

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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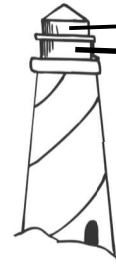
The first step in
correcting your faults
is to recognize them.

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

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ROGERS, ARKANSAS

September 12, 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

YOUNG ADULT CLASS – The class for young adults (single or married, aged 20's and 30's) continues this morning in the adult classroom in back.

SENTENCE SERMON – Scripture is not cake for special occasions; it is bread for your very existence.

Is It Time for Imprecatory Prayers?

I've seen and heard a lot of prayer requests for our nation, and indeed the world lately — I've even uttered a few (requests and prayers) myself. Petitions to 'heal our nation/world' have become frequent. But perhaps we're praying for the wrong thing...

'Imprecatory' prayer (from the Latin *imprecari* — to invoke evil upon) elicits God's judgment and punishment upon evil-doers. Consider Psalm 139:19-22 as an example, "O that You would slay the wicked, O God; Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed. For they speak against You wickedly, And Your enemies take Your name in vain. Do

I not hate those who hate You, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with the utmost hatred; They have become my enemies." (See also Psalm 69:22-28 and 109:6-20 for a couple more of the numerous examples of imprecation.)

Obviously, such is jarring to those familiar only with Jesus' admonition to "love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you" from Matthew 5:44. David's prayer invoking the Father's wrath and destruction takes aback those who 'see' only the love and grace side of God, in ignorance of His justice,

(continued from page one)

indignation, and vengeance. However, both ‘sides’ of God not only exist, but will also be brought to bear in judgment (Ro 2:4-10). Without going into a more complete perspective of Imprecatory Psalms, just note that while Jesus commands that we love and pray for OUR enemies, David references those who have — by their choices and conduct — made themselves active enemies of GOD. In this distinction, there is a substantial difference.

Such things bring us back to prayers for God to ‘heal our nation/world.’ What if our current trials and tribulations are actually reproof, scourging, and corrective discipline from God (Heb.12:3-11)? What if the corruption we’re experiencing is the natural harvest of having sown “to the flesh” (Gal 6:7-8)? What if a godly Elijah has rightly prayed for God’s blessings on our nation and world to be withheld until we repent and return to Him (1Kings 17:11; Jas.5:17)? If what we’re experiencing is from the Lord...

Should we pray for these things to stop when the lesson has obviously not yet been learned and the reprehensible and rebellious conduct remains unrepented? Has not the world generally — and our nation specifically — made themselves enemies of God by those who shed innocent blood, act wickedly, take His name in vain, and even rise up against Him and hate Him and His ways (Ps.139:19-21)? Are we not still rebelliously unrepentant, despite the exhortations and reproofs of the Lord?

Perhaps it’s time — or even past time — for those with a heart like David’s and a spirit like Elijah’s to be praying for more scourging from God rather than less, so that mankind will turn from his evil ways and seek the Lord with his whole heart and soul. Perhaps it’s time for imprecatory prayers.

- Philip Strong

*“Pour out Your indignation upon them,
And let Your wrathful anger take hold
of them. Let their dwelling place be desolate;
Let no one live in their tents.”*

- Ps 69:24-25

Another Perspective

Misinformation and the Christian

I need to correct a comment that I posted several days ago, namely that my earlier posts about the Corona virus were not about changing people's minds. In retrospect, that's only partially true.

I am unequivocally and unapologetically trying to change people's minds about open-mindedness. The First Amendment is under assault, and freedom of thought is on life support — all under the guise of stopping the spread of ‘misinformation.’ Big Tech is censoring and deplatforming people **at the behest of the U.S. Government.** The President of the United States has admitted as much.

I never expected to see any of this in my lifetime, and I would remind my Christian friends that for 300 years after the death of Christ, Christians were killed by the thousands for spreading ‘misinformation.’ One man's ‘misinformation’ is another man's fact, and who besides God Almighty gets to decide what information should be banned from the face of the planet?

For nearly 250 years, the principles of the First Amendment were almost universally understood and appreciated by Americans. No longer. What will Big Tech and the U.S. Government designate as ‘misinformation’ next?

- Ty Clevenger, attorney (via Facebook post)

For those who see this post as political, please rest assured that is **not** the point. It is a warning for Christians to prepare for the time — undoubtedly soon — when preaching ‘the whole counsel of God’ will be illegal. - *wk*
“When they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go” (Ac 5:40).