

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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**There is nothing harder
than the softness of
indifference.**

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

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ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

December 6, 2020

Never Alone

“All those in Asia have turned away from me.” “Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world” - 2 Ti 1:15, 4:10

Paul was in a prison cell when he wrote these words, and he must have felt lonely. Not only had many of his former spiritual allies abandoned him, but others who still loved him were away, including Crescens, Titus, Tychicus, Mark (4:10-12), and of course, Timothy. At the time of this writing, “*only Luke*” was with him (4:11).

In many ways this is a sad picture of the last days of one who had fought so tirelessly for the kingdom. How tragic, that at a time

when he could have used a little encouragement, virtually no one was there to provide it.

In the lives of many Christians there may come such times. We may have been blessed with years of prosperity, surrounded by numerous friends and family; yet, due to the circumstances of life, loneliness may slowly creep in.

What, then, should be our attitude? As usual, Paul provides a good example: “*The Lord stood with me and strengthened me*” (4:17). Even when he was alone, Paul knew that he was not really alone – and **neither are we**, if we are God’s child. - *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

WELCOME! – We welcome several new members to our number: Landon Burcham, and Jason & Brandi Johnson. Let’s help them to feel welcomed!

SENTENCE SERMON – Prejudice is a great time-saver; it enables one to form opinions without bothering to get the facts.

Another Perspective

Serving God Alone

Ideally, serving God should be a communal experience – little communities in which individuals, whatever their social status or background, find the security of a home and family (a local church).

But occasionally circumstances will conspire to remove a servant of God from the embrace of companions. Plunged into the storms of life alone, without kith or kin, one must endure with whatever resources can be found – no one to lend encouragement, no one to offer comfort, no one to lean on. It is in times like these that one's faith is stretched to the limit.

In the last hours of His life, Jesus knew that isolation. His enemies had gained the upper hand and were closing in. His dearest friends had panicked and fled. He went through His final ordeal utterly alone, cursed by a world that had no clue why He was even here, nor appreciated the significance of what He was doing.

Jesus had assured His disciples that whatever disaster befell Him, "I am not alone, because the Father is with Me." He clung to that conviction through the beatings, the mockery, as stakes pounded through His hands and feet.

It's easy to glide through the story of Jesus' crucifixion, knowing how the story played out. But what we can't see is the path our own story will take. In the midst of our own distress, the temptation to give up is strong. Nobody cares. Nobody listens. Nobody draws near to help. But somewhere deep inside, we must cling to one essential truth: "I am not alone, because the Father is with me." And remember that Jesus is with us too. Armed with their presence, we can see this through.

- *David King (edited for space)*

Faith in Context

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood ...but against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Eph 6¹²)

Surprisingly, people are not our enemy.

Now it may be hard to believe people are not the enemy, especially when some have committed murder over trivial things like food or money. But this insight from Paul provides for us the identity of our true enemy – Satan.

This insight also provides for us a truer reality about our fellow man. Like us, they are all victims of Satan. None of them are truly our enemy.

People may hurt us with sin. They may even kill us. But the truth is, they are only being manipulated by the real enemy. They are following after the lies of the father of lies (Jno 8⁴⁴), whatever they may be.

So, what do we do? This may seem a bit cliché but simply put, we must follow Jesus.

God was aware of Satan's manipulation and slavery over all mankind (Rom 1²¹⁻²⁵; Gal 4³). Thus, He sent a Savior into the world to provide redemption from such deceit and evil ways (1 Jno 4^{9, 14}), so that we may be His people – a people zealous for good deeds (Tit 2¹⁴).

So, when all of humankind was the enemy of its Savior, Jesus instead had compassion on them as merely being a tool of Satan, and He still saved us all.

Likewise, when others sin against you – when they become your 'enemy' – respond in the ways of Christ: in righteousness and love. Be a blessing to your enemies (Mt 5⁴⁴) and you may very well change their heart – as Christ changed yours (Mt 5¹⁶; 1 Pet 2¹²). - *WHSmith*

