

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00pm

RADIO PROGRAM

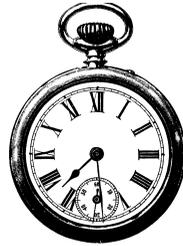
The Bible Speaks



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



Every minute spent
is gone forever, so
use it wisely.

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

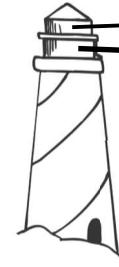
PRAYER LIST –

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

Sick: Mary Lou Lewis, Kathy Fletcher, Marsha Swim, Rai Starr, Diane Willis,
and Etta Frazelle *Shut-ins:* Betty Jo Young, Margaret Abel, Erton Usrey,
Shirley Cole, & Billie Pennington *Military:* Logan Dickey

WELCOME to Leahman and Marie Whelchel, who recently placed membership with us! Let's do all we can to make them feel welcome!

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to the family of June Self, who passed away recently. Let's remember the family — and friends — in our prayers.



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

**PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

September 20, 2020

The Sacrifice of Praise

“By Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.” – He 13:15

Christians are certainly familiar with the idea of atoning sacrifice; after all, the sacrifice of Jesus was an atoning sacrifice for our sins. He did for us what we could not do for ourselves. When His blood was shed on the cross, it was shed for the remission of our sins (Mt 26:28) — to make atonement for them.

But Christians may be less familiar with the “*peace offerings*” of the Mosaic Law. These sacrifices were offered, not to atone for sin, but to

express praise and thanksgiving to God for blessings received. The peace offering did not require great expenditures of resources, but as Albert Barnes comments, it was “*a simple tribute of a devout heart rejoicing in peace with God*”.

Today, we make no annual trek to Jerusalem. We do not even bring an offering of “*unleavened cakes mixed with oil*” or go through an earthly priest to access the presence of God. But we **do** offer the “*sacrifice of praise*” as we “*give thanks to His name*”. It is a “*simple tribute of a devout heart*”; but it is the sacrifice that God wants from **you!** - *WKing*

Another Perspective

The Sins that Killed Jesus

We are accustomed to thinking of the death of Jesus as a ransom for our sins--"the just for the unjust" (1 Pet. 3:18). That's true, but there is another angle to what happened that fateful day that deserves our attention. Study carefully all the proceedings that led to His death, and it becomes clear that what happened to Him was humanity at its worst. Every despicable attitude and behavior that makes this world such a mess was on full display in His trial and crucifixion. Consider:

- The Jewish rulers delivered up Jesus "because of **envy**," as Pilate saw clearly (Matt. 27:18). Envy often produces hatred and violence.
- Jesus was figuratively stabbed in the back by one of His own inner circle (Judas). He experienced **betrayal** of the worst sort.
- At His first trial, false witnesses twisted Jesus' words. He knew what it was like have others **lie** about Him.
- When His fate was sealed, His closest disciples were no where to be found. **Cowardice** had driven them underground.
- Pilate was obligated to administer justice. But he buckled to the pressure of the mob. **Injustice** is not unique to our day and time.
- The soldiers who inflicted their mockery and beatings upon Jesus showed the depths to which human **cruelty** can reach.

The execution of Jesus stands as a microcosm of humanity's condition. It's as though God is holding up a mirror to us and demanding, "Look at this! This is who you are!" For all our self-righteousness, the truth is a repulsive stench. The death of Jesus simultaneously represents humanity at its worst, and divine love at its best. Once I realize the significance of that, I have no greater motivation to change my heart — and my life. — *David King (edited)*

Faith in Context

Baptism — what does the Bible say about it? Simply put, it is absolutely necessary, because faith alone is never enough (Jms 2¹⁴⁻¹⁷). However, when the wisdom of man comes along and does away with the wisdom of God, it becomes complicated — a new perspective enters into the picture which is, ‘faith alone saves you, and baptism is **not** necessary.’

Maybe man has convinced you contrary to the will of God. Maybe man has persuaded you as Satan had done to Eve in the Garden — ‘Surely, you do **not** need to be baptized!’

If you would, take the following list home with you and search the Scriptures for yourself. Perhaps, when you see the priority God places on baptism, you could even

use this simple template as a tool to teach others:

1. Jesus and the apostles made baptism a priority (cf. Mt 3¹³⁻¹⁷; Mt 28¹⁸⁻²⁰; Jn 3³⁻⁵; Act 2³⁷⁻³⁸)
2. Everyone seeking salvation in the NT made it a priority (cf. Acts 8¹²; 9^{1-6, 18}; 16³¹⁻³³)
3. Baptism is the ‘Delivery Room’ for a new life (cf. Gal 3²⁷⁻²⁸; Rom 6⁴⁻⁵)
4. Baptism is for everybody who wants to go to heaven (cf. Acts 22¹²⁻¹⁶; 1 Pt 3²⁰⁻²¹)

Friends, I understand the world’s wisdom may try to alter God’s Word. But we have to decide whether we believe men who say, ‘Baptism is **not** a washing away of sins’, and ‘forgiveness of sin comes only at the point of faith,’ or whether we’re going to believe the Word of God which says, “Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins”, baptism is “for the remission of sins”, and “baptism now saves you.”

— *WHSmith*