

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



**“If you love Me, keep My
commandments.”**
Jn 14:15

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
All Classes
Ephesians

Next Sunday
All Classes
Philippians

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.

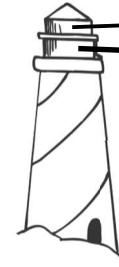
Sick: Mary Lou Lewis, Kathy Fletcher, Marsha Swim, Nellie Shell, June Self,

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- One can avoid making mistakes simply by doing nothing; but, that's the greatest mistake of all (Mt 25:24-30).



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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

April 26, 2020

Staying Fervid During Covid

After weeks of quarantine and endless data on death and destruction, we may struggle to find a silver lining to the covid-19 pandemic. But we are told to “rejoice always” (Ph 4:4), so somewhere there must be an upside to all the downside. And there is.

Many families, for example, have rediscovered the family. Parents and kids who had been cramming 30 hours of activities into a 24-hour day have suddenly found themselves searching for things to do — and found each other in the process. But why not take it to the next level? Look for opportunities to draw larger life lessons from this challenging situation (De 6:4-9).

And what about all that Bible study you've been meaning to do? We are to grow in our knowledge of God's Word (2 Pe 3:18), but that takes time. Well, c-19 has provided many people with more time than they know what to do with. Use it wisely!

But one of the greatest blessings to come from this situation is a larger appreciation for our brothers and sisters in Christ — a greater appreciation for their smiles, their little words and deeds of kindness, and for the opportunities we have had to simply be with them (1 Jn 3:11). May God help us to never again take this priceless blessing for granted!

- WKing

Another Perspective

When We Cannot Meet

If the government commanded us to disband churches in order to stop our preaching against the murderous violence of abortion or the evil perversions of homosexuality, we would not even consider complying. We would cite Acts 5:29, “We ought to obey God rather than men.”

Yet, the coronavirus pandemic has presented us with a different set of circumstances. We are reminded that there are times when we are ‘providentially hindered.’ The operations of divine providence may prevent us from meeting as formal congregations, and no one is guilty of sin in such cases. Our hearts burn with the desire to worship as always.

The rapid spread of deadly diseases involves the operations of nature. We depend on medical professionals to judge the level of danger in such matters, just as we depend on weather forecasters if typhoons were coming at the time of worship. In this present crisis the government is acting based on the judgment of medical professionals and based on the rapid worldwide spread of the coronavirus.

For the church to function in worship, the Bible speaks of saints who come together in one place (1 Cor. 11:18; 14:23, 26). When we cannot come together in one place because of providential circumstances, we are not guilty of forsaking the assembly. But the question then arises, what are we permitted to do in the meantime? May saints meet for worship in their homes and share the Lord's Supper? I know Paul and his companions traveled great distances to preach where no churches existed, and they had to make such decisions as well. I only know to leave such questions to the individual conscience of each Christian...
– Ron Halbrook (edited for space)

Faith in Context

The most important consequence of creating a family is to instill values and pass down to them what one thinks is most important (considering that physical relationship puts in perspective God's relationship with us regarding love, passion, growth, sacrifice, etc.).

God certainly emphasizes this (Pr 22.6; Ex 12.26-27; Ep 6.4). In the physical family, it is God Himself who is instilled and passed down.

However, He also makes this point in a spiritual way (3 Jn 1.4). So, even if one does not enter into the marriage relationship and start a biological family, there still remains a similar (if not exactly the same) attitude that the single Christian takes on; they still can pass down the value of God.

So, the same purpose of instilling the value of God in a biological child parallels the instilling of God in His spiritual family (Ep 5.19, Heb 10.24-25, and many others).

God certainly has a purpose for a biological family. Likewise, He has purpose for those who do not have one. No Christian is required to have a physical family. They can still serve God fully even though they only have a spiritual family (Mark 10.29-30). They must simply fulfill that role appropriately.

– WHSmith

