

## 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



Never whittle on God's  
end of the stick.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Today  
All Classes  
Mt 23, Mrk 12

Next Sunday  
All Classes  
Mt 24

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.

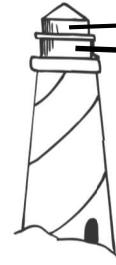
*Sick:* Mary Lou Lewis, Kathy Fletcher, Marsha Swim, Nellie Shell, June Self,

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

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

**WELCOME!** – We are happy to have Wanda Crass place membership with us! Let's do all we can to encourage her – as she does us!

**SENTENCE SERMON** – The Will of God will never take you where the Grace of God does not care for you.



# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ROGERS, ARKANSAS

October 13, 2019

## The Yoke of Bondage

*“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”*

- Ga 5:1

The bondage that Paul refers to is not a physical bondage, such as slavery. It is the bondage to sin. Even so, we need to understand what this spiritual bondage is.

Bondage to sin comes in two forms. The first is that bondage which God spoke to Cain about: *“if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it”* (Ge 4:7b). We become ‘slaves’ to sin when we allow it to reign in our lives

(Ro 6:12-14) — when it becomes our ‘walk’.

But there is another type of bondage to sin. It is the bondage that we are under when unforgiven sin remains in our lives. Regardless of how ‘good’ we are, sin condemns us (Ja 2:10). And, without forgiveness of that sin, we remain in bondage to it. No other effort, prayer, operation, or good work will remove that yoke of sin. Only forgiveness will.

What Moses could not do, Christ did. But it is up to **us** to take advantage of that offer of grace.

- *WKing*

## Another Perspective

## What Hinders You?

When the eunuch heard the gospel, he responded to it favorably. He asked Philip, “*What hinders me from being baptized?*” (Ac 8:35-38). Many people today do not exhibit the submissive attitude of the eunuch. Instead, they hesitate to accept the truth of the gospel. There are many reasons for this hesitation.

**Family** – Some hesitate to be baptized because of family. They fear that by rendering obedience to the gospel of Christ, they might somehow offend family members who oppose the truth. However, Jesus said, “*He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me*” (Mt 10:37).

**Peer Pressure** – Some hesitate to be baptized because of peer pressure. They are too ashamed and embarrassed to obey the gospel. However, Jesus said, “*Whoever shall be ashamed of Me and My words, of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed*” (Lu 9:26).

**Pride** – Some hesitate to be baptized because of pride. They are too arrogant to submit to such a humbling act. But Solomon wrote, “*Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall*” (Pr 16:18).

Many excuses can hinder people from being baptized, but not one is legitimate. The truth is, **nothing** hinders you from being baptized – except **you!**

- Aaron Erhardt (edited)

“*And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*”

Ananias to Saul  
- Acts 22:16

## Faith in Context

Jesus wanted His disciples to remember something very important: the world hates Him and will hate them also. Because Jesus chose them to send His message out into the world, the world will not love them. He makes this point more clear by reasoning that if they persecuted the Lord, then the servants of the Lord will experience the very same. (Jno 15.18-20)

This is not persecution for mere persecution’s sake, however. Jesus let us all know that this was a suffering intended to be the purest form of service to all mankind, and He shows us the purest example of it – “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Mk 10.45) This is our example. We, as the Lord’s ser-

vants, suffer. It is not suffering for the sake of suffering, but it is suffering for the sake of serving.

Is there anything positive here? After all, this seems pretty bleak. Well, if you read the last portion of John 15.20, after Jesus gave the disciples the hard truth, He gave them some good news: “If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.”

Some in this world will listen to the teachings of Christ, and some in the world will listen to us today. Take courage in the face of opposition. Don’t think there isn’t a world who cares — there are some souls waiting to hear from you.

- WHSmith

