

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

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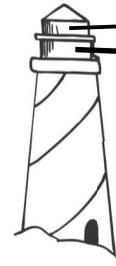
**Meanness is never on
the side of goodness.**

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**

May 8, 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

WELCOME – Welcome to Nathan and Beth Johnson, who recently placed membership with us! Let's do all we can to encourage our young couples!

SENTENCE SERMON – Men, spend more time holding your wife and your kids, and less time holding your remote and your phone.

It Is What It Is

So, what was your initial reaction when you read that title? Was it something along the lines of, “Well, that’s a defeatist attitude!” If so, you could be right.

Many people approach life with just such an attitude. From physical health to spiritual health, their go-to defense is, “It is what it is.” They use it to excuse their lack of effort in addressing numerous problems in their life, from gallstones to arrogance. And so, nothing gets fixed. Physical health continues to deteriorate because “It is what it is.”

Spiritual health continues to deteriorate because “It is what it is.”

It is the attitude commonly associated with pessimism (“I always fail in my efforts, so why even bother), or perhaps fatalism (“it was pre-determined that I would be this way, so there is nothing I can do about it”). It is the willingness to accept defeat without struggle. And it does not belong in the mindset of the child of God.

God’s people are constantly exhorted to have a ‘can do’ attitude —

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from the Israelites who stood on the border of the land of Canaan and complained because of the giants ('it is what it is, and there's nothing we can do to defeat them') to the Jewish Christians (book of Hebrews) who were weary of the struggle ('life was easier back then – it just is what it is'). God wasn't happy with either bunch.

But 'It is what it is' **can be** a healthy approach to dealing with those matters that we **truly** have no control over.

And life is full of examples – some of them gut-wrenching.

When we receive that terminal diagnosis from the doctor – after we have done all within our power to win the medical battle – instead of getting angry at God, why not smile and say, "Thanks, doc. It is what it is." Or when a loved one has died, and we know that there is no rewinding the clock, it's okay to say (as King David did at the death of

his baby boy), "It is what it is." Or when the forces of evil become so strong that you are robbed of your freedom (as Paul and John were), or your stuff, or even your earthly life (which many Christians have), it's okay to say, "It is what it is" – because that's exactly what it is.

"It is what it is" can be a completely appropriate expression of contentment – the kind of contentment that should characterize every child of God in every circumstance of life. As Paul wrote, "I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Ph 4:12-13).

May God grant us hearts of peace and contentment to accept the things we cannot change, knowing that, many times, it really is what it is – and that that's okay.

- *WKing*

Another Perspective

Indifferent To Truth

In John 18, we have three parties on opposite ends of the spectrum in regard to truth. One (Jesus) is speaking the truth, and offers a full understanding of truth – that which will lead us to God and eternal salvation. One group (the unbelieving Jews) has set itself against the truth, adamantly opposing it, ignoring every bit of evidence leading to it and instead creating falsehoods designed to justify obliterating the truth.

And then we have Pilate. Pilate, who seems relatively indifferent to the whole idea of truth. "What is truth?" he asks, dismissing Jesus' claims as nothing more than meaningless theology that has no bearing on anything real in his own life.

It's not insignificant what happens next. Pilate leaves the One who speaks truth, goes out to the people who are opposing the truth, and after three tries, he eventually gives in to the people he knows are liars. Because he has no conviction. Because truth ultimately is not what matters in his life.

The moral of the story: Without conviction grounded in the truth of Christ, we will inevitably accept, embrace, and even champion the worst possible impulses of the human heart. And in many cases, we will do it knowing in our hearts that we have turned our back on what was true.

- *Paul Hammons*

