

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00pm

RADIO PROGRAM

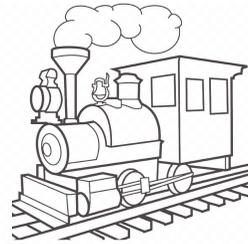
The Bible Speaks



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



The right train of thought
can take you to a better
station in life (Ro 12:2).

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
All Classes
Ac 2

Next Sunday
All Classes
Ac 3-4

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

January 12, 2020

Hard to Understand

*“Paul, according to the wisdom given to him,
has written to you, as also in all his epistles... in
which are some things hard to understand”*

– 2 Pe 3:15-16

I well remember the first time I read the book of 3rd John. Being a blue-collar scholar, I had no commentary to fall back on. Understanding was mined one painful nugget at a time — and this one had me stumped. Long story short: I confused the names of Diotrefes and Demetrius, and was reading them as the same. How could John condemn **and** commend the man at the same time? When the light bulb came on, my face turned red.

On the other hand, I still puzzle over some passages. The book of Revelation makes good sense, looking at the larger message; but the details can boggle the mind. Or take Romans 5 — a passage that has been called “*the most difficult part of the New Testament*” (Barnes). Such passages can become fertile ground for false doctrines (premillennialism, total depravity). Better to start with simpler passages and **then** move on to the ‘meatier’ parts. Such an approach can save you some embarrassment — and it might even save your soul.

- WKing

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 & Rai Starr *Military:* Logan Dickey

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

MARRIAGE CLASS – Continues this Monday at 7pm at the King’s (session 2 of 6). Singles, couples, and prospective couples of all ages are invited.

SENTENCE SERMON – Obstacles are what you see when you take your eyes off the goal.

Another Perspective

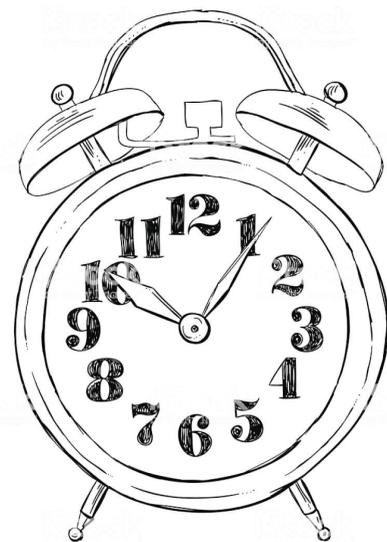
Growth is intentional. Some think that growth in Christ is something that happens willy-nilly, whether we've decided to or not. But unlike physical growth, which can occur with little or no conscious thought on our part, spiritual growth is always the result of deliberate decision. There is no such thing as unintentional progress in the life of a disciple.

Growth is costly. There are only twenty-four hours in the day. Whatever time it takes to do the things that result in spiritual growth — that will be that much less time available to do other things. As one of our 'valuables,' spiritual growth is like any other thing of value: its cost is in proportion to its value. In the long run, we will have about as much spiritual growth as we're willing to pay for — by the sacrifice of other time-consuming things.

For example, most people who have taken spiritual growth seriously have found that they have to sacrifice a certain amount of sleep in order to engage in prayer. Concerning Jesus, we are told: "*Rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed*" (Mk 1:35). For us, there may very likely be the same kind of decision that Jesus had to make: 'Do I get up and pray before the day's activities begin, or do I lie in bed a little longer?' Spiritual growth is costly, and the alarm clock may well present us with the day's first price tag.

– Gary Henry (edited for space)

Taking Time To Grow



Yet Another Perspective

Just about everyone recognizes the Mercedes Benz logo; and practically everyone knows what the golden arches represent. The cross also is widely recognized, even by those who hold to different faiths.

What should also be easily recognizable are the actions and lifestyle of a Christian. Just as the soldier wears a certain uniform so, too, does the Christian (Ep 6). As a lighthouse shines for all to see, so also should a Christian's example beam out to the world (Mt 5). Things like honesty, joy, love, and self-sacrifice should characterize a child of God. Obedience, righteousness, peace, wisdom, and kindness should be our way of life. These are some of the trademarks of a true Christian. These things should be recognized by all people,

just like they do that big red sign with the yellow shell on it.

What do people see in you? Do they recognize Jesus? Do they know who you are? Do they know what you stand for? Consider the true markings of a Christian and make them reflect in your life. It is important!

– Mike Walls

