

Light and Life

Unrivaled Love

“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...” (Mt. 6:33).

We speak often about keeping our priorities straight. Countless sermons have been preached on the necessity of making God and His will first in our lives. As we begin our Christian lives, this may be a big struggle for us. Old friends and family ties can hold a negative influence in our lives. Old habits die hard and the things that are important to us may take some time to change. Spiritual maturity doesn't happen overnight!

As long as we struggle to come to church instead of watching the game or to forgo the trip to the bar with our old friends, our love for God will be rivaled by our love for the world. As we continue to grow, we will more fully realize that “the world is passing away and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 Jn 2:17). But if we sacrifice going to the lake to come to church and spend the whole service sulking in the pew and regretting our decision, are we really putting God first? Or is our love for Him rivaled?

Imagine a man says to his wife: “I love you more than I love Jane!” Would she be pleased with this complement or would she worry about Jane? What if the man said, “Don't worry, you will always be number one! Jane is only number three!” Now the wife is worried about whoever number two is, about Jane, and whether there is a number four! Of course we would be concerned about this situation in a marriage relationship! Why would the husband even think of such a comparison if he truly loves his wife?

If this line of thinking is concerning in a man's relationship with his wife, how much more so with someone's relationship with God? In terms of our love and priorities, God should have no rival!

- Sam Bunyard
(h/t Tom Holley)

Another Perspective

Thinking About Time

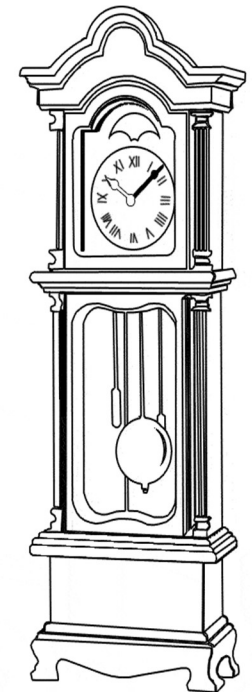
One of the most fundamental gifts of life here on earth is time. Time and life are inseparable – and, in many ways, synonymous. If God gives us thirty-eight years to live, He gives us thirty-eight years of time. The interesting thing about this gift is that we cannot keep it. We cannot store it up or hoard it. Time is ‘spent’ second by second as it is given.

Every minute we live is a gift from God, and we as His servants are obliged to give every minute back to Him. Every minute! If our disposition is otherwise, we not only rob God but ourselves of the joy, peace and contentment that well-spent time is meant to bring.

But what does this mean in practical terms? How do we give ‘our’ time to God? **By giving it to others** (1 Jn 4:19-21)! We are to give our time to our husbands and wives, our employers and employees, our parents and children (Eph 5:16, 5:22–6:9). On my refrigerator is a sign that reads, “*The best thing to spend on our children is time*”.

The supreme gift, of course, is to give the gospel to others. **But that takes time!** In all areas of our lives, by continually submitting (giving) to one another, we are using our gift of time in a way that pleases God!

- John Haley



ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

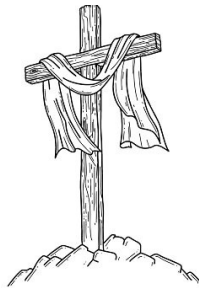
The Bible Speaks



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

Downtown Church of Christ

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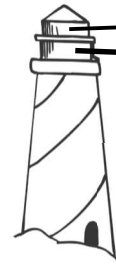
**Jesus died for you –
so live for Him.**

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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ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

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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

SINGING – Tonight is our first-of-the-month singing!

SENTENCE SERMON – “The grace of God has appeared... training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age” – Ti 2:11-12.

The Ark or the Titanic?

‘Amateurs built the ark while professionals built the Titanic.’ This is not a slam against professionals, but it **is** a reminder that “*unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it*” (Ps 127:1).

There is a lesson here for **young people** as they think about their ‘life plan’ – their college major, career path, etc. Remember to include God in those plans (Ec 12:1)!

There is a lesson here for **middle-aged professionals** who are striving to achieve financial stability and maybe looking ahead to retirement. Don’t forget to include God in your calculations (Mt 6:31-33)!

And there is a lesson here for **older folks** who may find themselves with a great deal of time on their hands. Remember as you fill up your days with busy work to make some time for God somewhere in those ‘extra hours’ (Ep 5:15-16)! This is not the time to slow down in your devotion to the Lord!

The Titanic was an impressive ship – until it ran into an iceberg. Our plans may work well, too – until the iceberg (or flood) comes. At such times it’s good to know that your Pilot has everything in control – if indeed you have made Jesus the Pilot of your life!

- *WKing*