

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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**The pains of old age are
sometimes brought on by
the pleasures of youth.**

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).**

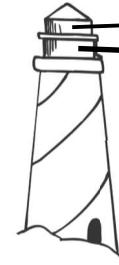
FAMILY NEWS

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

SENTENCE SERMON – When people fall in love with someone's flowers,
but not their roots, they don't know what to do when autumn comes.

FACEBOOK BROADCASTS – We continue to broadcast lessons on FB –
6:00 pm Sundays and 6:30 pm Wednesdays. Join us if you can!



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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

November 15, 2020

Be a Shining Light in a Dark World

The metaphor of 'light' is used often in the scriptures. In the New Testament it usually denotes righteousness (in contrast with evil, which is denoted by darkness).

Not surprisingly then, Christians are often called upon to live in such a way that our light shines out in spite of the darkness (Mt 5:16). This is not a difficult concept to grasp, but it can prove exceedingly difficult in the doing.

Our tendency is to behave like the world (revenge, for example). Light

says turn the other cheek (Mt 5:38-39). The world says it's okay to complain about life (you pick the topic). Light says do all things without complaining (Ph 2:14-15). The world says worldly behavior is no big deal. Light says we are to walk as children of light (Ep 5:3-8).

Bad habits are hard to break – and blending in with a dark world is our tendency; but how will others be brought to Christ if our lives look just like theirs? Be different! Stand out! Be a light!

- *WKing*

Another Perspective

Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things

As Joshua made his farewell speech he exhorted Israel, "*Choose you this day whom you will serve*" (Josh 24:15). But often we are hesitant to accept difficult challenges, so opportunities to render great service to God are lost. Remember that God has not always looked to great people to serve in great ways. In fact, He has often used ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

David demonstrated an extraordinary faith as he went out to the battlefield and defeated the giant Goliath with a sling and small stones (I Sa 17:17-51). He was paid the extraordinary compliment in Ac 13:22, "*I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart.*" Yet, what painfully ordinary traits were exhibited as he committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband killed in the heat of battle (II Sa 11:1-17).

We could write further of:

1. Esther, who, though facing death, appeared before the king to ask that Israel be spared (Esth 4:16).
2. Abraham, who left his homeland and later raised the knife to offer his son upon the altar, yet earlier had lied about Sarah as he feared for his life (Heb 11:8, 17-19; Gen 20:9-13).
3. Peter, who walked on water and was with the Lord at Gethsemane, yet later cursed and denied Christ (Mt 14:27-31; 26:69-75).

May we be encouraged to accept great challenges as ordinary people striving to do extraordinary things.

- Jerry D. Curry (edited for space)

Faith in Context

Do we realize that marriage is the closest of all human relationships – whether business, friendships, or even blood-family ones? None others are nearly as close!

This is well understood in principle because God often expresses just how close He is with His people by using the illustration of marriage (Jer. 31³²; Is. 54⁵; Eph. 5²²⁻³³; Rev. 19⁷; etc.). There is no better analogy for God to use to express just how close He is to us. God is relating Himself to us!

And because we know that God is the perfect representation of relationship, what then can we learn from Him?

Well, He does everything for us (Rom 8²⁸⁻³²). He is patient with us

and comforts us in every action He takes (2 Pet. 3⁹; 2 Cor. 1³⁻⁵). He also gave up His own rights just to help us (Php. 2⁵⁻⁷), and so on.

And we are told to be in harmony with God's character (1 Pet 1¹⁶). We are to keep in mind that if we do not partake in these qualities of God, then we will instead be in harmony with the world's corrupt ways (2 Pet. 1²⁻⁴).

What we see is a wonderful example of how we ought to be in our marriage: we are to be completely other-oriented, as God is. We are to be for the benefit of our spouse one hundred percent.

We must ponder every decision we make, because every single one will impact our spouse. Again, the relationship is that close.

So, am I serving myself in my decisions, or my spouse? Your answer should always be your spouse. - WHSmith