

## Light and Life

## Except Ye Repent

“... unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Lk 13:3).

This was the response of Jesus to tragedies experienced by people of His day. Some came to Him with news of certain Jews who had been killed by Pilate. In other news, a tall tower had fallen in Siloam and killed eighteen people. These unfortunate events were not some sort of divine punishment as many suspected – but Jesus taught that divine punishment would find everyone whose sins were not forgiven (Lk. 13:1-5).

Less and less people are professing a belief in divine punishment. They want to hang their hats on “for God so loved the world... [it] should not perish” without the conditions of “whoever believes in Him” and “he who does the truth” (Jn. 3:16, 21). Others may accept the scriptural reality of divine punishment for the unsaved, but they water down the truth – professing a belief in total annihilation rather than a literal hell.

It is interesting that Jesus taught more about hell than anyone else in the Bible, and yet it is Jesus that people cite as the reason for their disbelief in eternal punishment. Jesus described the nature of judgment for the devil and his angels as “everlasting fire” (Mt. 25:41). This is the same word He used later in the context to describe punishment for wicked men – “everlasting punishment” (Mt. 25:26). Jesus said, “it is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched, where worm does not die and fire is not quenched” (Mk. 9:42-48).

The love of Christ does not mean that eternal punishment does not exist, but His teaching on its reality and His willing sacrifice show that He wants us to be saved from it. We **must** repent – lest we likewise perish!

- Sam Bunyard

## Another Perspective

## Race and The Politics of Babylon

*(Note: Martyn Iles is an Australian attorney and professed Christian. While I care not one whit about the politics of Babylon, especially Australian politics, his explanation of why he is voting in some upcoming referendum bears some consideration. He is spot on in his observations. -wk)*

First, race makes no difference to our participation in the kingdom of God. It is one citizenship for all. I do not accept that we can do better in our earthly kingdoms, by making race distinctions at the government level. Indeed, history would bear witness that we cannot.

Second, it will be a voice for the same race politics which afflict other countries – even to the brink of their own destruction, like New Zealand, the USA, and South Africa (in ascending order). Divided houses cannot stand.

Third, reconciliation is a once forever act. [In Christ,] warring parties are reconciled through repentance by the one and forgiveness by the other. That is when the past is treated as if it never happened, and a new day dawns. New wrongs may be addressed, but past wrongs may not.

The ‘reconciliation’ movement is far from that model. It is a grievance movement, pouring over sins of the past, resisting forgiveness. This opposes God's very nature.

One caveat to make – whilst I use the word ‘race’ I do not believe in it. There is one human race. We were divided into fractious people groups at Babel; we are being united by the unique equality that is in Jesus Christ and His saving gospel, for all peoples.

In short, whilst it may sound enticing, there is no wisdom in this.

- Martyn Iles (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

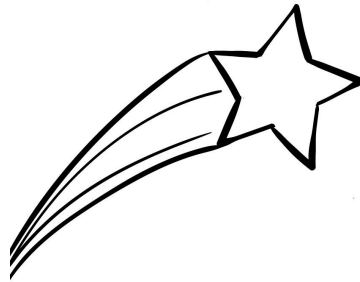
### The Bible Speaks



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

## Downtown Church of Christ

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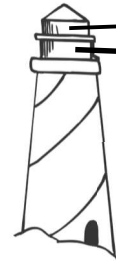
**Even a small star shines  
bright in the darkness.**

## 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

**PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

September 10, 2023

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.  
*Sick:* Fletchers, Swims, JMarshall, TDeen, RStarr, MiBader, ADosier, ACorder  
*Shut-ins:* Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis, V Carter  
*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**WELCOME!** – We welcome Tim & Julie Scrivner to the family at Downtown  
– and also Alex Hopper! Let's all help these new members to feel at home!

**SENTENCE SERMON** – God's grace does not exempt us from the storms  
of life, but rather it enables us to weather those storms.

## What 'Christian Homes' Look Like

We sometimes sing the song, God Give Us Christian Homes. But what would such a home look like?

It would likely have a husband and father who was a man of God from the inside out. He would not be a pretender but would take his duties as leader and protector seriously – always with an eye on eternity.

It would likely have a wife/mother who was a woman of God from the inside out. She would not highlight her outward beauty but would be more concerned with the inward beauty of her heart.

It would likely have children who respect their parents because they

realize that most children do not have what they have – and they are thankful to God for mom and dad.

But not all 'Christian homes' look like this. The childless couple can be a Christian home, too. The widow or the single mom who strives to live a God-centered life – doing what she can with the opportunities she has – is a Christian home, too. The single man or the single woman who has tried for years to find a godly spouse – and has almost given up – can be a Christian home, too.

It is easy to stereotype a 'Christian home', but life is not always so precise. And that's okay.

- *WKing*