

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

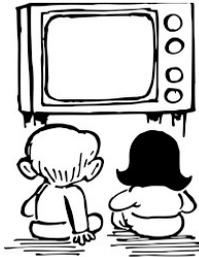


Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

P.O. Box 447
201 W. Chestnut Street
Rogers, AR 72757

479-636-3575
www.downtowncoc.net



All TV is educational;
so, what are your
children learning?

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.

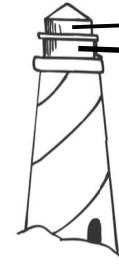
Sick: Kathy Fletcher, Marsha Swim, Rai Starr, Diane Willis, & Etta Frazelle.

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!

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!



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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

May 2, 2021

Why We Do What We Do

Why do you do what you do? Of course, some things we do because we have no choice. We get out of bed in the morning, we get dressed, we head out the door to school, or to work, or to some important activity. And while some people purposefully do **not** do these things, most of us do them, and we do them because they are important to us.

But some things we do just because we love doing them. Some people love riding bikes, or going to a live sporting event, or watching a good movie, or getting out on the lake.

Sadly, others enjoy less wholesome activities. They enjoy indulging the

flesh — getting drunk on the weekend, having a ‘fling’ with someone of the opposite sex (or the same sex), watching pornography on the computer or nudity on the big screen. They simply enjoy it.

And if we ask the question in terms of religion — “Why do we do what we do?” — the answers will come back surprisingly the same. No, we do not get drunk in the assembly or turn it into a lascivious display, but many do what they do religiously for the same reason others get drunk on the weekends — they enjoy it. And if they don’t enjoy it, they’ll simply go somewhere else where they do. →

And that is a sad commentary on the state of religion in our society today. Like the pagans of old, we have reimagined God to be what we want Him to be (Ro 1:25). Or like the Israelites of old, we worship Him the way we want and expect Him to be okay with it (Hos 8:1-3). But our Sovereign has never been okay with such ‘worship’.

Worshipping God is not a ‘Pick your favorite flavor’ exercise. It is not a ‘Whadda you wanna do this weekend?’ decision. It is more like the ‘Get out of bed and go to work’ exercise. We do it because we know it is the right thing to do. And we know it is important.

But what if I don’t ‘enjoy’ the worship? What if I would rather worship Him ‘another way’, or in a more ‘exciting’ context, or at the ‘popular’ church, or the way I have ‘traditionally’ worshipped Him, or with my ‘friends’, or at a more ‘convenient’ time, or — well, you get the picture. With some it is all about what ‘I’ enjoy and not about what ‘God has commanded’. And that’s a problem.

If I do not ‘enjoy’ the worship, the solution is not to shop around for a place that pleases me. The solution is to learn to **appreciate** Him and to **respect** Him.

We should **appreciate** what He has done for us in so many ways — from the constant physical blessings He provides (food, clothing, family, air) to the spiritual blessings He graciously gives to His children (forgiveness, guidance through life, the hope of eternal life, and more). If we develop a ‘taste’ for such things (as we should, 1 Pe 2:3), the enjoyment will come soon enough.

And we should **respect** Him as our Sovereign. He is not our doting grandfather. He is our **Father** who disciplines us with love — but who disciplines us nevertheless (He 12:7-11). And He is our **King**, whose authority we must respect (His will, communicated in His Word, Jn 12:48). And **that** should be the ultimate reason why we do what we do, whether individually or congregationally: because we seek to please Him. It’s really not that complicated. - *WKing*

Faith in Context

Continued from last week...

It’s a mighty difficult thing to rise above earthly viewpoints and cultural influences.

The spiritual evil in the world tries to instill in us a very pernicious attitude (1 Jno 2¹⁶) that compels us to think about self more than anything else. That’s sin in a nutshell: “*All of me, and none of you.*”

And as a Christian, don’t believe for a second that you’ve perfectly or forever risen above such temptation (Gal 6⁷⁻⁸). We are to consciously think every day about how to transcend this ‘world-culture.’ (Rom 12²)

The Jews valued **themselves** as righteous because they acted like it, but the Lord knew in their hearts they merely sought honor for honor’s sake (Lk 16¹⁵).

The Greeks placed value in philosophies because it was simply new for **them** (1 Co 1²²; Ac 17^{21,32}). Notice that both examples are **self-serving** (i.e., what makes me look good? What sounds good to me?). But **self** is the measuring stick of the world — that is its only measure for what is good (1 Cor 3¹⁸⁻²⁰)!

Last week, we noted that even though Paul was imprisoned, both he and the Christians were encouraged by this rather than discouraged. But how? Yes, the gospel was spread because of it, but any normal person would be utterly disheartened if the cell doors slammed shut in their face. So again, I ask how?

The simple answer is that we need to re-orient what we **think** is good and honorable into **knowing** what God says is. The hard answer is that this means it isn’t about you anymore. You do not matter. ‘Self has died and no longer lives’ (Gal 2²⁰). Can you transcend this self-absorption? Salvation is at stake if you don’t.

- *WHSmith*