

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

Bible Class	N/A
Attendance AM	45
Attendance PM	N/A
Wednesday PM	N/A

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Prayer for Health:** Walter Tolley (at home); Charles Chittick; Sheree Collins (friend of Ashley, has cancer); Jerry Thomas, Otis & Glenda Adair, Richard Melson, Lenora Vance, Dollie Jones, Jack and Carlene Harley; Curtis Lewis (rehab); Pat Norris (at home with daughter Judy); Daniel Perkins (nephew of Glenna Adair); Vance family;  
**Traveling:** Norris Cole, II;  
**Prayers:** Norris Cole, II;  
**Repentance:**  
**Baptism:**  
**Sympathy:**

January 03	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
<b>Announcements</b>	Richard Melson	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Patrick Thomas	
<b>Song Leader</b>	Michael Blanks, Jr.	
<b>Lead Lord's Supper</b>	Anthony Grigsby	
<b>Server 1</b>	Frank Brock	
<b>Server 2</b>	Michael Mamula	
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	James Grigsby	
<b>Sermon</b>	Richard Melson	
<b>Prayer for Responses</b>	Richard Melson	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Patrick Cook	

**A.S.A.P. = Always Say A Prayer**

**"Pray without ceasing"  
1 Thessalonians 5:17**

**TO OUR VISITORS**

Our goal in the church of Christ is to be the New Testament church, which you can read about in the Bible. We invite you to observe our worship assemblies, the doctrine that is taught and the structure of the church organization. Make a close comparison with your "church" and the church of the Bible -- **The Church of Christ**. We also invite you to join us as we strive to be the church of the Bible and restore New Testament Christianity.

**Needmore Road church of Christ  
PO Box 13963  
Dayton, Ohio 45414-9998**

Place Stamp Here



**Visit our website at [www.thelordsway.com/needmoreroad](http://www.thelordsway.com/needmoreroad)**

# THE EDIFIER

Volume 02

January 03, 2021

Issue 01

## THE VALUE OF COMMITMENT

Kevin W. Rhodes

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**Meeting Location:**  
2211 Needmore Rd  
Dayton, OH 45414

**Schedule of Services**

**Sunday**

Bible Study 9:30  
Worship 10:30 A.M.  
4:30 P.M.

1st Sunday  
No 4:30 PM service

**Wednesday**

Bible Study  
7:00 P.M.

**Preachers**

Richard D. Melson  
937-321-3973  
dr.rdmelson@yahoo.com

Walter Tolley  
937-238-7752  
walt944@aol.com

**Ministers**

All Members

**Supporting**

- Christian Courier on The Web
- Southwest School of Bible Studies: Austin, TX
- Memphis School of Preaching
- Greater Midwest Lectureship Dayton, OH

Many people assert their commitment to Christ; disciples live their commitment to Christ. Jesus Himself asked those who listened to Him, "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" (Lk. 6:46). Value is measured not only in what something costs at the moment but also by how much it will be worth as time goes by. Nowhere does this prove truer than with spiritual commitment. Making a commitment to Christ when surrounded by others who share that commitment is the easy part; keeping that commitment when surrounded by those who do not share the same view displays the depth of that commitment.

Think about it. People will often make a commitment to Jesus when they are needy or when life is easy, but neither of these is a good test of commitment or discipleship. Jesus insisted that true commitment requires sacrifice and giving far more than receiving and enjoying, telling His disciples, "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me" (Mt. 10:38). Jesus Himself had not yet gone to the cross, but the figure still had power. The call to discipleship does not include resting easy because of the work Jesus has done but rather requires accepting responsibility for what He expects His followers to do. Pure Christianity does not offer comfort in life, but peace—and rest in eternity.

Therefore, the commitment of a disciple willingly accepts the challenging precepts, the difficult decisions, and the possibility of persecution from the beginning until the very end. When the crowd followed Jesus after the feeding of the five thousand, rather than building a cathedral, asking for a collection, or watering down His message, Jesus sought to distinguish between casual interest and spiritual preparedness, calling Himself "the bread of life" (Jn. 6:35) and calling on those who followed to commit to eating His flesh and drinking His blood (Jn. 6:48-56), a symbolic expression describing the commitment to total obedience He required of them. For some, this proved too difficult, to which Jesus asked, "Does this offend you?" (Jn. 6:61). Nevertheless, "From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, 'Do you also want to go away?' But Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life'" (Jn. 6:66-68). Discipleship comes with great responsibility, which makes the required commitment that much more essential. Without accepting the responsibilities of obedience, sacrifice, and service, there is no commitment. And without such commitment, there is no real discipleship. "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Tim. 3:12).

A disciple commits to following Jesus through thick and through thin, when it is popular and when it is unpopular, when it costs little and when it costs everything. The

( continued on page 3)

# Words of Wisdom For Youth ... 1 Timothy 4:12

## Their Names Were Changed

Daniel and his friends were taken to Babylon as captives. They were intelligent young men. And they were faithful to God.

The prince in charge of the young men decided to give them new names. Daniel means 'God is my Judge or The Judge of God.' His name was changed to Belteshazzar, which means 'Bel's Prince.' Bel was the chief god of the Babylonians.

Hananiah means 'Jehovah has favored.' His name was changed to Shadrach, which means 'Inspiration of the sun.' The sun was a god for the Babylonians.

Mishael means 'He who comes from God, or Who is what God is.' His name was changed to Meshach, which means 'belongs to Sheshach.' Sheshach was goddess of the earth. Azariah means 'Jehovah has helped.' His name was changed to Abednego, which means 'a servant of Nego/Nebo'. Nebo was the fire god.

All four of the new names were to honor Babylonian gods. The intent was for these young men to give glory to the Babylonian gods. He was hoping they would forget the God of the Israelites.

But, the young men did not forget Jehovah. They continued to serve Him. And God continued to bless them for their trust and obedience to Him.

Study your Bible. Always serve God like Daniel and his friends. Do not let anyone direct your faith away from Him. And if any of this is hard to understand, ask an adult to help you.

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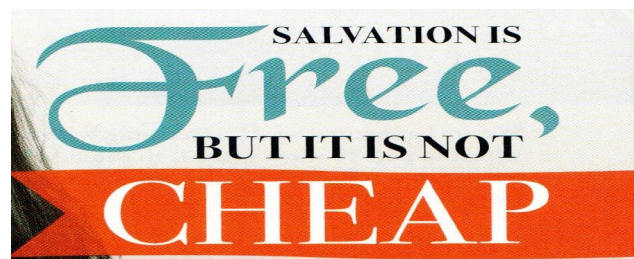
## I don't go to worship when...



We pick and choose when we go to the movies, when we go out to eat, when we do most everything. Do we pick and choose when we will go to worship and when we won't? Over the years, I have known of people who chose to not worship on a particular Sunday because a certain person was going to be preaching, a certain person was going to be leading singing, a missionary was in town, it was going to be a singing service, the young men were going to be leading the worship, the elders were going to be making a withdraw announcement, the sermon was going to be about giving, a certain family was visiting from out of town, an early afternoon service time had been planned, Saturday evening activities kept them up too late, their children were not behaving very well, other people's children were not behaving very well, etc., etc., etc.

Question: Have we/you/I ever been guilty of making worship about something other than the greatest opportunity and privilege on earth to worship our amazing God? When He is the focus, nothing else matters! .

David Sproule  
Thought for the Day



## Melson's Musings ...



(Continued from page 1)

commitment to God's will required of a disciple does not contain an exception clause. A disciple will commit to studying and learning God's will, and that often will lead to the discovery of more required changes in life. However, coming to grips with the necessity of changing whenever required regardless of what the Lord requires is not a lifelong series of decisions; it is inherent in the original commitment to discipleship. Read out loud Paul's words to the Galatians: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). This is the commitment of a disciple.

Lifelong commitment to Jesus Christ and the covenant for which He died defines a disciple and thus determines his spiritual value. Jesus' own words add one more essential aspect to commitment: "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). A disciple's true commitment in this life may ultimately be determined by whether he is willing to give up that life. Indeed, it was on this basis that Jesus Himself went to the cross. Therefore, in Christianity, the depth of your commitment determines the value it will have in eternity. ✍

HAPPY NEW YEAR  
2021

## NEWS AND NOTES

- Visit these online resources: [www.wvbs.org](http://www.wvbs.org) ; [www.apologeticspress.org](http://www.apologeticspress.org) ; [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org) ; <http://gbntv.org/> ; [kibbystreetcoc.org](http://kibbystreetcoc.org) ; <http://kibbystreetcoc.org/index.php/let> (Let The Bible Speak)
- View In Search of the Lord's Way— Dish network Sunday 7:00 am Channel 239; DirecTV Channel 307; GBN 7 PM
- Check out Tullstar Archives at <http://media.Tullstar.org> for lessons from faithful brethren.

## GOD'S PLAN FOR MAN'S SALVATION

"Sirs, What must I do to be saved?" Acts 16:30

- ♦ The Gospel Must Be Heard - John 6:44-45; Romans 10:17; John 8:32
- ♦ The Gospel Must Be Believed—John 8:24; Mark 16:16
- ♦ Sins Must Be Repented of — Luke 13:3,5; Acts 2:38
- ♦ Christ Must Be Confessed—Romans 10:10; Acts 8:37
- ♦ There Must Be Baptism (Immersion) for Remission (forgiveness) of Sins—Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21
- ♦ Christian Growth and Faithfulness—1 Peter 2:2; Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 3:18

## Sentence Sermons

- The man who is rowing the boat has no time to rock it.
- You can clutch the past so tightly to your chest that it leaves your arms too full to embrace the present.
- The man who holds the ladder firm at the bottom is just as important as the man at the top.
- He who cannot forgive others burns the bridge over which he must someday pass.
- If you delight in the business of finding faults, find your own and mend them.
- The most expensive indulgence - hate.

**Midwestern Children's Home**—Thanks we were able to provide \$660.00 in Kroger Gift Cards to the home this year.

*Daily living seemeth weary  
To the one who never works;  
Duty always seemeth dreary  
To the one who duty shirks.  
Only after hardest striving  
Cometh sweet and perfect rest;  
Life is found to be worth living  
To the one who does his best.*

(Briefs for Church Bulletins  
Compiled by Basil D. Shilling)



For a schedule of programs visit them at  
[www.thegospelradionetwork.org](http://www.thegospelradionetwork.org)