

## 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



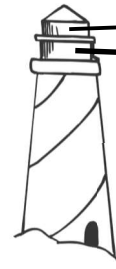
The one who angers you  
controls you.

## 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

October 17, 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 & Gerald Robertson  
*Shut-ins:* Betty Jo Young, Margaret Abel, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Etta Frazelle, Mary Lou Lewis    *Military:* Logan Dickey, Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**LADIES' CLASS** – Our ladies' class continues to meet Tuesday afternoons at 3:30 at the church house. All our ladies are encouraged to attend.

**SENTENCE SERMON** – Grace: it's not an excuse to sin, but the power not to.

## Truth vs. Fallacies

Fallacies are fascinating. Few studies will more readily prepare us for spotting the holes in someone's logic (including our own) than getting familiar with logical fallacies. The Bible is full of examples of such – and how to address them.

For instance, when the Jewish leaders tried to entrap Jesus by asking whether it was lawful to pay tribute to Caesar or not (Lu 20:19-26, the 'either-or' fallacy, or 'the false dilemma'), Jesus presented them with a third choice: "Give to

Caesar what is Caesar's, and give to God what is God's."

Another fallacy is the 'empty assertion' (sometimes called the 'bare assertion'). The town clerk of Ephesus used this leap of logic. "Who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis, and of the sacred stone that fell from the sky?" (Ac 19:35). When someone begins their statement with "Everybody knows...", get ready to bury reasoned discourse. >

And then there is the ‘straw man’ fallacy, illustrated by the corrupt opponents of Jesus when they accused him of “forbidding to give tribute to Caesar” (Lu 23:2). It is one of many fallacies based on an outright lie – in this case, claiming that someone believes (or teaches) something that they actually do **not** believe (or teach). The charge is just made up.

And so it goes. More than one hundred fallacies have been catalogued over the years – and that sad fact should alarm the people of God. We are to speak the truth (Ep 4:25). Whether deliberate lies, naïve news consumption, or just illogical logic, Christians should make every effort to avoid deception and seek after truth.

In recent years, some have started to push back against such concerns. Exposing a ‘slippery slope’ fallacy, for example (where an action may lead to unintended consequences), has been ridiculed

as simple fear-mongering. Yet the Bible again provides illustrations of the ‘slippery slopes’ that Christians need to avoid. For instance, “Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?” (1 Co 5:6). When a ‘little bit’ of sin is allowed into the camp, more sin will certainly follow. That’s logical.

An honest heart is paramount in the search for truth. The reason fallacies gain traction is because people do not always seek after truth. Instead, they seek to confirm their own preconceived notions and biases – whether in religion, politics, or personal relationships. If we make up our mind before hearing all the evidence, we become an easy target for the fallacy peddlers. They say, “Everybody knows...” – and like blind sheep we reply with a hearty “Amen”.

God’s people must do better. Truth can withstand the lies of Satan – if we have the heart to hear it.

- *WKing*

## Another Perspective

## Serving from Your Sofa

I have become more and more concerned ever since watching a church service online became the thing to do. When we were locked down it was perhaps a necessity; but some have not returned to the gathering of their church body. One man told me he and his wife enjoyed just getting up, staying in their PJ’s and watching services – usually from some big church in another city. I am glad Christ didn’t decide to stay in heaven and hang out with the Father.

I know that streaming helps the sick, the ones that can’t physically be there. But one day we will see our God. When He asks why we put comfort ahead of Him, what will we say? Read about King David’s response to a situation in 2 Samuel 24:24. Our faith will cost us. The question is, are we willing to pay the price? Or do we just pick the easy road?

As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient (who doesn't love not getting ready in the morning or leaving the home?), it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together from your sofa.

Christians aren't simply consumers. We are contributors. We don't simply watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We do life together.

The church needs you. And you need the church.

- *Larry Stevens*