

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00pm

RADIO PROGRAM

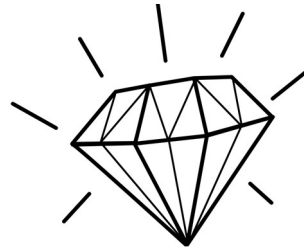
The Bible Speaks



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



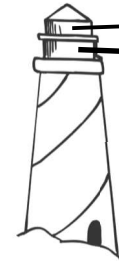
**Diamonds: Pieces of
coal that handled
pressure well.**

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**

October 4, 2020

Restoring the Joy

“Restore unto me the joy of your salvation.” – Ps 51:12

David, the shepherd boy, enjoyed a close relationship with God – a relationship characterized by joy. But by the writing of Psalm 51, that joy had been lost.

In David’s case, the joy of salvation was lost due to sin; and unrepented sin will have the same effect on us. But other circumstances can rob us of joy as well. Hardships, for example, can lead to discouragement and a loss of joy. Even simple neglect and apathy can, over time, rob a Christian of the joy of salvation.

Restoring joy is possible in any of these situations – if we want it restored. Sins of ‘commission’, like adultery, or sins of ‘omission’, like apathy, can be overcome by forgiveness and a rededication to the things of God (Ps 51:1-2, 16-17).

Perhaps more difficult to overcome are the hardships of life – the perceived injustices that can lead to bitterness. Here, the answer is to maintain an eternal perspective: *“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning”* (Ps 30:5). In the dark, our job – our joy – is to focus on the imminent sunrise.

- WKing

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

CLASSES – While there is no timetable yet, the elders are contemplating the reopening of classes at some future date. Address any feedback to them.

SENTENCE SERMON – Some dream of moving mountains, but make no effort to move the hills.

Other Perspectives

(or, A Few Quotes to Ponder)

Church leaders who refuse to inculcate a distinctly Christian worldview in the congregation during a time of rabid secularism, neo-paganism, and Cultural Marxism will constantly be forced to fight the culture's battles within the church rather than equip the church to fight Christian battles in the culture.

And, in the end, they will simply surrender the church to the culture.

– *P. Andrew Sandlin*



The reason the universe is vastly disproportionate to man's size is that it is telling the glory of God, not the glory of man.

– *John Piper*



Scripture habitually puts the joys of heaven on the scales against the sufferings of earth – and no solution to the problem of pain which does not do so can be called a Christian one.

We are very shy nowadays even mentioning heaven. We are afraid of the jeers, “Pie in the sky!” But either there is ‘pie in the sky’ or there is not. If there is not, then Christianity is false, for this doctrine is woven into its whole fabric.

– *C.S. Lewis, “The Problem of Pain”*

Faith in Context

Most people that are close-minded would never admit it (except when we think of stubbornness as a virtue, like when we say, ‘I’m steadfast! I stick to my principles!’) Now, there certainly is a virtue of steadfastness we should pursue, but where’s that line between a person who is steadfast and one who is simply being stubborn? Acts 17¹¹ is a good go-to passage to consider.

Here, Paul preached the Gospel to some Jews in the town of Berea, and the divine commentary says, “*they were more noble minded (open-minded) than those in Thessalonica, for they received the Word with great eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.***”

Now, what the text doesn’t say is, “with full measure of gullibility they simply agreed with Paul.” Nor does it say, “They were open-minded

only because they accepted the truth!”

What actually is being described here is a people with a certain *kind of attitude*. We might also mention these were a people of a different religious background.

And the attitude found in these religious Jews was a necessary dedication to an **external standard** (i.e., God’s Word). Did Paul teach the truth to them? Their open-mindedness was found in their willingness to search the Scriptures, and use the standard of God’s Word to see if it was true.

This point is more than relevant today. The Gospel, unfortunately, has been distorted from its original state by many. Countless preachers (or denominations) have bewitched many souls to their own destruction (Gal 1⁶; 3¹; 2 Pet 3¹⁶).

Let us use God’s word as the standard for what we hear; let us have an attitude like the Bereans.

– *WHSmith*