

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



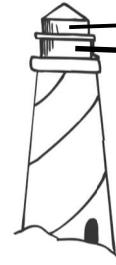
**Anger: it's like drinking
poison and expecting
someone else to die.**

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**

November 22, 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

CURRENT SCHEDULE – Our temporary meeting times are 9 and 11am
on Sundays. Also see Facebook Sundays at 6pm & Wednesdays at 6:30pm.

SENTENCE SERMON – Never consult your financial accounts when try-
ing to calculate your true worth.

He Cannot Sin

*“Whoever has been born of God does not
sin, for His seed remains in him; and he
cannot sin, because he has been born of
God.” - 1 Jn 3:9*

Many Christians, including learned theologians, have struggled with this passage. It seems to teach that God may, at times, take away a person's free moral agency. And certainly, if one “cannot sin” because they have no ability to choose sin, then life becomes much simpler. “No temptation! Yay!” But experience — and God's Word — teach otherwise.

In the context, John was writing about the **practice** of sin. (a continual action verb in the Greek). But we do not need to read Greek to appreciate this fact. Note the use of the word in modern translations: “He who **practices** righteousness is righteous” (vs 7); “Whoever does not **practice** righteousness is not of God” (vs 10); etc.

John's point is simple. One cannot walk in sin and righteousness at the same time. And **that** is not hard to understand!
- *WKing*

Another Perspective

Made Alive With Him

When the apostle Paul preached the gospel, he preached the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Co 15:1-4). He also showed how every believer can identify with Christ's sacrifice. Indeed, salvation is dependent on the believer's fellowship with the death, burial, and resurrection of the Savior.

There is a **death** to be experienced by every believer who would live with Christ. *"If we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him"* (Ro 6:8). The Christian is one who has died to sin (vs 2). None can make a rightful claim to being *"of Christ"* who has not *"crucified the flesh with the passions and the lusts thereof"* (Ga 5:24).

Then, as every believer dies with Christ, he must also be **buried** with Him. Paul showed that this burial is in the waters of baptism and no other place. *"All we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death"* (Ro 6:4). This burial in baptism cannot be the sprinkling or pouring that some call baptism because the word itself means immersion or submersion.

Finally, the believer who has died and been buried with Christ is also **raised** with Him to a new life (Ro 6:4). This is possible because of what happened in baptism. Remission of sins is promised to believers who will repent and be baptized (Ac 2:38). With the forgiveness of sins, we are made alive together with Him (Col 2:13). This life comes only with this death, this burial and resurrection.

– Dan Shipley (edited for space)

Faith in Context

Tell me, O sinner, when does holiness stop?

Does it stop at faith alone? At repentance? Baptism? Is it complete when we worship the right way? Absolutely not.

Holiness is no mere outward expression of faith. Holiness is not a 'checklist' to be 'good with God'. Hypocrites can do as much. Rather, holiness is internal (given by God), and never external. Is it impossible to attain? May it never be!

God gave the impetus that moves the heart, and not merely the body (Mt 16²⁴; Jno 13¹³⁻¹⁶; Eph 5¹⁻²; Col 3¹³; 1 Pet 1²¹⁻²⁴; 1 Jno 2⁶; 3¹⁵⁻¹⁶).

The question is whether we can be truly grateful for such an example, and live it out in a desire for good. God has desired this attitude for all

people, in all ages (Hos. 6⁶; Mic. 6⁸; Mt 9¹³).

But be watchful! Temptation exists to live it out for self-aggrandizement (i.e., "look at me! I'm religious!"). In fact, living for external holiness is living for self. Living for internal holiness is to live for others (like Jesus did).

The clue is that this has everything to do with relationships: Are all of my relationships holy when I say to another, 'Be warmed and filled', yet do nothing for them? No! (Jms 2¹³; 1⁶) Is my marriage holy only in sexual purity, but I do not tend to the other needs of my spouse? No! (Eph 5²⁵⁻²⁹)

Do not sin and use holiness as a pretense. Yes, do the externals asked by God, but do not leave these greater matters undone (Mt 23²³).

Holiness never stops. Holiness will only ever excel still more (1 Thess 4¹; 10).

– WHSmith