

Light and Life

A Sympathetic High Priest

“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin” (He. 4:15).

The Hebrew writer shows that Jesus is like the High Priests of the Old Testament – yet better! Not only are there connections to be drawn from the priesthood to Jesus, but there are also great contrasts between Jesus and the priesthood of His day.

Annas, and later his son-in-law Caiaphas, served as corrupt High Priests during Jesus’ earthly ministry and the early church years. Caiaphas heard the false testimony against Jesus, accused Him of blasphemy, and led in the decision to put Him to death (Mt. 26:62-68). Annas was instrumental in persecuting the apostles for spreading the gospel (e.g., Ac 4:5-22).

Jesus rebuked the hypocrisy of the ruling Jews, saying, “Whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say and do not do. For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers” (Mt 23:3-4).

The High Priests of Jesus’ day were not like the common people. In fact, they went out of their way to appear better than the common man. They looked down their noses at the people whom they were supposed to lead. By contrast, “in all things, Jesus had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people” (He. 2:17). Thankfully, we don’t have a condescending High Priest, but a sympathetic one. “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (He 4:16).

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

Excerpt from A.W. Tozer

"Human society generally (and especially in the United States) has fallen into the error of assuming that greatness and fame are synonymous. Americans appear to take for granted that each generation provides a certain number of superior men, and the democratic processes unerringly find those men and set them in a place of prominence. How wrong can people get!

"We have but to become acquainted with, or even listen to, the big names of our times to discover how wretchedly inferior most of them are. Many appear to have arrived at their present eminence by pull, brass, nerve, gall, and lucky accident. We turn away from them sick to our stomach and wonder for a discouraged moment if this is the best the human race can produce. But we gain our self-possession again by the simple expedient of recalling some of the plain men we know, who live unheralded and unsung, and who are made of stuff infinitely finer than the hoarse-voiced braggarts who occupy too many of the highest offices in the land.

“... If the Church were a body wholly unaffected by the world, we could toss the above problem over to the secular philosophers and go about our business; but the truth is that the Church also suffers from this evil notion. Christians have fallen into the habit of accepting the noisiest and most notorious among them as the best and the greatest. They too have learned to equate popularity with excellence, and in open defiance of the Sermon on the Mount they have given their approval not to the meek but to the self-assertive; not to the mourner but to the self-assured; not to the pure in heart who see God but to the publicity hunter who seeks headlines.”

*A.W. Tozer and Anita M. Bailey,
Man: The Dwelling Place of God
(Camp Hill, PA.: WingSpread, 1997), 104–106, LOGOS Edition
H/T, Steve Wolfgang*

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

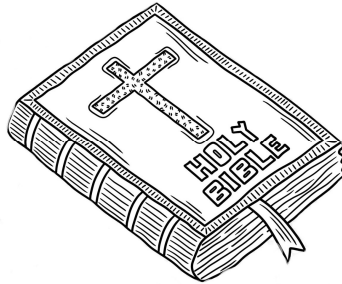
The Bible Speaks



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



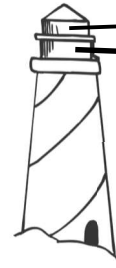
God's work must
be done God's way.

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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Reasoned Discourse

Jesus said, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'LORD,' saying: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, TILL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES YOUR FOOTSTOOL" '? If David calls Him 'LORD,' how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word... (Mt 22:42-46).

Did you follow that line of reasoning? It is no wonder the religious teachers of His day were unable to answer His argument. It was bullet-proof. Even today, it stands as a powerful argument to His divinity. But we must have our 'thinking caps' on to follow His point. It's not an argument for mental sluggards.

And there's the rub. In a society grown accustomed to thirty-second sound bites, the desire to think through a position logically is becoming increasingly rare. Attempts to reason about religious issues are often met with simplistic responses such as, "You're being a legalist", or "I don't care what the Bible says, I can feel it in my heart", or, of course, the ever-popular ad hominem attack (ridicule the messenger).

The prophet Isaiah pled for reasoned discourse (1:18). It was a sensible request then, and it remains a sensible request today – for those who care about the truth!

- WKing

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

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

Sick: Fletchers, Swims, J Marshall, T Deen, R Starr, M Bader, A Dosier

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

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

SINGING NIGHT! – Tonight we are scheduled to have our end-of-month singing! Come prepared to sing out – and leaders come prepared to lead!

SENTENCE SERMON – You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.