

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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**Kneeling often will help
you to stand better.**

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
All Classes
Jn 10-11

Next Sunday
All Classes
Mt 21-22

**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

QUESTION & ANSWER – Tonight we will have our monthly Q and A lesson. Once again, we appreciate all who have submitted questions.

SENTENCE SERMON – Many of the shadows we experience in life are a result of us standing in our own sunshine.



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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

September 29, 2019

Church Matters

The word ‘church’ is from the Greek word ‘*ekklesia*’, meaning a group that has been ‘called out’. In the New Testament it generally refers to the ‘called out’ people of God.

Sometimes the word refers to the one church which Jesus built and paid for (Mt 16:18, Ac 20:28), often referred to as the ‘universal church’. At other times ‘church’ refers to groups of Christians meeting in various cities (1 Co 1:2, Re 1:4, etc.), often referred to as a ‘local church’.

But whether we are talking about the

one church or a local church, ‘church’ matters. And here’s why:

The one church that Jesus built and bought with His own blood is, by definition, comprised of saved people. In his letter to the church at Ephesus, Paul referred to the church as the body of Christ (1:22-23). He affirmed that Jesus has only one body (4:4) and that He is the Savior of that body (5:23). He never promised to save anyone outside His body. If one can be saved outside of Christ, then Christ paid a dear price for an un-

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necessary organization. The blood of Jesus was required for us to be forgiven of our sins (Ro 5:6-9). That makes membership in the one church fundamentally critical to your salvation.

And what about all those local churches? How important are they? Just like the one church, local churches were (and are) by God's design. Their organizational structure (1 Ti 3), their mission (Ep 4:11-12), and their worship (Ac 2:42, Ep 5:19) are all spelled out in the New Testament. We could almost as easily discount the importance of the one church as we could the local church.

The local church where you are may be few in number (Mt 18:20, Ac 17:34), or it may be large. It may temporarily lack qualified men to serve as elders (Titus 1:5), or it may be fully, scripturally organized. Either way, the local

church serves a vital function for you. In the assembling of saints together we find encouragement and exhortation (He 10:24-25). In fact, the New Testament lists about forty responsibilities that Christians have toward one another, including not only encouragement and edification, but prayer, comfort, bearing burdens, and teaching. In short, we are to love one another (1 Th 4:9, etc.). It's tough to survive in this sin-cursed world without such a support group. The local church matters.

In our increasingly secular society, the concept of 'church' gets little attention. But among God's people, being a part of that 'called out body' is acknowledged to be eternally important. And being part of a local 'called out body' is important as well. May we all learn to appreciate it — and be grateful to God for it!

-WKing

Faith in Context

“Nobody knows what I am going through. Why am I the only one dealing with this? Why is this happening to me?”

Certainly, at times we have all felt this way. We've asked these questions either to ourselves, our friends, or to God. Interestingly, thinking that our problems are unique to us, is not unique to people — as I said, we have all felt this way before.

Now, if anyone on earth had a truly unique problem it would have been Jesus. “He Himself bore our sins” on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness (1 Pt 2). No one else has ever dealt with this! And if Jesus thought His problem in facing the cross was an insurmountable one (as many of us

do as we look at our personal issues) then the whole world couldn't be justified or have peace with God (Rom 5).

The simple truth of the matter? It's not about you. If we continually think, “Why me?” then we encourage selfishness over our work for others. Jesus, faced with His task of suffering that was set before Him, simply gave Himself for the sake of everyone (Gal 1, Eph 5). It wasn't about Him as He marched to the cross; and it isn't about you as you march in faith. If we learn anything from Jesus, the only way to lose our problems is to lose ourselves (Mk 8), and to lose it for the sake of Him and for others.

- WHSmith

