

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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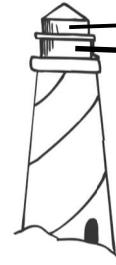
Running up stairs
strengthens the heart;
running down people
weakens it.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
All Classes
Ac 6-7

Next Sunday
All Classes
Ac 8-9

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 26, 2020

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: Betty Jo Young, Margaret Abel, Erton Usrey, & Billie Pennington

MARRIAGE CLASS – Continues this Monday at 7pm at the King's (session 4 of 6). Singles, couples, and prospective couples of all ages are invited.

DATES TO REMEMBER – Gospel Meeting, John Guzzetta, Mar 29-Apr 2
Singing Weekend, Tim Stevens & Dane Shepard, Apr 17-19

Like Jesus, Like Paul – Like You?

“Be followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” – 1 Co 11:1

At one point in his life, Paul (or Saul) was a persecutor of Christians. And you don't have to have a doctorate in theology to know that Paul does not want us to follow him in **that** example. But in many ways Paul was a follower of Jesus — and he tells other Christians (you and me) to do the same. For example:

Both had a love for God. Like Jesus, Paul strove to have a conscience “void of offense” before God (Ac 23:1). Are you a follower of Paul (and Jesus) like this?

They shared a love for people. Like Jesus, Paul had a servant's heart — even willing to die for the sake of others (2 Co 4:5-12). Do you follow Paul (and Jesus) in this?

They shared an eternal focus. Like Jesus, Paul kept his eye on the heavenly goal (Ph 3:13-14). He was willing to give up present status to win an eternal crown. Are you a follower of Paul (and Jesus) like this?

Paul was not inherently stronger than any of us; but he **did** take the example of Jesus seriously. And so should we.

- *WKing*

Another Perspective

As a 40-year law enforcement professional with a background in tactical and high-risk operations, it is not my intention to create panic or undue concern. However, I believe a bit of honest discussion and preplanning is beneficial. This article is written with the intention of giving local churches some food for thought and provide a framework for reacting to an active shooter incident. The recommendations contained herein are recognized in the field and are congruent with the way law enforcement officers and civilians are being trained nationwide.

As an elder, I also hope to remind us that our first responsibility is to attend to the scripturally authorized work of the local church. We invite strangers to attend our worship services and we should always be a welcoming group of Christians anxious to teach the truth

of God's Word to whoever will hear it. As a result, we must never abandon our spiritual service of worship for the sake of security. We should also study God's word so as to be well-trained and knowledgeable on scriptural truth regarding our decisions to physically defend ourselves. Not intending to write this article as a Bible study on those issues, I would leave it to elders and preachers to provide the appropriate and relevant biblical teaching.

Moreover, we should remember that these events are statistically rare. Only a very few violent acts have occurred at churches of various denominations. It is important not to lose our perspective and be unnecessarily fearful, paralyzed, or overly suspicious of people we meet. We must not lose sight of the blessings that we enjoy and cower in fear of things that will likely never occur. Instead let us be reasonably attentive to our environment, and recognize the need for some level of preparedness. – *Mike Gentry (intro, "Improving Church Safety", Truth Magazine, v62n5)*

Faith in Context

“There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” (Prov. 16.25)

There are many ways which seem right to a man. The self-righteous man pats himself on the back and takes pleasure in his own self-worth (Lk 18.9-14). There is the way of the fool who fumbles around, not knowing his left foot from his right), yet he justifies his way (Ecc 10.3; Prov 15.21). There are the ways of the sinners, scoffers, and the ungodly who find joy in themselves at the expense of others (Prov 2.12-16).

You may drive down the highway and it seems right, but maybe you feel uneasy about it. You may not be sure it is the right road. At first it seems right, but when you get to the

end of that road you find that it is not the place you intended. Now there are many roads and ways in life that may feel like the right way at times, but every way should be thoroughly tested.

How can you find the right way? How can you test if the road you are on is right? Steer your mind and thoughts towards God's Word. It is the light to your path in this world (Ps 119.105). It is what will equip you for every good thing in the sight of God (2 Tim 3.16-17).

The world is dark and has many dead ends, but “the steps of a man are established by the Lord, and He delights in his way” (Ps 37.23).

– *WHSmith*

