

## Light and Life

## Talk the Talk!

We often discuss that ‘talking the talk’ of Christianity is not enough – that we must walk the walk. But talk is important too! Ephesians 5 details what it means to walk in imitation of God (Ep. 5:1); and our speech is a big part of it!

“Fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which is not fitting, but rather giving of thanks” (Ep. 5:3-4).

The ugliness of sin should not even be talked about by those who are set apart for righteousness! “It is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret” (Ep 5:12). Add foolish talk and coarse jesting to the mix and it seems that the speech being condemned makes light of sin! Sin is no light matter! “For know this, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolator, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God” (Ep. 5:5). How can we claim to “walk in love” (Ep. 1:2), and at the same time gossip and joke about sinners who are bound for hell?

Rather than focusing on the evils around us, our speech should be directed to the blessings which God has given to us and our brethren. Rather than speaking foolishly, we should “walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise... understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Ep 5:16-17). Rather than filthy talk, we should be “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord” (Ep. 5:19). And rather than joking about things that are not fitting, we should be “giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ep 5:20).

Where is the focus and intent of your speech? To imitate God, we must not only ‘walk the walk’, but ‘talk the talk’!

- Sam Bunyard

## Another Perspective

## Always Grateful

How we think about God and our level of gratitude are connected. If we think about God respectfully and remember what He has done and continues to do, we will be grateful. How can we not be?

Being thankful is a continual attitude that should characterize us no matter what else is going on in our lives. This is one of the reasons why Christians ought not to be given to complaining (Ph 2:14), for this demonstrates a lack of gratitude and focuses more on our circumstances and lack of contentment. A lack of gratitude is more a sign of selfishness and corollary to a lack of love. Thankfulness should be pervasive and consistent (Col 3:16-17).

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Ro 6:23). Our response to this gift speaks volumes about how we view both the gift **and the Giver**. No amount of work that we do will ever make up for it, for all we can say, after doing what God asks of us, is, “We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.” (Lu 17:10) Humility, praise, and gratefulness should flow from our hearts.

How much do we value our relationship with the God who has given, not just a few gifts, but Himself as a sacrifice to atone for our sins? Christians value salvation and ought to be eternally grateful for what God has done to make forgiveness viable. Yet we ought not to value only the gift but also **the Giver Himself** – the God who made us in His image and wants us to be in fellowship with Him. Our thankfulness, then, goes beyond thanking God for forgiveness (as great as that is). Our thankfulness is **for God Himself**. “Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation continually say, ‘God is great!’” (Ps 70:4)

- Doy Moyer (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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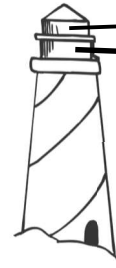
**If money could talk,  
what would yours say?**

## 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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## God, Our Benefactor

According to secular historians, during ancient Greco-Roman times, wealthy benefactors would provide assistance to those who needed the proverbial ‘hand up’. They would help them to start a business, or to get out of crushing debt, or even to buy their freedom from slavery. To be the recipient of such generosity would be overwhelming, to say the least. But there was a catch.

While it was not possible to actually repay his patron, the recipient **was** expected to become his supporter. He was expected to ‘talk him up’ at every opportunity, to support him in whatever cause the benefactor was engaged, and to defend his patron

against any spurious rumors or derogatory attacks from his enemies. Failure to do these things would be the highest insult – total ingratitude.

Which brings us to us. Jesus, as our Benefactor, has done all of this for us – and more. It is what the Bible calls grace (Ep 2:8-10).

But there is a catch. Not a ‘you-can-work-your-debt-off’ kind of catch. It’s more like a ‘new creature’ thing (vs 10). It’s a ‘let’s-talk-Him-up’ thing (pg 2 article) and a ‘be-thankful-for-**Him**’ thing (pg 3, not just for His gifts). Let’s do this!

- *WKing*

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

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

*Sick:* Fletchers, Swims, JMarshall, RStarr, MiBader, ADosier

*Shut-ins:* Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Susan Wiese, V Carter

*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS** – Yep, it’s the last Sunday of the month – time for our end-of-the-month Sunday evening Q&A session!

**SENTENCE SERMON** – We celebrate Thanksgiving once a year – but thanks-**living** is an everyday thing!