

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

### Sunday

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

### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

## RADIO PROGRAM

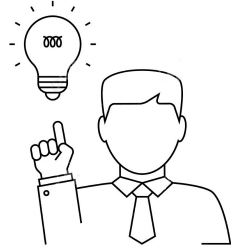
### The Bible Speaks



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

## Downtown Church of Christ

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



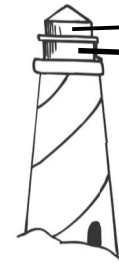
Just because it's a 'good  
idea' doesn't mean  
it's a 'God idea'.

## 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

August 29, 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

**QUESTION & ANSWER** – Tonight we are scheduled to have our end-of-the-month Q&A lesson. Thanks to all who submitted questions for this!

**SENTENCE SERMON** – When you are feeling down, the best solution is to look up.

As we were studying the subject of prayer recently in our Sunday morning class, the question was raised whether we should be grateful for heaven. The reflex response was, “Well of course we should”. But is it even possible to be thankful for something we have not yet received? It’s more than an academic question, so let’s look at it.

It is certainly true that heaven is a future reward for God’s children (Mt 5:12). Despite what the ‘health and wealth’ crowd says (“you are living your best life now”), or what the Calvinist says (“you have eternal

life now, and cannot lose it”), the Bible teaches that Jesus went away to prepare a place for us (Jn 14:3) — and that you and I are not there yet. After all, if this life on earth is heaven, I want my money back.

What we **have** received is citizenship in a heavenly kingdom — a kingdom that is eternal. As the Hebrew writer put it, “You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are



*(continued from page one)*

enrolled in heaven” (12:22-23). And we can certainly be thankful for that, as he goes on to write, “Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken” (vs 28).

That citizenship is part of a larger package of spiritual blessings, the kind Paul wrote about in the early part of Ephesians. For example, we have been adopted into God’s family (1:5), we have been redeemed and forgiven (1:7), we were made God’s heritage (1:11, ASV), we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit (the ‘earnest’ of our inheritance, 1:13-14), and we enjoy a unity with God and with one another which we did not have before (2:14-16). That’s a **lot** to be thankful for — right here and now!

And certainly, we presently possess the **hope** of heaven. Many passages remind us of that fact. Hope is the basis for our joy, even when earthly joys depart (Ro 12:12). It is the anchor of our soul in times of stormy chaos (He 6:19). In fact, heaven is the **only** real hope of every Christian (Ep 4:4). We can be

thankful right here and now for such a hope.

God has made heaven as real and as certain to us as He can. And I am grateful for that. So, while I may not technically be able to give thanks for the reward I have yet to receive, I am very thankful for the hope and promise of that reward. And I fully expect to spend the ages of eternity giving thanks to the Lord for **all** He has done for me — including my home in paradise!

- *WKing*



**“God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”**

- Revelation 21:4

## Another Perspective

## Patience Like Christ

Last Sunday night’s lesson on patience was a hard pill for me to swallow. It was difficult because, sometimes, I wish God would act faster! Or I wish I could just get my life in order **now** and not have to deal with growing! Or many times, I am just impatient with those around me. The most difficult part of the lesson was allowing the truth about a Christ-Imitating patience to sink into my heart.

The Parable of the Talents (Mt 25:14-30) provides a unique perspective along this line. If Brother A has 5 talents, but only uses 4, is he doing the Lord’s will? No. If Brother B has 3 talents, but only uses 2, is he doing the will of the Lord? No. If Sister C has 1 talent, and uses it, is she doing the Lord’s will? She absolutely is! She, in fact, is using all given to her according to her ability.

From a human perspective, A&B do *far more* than Sister C. Outwardly, it looks like she’s just not up to snuff in doing great things like the others, so let’s give her a hard time! Yet, according to God, that perspective could not be farther from the truth — she is doing all He has given her.

If we impatiently judge others, this parable might be a clue that we could be woefully mistaken. Let’s give our brethren the benefit of the doubt and trust that they are doing their best. When we see them doing something that is wrong, let’s talk to them, ask them kindly about the issue, and simply encourage them — with the same patience Christ has shown to us!

- *WHSmith*