

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	N/A
Attendance AM	64
Attendance PM	N/A
Wednesday PM	N/A

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Patrick Cook (COVID) at home; Walter Tolley at home (colon cancer & CHF); Jerry Thomas; Otis & Glenda Adair, Richard Melson, Dollie Jones, Jack and Carlene Harley; Johnny and Lenora Vance family; Priscilla Bogan; Tally Poole (knee);

Prayer: Richard Melson, Jr. (work)

Traveling: Norris Cole, II;

Prayers: Norris Cole, II;

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy:

Birthdays: January: 5—Lisa Owens, Jan 16 – Valerie Melson, Jan 31 Krystal Thomas. **February—** 4 Betty Blakley, 13– Tena Eslick, 14– Lori Phillips, 16 -G.Frank Brock, 18– Katherine Willis, 21-Catherine Anderson, Jerry Thomas, 22-Brenda Wiley
Anniversaries—Jan 2 Timothy and Melody Angus

January 31	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Announcements	Richard Melson,	
Opening Prayer	Patrick Thomas	
Song Leader	Michael Blanks, Jr.	
Lead Lord's Supper	Anthony Grigsby	
Server 1	Frank Brock	
Server 2	Mike Mamula	
Scripture Reader	James Grigsby	
Sermon	Richard Melson	
Prayer for Responses	Richard Melson,	
Closing Prayer	Alfred Willis, Jr.	

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



THE EDIFIER

Volume 02

January 31, 2021

Issue 05

JOEL

Phil Gear

www.needmoreroadcoc.com
 Fax: (937) 401-0286

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

Joel is totally unknown outside this short book. Twelve men in the Bible bear the name "Joel," but there is no reason to identify any of them as the prophet. We know nothing of his family, except that his father was Pethuel. (1:1) The date of his writing is also uncertain with guesses ranging across about five centuries. We know nothing for certain of the historical or political setting of the book, although references to the altar and priesthood indicate he was prophesying to the southern kingdom of Judah.

The time and circumstances of the prophet Joel are uncertain, but the subject of his prophecy is not. He uses the phrase "the day of the Lord" five times in just three chapters. The "day of the Lord" is a time of judgment on both God's people and their enemies. But it is also a time when God's people would experience great spiritual blessings.

Joel calls upon the old men to bear witness to the severity of the plague they had just endured. (1 :2-3) Insects had totally destroyed the crops, leaving complete desolation in their wake. (1:4) Then a "nation, strong and without number" had come into the land and destroyed the vine and the fig tree (1:6) Even the priests were mourning the destroyed agriculture. (1:10-12) Starvation was sure. They were to assemble the people to "cry unto the Lord," for the "day of the Lord is at hand." (1:14-15)

Joel used "the Day of the Lord" as an incentive to repentance. It would be a day of "darkness, gloominess, a day of clouds, and thick darkness." (2:2) They would be completely unable to stop the advance of the invading army. God's people would learn that "the day of the Lord is great and very terrible, and who can abide it?" (2:11) All of this was God's way of pleading with his people to "turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." (2:12) He begged them to "rend their hearts." (2:13) He wanted them to learn that "I am the Lord and none else." (2:27)

If they heeded God's call to repentance, the situation would improve. The Lord would "pity his people" and restore their food crops. (2:18-19) He would drive the enemy out of their land. (2:20) He would destroy their enemies for the horrible things they had done to his people. They had sold the Jews into slavery (3:3,6) and stolen valuable treasures from the temple. (3:5) But they would be punished, "For the Lord has spoken." (3:8) It was time for Judah's enemies to face their "day of the Lord." (3:14) He would roar out of Zion and shake their world. (3:16) When he was done, they would know that "he was the Lord your God dwelling in Zion." (3:17)

The "day of the Lord" would also be a day of great spiritual blessings for God's people, resulting in salvation for all who "call upon the name of the Lord." (2:32) Peter tells us that this is a reference to the Christian age and the wonderful spiritual blessings that would come with the beginning of the church. (Acts 2: 16-21)

(Continued on page 3)

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

Anatomy of An Evangelistic Church

MINDS that are like Christ's. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in the fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil.2:5-89; cf 2:1-4; Matt. 20:28).

HEARTS filled with compassion for the lost. "Brethren, my hearts desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved" (Rom. 10:1;cf. John 3:16-17; Luke 19:10; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9).

EYES that are uplifted so they can see the fields of harvest. "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35; cf. Matt. 9:36-38).

EARS that are attuned to the instructions of God and the cries of the lost. "And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for the preach the gospel unto them" (Acts 16:9-10; cf. Rom. 10:9-17).

TONGUES that speak God's Word with boldness. "And now, Lord, behold their threatening: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word" (Acts 4:29; cf. Acts 20:20, 26-27; Matt. 28:18- 20; 1 Pet.3:15;4:11; 2Tim. 2:2).

FEET that are busy taking the gospel of peace to a world lost in sin. "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Rom. 10:15; cf. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:1-4).

HANDS that are outstretched to those in need. " As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10; cf Acts 2:44-47; 4:32-37).

- Jerry L. Martin

Don't starve yourself to death!



How many Christians have a daily check-list that might look like this?

Walk for thirty minutes: Check!

Stay under calorie limit: Check!

Drink eight glasses of water: Check!

Take vitamins and supplements: Check!

Eat sufficient portions of fruits and vegetables: Check!

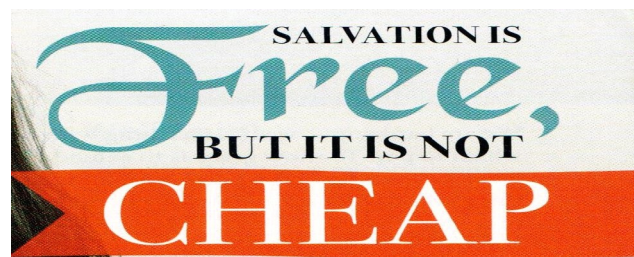
Brush teeth three times: Check!

Read and study the Bible for 20-30 minutes: Uh, no. I'll do it tomorrow.

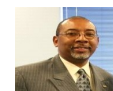
Pray at least once but twice is better: Uh, not today. I'll try harder.

We pay close attention (many of us) to our physical health, and for good reason. But, how closely do we monitor our spiritual health? Starvation diets don't work for either!

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



(Continued from page 1)

The "day of the Lord" has great meaning for the Christian, as it now refers to the return of our Lord and the wonderful hope he brings with him. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

May we all prepare for that great "day of the Lord."

Joel—Lessons Learned

There are various lessons to be gleaned from a detailed study of the Book of Joel and the following list is by no means exhaustive.

- People in trouble sometimes listen to the Lord better.
- There is no escape from judgment
- Judgment may be either joy or terror as you choose
- Genuine repentance may be followed by restored blessings
- God's Spirit is to be available to all men.
- We need preaching / preachers like Joel
- The danger of mere external religion remains a problem
- Pride and humility do not mix
- Sin / evil associated with affluence, luxury and self-indulgence must be confronted
- Gospel preachers must continue to preach on Pentecost

Key Verses in the book are located in chapter 2:23, 25 and of course 28-32.

(Joel 2:21-27) THE BLESSEDNESS OF REPENTANCE: If the people were truly penitent, they had nothing to fear. To the contrary, they could rejoice in the "great things" that Jehovah had done and would continue to do (v. 21). All creatures, beasts and men, were admonished to rejoice, for God would bless them with fruitfulness. His rain would water the land, and his people would have food and drink in abundance (vv. 22-24). The damage that had been done by the locusts (that prefigured invasion by foreign powers) would be reversed (v. 25). Surrounded by overwhelming blessings, his people would praise the Lord and be exonerated (v. 26). It would become manifestly obvious that Jehovah was among his people. There was "none else"- a slap at foreign gods. This section ends with a prophecy of the coming Christian age with all its glories (v. 27). (Wayne Jackson: The Prophets, p.190)

DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES OF LOCUSTS			
Joel 1:4; 2:25			
HEBREW	NKJV	PHYSICAL STAGE	EATING HABITS
yelek "the lickers"	crawling locust	Hatchling	Consumes tender ground vegetation.
chasil "almost complete"	consuming locust	Hopper	Completes the destruction of tender vegetation.
gazam "branch snippers"	chewing locust	Winged Hopper	Attacks branches.
'arbeh "multiplying"	swarming locust	Mature Locust	Strips even bark.

For a schedule of programs visit them at www.thegospelradionetwork.org

NEWS AND NOTES

- Visit these online resources: www.wvbs.org ; www.apologeticspress.org ; www.searchtv.org ; <http://gbntv.org/> ; 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