

## 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**

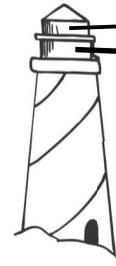
**April 22-24**

## 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

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

April 10, 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, 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** – The Bible does not need to be rewritten – it needs to be reread.

## Suffering and Sin

*“No doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with you!”*

- Job 12:2

Job’s frustration with his friends boiled over in this sarcastic rebuke. They had set forth what they believed to be a universal principle: hard suffering only comes to those who are in sin. As Zophar stated previously, “...*God exacts from you less than your iniquity deserves*” (11:6). Job must be hiding something!

And Job did not disagree with that principle. “*Who does not know such things as these?*” (12:3), although he denied its application in his case (13:23). But ‘your suffering is proof of your sin’ continued to be a pop-

ular theory in the first century (Jn 9:2, 34). And it is an error commonly embraced today – even among the people of God.

Yet Job and his friends were wrong. While there often is correlation between sin and suffering (Pr 7:22-23, for example), physical suffering is no proof of God’s displeasure any more than physical success is proof of God’s acceptance. Sun **and** rain come to the good **and** the evil (Mt 5:45). What we need is wisdom to handle both sun and rain with hearts of faith, trusting God through all of it – and with hearts of compassion for those who are suffering.

- WKing

## ARE YOU THE ANTICHRIST?

People today envision the ‘antichrist’ as a boy with demonic grin and eyes that glow red. However, the true nature of the antichrist is much more straightforward. John tells us plainly that the antichrist is anyone who denies the Father and the Son (1 Jn 2:22). You don’t have to be conceived at a witches’ Sabbath in the dark of night to qualify; you only have to be anti-Christ. John noted that there are many such people (vs 18).

We can be one of them. Like the apostates of verse 19, we can reveal ourselves as antichrists by going out from the people of God. It’s tough to argue that you have not denied Christ when you have detached yourself from His body! However, we can keep showing up for the assemblies and still be the antichrist. If we deny God when we are not with other Christians, for example, the things we say during those few hours a week don’t count for much. Confessing that Jesus is the Christ is a consequential statement. It means that we claim Him as our Lord, and we maintain that He ought to be everybody else’s Lord too.

What, then, when His Lordship is not evident in our words? We downplay His control over our lives because we don’t want our worldly friends to think we’re Bible-thumpers. We deny Him with our actions. If Jesus is Lord, we must live like it. If we don’t, we reject His Lordship, and those around us will hear our denial loud and clear. We are the antichrist.

The antichrist isn’t a trope for Christian-ish horror movies or wild-eyed would-be prophets. It’s a sober warning for us. We are responsible daily for lifting up the name of God. When we do the opposite, John wants us to understand the seriousness of the step we have taken.

- *Matt Bassford (edited for space)*

## Another Perspective

## Hello. My Name is Millennial.

Sadly, we’ve heard about ‘millennials’ leaving the faith. Sadder, each has a name, a face, and a story. However, not all have left. In some churches, they are coming. Let’s flip the script and look at five reasons many are staying and returning.

1. They Want Jesus. They love His humility. They love His patience with people. They love the story of the Cross and the hope of resurrection. They resonate with the love He had for outcasts. They love that He was bold and unafraid. They love His stories. They want to hear more about the old, old story that never gets old.
2. They Want Bible. They want to know how the Bible “fits” and how it “fits” them. They’re also hungry for the “So what?” Not the smart aleck “So what?” but the sincere “So, what?” –as in how Scripture speaks to them. They crave real answers and rock-solid faith.
3. They Want Intergenerational Community. Don’t deprive them of the wisdom/experience of older people. Millennials aren’t into segregation. After all, they may be the most aborted, abandoned, and neglected generation in history. They look for spiritual mentors, role models, and leaders. They long to belong.
4. They Want to Serve. They are active and look for ways to do more than sit in a pew. Help them grow their talents. Instead of sending the message that they are the church of tomorrow, help them know they are the church of right now.
5. They Want Purpose. They see needs facing the world and want to be part of a solution. While short on experience, they are long on enthusiasm. Churches that care only about themselves and can’t see past their back yard, won’t speak to their hearts. Above all, the Great Commission begins with one word: “GO!” And FYI: the Kingdom of God is the greatest “GO!” cause in the history of man.

Don’t fake these. Authenticity counts – they’ll love you for it.

- *Wilson Adams*