

Light and Life

Funnel Cake Christians

Modern Christianity is full of what I like to call ‘funnel cake religion’. It looks good and tastes great at first – but eat too much and you get sick!

‘Funnel Cake Christianity’ sure tastes sweet for a while, but when the rubber hits the road, it can’t help anyone in any real way. The congregant encounters sin-induced difficulty, and because this perversion of Christianity is nothing but sweet, it is powerless to address the sins that are the source of the problem.

The gospel may be offensive to some, but this is not a bad thing! In fact, the gospel necessitates that each of us be offended! When Peter preached the first sermon in Acts 2, it was not sunshine and rainbows that pricked peoples’ hearts. Rather, it was the assertion that they were responsible for the death of God’s Son! This is a key part of the gospel that each person must come to terms with – it **should** offend our conscience!

Paul wrote that it is good to feel a godly sorrow regarding past sins if that sorrow leads to repentance. Paul even said that he didn’t regret offending the Corinthians with his previous rebukes, because it led to them getting into a right relationship with God (2 Co 7:8-12).

‘Funnel Cake Christianity’ will taste sweet for a time, but it is powerless to save; and in the name of acceptance, it fails to recognize the sweetest story ever told – the true love of God forgiving those who betray Him (Ro 5:6-8).

Some parts of the truth may be difficult for us to swallow, but God’s word will not make us sick. Rather, God knows that we are already sick and that His word will heal us (Mt 9:12).

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!” (Ps 34:8).

- *Sam Bunyard*

The Anvil

by John Clifford

**Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith’s door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
Then, looking in, I saw upon the floor,
Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.**

**“How many anvils have you had,” said I,
“To wear and batter all these hammers so?”**

**“Just one” said he, and then, with twinkling eye,
“The anvil wears the hammers out you know.”**

**And so, thought I the anvil of God’s Word,
For ages sceptic blows have beat upon;
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The anvil is unharmed – the hammers, gone!**

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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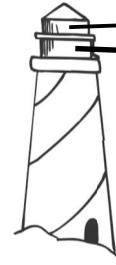
**It's harder to stumble when
you're on your knees.**

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, Jean Marshall

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

DATES TO REMEMBER – It's not too early to mark your calendars for next year: March 12-15 (gospel meeting) and April 21 (our annual singing).

SENTENCE SERMON – Do not pray to be sheltered from the storms and struggles of life, but rather to be faithful and fearless in facing them.

No, this is not the popular 'mission statement', the formal declaration so common in churches and other organizations these days. Rather, it is a simple reminder – to members and non-members alike – of why we exist as a congregation.

We exist to serve Jesus Christ. We wear His name unashamedly, not as a denominational brand, but as a people who belong to Him. He is our King, and we are His subjects (1 Ti 6:15). It's not complicated.

We exist to further His cause – not by doing "mighty works" in His name or worshipping Him accord-

ing to what pleases us (Mt 7:21-23), but by paying attention to His Word, and by humbling ourselves before it (Isa 66:2). That explains why we sing worshipful songs without instrumental music (Ep 5:19) – and why we use contributions to spread God's Word (1 Co 9:14) and to help needy Christians (Ro 15:26). It's not complicated.

So, while many churches have vast programs to further all sorts of social agendas, our mission is simply to serve Jesus as He directs in His Word. It really is not complicated.

- *WKing*