

## 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



**Peace fills the soul when  
Christ fills the heart.**

## CLASS SCHEDULE

**Today**  
All Classes  
Mt 18-20

**Next Sunday**  
All Classes  
Jn 10-11

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.

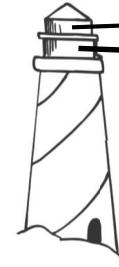
*Sick:* Mary Lou Lewis, Kathy Fletcher, Marsha Swim, Nellie Shell, June Self,

Richard Wike, Diane Willis, & Etta Frazelle *Military:* Logan Dickey

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

**KING'S OUT OF TOWN so:** Will Smith, Adult Class & PM Sermon today  
Ken Parker, AM Sermon today Jason Hill, Adult Class Wednesday

**SENTENCE SERMON** – Citizenship in the Kingdom requires humility of heart, not tolerance of sin.



## DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

**PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

September 22, 2019

## Culture of Leniency

Christians are a forgiving people — or at least we should be. God has been merciful to us, so we should be merciful to others. This is fundamental to Christianity.

But mercy is not leniency. Forgiving your child for some wrong when they come to you in genuine sorrow is one thing. Ignoring their rebellious behavior — even from a misguided sense of love — is foolish.

God has His rules — a way of life He wants us to live. If we ignore those rules, and choose to live a defiant life,

we will pay a fearful, eternal price (Ro 2:5-9). It is what justice demands.

Although He has made provision for forgiveness, not everyone will be forgiven. That is simply because not everyone wants it.

And what is true of religion is true in the culture at large. Society has rules. Those rules will not always reflect the perfect righteousness of God, but they serve to maintain some semblance of peace and safety in a society so that we can live our lives in — well, in peace and safety. This, too,

is by God's design (Ro 13:1-4, I Ti 2:1-4).

But what should be done with those individuals who choose to ignore the rules of civil society? Some want to blame society itself for the misdeeds of criminals — some going so far as to absolve the perp from all wrongdoing. “You shoplifted from the store? Not a problem — they are a greedy corporation anyway”. “You raped a teenage girl? Not a problem. It's your cultural heritage”. “You shot and killed a cop? Not a problem. Those crooked cops had it coming”. When civilized society excuses uncivilized behavior, it soon becomes an uncivilized society (Judg 21:25). This country is currently on that fast track. The brakes (the rules of civil behavior) are failing.

And what should children of God do? Simply uphold what is right. Live a godly life — and expect the

same of others. Parents in particular should train their children to do what is right — no excuses (Ep 6:4). And to the extent that we can shape societal behavior, we should do so. Be the light. Be the salt. Exert your influence for good every chance you get.

And don't forget to pray for our nation. Maybe it's not too late to turn it around. *- WKing*



## Faith in Context

If any of us know the feeling of sorrow or agony, then the emotions described in the garden of Gethsemane are relatable. In Mark's account, we read that the soul of Jesus is deeply grieved as He nears the cross (Mk 14).

In Luke, it's described even as agony for Jesus. Also, His disciples are experiencing sorrow with Him, and they sleep because of it (Lk 22). As relatable as these emotions are, it depends on what we do with them. In Gethsemane, we see two examples we can learn from: the example of Jesus, and the example of the disciples.

Sorrow drove Jesus to pray to the Father, and sorrow drove the disciples to sleep. Jesus acknowledged the frailty of the flesh in His

prayer, and the disciples succumbed to it. Jesus relied on the power of God, and the disciples did not.

When the disciples experienced their own Gethsemane of sorts, they believed they could handle it on their own by simply sleeping it away. This is a perfect example of trusting in the flesh. When Jesus was in sorrow, He knew He needed the Father more than ever, and prayed to Him. This is our perfect example for trusting the Father.

I hope we can all learn to pray more; we desperately need it at all times. And just remember, when the disciples chose not to pray that night, they were tempted — and they abandoned Jesus at His time of arrest. As for you and me, “pray that you may not enter into temptation,” whatever that temptation may be.

*- WHSmith*