

## Light and Life

## You Are The People!

As Job endured the testing of his faith, his friends came to mourn with him and to comfort him (Job 2:11). Initially his friends “sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great” (Job 2:13). Sitting there in silence was the most helpful thing they did! But eventually they became accusatory. Surely Job must have done something to deserve the horrible situation he was in! They began to give Job some unsolicited advice. It was not productive.

The attitude behind his friends’ advice spurred Job’s sarcastic response, “No doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with you!” (Job 12:2). Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar looked down at Job from their ‘high horses’ thinking they knew what was best for him. In reality, they were not as well informed as Job himself! Job reminded them, “I have a heart as well as you; I am not inferior to you. Indeed, who does not know such things as these” (Job 12:3)?

Of course, some of the sentiments behind the friends’ thinking were based in reality – sin has physical consequences and messes up people’s lives. This just didn’t apply to Job’s situation as they had assumed. The friends had just enough understanding of the truth to be harmful and didn’t seem interested in learning any further.

Later Paul would write “knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know” (I Cor 8:1-2). A little knowledge can give us a big head – or it can give us a big heart. Solomon demonstrated that increased knowledge can lead to humility rather than pride – with the proper mindset (Eccl. 1:18).

We must keep love and humility behind our knowledge, lest we become like the friends of Job.

- Sam Bunyard

## Another Perspective

## When the Blind Lead the Blind

When informed that He had “*offended*” some Pharisees who had come from Jerusalem to hear Him preach, Jesus responded, “*Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit*” (Mt 15:14).

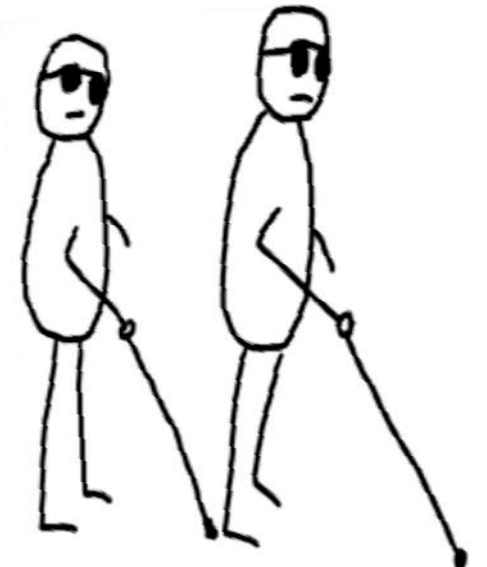
It is a humorous picture, but it was intended to teach a sobering lesson. One of the most dangerous threats to a relationship with God may reside in those who would ‘show us the way’. Jesus said about the Jewish leaders that they had led the common people astray. “*Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered*” (Lu 11:52).

So here are all these people – but the shepherds they had entrusted themselves to were leading them, not to green pastures, but to the slaughterhouse.

The same problem exists today. It’s the problem of misplaced trust. Often in the denominational world people put too much trust in their leaders. But the key to overcoming this problem of following blind leaders into a pit is to learn to study the Bible ourselves. Remember the Christians in Berea who “*examined the scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so*” (Ac 17:11).

It is God’s Word that we must commit to follow (2 Ti 3:16). So, open your eyes!

- Mike Bozeman (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

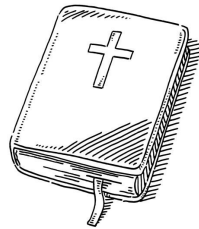
### The Bible Speaks



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

## Downtown Church of Christ

P.O. Box 447  
201 W. Chestnut Street  
Rogers, AR 72757  
479-636-3575  
www.downtowncoc.net



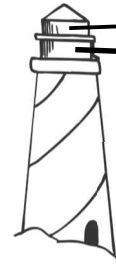
“Ask for the ancient paths  
where the good way is.”  
Jeremiah 6:16

## 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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## Biblical One-Liners

A ‘one-liner’ is sometimes defined as a ‘succinct witticism’. It uses a few words to say a lot. The Bible is full of them – each with a message.

“No doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with you” (Job’s response to the not-so-helpful advice of his friends, Job 12:2). See page 2 for more on this.

“Let not him who straps on his armor boast himself as he who takes it off” (Ahab’s response to a taunt from the king of Syria, 1 Kgs 20:11). Ignoring the whole ‘boasting’ discussion for the time, this is sound wisdom for us all as we plan our daily activities (see James 4:13-16).

“Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid” (Pr 12:1). The book of Proverbs is full of one-liners, but this one certainly illustrates the idea – even if the word ‘stupid’ is not in your vocabulary.

And of course, Jesus had a few one-liners of His own, such as, “Do not throw your pearls before pigs” (Mt 7:6). That is, we should be discerning in our efforts to spread the gospel.

While some theologians tend to be long-winded, God generally gets to the point – with great effect!

- WKing,

*h/t Sam Bunyard & Morgan Bradley*

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

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

*Sick:* Fletchers, Swims, JMarshall, 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** – Jesus mingled with sinners, not to condone their sins, but to lead them to repentance and a changed life.