

Light and Life

Front Porch Christianity

Architecture is a great lens through which to view changes in culture. An interesting observation about a lot of modern architecture? Hardly any front porches. While houses were once designed to appear welcoming and hospitable, giving residents a chance to sit in their rocking chairs and greet strangers passing by on the sidewalk, houses today are built like fortresses to keep the world at a distance! Rather than wishing neighbors a good morning from the front steps, many people today don't even know their neighbor's first name! Our society is increasingly less personal and friendly.

In Jesus' final prayer before His arrest, He prayed of His apostles, "the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one" (Jn 17:14-15). This is the origin of the popular saying that we are to be 'in the world, not of the world.'

Oftentimes, we tend to focus more on the part about not being of the world. That's good, but the first half is important too! In fact, within the next verses Jesus prays, "as You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world." He wasn't only praying for the apostles, but for all who would accept their teachings, "that they all may be one... that the world may believe that You sent Me" (Jn 17:18-21).

Later, Paul would write that Christians should not keep company with brethren caught in habitual sin – but that doesn't mean we should live in a bubble of only faithful Christians, "since then you would need to go out of the world" (I Cor 5:10)!

Let's let our front porch lights shine in that darkness!

- Sam Bunyard

Just My Thoughts

I Don't Know

In our modern world, we are often assaulted by the prevalence of a people that seek intellectual advancement. For a number of years people have placed a high value on intellect and knowledge. And in some ways this is a good thing. After all, without knowledge I could never hope to have written this article, Warren could never hope to have gotten it printed, and you could never have hoped to have read it! But there is also a danger to knowledge.

In our pursuit of knowledge and intellect, we often forget something critical – humility. We seek answers to life's hardest questions, search the scriptures to find a response to atheists, agnostics, and denominationalists. We can, in this pursuit of knowledge, become so proud that we forget that we don't have the answer to every question. We are so obsessed with the erudite that we are terrified to say, "I don't know", when someone asks a difficult question.

We need to be more comfortable saying we don't know the answer to all of life's questions. Certainly, there are some questions we must have an answer for. But there are some questions about life, about the Bible, and about God that we will simply never be able to provide an answer for. We are not God. We cannot have an answer for everything. It's simply impossible. And we need to get comfortable with that. Instead of obsessing over knowledge, let's get comfortable with not having the answer to every question. Let's replace our pursuit of the erudite for the pursuit of something far more valuable. Let's take heed of what Paul writes to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 8 and pursue love rather than the knowledge that puffs up.

"We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up."

- 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

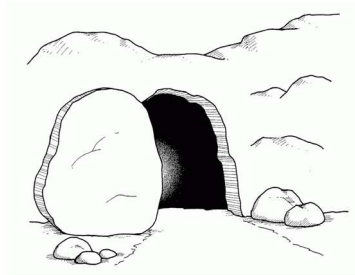
The Bible Speaks



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

Downtown Church of Christ

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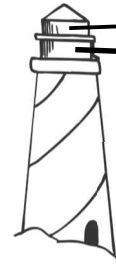
**A dark world needs
the risen Son.**

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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ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

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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

SPRING SINGING – Our annual singing with Tim Stevens & Dane Shepard is scheduled for Friday night, April 21. Mark your calendars!

SENTENCE SERMON – “[The righteous] is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD” (Ps 112:6-7).

A Boy Schools the Intellectuals

“The heavens declare the glory of God and... The law of the Lord is perfect...” - Ps 19:1, 7

Thus, a shepherd boy provided his own rationale for believing in the existence of God. It is a two-tiered argument that still stands today.

The ‘external evidence’ (evidence outside the Bible) that David saw was simply in the majesty of God’s creation. So pervasive is this evidence that David literally saw it everywhere – *“there is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard”* (vs 3). Just look around. The evidence of ‘intelligent design’ really is all around us.

But David saw evidence for God’s existence in the scriptures as well (‘internal evidence’). He saw God’s law as ‘perfect’ (*tamim* or unblemished). He described it as ‘righteous’ and ‘pure’ and declared its worth to be far greater than gold. David saw something in the scriptures that many today do not. Perhaps if they read it with the same heart as David, they would have the same reverence and appreciation for it – and for its divine origin.

Yes, there is a God. And to refuse to acknowledge that fact is – as Paul put it to the pagans – inexcusable (Ro 1:20).

- *WKing*