

I am **not** one of the quiet people. I never have been. By the grace of God, I am a writer, and like all gifted writers, I have a unique authorial voice. People with voices are not quiet. But the quiet people have always been my brethren and my friends. In addition to their other virtues, they are generally supportive of preachers.

Since my diagnosis (with ALS, *w/k*), though, my relationship with the quiet people has changed. Now I have been added to the list of those for whom they care. In person, they look after me and mine. They might take the kids for a day, or mow the lawn, or bring a meal by.

When distant from me, they continue to care as best they can. They pray. They leave supportive comments on Facebook. They send cards. They send money. Some might put their money where their mouth is – the quiet people put their money where their hearts are.

I must rejoice in the wisdom of the generous. They have chosen to lay up treasure in heaven – to trust in the ancient promise that God will care for those who care for others.

We often say that the church is people. I will go one step further. The church is the quiet people. The preachers and teachers may be noisier, but they are not nearly so numerous. Mostly, the Restoration project has produced the quiet people. The work of the Holy Spirit in creating them cannot be denied.

For this reason, it makes me angry when I see “the Church of Christ” attacked online. Allegedly, “we” are legalistic, hardhearted, emotionless, unloving, etc. Because the quiet people are the church, this is an attack on them.

Frankly, I think the real issue is that the quiet people have a PR problem. They do not sound a trumpet before them as they go to do good, so church critics leap to the conclusion that no good is being done. It is shockingly imperceptive and unfair.

Let us celebrate the quiet people instead. Let us celebrate the cleansed and sanctified church in which they congregate. God does – and who are we to judge more harshly than He?

- *(edited for space)*

## Just Thinkin'

## The Clown Bank Robber

“The wicked flee when no one pursues...” (Pr 28:1).

I have always found this proverb to be somewhat humorous. It conjures up images of the dumb bank robber who has ‘gotten away with it’ but doesn’t know it yet. So, he constantly looks over his shoulder or drives fast in the getaway car. Or he overthinks his coverup – from the nervous twitch, to the overly-detailed explanation of his whereabouts, to his over-the-top angry reaction at being questioned. And quite often, it is that very effort to disguise his guilt that gives him away.

And Christians are not exempt from this truism. God’s people are not to live in sin (1 Jn 1), but we do sin. The honest heart will acknowledge that sin, ask for forgiveness, and strive to avoid such behavior in the future (Ja 5:16).

The Pharisee, by contrast, will become indignant at any suggestion that they are not what God would have them to be. They will push back against any such suggestion (Jn 8:44-48) – sometimes in violent ways (Mk 11:15-18).

The remainder of the proverb is also interesting: “... but the righteous are bold as a lion.” The boldness of the righteous does not come from an overly inflated ego. It comes from the calm assurance that God knows the truth – and that He will adjudicate every cause in His time. It’s the difference between the boldness of David and Goliath. Both were confident in their cause – and in their ability to sustain it. But one’s confidence was founded in his own strength, while the other rested in the strength of God.

The bank robber, in his ego, believes he can get away with his crime. But he fails to calculate the omniscience of God – and becomes a foolish clown in the process. God’s people know better.

- *WKing*

## 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

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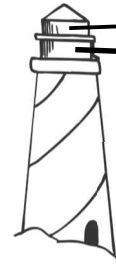
**Beware the high cost  
of low living.**

## 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  
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# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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# The Quiet People

by Matt Bassford

Let us exalt the quiet people. Let us consider and honor them. They are nothing in the sight of the world and too often nothing in the sight of their brethren, but they are choice and precious in the sight of God.

Every congregation has them. They assemble faithfully each Lord's day but are rarely conspicuous in the assembly. Many of them are women, who have no public role in church at all. They are, in a word, quiet. 1 Thess. 4:11 is their verse.

When they are not assembled, they quietly do good. They look in on people and look after people – their families, their brethren, and their neighbors. Year after year, decade after decade, they patiently serve others. They desire neither recognition nor reward. It would not occur to any of them that they are anything special. They believe that anyone in their situation would do as they have done, even though this is not actually true.



## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

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

*Sick:* G&K Fletcher, T Tolbert, J&M Swim, J Marshall, S Shell, L&T Deen

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

*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**DATES TO REMEMBER –** Our Vacation Bible School will be July 16-20 with Bret Hogland, and Youth Lectures are August 4-5 with David Banning.

**Q&A –** Tonight is our end-of-the-month question and answer session. Thanks to all who have contributed questions to this effort!