

## Light and Life

## God's Family

When one becomes a Christian, they enter a world of blessings that may have previously seemed unfathomable. Of course, there is great rejoicing over a newfound hope in salvation and a reconciled relationship with God, but the blessings found in Christ continue to increase as we grow, mature, and learn.

One of my favorite hymns is *God's Family*. This song details the bond that we all can share through our common relationship with God. As Christians, born again into the family of God, we can share in a closeness that transcends time and space. Through my adoption, I have brothers and sisters dating back through the ages, and if the longsuffering of God permits it, yet to be born. No matter if I am here in Arkansas, across the world in Africa or Asia, or back home in Missouri, any place where there are God's people, I can find family.

Being in this familial relationship presents many blessings. The fact that God has chosen us to be His children brings great comfort, and is evidence of His love (Jn 1:12; Ep 1:3-6), and being a child of God makes us heirs to His promises (Ga 3; Ro 8:14-17). Because of our common ties to God as our Father, we also have family ties to one another. Being a part of a family brings with it a measure of responsibility towards each other, but it also brings a great deal of support. I thank God for the wonderful blessing of my spiritual family!

- *Sam Bunyard*



## Just My Thoughts

## Simplicity

Simplicity. Simplicity is a concept that we often gravitate to in our lives. Our lives can get messy and chaotic; but most of all, our lives can get complicated. They cause us to always be on the move, having to always come up with new solutions to new problems – which create more responsibilities and more consequences. It is often out of sheer exhaustion that we seek simplicity.

However, as time goes on, it becomes more apparent that life only becomes more complicated, not less. As we grow up, we finish school and must get jobs. As we get married, we add a spouse into the mix whom we must care for. As we buy houses and cars, we have new things to care for and pay for. And as we have children, we add a level of complexity to our life that we never thought possible.

We might be able to make things in our lives more manageable with smartphones, computers, self-driving cars, and so many other conveniences. But in the end, these things just seem to add their own new complexities to replace the old ones.

However, through all this complexity, there is one thing that should give us solace, and that is that we serve an uncomplicated God. Are there aspects of His nature and Word that are difficult and complex? Certainly. But we serve a God who desires nothing more than righteousness and a dwelling with us. Simple as that. So, in a complicated world, seek the simplicity of the gospel – and of the God who authored it.

- *Hayden Cathey*

## 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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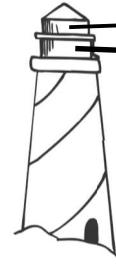
Could you sell your parrot  
to the town gossip?

## 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

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## 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

**CLASSES** – Lucas & Carrie invite all to their house for Monday night Bible studies: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays studying Galatians, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> studying Hebrews.

**SENTENCE SERMON** – Only being able to do a little is no excuse for doing nothing.

## Walk – or Just Talk?

As John closes out the story of Jesus and the woman caught in adultery (Jn 8:1-11), Jesus asks the woman, “Has no one condemned you?” She responded, “No”, to which Jesus replied, “Neither do I...”

Some see this as the perfect example of the ‘non-judgmental’ Jesus – the Jesus who just wants His people to enjoy themselves. And if they step over the line occasionally – well you know, “kids will be kids!”

But such is a complete perversion of the message of Jesus. This is the same Man who also said, “Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her

in his heart” – then went on to explain that it would be better to pluck out your offending eye than to be cast into hell (Mt 5:27-29). His inspired apostles and prophets were equally plain (1 Th 4:3-6, He 13:4). Jesus **never** condoned sin – neither sexual nor any other.

What Jesus went on to explain to the woman (which is often omitted in the telling) is, “Now, go and sin no more.” Yes, He is a merciful and forgiving God; but His forgiveness is conditional, which includes walking in the light (1 Jn 1:7). So, make no mistake: without that walk, we’re just talk.

- WKing