

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

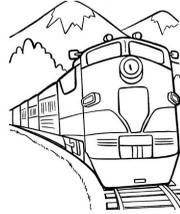
The Bible Speaks



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



**It's good to be on the
right track; but don't
sit down or you'll
get run over!**

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

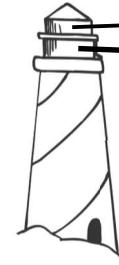
PRAYER LIST –

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!

WELCOME! – Welcome to Dave Richey, who recently placed membership
with us! Let's do all we can to encourage him – as he encourages us!



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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

April 4, 2021

Has Your Ear Been Pierced?

“If the servant plainly says, ‘I love my master... I will not go out free,’ then his master shall bring him to... the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.” – Ex 21:5-6

It seems a strange custom to us, being so far removed from slavery and indentured servitude. But, under the Law of Moses, a servant who had earned his freedom had the option of remaining in servitude to his master. If he chose that option, he was led to the doorpost of the house and an awl was driven through his ear lobe. As a man who was free to choose, he chose to be a servant!

And so it is with Christians today. Peter encouraged his audience, “... not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God” (1 Pe 2:16). As those who are free to choose, we must choose to be servants! We must allow Jesus to drive the awl through our ear!

As one songwriter has put it so well:

***Pierce my ear, O Lord, my God;
Take me to your door this day.
I will serve no other god;
Lord, I'm here to stay.***

Steve Croft, ©1980

Has your ear been pierced?

- WKing

Another Perspective

Haggai and the Lord's House

In 520 B.C., about 16 years after the people of God had returned from the Babylonian Captivity, the temple of God remained in ruins. Then the Jews got busy and within four years the temple was completed. What caused the turn around? Though many people were important to the rebuilding effort, the Scriptures credit Haggai with playing an important part in stirring up the people. To consider the story of Haggai is to better understand things that will hinder the building of God's house even today.

One reason for the delay in the rebuilding of the temple was the contention of the people that it was not time to build (Hag 1:2-5). But, while they contended that it was not time to build the Lord's house, they believed it **was** time to build their own houses (1:4). When we do not have time for the building up of God's house, it is a clear indication our priorities have become misplaced (Mt 6:33).

Also, many of the old men who remembered the splendor of Solomon's temple wept when they witnessed the foundations of the new temple. They seem to have been quite discouraged by the feeble beginnings that had been made (Ezr 3:12). We may become discouraged sometimes when we perceive that things in the church today are "not as good as they once were". But let us remember that if we do the Lord's work in the Lord's way, **He will be with us** – and, He will be glorified (Mt 28:18-20).

– John R. Gibson (edited for space)



Faith in Context

Have you ever noticed how 'more money' always seems to allude us? I sure have, because when I want more money, and I get more money, I sure could use more!

In our culture of ever-increasing materialism, I fear our desire for money can be justified in any number of ways. I've heard a few statements before that say, "*If I had more money, I could be a better servant of the Lord!*" or "*You can't help others until you help yourself!*"

Those can be true statements, and there are people who say these things and really are altruistic in their motives (and we should encourage such motives). But what if we never get 'more money'?

What if we lose money due to disasters (think of Job), or the

government takes more and more of it (Mk 12¹⁷; Rom 13⁷)? Is seeking 'more money' always the answer?

What if, when we pray Proverbs 30⁸⁻⁹ ("Give me neither poverty nor riches. Feed me with the food that is my portion, that I not be full and deny You and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or that I not be in want and steal, and profane the name of my God"), that God is actually answering that prayer by giving you **less** money?

Money can destroy you. Rather than it serving you as you serve God, you instead can become its servant and dishonor Him (Mt 6²⁴). It may be that God is trying to save you from that corruption.

The lack of money is never our problem, but a lack of **heart** is. The abounding of money is never the solution, but "may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in **love** for one another." (1 Thess 3¹²)

– WHSmith