

## Light and Life

## When In Rome...

...do as the Romans do! At least, that's how the saying goes. The origin of this saying can be traced back to a Catholic Bishop named Ambrose in a letter to Augustine of Hippo as advice on how to interact with the locals on his planned journey to Rome. In some ways, it is sound advice.

In regard to his evangelistic work, Paul wrote, "though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (I Cor. 9:19-22). We have a duty to adapt to the people that we are around in some ways to build common ground with them so that we can talk to them about Jesus. We don't want to stand out in a way that makes us unapproachable or unpleasant to be around.

But we do want to stand out!

Paul wrote to the Christians who were in Rome, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Rom. 12:1-2).

It's good to build common ground with people of the world – but remember who you are in Christ! When in Rome, ask yourself, "What would **God** have me to do?"

- Sam Bunyard

## Another Perspective

## Imputation

'Imputation' is a Biblical word and concept, but like many other Biblical words and concepts, it has been grossly perverted by false teachers. For instance, Calvinists change the meaning of the word to teach that sin and righteousness are traits that can be 'transferred' from person to person.

The word 'impute' means "to put down to a person's account" (Vine). Hence, when "God imputes righteousness" (Ro 4:6), it means that God counts one as righteous. But Calvinism claims that God 'transfers' the personal righteousness of Christ to the believer. They teach that when God looks at a Christian, He does not see his sin. Instead, He sees the personal righteousness of Christ, which was (allegedly) 'transferred' to him [which, BTW, is the basis for the 'it doesn't matter how you live' doctrine, *wk*]. But what do the scriptures say? How does God impute righteousness? Notice the text:

"David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: 'Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin'" (Ro 4:6-8). The text says that God **does** impute righteousness (v.6) and does **not** impute sin (v.8). And why is that? Because he is **forgiven!** Notice the parallelism: to be "forgiven" means your sins are "covered," which in turn means that God does "not impute sin." Since his sin is forgiven, he is, in fact, righteous! Hence, "God imputes righteousness" to the **forgiven** man! God calls Him 'righteous' because that is exactly what he now is!

The personal righteousness of Christ was very important; but it was not something to be 'transferred'. Instead, it was that which qualified Jesus to be the sinless sacrifice for our sin – "a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Pe 1:18-19).

- Lanny Smith (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

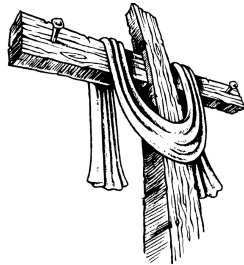
### The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00–9:30a.m.  
Thursday 11:30a.m.–noon  
KURM 790AM

## Downtown Church of Christ

P.O. Box 447  
201 W. Chestnut Street  
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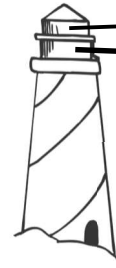
Every saint has a past –  
and every sinner can  
have a future.

## 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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## Because My King Told Me To

*“Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’  
and not do what I tell you?” (Lu 6:46)*

A pervasive belief in the modern religious world is that a person can be saved by faith alone. Often, little consideration is given to how a person lives. In fact, one who attempts to “do” what the Lord says is sometimes met with mockery by those who profess to be Christians! They are falsely charged with attempting to ‘earn’ their salvation.

It is a sad – and perverse – situation when those who claim Jesus as their King feel comfortable ignoring what He says. This will not end well for the pretenders.

We are sometimes asked why we stress the importance of baptism. The answer is, “because my King told me to” (Mt 28:19). Others want to know why we sing without instrumental music in our worship. The answer is, “because my King told me to” (Col 3:16 – and yes, the things Paul wrote are “a command of the Lord”, 1 Co 14:37).

To mock the sincere efforts of those who love their King and who want to obey Him **because** they love Him (Jn 14:23-24, 15:14) is to find oneself on the wrong side of the fight. And again, this will not end well for the pretenders.

- *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

**2024 EVENTS** – Mar 10-13 (Don Truex mtg); Apr 19 (Stevens & Shepard singing); Jul 21-25 (PJ Anderson VBS); Aug 2-4 (Ben Hall Youth Lectures)

**SENTENCE SERMON** – Don’t worship the trees or the stars – worship the One who created them!