

## 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



Hold on tight!  
(But, let God steer.)

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Today  
All Classes  
Lev 18-23

Next Sunday  
All Classes  
Num 1-12

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

**Q & A** – The lesson tonight will be our monthly question and answer session.  
For future sessions, submit your question(s) in writing and sign your name!

**DATES TO REMEMBER:** Gospel Meeting, March 25-28; Spring Singing,  
April 20; VBS, July 15-19; and Youth Lectureship, August 3-4.

## Did not. Did, too. Did not.

Denial is not always wrong. For example, we *should* deny that the earth is flat. And, if we are *falsely* accused of wrong-doing, we should feel free to say so (Ac 25:10-11). But, sometimes denial is sin.

King Saul was wrong when he denied disobeying God (1 Sa 15:18-23). The Pharisees were wrong for justifying their covetousness (Lu 16:13-15). And, the church at Laodicea was wrong for denying its spiritual lethargy (Re 3:15-17). In each case, the guilty party argued they were right. But in each case, they were – in fact – deep in sin.

Jeremiah wrote, “*The heart is deceitful above all things*” (17:9). In fact, the heart is so deceitful, it can deceive even itself. How else can we explain the sin of denial? It is more than willful sin. It is excusing our behavior to the point that we do not believe that we HAVE sinned. And, therein lies the danger.

Repentance is fundamental to forgiveness (Ac 2:38); yet, it demands that we *acknowledge* sin in our lives. If we deny sin, then we have (in our mind) nothing to repent of; and thus, forfeit the very forgiveness we so desperately need. - **WKing**

## Through Ancient Eyes

Anyone who is afraid of heights has a good reason to be. The fear of falling is a real concern. Consequently, Scripture uses this picture throughout. It was on the high places where Israel often fell down before idols (Hos 10:8). However, even those who do not intentionally sin can find themselves in a lifted state, where it is easy to fall (1 Cor 10:12).

David and Nebuchadnezzar are perfect examples (2 Sam 11:1-5; Dan 4:28-33). These are two men who knew better — two men who did not go up to sin, but two men who did end up falling greatly. Proverbs has woman Folly calling the simple to come up to her high places (Pr 9:13-18).

One way to avoid falling is to avoid situations where we are likely to fall.

“The highway of the upright **turns aside from evil; whoever guards his way** preserves his life. Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” (Pr 16:16–18).

Though sometimes we are not brought to places where it is way to fall voluntarily. Thankfully, Jesus exemplified how to stay humble no matter what heights we may be brought to (Luke 4:9-13). He used the wisdom of scripture to keep a humble spirit about Him. May we guard our path closely so we may not fall.

-JVenuso



## Another Perspective

## Crucifixion

As an instrument of death, the cross was detested by the Jews. “*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*” (Ga 3:13, De 21:23); hence, it became a stumbling-block to them, for how could one accursed of God be their Messiah? Nor was the cross differently considered by the Romans. “Let the very name of the cross be far away not only from the body of a Roman citizen, but even from his thoughts, his eyes, his ears” (Cicero).

The earliest mode of crucifixion seems to have been by impalation, the transfixion of the body lengthwise and crosswise by sharpened stakes... The usual mode of crucifixion was familiar to the Greeks, the Romans, the Egyptians, Persians and Babylonians. Alexander the Great executed two thousand Tyrian captives in this way, after the fall of the city. The Jews received this form of punishment from the Syrians and Romans (*Ant.*, XII, v, 4; XX, vi, 2; *BJ*, I, iv, 6).

The Roman citizen was exempt from this form of death, it being considered the death of a slave (Cicero *In Verrem* i. 5, 66; Quint. viii.4). The punishment was meted out for such crimes as treason, desertion in the face of the enemy, robbery, piracy, assassination, sedition, etc. It continued in vogue in the Roman Empire till the day of Constantine, when it was abolished as an insult to Christianity.

- *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*

