

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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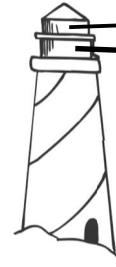
**A mule can't kick while
he's pulling – and can't
pull while he's kicking!**

CLASS SCHEDULE

Today
All Classes
Revelation

Next Sunday
All Classes
On Hold

**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 28, 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 – For the foreseeable future we continue to meet on Sundays at 9am & 11am. FB lessons are held Sundays at 6pm & Wednesdays at 6:30pm.

WELCOME! – We are thankful for Yesenia Trejo, who was recently baptized into Christ! Let us do all we can to welcome her into our Downtown family!

What Is Racism?

The answer to that question depends on who you ask. Dictionaries for decades have defined it something along the lines of, “belief in the superiority of a particular race”. Thus, anyone could be considered a ‘racist’ if they believed that they were superior to others based on race.

But some would redefine it: ‘Only those in power can be racist’, they say. It’s an interesting twist on the classic definition. But, what does the Bible say?

The Bible actually does not use the term ‘race’ as we do. Only once is it used in the Bible (NKJ), and that is to describe a marriage between a Jew

and a heathen (Zech 9:6). The terms most often used are ‘peoples’ (laos) or ‘nations’ (ethnos); and those terms are much more focused on nationality and common culture than on skin color (which, unfortunately, so often defines ‘race’ today).

What is the lesson for us? The New Testament often addresses the clash of cultures and associated problems. Whether Jew/Samaritan (Jn 4:9), native Jew/Grecianized Jew (Ac 6:1), etc., the solution was the same: get past it. Stop looking at the outside and focus on the heart (Ro 2:28-29). Listen to God, and not the popular culture (Ga 3:28, Ph 1:27). - *WKing*

Another Perspective

Listening with Love

It is a common problem. We read things into what people say when they never intended what we are assuming. We talk past each other due to assumptions rather than carefully listening, giving the benefit of any doubt, and attributing the best meaning to what others are trying to communicate. This aspect of communication falls into the category of treating others as we want to be treated (Matt 7:12). Love does no harm.

We don't appreciate when people assume things about our meaning when we intend something other than what is being assumed. Because of bad assumptions, we are pushed back on our heels trying to defend our original intent when we should not have to. Such defenses are then viewed with suspicion and the communication level drops into the gutters.

Communication is difficult. We've all struggled with saying the right thing in the right way only to find that we have miscommunicated. We need mercy and grace in communication. Christians, especially, should start by assuming the best interpretation of what someone is trying to say.

It makes me wonder how much we do this with God's communication to us. If we read Scripture the way we often read what others have to say, then we may be in serious trouble in understanding God's word.

In all the rhetoric, argumentation, and conversation of today, let us take a step back before assuming the worst and firing off cutting responses. Whether it be someone's post, someone's response, someone's speech, or (most importantly) the word of God, we need to listen patiently and lovingly. We'll all be better for it.

– *Doy Moyer (edited for space)*

Faith in Context

“...but because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.” (Jno 8.45)

Jesus indicted the religious leaders for not believing the truth of God. And why didn't they? The root issue was because they followed the desires of the devil, who is the father of lies (v. 44).

But the religious leaders, somewhere deep down, surely desired to do the will of God, and desired to listen to the truth of God when it came, right? So why were they so skeptical when it did?

The answer can be found in Matthew's account, “..for they say, and do not... [and] everything they do is for show” (Mt 23.3,5).

Now, the Jewish people knew not to lie (Lev 19.11), and they knew speaking the truth delighted God

(Prov 12.22). But it was ultimately their hypocrisy (a lie in action, if not in words) that led to their destruction.

It is evident that we can speak words that are true while the heart is lying (i.e., merely lip service – Is. 29.13; Mt 6.5). And because we know we can get away with it outwardly, we may be tempted to do it (Jms 1.14-16).

Yet, if nobody else knows on earth, there is still at least one – **you!**

And then it becomes obvious why we may not trust what others say – even the words of Jesus. For if I lie (in word or heart), and ‘get away with it’, then why would I believe anyone else cares to tell the truth?

“If I am a liar, then you must be, too! I'm not perfect, and neither are you!”

For the sake of God, others, and your own soul, do not lie (Col 3.9)!

– *WHSmith*