

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

### Sunday

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

### Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00pm

## RADIO PROGRAM

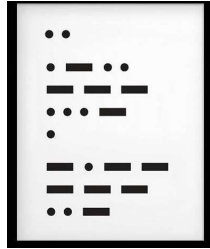
### The Bible Speaks



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



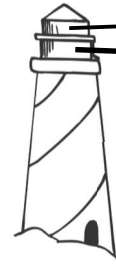
**Your life is a message;  
what message are  
you sending?**

## 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 27, 2020

## 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

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Jantsen Lynn and Lucy Corder on their recent wedding! Remember to encourage these two in their new life together!

**WE ARE SADDENED** at the recent passing of Sandy Sullins. The funeral was held yesterday at Newport — memorial service will be here this Saturday.

## The Far Side Banks of Jordan

The Downtown church has experienced the death of several of our members recently. The passing of even one is hard; but when they come one after the other – well, it can become an emotional burden.

Especially is that true when the one left behind is a spouse.

Those who have never lost a wife (or a husband) to death will be unable to fully empathize with those who have. Love does not stop just because one has crossed the river before the other. Those who have been through it will often say that the love just continues to grow –

and I believe it. Younger widows are encouraged to remarry (1 Tim 5:14); but we find no such passage directed to those who have been married for decades.

The marriage relationship does not continue into eternity (Mt 22:30); but this does not preclude knowing each other on the far side banks of Jordan – even familial relations (as David well understood, 2 Sa 12:23). One of the great joys in heaven will be the recognition of those we knew in this life – those with whom we shared more than meals, but the joy of the gospel as well (Mt 8:11, →

and many other passages). Some push back, “But what about our loved ones who are lost? How can we be happy in heaven knowing they are not there?” I do not pretend to have all the answers, but I do know that 1) God will wipe away all tears (Re 21:4), and 2) our appreciation for holiness, of having a close relationship with God, will be perfected (Re 21:3). God’s got this, so we need to be okay with it.

But what of those couples who **have** shared not only their physical lives but their spiritual lives as well? Peter addresses these as “being heirs together of the grace of life” (1 Pe 3:7) — not just “heirs”, but “heirs together”. A couple who has built this kind of life together is a couple who has been doubly blessed. And they should serve as examples to every young Christian couple – an example of the highest joy that a marriage can aspire to.

And when it comes time for one of them to cross over to the far side banks of Jordan, the one left behind will feel the kick in the gut harder than anyone else. But as a

Christian — with all the blessings that pertain to that — such a loss just serves to galvanize his/her faith all the more. The hope of heaven becomes more real than it ever was before. And the ability to empathize with others, for however many years they have left, is enhanced beyond what it ever could have been otherwise.

And so, while we weep with those that weep, we rejoice with each of our members who have lost their loved one, knowing what is on the other side – the far side banks of Jordan. – *WKing*

***I’ll be waiting on the far side  
banks of Jordan;  
I’ll be waiting drawing  
pictures in the sand.  
And when I see you coming,  
I will rise up with a shout,  
And come running through  
the shallow water, reach-  
ing for your hand.***

*- lyrics by Terry Smith*

## Faith in Context

*“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim 2<sup>15</sup> KJV).*

This is a very famous passage, often quoted by preachers, because they typically use it to talk about the importance of Bible study. Certainly, studying the Word of God is of primary importance. How else are we going to hear of the words of Life (Jno 6<sup>63</sup>), and even recognize them (Jno 6<sup>68-69</sup>) without the study of God’s Word?

But is this really what Paul was saying? Recall that in the context of this letter Paul instructed Timothy how to properly behave as he was sharing the Word of God to others; that the work itself needed to be appropriately managed **alongside**

the efforts to persuade and instruct others with the Words of Life.

So what Paul was truly emphasizing was not the study of God’s Word, but the behavior of the person **sharing** this Word. And why am I making this claim? That last part of the passage quite literally means, “...to cut a straight road [for the word of truth].” In other words, Paul was instructing Timothy to *provide a straight path* for the Word of God as he imparted the truth to them!

Now, how can we do that today? Well, you certainly can envision how we can put obstacles in the way, or pitfalls with **UN**Christian-like attitudes, or those times where we share the Words of Life, but betray them in our own life.

May I make a simple recommendation? Present the gospel with love, peace, kindness, patience, etc. (Gal 5<sup>22-26</sup>); and provide no obstacle to their heart and soul. - *WHSmith*