

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:45am
Morning Assembly 10:35am
Evening Assembly 6:00pm

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00pm

RADIO PROGRAM

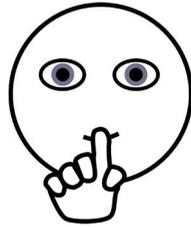
The Bible Speaks



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



**One example of wisdom:
Having something to say
and not saying it.**

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
All Classes
Jn 15-17

Next Sunday
All Classes
Mt 26:1-35

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,

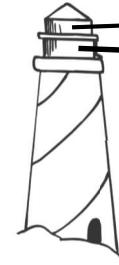
Richard Wike, Diane Willis, & Etta Frazelle

Military: Logan Dickey

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

WELCOME! – We are happy to announce that Carlie Sobol has recently placed membership with us! Let's do all we can to encourage her!

CONGRATULATIONS! – Congratulations to Sophia Smith and Jose Buser who were recently married! Let's keep this couple in our prayers!



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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

November 10, 2019

Pictures – and Passing Time

It was one of those rare evenings when The Woman and I had little to do – so she brought out the picture albums. Now, few things in life evoke the range of emotions that old pictures do. From humor to sadness, pictures from the past defy detachedness.

There were, of course, the usual baby pictures – reminders of a time when they (and we) were more innocent. There were the pictures of aged relatives, now dead, whose memories will live with us – even without the pictures – until the day we die.

And then, there were the pictures of fellow Christians we have known through the years. Some are dead. Some have fallen away. But, some – like us – have just gotten older.

Do not think that these memories stir up in any way a desire to relive the past. The Bible warns against such yearnings (Ec 7:10, Ph 3:13-14). But they help us to think about the swift passing of time and the need to prepare for eternity – and this is good.

Besides, who really wants their hair to look like that again?

-WKing

Another Perspective

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did any of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth — His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Long centuries have come and gone, and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built, all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

– Dr. James Allan Francis

One Solitary Life

Faith in Context

What is with the “messianic secret” theme we read within the Gospel of Mark?

While Jesus exercises great power and authority, He repeatedly gives orders to conceal this power. Jesus prohibited the demons from making His divine connection known (1.24-25, 34; 3.11-12). He prohibited His disciples from spreading the claim that He is the Christ (8.29-30), and from reporting the revelation of His divine glory (9.9). He commands those who witnessed or received His power of healing to tell no one (1.44; 5.43; 7.36; 8.26). Examples abound, as do theories. So why did Jesus want to keep it secret?

In antiquity, claims to Messiahship came and went, and they were corrupt and misleading. The most common kind was a Messiahship equivalent to a warmongering, geo-political leader. But this is not

the Messiah God had in mind (Ps 22; Is. 50.4-9). God’s Messiah had to endure the passion. There is no other way to understand it.

Jesus’ reluctance to have reports of His miracles and identity spread prematurely is found in Mark’s conviction that Jesus’ Messiahship cannot be understood apart from His passion. The Centurion’s proclamation at Jesus’ death removes any doubt concerning the nature of His mission, “Truly this man was the Son of God!” (Mk 15.39). Thus, our discipleship cannot be properly lived out until all misunderstandings of Jesus are stripped away.

The religious world today, much like in antiquity, perverts the true nature of our Messiah. So it is that Mark’s Gospel, and his “messianic secret” theme, is a powerful device that challenges its reader to rid themselves of any misunderstandings of their Lord. We would do well to closely read the true message of our Savior.

- *WHSmith*