

Light and Life

Only a Hammer?

Today's housing market is ridiculous. Imagine how great it would feel if you had the ability to own your dream house for free, designed by you down to the smallest detail and regardless of cost! All you have to do is build it yourself – but the only tool you are allowed to use is a hammer. Could you do it?

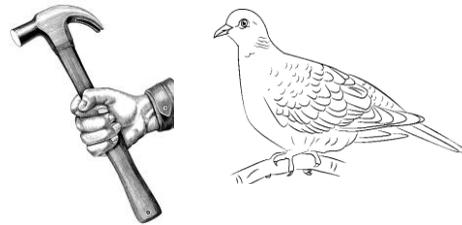
When we frame the situation in physical terms, it's easy for us to see the difficulty of creating something beautiful only by beating it. You can't build a house with only a hammer! Why then, do many believe that a spiritual house can be erected by the same forceful 'Bible thumping'?

There is a reason why God repeatedly uses the analogy of the Potter and the clay (Jer. 18, Rom. 9). God does not force us into who He would have us to be, and neither should we seek to force others into submission to God. Rather, as God seeks soft hearts to gently mold, we ought to do the same.

There is no cookie cutter approach to addressing sin in others, but we are instructed in what our disposition should be. "If a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a *spirit of gentleness, considering yourself* lest you also be tempted" (Gal. 6:2). "Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that lies within you, *with meekness and fear*" (I Pet. 3:15).

When Jesus sent His disciples on the limited commission, He instructed them to be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves" in their ministry, even in the face of persecution (Mt. 10:16). We ought to follow the same directive.

- Sam Bunyard



Just My Thoughts

Genesis One

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Ge 1:1).

This passage, known the world over, is one that is sometimes brushed over, especially by those who have long been Christians. This passage often loses its significance over time, and we can begin to take for granted just how miraculous it was that God created Heaven and Earth.

In the modern day, it is easy to make something. Do you want a meal? Go to the grocery store, buy the ingredients, and make it! Do you want to build a birdhouse? Go to Lowe's and buy the wood and tools and make it! Do you want to build something as ambitious as a home? Go to the hardware store, buy your supplies, hire contractors, and make it! Making things is, generally speaking, not very hard – especially when compared to several thousand years ago.

But what if I told you to create a meal? With no ingredients, no stove, no microwave, with nothing, you must create a dinner for me. You couldn't do it. What about a birdhouse – could you create that with no wood and no saw? Or what about a house, with no material, no tools, no contractors – could you make a house appear out of thin air?

We humans consider ourselves industrious, and occasionally the magic and wonder of creation is lost on us. God created all of existence, visible and invisible, with no materials, no nothing. He created, not made, all that we see around us, and all that we cannot see.

What a mighty God we serve. What a mighty Creator He is.

- 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

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**If you would stand before
God, you must first learn
to kneel before Him.**

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burluson
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**

September 18, 2022

Dogs and Cats

After yet another putdown of cats, I was reminded by a well-meaning brother that it is actually the dogs who are specifically excluded from heaven (Re 22:15, yes I understand the metaphor, but bear with me).

To create further cognitive dissonance, upon further research, it is evident that the feline species **will** be represented there. After all, Jesus is the Lion of Judah (Re 5:5) – not exactly a cuddly kitten, but a feline, nevertheless. Must I rethink all my previous assumptions?

Pushing back, we note that Satan is also compared to a feline (1 Pe 5:8) – which bolsters my preconceived notions. And as the Gentile woman

impressed upon Jesus, even ‘dogs’ can have a strong faith (Mt 15:26-28). So there. I am right after all.

Or maybe I should just rethink the whole dog/cat thing. For while I have a natural affinity (tolerance) for dogs, cats also serve a useful purpose in God’s scheme (rat killers). Allergies notwithstanding, maybe I should be more longsuffering with cats. Maybe I can grow to be more patient, gentle, and (gulp) loving.

Which is exactly what God’s Word teaches: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Ga 3:28). Indeed. - **WKing**

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

WE REJOICE – We rejoice with Kendall Griggs who was recently baptized into Christ! Be proactive in encouraging her – and our other young people!

WELCOME – Welcome to Matthew Daughtery who recently placed his membership with us! Again, let’s be an encouragement to all our new peeps!