is no virtue in failing to rebuke sin and error.

Neither is there virtue in improperly rebuking the sinner. The censuring of sin must be wisely spoken to benefit the recipient as well as the giver (Pr 25:11-12). We render rebuke powerless when we speak it rashly, angrily, or self-righteously. A brother overtaken in a trespass is more likely to be restored by rebuke which is clothed with *"a spirit of gentleness"* instead of wrapped in a harsh spirit of superiority (Ga 6:1).

May we ever be wise in both the giving and the receiving of divine rebuke, for by it we *"discern knowledge"* and *"get understanding"* (Pr 19:25; 15:32).

*-Joe R. Price (edited for space)*