

## Light and Life

Over the course of his life, John Quincy Adams amassed a collection of over six thousand books! His dying wish was that a stone structure be erected to house his library in a building that would not be susceptible to fire. Adams believed that the preservation of his books was a way of keeping his legacy alive. This wish is meaningful, but its consequence pales in comparison to these dying wishes in the Bible.

Peter was prepared for his martyrdom by Christ (Jn 21:19). He spent his life from that point forward with the understanding that he would be put to death for the sake of the gospel. Near the end of his life, Peter wrote to Christians encouraging them to “make their call and election sure” (2 Pe 1:10), a concept he must have held as highly important at this late stage in his life.

To do this, Peter urged his brethren to return to the basics of the faith. “I will remind you of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent...” (2 Pe 1:12-14). Peter’s concern at the end of his life was not his own legacy, but the continued faithfulness of his brethren.

Likewise, Paul at the end of his life wrote to young Timothy: “I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you” (2 Ti 1:6). Paul’s concern was that the gospel continue to be preached, so that when others’ departures were “at hand”, they too could say, “I have fought the good fight!”

What impression will **you** leave on this world?

- Sam Bunyard

## Dying Wishes



## Just My Thoughts

This Christmas, my grandmother got me a rolling whiteboard. To most people a whiteboard would seem like a weird gift, but I use whiteboards constantly for my sermon outlines. So having one of my own to keep at home is a great asset!

Upon opening the packaging that contained my shiny new whiteboard, I realized that some assembly would be required. And so, the first thing I did was look for the instruction manual. I’m not exceptionally handy or particularly good with tools, so an instruction manual is a necessity when it comes to putting together furniture or weird things like whiteboards. Even if I were good with my hands, I would still need a manual to know how to put my things together. A manual is a great tool. It helps us know how to put things together, what materials we will need for the project, and what order we should follow when working on assembling something. Without a manual, instead of a white board, I would have a worthless pile of stainless-steel rods, some corkboard, and wheels. Manuals make things simple, make a project easy to complete, and give us direction when we need it. Wouldn’t it be great if we could have a manual for every part of our life?

Well thankfully, we do have a manual like that – one that is instructive, one that grants us direction, one that helps us make sense of the difficult path that we tread. That manual is Scripture, and as Paul puts it in 2 Timothy 3.16, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”

Let’s follow the manual that God has given us. Let us bend our ear to His instruction, direction, and guidance so that we can be built up in a good and godly way.

- Hayden Cathey

## Do You Have the Manual?

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

### Sunday

Bible Class 9:30  
Morning Assembly 10:30  
Evening Assembly 5:00

### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

## RADIO PROGRAM

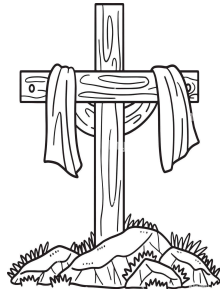
### The Bible Speaks



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



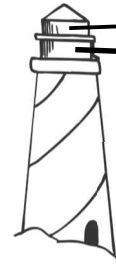
When you are the zero,  
He is the One.

## 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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## Put On Your Grownup Pants

*“If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.”* It's how some folks deal with failure. They 'destroy the evidence' by running away (as the Jews who fled to Egypt during the Babylonian captivity, Jer 41), or by blaming others (as King Saul, 1 Sa 15), or by adopting a posture of self-denial (as those of Laodicea, Re 3). All failed spiritually; and all attempted to escape their failures – without success.

The sad fact is, we have **all** failed spiritually (Ro 3:23). And while we may think we can sweep those

failures under the rug (in various ways), that is **not** how God wants us to deal with our sins. He wants to forgive us; but that only happens when we put on our 'grownup pants', own up to our sins, and confess them (1 Jn 1:8-10).

The parable of the prodigal son (Lu 15) is still one of my favorites. How perfectly it describes our condition (at some point). How perfectly it describes a right response. And how perfectly it describes God's willingness to forgive – if we will come to Him on His terms. *- 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

**DATES:** Mark Roberts mtg (Mar 12-15), Stevens/Shepard singing (Apr 21), Bret Hogland VBS (Jul 16-20), David Banning youth lectures (Aug 4-5).

**SENTENCE SERMON:** “Since it is likely that children will meet cruel enemies, let them at least have heard of bravery and heroic courage.” - *CS Lewis*