

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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**Bitter Christians cannot
sweeten the world.**

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
All Classes
Jn 5-6

Next Sunday
All Classes
Mt 15-17

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.

Sick: Mary Lou Lewis, Kathy Fletcher, Marsha Swim, Nellie Shell, June Self,

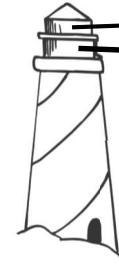
Richard Wike, Diane Willis, & Etta Frazelle

Military: Logan Dickey

Shut-ins: BettyJo Young, Helen Weiser, Shirley Cole, Margaret Abel, Erton Usrey

ELDERS' REPORT & SINGING – Tonight is our monthly elders' report and singing. Can you be here?

SENTENCE SERMON – Don't be so heavenly-minded that you become no earthly good (Ecc 7:16).



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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September 1, 2019

A 'Too Small' Faith

“Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Co 10:12)

It's a warning we hear often in any discussion of Calvinism with its 'perseverance of the saints' or 'once saved, always saved' philosophy. After all, warnings about falling make no sense if it is impossible to fall.

But Paul's admonition is much more than good debate prep. Like other warnings in the Bible, its primary application is to the reader. The message is not simply 'others can fall away from serving God', but more

critically, 'I can fall away from serving God'. There's a big difference. One approach says, 'Here, look at yourself in this mirror'; the other says, 'Here, let me look at myself in the mirror — I need to fix some things' (Ja 1:22-25). One says, 'I need all the help I can get'; the other says, 'You need all the help you can get'. One requires a good and honest heart; the other, not so much.

Such introspection is critical to our eternal welfare. Remember, the same God who created the heavens and



earth created us. The same God who tracks every sparrow also tracks our every move. And the same God who made us on the outside also made us on the inside. He knows everything we do and everything we think. It is a fool's game to believe we can avoid detection, that we will escape the consequences of our own sin — that we will never fall. Such an attitude betrays a 'too-small' concept of who God is — and a 'too-small' faith on our part.

Of course, there is a time to hold up the mirror of God's Word for others to see themselves. It's what the prophets did (Isa 1:16-17), it's what Jesus and His apostles did (Mt 23:23), and it's what any faithful teacher or preacher of God's word does today.

But even the preacher must turn the mirror around from time to time and do a serious self-examination (Ro 2:21-23). Otherwise, he runs

the risk of being a hypocrite — a 'falling away' of the most insidious nature. And what is true for the preacher is true for every Christian. We may not stand up in a public forum and preach God's Word, but our lives should reflect the principles of the gospel with every word and action. And that example should mirror the gospel image in every respect — which it will, **if** we have used the mirror of God's Word to mold us. *- WKing*



Faith in Context

If there is anyone who knows the psychology of human beings best, it would be God. After all, He is the one who created you. Before you were even born, He knew you; and He knitted you wonderfully while you were in your mother's womb (Ps 139.13-14).

When we're down on our luck and grief kicks in, who could be better to turn to? When we find ourselves in tough times, who else is more capable than God to get us through it?

It's no mystery that God works in the very seat of our emotions — our psychology — to help us when we're down and out, and to bring into remembrance how He has always cared for us, even when it seems the world has not.

When He asks us to think on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, and praiseworthy (Php 4.8), it's not difficult to see where He is leading our minds. God has worked in so many wonderful ways to bring us salvation. These comforting thoughts are an emotional tonic for our downtrodden days, tailored just for you.

When trouble arose for the Israelites, God was sure to let them know that they "...have forgotten the God of [their] salvation And have not remembered the rock of [their] refuge." (Is. 17.10)

Brethren, far be this from the children of God whose very existence depends on Him! Let us remember the things He has done for us. God has never left nor forsaken us — and He never will! (Heb 13.5)

- WHSmith