

## Light and Life

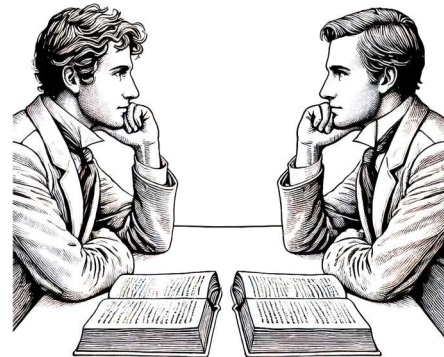
## Winning Souls, Not Arguments

“What is your goal in evangelism? As we have discussed throughout this book, evangelism should be motivated by love and a desire to see the lost be saved and God be glorified.

“However, it is possible our attitudes may become obstacles to these ends. Many Christians are fearful of saying the wrong thing in an evangelistic setting and scaring people off from further study. In reality, saying the wrong thing is often overcome if people have enough of a relationship with you to see your loving attitude towards them. It is the observation of a bad attitude that cannot easily be overcome.

“Our goal in evangelism should not be to find agreement and unity between the human parties, but for the human parties to find agreement and unity with God. If discussions where disagreement is present are seen as bilateral (us vs. them), pride can become a factor – one of us is right and the other is wrong. But the element of pride is eliminated when we recognize the possibility that we don’t have a complete understanding of the Scriptures and that we always have more that we can learn (though we should be confident in the plain teachings of the scriptures).

“It can be really frustrating when someone attempts to muddle what is actually quite straightforward in the scriptures. In these situations, it can be difficult for us to remain humble. For this reason, it is important for us to remind ourselves of our goals and responsibilities in evangelism. We are in this to win souls – not arguments!”



- Sam Bunyard (excerpt from his book in progress)

## Another Perspective

## Express Thanksgiving

The Jamaican Patois dialect is colorful (and humorous to my ear). For example, “Nuh bite di han weh feed yu.” English: Never bite the hand that feeds you. Meaning: Do not be ungrateful to one who has given you help.

Many passages urge us to not only **be** thankful but to **express** gratitude. In Romans, an unthankful spirit is linked to all sorts of vile sins: “They did not honor Him as God or give thanks...” (1:21). Yet thanks should not only be directed to God, but to our fellow humans as well. Note Paul’s expression of thanksgiving to the Philippians: “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now” (Ph 1:3-5).

How much more satisfying our lives would be if we practiced expressing thanksgiving for daily things. Do you give a thankful wave to the driver who let you cut in on the road; do you thank the waitress who comes to refill your glass of water; do you thank the cashier at the store who rings up your order; do you thank your wife for preparing the meal; do you thank your husband for washing your car; do you thank those who have done small favors for you? The words thanks, thanksgiving, thankful, etc., are used some 170 times in the Bible. They must have some important significance to God!

The apostle Paul expresses his own view of this as he encourages his readers: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Ph 4:6-7).

So remember: “Nuh bite di han weh feed yu!”

- Jefferson David Tant (edited for space)

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

### Sunday

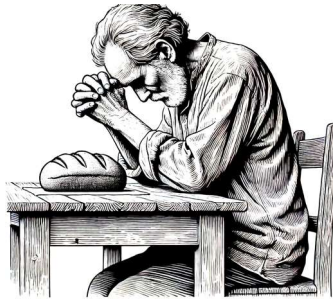
Morning Bible Class 9:30  
Morning Assembly 10:30  
Evening Assembly 5:00

### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

## DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



Gratitude turns what  
we have into enough.

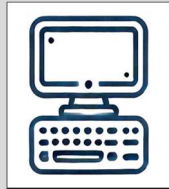
## ELDERS:

Otis Hardin  
Perry Johnson  
Ken Parker  
Alan Revier  
GW Walsh

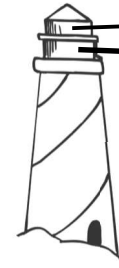
## DEACONS:

TJ Burleson  
Scott Hale  
Jason Hill  
Chris Johnson  
Brock McKeel  
Randy Potter  
Tim Roberts  
Randy Shell

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& on Facebook



# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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

November 24, 2024

## Thank Whom?

Some history revisionists reinterpret the origins of the Thanksgiving holiday. “The Pilgrims were thankful to the indigenous people”, they say, while God gets little mention – if any. But no one who understands the Pilgrims and their religious background takes such claims seriously. They came to this continent for religious reasons – end of discussion.

On the other hand, the Pilgrims undoubtedly **were** thankful to the natives for their help in surviving that first winter. God’s providence often works through human instruments – heathens or not. And therein lies the lesson for us.

We rightly give thanks to God for His abundant blessings (Col 3:15). He is, after all, the Source of “every good thing given” (Ja 1:17 NAS). But His ‘gifts’ often come at the hands of family, friends, brethren, and even strangers. At such times, we should be appreciative – and remember to say, “Thanks!”

Our Thanksgiving holiday was not actually instituted until 1863 – long after the Pilgrims. But when we carve that turkey this week, I will be thankful to God, my wife, my family, my brethren, the turkey farmer, Wal-Mart, and... well, you get the point.

-WKing

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

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

*Sick:* KFletcher, Swims, JMarshall, RStarr, MiBader, JTerrell, ACorder

*Shut-ins:* BPennington, SCole, SWiese, VCarter, KHeilighenthal, AHopper

*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**QUESTION & ANSWERS TONIGHT** – This evening Sam and Warren will answer questions previously submitted by our members.

**SENTENCE SERMON** – Joyful people are grateful people, not because of some happy outward circumstance: their joy comes from their gratitude.