

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class on hold
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

Downtown Church of Christ

P.O. Box 447
201 W. Chestnut Street
Rogers, AR 72757
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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).

RADIO PROGRAM

The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

**NEW
SCHEDULE
BEGINS
MARCH 7
(NEXT SUNDAY)**

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

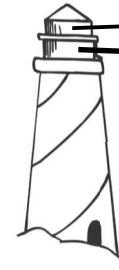
Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

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, Kyler Sullins

NEW SCHEDULE – Note our new meeting schedule which will begin next Sunday, March 7 (see above); especially note time changes on all meetings.

SENTENCE SERMON – As we slowly begin to reopen our assemblies and classes, let's be “One Another Strong” – and remember to love one another!



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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

February 28, 2021

Transitioning to ‘Normal’

Most of our members whom I've heard from are thrilled that we have begun the process to ‘reopen’ our assemblies and classes (see back page of this bulletin for details). Although Sunday morning classes are still ‘on hold’, and although we continue to take safety precautions (masks, roping off alternate pews, self-contained elements for Lord's Supper, and avoiding congestion in the foyer), ‘normal’ seems much closer now than it has in a while.

Will we continue to have to adjust from time to time? Almost certainly. Will some of our members still not be comfortable with the updated

protocols? Almost certainly. It is part of the process. Let's be patient with the process — and let's be longsuffering with one another. It's how God's people deal with the ups and downs of life (“do all things without complaining”); and it's how God's people deal with each other when we disagree over matters of opinion (“...with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love”). It's not hard to understand, even if it is sometimes hard to practice!

Remember, ‘normal’ is relative. And we'll never be truly ‘normal’ until we are at home with the Lord. - *WKing*

Another Perspective

The Church's Purpose

What is the purpose of the Lord's church? Is it to eradicate poverty, disease, social injustice, and illiteracy from among men? Is it to bring about a cessation of war and conflict?

If the church had as one of its great goals the eradication of disease, the Lord could have easily equipped it to accomplish that goal. The same power that cured many people of varied diseases could have cured all people of all diseases; and it could have been given to the church in all generations.

If the church had as one of its great goals the eradication of poverty, the Lord could have easily equipped it to accomplish this purpose. After all, He fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fishes. He could have enabled His church in all generations to feed, clothe, and shelter the impoverished masses of the world through miraculous powers.

If the Lord had wanted His church to become a lobbyist group to apply political pressure toward changing society, He would have given instructions in that direction. But He did not even lead His church into a direct effort to destroy slavery (Col 3:22-4:1).

No, the church's purpose is to save souls and prepare people for eternity. It holds out to the impoverished the hope of walking a street of gold; to the suffering a time when there will be no pain; to the sorrowing a moment when "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." It tells the tempted and persecuted that there is value in these afflictions, that the testing of their faith is "more precious than of gold," and to rejoice. It tells all to live godly lives in whatever environment they are. It seeks to change people from the inside out through the power of the gospel. *– Bill Hall (edited for space)*

Faith in Context

How do you approach people with your knowledge of God's Word? Is it characterized by fear, comfort, and pride, or fear, trust, and love?

As Christians, we can all agree that our knowledge of God begins with fear (Prov 9¹⁰); but from there, we must decide which direction to go with that knowledge – and how we treat others with it.

Some self-righteous people get into a kind of 'comfort zone', in which they consider their knowledge to be superior to those around them. Sound familiar?

The Jewish leaders in Jesus' days were comforted by their knowledge of God all the while they fell into pride and looked down on others (Lk 18¹⁰⁻¹⁴). This is the path they chose with that knowledge and this

was the path Jesus condemned (Lk 11³⁷⁻⁵²).

Let us cut away these offenses from God's Word (2 Tim 2:15 LSV) by making a path for the knowledge of our Lord in trust and love.

We may judge righteously as we attempt to correct others in Biblical error, but please do not forget that we are to show the same mercy (Jms 2¹³), love (Jno 13³⁴), and patience (Gal 5²²) that Jesus showed us in our times of darkness.

I suspect you appreciated His compassion on you when you needed the help. By contrast, an austere approach to Christians and non-Christians alike will more than likely fail you.

So how will you bring your knowledge of the Lord to those who need it? With a prideful arrogance, or a loving humility? After all, knowledge alone puffs up, while love builds up (1 Co 8^{1c}). *-WHSmith*