

Light and Life

Christ or Culture?

A recent study evaluated the beliefs of 'Evangelical' Christians in America. The results are shocking. 67% of Evangelicals believe that God accepts worship from all religions, including Judaism and Islam (Jn 14:6). 53% believe that while Jesus was a good teacher, He was not God (Jn 8:24). 55% believe Jesus was created by God (Jn 1:1)! Only 66% of Evangelicals believe the Bible is accurate regarding the resurrection of Christ (if they question the resurrection, Paul questioned why they would even profess to be Christians, I Cor. 15!) Only 64% believe that Jesus is returning to judge the world (Mt 25:31-32), and only 25% believe that a small sin is deserving of hell (Rm. 6:23).

Maybe these results shouldn't be surprising considering that only 51% of Evangelicals believe that the Bible is accurate in all that it teaches and only 65% believe that God is perfect and doesn't make mistakes!

Despite all of this, 51% of Evangelicals deny that you can choose your gender, 53% condemn abortion, and 42% condemn homosexuality. 61% of Evangelicals believe that Christians need to be politically outspoken! **Notice that more Evangelicals believe Christians should be involved in American politics than believe that the Bible teaches the truth!**

The false doctrines that are exposed by this survey can be easily refuted by simply reading the scriptures. But what is more concerning is that many moral convictions seem to be a matter of political affiliation and culture rather than faith in God! This is a trap of Satan into which we must not fall!

Morality that is founded upon the traditions and authority of man cannot stand! We must make sure our faith is where it belongs – in God and His word!

- Sam Bunyard

Just My Thoughts

A Rowboat with No Oars

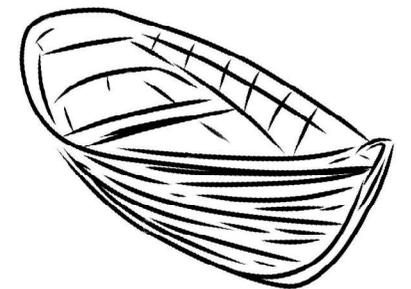
A rowboat with no oars is doomed to go nowhere.

In life, those without the necessary tools for success are doomed to fail. If we show up to the grocery store with no wallet, we aren't going to leave with the food that we need. If Rocket Sanders shows up to a Razorback game with no helmet, he isn't going to be able to play. If a preacher shows up without his Bible, he won't be able to teach. Everything we do in life requires that we have the proper tools. If we don't, we won't get anything done or go very far.

1 Peter 3.15 reads, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord, always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have; but do this with gentleness and respect."

As Christians, we are expected to know God's word and to understand it, and most critically to have a defense of it ready for those who ask. Just as a rowboat won't get very far without its oars, if we don't have knowledge of God's word – if we don't use God's word – we won't get very far in defending what we believe. God has given us the Scriptures in physical form as a tool for our aid, so that we might be better equipped to believe, understand, and defend the Gospel. We must use that tool if we are going to get very far in our spiritual life. The Bible is a necessary tool for us to live lives of faithfulness. Let's make sure we remember to use it.

- 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



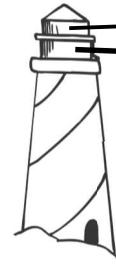
**There is never a right way
to do wrong.**

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 16, 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 – We rejoice with E.J. Sullins who was recently baptized into Christ! Let's do all we can to encourage our young people!

SENTENCE SERMON – Some people learn by reading and some by observation – but the rest must touch the electric fence for themselves.

Touching the Electric Fence

The 'sentence sermon' on the back page is a cleaned-up version of a Will Rogers quote which came to me (and many others) via Sam Bunyard. And it teaches valuable lessons for God's people.

Christians can, in fact, gain a great deal of wisdom simply by **reading** God's Word (Ep 3:4, 2 Ti 3:15). In the areas of family, finance, kingdom citizenship, and many others, wisdom can come simply by reading it for ourselves.

We can also gain wisdom by **observing** how others behave – the good and the bad. It's the Biblical idea of marking someone (Ph 3:17,

Ro 16:17). For example, we can learn to avoid alcohol by noting its destructive effects on others. Or we can learn to pray by listening to someone who knows how. So, pay attention to others, and gain wisdom from your observations.

But, as Rogers noted, some people must **touch** the electric fence. Not content to learn from God's Word, and too foolish to learn from the mistakes (or successes) of others, they must suffer the consequences of bad decisions for themselves. It's a major theme in the Proverbs – when you see an electric fence, **just leave it alone!**

- *WKing*