

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
 Morning Assembly 10:30
 Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

Downtown Church of Christ

P.O. Box 447
 201 W. Chestnut Street
 Rogers, AR 72757
 479-636-3575
 www.downtowncoc.net

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
 Perry Johnson
 Ken Parker
 Alan Revier
 GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
 Scott Hale
 Joel Heiligenthal
 Jason Hill
 Chris Johnson
 Brock McKeel
 Randy Potter
 Tim Roberts
 Randy Shell

RADIO PROGRAM

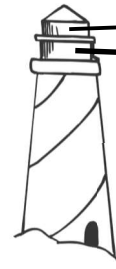
The Bible Speaks



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



Who you ARE
 matters more than
 who you WERE.



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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

June 6, 2021

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

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!

WEDNESDAY CLASSES – During June and July, special classes for our HS & college-aged students will be held – one for the guys, one for the girls.

A God of Small Numbers

Several of us met at a local coffee shop on a recent, rainy morning just to chew the fat — and encourage one another. The talk soon turned to the effort involved in teaching, or in writing a bulletin. A comment was made about how discouraging it must be to expend so much energy only to have so few respond to it. I had to disagree; and here's why.

God has always been a God of the small numbers. From the time of Noah and the flood (only eight saved out of probably millions), to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (three saved out of what was probably thousands), to the

remnant of Judah in the days of the Restoration (42,000 from what had been an innumerable number — as the sand on the seashore), to the day of Pentecost (3,000 out of probably two million — or 1 out of every 667), to the words of Jesus (“difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few that find it”, Mt 7:14) — all point to one simple truth: God is a God of small numbers.

It is the natural inclination of people — including preachers and teachers — to have their work appreciated. And if they are fortunate (as the prophet Haggai was, and as I am

>

(continued from page one)

here in Rogers), their work will be appreciated. People will respond, not only with words of appreciation, but with changed lives and a greater love for the Lord and for one another.

But what if people do **not** respond with outward words of praise? What if people seem to make slow application of the things taught? Should that be a cause for discouragement on the part of the teacher? Absolutely not!

If the Good Lord Himself never got through to the masses, why should we expect better? Yet He never got discouraged. While He took advantage of opportunities to talk to the masses (sermon on the mount), He never passed up an opportunity to get through to the 'one' (Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, etc.). And we never know who that 'one' will be.

The 'one' may be someone who randomly reads an article which changes their perspective – and their life – forever. Was it worth the effort to write that article? Of course it was.

The 'one' may be a young person in the audience who is convicted to dedicate his or her life to serving Christ and serving others – even as many around them are completely oblivious to the powerful sermon being presented. Was it worth it to preach that sermon anyway? Of course it was.

It is easy for preachers (and other brethren) to fall into the numbers trap. Like the denominational preacher who bragged to me once about the 10,000 people he had for an 'Easter service', we want to be heard (I told him we had 11,000 people that Sunday – after an awkward silence, we both laughed, though for different reasons). The number in the audience is meaningless – it's the number who are moved to greater service to God and others that matters. If that's only one, then all of the expended effort was worth it.

One soul is worth more than all the world's wealth combined; so never discount the 'one'. After all, once upon a time, **you** were that 'one'! Aren't you glad that He is a God of small numbers?

- *WKing*

Another Perspective

The Mind Of Christ

We are accustomed to defining our loyalty to Christ in terms of our **behaviors**. We obey the commandments, we do good works, we clean up our language, we shun evil conduct, and so forth. This is all good, of course. But the true measure of our relationship with Christ is found in our **minds**. Actions can be faked; attitudes cannot.

In Philippians 2:3-5, Paul contrasts two mindsets that determine the true trajectory of our lives. One he calls "selfish ambition or conceit." This describes the person who looks out on the world with one goal in view: to promote self. Every decision is influenced by the calculation, "how will this benefit me?" Even "good" people can use their goodness as a tool for self-promotion (think Pharisees).

The second mindset is one of "looking out for the interests of others." This person "esteems others as better than himself." In all relations with others, there is no angle to play, no ulterior motive, no manipulation; just a genuine "lowliness of mind" that sincerely wants others to benefit.

The life of Jesus was based on the latter mindset. This "mind of Christ" was incomprehensible to those who saw Him in action during His earthly sojourn. He had the power to get anything He wanted; yet He used it exclusively to serve humanity. And His mind is still incomprehensible today, even among His disciples. Humans just aren't wired that way, and it takes an extraordinary act of repentance ("change of heart") to even begin to understand what a revolutionary change this would create in our lives if we could implement it. But if we take our commitment to Jesus Christ seriously, we must turn all our attention toward fixing the source of our sin problem: our selfish hearts.

- *David King (edited for space)*