

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

Our GOSPEL MEETING has been POSTPONED.

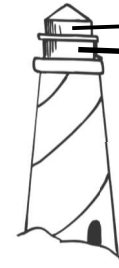
See update below.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
All Classes
Ac 25-26

Next Sunday
All Classes
Ac 27-28

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

March 22, 2020

Love and the Corona Virus

“I’m not afraid of any virus!” says one. “Well, I love others enough to keep away from them. After all, I may be a carrier!” And thus the discussion has raged for days. You may well find yourself leaning in one direction or the other — which is fine. Everyone is entitled to their opinion. But in the heat of the debate, let’s not lose sight of the bigger picture.

Some see the big picture as Hebrews 10:25, but that’s not the issue here. Everyone involved in the discussion knows that passage — and agrees with it. Others see the big picture as

respect for human life — caring for others (especially elderly Christians) who are made in the image of God (Ge 1:27). But that’s not the issue here, either. Everyone involved in the discussion knows that passage — and agrees with it. Many passages are offered up on both sides to make the case; and some folks can seem ‘holier than thou’ in the process. Ouch.

The big picture, at least in this discussion, is Romans 14:1 (ESV) “...not to quarrel over opinions”. Our elders will take all these passages into account — and make the call. And we should be supportive of their decision. At this hard time, it’s the most loving thing we can do. - *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: Betty Jo Young, Margaret Abel, Erton Usrey, & Billie Pennington

UPDATE – Our Spring meeting & our Spring singing have been postponed until the fall (tentatively). Also, our regular worship and class times have been significantly altered. Be alert for emails, text messages, phone calls, our website and Facebook pages to stay abreast of the latest news and decisions made by our elders to facilitate our worship while keeping everyone safe.

Another Perspective

How One Church is Dealing with Corona

Notice from a faithful congregation in Indiana:

“For reasons of health and safety, we will NOT be meeting for Bible Classes this week (and until further notice). We WILL meet for one abbreviated service Sunday at 10:30.”

And then, the comment from the faithful preacher there:

“I would add that this was a lengthy discussion and difficult decision for our Elders. They wanted me to stress that this is not a test of someone's "faithfulness" whether they attend or not. We have MANY older members and others who are "at risk" with regard to respiratory issues. So this is NOT a "forsaking the assembly" matter; it is a matter of taking care of one another. In our lifetimes at least, this situation is unprecedented, so love, grace, and generosity are called for over harsh or critical judgments, cf. Matt.9:13. Additionally, this is not government persecution. Instead, it is a request for consideration regarding the health and safety of everyone — our members, their families, and everyone else, cf. 2 Cor.8:21.”

Thanks, Philip Strong, for these words of wisdom. We can let our light shine by the humble attitudes we bring to this situation – or we can give non-believers another cause to blaspheme. Let's use this opportunity to reflect the longsuffering of our Savior, “Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice...’” We can do this.

- *WKing*

Faith in Context

“Everything Means Nothing if I Can't Have You” – *Shawn Mendes*

These are simple, romantic lyrics. They also have a strong focus on the partner this singer loves. If I were on the receiving end of such sentiment, I would be terrified.

If someone ever thought that way about me, they would be so disappointed because I am a flawed human being. I can hardly find my life essentials at Walmart, and I am supposed to give significance to everything in that person's life?

I wonder if people place these kinds of expectations on a spouse. If such is the focus in marriage, then I can only imagine those expectations would turn into resentment. So then, what expectations should we have in our marriage?

Our Lord's words place an eternal perspective on marriage when He said, “...in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage” (Mt 22). We also realize that marriage is not a ‘be all and end all’. It is merely a model of the eternal happiness with God (when we read of the joy and celebration of marriage in this life) to depict what our next life with God will be like (Rev 19).

This perspective ought to help us view marriage as something that ultimately looks forward to a life with God, and it ought to reverse our expectations toward ourselves.

If we would but place our marriage in its eternal context, then we won't find ourselves being disappointed by our spouse. We rather will find ourselves doing what we can to match our relationship on earth to the relationship which awaits us in heaven.

- *WHSmith*