

## 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  
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Rogers, AR 72757  
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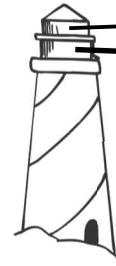
Time spent in prayer  
is time well spent.

## 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 31, 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

**QUESTION & ANSWER** – Tonight we are scheduled to have our monthly Q&A lesson. Thanks to all who have submitted questions for this effort!

**SENTENCE SERMON** – If you think God cannot use you in the kingdom just remember that experts built the Titanic – and amateurs built the ark!

## Whose Kids Are These?

It's a question one might hear in a store when some ill-trained urchins are tearing up the place. But it's also a question receiving attention in the current political arena — do your kids belong to you, or do they belong to the community? It's an interesting question — and one with a Biblical answer.

Of course, it's a question that has been around for a while. As one author noted, “Leonid Sabsovich, the leading Soviet urban planner under Lenin and Stalin... argued

for a total separation of children from parents starting in the earliest years of child development” (Paul Kengor, *The Federalist*).

In Geore Orwell's book, *1984*, and again in his *Animal Farm*, Orwell warned about such dystopian behavior – kids being removed from their parents at a very young age to be raised by the state.

More recently, writers have continued the theme. “Giving total control [to parents] over the



minds and bodies of minors blows past creepy...” (Amanda Marcotte, Slate). And again, “...we have to break through our kind of private idea that kids belong to their parents, or kids belong to their families, and recognize that kids belong to whole communities” (Melissa Harris Perry, MSNBC). As one governor put it, “I don’t think parents should be telling schools what they should teach.”

Not that we are particularly concerned about the politics of it all; but we **are** concerned about what God’s Word says about kids – ‘whose kids these are’ and what the responsibilities of godly parents are in the education of their kids.

Jacob understood that his children were given to him by God (Ge 33:5). Joseph understood the same thing (Ge 48:9). Isaiah wrote, “Behold, I and the children whom the LORD has given me...” (Isa 8:18). But the Psalmist says it best: “Behold, children are a heritage

from the LORD; the fruit of the womb is a reward” (Ps 127:3).

This does not mean that children are mere chattel – that they can be bought and sold like common property. But it **does** mean that parents are stewards of their children – and only for a brief time at that. And with that stewardship comes heavy responsibility.

Under the Mosaic Law, parents were charged: “teach [God’s Law] diligently to your children” (De 6:7). Under the gospel, parents have a similar charge: “bring [your children] up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ep 6:4). Some may call this ‘propaganda’. But note that those who make such an accusation are themselves seeking to propagandize your children in the ways of the world – ways too numerous to itemize here.

So, whose kids are these? They are **yours**, mom and dad. Don’t let anyone tell you otherwise. - *WKing*

## Another Perspective

## Not of This World

Yes, the media are very cranky that a Catholic family man who seems serious about his Christian beliefs is now Premier of New South Wales. Yes, they are demonizing him and undermining him. No, it won't stop, so long as he stands firm.

None of this is even remotely surprising. None of this is to be unexpected.

Christians take note: It's a feature, not a bug. “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” - Jesus.

If you haven’t accepted this, then you haven’t accepted one of the major teachings of Jesus Christ. And it will make you miserable, outraged, indignant, demoralized, anxious... Because what He said will come true, even though you refuse to accept it.

Simply put, we are not here for the world’s acclaim. We are not promised the world’s acclaim. Rather, we are here for the acclaim of Christ.

We are not of this world. We are of Him, whom the world rejected. And in that, there are great costs. But there is real joy, and greatest reward. “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

- *Martyn Iles*