

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

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



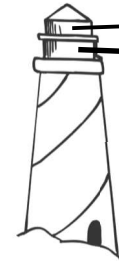
Love your enemies —
yes, really.

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**

March 14, 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, Kyler Sullins

SUMMER DATES – Our **VBS** is set for July 18-22 with Chris Reeves and
our **Youth Lectures** are set for July 30-31 with Paul Sheehan. Plan ahead!

SENTENCE SERMON – Strength isn't measured by how much you can
take before you break, but by how much you can take after you are broken.

Are You Okay with That?

The church where Fred attended was very active in community social work. It's the main reason he was a member there. He knew enough about the Bible to know that Christians were supposed to be 'nice' people – helping those in need. And his church was a helping church, so Fred was okay with that.

The preaching at Fred's church was pretty shallow; but the preacher had a Th.D., so Fred was okay with that. Typical sermons consisted of funny stories, emotional poems, and positive 'feel good' psychology. But every sermon began with a Bible verse, so Fred was okay with that.

Fred had never thought much about God's requirements for salvation ("What must I do to be saved?"). He just figured, like most everyone else, that as long as he was a nice guy, and a member of a church active in social work, that he would be fine. He was certainly okay with that.

But the people who attended Fred's church, and who heard the nice sermons, and who were involved in the social programs, were ignorant of God's Word. They just believed all the popular stereotypes of what Christians were supposed to believe. And sadly, while Fred was okay with that, God was not.

- *WKing*

Another Perspective

Living by Faith

The Bible does not teach blind faith. We should be prudent in choosing our path; but a point comes when all the preparation is exhausted, and absolute certainty is elusive. We must make a decision on faith, trusting God.

Abraham had sufficient reason to trust God with his life. But when God promised him that he — an old man with a childless old wife — would have a son, there was no empirical way of testing that promise. He had to accept it on faith, despite the apparent absurdity of it.

When Israel heard the promise of Moses and Aaron that God would deliver them from their bondage in Egypt, and saw the signs that Moses performed, they believed the message and committed to following Moses' lead. But they were still slaves, and would have to pass through many trials before their dreams were realized. Theirs was a journey of faith.

It's one thing to believe that God exists, that the Bible is His word, and that Jesus is Lord and King. But it's quite another thing to rearrange our lives to conform to God's instructions, especially when those instructions violate all the accepted norms of what the world considers a successful life. It's then that we are confronted with the awful choice: Do I believe God or not? The consequences of that decision can be enormous.

Living by faith is not easy. But it becomes easier when we decide to put God first in our hearts. Until we make that commitment, our 'faith' is nothing more than empty tokenism — weak, ineffective, and deceptive.

Do your homework, and trust God to do what is best.

- *David King (edited for space)*

Faith in Context

Looking through some old notes of mine, I found an acronym which has proven to be helpful. (Unfortunately, the author is unknown.)

In today's world, we are saturated with racial tension, political divisiveness, and self-serving individualism (and much more). All of these have the un-Christian result of being hateful toward one another, and of speaking evil towards our neighbor. Sadly, even brethren can wind up biting and devouring one another, destroying the church altogether (Gal 5¹⁵).

One of the hardest lessons for me to apply, even today, is speaking gently to others even when wronged, or just simply feeling frustrated. Regardless of my failures, 'Think before you speak' still stands. Here's the note I found:

The solution to not speaking evil of one another is to simply ask yourself to T.H.I.N.K. —

T – Is it True?

H – Is it Helpful?

I – Is it Inspiring?

N – Is it Necessary?

K – Is it Kind?

And what is the result of thinking how to speak in godly ways? Initially, it will do away with the tension and divisiveness mentioned earlier. "A soft word turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (Prov 15¹)

More importantly, there will be a spiritual growth that benefits the whole church when we speak with love toward one another. "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. (Eph 4¹⁵).

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up. (1 Thess 5¹¹)

- *WHSmith*