

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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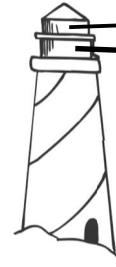
Don't put a question
mark where God
put a period.

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burtleson
Scott Hale
Joel Heiligenthal
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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Keep On Keeping On

Few joys in life compare to seeing one's child – or grandchild – being baptized into Christ. Becoming a Christian is the most important decision anyone can make in life. No other comes close because this decision, more than any other, sets the stage for eternity.

And what we want for our children and grandchildren – and for all who have come to Christ – is that they remain faithful until death. Ending the race before it is finished is a monumental defeat – again, because of the eternal ramifications.

But how does one keep on keeping on? How does one manage to grow as a Christian when so much of the world seeks to destroy us?

The answer is actually very simple. Just as in the physical realm, certain elements are necessary to sustain life, so also in the spiritual realm the same elements are necessary. The author of Hebrews (a book written to Christians who were on the verge of giving up) identifies what those elements are, and more – if we have the wisdom to follow his inspired advice. >

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.
Sick: Gary Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, 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

CONGRATULATIONS! – We rejoice with Haylee Burtleson, who was recently baptized into Christ! Remember to encourage all our young people!

WELCOME – We are glad to have Sam Bunyard with us today. He will be teaching the auditorium class this morning and preaching tonight at 5.

“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food; for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.” He 5:12-14

Notice the three elements. First, growth requires **time**. It is easy to become impatient, especially when we first begin the race. So be patient (He 10:35-37). Later, when the new wears off, the religion of Christ can become stale, and we can grow lukewarm in our love for Him. We need to maintain our zeal (Re 3:19). And with time comes temptation – the temptations of youth when we are young, the temptations of worldly cares when we are middle-aged, and the common discouragements of old age, if we live that long. Using our time to grow spiritually stronger is vital if we would overcome (Ep 6:10-18).

The second element mentioned by the Hebrews author is proper **diet**. To become a Christian one must have a basic knowledge of God’s Word and His plan of salvation. But we must continue to grow beyond that basic understanding. Milk is important at first (1 Pe 2:2), but a growing person needs solid food to thrive. So spend time with God’s Word. Read it, and take advantage of opportunities (like our Bible classes) to learn more of it. And stay away from junk food – human wisdom, philosophy, etc.

And finally, we must **exercise**. Use the energy you gain from a good spiritual diet to be productive in God’s kingdom. Be an encourager to God’s people. Be a light to the community (Mt 5:16) by the way you live your life – the way you dress, the way you talk, and the way you act. Talk up your faith every chance you get. And never look back. Your home awaits – if you will keep on keeping on! - *WKing*

Another Perspective

I Am a Soldier In the Army of God

I am a soldier in the army of God. The Lord Jesus Christ is my commanding officer. The Holy Bible is my Code of Conduct. Faith, prayer, and the Word are my weapons of warfare. I have been taught by God, trained by experience, tried by adversity and tested by fire.

I am a volunteer in this army and I am enlisted for eternity. I will either retire when the Lord comes or I will die in this army; but I will not get out, sell out, be talked out or pushed out. I am faithful, reliable, capable and dependable. If my God needs me, I am there.

I am a soldier. I do not need to be pampered, petted, primed up, pumped up, picked up or pepped up. No one has to call me, remind me, write me, visit me, entice me, or lure me. I am committed. I do not need to be cuddled, cradled, cared for, or catered to. I am a soldier.

I can do all things through Christ. The devil cannot defeat me. People cannot disillusion me. Weather cannot weary me. Sickness cannot stop me. Battles cannot beat me. Money cannot buy me. Governments cannot silence me and hell cannot handle me. I am a soldier.

Even death cannot destroy me. For when my Commander calls me from this battlefield, He will promote me to paradise and I will be with Him forever. I am a soldier in this army, and I will continue to march. I will not give up. I will not run away. I am a soldier; and I am heaven bound.

– *B.J. Morbitzer (edited for space) ©*