

## Light and Life

## Be Strong and Courageous

Being a successor to the man who led the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery, received the law on thunderous Mount Sinai, and penned the first five books of the Bible would certainly be a daunting assignment! The timing at which Joshua began his leadership duty just added to the pressure – it was time to enter the promised land and go to war.

Before the period of conquest began, God spoke to Joshua and said, “No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you” (Josh. 1:2-5). What a comfort it must have been to be reassured by the Creator! But the supportive relationship between God and Joshua was not one-sided.

God told Joshua, “Only be strong, and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous” (Josh. 1:7-8).

God’s support and help to Joshua was conditional upon Joshua’s obedience to God. The same is true for us today! Romans 8 describes a relationship very similar to what God proposed to Joshua – that no amount of outside forces are powerful enough to separate us! Romans 9-11 demonstrates that our disobedience severs that bond.

We face a daunting task in facing this world, but if we ‘Dare to be like Joshua’, we can share in his comfort. “Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Josh. 1:9).

- Sam Bunyard

## Another Perspective

## ‘Becoming’ a Church Member

For years gospel preachers have taught “one does not **join** the church”; and members have parroted “one does not **join** the church; one is **added** to the church.” The distinction is valid if properly understood, but I fear it is not.

Receiving Christ gives one “power to become” a child of God (Jn 1:12). A baby does not “join” the status of son or daughter – it “becomes” a child, and a member of the family. Coming into Christ one becomes a member of Christ’s body – a member of Christ’s church (Ep 2:13-23). One does not become a Christian and then, at some later date, “join” the body of Christ. One becomes both a Christian and a member of the church by one and the same process. The “church” of which we are writing is, of course, that one great universal body of saints – those called out of darkness by His gospel.

But when you have “become” a member of the body of Christ (His ‘church’ in the universal sense) you will, if possible, “join” with other disciples in your worship and service of God, as Paul sought to “join” with the disciples in Jerusalem (Ac 9:26-28). These local groups were also known as “churches” (1 Co 1:2, Ro 16:16) and exemplify the one and only church organization known in the New Testament (Ph 1:1).

The true church of Christ on earth today is not a group of congregations bound together in some “church-hood” by name, creed, or practice. The true church today is, as always, the body of called out people who acknowledge Christ as their Head and serve Him faithfully. If, in your community, there are true disciples of Christ “joined together” to do the Lord’s bidding, they constitute a local “church of Christ”. But don’t be fooled by a name. Test their teaching a practice by the Word of God. The true church welcomes such investigation. They urge you to “become” a Christian, and “join” them.

- Robert Turner (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  
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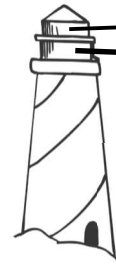
**Remember your Creator  
in the days of your youth.  
Ecclesiastes 12:1**

## 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

**PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

December 3, 2023

## A Day That Will Live in Infamy

Thus FDR described that day when Japan attacked the U.S. naval station at Pearl Harbor, plunging us into the Pacific front of World War II.

But other days have lived in infamy as well. From a global, universal perspective, perhaps no day was more infamous than the day Satan succeeded in corrupting God's perfect creation. The sin of Adam and Eve not only introduced sin into the world (Ro 5:12), but the curses that came with it – spiritual death (v 17) and physical death (1 Co 15:22).

And of course, the day Satan led his minions to crucify the sinless Lamb of God must qualify as an infamous

day as well (infamous = disgraceful, notorious, vile).

But with a just, all-powerful God in control of His universe, whatever 'infamous days' are under the sun will not endure forever. He dealt with the infamy of the crucifixion within three days when Jesus was raised. And that was just part of His larger solution to the sin introduced in the garden. He's got this!

But there is a day coming that will indeed endure through the ages in infamy – for those who are ensnared by it (Mt 24:36–25:46). So, our job is simple: **be watchful!**

- *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

**THANKS!** – We are grateful for all our young men and women involved in the work here (BTW, the guys did a great job with the Wednesday service)!

**SENTENCE SERMON** – “Rejoice, young man, in the days of your youth... but know that... God will bring you into judgment.” – Ecc 11:9