

## 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



When in doubt, don't.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Today  
All Classes  
Lu 9-11

Next Sunday  
All Classes  
Mt 18-20

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,

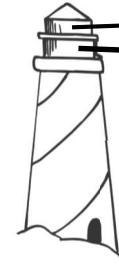
Richard Wike, Diane Willis, & Etta Frazelle

*Military:* Logan Dickey

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

**CLASSES** – Ladies' class, Tuesdays at 3:30 & 5:00 pm at the building. Talk to Mary Lou Armstrong for details. Men's class, Tuesdays, 6am at Village Inn.

**SENTENCE SERMON** – The emotions of the world are led by the popular culture; the emotions of the Christian are led by the Word of God.



## DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ROGERS, ARKANSAS

September 15, 2019

## Saving Murderers – And Us

Murder is one of the most heinous of sins. It was one of only a few crimes under the Law of Moses subject to the death penalty. Today, even those who are opposed to capital punishment will view murder to be reprehensible. Families of victims simply want justice.

But God can forgive murderers, too. After all, He forgave David (2 Sa 11:14-15, 12:13) and Saul of Tarsus (Ac 22:4, 1 Ti 1:13). God even forgave those who crucified His Son (Ac 2:23, 38).

Of course, this does not mean that 'jailhouse salvation' is a 'get-out-of-

jail-free' ticket. If so, every convict on death row would be baptized. Sin still has consequences, and some of those can be very stiff. The murderer may still have to forfeit his life — or spend the rest of his life in prison. But there is a fate much worse (Mt 23:33).

The world forgives those it wants to forgive, and it withholds forgiveness from the rest. But God will forgive 'whosoever' comes to Him on His terms (Re 22:17). The eternal consequences of sin have been addressed by the blood of Jesus. So yes, God can forgive murderers. *And if He does that, He can forgive you, too!*

- **WKing**

## Another Perspective

The sincere Christian is concerned about stewardship of worldly possessions. On the first day of the week, he will "*lay by in store as he has been prospered.*" Many religious groups require a minimum of one-tenth of their members' income. Some have even sent bills to their members, specifying the amount they owe.

We should remember that, in addition to the tithe, the Israelites were required to furnish animals for the many sacrifices, take time off work to attend the annual feasts, as well as take care of the needy among them. Some estimates of the total amount contributed by the Old Testament faithful range as high as one-third of their income!

Christians are to give *as they have prospered* (1 Co 16:2), which suggests proportionate giving; but, to bind the ten percent figure is unwarranted. God has not, under the new covenant, reduced this matter to a mathematical equation. We are reminded of the abundance of God's blessings to us, and we are made keenly aware of the great need for the gospel to be spread. We are then called upon to wrestle with these sober considerations weighing heavily upon our conscience. We arrive at our decision, the execution of which not only supplies in generous fashion the needed money, but, in the process, causes us to mature and grow stronger in the faith. May God help us to appreciate the wisdom of His plan and to be faithful in its practice.

– *Bob West*  
(edited for space)

## On Tithing

## Faith in Context

Paul wrote “You were sealed with Him in the Holy Spirit of promise” (Eph 1.13). To the ancients, this was not hard to understand. Seals were a regular part of ancient culture. In particular, seals were used by people in a position of authority to verify that a certain item had truly come from them.

Seals were also used for security purposes. A document would be rolled and folded, with a string tied around it and fastened with a small spot of clay. A seal would then be pressed on this piece of clay. With this method it would be easy to tell if the document had been tampered with. The broken seal would let the recipient know it had been opened. In short, a seal communicated authenticity. One

knew they had a legitimate document that had met the authority's approval if it had the seal intact.

So, it is along these lines that we should understand Paul's statement that we have been sealed with the Spirit. In fact, Paul also defines a Christian as a person who possesses the Spirit of God. “For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God” (Rom 8.14).

When you approach the Throne of God and are judged for all that you've done (2 Cor 5.10), will your seal be intact? Have you been led and sealed by His Spirit? Or have you been allowing sin to destroy your authenticity before God?

– *WHSmith*

