

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



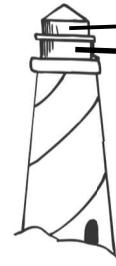
**If your life is a puzzle,
Jesus is the missing piece.**

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 15, 2022

GUEST ARTICLE -

Pride, Humility, and Change

Since God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble, it stands to reason that humility is an attitude that we must seek in every action and word as we strive to do all in His name (1 Pe 5:5; Col 3:17). When we claim to follow Christ and yet project pride and arrogance, we are not glorifying God or showing that we “have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Col 3:3).

This is also true in how we study and teach Scripture. We are to accept humbly the Lord’s teachings, knowing that His words will judge us in the last day (Jn 12:48). Humility requires the utmost care in how we

approach our studies and conclusions. We believe His word is truth. We believe that His truth can be understood. At the same time, we must have the humility to admit that there are some things we may not understand. It’s ok to say, “I don’t know” as we seek answers. We must grant that it is possible that we are wrong about some conclusions and be willing to listen, learn, and grow. If we cannot do that, then our pride has taken over and we are in the arena opposed by God.

Have you ever studied something and changed your mind because you realized your previous views were >

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 – Mark your calendar for Vacation Bible School (Bubba Garner, July 24-28) & Youth Lectures (Phillip Shumake, Aug 5-6).

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

not correct? Rare would be the one who has not done this on something. We expect others whom we may teach to have that spirit, to recognize they could be wrong, and be willing to listen. Shall we ask that of others but refuse to admit this same attitude in ourselves?

This is not to defend a wishy-washy, ‘tossed-about by every doctrine’ kind of mentality. May it never be! We must strike a balance between knowing that our minds can be led astray on the one hand and knowing that God’s truth is attainable on the other. If I shut my mind to learning more and potentially changing, I may well be closing my eyes to God’s truth. If, in my pride, I refuse to change, then I am in opposition to God and His grace.

Yet humility does also mean that we submit ourselves to what the Lord teaches in His word. Some conclusions are just difficult to escape — not that we should want to escape them — and if we fail to stand up for what we know is right, then we cannot claim humility in that. It is pride that keeps me from

learning and changing when I see that I am wrong, and it is pride that keeps me from standing for truth. What can we do to keep balanced?

1. Keep studying. Gain conviction through faith and stand for truth, but also stay open to learning more.

2. Invite others to the study. Listening to and learning from others is important because we are all essentially in dialogue with each other. There may be things I have not thought about. There may be information I have missed. Others can teach me. Think Apollos here (Ac 18:24-28).

3. Do not change easily. I do not mean to be stubborn beyond reason; but if conviction means anything, it is not going to cave in easily. I am willing to change, but if I am convinced something is the truth, I will not change at the whim of another who says I am wrong. I want evidence. I want sound argumentation. I need to be convinced that a set conviction is wrong. This is needed for stability.

4. When proven wrong, admit it and make the change. This is the pattern

we see in someone like Saul (Paul), who did not change easily, but when he did, he was (as we say) all in. It may take some doing to be proven wrong, and we ought to have the high standard of the Word, but once we see it, we need to accept it for what it is.

5. Submit everything to God and His word. Study and learn, then study more, and keep God’s word front and center. Here is the familiar pattern: “These were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so” (Ac 17:11).

All of this is to be done to the glory of God. The purpose of learning, embracing, and teaching the truth is not so that we win debates, get one up on others, and find new ways to show how wrong people are. The purpose is to glorify God. I don’t glorify God in pride and unreasonable stubbornness. I glorify God in humility and willingness to hear, learn, change, and be conformed to His image.

- *Doy Moyer*

THEN & NOW –

What would it look like if the apostles valued community like many believers do today?

Peter: "My mother-in-law came in for the weekend." **Andrew:** "I was up late last night." **James** (son of Zebedee): "Really needed some 'me' time." **John:** "I was there last week." **Philip:** "Had a sunny day to hit the lake." **Bartholomew:** "Had brunch scheduled with my Uncle Zed." **Thomas:** "I doubt it would have been all that good today." **Matthew:** "I had to get my taxes done." **James** (son of Alphaeus): "My dad wanted to fish today." **Thaddaeus:** "The kids needed a rest." **Simon:** "I didn't hear my alarm." **Judas:** "They're just a bunch of hypocrites."

Going to church is not about checking a religious box off your ‘make God happy’ list. It's about being invested in the lives of others and participating in the mission of the gospel. Following Jesus was never meant to be a solo experience. Pull up a seat at the table.

- *Author Unknown*