

## Light and Life

## Generational Christianity

On my mother's side, a prioritized relationship with God goes back a long way in my family. This is a common story among our brethren as beliefs and practices are passed from generation to generation. This is a wonderful thing! As the apostle John remarked: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth!" (3 Jn. 4).

However, it is easy to see how religious practices passed down repeatedly from parents to their children can be watered down to mere family tradition. Conversations about what the Bible teaches often become conversations about 'how I was raised'.

It is a wise proverb that reads "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Pr. 22:6). However, while rules, advice, and traditions can be drilled into children by repetition and inherited by the next generation and the next, one cannot simply inherit an authentic relationship with Jesus!

We may often use Ezekiel 18 to make the true point that guilt for sin cannot be inherited from father to son, but the opposite point can also be made from the same passage — the good deeds of the father do not belong to the son either!

For those of us Christians who were 'raised on the pew' we should be very thankful for the teachings and environments we were brought up with, but we also must be careful that we do not allow our Christianity to be purely the result of family relations.

- *Sam Bunyard*

## Just My Thoughts

## You've Got a Friend in Me

Proverbs 27.17, the famous "iron sharpens iron" passage, is one that has become a staple amongst Christians and people of the world alike. Anytime someone discusses the impact of a good friend, a good influence, or anything of the sort, this verse almost always makes its way into the conversation. This is all well and good, and this verse certainly demonstrates a great truth about the impact a good brother or sister can have on us.

However, my favorite verse that deals with a good friend or brother is Proverbs 17.17, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." Iron indeed sharpens iron, but so, too, does a soft and loving heart soften ours.

We have a great calling as Christians — to be friends to those around us, and to be brothers and sisters to our fellow sons and daughters of the living God. This verse demonstrates a great Biblical truth: that the friend who is true loves at all times and in all things. This verse comes with no caveat, with no exception — a friend loves at all times. Love may look different in different situations. In some cases, it is a stern talking to, and in others, it is a shoulder to cry on. And in times of adversity, it is being there for our struggling brother or sister.

This verse demonstrates to us what it means to be a friend — a friend who is rooted in Scriptural truth. This verse demonstrates what it is to be a brother or sister, rooted in Scriptural truth.

Let us live these truths today and every day.

- *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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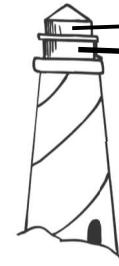
**Yep, He came out all right.**

## 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**

October 2, 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

**WELCOME** – We welcome Victoria McBride to our number! Victoria was recently baptized into Christ. Let's keep her, and her son, in our prayers.

**SINGING** – Tonight is our first-Sunday-of-the-month singing. Song leaders, come prepared to lead – others come prepared to sing out!

## 5-Talent People; 2-Talent Effort

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Ec 9:10). If that was true in the old covenant, how much more it is in the new.

You want to be married? Certainly, God approves of lawful unions. But do marriage with all your might – with everything you've got. It's not a 50/50 proposition. It's 100% on both sides (Ep 5:24-25).

You want to be a parent? Good. Then do parenting with all your might (De 6:6-7, Ep 6:4).

You want a decent job – to be a happy and productive employee? Good. Then give your current job your best effort (Col 3:22-24).

You want to be an active member of this congregation? Awesome! There is no shortage of work to be done. Find your niche, then strive to be the best at it. From cleaning and maintaining the building, to teaching the young ones (& not-so-young), to arranging home classes, to writing notes of encouragement or making that uplifting phone call – be the best you can be at it.

And if you are a man asked to lead a song, or a prayer, or to make a talk or preach a sermon – do it “with all your might”! After all, the kingdom of God is no place for slackers – 5-talent people doing 2-talent work. Nope, that dog won't hunt. - **WKing**