

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

### Sunday

Bible Class on hold  
Morning Assembly 9 or 11  
Evening Assembly on hold

### Wednesday

Bible Class on hold

## RADIO PROGRAM

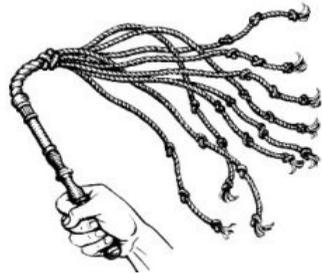
### The Bible Speaks



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



**Persecution only comes  
to those who care.**

## 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

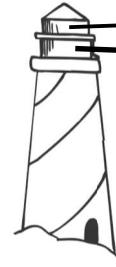
### PRAYER LIST –

*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

**CURRENT SCHEDULE –** We continue to meet on Sunday mornings at 9  
and 11 (pick one). Thanks for everyone's cooperation to make this possible.

**SENTENCE SERMON –** Do your good deeds in secret, and be content to  
let God take notice.



## DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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

December 13, 2020

## Time and Temperature

We are creatures of the numbers. We like to quantify things like time (even down to the nanosecond) and temperature (every hour of every day in every place). Well, the Bible says a lot about time **and** temperature.

*"...forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal..."* (Ph 3:13-14). So, what does the Bible say about **time**? 'Forget' the past (successes and failures), 'reach forward' to the future (eternity), and 'press on' today (a 'present tense' responsibility, as long as it is called 'today' – He 3:13). That pretty much covers time.

So, what does the Bible say about temperature? *"Because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth"* (Re 3:16). God despises a lukewarm approach to spiritual service. But He warns us about growing spiritually cold as well (which can happen when we are surrounded by lawlessness – Mt 24:12). Rather, God's Word should burn like a fire in our hearts, unable to contain it – as Jeremiah (20:9). Considering that a typical fire burns at approximately 1500 degrees Fahrenheit, perhaps we can appreciate the metaphor. So, what are you doing with **your** time and temperature?

- **WKing**

## Another Perspective

## Bible Study or Ego Massage?

Bible studies tend to follow this route. The Bible is simply the entry into a discussion about more interesting things, usually about oneself. The text is a mere pretext to other matters and usually the routine works like this: A verse or passage is given out, and the group or class is asked ‘What does it mean to you?’ The answers come thick and fast, and we are off into the life stories or personal situations of the group and the session very quickly takes the form of Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Step meetings or other exercises in healing and therapy. I do not wish to disparage the very good and necessary work these groups perform. I simply wish to say that this is not Bible study, and to call it such is to perpetuate a fiction.

Bible study actually involves the study of the Bible. That involves a certain amount of work, a certain exchange of informed intelligence, a certain amount of discipline. Bible study is not just the response of an **un**informed reader to the **un**interpreted text, but Bible study in most of the churches has become just that — the blind leading the blind, or as some caustic critics of liberal Protestantism would put it, the bland leading the bland. The notion that texts have meaning and integrity, intention, contexts, and subtexts, and that they are part of an enormous history of interpretation that has long involved some of the greatest thinkers in the history of the world, is a notion often lost on those for whom the text is just one more of the many means the church provides to massage the egos of its members.

- Peter Gommes

## Faith in Context

*“Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock... it does not fall... but everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand... it falls with a great crash.” (Mt 7<sup>24-27</sup>)*

We should note that Jesus isn’t necessarily talking about non-Christians here. He’s talking about the ones who hear **and** do.

“Don’t I do that?” Well, I’ve never met a Christian who loved to hear the words of Jesus and went to church (clearly hearing the words of Jesus), and then did absolutely nothing. They’re at least doing something, right? They’re going to church, taking the Lord’s Supper, and not mistreating their family.

The question is not, ‘Are there things I am doing?’, but rather, “**What am I leaving undone?**”

James touches on this a little bit, “*If you claim to be religious but don’t control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless.*”

Now, why would anyone do **some** of what the Lord says, but not all? Quite frankly, it’s out of convenience. It’s because it coincides with one’s own will and purpose, not because it’s the words of Jesus.

Now, I’m not suggesting that we can fulfill God’s will perfectly. But what I am saying is that we can, at times, willfully leave the things of God undone.

And if so, then guess what? Our entire religion will be worthless.

Be mindful of His will, and never our own, lest we leave anything undone out of self-deception.

- WHSmith