

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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Rogers, AR 72757
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Our GOSPEL MEETING

with
J.R. Bronger
begins today!

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
Younger Classes
Num 32-36

Next Sunday
All Classes
De 1-6

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 25, 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

CONGRATULATIONS! To Cody & Jill Ward on the birth of a son, Dierks Walker — and to James & Audra Butcher on the birth of a son, Wyatt James!

Q & A: Our monthly question and answer lesson will not happen this month due to the meeting, but will resume in April.

Alaska of the Desert Southwest

I'll never forget my amazement. The word was 'Alaska', and two college students were trying to help their teammates guess the word by drawing it on a piece of paper. But, both failed. Each had drawn a rough map of the United States, and then circled the region just south of California. Both defended their artwork on the same grounds — that almost any map of the U.S. places Alaska in the lower left corner, right next to Hawaii. Well, maybe they were scheduled to take Geography the **next** semester!

Parents and Bible teachers should note the implications. We may **assume** that our kids know the fundamentals. **Surely** they know the steps to salvation, the nature of faith, the need for repentance and baptism. **Surely** they know how to pray. **Surely** they know.

But, before we get too confident in our students' abilities, perhaps we should ask them to locate Alaska on a map. Then again, can **we** find it on a map? Or the plan salvation? Anyone?

- *WKing*

Through Ancient Eyes

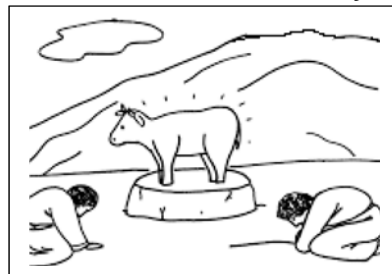
What do you think of when you hear the word ‘Idolatry?’ You may recall what the ancients practiced; how they would forge little figures of gold or silver. If you look around American culture you will hardly find this form of idolatry. So, how relevant are passages like 1 John 5:21, *“Little children, keep yourselves from idols?”*

An excellent example of the true nature of idolatry is found in Paul’s discussion concerning idols in 1 Corinthians 10:1-22. In his argument, he had them recall the golden calf instance back in Exodus 32 — the story where Aaron, the high priest of the LORD, was pressured by the people to make an image made of gold to worship. It was a powerful event that led many to die from their unfaithfulness to God.

Despite this containing image worship, Paul did not quote the verses that read, *“Up, make us gods”* nor *“and made a golden calf;”* The section he quoted was the second half of Ex. 32:6, *“And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.”*

Paul used this verse to identify the mindset of idolatry, and how it manifests itself. It is the mindset that chooses pleasure over relationship. It leads to sexual immorality, testing God, and grumbling against Him, all of which are examples from Israel’s history of idolatrous hearts. Idolatry is rampant in our culture and we need to take Paul’s warnings concerning idolatry, seriously: *“Therefore, let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall”* (1 Cor 10:12).

- JVenuso



Another Perspective

Have you ever wondered why there is such an effort to remove God from public consciousness? A recent article in the New York Times lamented that all the other industrialized countries were secular rather than religious, but America (in their view) remains religious.

The apostle John closed his first letter with this admonition: *“Little children, keep yourselves from idols”* (1 Jn 5:21). What these ‘anti-God’ zealots are pushing is idolatry. They seek to replace God with the State. They wish to have our ‘prayers’ answered by the ‘gods’ we have elected to federal and state offices. God is replaced by the government, the Lord by the President, and the Bible by edicts from the Supreme Court.

Peter warned: *“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage”* (2 Pet 2:19). Without God in the heart and consciousness of this land, we will become slaves of unimaginable corruption.

Without God there is no good and evil. Without God there is no objective meaning to life. Without God the human being has no free will. Without God there are no inalienable human rights.

For sure, as David proclaimed before his encounter with the giant Goliath, *“the battle is the Lord’s”* (1 Sam 17:47). But we must, like David, seek out five smooth stones and go to the front lines. We must take up the sword of the Spirit and not fear what man might do.

- J.R. Bronger (edited for space)

The War Against God