

Light and Life

In God We Trust

“Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some trust in horses; but we will trust in the name of the Lord our God” (Ps. 20:6-7).

Where do you put your trust? We’ve come a long way from chariots and horses! Science and technology have advanced far enough to explain much of the phenomena we observe in nature. Medicine has advanced to be able to cure many illnesses that a short time ago would have meant certain death.

Due to the easy access of information, it could be easy for us to become too big for our britches! People often think they know more now than people ever knew before, when in reality they are just more aware of things they know nothing about. We may be tempted to follow the world around us and place our trust in the things we can see – but there is a lot that we don’t see!

Paul wrote, “we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ep. 6:12). Due to the nature of our true enemy, we must develop spiritual weaponry. “The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (II Cor. 10:4-5). Horses and chariots can’t help us there!

At the end of the day, we must remember the power of God and trust in Him. Then we can say, “they have bowed down and fallen; but we have risen and stand upright. Save, Lord! May the King answer us when we call” (Ps. 20:8-9).

- Sam Bunyard

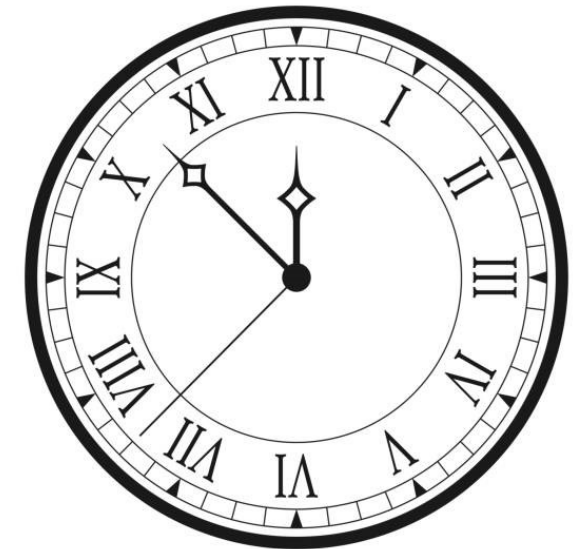
Another Perspective

Investment Advice

Time is a thing we invest. We ‘spend’ our time for various things – generally on the assumption that these will provide some kind of ‘payoff’ to show that our time has been ‘well spent’. We do whatever we do on the grounds that there is something in our activities that we want – something worth the time spent.

Time is, of course, the very stuff of life. It is the basic medium of exchange with which we purchase the objects of our desire. Everybody gets exactly twenty-four hours each day. We take those hours and do many things with them, exchanging them for whatever it is we want. We each exchange our allotment of time for that which is of value to us, even if others think we are ‘wasting’ our time.

Now, the important consideration is this: many people get to the end of their lives and come to the realization that they have invested their time in the wrong things. Early on, they may have thought that things like money and social standing were worth large amounts of time. Later on, after the investment has been made, it becomes tragically obvious that other things would have yielded a more substantial return.



- Gary Henry (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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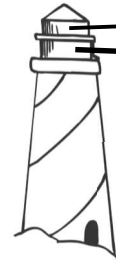
**Fear not tomorrow,
for God is already there.**

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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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, Susan Wiese, V Carter

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

DATES FOR 2024 – It's not too early to mark your calendars: April 19-20 (Singing), July 21-25 (VBS), and August 2-4 (Youth Lectures).

SENTENCE SERMON – He paid a debt He did not owe, because we owed a debt we could not pay.

“No Politics Shall Enter Here”

So the sign read in the courtroom chambers where Judge Isaac Parker conducted trials in Fort Smith in the latter part of the 19th century. It was his way of telling everyone that his courtroom would be fair – not tainted with bribes, favors, and “good-old-boy” preferences. Politicians, judges, and others today can learn a lesson from his approach.

And so can the church.

The Mosaic Law placed a heavy emphasis on the integrity of judges among God's people. “Look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men

over the people” (Ex 18:21). “You shall appoint judges... and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality” (De 16:18-19).

Honor mattered then, and it matters now. “Judge with righteous judgment,” Jesus said (Jn 7:24). This simple command still has profound implications for elders who shepherd the flock (Ac 20:28), and for deacons and preachers in their roles (Ac 6: 2-3, 1 Ti 5:21). And so it does for all of God's people.

But I am glad churches don't discipline today with a noose! - *WKing*