

## Light and Life

## Salvation Issues

What are ‘salvation issues’? When people use this term, they generally are referring to doctrines or practices upon which their salvation hinges. If they get this thing wrong, they will go to hell! Does the Bible use such terminology?

It is clear in the Bible that disciples of Jesus must follow all that He teaches (Mt 7:21-23; 16:24-28; 28:18-20; Jn 14-17). God’s grace covers much sin but it does not negate our responsibility as disciples to live righteously as servants of God (Rm 6). Christ’s sacrifice freed us from our sins but does not free us to sin continually (Rm 6:6-7, I Pe 2:16-17).

It is usually people trying to justify beliefs and practices that they consider to be a ‘gray area’ in scripture who throw around the term ‘salvation issue’. Does this attitude describe someone who is focused on making sure they are following Jesus? Or being a servant of God? Or using their freedom for the furtherance of His kingdom? Truthfully, this attitude is more in line with someone seeing how much they can get away with before they get in trouble.

The area in which I have seen this be the biggest problem is regarding instrumental music in worship. Is this a salvation issue? If we think about the reasons for worship, we will see the problem easily. Our worship should be for the primary purpose of glorifying and praising our God and King who gives us every good and perfect gift (Jas. 1:18) — foremost among them the sacrifice of His Son. Should our focus in worship really be about what we can add to God’s command without being sent to hell?

At some point, we must mature past the ‘bit and bridle’ obedience (Ps 32:9, that Warren preached on last week) and start doing things because we love God. If this is our mindset, we will not be concerned with what is and isn’t a ‘salvation issue’ – we will focus instead on pleasing Him!

- Sam Bunyard

## Another Perspective

## Politics as Usual

Here we are, again, in a political season, gearing up for another presidential election. Once again, we hear the political talk, the division and the mud-slinging that seems to go hand in hand with politics. As in all matters, Christians cannot afford to set aside their worldview when it comes to how we view politics and government. The Scriptures give us the principles we need to be able to think and act properly. Here are a few of those principles:

**1) Submit.** We are to be subject to laws (Ro 13) if those laws do not call upon us to disobey God. Even if we disagree, we still must submit to the laws and pay the taxes. **2) Honor.** “Honor the king,” wrote Peter (1 Pe 2:17). This does not mean that we must agree with them. It does mean that we show respect. **3) Pray.** We are to pray for those in power, whether we agree with their politics or not (1 Ti 2:1-2), “so we may lead a tranquil and quiet life.” **4) Never speak evil.** We are not to speak evil of anyone, including those in positions of power (Ti 3:1-2). **5) Work for Unity.** We should be more concerned about the doctrine of Christ than with a party’s political platform. If a platform agrees with Scripture, fine, but our faith is not built around a party. **6) Be Salt and Light.** Jesus taught His disciples to be salt and light (Mt 5:13-16). We should not do anything that will diminish the influence we can have in this world. **7) Work toward the saving of souls.** Governments will rise and fall, but through it all, God's kingdom will prevail (Da 2:44-45). Should our concern for an earthly kingdom be greater than for God's kingdom?

While the world witnesses politics as usual, Christians are called to the higher purpose of living for the Lord’s kingdom. “Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself” (Ph 3:20-21).

- 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.  
Thursday 11:30a.m.–noon  
KURM 790AM

## Downtown Church of Christ

P.O. Box 447  
201 W. Chestnut Street  
Rogers, AR 72757  
479-636-3575  
www.downtowncoc.net



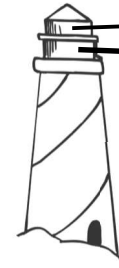
**Two moments which will  
define your eternity:  
your going & His coming.**

## 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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## These You Ought to Have Done

When Jesus rebuked the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees, He did **not** condemn their meticulous attention to the details of the Law. As He put it, “You tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.”

It’s important to pay attention to the details. And yes, it is possible to become so obsessed with the details that we neglect the “weightier matters”. The Pharisees had become lopsided in their approach to God’s Word – and Jesus was redirecting their focus.

Today we see the same problem playing out in the religious world. On the one hand, we see those who obsess over the ‘issues’ – work and worship of the church, divorce and remarriage, etc. And while **these are critically important issues**, it is easy to become a ‘one trick pony’, where such issues become pretty much all we discuss – while neglecting justice, mercy, and faithfulness.

On the other hand, we see those who are disgruntled leaving God’s plan and pattern, believing that such ‘details’ aren’t that important. But that’s not what Jesus said. “These you **ought** to have done,” He said. True then – **true today!** - *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)

**WELCOME!** – We welcome Jonathan Durham to the family here at Downtown! Let’s do all we can to make our new members feel at home!