

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00pm

RADIO PROGRAM

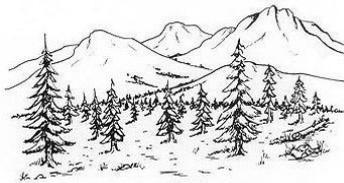
The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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Rogers, AR 72757
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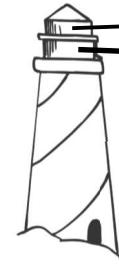
*Be still and know that
I am God. – Ps 46:10*

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
All Classes
Lu 23, Jn 19

Next Sunday
All Classes
Jn 20

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 8, 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

CONGRATULATIONS to José and Sophia Buser at the birth of their baby girl, Elaina Scarlet! Mother and baby (and rest of the family) are doing well.

SENTENCE SERMON – The best way to be at peace with yourself is to first be at peace with God.

Providing Cover for Hate

The relationship between the Jewish leaders and Jesus has been called ‘a crucifixion in search of a crime’. After all, Jesus posed a threat to their position, their prestige, and their profitable temple trade. They wanted Him dead, so they went in search of a crime — a capital offense to provide cover for their hate.

Never mind that they judged Him guilty first. Never mind that they used false witnesses to make their case. Never mind that they violated their own traditions — and even the law of

Moses itself — to make their case. They wanted Him dead, so the means didn’t matter.

And the same thing happens today. In politics, in corporations, in education, and even in personal relationships, an individual may end up in the ‘cross-hairs’ for almost any reason. And if the haters have little regard for truth and justice, bad things can happen.

May God’s people never be guilty of such — or of supporting those who are.

- *WKing*

Another Perspective

In the mid 90's at the height of the ethnic cleansing war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, groups of Muslims, Christians, and Jews were quoted by a newspaper article to have said that they no longer believed that God is alive. The suffering they faced, such as torture, genocide, and rape was so intense that it drove them to utter such words. Human hearts cried for deliverance from God; but nothing came. *"Why, God?"*

This question has baffled philosophers since time immemorial. It is all the more excruciating for Christians, since the God of the Bible is One who is all powerful and all loving.

Where then do we stand? Do we have an answer? Simply put, it lies in the domain where human faculty ends, and faith begins.

The Bible says in Romans 8:18-21: *"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the One who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God."*
I believe the Bible. *– Chen Boon Tai (edited)*

Why Suffering?



Faith in Context

Revelation reads like a confusing book what with all of the monsters, angels, bowls, cups, trumpets, special numbers (and the list goes on). But a basic question confronts the reader and undergirds the entire book: *Who is worthy of honor and worship?*

When we read the fantastic imagery in the book, John is (by inspiration) lifting the veil off our fleshly eyes to show us a glorious picture of our God and His Anointed One in comparison to the horrific and disgusting picture of a world influenced and deceived by Satan. John ultimately is revealing to us a truer spiritual reality than what we see in the physical world (that otherwise physical and deceptive 'pleasure of sin for a season' kind of world.)

John's use of all this imagery is to tell us that he knows the answer to the question above. But he goes further than just telling us 'who'. He also shares with us the consequences of giving God the honor that He alone deserves, and of violating His honor due by giving it to another for the sake of living an easier life (as Rome in the first century — or society today for us).

As Christians, if we refuse to share the honor of God with society — at any cost — then our own honor in God's sight and in His kingdom is assured (Rev 2.10). If we fail to reserve honor for Him alone and compromise with the world, then we will incur a loss worse than any loss in this world — the 'second death' (Rev 20.14-15). *– WHSmith*

You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.

– Rev 4:11