

## 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

## Our GOSPEL MEETING

with  
**J.R. Bronger**  
is  
**March 25-28**

## CLASS SCHEDULE

**Today**  
All Classes  
Num 24-25

**Next Sunday**  
All Classes  
Num 26-31

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*

March 11, 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

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

**SENTENCE SERMON:** They say practice makes perfect — so be careful  
what you practice.

## Gamaliel – Contrite or Just Erudite?

Gamaliel, grandson of the renowned rabbi Hillel, is often viewed by Christians as a wise man. After all, his advice, recorded in Acts 5:33-40, was instrumental in sparing the lives of the apostles.

And, on the surface, his advice seems sound: “*If this work is of men,*” he said “*it will come to nothing. But, if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it.*” Who could argue? It speaks to the omnipotence of God, and it is a lesson many need to learn today.

But, Gamaliel still looked upon Christianity as a mere hypothetical:

“If it is of God...”, as though the apostles had offered no evidence. Yet, the apostles HAD offered evidence! And, Gamaliel knew it. He was a member of the same Jewish council that acknowledged the “*notable miracle*” done by the apostles, and confessed “*we cannot deny it*” (Ac 4:16). Unlike his fellow councilmember, Nicodemus, who saw the implications of miracles (Jn 3:2), Gamaliel chose to remain philosophical — and died that way.

Some are contrite and some are just erudite. Which are you? - *WKing*

## Through Ancient Eyes

Have you ever walked into a conversation and heard a single statement completely out of context? It can often leave us confused and requiring a clarification to make sense of it. Context is incredibly important. This is especially true in Scripture.

Some people take Isaiah 55:8-9 out of its context, which reads, *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* The point often made from it, is that since God’s ways are higher than ours, we should just relax because we cannot truly understand or obtain God’s ways and thoughts. However, in context it is actually saying the exact opposite!

The point of the previous paragraph (Is 55:1-5) is to call everyone who wishes to listen and understand God’s ways. The reason given is that His way is the only pursuit that truly satisfies. Then Is 55:6-7 reads, *“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near, Let the **wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts**”*

Thusly, this is not an excuse for us to not understand, but a call that we would desire to live out His ways and understand His thoughts. If we are not careful to understand, we take passages out of context and instead of learning His ways, we merely ‘confirm’ our own ways and thoughts.

-JVenuso



## Another Perspective

## Bearing Fruit In Old Age

*“The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing, to declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.” - Ps 92:12-15*

There's an old saying, "You're only as old as you feel!" I guess in my case that's a true statement. It didn't help that a friend (debatable) informed me that in dog years I'm at least four-hundred-eighty-three years old.

While there're several Greek words used in the New Testament describing those who've reached ‘old age’, there's no set number of years given that would qualify one to be classified as such. I know the psalmist said the average lifespan is seventy to eighty years (Ps 90:10), but as someone once said, "It matters not how long you live, but how well."

As years go by, our bodies and minds lose some of the strength they once had when we were younger, but these limitations don't mean we can't do anything at all. Our attitude in old age should remain the same as in younger days, which would be to do all we possibly can for the Lord (Col. 3:23). We have the examples of men like Noah, Abraham, Moses, Caleb, and others who proved their usefulness after growing older. David prayed that he could continue working for God as long as possible (Ps 71:18). Paul wrote to Titus explaining that older Christians can, and should, do a lot of things in the Lord's service (Ti 2:1-5).

Yes, other men may give up on the aged, but God has a purpose for all His people. We're never too old to bear fruit for God.

- Grady Rice