

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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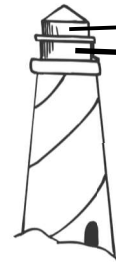
It's not the hue of one's
skin that matters, but
the hue of one's heart.

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

October 24, 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

YOUNG ADULTS CLASS – Young adults (college age thru 20's & 30's)
meet Sunday mornings in the back classroom.

SENTENCE SERMON – When Rosa Parks was ordered to the back of the bus, she simply said 'no' – and **that** is how righteousness is done.

Christianity and Nationalism

It is easy to blur the lines between Christianity and nationalism (love of country). Of course, both have their place. Christianity earned its place on the public stage when Jesus came out of the grave. His teachings on how to live in this world (love God, love your neighbor) are without equal on the pages of history – even if His disciples haven't always lived it.

And the experiment called the United States of America has earned its place on the public stage

as well. When the founders penned "all men are created equal" and that "they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights" – well, that was a seismic shift from the usual form of governance (even if its citizens haven't always lived it).

Most of us born and raised in this country have, for the most part, grown to love it. And despite all the 'hate-America' talk we hear everywhere, people of other nations are beating down our doors to get here as fast as they can. Not any other >

country. America. This is not an argument for or against, but simply an observation that America is still seen worldwide as the go-to place – the land of opportunity. Those who hate it should take note.

But as Christians who have grown to love this country, it is easy to think of it as God's chosen land. And that principle is actually true; but only in the sense that Solomon wrote of it, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Pr 14:34). Any nation whose leaders and citizens are largely motivated by basic principles of righteous conduct (defined by God's Word), will be blessed.

It is no surprise therefore that as God has been removed from the public discourse in recent decades, that this country is descending into the moral abyss. Christians need to strengthen their faith **now** – because the laws of procreation (reaping what we sow) are non-negotiable. God will not be

mocked, and the time for reaping is certainly closer than many think.

Some preachers (and even some real Christians ☺) bemoan any effort to call out our politicians or other officials. "Christians should not be political. It's too divisive," they say. But when politics steps into the sphere of righteousness, and especially when it flagrantly disregards those principles, then the game is on – and Christians should not shy away from it.

Blind party loyalty has no place in the life of a Christian – and many have been guilty of it. But neither should we be blind to rank ungodliness as it is seen in abortion (Ps 139:13-16), hating others for the color of their skin or for their background (Ga 3:28), efforts to abolish God-ordained systems of keeping the peace (Ro 13:1-4), and so forth. Christians **must** speak out against such ungodliness – while we still have the time to do so.

- *WKing*

Another Perspective

Stand and Shine!

Some days I don't recognize my own country.

Yes, "this world is not our home; our citizenship is in heaven," – got it. Yet for a brief time we sojourn here. In some ways, it's like going back to the neighborhood where you grew up – it's not the same. However, it's the rapidity of change that is most concerning – change in morals and change in the flaunting of... (dare I say it?) sin.

What used to be spoken under the guise of darkness and in hushed tones is now open, rank, and raw. Sin is the new in-your-face popular. Romans 1 is painfully real.

In the midst of this fast-moving erosion of morals, it is more essential than ever for believers to let their light shine. Like a beacon in darkness, let it shine.

"Do not be conformed to this world..." is not a suggestion, but a command. And another command: "Do not be deceived."

Stand and shine! If ever there was a time...

- *Wilson Adams*

