

Light and Life

The Power of The Gospel

In the story of the rich man and Lazarus, both men died and went to a waiting place to await judgment – Lazarus to be with Abraham and the rich man to be in torment. The rich man begged Abraham to send him to warn his family so that they would not end up in the same situation of torment. “Surely if they see someone rise from the dead, they will get their act together,” he thought. Abraham’s response: “If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead” (Lk 16:31).

Abraham’s point in his response to the rich man was that the word of God is sufficient evidence and motivation to call sinners to repentance. If they would not heed the inspired **word**, miracles wouldn’t matter! The word of God is “the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes” (Rm 1:16)!

When Peter and John were arrested for preaching in the name of Jesus, the whole reason they had an audience was due to the miraculous healing of a lame man. The Sanhedrin was well aware of the miracle that had occurred and could say nothing against it (Ac 4:14). But “when [the Sanhedrin] saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus” (Ac 4:13). Despite the miracle, they marveled at the **preaching!**

When Paul’s evangelism to Sergius Paulus was interrupted by the wicked Elymas and Paul struck him blind, “the proconsul believed when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the **teaching** of the Lord” (Ac 13:12).

We **have** the tool that saves sinners! Let’s use it!

- Sam Bunyard

Just My Thoughts

Seek the Good

“This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” -Jer 29:4ff

While living in the land of Babylon, in captivity, the Jews received a letter from the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah instructed the Israelites to do many things in this letter, but the most critical aspect of what God instructed in this letter was that the Jews seek the good of the city. He tells His people to seek the prosperity of the city, because in turn, Babylon’s prosperity will bring them prosperity. And this doesn’t mean that God wants the Israelites to pray for the city so that they can get rich, so that they can have wealth, power, and influence. No, God wants His people to pray for the welfare of the city so that as the city grows, so will His people. God wants the number of His people to increase. That was true in the Old Testament, and it is true now.

We are to seek to spread God’s word as Christians, and if we are going to spread that word and grow the number of God’s people, then let’s get to work seeking the good of the city.

- Hayden Cathey



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



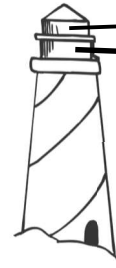
If you miss heaven,
you've just missed
all there is.

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

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
ROGERS, ARKANSAS

April 2, 2023

The Boogeyman

“The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.” - Pr 28:1

Sometimes kids are afraid of the dark. They imagine all kinds of monsters and gremlins lurking in the shadows. They may hide under the covers, as though that will protect them from the ‘danger’; but in the end only sleep, or the morning light, relieves their mind.

And some grownups do the same thing spiritually. As the wise man observed, they flee when no one is pursuing. A guilty conscience can conjure up images of righteous retribution, and so they constantly

look over their shoulder. They wait for the punishment which they hope never comes; but sometimes they still hear the ‘bump’.

Unlike the imaginary boogeyman in the closet, there IS a God who observes all that we do – and He awaits the time of retribution (2 Th 1:6-9). And, unlike the boogeyman, God is not out to ‘get you’. He prefers that you repent and turn from your sin (2 Pe 3:9). But He will not go away with the morning light because He IS the light (2 Pe 1:19). And He is the only One who can protect you from the **real** boogeyman (1 Pe 5:8).

- WKing

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

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

Sick: G&K Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Diane Willis, J&M Swim, Jean Marshall

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

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

SPRING SINGING – Our annual singing with Tim Stevens & Dane Shepard is scheduled for Friday night, April 21. Mark your calendars!

MONTHLY SINGING – Tonight is our monthly song service. Those men who want to lead a song, come prepared to do so!