

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

### Sunday

Bible Class 9:30  
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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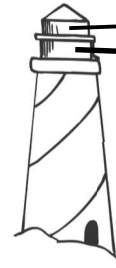
God made us in His  
image; let's not try to  
remake Him into ours.

## 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



# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ROGERS, ARKANSAS

June 13, 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, Sean Potter

**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!

**SPEAKER TONIGHT** – Jim Eagan, one of our members, will bring the lesson tonight. Jim will be moving from this area soon. He will be missed.

As a young preacher, I saw 'liberalism' reflected in attitudes towards the collection (what could it be used for) and the mission of a local church (what we are even here for). I know that in broader circles, 'liberalism' extended much further than that; but that was the brand I dealt with most commonly in discussions with Christians.

Today 'liberalism' encompasses more than money and mission. Many people of God, influenced by the current culture, want to be more inclusive – even to the point of embracing premarital sex and homosexual behavior. Abandoning

God's prescribed role for government (killing bad guys to maintain a peaceful and orderly society, Ro 13), they envision a kinder, gentler government. They have embraced the godless, Marxist philosophy of critical race theory, believing that some people should be condemned for the color of their skin – an idea that was popularly refuted in our country in the 1960's ("the content of their character, not the color of their skin"), and an idea that God clearly condemns (Ga 3:26-29).

Which gets to the point. The only reason 'liberalism' has ever gained a foothold among God's people, is

*(continued from page one)*

because God's people have spent less time in God's Word and more time with the popular culture (via news shows, entertainment TV, movies, etc.). When we listen more closely to Oprah than Obadiah, to CNN commentary than inspired wisdom from Christ, then we should not be surprised when God's people stop thinking like Christ and start thinking like the popular culture.

In contrast to the "wisdom of this world" (1 Co 1:20), "human wisdom" (2:4), the "wisdom of this age" (2:6), "fleshly wisdom" (2 Co 1:12), etc., stands the "meekness of wisdom" (Ja 3:13) — a wisdom that only comes from God's Word. A humble heart will gladly receive it. A prideful heart, wrongly believing it has outgrown the simple gospel, will reject it.

Whether in the halls of academia, or in a Sunday morning Bible class in a small country church, the principles of righteousness remain the same. Whether in the brutality of a first-century Roman coliseum, or in the sometimes-brutal slavery

of eighteenth-century America, or in a chic coffeeshop in the suburbs, the principles of righteousness do not change. People haven't always gotten it right; **God's** people haven't always gotten it right. But we cannot change the standard just because people have failed in the practice of it.

Instead of overthrowing and re-writing principles of right and wrong to suit ourselves, let's rather devote ourselves to upholding the timeless principles of righteousness that our Creator has revealed to us. That we (all people of every culture) have often failed to live up to that standard is readily acknowledged. After all, we are all broken people living in a broken world.

But the same One who gave us the perfect standard, has also provided the remedy to fix the problems that our abandonment of that standard has caused. The solution is **not** found in even more liberal thinking. It is found rather in the sacrifice of Jesus, and the **forgiveness** that His sacrifice made possible.

- *WKing*

## Another Perspective

## Infant Baptism

Why baptize babies? It is argued that they are born in sin, having inherited sin from Adam. But we do not inherit sin. "*The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself*" (Eze 18:20).

Also, there are clear instructions in the New Testament as to what one is to do **before** being baptized. Christ said, "*He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned*" (Mk 16:16). What faith does a baby have?

Then there is the matter of repentance. In the first gospel sermon after the resurrection, there were 3,000 that were baptized after hearing the message: "*Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly, that God hath made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye crucified. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Brethren, what shall we do? And Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*" (Ac 2:36-38). Can babies repent?

Finally, the Greek word *'baptizo'* means to "dip, plunge or immerse." All Greek scholars agree on that. It was after the first century before men decided that it was more convenient, when baptizing babies, to pour or sprinkle water in the place of immersion. The question then is — by what authority has the change been made — by the authority of God, or of men? Jesus said, "*But in vain do they worship me, teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men*" (Mk 7:7).

- *Jefferson David Tant (edited for space)*