

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00pm

RADIO PROGRAM

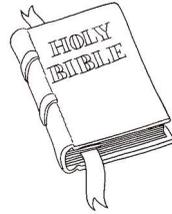
The Bible Speaks



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



**We walk by faith,
not by sight.**

2 Co 5:7

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
All Classes
Jn 21

Next Sunday
All Classes
Mt 28, Lu 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.

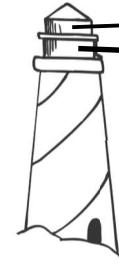
Sick: Mary Lou Lewis, Kathy Fletcher, Marsha Swim, Nellie Shell, June Self,

Diane Willis, Shirley Cole, Etta Frazelle & Betty Alley *Military:* Logan Dickey

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

MARRIAGE CLASS – The King’s will host a marriage class beginning this January, either Monday or Tuesday evening (*let them know your preference*).

CONGRATULATIONS to the Tony and Sandra Shell family on the recent marriage of their daughter, Emily, to Charlie Collins!



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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

December 22, 2019

We Are Family

Most Christians are aware that they are part of a large, spiritual family. We are “*brothers*” in a generic sense: siblings with equal standing before God, our “*Father*”.

As members of this spiritual family, we enjoy numerous blessings. We have others who care about us — a Father whose care is perfect, and brothers and sisters whose care, at times, is not. And, as heirs of our Father, we stand to inherit an eternal home — a home whose beauty we cannot even imagine in this life.

But being part of any family demands certain responsibilities. Siblings are to “*love one another*” — a duty which Paul defines in **behavioral** terms (1 Co 13:1-7). And we are to “*love*” our Father — a duty which John also defines in **behavioral** terms (2 Jn 6).

If these traits are lacking, our very standing in the family is jeopardized; and yes, we forfeit our inheritance as well. So, hear your older brother, John: “*My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth*” (1 Jn 3:18). Are we listening? - **WKing**

Another Perspective

Bright Lights During Busy Holidays

One of the best ways the devil is able to get to us is when we are distracted and occupied with worldly things. This is often the case when it comes to the busy holiday season which is undoubtedly the busiest time of the year for most.

We go out and get some shopping done. We have plenty of events and parties with families and friends. We may work a few extra hours to make up for the extra money we might spend. These things are not inherently wrong in and of themselves. However, it is easy to get sidetracked by these matters — and Satan moves in for the kill.

The holiday season is no excuse to allow our lights as Christians to fade. It should be just as bright as any other time of the year. If we let ourselves get too carried away and too distracted without keeping our focus on God, then we will fall and fail Him.

Let's make sure that our lights are burning bright all of the time, so that those who are lost and living in darkness can realize they also need Jesus. Let's make sure that we put on the armor of God and keep it on, so we don't fall to the schemes of the devil. Above all, let's ensure that we keep God first and thank Him for all the wonderful blessings that we enjoy all through the year — and during this time of year as well. May God bless us all and may we endeavor to serve Him all the days of our lives.

- John Pollard

Faith in Context

If I get a stain on my shirt, there isn't much I can do to cover it up. Maybe add some water to it, try to scrub it out, or use my coat to conceal it. Yet, there is always some wag who will point it out and embarrass me. I wish they didn't see it. I hoped no one would know.

But sin is a whole lot easier to conceal, and hopefully nobody ever sees that, right? I don't want anybody to know that I am a sinner, right?

Jesus said, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must... take up his cross daily and follow Me." (Lk 9.23). We often take this as bearing a burden, and it certainly is — but there is more to it than that.

A person who carried a cross in the

ancient world wasn't simply carrying a cross. What he was doing was proclaiming to all those around him, "I am guilty of a crime, and am about to be executed for it!" Likewise, when **we** are carrying our own cross, it is an admission that we are guilty, humiliated, and shameful in sin. Ultimately, we show it as an instrument of our own death.

What we **do not** do as Christians is act as if we are holier or better than those around us. Instead, we proclaim with our cross that we deserve death **daily** for our sin. This allows the world to see that Jesus' words are not taken lightly.

We are sinners. Once we proclaim that to the world, and our own deserved death, then we can preach that new life, raised in Christ (Col. 2.13). — *WHSmith*

"You, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive" — Col 2:13