

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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Rogers, AR 72757
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**Happiness is
a direction,
not a place.**

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
All Classes
1 Corinthians

Next Sunday
All Classes
2 Cor & Galatians

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.

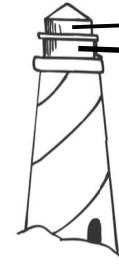
Sick: Mary Lou Lewis, Kathy Fletcher, Marsha Swim, Nellie Shell, June Self,

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

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

HANG IN THERE! The current pandemic will be over soon. In the meantime, remember to reach out to your Downtown family for any needs or concerns you may have. We can't always see each other, but love remains.

SENTENCE SERMON- True happiness is not attained by self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose. – Helen Keller



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

April 12, 2020

A Rock – or THE Rock?

Rocks — they come in all shapes and sizes. Some you throw, some you must haul in a wheelbarrow, and some you can build a house on.

That's the kind of Rock that Jesus is (Ep 2:19-22). When the storms of life batter us down — which they eventually will — those who build on the Rock will survive (Mt 7:24-25). Of course, every Christian knows that; but it's easy to forget.

It's easy to forget because we turn our focus from Him to something (or someone) else. A husband or

wife may look to their spouse as their rock. Or we may see our savings as the stabilizing force of our life — especially our future. We may come to depend on government to be there to protect us from difficulties and to secure our future. Or, we may even see self as a rock, so that we trust in our brains, our brawn, or our blamelessness (Lu 18:9).

But none of these provide a stable foundation on which to build a life, much less an eternity. In the end, money, friends, and our own feeble efforts will fail us. But Christ is truly THE Rock — **so trust Him!**

- WKing

Another Perspective

Placing the Lord First

Through the years there has been a lot of talk about whether a Christian must sin — whether it is possible for one to keep the law of God perfectly. Some say that man cannot live perfectly, for God says, “*all have sinned*” (Ro 3:23). Others say that man must be able to keep God’s law perfectly else man’s free moral agency is destroyed and God is responsible for man’s sin. While a great deal of time and rhetoric has been devoted to this issue, it seems to me that the question is somewhat moot. Whether we can or cannot live perfectly in God’s sight does not speak to the reality of the fact that we simply do not.

To be sure, the standards of God’s word are idealistic, and the pattern set forth is perfectly exemplary. We are to be “*pure*” (1 Jn 3:3) and “*holy*” (1 Pe 1:16) even as we ought “*also to walk even as he walked*” (1 Jn 2:6). Nevertheless, while the idealistic standards of God are higher than man, we must continue to put forth every effort to attain them. As John expresses it, “*If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin*” (1 Jn 1:7).

John does not equate “*walking in the light*” with perfect law keeping, for in the very next verse he writes, “*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us*”. But, what John IS describing is a disposition of heart that **places the Lord first in our life!**

- Clark Dugger (edited)

Faith in Context

If you do a quick google search for ancient Greco-Roman pillars, you will find three different kinds: Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian pillars. If you search for them in perfect condition, you will notice these pillars are used to present and support an ancient image or ‘photo’ at the top.

They sometimes depict a human victory in battle, or a very special event of their pagan gods. Simply put, these pillars are holding up a memorial. They are pillars and foundations to a ‘truth’ in pagan culture. Does this sound familiar?

Paul uses this very same imagery in 1 Tim 3.15 when he states that the church is a pillar of the truth.

Paul’s imagery of a pillar here is used the same way the culture at the

time used pillars: it is a presentation of a single moment of truth. This ‘event’ that 1 Tim 3.15 is ‘holding up’ is that of our Lord. He is the crucified — yet victorious — Christ (1 Tim 2.5-6).

Sometimes we think this passage means the church represents itself as a pillar for truth for all doctrine in the scriptures. But we should rather understand it as holding up an event or a memorial.

This is how we ought to preach it. Just look at the examples the disciples of Jesus left (Acts 17:23; 1 Cor. 1:23; 2:2; Gal. 3:1; 6:14; Phil. 3:10; 1 Pet. 3:18, and so on).

Now, how do we live that? The mere existence of the church is the presentation to the rest of the world of our crucified, yet victorious Christ! Do we follow the pattern of a crucified Christ — sacrificial living and humility to all?

- WHSmith