

## 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

## 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

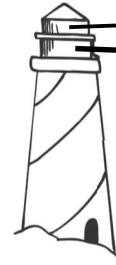
## Gospel Meeting

with

### JR Bronger

### March 27-31

### (3 weeks away!)



# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

**PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

March 6, 2022

## Caesar, Christ, and Walmart

Once again war is making the headlines. As always, it's a gut-wrenching thing to watch – day after day – as the body bags continue to add up.

And again, many Christians are reminding us that this world is not our home (true), that we are just pilgrims passing through (true), and that we are not to become entangled in the affairs of this life (true). But like those who add one plus one and get three, they conclude that Christians should not get involved in the current conflict – other than praying for peace. But is that the sum total of the discussion? What does the Bible say?

While Christians should always pray for peace in the world (1 Ti 2:1-4), involvement in civil government – even to the point of taking up arms – is entirely legitimate if the cause is just. Romans 13 is not simply a justification for cops and electric chairs, but for any use of governmental force which is directed toward ridding the world of true evil.

Can a Christian participate in such? Of course they can, if they are representatives of the government, serving the purpose for which governments exist. Caesar, Christ, and Walmart **all** have a legitimate place at this world's table. - *WKing*

## 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

**SINGING** – Tonight we are scheduled for our regular monthly singing. Let's all plan to be here – worshipping God and edifying one another!

**SENTENCE SERMON** – God's faithfulness is not defined by whether He gives me what I want, but by whether He keeps His Word – and He does!

## TOO ROTTEN FOR GOD –

One of the beauties of being the devil is that you don't have to be logically consistent. To some, Satan whispers that they don't need God, that they are sufficiently wise, capable, and righteous all by themselves. He tells others that they're too rotten for God. They have done too much, wandered too far, sinned too greatly. Surely, if such a one as they started going to church, the Holy One would turn His nose up in disgust!

The word of God exposes the falsity of both lies. Anyone convinced of their own righteousness never has looked closely into the mirror of the perfect law of liberty. Anyone who trusts in their own strength never has been swept away by one of life's great storms. Even Jesus relied on His Father.

Those who believe that God wouldn't want them are likewise deceived. Many passages highlight this error, but one of the most powerful is 1 Timothy 1:12-16. Saul was so arrogant that he blasphemed the name of God's Son; he persecuted God's people, dragging them off to imprisonment and death. But Jesus showed him mercy.

Today, the grace of Christ has lost none of its ancient power. I know preachers who used to be drug addicts. I've baptized drug dealers and strippers. I've worshiped with a murderer. The world would call all those people irredeemable, but God sees things differently. Maybe you've done something similar. Doesn't matter. God has a place in His kingdom for you.

For that matter, maybe you're clinging to salvation with your teeth and fingernails. You can't imagine that God would want to use somebody with your past. Wrong again. God wants to do amazing things with you, and He will – if you let Him. It is not in the man who wills or the man who runs, but in the Lord who has mercy.

You might think you're too rotten for God, but take Him at His word. You will find, as Saul of Tarsus found, that He is faithful. Of all those who come to Him, He will turn none away.

– Matt Bassford (edited for space)

## Another Perspective

## Choosing Contentment... or Not

How does one become content? First, it's important to realize contentment is up to us. We don't have to 'have all we want' to be content (Ph 4:11-12). It is a decision we make (or choose not to). And we must learn to really trust God. Trust that He will *bestow* "every perfect gift" (Ja 1:17) – and if He doesn't, then it's not "good" (or at least not good for me right now). We'll never know contentment until we learn to trust God to that extent.

But there's something else we need to consider. We typically think of contentment in specific terms – regarding money or the things it can buy. But are these the only areas in which we are tempted toward envy (lack of contentment)? Consider: **Are we content with our spouse?** How many marriages are damaged because he/she is not someone else that is deemed more desirable (Ex 20:17)? **Are we content with our personal relationships?** Everyone likes to feel needed and wanted. But some want to be liked by everyone, and often become jealous of personal relationships that don't include them. Lacking contentment with the relationships they do have, they set about to undermine other people's happiness. Jealousy is part of the wisdom that is not from God – that which is "earthly, natural, and demonic," (Ja 3:15-16). **Are we content with our occupational position?** While nothing is wrong with wanting to improve oneself on the job, how much dirty dealing takes place in the workforce through excessive competitiveness? Rather than being "content with your wages" (Lu 3:14), envy and jealousy (and all their associated back-stabbing and undermining activities) abound.

I'm not suggesting that learning to be content is easy; it isn't. But to get there, I must realize that contentment comes from **a decision that I make to trust God.**

- Philip Strong (edited for space)