

Light and Life

We Cannot But Speak

Our God is an awesome God, and He transforms lives today! “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love” (Col 1:13). He has “blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ” (Eph 1:3)! “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights” (Jas 1:17)! What has God done for you? How will you respond?

In Acts 4, Peter and John were arrested for teaching the people about the resurrection (vs 2). The occasion for this preaching was following the healing of a lame man (3:1-11), whose healing was evidence of their message. When asked by his accusers by what authority this healing and teaching was accomplished, Peter responded that it was “by the name of Jesus Christ whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands here before you whole” (10).

Peter went on to declare that there is no “salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (12). It was this power, authority, compassion, and love that motivated Peter and John to put themselves in harm’s way for the sake of the gospel.

Unable to justify any real punishment, the accusers severely threatened the apostles not to preach Jesus again. The response from Peter and John was “we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard” (20).

This must be our attitude as well. Whether in the face of suppression or in abundant opportunity, when faced with the power and love of God, how can we remain silent?

- *Sam Bunyard*

Just My Thoughts

Love Your Enemies

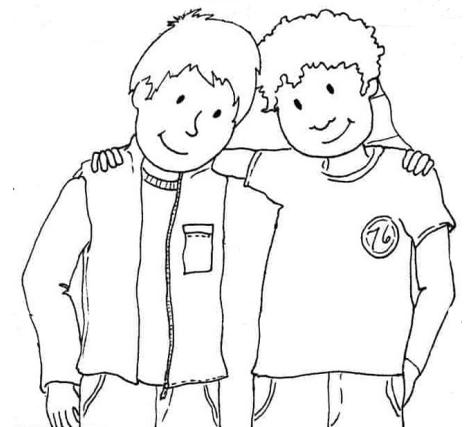
Christ didn’t cut off the people that slandered Him and hated His ideals, who criticized Him, despite who He was. He died for them. What do you do for those who criticize you?

It is easy to hate those who hate us, to slander those who slander us, to be at odds with our ‘enemies’. However, as Christians who are called to do more and to be more, rather than pursue the easiest option, we must pursue the right one. We must have love for our enemies rather than hate or even disdain. We must see them as sacred and beloved creations of the Most High, respecting them as creatures made in the image of God.

We must also reorient ourselves, recognizing that the enemy is not these misguided and sinful people who may wish us ill. Our enemy is not flesh and blood, but Satan and the sins and passions with which he attempts to lead us away from our Father. We would do well to remember he is the cause of animosity towards ourselves and our brothers and sisters.

We must use this recognition to point our anger and frustration at the right things – at the sin and at the deceiver rather than the sinner. We must point ourselves towards the path of Christ, the path of the One who had great love for those who hated Him, who deeply cherished those who despised Him. Let us do better than those who are consumed by hatred and instead be consumed by love, even for our enemies.

- *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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YOUTH LECTURESHIP with Philip Shumake

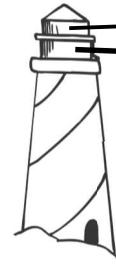
Friday @ 7pm
Saturday @ 10:30am
Singing & Bible Lessons
for all ages!

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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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

THIS WEDNESDAY EVENING – Our men who have been in the men’s training class will lead a one-hour worship service for us this Wednesday.

THIS WEEKEND – Our Youth Lectureship is scheduled for this Friday and Saturday with Philip Shumake – Friday at 7pm, Saturday at 10:30am!

Preaching Fred’s Funeral

Even with the hope of everlasting life which a child of God has, I still do not ‘enjoy’ preaching funerals. They are truly sad occasions. But as much as I hate preaching funerals, I hate listening to most denominational preachers preach funerals even more. More than once I have been tempted to interrupt the eulogy – or least to go check the casket to make sure we were remembering the same person.

Some of the more amazing comments I have heard (names changed, because it’s not the fault of the deceased): “God so loved the world that He gave us Fred.” “Fred had a love-hate relationship with Jesus.”

And of course, the ever popular, “Though he never attended church, Aunt Betty recalls that Fred confessed his faith in Jesus when he was seven.” In every case, Fred was assured of a heavenly mansion.

Now, don’t get me wrong. It’s not my job to pronounce sentence. That would be God’s end of the stick, and I am content to let Him whittle it. But it is folly to think that a few words from a man in black will make any difference for Fred. For while one’s fruit may be one measure by which we cling to hope (Ro 2:7), it is also one measure by which we will stand condemned (Ro 2:8-9).

- *WKing*