

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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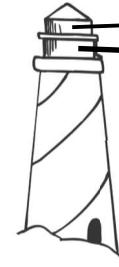
**Today is the harvest of
 what we sowed yesterday.**

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**

August 16, 2020

Me? A Preacher?

Sometimes I wonder how I got into preaching in the first place. After all, it was never a thought when contemplating my life's work. A retail manager? Yes. A lawyer? Yes. A bum? Yes. A preacher? Never. But God's providence works in mysterious ways, and so here I am.

Like Jonah, I have tried to run away from the duty, but conscience called me back. Like Haggai, I have experienced the exhilaration of seeing the power of God's Word transform a sinner into a saint. But like Jeremiah, I have known the frustration of unsuccessfully trying

to penetrate an apathetic, hardened heart. Like Job, I have — on rare occasion — wished I could die.

But I plod along. Some brethren curse me, and some bless me. Some think I am the wisest man since Solomon, and others think I am an idiot. I preach too sophisticated for some and too shallow for others. Yet long ago I determined not to be influenced by what others think of me. I just preach the simple gospel with profound implications. And I am amazed, yet thankful, that God chose this pitiful vessel to proclaim His glorious Good News. - *WKing*

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

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

Sick: Mary Lou Lewis, Kathy Fletcher, Marsha Swim, 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.

**A SERMON
 EQUATION** $\frac{Fi}{T} (G) = M$

Focused intensity over Time multiplied by God = Momentum

Another Perspective

One of the joys of being a Christian is the gift of fellowship. God, in His wisdom, knew that we could not serve Him properly on our own. Fellowship is also vitally important because we can encourage one another with it. Just think of the times when you greatly benefited from a fellow Christian helping you out.

As amazing as fellowship can be, however, we can sometimes be discouraged when our family members are not as like-minded in our faith. We can feel sadness when we cannot have a spiritual connection to our fleshly relatives.

Now imagine that you're Jesus and your own brothers do not believe. John 7:5 says, "*For even His brothers did not believe in Him.*" Jesus had

crowds of thousands of people listening to His every word, but his own brothers were not counted among them. I can only imagine how much sadness Jesus must have felt knowing his own brothers did not believe in Him.

Yet, look at what it says in Acts 1:14, "*These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*" After Jesus ascended into Heaven the disciples gathered together and His brothers were counted among them. In fact, James, one of his brothers, would go on to play an important leadership role at the church in Jerusalem. Paul even called him a pillar of that church (Galatians 2:9).

Secular history tells us that the family of Jesus would go on to play a key role within the early church. Eusebius mentions that around 130 AD one of the elders at the church

in Jerusalem was Judah Kyriakos, a great-grandson of Jude, another one of Christ's siblings. In 1 Corinthians 9:5 Paul mentioned that Christ's brothers were spreading the Gospel throughout Judea. These are not the actions of brethren who would remain unfaithful; these are the actions of believing Christians.

What happened to James, Joses, Jude, and Simon that turned them into believing Christians? The resurrection happened. 1 Corinthians 15:7 tells us that Jesus appeared to at least one of His brothers, James, after His resurrection. This event must have shaken James' world. For years, he had been incredulous of his brother's claim. Yet, when he saw Jesus resurrected, he realized that His claims were true. This converted one of Christ's greatest skeptics into a pillar of His church.

So, what are we to do with

unbelieving brethren? We follow the Lord's example. We must continue to act in a godly and spiritual manner, we produce good works, and we are patient. Jesus lived with His brothers for over thirty years. It took some time, but eventually they believed. It may take time but if we are patient then maybe our brothers and sisters will come to believe — just as Jesus's brothers and sisters did. So, let us be patient.

— *Gabriel Chavez*

