

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

Bible Class	N/A
Attendance AM	68
Attendance PM	N/A
Wednesday PM	N/A

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Prayer for Health:** Walter Tolley (heart issues & colon cancer— surgery 3/11 ); Jerry Thomas; Otis & Glenda Adair, Richard Melson, Dollie Jones, Carlene Harley; William & Priscilla Bogan; Tally Poole (knee); Diane Cole (Norris); Frank Brock  
**Prayer:** Richard Melson, Jr. Patrick and Ashley Thomas (work); Gabrielle Willis (interview);  
**Traveling:** Norris Cole, II;  
**Prayers:** Norris Cole, II;  
**Repentance:** Berdie Oates  
**Baptism:**  
**Sympathy:**  
**Birthdays: March**—5 Brandon Lease; 6 Melody Angus; 9 Rita McGahee; 11-Mary Vance; 17 Pat Norris; 18 Layne Vance; 27 Lyle Cole; 28 Cynthia Lease; 30 William Bogan & Timothy Angus -  
**Anniversaries**—  
**Ladies Reading Group:**

March 7	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
<b>Announcements</b>	Richard Melson	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Walter Tolley	
<b>Song Leader</b>	Michael Blanks, Jr.	
<b>Lead Lord's Supper</b>	Patrick Thomas	
<b>Server 1</b>	Anthony Grigsby	
<b>Server 2</b>	Mike Mamula	
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Denzill Turner, III	
<b>Sermon</b>	Richard Melson	
<b>Prayer for Responses</b>	Richard Melson	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Frank Brock	

**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

March 7, 2021

Issue 10

[www.needmoreroadcoc.com](http://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](mailto:dr.rdmelson@yahoo.com)

Walter Tolley  
937-238-7752  
[walt944@aol.com](mailto: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

## HOSEA

Phil Gear

*Hosea, whose name means "God Is Salvation," prophesied during the reign of King Jeroboam II of Israel. (c. 750 B.C.) It was a time of great material prosperity, but also a time of great idolatry and immorality. The political situation also was extremely unstable. Following the death of Jeroboam, three kings reigned within one year. (2 Kings 15:8-15) Hosea desperately pleaded with Israel to return to God, but to no avail. The Assyrians destroyed Israel within about twenty years.*

God gave his prophets some very unusual assignments, but perhaps none more unusual than Hosea's. Hosea prophesied during the reign of King Jeroboam II (1:1). It was a time of prosperity for the Northern Kingdom of Israel, but it was also a period of great wickedness and rebellion against God. Although Israel had broken his heart, God illustrated his love for them in a most graphic way. He instructed Hosea to take a "wife of whoredoms" (1:2). Hosea chose Gomer and not only married her but also had three children by her. Their marriage symbolized God's relationship with Israel.

When Gomer deserted Hosea for her old way of life, he appealed to his children to plead with their mother to come home. Like God, he was broken hearted. "She is not my wife, neither am I her husband." (2:2) She was playing the harlot for the trivial things she thought her lovers provided and failed to realize they actually came from her loving husband. (2:8) Hosea tried to lure her into the wilderness where he could "speak comfortably unto her" (2:14) and perhaps win back her heart. Failing this, he bought her in the slave market (3:2) . "Thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee." (3:3) This symbolized the day when Israel would return and seek the Lord. (3:5).

This beautiful story of the complete and devoted love of a husband for a wayward wife is symbolic of the love God had for Israel. They had repeatedly "played the harlot" with false gods, (4 : 15) and yet he continued to love them.

As Gomer had been unfaithful to Hosea, Israel had been unfaithful to God. "The Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land." (4:1) They had rejected the knowledge of God (4:6) and turned to idols (4:17). They ignored his call.

God described Israel as a "cake not turned" (7:8). She was burned on one side and raw on the other and thus useless. Because of her idolatry and wickedness she would be swallowed up among the Gentiles (8:8). "They shall not dwell in the Lord's land" but go into Egypt and Assyria. (9:3) Their "glory would fly away as a bird" (9:15). They would be "wanderers among the nations" because they would not listen to God (9:17).

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

## Is baptism really essential for one to be saved?

Baptism is a topic that is widely disputed in the religious world but a topic that is given great emphasis in the New Testament, being mentioned more than 100 times. Is baptism essential in order to be saved and to go to heaven? Let us go back to the Bible and allow God to answer this question.

Baptism is essential to salvation for it always precedes salvation when the two words are used together in the New Testament. Jesus said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16). Peter wrote, "baptism doth also now save us" (1 Peter 3:21). Baptism comes before salvation and not salvation before baptism.

Baptism is essential to salvation as it is a command from heaven. Jesus commanded His disciples to teach all nations and baptize them (Matthew 28:18-20). Jesus told Nicodemus, "You must be born again" (John 3:7), "born of water and the Spirit" (John 3:5). On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). Jesus told Saul to go into the city of Damascus, "and you will be told what you must do" (Acts 9:6). We learn from Acts 22:16 that Paul was told that he must "arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins."

Baptism is essential to salvation for it is the only way to get "into Christ." Paul said in 2 Timothy 2:10 that "salvation...is in Christ Jesus," and he also revealed that in order to get into Christ (wherein is salvation) one must be "baptized into Christ" (Galatians 3:27).

Baptism is essential to salvation as it brings one not only into Christ, but "into His death" (Romans 6:3-4). In His death on the cross, Jesus shed His blood, which washes "us from our sins" (Revelation 1:5). It is only in baptism that this cleansing will take place, for the Bible plainly says, "Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins" (Acts 22:16).

Baptism is essential to salvation as every account of conversion in the book of Acts demonstrates. Nine conversions are recorded in the book of Acts (2:1-47; 8:5-13; 8:24-40; 9:1-18; 10:24-48; 16:11-15; 16:25-34; 18:4-11; 19:1-7), and in every one, without exception, it is emphasized that they were baptized. Only after they were baptized did they secure salvation and rejoice.

Baptism is essential to salvation for it places one into His kingdom. At the end of time, Jesus will deliver "the kingdom to God the Father" (1 Corinthians 15:24). To spend eternity with God, one must be in that kingdom, and "unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

Baptism is essential to salvation for it places one into His body, the church. "We were all baptized into one body" (1 Corinthians 12:13), the body being His church (Colossians 1:18). Thus, when we are baptized and saved from our sins, God adds us immediately to His church (Acts 2:47), which is His kingdom (Matthew 16:18-19).

Is baptism essential in order to be saved and to go to heaven? God, through His Word, emphatically and conclusively says, "Yes!"

## Constant in prayer

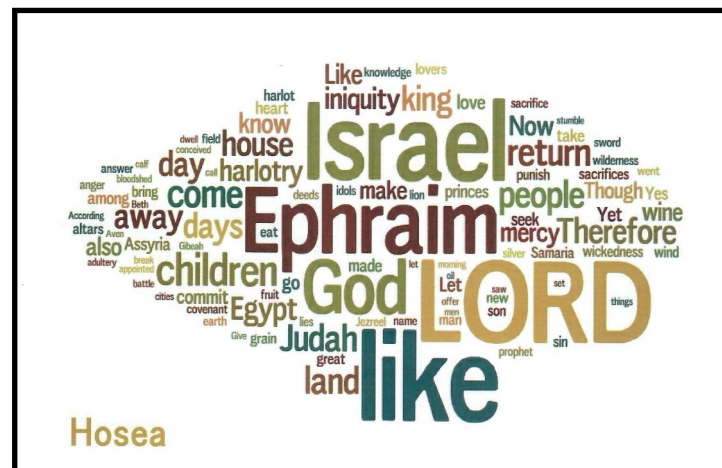


From the time that Nehemiah set out to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, there was opposition, namely from some neighboring officials named, Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem (Neh. 2:19-20). At every step of the way, they tried to interfere and stop the rebuilding. In chapter 6, they attempted a variety of devious and dishonest methods of discouraging and impeding Nehemiah. It's no wonder that in the middle of these stressful encounters that Nehemiah prayed this short petition, "But now, O God, strengthen my hands" (6:9).

Think about that prayer. It was not long. It was not filled with big words. It was not lofty and grandiose. It was simple. It was to-the-point. It was sincere. It was urgent. It was trusting. As you read through Nehemiah, that describes most of the times that he burst into prayer.

Think about your prayers. Nehemiah seemed to pray short prayers throughout his day, whenever He needed to talk to his God. That's not a bad practice

David Sproule  
Thought for the Day



## Melson's Musings ...



(Continued from page 1)

Israel had been blessed with great material prosperity but had accredited that to her idols instead of God. "According to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images." (10:1) They were admonished to "seek the Lord till he come and rain righteousness upon you" (10:12), but they refused and so would be utterly cut off (10:15). God had called them out of Egypt as a loving father calls his child (11:1) (cf. Matthew 2:15). He had drawn "bands of love around them" and provided food for them (11: 4). But Israel was "bent to backsliding from me" (11:7). God did not want to destroy her, but she "compassed me about with lies." (11: 12). God had blessed Israel in so many ways; but, when they "were filled" and "their heart was exalted," they had forgotten God (13:6)."Samaria shall become desolate; for she hath rebelled against her God." (13:16).

But God would not give up on Israel any more than Hosea would give up on Gomer. "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him." (14 :4 ) Israel's "branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree." (14:6) He would learn his lesson, and "walk in the ways of the Lord." (14:9). Hosea is the beautiful story of unconditional and complete love of a man for .a woman. Beyond that it is the beautiful story .of the unconditional and complete love God has for his people. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. (Romans 8:39).

**HOSEA** was a contemporary of Amos, Isaiah and Micah. He stressed the inexhaustible love of God. His preaching

denounced the moral, spiritual and domestic depravity of Israel, whom he called Ephraim. His tragic and unfortunate life with his unfaithful wife, Gomer, gave him an insight into the heart of God which perhaps no other prophet possessed. His broken heart on account of her waywardness depicted so well the grief which Jehovah experienced because of Israel's idolatry. The Lord asked, "How shall I give thee up, Ephraim?" Hosea placed the blame for the spiritual adultery of Israel upon her leaders-kings, prophets and priests. It was "like people-like priests" (4:9). Both Hosea and the story of the prodigal son focus upon the eagerness of God to forgive and restore. So the book ends with an appeal, "Oh, Israel, return unto the Lord thy God, and I will heal their backsliding" (14: 1-4).

- Clarence Deloach, Jr

ISRAEL		JUDAH	
Jereboam II	782-753 B.C.	Uzziah*	791-740 B.C.
Zachariah	753-752 B.C.	Jotham*	750-736 B.C.
Shallum	752 B.C.		
Menahem	752-742 B.C.		
Pekahiah	742-740 B.C.		
Pekah	740-732 B.C.	Ahaz*	743-716 B.C.
Hoshea	732-722 B.C.		
<b>Fall of Samara</b>	<b>722 B.C.</b>	Hezekiah	716-687 B.C.
		*= <i>Coregencies</i>	

## 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/>; <http://kibbystreetcoc.org/index.php/let> (Let The Bible Speak); [www.thegospelradionetwork.org](http://www.thegospelradionetwork.org)
- 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