

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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You parked in the visitor's
spot, but I recall seeing
you here last week.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
All Classes
De 1-6

Next Sunday
All Classes
De 29-34

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

SINGING & ELDERS' REPORT: Our monthly singing and elders' report will be this evening at 6. Can you come? We hope so!

SINGING – Our annual singing with Tim Stevens and Dane Shepard will be Friday evening, April 20 from 7 to 9. Everyone is invited!



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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The Unvirtuous Virtues

Peter provides a well-known list of 'Christian virtues' in his second epistle (1:5-7); but, some would like to expand that list.

For example, some see open-mindedness as the greatest virtue. They are quick to assert the validity of all 'Christian' denominations — even all world religions. Truth is to them a subjective thing, open to various interpretations, each one of equal worth. The only time they condemn anything is when they judge you for having convictions.

At the other end of the spectrum are those who see hard-headedness as the ultimate virtue. Convinced they are the sole bastions of truth, they impose their legislative judgments — down to the details — on everyone else. When pressed for Bible authority, they respond with a self-confident, "That's just the way I feel about it".

Neither of these is virtuous. We can, and should, stand for truth while remaining broad-shouldered in matters of judgment. - **WKing**

Through Ancient Eyes

Today is unfortunately crowded; whether one considers it Easter, Passover, April Fools' Day, the spring equinox, or maybe a birthday. Whatever the association one may have, for Christians the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, should be our consideration.

The fact that Jesus is alive, despite being crucified, is significantly more impactful than any other event in human history. Yet, many will sadly push it aside to make way for egg hunts, or a good laugh. Though nothing is wrong with those things, we need to continuously be mindful of the implications of Jesus' resurrection on us.

Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians (15:3-5), referred to Jesus' death, burial, resurrection,

and appearance to witnesses to be of utmost importance! Consequently, he relayed what the Christian reality would be, **without** a risen Christ: *"And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied"* (1 Cor. 15:17-19).

Knowing Jesus did rise from the grave and conquered death, our heart should be full of joy believing His promise to raise us up in that final day. Praise God we serve a risen Lord!

-JVenuso



Another Perspective

"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven" (Ja 5:14-15). The question sometimes arises as to whether this instruction teaches a binding practice for us today. Let's consider the evidence.

The references in the New Testament to anointing with oil fall into six categories: messianic (Ac 4:26-27), metaphorical (1 Jn 2:20), refreshment (Mt 6:17), funerary (Mt 26:12), medicinal (Lu 10:34), and miraculous (Mk 6:13).

The medicinal and/or refreshment use of oil appears to be the only applications of the anointing with oil that fits James 5:14. No metaphor, messianic, or funerary language is indicated. And though anointing with oil was used to carry out miracles, miraculous spiritual gifts were only passed on through a direct gift from God or the laying on of the apostle's hands (Ac 8:14-19). This is not possible today since there are no living apostles. We can conclude that James is telling elders (who are called to the sick) to do what they can to offer refreshment and medical assistance to the sick and also to pray to God. If a member should request oil for refreshment or medicinal treatment, it should be done. If a member does so expecting a miracle, it should not.

- Kyle Pope (edited for space)

Anointing the Sick with Oil

