

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

### Sunday

Bible Class 9:45am  
Morning Assembly 10:35am  
Evening Assembly 6:00pm

### Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00pm

## RADIO PROGRAM

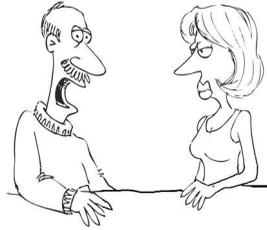
### The Bible Speaks



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



Everyone appears  
wise – until they  
open their mouth.

## 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.

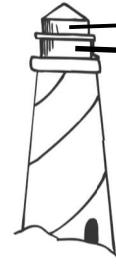
*Sick:* Mary Lou Lewis, Kathy Fletcher, Marsha Swim, Nellie Shell, June Self,

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** – The mind is like a parachute: it needs to be open, but not so much that it can't hold the important stuff!



## DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ROGERS, ARKANSAS

August 2, 2020

## Happiness or Joy?

The concept of 'joy' or 'rejoicing' is found about 150 times in the New Testament. The word 'happy', by contrast, is used only 6 times (KJV) – and even then, it is very spiritual in its application (“if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy are ye” - 1 Pe 3:14). It doesn't conjure up images of birthday cake and presents.

And of course, there is nothing wrong with celebrating birthdays – or any other happy occasion. Maybe we need more such celebrations in these difficult times. But when Paul encouraged Christians to “rejoice always” (Ph 4:4), or when Jesus told us to “rejoice, and be exceedingly

glad”, even in the midst of terrible persecution (Mt 5:12), clearly they were not discussing birthdays, anniversaries, or buying new toys. They were discussing an attitude of mind that transcends circumstances.

Hardships may not make us birthday cake happy, but we can rejoice anyway. Life can take away so much that we hold dear – our material wealth, our relatives, our health, and even our life. But, if we are anchored in the Lord, life can never take away our joy because joy is rooted in our faith that there is something grand beyond this life. It's a joyful thought – and it makes me happy! - *WKing*

## Another Perspective

## Remember Your Citizenship

Christians should never divide over the things that divide Americans (or any earthly nation) because what unites Christians is far greater than what unites or divides Americans.

I'm not saying Christians cannot be Americans or that they should not seek to be good citizens doing what is best for the nation (which I would directly tie to being the kind of people God calls us to be, 1 Pet 1:13-16). Yet the citizenship of Christians transcends all earthly citizenship (Phil 3:20-21) and Christians are found throughout all the nations (Acts 10:34-35; Rev 21:24). Christians existed long before America, and should this nation cease, and one day it will, Christians will outlast it. The kingdom of God shall always stand (Dan 2:44) – as we sing, “The kingdoms of earth pass away one by one, but the kingdom of heaven remains.”

If we allow earthly concerns to divide us as Christians, we are denying our greater citizenship. What unites Christians should be the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through Him, all His people are related as brothers and sisters. When we stay true to Him, there are no physical, national boundaries. There are no walls. There is no segregation, partiality, or political division. When we unite in Christ, we put aside what divides the world in favor of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph 4:3).

Let us not, then, speak evil of our brothers and sisters. Let us, rather, be devoted to one another in love, outdoing one another in honor, and setting aside our own personal preferences in favor of building one another up in the most holy faith.

What will you do today to build up another?     - *Doy Moyer (edited for space)*

## Faith in Context

“I have a joke about Calvinism, but it's not for everybody.” – Unknown

Whoever penned this witty little joke hit the nail on the head when it comes to what Calvinism is all about. In essence, it points to a major tenet that suggests salvation is not for everybody.

Here's a statement concerning the doctrine by a major denomination: “By the decree of God... some men and angels are predestined unto life, and others foreordained to everlasting death. [These are] unchangeably designed; and their number is certain...” (*The Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.*)

Since this teaching uses Biblical words like *predestined* and *foreordained*, it may sound very Biblical (cf. Rom 8<sup>29-30</sup>, Eph 1<sup>5,11</sup>; 1 Pet 1<sup>20</sup>).

But for those who read their Bibles a little bit more, this couldn't be farther from the truth.

In fact, God desires *all* men to be saved (1 Tim 2<sup>4</sup>), and His grace has appeared “bringing salvation for *all* people” (Titus 2<sup>11</sup>). He is “not wishing that any should perish, but that *all* should reach repentance” (2 Peter 3<sup>9</sup>).

What are the terms above referring to, then? The first simply means that God predestined that those “in Christ” would be saved (Eph 1<sup>3-5</sup> – CONTEXT!). However, there is no mention of Him arbitrarily choosing who gets to be saved. When ‘foreordained’ is used (only once), it is in reference to Christ being part of God's plan since the beginning (1 Pet 1<sup>20</sup>), and we can certainly all agree to that.

Brethren, we are not forced into or out of a relationship with God. Just read Mt 7<sup>13-14</sup> – and choose wisely.

-*WHSmith*