

## 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



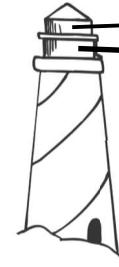
**God is never  
inconvenienced  
by our prayers.**

## CLASS SCHEDULE

**Today**  
All Classes  
James

**Next Sunday**  
All Classes  
1 & 2 Pet, Jude

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



## DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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

June 7, 2020

## 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

**SCHEDULE CHANGE - AGAIN:** Due to the exposure of a number of our members to Covid 19, we will again meet only in small groups for a while.

**SENTENCE SERMON** — Worse than trying and failing is never trying at all  
– Mt 25:24-25.

## Staying Flexible

Well, here we go again, pushed back into our ‘small groups’ instead of meeting all together as we would prefer. It is certainly disappointing. It can also be frustrating — if we let it. But let’s not let it.

Instead, let’s be grateful to God that He designed His church to be flexible. The kingdom resides in the hearts of people (Lu 17:21) and will not be constrained by politicians, persecutions, or pathogens. It will outlast all of these (2 Pe 1:11).

And, let’s be grateful to God for technology. The same internet that contains a ‘dark side’ also provides tremendous opportunities for God’s people to stay connected – not only with one another, but with people throughout the world. The same virus that has isolated us has pushed many preachers and teachers of God’s Word (including me) out of our comfort zones and into cyberspace. Who knows the fruit that such efforts will bear — if we stay flexible!

- *WKing*

## Another Perspective

## American Exceptionalism

“I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her fertile fields and boundless forests, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her rich mines and her vast world commerce, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her public school system and her institutions of learning, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution, and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good; and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great.”

*- Author Unknown, though often attributed to Alexis de Tocqueville*

## Faith in Context

As one living in the American culture, it has always been about my rights. And as one who has been saturated by a consumer culture, it has always been about what I deserve. Now, I love my rights, and I enjoy the access I have to so many products that can be helpful to me, but I have to stop and ask myself, “Is there any culture of self I’ve allowed in from these things?” (even this entire paragraph is about Me, Myself, and I!)

The culture of God, if you will, has an entirely different understanding of what ‘self’ is supposed to do and think — “Do nothing from selfishness... regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” (Php 2.3-4)

I am confident we are aware of this passage, and I’m certain we even grasp its meaning. However, I wonder just how much some might have mixed the concepts of self-rights and just desserts with the words of Paul here, and changed what he meant entirely.

Some behave in a way as if what Paul said here was, “You ought to think of me better than yourself! You ought to look out for my interests over your own!” Unfortunately, some believe it is their right to be served, and that they deserve it (even worship ‘services’ have become how one is served at worship rather than how one serves in worship).

But God has taught us in Christ that it is about giving up your rights (1 Cor 9), and forgoing what you think you deserve for the sake of others. Let us pray to gain this mind of Christ.

*- WHSmith*