

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

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201 W. Chestnut Street
Rogers, AR 72757
479-636-3575
www.downtowncoc.net



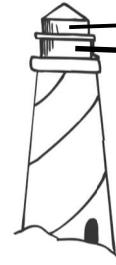
“Honor the emperor.”
1 Pe 2:17

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**

January 24, 2021

“Slow and Steady Wins It”

It was the constant advice of the hospital medical staff throughout six days in the Covid ICU (covid pneumonia, condition serious). The message was clear: do not try to rush the process. Regaining strength and the ability to absorb oxygen will be a marathon, not a sprint. I was told to resign myself to a long fight. It was the only way to slay the beast. And so, I resigned myself to doing a marathon.

Now this will **not** be the first of many articles on ‘Lessons Learned While in the ICU’ (I promise). It

would be easy to write such a series (Learning Humility from a Bedpan, for example). But who would really want to read it? On the other hand, **this** lesson is worth the telling. It made sense to me medically – and it certainly makes sense spiritually.

The life of a Christian is not a sprint – it is a marathon. When we first begin that race, we are stoked. We are excited. We are optimistic that we will be successful. And then life happens. Reality sets in. The world begins to assault us, to discourage us, and to drag us down. ➡

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

CONGRATULATIONS! – Our best wishes go to Emma Welch and Tyler Roberts on their recent marriage! Let’s encourage all of our young couples!

SENTENCE SERMON – The approach of some people to relationships: if we ignore them, maybe they will just go away. Let’s read James 2:1-4.

It is the process described by Jesus in the parable of the sower: *As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful* (Mt 13:20-22).

Whether it's the hardships of life (stony soil) or the cares of the world (thorny soil), they can hinder our ability to run a good race, to focus on the long-goal, to keep our eyes on the eternal prize. We want success **now**. We want to claim our victory **now**. But life is rarely so accommodating.

The author of Hebrews used the marathon in his efforts to encourage struggling Christians: *Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which clings so*

closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us (He 12:1).

Endurance.

“But preacher, my job.” Endure.

“But preacher, my family.” Endure.

“But preacher, the country, the corruption.” Endure.

“But preacher, those hypocritical, make-believe Christians.” Endure.

“But preacher, my liberties, my rights, my freedom of speech is being taken away.” Endure.

“But preacher, my health.” Endure.

“But preacher, I am tired.” Endure.

One thing about a marathon: it may be long, but there is a finish line. Life may be difficult. It may be hard. It may even get brutal at times. But there is a finish line. *“Well done, good and faithful servant.”* Those words are for those who endure — to the end.

“Slow and steady wins it.” That’s good advice whether you’re fighting the covid pneumonia beast — or the devil himself.

- **WKing**

Faith in Context

“If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and trust in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart a person trusts, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” (Rom 10⁹⁻¹⁰)

Some people have misconstrued this passage. For example, someone may think that if they were to just say the words, “Jesus is Lord,” then they are saved! They think that’s the whole plan of salvation!

But is that really what Paul was saying? Not quite. Let’s look at the context.

Notice in verses 6-8 Paul quoted Moses from Dt. 30¹¹⁻¹⁴, *“Do not say in your heart, who will ascend into heaven? Or who will descend into the abyss* (i.e, a bottomless pit)? *But what*

does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart.”

Now, the point being made in Deuteronomy is that God has **not** made His requirements something overly difficult to accomplish. We don’t need to go into a bottomless pit or up the highest mountain to know what God wants us to do; rather, *“the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it.”* (Dt. 30¹⁴)

Paul is telling us that **all** of God’s Word has been given us and can be acted upon.

Where salvation is concerned, it is not so difficult a read to know what all we need to do. In addition to belief and confession, repentance and baptism are also both part of the plan (Act 2³⁸). Let no one tell you otherwise.

Act upon the **entire** word; let **all** of it reside “in your mouth”.

- **WHSmith**