

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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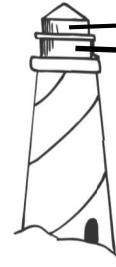
**The religion of Christ is
not a cafeteria plan.**

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
All Classes
Mt 21-22

Next Sunday
All Classes
Mt 23, Mrk 12

**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**

October 6, 2019

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 we will have our monthly elders' report and singing. Come and be encouraged!

SENTENCE SERMON – A Christian is just a nobody telling anybody about somebody who can save everybody.

Magic Kingdom & God's Kingdom

The Woman and I were finally able to complete a 'bucket list' item the other day by visiting Disney World. And yes, it lived up to all the hype. From the eye-popping architecture to the costumed characters, to the rides and food, it's easy to see why they call it the Magic Kingdom.

But while Disney certainly stirs the imagination, there is another Kingdom that stirs my soul. It is called the Kingdom of God — and even Walt would be wide-eyed at its wonder. Let me tell you about it.

It is a kingdom unbounded by time or space — an eternal kingdom, existing in the hearts of people (Dan 2:44, Lu 17:20-21).

It was designed by the same One who designed the Grand Canyon, the Rocky Mountains, the Smokies, and the Ozarks; but this Kingdom is His magnum opus, His crowning work. Nothing else compares to it (Ge 1:1, Job 38:4, Ps 19:1, Mt 13:45-46, 16:26).

He paid a dear price to bring His Kingdom into existence. It was an

eternity in the planning (Ep 3:11), and He literally shed blood to make it happen (Mt 26:26-29).

But though it cost Him dearly, He has made the entrance available to all. Regardless of one's background, socio-economic status, or bloodline, He has invited everyone to come and enjoy the wonders of His Kingdom (Mt 28:19, Re 22:17).

Of course, one must meet certain conditions to enter in. Leave your wallet at home, but be sure to bring the humility of a little child (Mt 18:4), a spiritual mind (Ro 8:6), and — oh yes — be washed from your sins by the blood of Christ in the waters of baptism (Jn 3:5). You may have to endure some short-term pain (Ac 14:22 — because many will resent your kingdom citizenship), but citizenship in this eternal kingdom is worth it all.

Once inside, we are treated to “every spiritual blessing” (Ep 1:3), including forgiveness of sins, a close relationship with the Builder, and eternal life. He provides a travel planner, His Word, which explains not only how to find His Kingdom, but how to conduct oneself while there (2 Pe 1:10-11).

True, it is not a magical kingdom, but it is something far greater — a miraculous Kingdom. Unlike the hocus-pocus of Disney, which can provide a temporary escape from reality, God's Kingdom can transform your life. It can translate a broken sinner into a responsible, selfless individual — changed from the inside out, for eternity.

I'm glad we went to Disney World; but I am infinitely more thrilled to be a part of God's Kingdom. It's the difference between Mickey Mouse and the Mighty Maker — and it's not even close. *- WKing*

Faith in Context

In 2018, the Barna Group conducted a survey asking Christian Millennials about their expectations to evangelize those who do not share their faith. Shockingly, nearly half (47%) believe it is wrong to share personal beliefs with someone of a different faith.

How do they justify this? The study shows that Millennials are aware/sensitive to the heated cultural temperature around spiritual conversations. 40% of Millennials think any disagreement about spiritual matters is judgmental against the other person, so they don't even try.

What is the reality in 21st-century America? The cultural difficulties they face are a small problem compared to their lack of evangelizing. This, simply put, is spiritual apathy.

The 1st-century Christians truly had one of the most difficult cultural environments to deal with when they went out to evangelize with the Gospel. In the church's infancy, the Jews persecuted God's people (e.g., Acts 5.17-42; 7.54-60; 8.3). Just a few decades later, the Romans persecuted Christians by murdering them, ridiculing them, and alienating them from economic stability (Rev 13.7-17). Now that was a violently hot cultural temperature and a hard life to live, but that didn't stop them! Just read the book of Acts and you will see how it spread like wildfire over the years and the world over!

Christians know that Jesus saves us from our sins and offers eternal life (Jno 12.44-50). Christians know this is the time of salvation (2 Cor 6.1-2). Do you know this? Do you act on it? Or have you given up?

- WHSmith