

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
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Rogers, AR 72757
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Perhaps the most difficult
command: “Do all things
without complaining”
Philippians 2:14

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).

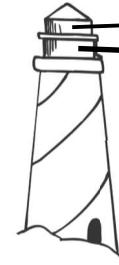
FAMILY NEWS

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 – If Abel’s blood cried up to the Lord from the
ground, how much more the blood of 50,000,000 aborted babies?



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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Eyewitnesses: Why They Matter

In the midst of the recent political chaos (for which I blame pretty much everyone involved), the role of eyewitness testimony has been called into question. Even some Christians have joined the chorus. On social media they have publicly ridiculed the 1,000+ eyewitnesses who recently testified to election fraud, and in the process have even mocked the use of eyewitnesses in the legal system altogether.

The danger of this attitude has implications not only for our judicial system, but it undermines the very foundations of Christianity itself. Let’s examine what the Bible says.

The Law of Moses relied heavily on eyewitness testimony, although safeguards were in place to insure the proper use of such witnesses. For example, to avoid a ‘he said, he said’ situation, a plurality of witnesses were required (De 19:15-19). Bearing “false witness” was condemned; and to guard against it, the penalties for perjury were stiff – up to, and including, the death penalty (De 19:18-21).

Witnesses to a crime were not only required to tell the truth but were required to speak out (Le 5:1, Pr 29:24). Concealing one’s knowledge of a crime was a crime. ⇨

Judges were obligated to hear witnesses and to cross-examine them diligently (De 19:18). Those judges who simply shrugged off a complaint (for political or other reasons) were considered unjust (De 16:19, Lu 18:1-5).

And how was the credibility of witnesses established? While Jewish tradition (not the Law) excluded many classes of individuals from being witnesses, the Bible provides instructive direction. Those who got paid to testify were clearly **not** credible (Mt 28:11-15). But on the other end of the spectrum were those who stood to lose everything for their testimony (as the blind man of Jn 9). People have lost their jobs, family, and friends for offering up testimony. Some have even lost their lives (as Stephen, Ac 7). In fact, the Greek word for ‘witness’ is the same word from which we get our word ‘martyr’. The more one is willing to sacrifice for their testimony, the more credible they are.

Some would discredit eyewitnesses simply because multiple witnesses

may report different (seemingly contradictory) details. But as J. Warner Wallace states in his book, *Cold-Case Christianity*, “Each eyewitness will describe the event from his or her spatial and emotional perspective. Not everyone will be in the same position to see the same series of events or the same details.” (p 82). In other words, we would expect eyewitnesses to differ in some degree in their testimony.

The word ‘witness’ (and variants) is found almost 200 times in the Bible. The resurrection of Christ was witnessed by more than 500 people, and it is largely on the testimony of just a handful of these people that we believe in His resurrection – and consequently, our own. From His miracles to His ascension, the gospel is an account by eyewitnesses of the incredible life of Jesus. They sacrificed much for their testimony, and we should honor them for it.

To mock eyewitness testimony is to erode justice, and to undermine the very foundation of Christianity. Let us not be so foolish. - *WKing*

Faith in Context

I was recently asked the question, “Why do we fail?”

And while scores of answers can be considered (such as selfishness, fear, impossibilities, etc.), I’d like for us to consider just one: the problem of perfection.

Now, I’m not saying that perfection is a problem in and of itself. Nor am I suggesting that perfection isn’t a goal that we should attain to, nor something that isn’t expected of us (Mt 5⁴⁸; Php 3¹⁵).

What I am saying is that **we may have a misguided expectation of perfection** – that we believe we can become absolutely perfect, today. And as a result, our immediate expectations never come to fruition, and we see ourselves as failures (possibly even giving up and giving in to our failures).

But we must understand that God’s goal in perfecting us is something that takes time. Even the Apostle Paul admitted to his current imperfection, but worked in patience with the time he still had on this earth until perfection came by way of his resurrection (Php 3¹¹⁻¹⁴).

Paul reminded the Corinthian Christians that their perfection was not instantaneous either, but was a process of what they would become (2 Cor 5¹⁷⁻²¹; 2 Cor 7¹).

God has created us in the image of Christ, and He is shaping us. In other words, none of us are finished, and none of us have reached a state of perfection that our Creator intends for us, but we’re in this process of being remade, reshaped, and reformed.

Yes, we fail; but with great effort, true repentance, and trust in God we will succeed and be perfect in Heaven with Him. Be patient and press on, brethren!

- *WHSmith*