

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

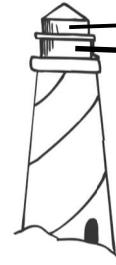
Gospel Meeting
Mar 27-31
Singing Weekend
Apr 22-24
Vacation Bible School
July 24-28
Youth Lectureship
Aug 5-6

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**

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FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

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

CONGRATULATIONS! – Congratulations to Lisa Pearce & Gordon Sullins who were recently married! Let's encourage all our 'young' married couples!

SENTENCE SERMON – The greatest tragedy of sin is that it defiles the beauty and majesty of a being created in the image of God.

Relationship with God

It is easy to discuss relationship with God in cold, clinical terms. We have 'done the things' necessary to have that relationship (hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized, stop cussin' and drinkin'); so voila, we are in a relationship with God! Such an approach to a relationship with the Creator is both sad and scary. Sad, because one has so totally missed what a relationship with God looks like, and scary, because of the eternal destiny of those who harbor such a misconception.

Are there steps one must take to be in a right relationship with God? Of course, there are. We have all sinned

against God, fracturing our relationship with Him in the process. And yes, there are steps we must take to be forgiven of those sins (see previous 'list'). But these are not simply boxes to be checked. These are 'from the heart' responses of those pricked by the guilt of sin, and grateful for the gracious offer of forgiveness from a loving God.

And to maintain that relationship? Walk in the light, yes (1 Jn 1). But love Him. Love His Word. Love His character. Love the conversations with Him. Love time spent thinking of Him. Love being friends with Him. All. Of. This. - *WKing*

IT'S NOT JUST A DIVORCE THING –

“I hate divorce.” I wonder if we focus on one thing He hates while ignoring the divorcing things leading to the one thing? For the sake of clarity...

“For I hate divorce,” says the LORD... “and him who covers his garment with violence,” says the LORD of armies. “So be careful about your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously” (Mal.2:16).

Divorce. Violence. Treacherously.

Q: Does God ignore the man who divorces his wife with words?

Q: Does God sanction the man distancing himself for hours to view porn?

Q: Does God not see when one promotes disunion by control or denying her access to money?

Q: Does God look the other way at disunity when one spews rage and makes his spouse feel like an idiot (or calls her one) – then parades into church with a Sunday smile?

Which divorce, distancing, disunion, and disunity (call it what you wish) does God hate? Uh, ALL. Of. Them.

We hurt marriages by focusing on one thing God hates while ignoring the divorces that lead to the divorce (which He also hates). We act like God hates marriage dissolution-ment but tolerates abuse, rage, control, addiction, manipulation, threats, and moral misconduct.

Sadly, divorce (disunion) happens long before a court filing.

We need to be careful about one more thing: “be careful about your spirit.” That speaks to the heart... of all of us.

– *Wilson Adams*

Another Perspective

The Pattern Of Authority

Following the pattern of authority in the Bible isn't hard; individuals and churches just need to make up their minds to do it. That means doing things that might run counter to what we've always believed.

For instance, raising money for the local church using methods other than the free-will giving of its members is against the New Testament pattern. That means church owned bookstores, coffee shops, or cafes are unscriptural. Using the church's treasury to provide benevolence for non-Christians is against the New Testament pattern. Church-run food pantries or clothing stores are unscriptural. Using the church's treasury to provide recreation or other social activities for its members is against the New Testament pattern. In the same way, church-financed ‘fellowship meals’ and a church kitchen are unscriptural. Using musical instruments to accompany our congregational singing is against the New Testament pattern, as well. So, using a piano, a guitar, or any other musical instrument, even if it's just a ‘small one,’ is unscriptural.

Does that mean that I can't enjoy a meal with my brethren? Of course not; but it's up to me to provide that hospitality (not from the church's treasury). If a non-Christian needs some help with food, it's my personal responsibility to aid the needy, but not from the church's treasury. Furthermore, if I want my local church to accomplish the work God has given it, I must support it with my own financial contributions and not expect it to go into business to finance the work.

The most important part of recognizing scriptural authority is respecting the One to whom it belongs. We need to remember that it's Christ's church, not ours, and He has the right to regulate its practices any way He wants.

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." - 2 Tim 3:16–17. – *Zeke Flores*