

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



**The gossip who tells
you about others, will
tell others about you.**

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

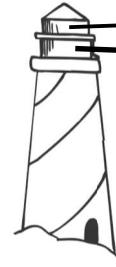
PRAYER LIST –

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, 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 – Some people are like a microscope, magnifying
the little things while completely ignoring the big picture.



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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

March 21, 2021

Cancel This

‘Cancel Culture’ has been the latest alarm to send shock waves through the Christian community. Everything from Dr. Seuss to biographies of black conservatives have found themselves on the chopping block of society’s power brokers. But ‘cancel culture’ is nothing new — especially in the religious realm.

Anti-God forces have attempted to ‘cancel’ God’s people for ages. King Saul attempted to cancel David, his ‘competition’ (1 Sa 18:6-11). The unbelieving Jews managed to ‘cancel’ Stephen (Ac 7:54-60). And of course, the same crowd had earlier ‘cancelled Jesus’ by having Him crucified when they could no longer

counter His teaching (Jn 5:16-18). In modern times, Marxists have ‘canceled’ God’s Word by making the possession and preaching of it against the law. God’s people are no strangers to the ‘cancel culture’.

Of course, not all ‘cancel culture’ is a bad thing. Civil governments have been canceling certain behaviors for eons. Murder, assault, rape, theft, and many other evil behaviors have always been canceled in law-abiding cultures, as rightly they should be (Ro 13:1-4). And God expects civil government to know the difference between good behavior and evil behavior — which behaviors should be



allowed and which should be ‘canceled’.

But as societies drift further from God, those restraints no longer get ‘canceled’. Whereas adultery, for example, was once considered a capital offence (law of Moses as well as some early American cultures), today it is sanctioned by the state for almost any reason. In more recent months, some communities have turned a blind eye to the wanton destruction of public and private property, including some small minority- owned mom and pop businesses, as though some evil deeds justify committing more evil deeds.

We have lost our moral compass because our moral compass has been canceled. God and His Word have been thrown out of the public square – in universities, in the entertainment industry, and in civil government; as one congressman recently stated, “God’s will is no concern of this Congress”. With such an attitude, is it any wonder that our nation is on the fast track to moral chaos?

True cancel culture begins in the heart – a heart of faith and trust in God’s Word. As Jesus put it, “Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, and blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man” (Mt 15:19-20). As Christians, we should be practicing ‘cancel culture’ every day, canceling ungodliness in our lives by canceling it in our hearts.

God’s will cannot be canceled. Though Saul attempted to cancel David, justice prevailed. And though the unbelieving Jews attempted to cancel the preaching of the gospel by killing Stephen, they could not cancel the message (Ac 8:4). And of course, neither Jesus nor His kingdom can be canceled by mortal men – not even by Satan himself (Mt 16:18).

In the end, God will not be canceled. On the day of judgment, He will essentially say, ‘Cancel this’ as He casts the rebellious into the lake of fire (Re 20:11-15). The time to get on **God’s** side is **now!**

- *WKing*

Faith in Context

We’ve begun studying the book of James in our Wednesday night classes recently, and we can’t help but notice a very powerful illustration concerning our tongue right in the middle of the book (Jms 3⁵⁻¹²).

Honestly, throughout the entire book of James we constantly see either warnings about the use of our tongue or encouragements for appropriate speech in place of its misuse (Jms 1^{5-6, 13, 19-20, 26}; 2^{2-3, 12}; 4^{11, 13, 16}; 5^{9-10, 12-18}).

And one of the larger points that James is trying to make is that our words alone are always sufficient to condemn us and, also, that our words alone are never capable of justifying us.

When we speak words of comfort, yet do not couple them with ac-

tions, they are all but dead and useless (Jms 2¹⁴⁻¹⁷). Words without any action leads to a faith that is also dead and useless (Jms 2¹⁷). If this is the use of our words, they alone can and will condemn us.

If we speak and boast great things about God, and we proclaim every bit of faith and love and trust in Him, it sounds good! But we can have all the boasting of God before us with all our words, and if we do not **do** the right things of God that accompany such words, then it is sin (Jms 4¹⁶⁻¹⁷). If this is the use of our words, they alone will never justify us before God.

Let’s take James’ advice about our words and actions: “So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty.” (Jms 2¹²)

- *WHSmith*

