

## 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  
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Rogers, AR 72757  
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**Forgiveness: kinda like  
the eraser on a pencil.**

## 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).**

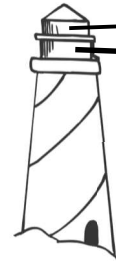
## FAMILY NEWS

### 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

**ELDER APPOINTMENT** – GW Walsh has been placed before the church for consideration as an elder. Any concerns you may have should be brought to GW **before** next Sunday.

**SENTENCE SERMON** – One who gets hot usually cooks his own goose.



## DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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

October 11, 2020

## Be Merciful

*“Judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy.”*

- Ja 2:13

Mercy – it is perhaps the most difficult of the obligations a Christian has. And that is understandable. After all, it runs contrary to our sense of justice. “That sorry dog needs to be taught a lesson!” As a John Wayne fan, I get that.

But if life is only about justice, we would live in a harsh world indeed. If there is no room for forgiveness (which, Biblically, is the practical application of mercy), then we are all under condemnation – and the fires of hell will consume us all.

Yet God is not simply a God of **light** (justice); He is also a God of **love** (mercy). We find great comfort in that fact when we look in the mirror. We should also find a great example in that fact of how to treat those who have sinned against us.

So be kind to those with whom you disagree. Do something good for those who have spoken evil against you. Say a prayer for those who have wronged you – not for God’s vengeance upon them, but for His mercy. Let’s put into practice what Jesus said, “Be merciful, just as your Father in heaven is merciful” (Lu 6:36). Let’s do this. - *WKing*

## Another Perspective

## Jehovah in the New Testament?

The ancient Israelites lived in a world dominated by pagan gods, each of whom was championed by various of their neighbors. So, when the Lord appeared to Moses (Ex 3) to announce His intervention in the Israelites' plight, a natural question would arise: What is the name of this god? The answer was, "I AM" (Hebrew HAYAH, "to exist"). Throughout the Hebrew Old Testament, a variant of that name, YHWH (transliterated as YAHWEH or JEHOVAH) is used over 6500 times to label the true God of Israel – the God who really exists. Most modern English translations capture this Old Testament name with the word 'LORD' (in all caps).

But when we come to the New Testament, this national name of God completely disappears. Even in quotations from the Old Testament that use this name, the Greek rendering is always 'Lord.' (The modern Jehovah's Witnesses sect claim that the New Testament originally used the name, but the text has been corrupted, a flaw that they have 'corrected' in their New World Translation. But they are inconsistent in their fix. Hebrews 1:10-12 is a direct quotation from Psalm 102, which is clearly describing YAHWEH. But the Hebrews passage applies this text to Jesus. The NWT quietly violates its own rule and uses 'Lord.')

The New Testament does not retain the Hebrew name for God because the gospel of Jesus is a message to all the nations of the world. The more generic word "God" is a more fitting label for a deity that all people can relate to. But there is a more compelling truth in play here: When Jesus identified Himself as "I AM" (Jn 8), it scandalized His Jewish critics. They instantly caught the import of what He was claiming: He was YAHWEH, God in the flesh. No wonder they tried to stone Him. Jesus Christ is the full embodiment of the One the Jews knew as YAHWEH. To see our God come to earth as a lowly servant and sacrifice His life in the ultimate expression of love – that tells me everything I need to know about the deity whom I serve.

– David King (edited for space)

## Faith in Context

*“<sup>4</sup>As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – <sup>5</sup>you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” – 1 Pet 2<sup>4-5</sup>*

We realize from verse five that we are living stones like Jesus. However, even if all we know about living stones was found in verse four of this passage, then there are two things we'll know: 1) we're going to be rejected by men, but 2) God's opinion will be different. We're chosen; we're precious, and we're of great value to Him.

Now, if we look at this when we consider sharing the gospel, whose opinion are we going to care about? God's or men's?

There will be many who will slam the door on us; many who will get angry with us; perhaps even hurt us. What will we do with this rejection? Avoid confrontation? Shut down? Stop trying? Or keep at it and work in the Love of God to help the sinner?

Can you picture God saying, “If I go down there to help these people, they're going to kill Me! So, I'll just stay up here, take it easy, and leave them alone.” (And God could have certainly done this. He's well within His rights to have done so.) But He would not have been acting consistently with His love for the sinner's soul. Thank God for that.

So, whatever the attitude or the current life choices that make us cringe, don't let people discourage us from sharing the Gospel. God's opinion is what matters, not people's; therefore let Him be pleased with our efforts.

- WHSmith