

## Light and Life

## A Poetic Footnote

For someone who had direct communication with God, Balaam didn't seem to think of it as a very big deal. When the king of Moab came to ask him to curse the people of Israel, Balaam wasn't immediately opposed to the idea as one would assume a prophet of God should be (Nu 22:3-6).

Balaam brought King Balak's request before God. Of course, God was loyal to His people and told Balaam not to go with the princes of Moab. But when Balak sent more numerous and more distinguished princes to flatter him, Balaam went with them to Moab (Nu 22:15-21).

God was greatly angered at Balaam's persistence in friendship with Moab but permitted him to go to Balak (Nu 22:22). When Balaam attempted to curse Israel on Balak's behalf, God blessed His people each time instead (Nu 23-24).

Balaam prophetically described himself as a man "who sees the vision of the Almighty, who falls down, with eyes wide open" (Nu 24:4). Yet, despite His unique relationship with God, Balaam was an ambitious man who was always on the lookout for better opportunities. Though he was unable to prophesy beyond God's will, he was willing to try for honor and gold (Nu 24:11-13).

Unable to deliver a curse for Balak because of God's love for Israel, Balaam went home without riches or honor (De 23:6; Nu 24:25).

The story of Balaam, a man of great ambition who desired glory and honor, is resolved in Joshua 13:22 – his death listed as something of a footnote in history. By trying to make himself a somebody, he became a bit of a nobody – known only for his disregard for God's authority.

May we never repeat his mistakes.

*- Sam Bunyard*

## Just My Thoughts

## Whose Side Are You Fighting On?

This question was posed to the Israelites in Joshua 24:15 (though phrased in a different manner, "Choose this day whom you will serve"). And it is still a question of critical importance to the Christian today.

We are fighting in a great battle against the armies of error and sin, a foe that sometimes can seem insurmountable (Ep 6:10-18). But praise be to God that we serve One who is far mightier and stronger than the enemy that we face.

But what role do **we** play in this battle? We know that God and His angels fight for us (1 Co 10:13, He 1:13-14). With great forces like that standing at our side, what can we possibly do to help?

While we are often painted as warriors fighting at God's side, I would suggest that a far more accurate picture of a Christian is the combat medic. We live in a world full of sick and wounded – men and women who are lost. It is up to us to brave the enemy fire to seek and save these lost soldiers, to prevent them from becoming permanent casualties of this spiritual war.

We have a great calling as Christians – to follow in the footsteps of Christ. And what was Christ's purpose? It was to seek and save the lost (Lu 19:10). We fight on the side of a Lord who leaves no man behind, who desires to see all His people mended and whole. Let us endeavor to continue to fight on the side of a God who loves us, values us, and cherishes us. And let us cherish our fellow men in the same way.

*- 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



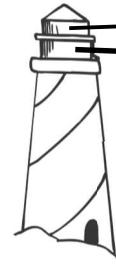
The best thing to spend on  
your children is time.

## 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 23, 2022

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.  
*Sick:* G&K Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Diane Willis, J&M Swim, Jean Marshall  
*Shut-ins:* Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis  
*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**CONGRATULATIONS** – Congratulations to Hayden & Maggie who were recently married! Let's be an encouragement to these two newlyweds!

**Q&A** – Due to scheduling issues, this month's question and answer lesson will be tonight (a week early). Thanks to all who have submitted questions!

## Be Kind

“Everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle – so be kind.” I'm unsure of the source of that gem, but its ultimate source, of course, is from God.

In His Word, kindness is listed as one of the manifestations of love (1 Co 13:4), and is associated with being tenderhearted and forgiving (Ep 4:32, which uses God as the perfect Example of such). It is listed as a fruit of the Spirit (Ga 5:22) as well as one of the ‘Christian graces’ (2 Pe 1:7).

So why do we find it so hard sometimes to be kind? Maybe we have

a personality that is just naturally gruff. Or maybe we think of kindness as weakness. Or perhaps we simply fail to think at all about how we come across to others. We can certainly improve any of these areas if we have the will to do so. And we should, because a simple act of kindness can make a huge difference in the life of someone hurting.

So, in a society that is increasingly calloused in its treatment of others, let's be the light in a dark place. Let's be kind to our fellow travelers – because everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.

- *WKing*