

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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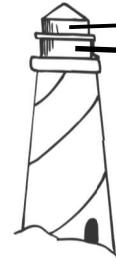
**God is able to forgive us,
but we must learn to
forgive ourselves.**

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
All Classes
Ac 10-11

Next Sunday
All Classes
Ac 12-14

**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**

February 9, 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

WELCOME to Leah Jones, Melody Brister, & Bently Jones who recently placed membership with us! Let's make them feel welcomed!

CONGRATULATIONS! To Brock & Natalie McKeel (and Brylee, Brayden, and the extended family) on the recent birth of Brooklynn Jean!

The Big Picture vs the Small Stuff

Have you ever obsessed over the mundane? We are not talking of obsessive-compulsive behavior (like washing your hands every few minutes). No, we're talking about just spending too much time, energy, or worry over stuff that really doesn't matter in the long run. Have you ever done that? Well, I know I have. It's a hard habit to break.

It's why Solomon wrote that it is better to go to a house of mourning than to a house of feasting (Ec 7:2-4). It's not the place we *want* to go; but it's the place we *need* to go — because that's where we learn to put

things in perspective. Burning the toast may be a big deal on some random Monday morning before work. But, on the morning of a funeral for someone you love, burning the toast just really doesn't matter that much.

Life, with its toys and joys, can blind us to the important things — the eternal things (2 Co 4:4). Christians, of all people, should get this. So, let's focus on the big picture. Let's set our affection on things above, and let the world sweat the small stuff. Let's think about heaven — a lot.

- WKing

Another Perspective

The Unfaithful Child

Bill and Fred are both faithful in their attendance and active in the work of the local church. Unfortunately, each man has a grown child who does not serve the Lord faithfully. The spiritual lives of Bill and Fred seem similar in many ways, but when it comes to dealing with the unfaithful child there is a difference.

When Bill is asked about his son, he is honest in describing the situation and urges everyone to do all they can to help restore his son to faithfulness. If anything is said to Fred, he immediately becomes defensive and makes excuses for his son. While Bill wishes people would be more direct in dealing with the soul-threatening sin in his son's life, Fred is continually worried that someone is going to say the wrong thing to his son and 'offend' him.

Parents, let us love our children and seek to train them when they are young. Then, if they should choose not to remain faithful, let us remember two things:

- 1) We must love Jesus (and His teachings) even more than our children (Mt 10:37).
- 2) Our love for our children is a very shallow love if it does not extend to their souls.

Parents, think carefully about this painful subject. Do not ever allow your love, pride, embarrassment, shame, or anything else to stand in the way of that which is needed to bring your child to repentance.

– John R. Gibson via 'Christian Living'

Faith in Context

In the book of Jude, the author is set on identifying those who promote some form of gospel (which may arguably still be correct and true in word). The book attacks a very particular issue centered on some teachers who preached the gospel — those who “crept in unnoticed” (Jude 4).

It was of such importance to Jude to note who these people were, because what they did would affect even the very salvation of the community (Jude 3).

So today, in the rare case of one being a truthful speaker, yet a living liar, their legitimacy is not merely grounded in truth, but in how they misbehave in their ethical living. Their actions will ultimately result in division (Jude 19).

In Jude's warnings, it was not so much the fruit of their message that he was concerned about, but the fruit of their own lives and how they lived out the godliness the apostolic message promoted.

If one lives in licentiousness rather than godliness, then their actions are what belie the Spirit they claim to preach. They pervert “the grace of God into licentiousness” (Jude 4). Things like sexual indiscretions, association with idolatry, and promotion of authority (as opposed to humble, meek service) are just some of the indicators to watch for (Jude 8, 16)

In many cases, we are to “test the Spirit” (1 Jno 4.1) to know if what people speak is the truth. In other cases, we must test the behavior of some to see if they live according to the message of God. Let us pray we never make the mistake of allowing wolves to creep into the flock.

- WHSmith