

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

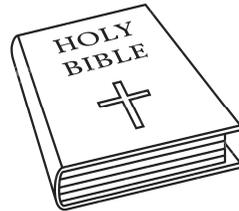
The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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



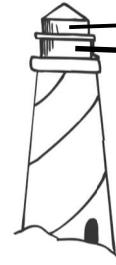
God said it;
that settles it.

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

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



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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ROGERS, ARKANSAS

October 10, 2021

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

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

Sick: Gary Fletcher, James Swim, Rai Starr, Diane Willis & Gerald Robertson

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Margaret Abel, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole and
Mary Lou Lewis

Military: Logan Dickey, Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

YOUNG ADULT CLASS REBOOT – After postponing the class for our young adults recently, the class is scheduled to restart this morning!

SINGING TONIGHT – Our monthly singing is set for tonight at 5:00. All song leaders come prepared to lead – everyone else come prepared to sing!

House Church: Expedient or Excuse?

Perhaps because the church in Jerusalem numbered in the thousands, we may tend to think that all the churches in the first century were large churches. After all, who wouldn't flock to hear the great apostle Paul preach God's Word?

But the reality was very different. Paul was not a household name then as he is now. On occasion he met with great numeric success (as in Pisidia, Ac 13:44); yet not always (as in Athens, Ac 17:34). But Paul was not about numbers. He knew that it was his job to sow, and that God would give the increase, depending on hearts (1 Co 3:6).

As a result, churches in some places were large, and in some places very small. Some had to meet in large, public forums (Ac 2:46), but some in their own houses (Ro 16:5, 1 Co 16:19, Col 4:15, Phile 2). And thus it has been for 2,000 years.

In those areas where the gospel has had many professed followers, large venues have had to be found – or built. And while the meeting place has sometimes become the undue center of attention (think ornate cathedrals), larger churches really do need to provide an expedient way to facilitate a large assembly. They may meet in a rented store front, or >

a schoolhouse, or they may build a modest facility to accommodate a larger crowd. On the other hand, a smaller church may simply decide to meet in someone's house because it's just the expedient thing to do. In larger churches, the elders may even encourage small groups to meet in members' homes to help their members grow closer. Such 'house church' efforts are lawful expedients, based on local needs.

Either way, assembling with our brothers and sisters in Christ is just as important today as it was in the first century. Willfully **not** assembling with saints is not an option (He 10:25). And while some quit meeting with a local church simply because they would rather be at the lake, and while others quit because they have chosen to join the denominational cacophony, others claim the 'house church' option thinking they have found a Biblical loophole to avoid going to church. And **that** can be a problem.

Are they still 'laying by in store' on the first day of the week, and using that money to advance the cause of Christ? Are they striving to grow

the borders of the kingdom? Are they seeking to become scripturally organized with elders and deacons as first-century churches did? Or are they just 'playing church' to salve their conscience?

When a family or small group decides to not assemble with a local church simply because they disagree with the judgments of the elders, or because they can't get along with other members, or they don't like the preacher, or they prefer to sleep in on Sunday mornings, or to stay in their pajamas on their days off, or they don't like crowds, or such like, well, that's simply wrong. In such cases the 'house church' excuse is just that – an excuse.

Christians need each other. We need the oversight of wise elders (and elders need to know which sheep they are responsible for). We need the encouragement of able teachers and preachers and caring brothers and sisters. You need this. Don't use the 'house church loophole' as an excuse for walking away from brothers and sisters in Christ.

- *WKing*

Another Perspective

Preparing Our Children

You shall therefore keep His statutes and His commandments which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you (De 4:40).

Parenting is an adventure unlike any other. But amidst all the fun and frustration, it's easy to lose sight of the real objective of parenting. God places our children in our care for less than two decades, and what we do as caregivers during that small window of opportunity will determine the trajectory of the rest of their lives. How can we prepare them?

First, *we must make sure they learn at an early age the immutable relationship between behaviors and consequences.* If we continually step in to fix our kids' mistakes and shield them from the effects of their foolishness, they will never learn the wisdom that is essential to living well.

Second, *we must teach them about God and His role in history.* This world may seem a jumble of chaos, but behind the scenes is a Master Planner who is guiding everything to a predetermined conclusion. Our children must be taught that they are part of that plan, and we must reassure them that whatever the disappointments along the way, God is still in control.

Finally, *we must model these truths in our own lives.* The best way for children to learn the values of love, kindness, loyalty, patience, forgiveness, optimism, sacrificial giving, etc. is to see them exemplified in their parents.

We want our children to live happy and productive lives. For that to happen, however, we must prepare them with the knowledge and skills that will maximize their chance of success. We have only a few short years to make it happen. Let's not squander the opportunity. *– David King (edited for space)*