

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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FOR THE NEW YEAR

“The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.”
- Numbers 6:24-26

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).

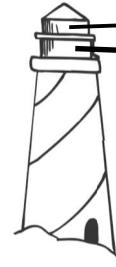
FAMILY NEWS

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

WE REJOICE! – We rejoice with Linzy and Kevin Wilkerson (brother and sister) who were recently baptized into Christ! Let’s encourage them!

SENTENCE SERMON – New Year Resolutions should be more than simply a list of things to do the first week of January.



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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ROGERS, ARKANSAS

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New Beginnings

A new year is often considered a good time for new beginnings. And it is – if that happens to be the time when we realize that a change is needed. But whether it’s losing bad habits or starting good ones, the best time to begin is **now** (He 3:13-15). Maybe that’s January 1; or maybe that’s August 1. Whenever it is, **today** is the time to make it happen.

This is especially crucial in the spiritual realm. If we neglect to lose twenty pounds in the next few months, our physical health (and perhaps our self-esteem) will suffer. But, if we fail to deal **today** with the problem of sin in our lives

– well, that decision could have eternal ramifications.

If you are not a Christian, there is no more urgent need that you have than to become one. Only in Christ is the problem of sin dealt with (Ep 1:7). If you **are** a Christian, there is no more urgent need that you have than to maintain that right relationship with God. Through prayer and a daily walk in the light, God’s forgiveness takes care of the eternal consequences of sin.

So, make that resolution today – not because it is a new year, but **because it is today!**

- *WKing*

Just Thinkin'

Tomatoes and the Second Coming

Spring came early that year and I figured it was time to give The Boys their first lesson in gardening. So, we bought a few tomato plants and headed for the backyard.

The soil was already loose and fertile, so we just grabbed a shovel and turned a few spades of dirt. The Boys used their plastic shovels to help and rearranged the dirt to their liking – finding a grub in the process. After the plants were set and watered, we just sat back, sipped some tea, and enjoyed the moment.

Two days later, The Boys observed that the plants just weren't growing. This came as a huge disappointment because they had fully expected a tomato harvest within days. Ah, the first lesson in patience!

"...the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it... You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand" (Ja 5:7-8).

Even kids must learn patience; but, if kids can learn to wait on tomatoes, surely we can learn to wait on the Lord. Think about it.

- *WKing*

Faith in Context

As God "rested" after the six days of creation, did He sit back in His easy chair and do nothing for the rest of eternity? **Not quite** – He still sustains this creation with great power (Gen 8²²; Col 1¹⁷).

God also continues to work in the lives of humans in this world (Dan 4¹⁷), most notably through His intervening work of sending Jesus to save the world (Jno 3¹⁶).

When man lived amid God's presence in Paradise (a word that imagines "taking it easy"), was man to sit back and relax? **Not quite** – even Paradise required work to maintain it (Gen 2^{15, 19-20}).

So when the people of God consider their "rest" in heaven (Heb 4¹⁻¹¹), in the presence of God (1 Thess 4¹³⁻¹⁷), living eternally in

Paradise (Rev 2⁷), is it a total cessation of work? **Not quite.**

So, what may our "rest" in heaven actually mean? If God's desire for our relational-centered behavior on earth is any indication at all (that denying self, living sacrificially, serving/loving others, and praising God is the testing grounds that brings us to heaven, 1 Jno 2^{3, 7, 10-11}), then it would serve us best **not** to consider Heaven as a place in which our focus is a selfish one (i.e., I don't have to work).

Given that we were created for relationships (with God and fellow man), I suggest that our "rest" will be from that which hinders us (the pain of sin and self that works to get in our way), and our heaven will be the ultimate manifestation of a *working* relationship.

Though we struggle for a perfect work today, we will rest **in** its perfect work in Heaven.

- *WHSmith*