

Light and Life

Evangelism Under Pressure

Jesus warned His disciples, “They will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name’s sake... You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake” (Lk. 21:12, 16-17).

Almost all of His apostles met violent ends for the sake of the gospel. Many Christians would be displaced, imprisoned and martyred in the early years of the church. This first happened on a large scale following the stoning of Stephen when “a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered” (Ac 8:1). It would have been easy for those who were chased from Jerusalem to hide their faith. No doubt many of them were witness to horrible things suffered by their brethren for Jesus’ sake. Yet, “those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word” (Ac 8:4).

Jesus had told His disciples that they would suffer greatly for the kingdom and that they would be dragged before powerful men for judgment. “But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony” (Lk. 21:13). We should be under no misconception that we will never be persecuted today. “All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (II Ti. 3:12)! But it is up to us how we will use those situations. Will we shrink back, or will we suffer to the glory of God?

“If you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed... Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks a reason for the hope that is in you... for it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil” (I Pe. 3:14-17).

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

Finished!

Jesus, our Savior, ended His work and suffering on the cross of Calvary with the words "*It is finished!*" (Jn. 19:30). In the original language, only one word was actually spoken by the Lord – **tetelestai**. Not three words, but one – ‘finished.’

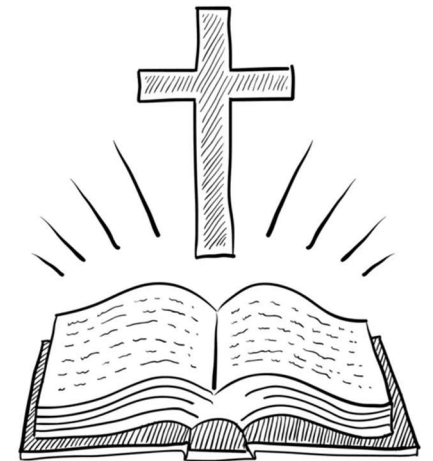
It was the cry of a perfect ending, of victory and of completion! In this one word, Jesus declared a fact – a truth so amazing that Satan has been working ever since trying to hide the full implication of this statement from the minds of mankind!

The death of Jesus was for the sins of the whole world (I Jn 2:2), yet only those who are “*in Christ*” will receive the benefit gained from it. “*For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory*” (2 Ti 2:10). And, “*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ*” (Ga 3:27).

When Jesus said, "*finished!*", instantly the earth shook, the rocks were split, and the graves were opened (Mt. 27:51-52). His work to redeem man was accomplished!

The question for us is, ‘What will we do?’ Will we take advantage of his sacrifice by following Him, or will we continue to live our own way and be lost?

- Shane Williams (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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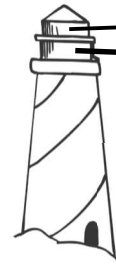
Keep your eyes pointed in
the right direction and
your feet will follow.

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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Doing Our Priestly Duties

Many denominational folks think of a 'priest' as one who is specially trained in religious matters and who occupies a special role as a religious leader in the church. And actually, **they are right!**

Of course, **all** Christians are priests. "You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood..." (1 Pe 2:5). "Jesus... has made us kings and priests to His God and Father" (Re 1:5-6). No caste system exists in the church – no 'clergy/laity' relationship between a 'priest' and the 'common man'. But as priests, we **are** specially trained in the things of God; and we **do** occupy a position of leadership.

Please note:

"None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know me, from the least of them to the greatest of them" (He 8:11). By definition, a Christian is **already** trained in religious matters – that's why he/she **is** a Christian!

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Mt 5:16). **Every** Christian is expected to be a 'connecting link' between God and the world, leading the way to salvation – which is **exactly** what a priest is supposed to do! So, let's all do our priestly duties! - *WKing*

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

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – Tonight is our 4th-Sunday Q&A lesson. We are grateful to everyone who has submitted a question to this effort!

SENTENCE SERMON – "Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father".