

Light and Life

No Greater Joy

John's third epistle begins with emphatic thanksgiving. "I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." I think of this verse often when I observe and hear of the good things my recently converted brothers and sisters are doing. It is easy to see their burning zeal for the Lord in their active evangelism, their inquisitive study habits, their participation in worship, and their continued growth in walking the Christian path. These Christians who are young in the faith, but zealous for God, are extremely encouraging to me and to so many others.

Last night, I went to bed to my favorite kind of phone text. "My mother was baptized today! Please pray for strength in her new life as a Christian." My dear friend had been praying and working to this end for a long time. Imagine the feeling to know that not only is his mother saved from her sins, but now they can both spend an eternity together in praise of their Father. There is not a greater feeling, nor a more beautiful gift, than to bring the gospel to someone and for them to obey it!

Nothing else is like the excitement, joy, relief and commitment in a newly born again Christian soldier to rekindle the fire under the seasoned veterans. The reality is that the excitement we first felt when we rose from the waters of baptism, though worn by time and trial, should carry us all through life. After all, we get to go to Heaven!

- *Sam Bunyard*

Just My Thoughts

Examining Ourselves

This past month has afforded Christians with a lot of opportunities to point out the sins, shortcomings, and evil in the people around them. Through numerous events and situations, many of the problems with the sinfulness of this world have become apparent.

But I pray that we avoid the temptation to just home in on the sins of the world. I pray that rather than simply looking out at the world to see what others are doing wrong, that we also examine ourselves thoughtfully and thoroughly to fix our own faults and overcome our own wrongdoings.

I pray that rather than taking to Facebook (no matter how 'right' we are or how righteous our intentions may be), that we have real conversations with people in person about God and His will for us and for them.

I pray that when we hear conversations regarding sin and the sinful, we remember that we once came out of sin and that we, too, struggle with sin. Have empathy, have respect, and most of all, have love for those who are trapped in sin – because such were we.

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." - Luke 6:41-42

- *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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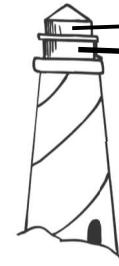
**Help Wanted:
Laborers for the
Vineyard**

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**

July 3, 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.

SINGING – Tonight is our first-of-the-month singing service. Song leaders, and the rest of us, should come prepared to worship God in song!

School First, Then Graduation

My apologies to the teachers out there, but just a reminder that school will be starting back next month. It will be a time for new beginnings. Teachers hope for a good group of students, and students hope for some good teachers. But eventually everyone will settle into the challenging task of education.

Our Christian walk is sort of like that. ‘Still wet’ Christians enter the new life full of optimism and hope. But eventually they settle into the challenging task of walking the walk; and the hardships of that walk become apparent soon enough. What started off as a joyful expect-

tation soon becomes a battle – and a tough one at that.

Not that Christianity is a joyless religion; but it’s not all peaches and cream either. Satan wants to bring us all down, and he will do whatever he can to make it happen.

The good news is school days don’t last forever – and neither will this life. But we must endure. Drop-outs receive no diplomas, so it’s not enough to be faithful for a time – we must be faithful “unto death” (Re 2:10). We can do this by the grace of God; and the graduation celebration will be one for the ages.

- WKing