

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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**Our
SINGING
has been
POSTPONED.**

See update below.

CLASS SCHEDULE

**Today
All Classes
Romans**

**Next Sunday
All Classes
I Corinthians**

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

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,

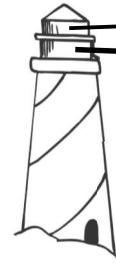
Diane Willis, Shirley Cole, Etta Frazelle, & Rai Starr *Military:* Logan Dickey

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

UPDATE – Our Spring singing has been postponed until the fall (tentatively).

Also, our regular worship and class times have been temporarily suspended.

SENTENCE SERMON – It's not the rock you see that you stumble over,
it's the rock you don't see – so stay spiritually alert!



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

**PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

April 5, 2020

Gaining Entrance

*“In this way there will be richly provided
for you an entrance into the eternal
kingdom” - 2 Pe 1:11*

Few moments are more exciting in a young person's life than when they receive that acceptance letter from THE university. Years of study, which only get more demanding as they advance through the grades, finally paid off. Those times they chose to stay home and prep for the big exam instead of going out with their friends, those times they struggled with an especially difficult class and doubted whether they had

‘the right stuff’ to get through — those times finally paid off big time.

Or maybe it wasn't college. Maybe it was that challenging journeyman program where you learned to master a trade. Or maybe it was landing that dream job — when you beat out a dozen other applicants to finally get where you wanted to be.

Those are the challenges life is made of — the struggle to learn, to grow, and to succeed, despite the difficulties. But amid those challenges and struggles, let's not lose sight of the most important challenge of all

>

Faith in Context

— gaining entrance into the eternal kingdom of Jesus Christ. It's the one entrance exam that has eternal implications for your soul.

That kingdom already exists (Mk 9:1, Col 1:13). It is a spiritual kingdom, without borders, defined by the rule of the King, Jesus, in one's heart (Lu 6:46, 17:20-21). Entrance into that kingdom requires faith in Jesus as King, the Son of God and Savior of the world (Jn 8:24, 14:6). It requires a penitent heart (Mt 3:1-2). And, it requires that one be baptized “for the forgiveness of sins” (Jn 3:5, Ac 2:38).

But this is not the end of the process; it is only the beginning.

Peter was writing to Christians in chapter one of his second letter when he explained that “in this way” we can enter the eternal kingdom (vs 11), and “if you practice these qualities you will never fall” (vs 10). It becomes a

matter of eternal significance that we master “this way”, “these qualities”.

And while it is not hard to understand these qualities, it can take a lifetime to master them. Faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love — these are the ‘essential elements’, the ‘data points’, the ‘skill set’ (pick your metaphor) that Christians must strive to master if we would gain entrance into the eternal kingdom.

The grace of God will sustain us in the challenging times; but grace provides no excuse for slackers (Ro 6:1). So, let's determine today to seek entrance into the most valuable institution ever devised in the history of humanity — not by the wisdom of men but of God — the eternal kingdom of Jesus. It is the most important decision you will ever make.

- *WKing*

Read Luke 14.8-11.

The concluding lesson in the ‘parable of the chief seats’ is, “Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” In fact, Jesus made this point on a number of occasions (Mt 23.12; Lu 18.14). It was one He emphasized when witnessing hypocrisy and pride.

What our Lord has given here is a deeper understanding of humility in the kingdom of God — a necessary principle. It was so necessary that this truth was not dared forgotten by those in the early church. Paul, James, and Peter taught this to those who desired to be true followers of the Lord. “Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in

humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Ph 2.3-4) “Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will exalt you.” (Ja 4.10) “Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for ‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you.” (1 P 5.5-6)

What does this mean? Simply put, it is a basic law in our Messiah's kingdom: the only way mankind can go up (heaven) is for us to go down (humble yourselves).

Jesus and His disciples explained it easily enough to us. The question for us is whether we have forgotten this principle in our daily service to the Lord and others. If so, then let us not lose another moment!

- *WHSmith*