

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:45am
Morning Assembly 10:35am
Evening Assembly 6:00pm

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00pm

RADIO PROGRAM

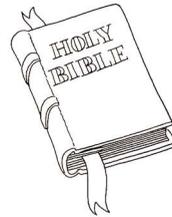
The Bible Speaks



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



**The Bible can keep you
from sin; but sin can keep
you from the Bible.**

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
All Classes
I & II Tim & Titus

Next Sunday
All Classes
Philemon & Heb

**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,

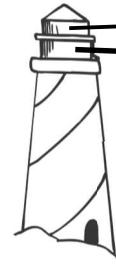
Diane Willis, Shirley Cole, Etta Frazelle, & Rai Starr *Military:* Logan Dickey

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

CURRENT SCHEDULE: Assemblies Sunday at 9 or 11 (take your choice).

Facebook sermon, Sunday at 6. Facebook classes Wednesday evenings at 6:30 (kids) and 7:00 (adults).

SENTENCE SERMON — Do not neglect to do good when you have the opportunity, for you shall not pass this way again.



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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

May 24, 2020

A New Normal

We are told that we must get accustomed to a ‘new normal’ — a different way of shopping, a new way of working, and even a different way of worshiping together as the people of God. But any time someone recommends something ‘new’, I am immediately skeptical.

Of course, God ushered in a ‘new’ covenant, whereby we can become ‘new’ creatures and walk in ‘newness’ of life. That was a ‘new normal’ two thousand years ago, but it’s not new now. Features of the church were set forth then, including its worship, organizational structure, and work. And we need to be okay with that.

No doubt, some of the ‘rules of engagement’ will be different, at least for a time, post-covid. Masks, social distancing, and lots of hand washing will certainly be with us for a while. Broadcasting sermons and lessons on social media will almost certainly become part of our ‘new normal’ — perhaps for years to come. And that’s a good thing.

But may we never get comfortable with **not** assembling with brothers and sisters in Christ, with watching a televised broadcast and figuring we have ‘done our duty’. ‘Normal’ for God’s people is assembling together. And it will always be so. **- WKing**

Another Perspective

The Church is Still the Church

“In the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock.” (Ps 27:5)

When we face troubles, think on the presence of God as found in His sanctuary. “But,” one might think, “we don’t have God’s temple today.” Oh, yes we do, and the same sense of comfort and refuge can be found therein. This sanctuary, however, is not wood and gold. This sanctuary is far more precious, and it shows forth the power and glory of God. The church is the sanctuary of God now (Ep 2:19-22, 1 Pe 2:5). The people of God are the living stones being built up into His temple.

In the present distress, when saints cannot assemble as normal, or when they feel deep isolation, remember that the church is still the church. The people of God are still God’s sanctuary, and we live in a time that allows us to maintain contact and seek each other’s well-being even though apart. The church isn’t the building in which we normally meet. The temple is no longer stationed in Jerusalem. We are it.

Perhaps we are learning how much we might have taken for granted our assemblies. Perhaps we are learning just how much we do rely on one another for strength. Perhaps we will come out of this present distress with a fresh, renewed outlook on the glory of God’s people.

Whatever the outcome, the church is still the church, and God’s presence is found within His people. Redeem the time. Pray for one another. Seek each other out for comfort. Build each other up. The temple of God will always stand.

– *Doy Moyer (edited for space)*

Faith in Context

“It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?... All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness” (Heb. 12:7, 11).

A parent who disciplines their child implies that they are looking at the long-term. They have enough maturity to see consequences, cause and effect, and what is further down the road for the sake of that child. A child’s need for discipline implies they cannot see further down the road (nor would they ever, if it wasn’t for such training). It readily admits that children are impulsive and irresponsible.

We all understand this relationship here on earth, yet do we understand this relationship with our Father in Heaven — that we are His children needing discipline from our own spiritually immature ways? Are we ready to admit that we may need help in seeing further down the road on into heaven?

The Hebrew writer is making clear to us that God our Father — in all that He says and does — looks ahead for our sake. He knows the consequences of our sin, and is continually training us to help keep us from making those sinful mistakes.

This being the case, we need to understand that what God calls and trains us in is going to hurt. But I pray we learn to look forward as well, and trust that His perfect discipline will crucify that old man of sin in us, and bring us to life with Christ (Rom 6:6-11).

– *WHSmith*