

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



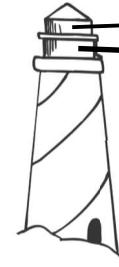
**A sour disposition
is the most destructive
acid in the world.**

CLASS SCHEDULE

**Today
All Classes
On Hold**

**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**

July 5, 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.

SENTENCE SERMON – Bible math is simple: do not add to it or take away from it, but rightly divide it — and God will multiply your spiritual blessings.

Why a Collection?

Covid-19 has presented God's people with several serious challenges. How is it possible to fulfill our duties to God while remaining compliant with state guidelines? Those challenges impact things like attendance, the Lord's Supper, and other areas of responsibility – including our giving.

“On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper...” (1 Cor 16:2). In the current situation, it's easy to neglect this one – just let it go. But you might want to rethink that. Here's why:

First, we are commanded to do this. If baptism matters, this matters too, because both are commands of God.

Of course, it may be that some have not “prospered” as much during this time, and the Good Lord certainly takes that into account. But a virus is not a free pass to ignore our duty.

Second, the work (read that as ‘financial obligations’) which the elders, and this congregation, have undertaken continues on despite the pandemic. A large percentage of our work involves supporting preachers around the world. That work is on-going, virus or no virus.

Finally, as always, giving to the work of the kingdom is good for the giver (Ph 4:17). Just something to think about while you're holed up! - **WKing**

Another Perspective

Becoming What We Despise

The German philosopher Nietzsche warned, “Beware that, when fighting monsters, you yourself do not become a monster... for when you gaze long into the abyss... the abyss gazes also into you.” Poet William Blake also addressed this danger, “The iron hand crush’d the Tyrant’s head, And became a Tyrant in his stead.” (*sic*, “The Grey Monk”).

This notion is not without Biblical precedent, for Paul wrote, “Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted” (Ga 6:1).

It’s easy to become one who complains about those who complain. It’s easy to defend abusive violence against the abusively violent. It’s easy to become prejudiced based on race against those who are prejudiced based on race. These things must be easy, for so many of us seem proficient.

Our admittedly difficult task — if we believe God, love our fellowman, and hope for heaven, is to:

- “Never pay back evil for evil to anyone” (Ro 12:17);
- “Respect what is right in the sight of all men” (Ro 12:17);
- “If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men” (Ro 12:18);
- “Never take your own revenge” (Ro 12:19);
- Treat our “enemy” better than he deserves (Ro 12:20, cf. Mt 7:12);
and,
- “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Ro 12:21).

If this sounds too simplistic a solution for the ‘Gordian Knot’ problems of our present world, remember that it doesn’t have to be untied — the rope can be cut on either side.

– Philip Strong (edited for space)

Faith in Context

A recent conversation about the beauty of our natural world turned into a discussion about the beauty of human beings. Regarding people, one person asked if it was God who drew the line between what was physically beautiful and what wasn’t, or if man did this.

There is no doubt that our world is beautiful. God was pleased and saw it all as good when He created it (Gen 1.10). But a deficiency has since been set into place because of Man, not God.

When sin entered the world, curses had come (Gen 3.14-19). This whole world is fading away because of sin and awaits perfection even until now (Isa 24.1-6; Rom 8.18-25). This world has degraded. It has become ugly. There is no other way to put it.

Yet, God still speaks of its beauty in the truest sense: its *purpose*. The Heavens declare **His glory**; the earth and sea **praise Him**; all creation speaks to **His wisdom** (Ps 19.1; 69.34; 104.24-25). The true beauty of this world is not simply in its aesthetics, but in its purpose for which God designed it.

Now, we have a task before us to seek out true beauty in one another. If simply physical, then it can turn into the sin of using and abusing that which we find ‘beautiful’ (1 Cor 6.18-19), or rejecting that which we find ‘ugly’ (Jms 2.1-4). Man’s idea of beauty very well creates deficiency, pain, and sin.

Instead, let God define beauty (1 Sam 16.7). Let us look to and live in true beauty according to His purpose, and, of course, encourage all to seek it as well. – WHSmith

