

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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**"I know gossip
is a sin, but..."**

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
All Classes
De 29-34

Next Sunday
All Classes
Josh 1-3

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

April 8, 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

WELCOME to Trina Slade who recently placed membership with us! Let's make Trina feel like a part of the family!

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

Restoring the Joy

David, the shepherd boy, enjoyed a close relationship with God — a relationship characterized by joy. But, by the writing of Psalm 51 that joy had been lost (vs. 12).

In David's case, the joy of salvation was lost due to sin; and, unrepented sin will have the same effect on us. But, other situations can rob us of joy as well. Hardships, for example, can lead to discouragement. Even simple neglect and apathy can, over time, rob a Christian of the joy of salvation.

Restoring the relationship (and joy) is possible in any of these situations — if we want it restored. Sins of 'commission' (like adultery) or sins of 'omission' (like apathy) can be overcome by forgiveness and a rededication to the things of God (Ps 51:1-2, 16-17).

Even the hardships of life can be overcome if we maintain an eternal perspective: "*Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning*" (Ps 30:5). Joy comes by focusing on the imminent sunrise! **- WKing**

Through Ancient Eyes

Christians are called to a great work. Jesus said in Matthew 9:37-38, “*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.*” This is each our work, to reach out to those who are lost. However, as we work we are not invulnerable. Trials and temptations will continue to test us. This reality can feel overwhelming.

So, how do we as a community of Christians both fight to spread the gospel of peace and keep our faith from deteriorating? Well, the people of Israel faced a similar dilemma. After living in captivity for seventy years, they returned home to a devastated Jerusalem. They had already finished the temple, but they were open and exposed to attack. Nehemiah lead the people as they rebuilt the wall. However, their forces were spread thin. It was an overwhelming task.

Nehemiah told the people, “*The work is great and widely spread and we are separated on the wall, far from one another. In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us*” (Neh 4:19b-20).

We as Christians use this same principle. We work together, and when one of us is under attack with temptation or hardship we rally to their side, trusting God will deliver. But, if the trumpet is never sounded we build an environment lush for falling away.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 Jn 1:9).

-JVenuso



Another Perspective

The Family Trip of a Lifetime

The trip of a lifetime is not to Disneyland. It is through life, to Heaven, for eternity (2 Ti 4:7-8). The Bible explains how you can take your family there.

1. **Teach them to love the truth and obey God as the top priority of life.** Teach them that the gospel is the “*power of God unto salvation*” (Ro 1:16) and that those who “*obey not the gospel*” are lost (2 Th 1:7f).

2. **Prepare them for the Journey to Heaven.** Prepare them to leave their ‘stuff’ behind (Lu 12:20f), to travel a narrow road that few travel (Mt 7:13f), and to overcome the distractions of the world (He 12:11f).

3. **Teach them about the consequences of sin.** Hell is hell (Mt 25:31f). Sin is not a way to glory, but the path to destruction. Because of it, hearts are hurt, families are destroyed, and souls are lost.

4. **Encourage them to be courageous in the face of adversity.** Suffering can help them grow stronger (1 P 1:3f). When our family sees hypocrisy in the church, remind them to focus their faith firmly in Jesus (Jn 6:63).

5. **Teach them about those they will see in Heaven.** We will meet our Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, the holy angels, and those people of faith we read of in the Bible. Faithful loved ones will be there, too (Re 14:13)!

How happy we will be if we have worked with our family so that we can go to Heaven together — the trip of a lifetime!

- Don Alexander (edited for space)