

## Light and Life

## Young Jeremiah

When Jeremiah was just a young man, God came to him and said, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations” (Jer. 1:5). What a terrifying experience this must have been! The messages Jeremiah would deliver for God would not be popular and he would deliver them to powerful men.

Jeremiah replied to God, “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.” How could such a young man be qualified to be God’s messenger? Who would listen to him? Yet, God had chosen him specifically for this purpose. It was not Jeremiah’s qualifications that were important, but that the messages he would deliver originated with God.

“Do not say, ‘I am a youth’, for you shall go to all to whom I send you. And whatever I command you, you shall speak” (Jer 1:7). “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth...” (Jer 1:9). The words Jeremiah would speak were not his own, so his youthfulness did not matter. When it comes to preaching and teaching, the only qualification needed is that God’s word be on the lips of the speaker – not human wisdom or manmade tradition.

Having access to the word of God fully equipped young Jeremiah to perform the task at hand. Beyond even the promise of divine inspiration, God promised to protect him as he delivered difficult messages to powerful men. “Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you” (Jer 1:8). “For behold, I have made you this day a fortified city and an iron pillar... they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail” (Jer 1:18-19).

Today, as we have been fully equipped by God’s inspired word (II Ti 3:17), let us have the boldness of Jeremiah as we deliver His message to a lost and contrary world!

- *Sam Bunyard*

## Another Perspective

## Singing Hypocrites

In our worship to God, Christians are commanded to both pray and sing. Some songs in our hymnals might even have originally been prayers (He 2:12). But our singing must be in “spirit and truth” (Jn 4:24) as well as “with the understanding” (1 Co 14:15). So, how can we avoid singing hypocritically?

Don’t sing “I Love to Tell the Story” and never mention Jesus to anyone.

Don’t sing “I Want to Be a Worker” then take a permanent vacation.

Don’t sing “Blest Be the Tie” then let something minor cut it asunder.

Don’t sing “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” then follow the devil.

Don’t sing “We’re Marching to Zion” then fail to march to Bible study.

Don’t sing “Count Your Blessings” but never offer thanksgiving to God.

Don’t sing “Onward Christian Soldiers” then wait for someone to draft you.

Don’t sing “Give Me the Bible” but never take the time to read and study it.

Don’t sing “Sweet Hour of Prayer” yet pray less than 5 minutes a day, if that.

Don’t sing “This World is Not My Home” while investing more time in it than in heaven.

Don’t sing “When the Roll is Called Up Yonder” but fail to answer when it is called down here (He 10:25).

Think on these things. Don’t be a singing hypocrite!

- *Grady Rice (edited for space)*

## 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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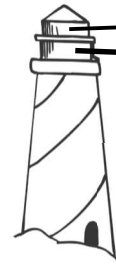
**Hypocrite:**  
**A person who is not  
her(him)self on Sunday.**

## 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**

August 27, 2023

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

*Sick:* Fletchers, Swims, J Marshall, T Deen, R Starr

*Shut-ins:* Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis, V Carter

*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS** – Tonight is our monthly Q&A lesson. Thanks again to all who have contributed questions to make this session possible!

**SENTENCE SERMON** – Just as faith without works is dead (Ja 2:17), so also love without works is dead (Jn 14:23-24).

## Worshipful Music Over Time

A denominational person, after visiting with us and hearing worshipful songs sung without instruments (a cappella), commented favorably and observed that it was much easier to focus on the words and meanings of the songs when they were sung without instruments. He was exactly right.

Quite often, in defending the use of instruments in worship, folks will go to the Old Testament. The claim is that if it was okay then (and it was, 2 Chr 29:25), then it should be okay today. But the Law of Moses was a “tutor” (Ga 3:24-25) or a “shadow” (Col 2:16-17) of the New Covenant. It contained many elements which

were mere types (figures) of worship in this age (the temple, the sacrifices, the Passover, the priests, etc.).

Worshipful music then involved physical instruments. Today, we are commanded to pluck the strings of the **heart** (Ep 5:19). When the heart is the instrument, as our visitor observed, it is easier to worship God with understanding (cf. 1 Co 14:15). It’s no longer about entertainment.

And what about those harps in heaven (Re 14:2)? If indeed they are real, and not simply part of the imagery, rest assured they will not interfere with (tempt us from) true worship of the King – from the heart! - *WKing*