

## 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



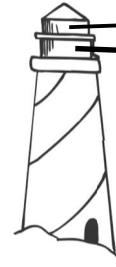
Some people view religion  
simply as a fire escape.

## 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

September 13, 2020

## Why Doctrine Matters

Many who profess to be Christians are turned off by ‘doctrinal sermons’. They are fine with sermons on the love of God (as seen in His sacrifice of Jesus, His grace, and the hope of heaven), but they don’t like sermons on the justice of God (as seen in His righteous standard demanding personal responsibility, His wrath, and the promise of hellfire for the disobedient).

And while it is certainly important to preach on the cross, and mercy, and eternal life, we **must not** neglect the other side of the message:

that part which demands something of us. One side gives us warm, fuzzy feelings, while the other side calls us to accountability — both personally and congregationally.

When the preacher calls out the denominational world, with its perversions of local church structure (elders and deacons), its shift to entertainment worship (from God ordained worship), and its this-world focus of work (as opposed to the early churches’ eternal focus and a demand for repentance) — we should **all** say ‘amen’. >

## 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

**ASSEMBLY TIMES** – We continue to conduct two assemblies on Sunday mornings (9 and 11). Thanks to all who help maintain safety precautions!

**SENTENCE SERMON** – Many churches have too many bystanders and not enough stand-byers.

When the preacher calls out the worldliness which surrounds the children of God daily, we should **all** be okay with that. When he preaches that marriage is a life-long contract between one man and one woman — and that divorce for any cause other than unfaithfulness is adultery — we should **all** say ‘amen’ (Mt 19:1-9). We should be okay with him reminding us that any sexual conduct outside of marriage is sin.

When the preacher exposes the errors of Calvinism (original sin, once saved always saved, etc.), the AD 70 doctrine (that the second coming of Jesus has already occurred), or the doctrine of premillennialism (that we are still waiting for Jesus to establish a physical kingdom on earth), we should **all** be able to say ‘amen’.

When the preacher exposes our own personal shortcomings — the various sins which beset us all — instead of getting angry or upset with him, we should all be thankful that he cares enough for

our eternal soul to say what needs to be said. Let’s be grateful to God for preachers of courage, conviction, and contrition, who will preach “the truth in love” (Ep 4:15) — not truth without love, or love without truth, but who will find the Biblical balance of both.

And why do these things matter? If for no other reason, they matter because God’s Word teaches such truths. And any faithful Christian will be okay with the preaching of it.

But more than that, what we **believe** leads directly to how we **behave**. If we believe that one church is as good as another, we will simply find one that pleases us — regardless of what God’s Word says. If we believe sexual conduct is simply a societal norm, then we will act on that belief. If we believe a Christian cannot sin so as to be lost, we will live that way. And if we believe the preacher is too negative, then we’ll just find one that suits us — even if it costs us our soul.

- *WKing*

## Faith in Context

The Hebrew writer makes an extraordinary claim about God in the context of serving others despite whatever risks it may bring you, as well as being content with all that you have in life as you go about serving. He tells you that, “[God] himself has said, ‘*I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you*’” (Heb 13<sup>5</sup>).

Now, I am aware that double negatives are a bad thing in English, but they are wonderful in the original language. What the Hebrew writer does here is give you five of them — in a row!

This is what I call ‘*God’s five-fold guarantee*,’ and there is no greater, stronger guarantee that the Bible gives you anywhere else! Essentially, what God is telling you is,

“I am **not** ever **never** going to leave you. **Nor** am I **not** ever **not** going to forsake you!”

It is difficult to make it any more emphatic than that, brethren. God is wanting to assure us that we can have confidence in His very character and being. That He is worthy of our trust.

Simply put, we can *trust* that every word of His is true; we can *trust* that He knows what is best for us; we can *trust* that He is a loving Father; we can *trust* that He is reality; and we can *trust* that He can save our souls.

Now, after all that God has said and done, the most important question remains: will **you** trust Him? - *WHSmith*

