

## 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  
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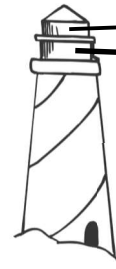
It's called the Law of  
Christ, not the  
Suggestions of Christ.

## 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**

November 7, 2021

## We Shall Live by Faith

“The righteous shall live by his faith” (Hab 2:4). Thus God encouraged Habakkuk and other righteous Jews in the face of the Babylonian invasion.

It is a passage quoted more than once by the apostle Paul (Ro 1:17, Ga 3:11) as he made an argument for the critical role of faith in our right standing with God. Faith is foundational to our justification. The argument is simple: we cannot live so well that we earn our salvation. We must depend on a God-faith to help us in that endeavor.

The author of Hebrews (10:38) also quoted that text from Habakkuk. And while he certainly would agree with Paul’s line of reasoning, he seemed to have a different emphasis – one that more closely mirrored the situation in Habakkuk’s day.

The Hebrew writer was addressing those who “endured a great struggle with sufferings” (vs 32), who were “made a spectacle by reproaches and tribulations” (vs 33), and who had had their worldly possessions plundered (vs 34). It was to those he addressed the encouraging words >

## 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

**SINGING NIGHT** – Tonight is our monthly singing night. Song leaders come prepared to lead – all others come prepared to sing!

**WELCOME** – We welcome to our congregation Tony Tolbert, and also the McKown family: Jeff, Meg, Nathan, and Hannah! Let’s encourage them!

of Habakkuk: “the just shall live by his faith”. But while Paul argued, “the just shall live by FAITH”, the Hebrew author argued, “the just shall LIVE by faith” – no contradiction between the two, just a difference in emphasis.

Which contains a profound lesson for Christians today.

Faith is not just the means, or foundation, of a right relationship with God (Paul). Faith is how we can endure, survive, and even thrive in a spiritually hostile world (shall LIVE by faith).

This was a much-needed lesson to the faithful in Habakkuk’s day, as they faced the pagan hordes. It was a much-needed lesson to the faithful in the first century, as they faced the unbelieving zealots, both Jews and pagans. And it is a much-needed lesson today as our society slips further toward a godless paganism and an in-your-face hostility toward God’s people.

But the larger lesson is even more encouraging. What ‘life’ did God have in mind when He made that promise in Habakkuk (and in the New Testament)? Because not all righteous Jews survived the Babylonian invasion – physically (Eze 21:2-3). Not all Christians survived the persecutions of the first century – physically (Ac 7:60, 12:2, Re 2:13, etc.). And Christians today have no promise of physical protection from the persecutions of this life – even to the point of physical death (Mt 10:28).

What is meant, then, by “the just shall LIVE by his faith”? Well, my friend, it simply points our eyes to heaven – to the **eternal** life that God has promised to His faithful followers. With our eyes on that goal, no amount of ridicule, abuse, hate, harassment, injustice, beatings, imprisonment – or even death – can defeat us. Because we shall LIVE by faith, we can find joy in living today!

- *WKing*

## Another Perspective

## “I’m Just Waiting”

A little boy went over to the preacher's house. At the time, the preacher was doing some carpentry in his garage. The boy simply stood there and watched him for a long while – like he was waiting for something. The preacher wondered why the boy watched him so intently. He finally stopped his woodworking and asked the lad, "Son, are you trying to pick up some pointers?" The little boy replied, "No sir. I'm just waiting to hear what a preacher says when he hits his thumb with a hammer."

We often learn what we are made of – in both good and bad circumstances – by what comes out of our mouths. And others also learn what we are made of in those situations. A Christian's life should be characterized by things like love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Ga 5:22-23). Everyone is bearing some kind of fruit. With some, it is hatred instead of love. With others, it might be anger and bitterness. More than a few are marked by constant gloom.

People are waiting to see what we will do in crisis moments because they want to know if we are genuine. They are sincerely looking for someone who can lead them to the truth – someone who is honest and really following God. What does the world see when it watches you? I hope it sees someone who is pointing them to Jesus! I hope it sees someone whose speech is pure and clean, and whose actions honor God. The "fruit of the Spirit" at work in your life can draw others to Him!

- *Max Dawson (edited for space)*