

## Light and Life

## Memorials

Mankind has a short memory. God knows this and has always provided His people with tools and memorials to help them remember the things they needed to know. As Joshua led the people of Israel across the Jordan River and into the promised land, instructions were given so that the children of Israel would always remember where they came from.

Joshua instructed the people: “Cross over before the ark of the Lord God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever” (Jos. 4:5-7).

Memorials such as this served to remind the people of God of what He had done for them as well as being teaching tools so that their children could learn the importance of a healthy relationship with God.

We must not slack off in our memorial-keeping as the children of Israel did. “The people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen the great works of the Lord... when all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel. Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baal” (Jdg. 2:7-11). Those twelve stones were evidently not used to educate the next generation as God had intended.

So, how’s **your** memory?

- Sam Bunyard

## Another Perspective

## Some People Are...

**Erosive.** They grate on you and wear you down. They are biting, abrasive, and abusive in speech and conduct (Col. 3:8), and often complaining, condescending and arrogant to boot!

**Corrosive.** They’re typically judgmentally harsh and critically acidic, and even take pleasure in creating enmity and strife that eventually rots, rusts, and consumes (Ga. 5:20a). And let’s not forget,

**Explosive.** They’re factious and prone to “outbursts of anger” as well as disputes and dissensions (Ga. 5:20b). They’re always “ready for a fight” – they look for them and (evidently) enjoy them!

Jesus, our supreme example, was “gentle and humble in heart” – the very antithesis of such attitudes and conduct (Mt.11:29). So instead of erosive, corrosive, or explosive, let’s work toward developing the qualities of Eph. 4:

**Walking worthily of the calling, v.1.** Remember Whom you serve and how He felt about and treated others. Are your thoughts, attitudes, and actions worthy of Him and the “calling” to be Christ-like, or are they **erosive** toward others?

**With all humility and gentleness, v.2a.** Humility is not merely looking out for “your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others” (Ph 2). Such an attitude is manifested in “gentleness” toward others. Are your attitudes toward others soothing and healing, or **corrosive**?

**With patience, showing forbearance, v.2b.** Again, our attitude dictates our conduct. If you are Spirit-filled and thus patient (Ga.5:22), you will be forbearing toward others rather than **explosively** intolerant.

We all must choose what kind of people, and indeed what kind of Christian, we will be. Choose wisely – for God is watching.

- Philip C. Strong (edited for space)

## 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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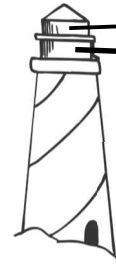
**Everyone you meet is  
fighting a hard battle,  
so be kind.**

## 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**

June 4, 2023

## 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.

**SINGING TONIGHT** – Tonight is our 1<sup>st</sup>-Sunday singing. Come prepared to join in as we sing praises to God – and encourage one another!

## Using the Trials of Life

It seems hopelessly fatalistic, but it's true: life is tough, and then you die. That doesn't mean that life is tough all the time (although for many it is). And it doesn't mean that life is not worth the living (though many reach that conclusion). But it does mean that life can be an incredible struggle at times – and most certainly we will die in the end (He 9:27).

Some may find such a view to be depressing – but it's not. The difficulties of life are by God's design, as Moses reminded the Israelites, "The Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness... He humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna... that He

might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord" (De 8:2-3).

It's easy to think that God must be heartless – that a loving God would not treat His children in such a way. But quite the opposite is true. What better way to teach us the critical importance of trusting Him? That's called faith, and it is necessary if we would be victorious over our inevitable (shall we say it?) – death.

Life will not always be tough. The wilderness eventually gives way to Canaan. So, **use** trials to grow your faith – and compassion.

- **WKing**