

## 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 heart of a spiritual  
education is the  
education of the heart.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Today  
All Classes  
Philemon & Heb

Next Sunday  
All Classes  
James

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,

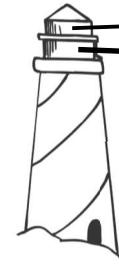
Diane Willis, Shirley Cole, Etta Frazelle, & Rai Starr *Military:* Logan Dickey

*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).

**OUR SYMPATHIES** — Our sympathies are extended to Doris Carter in the  
recent passing of her brother. Let's remember the Carter's in our prayers.



## DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ROGERS, ARKANSAS

May 31, 2020

## The Apostle John on Facebook

“Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use Facebook. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete” (2 Jn 12, Covid-19 translation).

Okay, it's not an exact translation, but wow – how close it gets to our present situation!

Like the “paper and ink” of John's day, Facebook is a poor substitute for an actual “face to face” meeting. Disciples are not to forsake “the assembling” of saints together – and there's a reason for that. ‘Face to face’ provides a much better as-

essment of how our friends are doing — without the filter of the inanimate paper and ink or, even worse, an emoji 😊.

John understood that our joy could only be “complete” when we are able to “talk face to face”. It's when we are face to face that we pick up on the subtle facial expressions, the vocal intonations, and other non-verbal cues as to a person's true welfare — physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

We are grateful that we are finally able to be together again. Now, does anyone have a clear mask? *-WKing*

## Another Perspective

## The Purpose of Our Instruction

Every job in life has a specific purpose (goal, aim, end). So, what is the purpose of preaching and teaching God's Word? Paul sums it up in one word: *love*. “*The purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith*” (1 Ti 1:5).

When someone asked Jesus what the greatest commandment in the Law was, His response was also "love" (Matt. 22:37-40). This theme comes up often in Paul's letters. Love is the fulfillment of God's law (Rom. 13:10; Gal. 5:14). It is that quality of character without which all other outward expressions of piety are meaningless (1 Cor. 13:1-7). And this objective is not restricted to preachers and teachers; all of us are to be busy in the work of "stirring up love and good works" in one another (Heb. 10:24).

Love is not a mushy, sentimental feeling that makes us warm and tingly inside. It is a deep-seated commitment to do good to others, a desire that finds expression in active service. That service is the goal toward which our teaching should be geared.

Expressed another way, *our teaching must be practical*. It must challenge people to make positive changes in their attitudes and behaviors. Our teaching should motivate them to be less selfish and more generous, less angry and more patient, less concerned with their own interests and more willing to sacrifice for others.

If people react to a preacher's sermon with nothing more than, "That was interesting," then he has failed in his job. People do not need a diet of theological hair-splitting and speculation. They need training in love. Let's make sure our teaching is aimed at that target. — *David King (edited for space)*

## Faith in Context

“If you are deathly allergic to grape juice, then you better drink the fruit of the vine to your death.”

— Anonymous

But, have we forgotten the lessons Jesus taught the religious leaders? Have we turned the Lord's Supper into a Pharisaical supper? In response to the above quote, let's look at Jesus' lessons on how to view such holy occasions.

There were times in which the disciples violated the traditions of the elders concerning the Sabbath Law (Mt 12.1-8). Jesus himself did the same thing on occasion (for example, when he healed a crippled woman, Lk 13.10-14, and when He healed a man's withered hand on the Sabbath, Mt 12.9-14).

Jesus taught that it was God's desire for good to be done, rather than to

neglect mercy. Indeed, Jesus noted that even the common Jew realized the Sabbath Law was not broken when mercy was given to a simple animal in need, whether saving or feeding it (Lk 10.15; Mt 12.11); and this being true for an animal, how much more for a man (Lk 10.16; Mt 12.12)? When the disciples 'broke the Law', Jesus taught that giving mercy for one's need was more aligned with God's will than following the religious traditions of men (Mt 12.3-8).

Brethren, let us give mercy. There may be occasions when we cannot partake of the Supper properly, be they persecutions, medical issues, confinements, shut-in, or a pandemic. We ought to have a little discretion in difficult times when mercy calls for it. After all, while the Sabbath truly reflected mercy (as Jesus has taught), how much more does the Supper reflect this, as we look to the mercy God shed on all sinners at the cross?

— *WHSmith*