

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

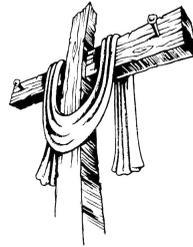
The Bible Speaks



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
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**Jesus:
changing the world
one life at a time.**

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.

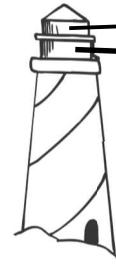
Sick: Kathy Fletcher, Marsha Swim, Rai Starr, Diane Willis, & Etta Frazelle.

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Margaret Abel, Erton Usrey, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, & Mary Lou Lewis

Military: Logan Dickey, Kyler Sullins

THURSDAY ONLINE – Every Thursday night at 6:30 we have a class for our young ones on Facebook. You can view it live — or view it later!

SENTENCE SERMON – Modern day ‘faith healers’ don’t empty hospitals for the same reason psychics don’t win the lottery.



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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

April 25, 2021

You Already Planted Tomatoes?

Yesterday was picture perfect – 66 degrees and sunny. It was the kind of weather that just pulls one outside. As I write this, however, the temps have plummeted into the mid 30’s and we are predicted to have a hard freeze tonight. Tell me you haven’t planted your tomatoes yet.

But of course, some have. Among those who have, there are those who are scrambling to protect their fragile little plants — some with heat lamps, others with tarps or blankets or sheets. Others will just give up and replant another day. Within 24 hours we will know which were successful and which were not —

who will rejoice, and who will groan and just start over again.

Life is like that. Solomon got to the heart of it: “The lot is cast, but its every decision is from the LORD” (Pr 16:33). But therein lies the rub.

We know the Lord is in control. So why did He allow a late freeze, or a job realignment, or a debilitating disease? The answer is simple — because wisdom comes from the valleys, not from the mountaintops (study Hebrews 12).

Heaven will have no late freezes, or disease. Let’s plan to go!

- *WKing*

Another Perspective

Let the Lord Complete the Conquest

When the people of Israel entered the land of Canaan, God gave them victory over the idolatrous inhabitants of the land. But God had told them that the conquest of the land would be a gradual process; it would not be accomplished all at once (Exodus 23:29,30). Once the initial victories had been won, they were encouraged to go on and complete the job.

If, after conquering ‘enough’ of the land, Israel failed to drive out the remainder of the enemy, they were warned that this unfinished business would be their downfall (Deuteronomy 7:16; Joshua 23:1-16). And so it was. They failed to finish the work of removing idolatry from the land, and in time these remnants of paganism pulled them away from the true God. *Unfinished business is a dangerous thing.*

Have you been a Christian for a while now, and the Lord has led you in the conquest of most of your heart for Him? If so, have you now settled down to a comfortable accommodation with the Enemy, allowing him to rule over certain parts of your heart (as long as he doesn't embarrass you publicly)?

After we've grown to a certain point in our spiritual lives, it is tempting to sit down and rest. We begin to act as if the conquest of sin was already completed. But it is not, and unfinished business will be just as disastrous for us as it was for Israel. We cannot defeat sin while continuing to dabble with it. It must be eradicated. Snares left in place will be our undoing.

So if we've made a promising beginning, that's good. But may we never be content until we have *let the Lord complete the conquest!*

- Gary Henry, via WordPoints.com

Faith in Context

The Apostle Paul once said, “*Now I want you to know... my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel: my imprisonment for the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole Praetorian Guard and to everyone else*” (Php 1¹²⁻¹³).

If a brother was arrested for being a Christian, you'd think we might say, “What a discouragement that must be for Him! And what a discouragement that is for us! We might go to jail too!”

But that wasn't the case for Paul, nor for the rest of the brethren: “*Most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear*” (Php 1¹⁴). This is the attitude we ought to have when facing discouraging circumstances.

But how does that happen? How do we switch from fearing the pain of trial to considering it joy to encounter them (Jms 1²)?

What is at stake is whether we find the world's definition of honor as worth preserving (e.g., I don't want to be in jail. This is embarrassing and shameful to me – I want to live in ease!), or if we find God's definition of what is honorable as worth preserving (which *might* imprison me, *might* embarrass me, and *will* require sacrifice).

The world has influenced us in too many ways to praise what it praises, shun what it shuns. It is simply a matter of re-orienting that influence to what God says is praiseworthy and acceptable.

Only then will we not be fearful in discouragement, but unflinching and encouraged like Paul and the Christians in Philippi.

to be continued...

- WHSmith