

Light and Life

Philippians 4:13 is what I sometimes call a baseball scripture. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” is a beautiful statement from Paul that is commonly used in reference to physical accomplishments such as athletic feats. Of course, the meaning of the verse has nothing to do with something so trivial as the local little league game. One of my favorite coffee cup designs satirically paraphrases the verse: “I can do all things through a verse ripped from its context!”

Leading up to this famous line, Paul wrote about the things that he had surrendered in order to be pleasing to God. To Paul, there was no comparison to what he had gained. “I count all things as loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him” (3:8).

Paul went on to write that he hadn’t yet reached full maturity in his new walk, but that he continued to press on toward the goal (3:12-4:1). This new goal de-emphasized the things that were previously important – things like physical accomplishment. Paul’s focus now was on the spiritual blessings of a relationship with Jesus, and all physical concerns took a far back seat.

This is why, finally, Paul prefaced his famous line by saying “I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content...” (4:11-13). Whether in abundance or in need, Paul had strength.

This isn’t a scripture that promises superpowers to Christians. Rather, it describes one of the great blessings of a relationship with God – strength to get through this life by looking forward to the next!

- *Sam Bunyard*

I Can Do All Things

Just My Thoughts

Investment. Investment has become a far more prevalent topic of conversation in the past few months with the economic struggles the nation has been going through. As people worry about the economy, they tend to worry about their investments, whether it be property, stocks, or possessions. When the economy takes a hit, so do people’s personal investments. Value tends to drop, stock prices plummet, houses and property become more difficult to sell, and possessions become worth far less. In general, when the economy worsens, everything we invest in loses value or worth.

However, there is one commodity we can always invest in that will never lose its worth or its value – our faith!

Our faith plays a vital role in our walk as Christians. It is a necessity for a relationship with God, and through its strengthening, we can find ourselves being strengthened. Through investing in our faith in God, we will find ourselves being strengthened spiritually, growing in hope, love, and in righteousness. We can invest in this faith through prayer, bible study, worship, and fellowship with Christians around us. Investing in our faith may require time, effort, care, and devotion – all things that are difficult to come by. However, what makes this investment so worth it is that it will never sour or depreciate in value. Our faith is always worth something to God, and the more we invest in it, the more it is worth. We will never have a net loss if we invest in our faith; we will only be met with gain. And hopefully, one day, we will achieve the ultimate gain, a rest in Heaven with God!

- *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

P.O. Box 447
201 W. Chestnut Street
Rogers, AR 72757

479-636-3575
www.downtowncoc.net

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

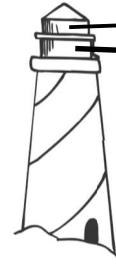
with
Bubba Garner
July 24-28
(Starts next week!)

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

CONGRATULATIONS – We rejoice at the recent marriage of Jerry Shell & Marilynn Robertson! “May the Lord bless you and keep you.” – Nu 6:24

SENTENCE SERMON – Jesus can not only calm the storm – He can calm you in the midst of it.

The Largest Choir in Town

Several townsfolk were standing around talking about church stuff – especially music in worship. They all had their preferences. They talked of ‘Christian rock bands’, and which church in town had the best choir.

One guy said, “Well, I don’t know about all of that, but I’m pretty sure we have the largest choir in town.” His remark was met with skepticism and not a little derision. “Your church barely has 200 members! To have the largest choir in town, every member would have to be in the choir!” He replied, “Exactly.”

Which is, indeed, what the New Testament teaches. “Addressing

one another in psalms hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart” (Ep 5:19).

A choir – voices blending together for an audience – is what we are. The audience is one another, and the Lord. The purpose is not to entertain, but to teach (one another) and to worship (the Lord). And yes, every member is part of the ‘performance’ – contributing his or her voice to the effort.

So, whether yours is a 1-talent voice or a 5-talent voice, sing! The largest choir in town needs you – and the Lord is in the audience! - *WKing*