

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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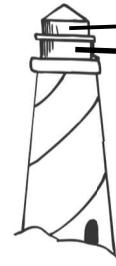
**The one who kneels
before God can
stand before anyone.**

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**

May 22, 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: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

DATES TO REMEMBER – Our Vacation Bible School with Bubba Garner will be July 24-28. Our Youth Lectures with Phillip Shumake will be Aug 5-6.

SENTENCE SERMON – If God is your co-pilot, you need to change seats – today!

The Bible and Skin Color

The word ‘race’ in today’s lexicon has come to refer almost exclusively to skin color. Terms like ‘racism’, ‘racial prejudice’, ‘race wars’, etc. conjure up images of white, brown, and black-skinned people in various roles as victims, aggressors, haters, and more. But what does the Bible have to say about race – especially as it relates to skin color?

Not much, as it turns out. In fact, once again the Bible is light years ahead of the science and culture. As the encyclopedia Britannica reveals, “Genetic studies in the late 20th century refuted the existence of biogenetically distinct races” (www.britannica.com).

So ‘race’, as it is commonly used, is not a thing scientifically. And it’s not a thing Biblically, either.

Some point to the young maiden in Solomon’s Song (1:5-6) who states, “I am black, but comely”. Yet in the context, she is not referring to some ‘racial’ characteristic, but as she goes on to explain, “because the sun has tanned me”.

Then we have the ‘red’ Esau (Ge 25:25), the ‘ruddy’ David (1 Sa 16:12 – red, same as with Esau), and those who were ‘black’ from famine and disease (Job 30:30, Lam 4:8). Once, reference is made to the skin color of the “Ethiopian” (Jer 13:23), but

even there, it is used to illustrate a larger point – and the actual color is not mentioned at all.

The Bible uses colorless terms like “tribe, language, people and nation” to highlight the variety of individuals on the planet (Re 5:9-10, 7:9 – specifically those who have been redeemed from sin). Paul affirmed that God “has made from one blood every nation of men” (Ac 17:26). Even our blood is “one”.

The Lord Himself sets the standard for how we should view one another, as He told His prophet Samuel, “the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Sa 16:7). Peter understood the same thing: “God shows no partiality; but in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him” (Ac 10:34-35).

And He demands the same of His people. “Do not judge according to appearance,” Jesus said, “but judge with righteous judgment” (Jn 7:24). And need we say it, skin color is all about the “appearance”. It is no basis for righteous judgment.

Paul, apostle to non-Jews of every color, affirmed the inclusive nature of the gospel. “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Ga 3:26-28). This is not hard for people with loving and good hearts to understand.

Prejudice and hatred based on skin color is a sin, regardless of the color of the one doing the hating. Media outlets continue to stir the ‘racial’ pot by highlighting (often deceitfully) only white on black violence; but hate cuts in every direction. God’s people need to speak out against **all** racial prejudice, regardless of color. And we need to see through the attempts of corrupt news organizations and political parties who only emphasize one side of the problem to promote their own agendas. Let’s be just as vocal to condemn black on white violence, as we are white on black. It’s **all** sin – and God’s people should not hesitate to say so.

- *WKing*

Another Perspective

What I Wish for My Girls

Every father wants the best for his children. I have two lovely daughters, and I love them dearly. Here are some things that I wish for them:

I wish them to be friendless – IF friendship with the world leads to the loss of their soul (1 Co 15:33). Godly, moral friends are a wonderful thing, but the wrong friends will pull one to their side in the pursuit of sin (Pr 1:10-16).

I wish for them to be poor – IF they cannot resist the love of money, and it leads them to sin (1 Ti 6:10). Money is not inherently wrong, and financial security from a well-managed life is a good thing; but wealth for wealth's sake can foster materialism. My daughters can go to heaven if they are poor, but they will be lost if they love the world and the things in it (1 Jn 2:15-16).

I wish for them to be unfashionable – IF to be fashionable means that they dress like the world (1 Ti 2:9-10; 1 Pe 3:3-4). Nothing is so beautiful as a modestly dressed girl who displays a gentle and quiet spirit. And nothing is as repulsive as a gaudy girl who chooses the attire of a harlot (Pr 7:10).

I wish for them a single life – IF they think it is necessary to marry a man who will lead them away from the Lord. I pray that my girls will marry godly men who want to love them as Christ loved the church, and who want to be the head of the house, leading my daughters and their children to the Lord (Ep 5:22-29, 6:4). But I would rather them live a single life than to choose a hateful, unfaithful, undisciplined man who will not lead the home.

My list may seem strange, but it is not. What I want is for my daughters to have good friends, to be secure, to be pretty, and to be married. But I want them to go to heaven more.

- *Whit Sasser*