

Light and Life

Checkers and Chess

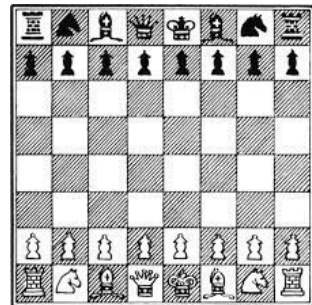
Checkers is a simple game. All the pieces move the same way until they are 'kinged' when they reach the opposite side of the board. Chess takes a lot more brain power – patience, strategy and thinking several moves ahead. Both games have some things in common but differ in rules and difficulty. Checkers is much easier to grasp.

Sometimes, when we are living out Christ's teachings, there are works that we shun because they may bring complexity into our lives. There are simpler things we can do, so we neglect the hard stuff. We favor checkers over chess. Other times, the thought of failure or mediocrity in the difficult work of the kingdom may scare us off from working for God all together! We are so afraid of failing at chess, we don't even want to play checkers!

Such mindsets remind me of the parable of the talents (Mt. 25:14-30). Sometimes we may be bold and confident. We may have the wherewithal to take on the adversary in a game of chess. In these situations, we may be given five talents to use. Other times we may lack the confidence necessary to play chess, but still have the ability to play checkers. In these situations, we may be given two talents to utilize for God. Or we may be so afraid to lose that we don't even try to play the game! In these times, we are refusing to invest what we have been given by God to use for His glory!

The talents God gives us in life are not static. We have the opportunity to grow into servants who are more capable stewards than we have been. We may not be very good at chess yet, but in the meantime, let's play some checkers!

- Sam Bunyard



Just My Thoughts

It's Raining, It's Pouring

When it rains, it pours. This famous colloquialism is often used by those who are experiencing misfortune after misfortune. It is one many can relate to; everyone has their own day in which it pours. That applies to the characters of the Bible as well, with the author of Lamentations being one of the most notable in Scripture to be stuck in a downpour. He writes in Lamentations 3.1-3, "I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of the Lord's wrath. He has driven me away and made me walk in darkness rather than light, indeed He has turned his hand against me again and again, all day long."

Intense, I know, but there are days when we feel much like him. And if you haven't been through a day like that yet, trust me you will. If you feel hopeless, feeling as though misfortune and evil are raining down around you, just remember that you're not alone. Strong men of God, men who wrote the word of God themselves, felt that way too.

And in your day of distress, in your hour of trouble, remember one other thing; remember who is in control. The author of Lamentations notes towards the end of his book in Lamentations 5.19, "You Lord, reign forever; your throne endures from generation to generation."

Through his duress, the author of Lamentations never forgets who is in control: our God. Pray that in your life, when it rains, when it pours, that you remember you are not alone; and more importantly, remember who is in control.

- 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



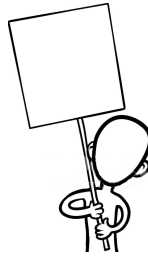
Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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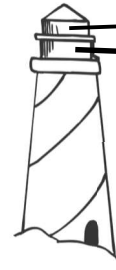
Many people know their
rights, but not their
wrongs.

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

January 8, 2023

Dumb Questions

“Avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife” (2 Ti 2:23).

Clearly, Paul was not condemning all “disputes”. He himself was often involved in verbal disagreements with pagans and unbelieving Jews alike – and even with his fellow Christians from time to time (Ac 17:16-17, Ga 2:11-14). So, what “foolish and ignorant disputes” was Paul warning young Timothy about?

The answer is found in his follow-up comment: “A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting...” (vss 24-25).

An ‘ignorant dispute’ is not so much about the content of the discussion as it is about the quality of it. A new convert may ask a question that seems foolish to the seasoned Christian, but that doesn’t make it a ‘dumb question’ – especially if it is asked from a “pure heart” (vs 22).

Well-versed veterans of the Bible, on the other hand, may be able to ask ‘deep’ questions; but if they do so with a haughty heart and a desire to impress others with their dazzling intellect, they have missed the point.

So, is it possible to ask a ‘dumb question’? Well, that depends on the heart of the one asking. - *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

PRAYERS – Since we are family, let’s remember to pray for one another (especially for those who are struggling) – and then let’s reach out.

SENTENCE SERMON: It was not the nails, but His love, that kept Jesus on the cross.