

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

Singing

with

**Dane Shepard
& Tim Stevens**

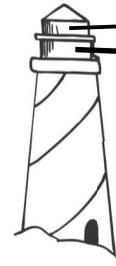
April 22-24

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**

April 3, 2022

What Would Jesus Call Me?

“The wise man built his house upon a rock”, as even the young children in Bible classes can tell you. And of course, “the foolish man built his house upon the sand.” But what was the **real** difference between these two men (Mt 7:24-27)?

Both had **heard** the words of Jesus, which is more than many do today. The foolish man at least gave Jesus a hearing. And both men **acted** on what they heard. The fool understood that a storm was coming (impending judgment), so – like the wise man – he made preparation. And finally, both men must have **felt secure** in what they had done.

“The building is completed! Let the storm come!”

And it did.

As Jesus predicted, the storm struck with intense fury. The judgment was thorough – and, when it was done, the fool had nothing left.

So, what was the **real** difference between them? Simply put, one **obeyed** and one did not. Whether the fool was driven by tradition, family loyalty, or plain stubbornness is irrelevant. He disobeyed Jesus – and Jesus called him a fool for his disobedience. Looking at my own life, what would He call me? - **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 singing (see above), we look forward to our VBS (Jul 24-28) and Youth Lectures (Aug 5-6).

SENTENCE SERMON – **For the parents:** Never let your storm get your kids wet.

TRUTH –

Paul wrote that “we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting; but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the Head – Christ” (Ep 4:14-15 NKJV).

One mark of spiritual maturity is doctrinal stability. Without a mature firmness, we are apt to be fickle in our ‘convictions’. Consider Taylor’s paraphrase of verse 14: “Then we will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different, or has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like truth.” This stability is not mere stubbornness. And, certainly no comfort is given the relativist who refuses to change his mind because ‘It doesn’t matter what you believe’. No, Paul’s underlying premises are clear: 1) There is such a thing as truth, 2) truth can be apprehended, and 3) once apprehended, truth should be held on to.

Truth is vitally important. In contrast to the modern philosophy which considers any religious idea as ‘true’ as any other, the New Testament consistently maintains the integrity of truth. In fact, truth is the only ground upon which fellowship with God may be enjoyed (Jn 8:32, 2 Th 2:10-12).

– Gary Henry (edited for space)

Another Perspective

The Gospel Without Words?

“Similarly, the gospel cannot be reduced to behaving in a cross-shaped manner or to social programs. Saint Francis of Assisi is often remembered to have said, ‘Preach the gospel at all times; use words if necessary.’ This is a clever saying (although its origination with Saint Francis is historically dubious) because we all recognize that sometimes actions do speak more forcefully than words. But it is dreadfully wrongheaded to suggest that the gospel is best (or even adequately) proclaimed by actions unencumbered by words. It is also off-base to think that Christian social activities, such as providing assistance to the poor, are the gospel — even though it is popular in some quarters to call such activities the ‘social gospel.’ Such actions might serve to remind those who benefit of part of the gospel story once they hear it elsewhere or if they already know it. But the actions themselves only become a gospel proclamation derivatively, when the recipient hears the full gospel elsewhere and then is able to make the link between the actions and the full narrative. Because we are uncomfortable sharing the gospel, afraid that we will turn someone off or be perceived in the wrong way, we can convince ourselves that the gospel is best communicated with actions, not words. But the true gospel is not reducible to Christian activities.” (Salvation by Allegiance Alone: Rethinking Faith, Works, and the Gospel of Jesus the King, Baker, 2017, p200, from a Facebook post)

Additional comment by James McClenny: “Excellent. Relationship evangelism presumes we have unlimited time and exposure to the lost, and that eventually they will ask why. However, we usually have very little time and opportunity with most people, and we’re surrounded by unbelievers who are often just as ‘good’ or perhaps even better than us. It’s a muted message at best. A current concept is ‘No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care’. But an important corollary is ‘No one knows how much you care until you care how much they know’”.