

Light and Life

The Blinding Light of Liberty

“It is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Cor. 4:6).

The same God who spoke the creation into existence can speak light into us today! The thought of coming out of a world of darkness and into a world of light can be a daunting thing for someone who has only known darkness. It can be as if one had spent a long period of time in a dark room only to throw open a window to look directly at the sun – the effect can be blinding!

Though this is not necessarily the reason for Saul’s physical blindness on the road to Damascus (Acts 9), the imagery is quite interesting. Saul had spent the recent years of his life devoted to hunting down and persecuting Christians. Though he believed he was acting on behalf of God, he was really being used as a tool of Satan. Thinking that he was in the light, he was really a slave of darkness. What a shock it must have been to be plunged into the light of the Son of God so swiftly!

Though such a major life transformation is shocking, it is the powerful light of God’s love that can pierce even the deepest darkness. “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins” (Col. 1:13-14).

Though once slaves of darkness, we can be servants of light! “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. We all... are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord” (2 Cor. 3:17-18).

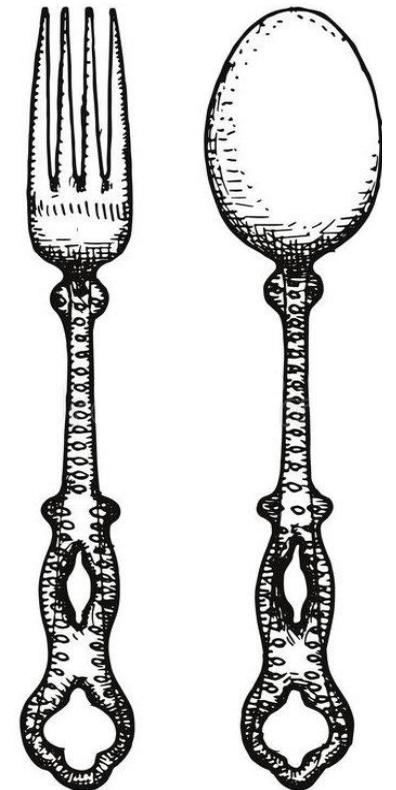
- Sam Bunyard

Just My Thoughts

Brethren: Your Utensils

When we eat meals, we generally make use of utensils. They may seem insignificant to us when we’re eating, especially if they’re just made of plastic. We eat our meals, not really giving a second thought to our forks, our knives, or our spoons. However, if you’ve ever sat down to eat a meal and realized you have no utensils, or only have the wrong utensil for the food you’re trying to eat, you suddenly realize how crucial utensils can be. Try for example, eating a slushy or ice cream with a fork or knife. You just can’t do it! Or try eating a steak with no knife. It’s nearly impossible!

There are times when we forget to use our spiritual utensils, or perhaps when we equip ourselves with the wrong one. God has given us a great set of utensils (though they are much more than just that) in our brothers and sisters. When we are struggling with a certain passage, when we are trying to understand a complex part of Scripture, when we are trying to fill ourselves with spiritual food, we need to be willing to use utensils. Find a brother or sister with more wisdom, a different perspective, a greater knowledge of the word so that we can more easily partake in the spiritual food that scripture has to offer. Don’t turn to the world or scholars alone for knowledge. Turn to your brothers and sisters who are equipped to help you feast on the meat of God’s word (Ac 2.42).



- 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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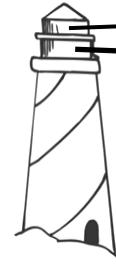
**Show gratitude, for it is
powerful in its simplicity.**

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**

November 27, 2022

When Your Tank is Empty

Have you ever been there? I know you have. Life gets difficult, and you think, “If I can just hang on a little longer, things will get better”. But they don’t. In fact, they get worse. And when you are sure that this is as bad as it can get, you get slammed again. Eventually all you can do is look up to heaven with that “What am I supposed to do now?” look. Your tank is bone dry.

Paul must have felt that way when he pleaded with God repeatedly to remove that ‘thorn in the flesh’ (2 Co 12:7-9). But God never did. Whatever it was, Paul apparently had to deal with it for the rest of his

life. From a worldly perspective we may see that as completely overwhelming – and perhaps even cruel on God’s part.

But it wasn’t.

Paul got through his life – thorns and all – with the humility that comes from valley experiences. He had to learn that God’s grace was sufficient – that life was not intended to be easy, and that that’s okay.

That same grace is available to you in dealing with the overwhelming circumstances of your life as well. But never give up on God’s grace – it will see you into eternity. - **WKing**

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

WELCOME! – We welcome Bobbie Rutledge to our family at Downtown!

Let’s do all we can to be an encouragement to her!

THIS WEDNESDAY – This Wednesday (5th Wednesday of the month) our young men will direct us in the worship. Regular classes will not meet.