

## 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



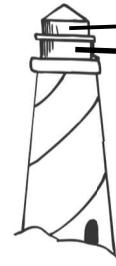
**Make an effort,  
not an excuse.**

## 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**

February 7, 2021

## 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

**THANKS!** – Thanks to everyone who has cooperated to make Sunday AM assemblies possible. Your cooperation in love and humility is appreciated!

**SENTENCE SERMON** – Blessed is the man who refrains from speaking until he knows what he is talking about.

## Just Leave Me Alone

“Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead. Do not walk before me, for I may not follow. Do not walk beside me either — just leave me alone.”

It strikes a humorous chord; but it is hardly the recipe for success in life. Yet that hasn’t stopped some from actually adopting such an approach — to their own detriment.

“I may not lead.” Then, how do you think to become a father, a mother, an elder, or a Bible class teacher? How can you even be the salt of the earth or a light in the world, if you refuse to lead (Mt 5:13-16)?

“I may not follow.” Then, how can you be a follower of Jesus? And how can you submit to others who have lawful authority over you? How will you learn from the godly examples of those around you? Christians, of all people, should be willing to follow the right examples (1 Co 11:1).

“Just leave me alone.” Really? Paul wrote, “None of us lives to himself and no one dies to himself” (Ro 14:7). We **are** our brother’s keeper. We **can** help each other get to heaven — **if** we have the heart to do it.      - **WKing**

## Another Perspective

Have you noticed how often the Bible describes people building things? Noah built the ark, the Israelites built the tabernacle, Solomon built his magnificent temple, Nehemiah built the walls of Jerusalem, and Paul – so famous for building churches – was also a tentmaker.

There is something about human nature that drives us to build things. All human history can be summarized as one long building enterprise. We can even build devices that can take us to the moon and beyond. Whether for functionality or beauty, or sometimes both, humans love to build things.

It should not surprise us, therefore, to read of Jesus the carpenter "building" His church (Mt 16:18). This is a figure of speech (He has no interest in physical cathedrals) describing a special group of people who honor and follow Him. These people have an outlook on life that sets them apart from others. Like Jesus, they use their time and talents to serve others, not themselves. They have a remarkable resiliency that allows them to weather the storms of life with grace and dignity. As a whole, this group of people is a wonder to behold. They were built for that very purpose.

And guess what? A major component of these people's work is building, also. They "build up" (edify) one another through teaching and encouragement (1 Cor. 14:12; Eph. 4:12). It's what God created them to do, and He has provided guidance on how they can do it well.

Friend, God put you on this earth to build. Whatever your talents and inclinations, get busy using them to fulfill God's purpose for your life. When your time on earth is done, the world will be a better place for your having been here.

## The Builders

– David King (edited for space)

## Faith in Context

Things like culture, ethnicity, traditions, and the human tendency to preserve our pride make sharing the gospel a unique and challenging endeavor. People hold onto such things because these are what make us who we are, and the gospel (in one way or another) challenges all of us to reject what is our current identity (Jms 1<sup>23-25</sup>).

Yet, we still must bring the gospel to all (Mk 16<sup>15</sup>). The challenge is to know how — in a multicultural world — to do that.

I don't pretend to know the best way to evangelize, but there are some things we can observe.

None of us know the hearts of men like Jesus did, or can teach exactly what is needed to be heard (Mk 2<sup>8</sup>; Jno 2<sup>25</sup>). Neither are we like the

Apostle Paul who, being guided by the Holy Spirit, knew exactly what to say to save some (Acts 17<sup>22-34</sup>; 1 Cor 9<sup>20-22</sup>).

But we all have God's Word that clues us in on how to share the Gospel through *action* and *Truth*.

Truth is critically important; but it most often comes **after** the witness of the gospel in our lives, and the witness of the relationships it kindles. It is our duty to behave in such a godly way (Col 4<sup>5</sup>; 1 Thess 9<sup>12</sup>) that it compels people around us to consider what is this hope that we have (1 Pet 2<sup>12</sup>; 3<sup>15</sup>), and to see the love that we extend toward one another (Jno 13<sup>35</sup>). Only then will our **words** of the gospel mean anything to the hearer.

The challenge for us? It's simple. Does my life in Christ pique the interest of another to inquire about this Christ in me?

– WHSmith