

## Light and Life

## A Loving Family

“Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands for My sake and the gospel’s, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time – houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions – and in the age to come, eternal life” (Mk. 10:29-30).

This is the reply of Jesus to Peter, who had said, “See, we have left all and followed You” (Mk. 10:28). In the case of the apostles, this was very literal. They had left their homes, families, and livelihoods to travel around with Jesus. Yet, this claim is often true for modern disciples in other ways. Jesus wasn’t kidding when He said, “I did not come to bring peace, but a sword”, and “a man’s enemies will be those of his own household” (Mt. 10:34-39).

For many disciples, a relationship with Jesus means a strained, or even destroyed relationship with their physical families. How much more important does it become then for us to recognize our responsibilities as the family of God? When the needs of Christians are provided for by their spiritual family, it highlights God’s wisdom in His design for the church.

The church at Jerusalem understood this from the beginning (Ac. 2:44-45). As Jesus has shown us love, this is how we show love to one another (I Jn. 3:16-18)! I am amazed at the hospitality Christians showed towards Paul, even at great personal risk (Ac. 16:15; 17:6-7; 18:3; 21:8)! It is a beautiful command that “as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the **household** of faith” – our spiritual family (Gal. 6:10)!

When we follow God’s plan for His family, it doesn’t matter where in the world we are or what troubles we face. We will always have help from a loving family!

- Sam Bunyard

## Another Perspective

## Ps 2 – Be Wise, Be Warned!

The second Psalm is quoted at least seven times in the New Testament. We would call it a Messianic Psalm as it ultimately speaks of Jesus as the “Anointed”, a “King”, and the “Begotten” Son. In Acts 13:33 Paul declares this Psalm fulfilled at the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is now coronated as King and He is ruling in His Kingdom!

Why do the nations, peoples, kings, and rulers rebel against the Lord’s Anointed? It does not make good sense to purposefully choose death and destruction! Therefore, O “kings”, “rulers”, and us – be wise! Be warned! Serve the King and honor the Anointed One! Then protection and salvation will be granted to you as a faithful servant to the King!

To serve is the exact opposite of rebellion. To serve someone requires humility, obedience, and submission. We need to know our place in the kingdom. We are servants to the King! We must respect His authority and fear His righteous wrath. We must rejoice in the Lord with reverent fear. Rejoice because our King is good and offers salvation and protection; but we must tremble at His words. Isaiah writes, “This is the one to whom I will look; he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word” (66:2). Take to heart the commands of your King!

Service to our King requires a submissive spirit. “Kiss the Son”! Kneeling before a king and kissing his hand demonstrates a heart of subjection – an outward demonstration that you are submitting to the king and his authority. Jesus is the King of everyone, not just Christians. He is King of all. One day, “every knee will bow”. We get the choice to submit to this gracious King now – or later. The Psalmist’s advice is to be wise, be warned, take refuge in and trust in the King, Jesus!

- Lucas Griggs

## 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



Sing aloud to God,  
our strength! – Ps 81:1

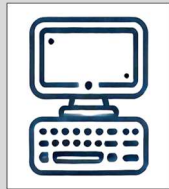
## ELDERS:

Otis Hardin  
Perry Johnson  
Ken Parker  
Alan Revier  
GW Walsh

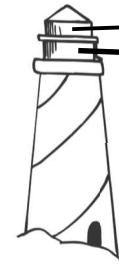
## DEACONS:

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

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# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

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## Academic Chic

Chic (pronounced *sheek*): stylish and fashionable. It's not a word most of us use every day, probably because it is associated with the hoity-toity crowd – and who wants to be that?

Well, some do. Academics are a case in point. Many (**not all**) of the highly educated class bask in their status. They seek to be recognized for their academic achievements and intellectual prowess. It's nothing new, of course – Paul wrote about it two thousand years ago (1 Co 1:18-31).

As with all sin (and yes, pridefulness is sin, 1 Jn 2:16) Christians are not immune. But it is especially disturbing to see those who profess to be

humble servants of the King, speak (and write) in condescending tones toward their own brethren.

Despite the warning of James (4:11) it has become academic chic to bad-mouth churches and elderships with the broad brush of ignorance and insincerity – and doing so on public social media platforms. It provides fodder for disgruntled and weak Christians to leave the Lord – and for Gentiles to blaspheme the religion of Christ altogether.

There are legitimate ways to address actual sin – but feathering one's academic credentials in the process ain't it.

- *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, KHeiligenthal, AHopper

*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**WELCOME!** – Karissa Lay was recently baptized into Christ! Let's make her feel welcome to our Downtown family!

**SINGING** – Tonight is our first-of-the-month singing! Let's everyone make plans to be here for an hour of worship and encouragement!