

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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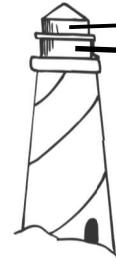
Trading an ounce of
principle for a pound of
popularity is a bad trade.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
All Classes
Ac 12-14

Next Sunday
All Classes
Ac 15-16

This info is provided
to help everyone stay
in synch during our
three-year study thru
the Bible (Sunday AM).



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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ROGERS, ARKANSAS

February 16, 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

CONGRATULATIONS to Jose Buser, who was recently baptized into Christ! We welcome him to the Downtown family!

SENTENCE SERMON – A person is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose. – Jim Elliot

God's Got This

How could a loving God allow so much evil and pain in the world? Why doesn't He just fix it? Such questions have been the springboard for many atheistic claims through the years. And they seem logical on the surface — but look a little closer.

Remember it wasn't God who introduced evil and pain into the world. That would be Satan. Don't ever lose sight of that fact. God created the heavens and the earth as a perfect paradise. Even today, we use the phrase "Garden of Eden" to describe a place of perfect beauty and tranquility.

God created angels with 'free moral agency'— just as He did us (2 Pe 2:4). But just like us, when the devil and his angels decided to sin, chaos was the natural result. Chaos isn't God's fault. That's on the devil — and us.

So, why doesn't God fix it? Well, what do you think He was doing when He hung His Son on the cross? He was fixing what Satan (and we) fouled up. The fact that He's not fixing it on our timeline is not His problem. That's on us. Our job is to trust Him — to trust that He's got this. And He **does** 'got this'. Don't ever doubt it.

- *WKing*

Another Perspective

Overcoming Political Contempt

by Arthur C. Brooks (edited)

To start us on a path of new thinking about our cultural crisis, I want to turn to the words of the ultimate original thinker, Jesus. Here's what He said. "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven." Love your enemies! Now that is thinking differently. It changed the world starting 2,000 years ago, and it is as counterintuitive today as it was then. But the devil's in the details. How do we do it in a country roiled by political hatred and differences that we can't seem to bridge?

We need to make it personal. How many of you love someone with whom you disagree politically (perhaps a parent or sibling)? Are you comfortable hearing someone on your own political side insult that person, or speak about them with contempt (a conviction of the worthlessness of another)?

How do we break the habit of contempt? Even more, how do we turn the contempt people show us into an opportunity to follow the teachings of Jesus, to love our enemies? We can ask God to give us the strength to do this hard thing — to remove political contempt from our heart. Of course, we will disagree with others — that's part of democracy. It is right and good, and part of the competition of ideas. But let's commit to doing it without contempt. I'm calling each one of you to be missionaries for love in the face of contempt. Run toward that darkness — and bring your light.

Faith in Context

When Jesus said in Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth," did you know He was actually informing us that even money contains certain attributes of deity?

This is why Paul could write that if we are beholden to money in our lives, then it becomes idolatry to us (Eph. 5:5, Col. 3:5). In these passages, he provided within those catalogues of sins of mention covetousness or greed — and he put an aside in both of those passages, "[It] is idolatry!"

How is it that covetousness and this idea of money being our master can be an idol?

Let us consider for a moment what money seemingly promises us. It promises us some kind of security, some kind of freedom from want, and freedom of fear from what the future holds. It promises us a certain level of comfort, the power to do things, and it seemingly promises us happiness. However, just like the idols of the Old Testament, these idols have no power in what ultimately matters.

And, unfortunately, for those who trust in riches, their money has no ultimate power over life and death.

Fortunately, for those who put their trust in God and His Son Jesus Christ, in all things whether blessed or cursed, is the promise of what money cannot buy: eternal life (1 Jn 2:25). In this singular promise, God offers true security, true freedom, a future, comfort, power, and joy. *- WHSmith*