

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

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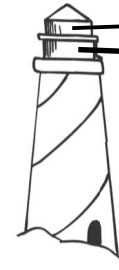
**A clean conscience
makes a soft pillow.**

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**

April 11, 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 – People are rich according to what they **are**, not
according to what they **have**.

A Foretaste of Glory Divine

Some years ago, while visiting with family in Arkansas, we were invited to a singing at a couple's house who lived deep in the Ozarks of southwest Missouri. The back of the house overlooked a valley, with a creek at the bottom, an open field on the far side, and a train track in the distance. It was an idyllic setting.

There were no power tenors in the group. We occasionally ran clean through a dotted quarter note, as if the dot wasn't there. Some songs were unfamiliar to everyone, so we did the best we could. But in the

end, it was a very uplifting experience – brothers and sisters in Christ sharing “a foretaste of glory divine”.

I don't think there will be train tracks in heaven; but I can see the rest of it – from the tranquil wooded setting (look up the definition of ‘paradise’ in your Greek lexicon), to the common bond of God's people as they join their voices in praising Him (remember the throne-room scene of Revelation). It's a pleasant experience here; how much more when we get there. - *WKing*

Another Perspective

Servants of Christ

Helping people can be frustrating. We want to be of service, but we have a hard time uncovering the exact task to undertake. We all have been baffled about how we can help those who have suffered loss.

Jesus told us to be servants to all and He used the example of a child (Mt 18:2-6). Babies and young children require a variety of unglamorous services. They are not able to realize all that needs to be done for them nor are they able to express their gratitude. Jesus showed that our service should be offered without looking for conditional considerations.

Jesus instructs us to serve in His name. *“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father by Him (Col 3:17).* Some are too proud to do menial tasks for others; however, Christ expects those things to be done in His name for His glory. When we have the love of Jesus in our hearts, no task is too small.

The “greatest” servant is not the one who seeks recognition for his accomplishments, but rather the one who faithfully performs the ordinary tasks that need to be fulfilled for the good of the kingdom every day. This is the servant that is truly committed to Christ. Only Jesus can place a value on the service He calls us to do. But if we would be great, we must serve. *“He that is greatest among you shall be your servant” (Mt 23:11).* So the question is, are you a servant of Christ?

– *Kelby Smith (edited for space)*

Faith in Context

“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God... and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting.” (Jms 1²⁻⁶)

When I’ve read this passage in the past, I tended to think that praying for wisdom would be granted in a vacuum. That if I asked in faith, then maybe understanding would come to me more easily.

But as life has continued with its challenges and trials, I’ve come to realize that James is not telling us that if we simply ask for wisdom, that we simply receive it.

Instead this is a wisdom through **experience**; and this is a wisdom that **hurts**.

Notice how the inspired writer frames it – He tells us it is a joyful thing to encounter trials, because it tests our faith. This will complete us and we will lack nothing. But if we do lack, then ask for wisdom.

The lesson for us is that when we ask for wisdom from God it will come in the form of trials and tests that we must endure.

But let’s not be afraid nor think God is being mean. He has been working to reclaim us since the beginning (Gen 3¹⁵), and we need to work through this world of sin, and it will hurt.

If we desire to be with God, then asking for wisdom is a necessary discipline that will bring us to His righteousness (Heb 12¹¹).

This is worthy of our joy.

– *WHSmith*