

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

Gospel Meeting

with

JR Bronger

March 27-31

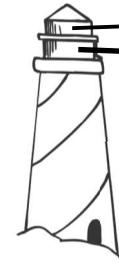
(2 weeks away!)

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

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

March 13, 2022

Coming to Christ

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.” – Jn 6:44-45

Jesus stated a clear prerequisite for anyone who would be His disciple: the Father must “draw him”. The Calvinist sees in this an irresistible election of certain individuals. The Pentecostal sees in it a direct operation of the Holy Spirit upon the heart of a person. Jesus, however, left no room for such spin.

His quote from Isaiah (54:13) is instructive. One draws near to God through a teaching process – being taught God’s Word, and humbly responding to it (Mt 13:13-16). To put it simply, those who are taught must have the heart to believe, internalize, and practice the things they have learned.

And so, they do not come to Christ because of some mystical feeling or subjective emotion. Rather, these are believing, responsive students of God’s Word. **These** are the ones who come to Christ.

- *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

DATES TO REMEMBER – Besides our upcoming meeting (see above), we look forward to Singing (Apr 22-24), VBS (Jul 24-28), & Lectures (Aug 5-6).

SENTENCE SERMON – If you are the one who is always right, something is probably wrong.

TELL, SHOW, AND IMPLY –

I have been asked why I get so basic when it comes to talking about Biblical authority. For years, I have preferred using terms like “tell, show, and imply” to talk about the basics of communication because communication is where the heart of authority lies. There has been so much misunderstanding and misuse of terms like “command, example, and necessary inference” that I wanted to back it up and just see how communication works on any level and for every subject. “Tell, show, and imply” covers the process well, and it is so foundational that people are hard-pressed to disagree. In fact, to disagree would require using the very process to voice that disagreement, which makes opposition to it self-defeating.

Well and good, I hear, but why talk so basic when everyone would agree with that? My answer is precisely because everyone can agree with it, and that’s a starting point. Using the building blocks of logic and communication, we can then move on to the more difficult aspects of it. When people complain about terms like “command, example, and inference,” we can show that the issue is not really with these terms (since they are represented by tell, show, and imply), but rather in overstepping with conclusions that are not warranted by the evidence. To do this, we must get past the technical complaints about those terms. For example:

“We can’t bind anything that is not given as a direct command.” But where is the command for binding that? No one will consistently abide by this. “We can’t bind anything that is based on inference.” But how did you reach that conclusion? And what do we do with the various places where significant conclusions were made based on inference? (Ac 10:28) The truth is that no conclusions can be reached without inference. The issue, then, is not about inferences per se.

The real problems lie not in the terms themselves, but in the abuses, bad argumentation, and spurious conclusions to which all of us are susceptible if we aren’t being careful and honest.

- *Doy Moyer (edited for space)*

Another Perspective

Thoughts About Life

Solomon ran an experiment with life, outlined in Ecclesiastes. He decided to consider “all things that are done under heaven,” to see what had value and what did not. He searched in science, politics, agriculture, and pleasure, looking to ascertain “what was good for men all the days of their life.”

He lived life ‘with gusto.’ He sought wisdom and knowledge and found that “in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increases knowledge increases sorrow” (1:18). He worked on inequities and saw that “that which is crooked cannot be made straight” (2:15). He concluded that “it is better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting” (7:2), that there is no good to be had in reminiscing about the “good ol’ days” (7:10), that prosperity and adversity both have a place in life (7:14), that a reputation which was a lifetime in the building can be destroyed in a few minutes by just one misplaced word (10:1), that there is no such thing as a secret (10:20), and that diligence (9:10), humility (9:12) and prudence (9:16) are a necessary part of a good life.

Mostly his experiment finished in frustration, for he says, “The dust shall return to the earth as it was, and the spirit to God who gave it” (11:9). And he concludes, “Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher, all is vanity.”

Life here us what you make it. Its value is measured by your determination to live it with the joy of salvation in it. To live a truly happy and satisfying life without God is a foolish endeavor doomed to failure. And a mind not tuned to the word of God for its guidance produces nothing but sorrow.

And so, “let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter,” he says, “Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man” (12:13). A man’s focus must be other-worldly, his attitude that of a sojourner – or he will never be truly happy.

- *Dee Bowman (edited for space)*