

## 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  
  
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What we believe is  
seen in what we do.

## 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.

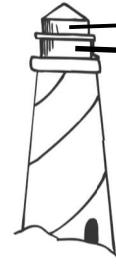
*Sick:* Kathy Fletcher, Marsha Swim, Rai Starr, Diane Willis, & Etta Frazelle.

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

*Military:* Logan Dickey, Kyler Sullins

**OUR SYMPATHY** – Our sympathy is extended to the family of Tony Shell who recently passed away. Let's be sure to be there for all of them.

**ELDERS & DEACONS MEETING** – Elders and deacons will meet this afternoon at the building at 3:45.



## DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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

May 23, 2021

## Every Spiritual Blessing!

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” - Ep 1:3*

These “*blessings*” Paul writes of are certainly not physical blessings. God does not promise large houses, nice cars, and fancy clothes. No, He promises something far greater — and Paul itemizes a few of these “*spiritual blessings*” for us. He writes of our “*adoption*” by God, our “*redemption*” and “*forgiveness*”, and of course, our eternal “*inheritance*”. Such blessings far exceed earthly riches or fame — **if we have the eyes to see them!**

But this is where it gets tough for each of us. We are born into an earthly environment, and we are continually bombarded by earthly images. And so, our tendency is to think, act, and live for this world. But the spiritual blessings that are promised to those “*in Christ*” lift us above this world — **if we have the eyes to see them!**

And let us not forget that the One who promises these blessings is “*able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think*” (Ep 3:20). God is “*able*” and He is “*faithful*” (1 Jn 1:9). Therefore, time spent on spiritual matters **is time well spent!**

- *WKing*

## Another Perspective

## Divorce vs. Putting Away

Some claim that *apolyō* in Matthew 19:9 should not be translated as “divorce”. They note that the KJV translates it as “put away” and they assert that putting away was an action distinct from divorce. Thus, vs 9 does not apply to the formal divorces of our day, and all divorced Christians can remarry without fear.

As appealing as this argument is, there are several problems with it. First, I am not aware of any evidence that the Jews of Jesus’ day made a distinction between informal putting away and formal divorce. If you are going to hang your whole argument on the existence of an ancient custom, you probably need to establish that the custom existed first!

Second, this is a ‘the-translators-got-it-wrong’ argument, and we always should regard those with skepticism. Admittedly, Greek scholars are not perfect, and they sometimes make mistakes in their work with ancient languages. However, if even experts in the field can err, how much more error-prone are non-experts likely to be! If we cannot prove our argument from the Bible without making a significant change in translation, we are staking our souls on the presumption that we are right and hundreds of original-language scholars are wrong. That may represent insight, but it more likely represents self-deception.

Third, the Bible uses *apolyō* to mean “divorce”, which is probably why all the scholars reached that conclusion in the first place. In vs 8, Jesus notes, “Moses permitted you to *apolyō* your wives.” The only procedure in the Law for separating from one’s spouse is the formal divorce-certificate of Deuteronomy 24:1, which the Pharisees cite in vs 7. Jesus uses *apolyō* to refer to that formal divorce process, and we should understand Him as doing so.

Matthew 19:9 is a restriction that God in His wisdom and holiness has bound upon all (Jn 12:48). As much sorrow as enforcing it can cause in this life, failure to enforce it will lead to much greater sorrow in the life to come.

– Matt Bassford (edited for space)

## Faith in Context

Angelina Jolie, Robert De Niro, Leonardo DiCaprio, Daniel Day-Lewis, Christian Bale, Tom Hanks, Sylvester Stallone & Hilary Swank. What do all these famously successful actors have in common? They are Method Actors.

A very rigorous thespian art, Method Acting truly subsumes the life of any actor who dares practice it. Its process involves meticulous study of a character’s role, removal of the actor’s self-identity, and complete imitation of that character-role as if they actually were this other person.

In fact, actors can become so consumed by their role that some have almost died (Stallone), suffered permanent physical damage (Bale), or nearly lost their minds (Day-Lewis). Yet, these actors will

tell you the key to their cinema success is Method Acting.

How oddly similar this process is the Christian! We study our Savior meticulously (*His teachings, actions, and Passion*), we attempt to fully deny ourselves (Mt 16<sup>24</sup>; Lk 9<sup>23</sup>). We do our best to imitate Christ as if we were Him [or Him in us] (Rom 8<sup>10-11</sup>; 1 Cor 11<sup>1</sup>; Gal 2<sup>20</sup>)!

Yet, how eerily similar we can also be to the actor who finishes the role: when the show is finished, it’s as if they never really were the person they played. It’s as if when the Christian turns their eye away from God’s Word, they forget immediately who they are supposed to be (Jms 1<sup>23-24</sup>).

Our faith is not to be trivialized as a mere show, but we have the amazing ability to either *act* like a Christian or *be* one.

One is death, the other is life — choose wisely. – WHSmith