

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

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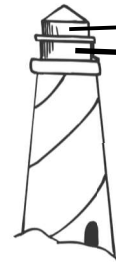
It's hard to throw stones
when you're busy
washing feet.

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

July 4, 2021

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: Gary Fletcher, James Swim, Rai Starr, Diane Willis, & Etta Frazelle.

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Margaret Abel, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, and
Mary Lou Lewis *Military:* Logan Dickey, Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

OUR SYMPATHY – Our sympathy is extended to the family of our brother Erton Usrey, who recently passed away. Our oldest member will be missed.

SINGING – Tonight is our monthly singing (first Sunday evening of each month). Song leaders come prepared to lead – others, prepared to join in!

Young People

It's that time of year again when many efforts are being made to keep our young people occupied – not simply to keep them out of trouble, but to remind them to keep the important thing the important thing. Families arrange for them to attend summer camps with other young people who are Christians (or counselors who are).

And churches get involved by hosting Vacation Bible Schools (ours is July 18-22, don't forget!) and Youth Lecture Weekends (ours is July 30-31, don't forget!). In addition, we are offering special classes on Wednesday evenings for our

young men and young women (in the months of June and July) on the critical topic of Acting Like Men (or Women).

So, whether individually or congregationally, a great deal of effort is being placed into our young people during these summer months – as we do pretty much every summer.

But why? Why all the 'fuss' over our young people? Are summer camps and VBS programs simply baby-sitting services to give mom and dad a break? Of course not. We put so much effort into our young people because those young years are the →

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most formative years of a person's life. That's true physically, mentally and spiritually. It's not that Satan doesn't try to bring us all down. He does. But if he can turn a young person away from God before he or she even starts the race, the odds are he will have them for eternity. The percentage (by age group) of those who become Christians declines dramatically with each passing decade. Most who become Christians do so early in life. Those who are converted later in life do exist; but statistically the numbers favor the young.

No wonder Moses admonished parents to "teach them diligently" (De 6:7). No wonder Solomon warned young people to "remember your Creator in the days of your youth" (Ec 12:1). And no wonder Paul reminded Christian fathers to bring up their children "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ep 6:4). And to young people directly Paul wrote, "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith,

in purity" (1 Ti 4:12). God cares about young people; and God's people should, too.

It is true that we (young and old) are all one in Christ. It is true that Satan uses the same avenues of temptation to lure the old as he does the young (lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life). And it is true that we are all accountable to God for the choices we make.

But Paul warned Timothy to "flee youthful lusts" (2 Ti 2:22), which acknowledges that some temptations are stronger for the young than for those who are not. We need to acknowledge that fact as well, and be there for our young people as they navigate what is perhaps the most challenging time of their life. To neglect them now is to do them, and God's kingdom, an eternal disservice.

It has been said that our young people are the church of tomorrow. But there is no reason they cannot be the church of **today** – if we will be diligent in pointing them to heaven.

- *WKing*

Another Perspective

When I Said "I'm a Christian"

I'm sorry. When I said I'm a Christian, did you think I was saying I was perfect? Actually, one can't become a Christian without recognition and declaration of their imperfection — their deep flaws. I'm not Christ. I'm not perfect. I'm a Christian — striving to be like my perfect Savior.

I'm a Christian. I'm not saying I'm better than you. I'm saying He is better than both of us. Let's follow Him together. I'm not saying be like me. I'm saying let's both live to be like Him!

I'm a Christian. I'm not saying I've never done anything hypocritical. I'm saying love the Man that wasn't. Honor, serve, and love the One who honored, served, and loved you by living, suffering, and dying for you. I'm not saying my life is perfect. I'm saying the eternity He has prepared for me is. And I love Him for it.

I'm a Christian. I'm not saying you have to be a Christian to be a "good person". I'm saying all the good you do doesn't make up for the sin in your life. You don't need the Savior for the good you've done, you need Him for the good you haven't done — and for the bad you have.

I'm a Christian, and though I'm not proud of everything I've done in life, there is One in whom I can boast, and that's my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I'm a Christian. Will you be one too? Ask me how, and I'll show you from the Bible; not because I'm all knowing, but because it is "the power of God unto salvation" (Ro 1:16). Yes, I'm a Christian and I'm not saying I'm perfect. I just believe I've found the perfect Savior.

- *David Osteen (edited for space)*