

## 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  
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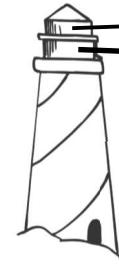
**The Plan: God's work  
in God's way –  
let's do it!**

## CLASS SCHEDULE

**Today**  
All Classes  
Lu 22, Jn 18

**Next Sunday**  
All Classes  
Lu 23, Jn 19

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**

December 1, 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,  
Diane Willis, Shirley Cole, Etta Frazelle & Betty Alley *Military:* Logan Dickey  
*Shut-ins:* BettyJo Young, Helen Weiser, Margaret Abel, Erton Usrey, BPennington

**WELCOME!** We are happy to welcome Jarod King as a new member with us! Let's do all we can to be an encouragement to him!

**SENTENCE SERMON** – Jesus can turn water into wine, but He can't turn your whining into anything.

## Do You Need to Be Baptized?

That's a good question; and, the answer is, it depends. If you view baptism as a human tradition — a somewhat foolish ritual that will add you to some religious club, or make your spouse and your friends happy, or increase your odds “just in case” — then don't bother. You'll be wasting your time — and you'll have to redo your hair for nothing.

On the other hand, if you have been reading your Bible (or hearing it preached), and have been impressed with your own sinfulness — if you

have come to realize your need for a Savior, and that Jesus is that Savior — then yes, you need to be baptized into Christ (Gal 3:27) for the forgiveness of your sins (Ac 2:38). It is eternally important for you that you do this.

And if you can appreciate the horrible death that Jesus died on the cross for you — and if you want to show Him your deep gratitude for that atoning sacrifice — then yes, you need to do this. In fact, He would like nothing more than for you to do this — today.

- *WKing*

## Another Perspective

## Was Jesus Really God?

Does the fact that Jesus was tempted mean that He was not God (in the flesh)? After all, James 1:13 states, “*God cannot be tempted with evil*”.

The answer is ‘no’! The Bible teaches about the sins of the world (1 Jn 2:16). The devil can tempt us by no other means. How could he tempt God in heaven with the lust of the flesh, with the lust of the eyes, with the pride of life? What would he offer God in heaven?

But when Jesus came, and was born of the virgin, and became a partaker of flesh and blood, He could be tempted to sin, and He could have sinned! I cannot even imagine or speculate at the consequences if Jesus were to have rebelled against the Father. But Jesus did not yield to temptation to sin. Using the scriptures (the very same power we can use to repel the devil), Jesus refused to sin (Mt 4:4,6,10).

If He was tempted to sin, could Jesus then be God? Yes! What did the apostle Thomas say of the tempted (yet without sin), arrested, murdered, buried, resurrected, flesh and bones Jesus? (Lu 24:36-43 and Jn 20:19-25). Thomas said, “*My Lord and my God*” (Jn 20:28).

Let us never emphasize the deity of Jesus by denying His humanity; nor let us emphasize His humanity by denying Jesus’ deity. Jesus was God in the flesh — Emmanuel!

– Roy Diestelkamp (edited for space)

## Faith in Context

Some consider their Christian faith as a bulwark in *all* instances against society — a buck to the *entire* system. Yet, honorable behavior of Christians toward the rest of society was quite important to Paul.

Christianity was initially seen as a subversive faith; many thought it vile, disruptive, and damaging to the social order of things. However, the opposite is true. Christianity provides stability for social order in the world (e.g., the overall stability of Western culture today is an extension of Christian principles).

As Christians endured persecution, Paul was determined to instill the qualities of Christ into their minds, rather than have them ‘buck the system’. He told Timothy to, “...give the opponent no occasion for slander” (1 Tim

5.14), so that, “...God’s name and the teaching might not be slandered” (1 Tim 6.1). Paul also directed Titus to instruct brethren to behave so that, “...the opponent might be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us” (Tt 2.8).

Paul admonished the brethren in Thessalonica to live in such a way as not to disrupt society, and to behave properly toward outsiders (1 Thess. 4.11-12). The Christians in Rome were even told to subject themselves to the governing authorities lest they be condemned (Rom 13.1-5).

We, of course, do not submit to anything that attempts to usurp or dismiss God’s law (Acts 4.18-20), but in everyday situations, regardless of the trials we may endure, we must represent Christ to show the world the rationale, the morality, and the love that is God and His Son (Jno 13.35).

– WHSmith