

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

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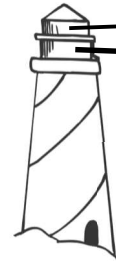
**Marry a child of the devil
& your father-in-law will
make your life miserable.**

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 18, 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

WELCOME! – We are happy to have Ken and Jo Edwards to place membership with us! Let's do all we can to welcome them to our downtown family!

SENTENCE SERMON – A Bible that is falling apart quite often belongs to a person who isn't.

Overcoming Guilt

Guilt. At times it hangs over us like a black cloud, causing us to lose sleep, lose weight, and lose focus. We would love to rid ourselves of it — if only we could.

Jesus is often held up as an example for us to follow in many different areas; but not here. After all, He never experienced guilt. Guilt is a natural response to sin, and Jesus never sinned. We, on the other hand, have (Ro 3:23). So much for the Jesus method of dealing with the guilt of our transgressions.

Others deal with guilt by ignoring it or hardening themselves to their own sins. They mock sin, or even pursue it, so that any feelings of guilt are soon suppressed. But such an approach breeds a calloused society — and leaves the sin intact.

Guilt can only be overcome by dealing with it. And the only way to deal with it, while preserving a tender heart, is to **be forgiven**. This was the mission of Jesus — and it should be the ongoing pursuit of every child of God. - *WKing*

Another Perspective

The Padded Cross

Well, here I am, Lord. You said, “Take up your cross”, and I’m here to do it. It’s not easy, you know, this self-denial thing. I plan to go through with it though. I’ll bet you wish more people were like me.

You mind if I look over those crosses? I’d like a new one — and padded. I’m not fussing, you understand, but I’m planning to attract others. If I could show them a more comfortable cross, I’m sure I could win a lot more.

Funny, there doesn’t seem to be much of a choice here — just that course, rough wood. Don’t you have something more distinctive? I can tell you right now that none of my friends are going to be impressed by this. They’ll think I’m a nut or something! And my family will be just mortified.

What’s that? It’s one of these or forget the whole thing? But Lord, I **want** to be your disciple! I mean, just being with **You** — that’s all that matters, isn’t it? But people just don’t live this way today. No one will be attracted by this. Being a disciple is challenging and exciting and I want to do it, but we have to be reasonable. Oh, and no blood, okay? I can’t stand the sight of blood —

Lord? Lord? Now where did He go?

- *Author Unknown*



Faith in Context

In the book of Matthew, a surface reading shows that the chapters have much to do with who you are as a follower of God — don’t be hypocritical, don’t be selfish, don’t be disobedient or likened to a barren temple, and so on.

When the Pharisees and the Herodians (Mt 22¹⁵⁻²²) try to ensnare Jesus and get Him killed (depending on how He answers of whom to give tribute — God or Rome), we see Jesus’ reaction and response follows what we’ve already read in the book.

He looks at the coin and identifies it has the image of Caesar on it, and He says, “*Give it to Caesar.*” Likewise, Jesus looks at the man and sees that he is made in the image of God (Gen 1²⁶), and tells him, “*Give that to God.*” Think about this for a moment.

Jesus tells me that I am in the image of God, that I belong to Him, and need to give myself to Him — not just part of me, but the **entire** me: how I think, how I talk, how I act. Everything.

Considering all we’ve learned from Matthew’s gospel, we need to realize that following God only part of the way means we aren’t following Him at all.

The Jewish leaders followed God only part of the way, and they were deemed entirely hypocritical. The rich young ruler followed God only part of the way, and he was exposed as being wholly selfish. Those who were in the Temple followed God only part of the way, and yet we find it was completely barren of righteousness.

Let us learn the lesson of the coin. We bear God’s image entirely. So it is that we give **all of us** that belongs to Him.



- *WHSmith*