

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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Don't be a
'lightning bug'
Christian:
on again, off again.

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 –

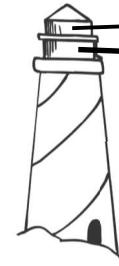
Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: Mary Lou Lewis, Kathy Fletcher, Marsha Swim, June Self, Diane Willis,
Shirley Cole, Etta Frazelle, & Rai Starr

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Margaret Abel, Erton Usrey, & Billie Pennington

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – We have recently been able to work through many of the backlogged questions. Find those sermons on our FB page!

SENTENCE SERMON – If a sermon pricks your conscience, that simply means it had some good points.



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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ROGERS, ARKANSAS

September 6, 2020

Lessons During Lunch

It was lunchtime, and The Woman and I were looking out the back window as we ate. Within thirty minutes we had seen one squirrel, several hummingbirds (and other Ozark avifauna), and four deer. It reminded me of Biblical lessons drawn from such creatures.

“As the **deer** pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God” (Ps 42:1). Do I thirst for God as I should? Or am I so sated with the lusciousness of life that God becomes the raw celery on the table? “I know I need Him, but not

right now.” Let us grow to appreciate the Lord more and more — His righteous standard, and His willingness to forgive (through the blood of Jesus) those who violate it.

“Look at the **birds** of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?” (Mt 6:26) Do I have trust like a bird? Or do I worry and fret over the physical things of life, doubting whether God knows, or cares — or whether there even **is** a God? >

Let's grow to trust God more. Let's learn to trust Him with the daily needs of life (like food and clothing) and with the life-changing, sometimes gut-wrenching issues of life — up to and including death and eternity.

And then there are the **squirrels**. Where exactly is that passage that extols the virtues of the tree rats? Well of course, it's not there specifically. But the squirrels **were** in Genesis 1:24 — part of that sixth day of creation which God pronounced “good” (vs 25). And they were also in Leviticus 11 — classified as “unclean” according to the taxonomy of the Law of Moses. As such, they would have been represented in Peter's vision (Ac 10), probably climbing their way up the sheet, looking at Peter with their dark little eyes, tails twitching.

And the lesson for us? Well, we **are** the squirrels — not simply because we are Gentiles (with none of

Abraham's blood flowing through our veins) but more than that. Because we have all sinned (Ro 3:23), we have all been counted as unclean before God — unworthy to be in fellowship with Him.

And yet, if we are willing to humble ourselves before Him — to acknowledge our unclean ‘squirrelness’ and to come to Him on His terms through faith in Jesus, repentance from our sins, and baptism for the forgiveness of our sins — we can be counted as clean. By the grace of God, even we squirrels can do this.

And that's way better than ending up as squirrel dumplings on the devil's dinner table. **- WKing**



Faith in Context

You have wearied the Lord, with your words. Yet you say, 'How have we wearied him?' In that you say, 'Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and He delights in them' or, 'Where, is the God of justice?' (Mal 2¹⁷).

Malachi's report noted that things didn't seem right. Whatever was happening in the world — it wasn't happening in the right way.

In other words, the rules that life operated by didn't seem to be working as they should have (E.g., righteousness rewarded; wickedness punished). Surely with a God of justice the righteous would be rewarded, and the wicked would be punished; but why wasn't that the case? Why wasn't God cleaning house?

The Lord answered in the following verses, “Behold, I am going to send my messenger... but who can endure [this] day...he is like a refiner's fire...” (Mal 3¹⁻²). In essence, “Watch out what you ask for. You want a God of justice? You really want Me to come down and clean house? What do you think will happen when that occurs? How do you think you're going to fare?”

We certainly await God's cleansing of sin from this painful world. It is a wonderful thing to look forward to the coming of our Lord and to be in His presence (Tit 2¹²⁻¹⁴). However, we need to be aware that His judgment is a powerful and fearful thing (Rom 1¹⁸, Heb 10³¹) — and we may not be ready just yet.

In Malachi, one was to be sent with a message to prepare them. Today, we have our message: God's Word. It's time to prepare; so read God's Word!

- WHSmith