

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

**HAVE YOU MOVED
or had other life changes?
Remember to update your
directory information by
contacting Jason Hill.**

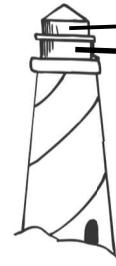
WEATHER CONTACT
If you prefer someone to
reach out to you during
weather-related time
changes, please provide text
or email to one of the elders.

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**

January 16, 2022

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.
Sick: Gary Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Rai Starr, Diane Willis, James Swim
Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis
Military: Logan Dickey, Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Gospel Meeting with JR Bronger, March 27-31
Singing Weekend with Dane Shepard & Tim Stevens, April 22-24
Vacation Bible School with Bubba Garner, July 24-28
Youth Lectureship with Phillip Shumake, August 5-6

Spousal Abuse – Against Jesus

The problem of spousal abuse gets a lot of press these days – as rightly it should. When a man feels the need to treat his wife in an abusive way, he has forgotten what his God-given role in the relationship is (remember that love thing, Ep 5:25). Such abuse can take many forms, including deception, belittling, cursing, pornography, infidelity, threats, intimidation, gaslighting (and other ‘mind games’), baseless jealousy, control, false accusations,

isolation, hypocrisy, sexual coercion, misquoting scripture, broken promises – and more. Husbands who practice such need to fix it – and repent.

On rare occasions, such abuse can go the other direction – a wife being abusive to her husband. In such cases, the woman has forgotten her God-given role (remember that submission thing, Ep 5:22). Husbands and wives both need to take their marital

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vows seriously, and work toward a God-honoring relationship.

In the spiritual realm, the church is the bride of Christ (Ep 5:22-33). And while He is the perfect example of what a loving husband should be, the church has not always lived up to her role as the submissive bride. In fact, she has at times been downright abusive.

For example, Jesus said, “Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord’ and not do what I tell you?” (Lu 6:46). But like the abusive wife, many churches laugh at such restraints. They are much more interested in doing what pleases them than doing what pleases their Husband (see Philip Strong article across the page). Like Jezebel of old, they will take charge and show their Husband/King how it is done (1 Kgs 21:7).

Or she may abuse Him by breaking her vows to Him. ‘Faithful in sickness and in health’ sounds like a firm commitment – until one’s life

is rocked by sickness or some other adversity. Then she blames her Husband. “If He is a King, why doesn’t He fix this?”, she complains. She may even curse Him. Of course, as the perfect Husband, He knows that hardships can prove to be a blessing for His bride – and He has promised to walk with her every step of the difficult journey. But that doesn’t stop her from complaining anyway – and even using such as an excuse for her spiritual infidelity.

Which brings us to the ultimate abuse – unfaithfulness. Like Israel and Judah of old (Jer 3:1-10), the church may become attracted to the world and lose her devotion and fidelity to Christ. And like the unfaithful wife who tries to justify her unfaithfulness with whatever justification, the church can find an excuse to be unfaithful.

Jesus is a good Husband. Let’s stop the abuse.

- *WKing*

Another Perspective

Favorite Brands

I’ve lived long enough to have a favorite brand of many things. But unfortunately, some people choose their favorite brand of religion like I choose mayonnaise. They pick a favorite based solely on personal preference – which one ‘tastes’ best to them. While this method is fine for mayonnaise, it’s lousy for religion. Religion is supposed to be about HIM (God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) and HIS preferences, not mine (Ph 3:18-19).

Our responsibility regarding religion is not one of choice, but discovery. Rather than catering to our own personal preferences, our real obligation is to find truth – and to affiliate with those who teach and practice it. In the end, the line between saved and lost is determined by one thing: whether we “receive the love of truth so as to be saved” (2 Th 2:10). If we desire the truth of God over our own personal preferences – and if we are relentless in our pursuit and practice of it – eternal salvation is promised.

Beware, therefore, of any group that attempts to brand itself in some way to appeal to the masses. Truth is truth. Jesus didn’t attempt to package it for mass appeal or personal preference. He taught, “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple,” and added, “Whoever does not carry his own cross [not as a religious symbol, but as an instrument of personal destruction - **pcs**] and come after Me, cannot be My disciple” (Lu 14:26-27).

Yes, you **can** choose the religion of **your** choice, but why **would** you? What you believe, practice, and preach matters (Mt 7:21-23). Why not “learn what is pleasing to the Lord” (Ep.5:10) rather than just placating yourself with your favorite brand of religion?

- *Philip C. Strong (edited for space)*