

## 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



If you are too busy to  
pray, you are too busy.

## 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).

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

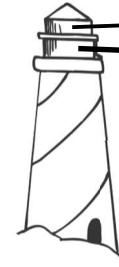
*Sick:* Mary Lou Lewis, Kathy Fletcher, Marsha Swim, Nellie Shell, June Self,

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** – When success turns a man's head, it leaves him looking in the wrong direction.



## DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ROGERS, ARKANSAS

July 12, 2020

## How to Signal Virtue

'Virtue signaling' is the current hot topic. Some accuse others of doing it while others do it without knowing it. But what is virtue signaling — and what does the Bible say about it?

It has been defined as "the sharing of one's point of view in order to garner praise of one's righteousness". Such 'sharing' could take place verbally (as in 'let me tell you what I think') or by our actions (the way we behave when others can see us).

The Pharisees were masters of virtue signaling (Mt 6:1-18). Their alms, fasting and prayers were all done for show, ensuring that everyone knew just how righteous they were.

But of course, Jesus also shared His point of view often. His virtue (including His prayers and His love for others) was so obvious that His disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray (Lu 11:1). And He became the ultimate Example of virtue to countless millions for millennia.

So, what made the difference? It is a **matter of motive**. The motive for 'virtue signaling' is "to garner praise of one's righteousness", and that describes the Pharisees perfectly. But it was **not** the motive for Jesus. Jesus did the right thing **because it was the right thing** — and you and I should do the same.

- WKing

## Another Perspective

## Living Without, or With, Regret

As a man of many regrets, this is a subject to which I am drawn. I've heard others say that they live life 'with no regrets.' I presume they deliberately choose to do so, opting to not burden themselves with guilt. I do not know how to do this. There are too many things I've thought, felt, said, or done that I deeply regret. In fact, I've often said, "Someone with no regrets is either perfect or a fool." Choosing to ignore our faults doesn't mean they aren't there. Tearing away and tossing aside the rearview mirror from our conscience and merrily 'moving on' from our outward deeds of commission or omission doesn't mean that they weren't wrong and didn't hurt others. Cavalierly denying culpability does not remove it. Obviously, God sees all, hears all, and knows all (Ps 139:1-4, 7-8). I understand that we **cannot** change the things we've done and left undone, but we **can**:

- At least regret them;
- Acknowledge and confess our remorse to those we've wronged (both God and fellow humans);
- Apologize to those we've wronged (both God and fellow humans) and ask for their forgiveness; and,
- Learn, grow, and be and do better (both for God and to our fellow humans).

But regret alone — without the subsequent and incumbent actions — is a shallow and hollow emotion that does little more than to make us momentarily remorseful. Indeed, even if we combine it with confession, apologies, and pleas for forgiveness, without learning, growing, and becoming better by **doing** better, we're just heaping up more to regret later when the pangs of conscience kick in again. — *Philip Strong (edited for space)*

## Faith in Context

*"For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps." (1 Pe 2<sup>21</sup>)*

Peter wrote that we have been called to walk the same steps as Jesus did — we suffer. However, the ultimate point in all of this is to simply do the will of the Father in every step we take, whether in suffering, service, or how we act.

Understandably, the pattern God has laid before us in contrast to the world can be difficult at times. We were never promised an easy life.

But the moment you say to yourself, "Well, I can't quite make that standard so let's lower the standard," is the moment you've taken your eyes off of God, and made it all about you.

Brethren, we cannot do that. Look around you and see what the religious world has done in setting their own standard beneath God's. Look once more and see the result of their doing. (Mt 7<sup>22-23</sup>)

Yet, if we also say, "I haven't done things perfectly," and so quit doing the will of the Father altogether, then we also will meet the chastisement of the Lord. (Lk 6<sup>46</sup>)

Admittedly, we will never be perfect in how we serve the Lord — not in this life. But to change God's standards or to quit altogether so we can feel better is not an option.

Don't make it all about you. God is who straightens your path (Prov 3.6), and the steps of Jesus is the path we follow. — *WHSmith*

