

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	24
Attendance AM	69
Attendance PM	34
Wednesday PM	26

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Walter Tolley; Ryan and Rita McGahee (COVID); Patrick Cook; Richard Melson; Rosella McGahee (MVH); Otis and Glenna Adair; Clifford Holt; Richard & Florine Thomas; Carolyn Morrison; Jim Thomas
Traveling: Norris Cole, II; Alfred & Katherine Willis
Prayers:
Repentance: Richard Melson; Deonna Cole
Baptism:
Sympathy: Michael Blanks
Birthdays: September— 3 Ruby Holt; 5 Michael Blanks, Jr. 23 Walter Tolley; 24 Alexandria Thomas; 27 Christina Barnes; 28 Jean Samples; 29 Florine Thomas
Anniversaries: September— 1 Chris & Tally Poole; 27 — Dollie & Samuel Jones
Ladies Reading Group:
Men's Meeting: First Saturday of month @ 9:00 AM in the auditorium
Potter Children's Home: Coin Cans collected week of October 17th

September 26	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Announcements	Patrick Thomas	Richard Melson
Opening Prayer	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Song Leader	Michael Blanks	Patrick Cook
Lead Lord's Supper	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Server 1	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Server 2	Mike Mamula	Lyle Cole
Scripture Reader	James Grigsby	Norris Cole
Sermon	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Prayer for Responses	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Closing Prayer	Walter Tolley	Walter Tolley
Greeter	Richard Melson, Jr.	Richard Melson, Jr.
Greeter		

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 <https://www.needmoreroadcoc.com>



THE EDIFIER

Volume 02

September 26, 2021

Issue 39

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.
5:00 P.M.

1st Sunday
~~No 5:00 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
- Potter Children's Home

WORKING TOWARD AN ELDERSHIP

David P. Smith and Richard D. Melson

David Paul Smith penned an article under this title in the October 18, 1984, Gospel Advocate. I have modified and adapted his material in the article below.

God's will for every congregation is to mature to the point where qualified men can be appointed to oversee the work of that congregation (Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23). The qualifications for such an office are found in Titus 1:5-9, 1 Timothy 3:1, and 1 Peter 5:1-5. Their role is one of authority (Heb. 13:17) with the protection, feeding and leading of that congregation in mind. (Acts 20:17, 28, 32.) "Every" congregation should be working toward an eldership. Where an eldership is not present, a determined effort must be consistently made toward raising up men that are biblically qualified to be elders and a congregation mature to submit their oversight.

Instilling within a congregation a desire to have shepherds over them is sometimes quite difficult. This is especially true of congregations that have gone for years, perhaps even decades, without an eldership. Often it is the case that a congregation is "satisfied" with the way things are (without elders) and have little or no desire to work toward the establishment of an eldership. It is with the problems that commonly arise in a situation such as this with which this article is concerned.

One of the most common barriers encountered in a congregation when discussion of appointment of men as elders takes place is that of apathy. It is not uncommon, rather to be expected, for some members to have absolutely no interest or concern about the appointment of elders. Those who are indifferent to this matter often look at the need for an eldership in the congregation as a purely "optional" or "secondary" command of Scripture. That this is hardly a scriptural position is readily recognized when passages such as Titus 1:5 and Acts 14:23 are consulted. A congregation with an attitude such as this is a congregation that may have the knowledge of scripture but with a lack of zeal. A zeal to obey the Lord as well as a correct knowledge of what the scripture teaches is what is needed by those who desire to please God (Romans 10:2). How true it is that "faith without works is dead" (James 2:26). Commonly this viewpoint is expressed by statements such as "things are fine the way they are now," or "I don't see what would be gained by having elders." It would do us well to remember that God has knowledge of all things, and His wisdom is unlimited (Psalm 147:5). Man must not rely only on reasoning as to what is "just fine" for man must rely on revelation and not mere reason alone (Jer. 10:23).

Another common obstacle that may be encountered is fear. Some will be fearful of appointing an unqualified man while others will fear the possibility of breeding problems that are known to exist in neighboring congregations that happen to have elderships.

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

Don't GIVE UP

Babe Ruth struck out 1,333 times. But we remember him for his 714 home runs. Cy Young, one of the greatest pitchers, won 511 games. But few know he also lost more games than any pitcher (316).

Abraham Lincoln was badly beaten when he ran for the legislature. He then failed in business and spent seventeen years paying off the debt. He failed in an effort to get an appointment to the U.S. Land Office. He was defeated in his race for Senate, and again in his effort to be elected Vice-President. He had one setback after another, but eventually became the President of the United States. He was not a "quitter." He had stickability.

Many Christians "believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away" (Luke 8:13). Like Israel we have a tendency to forget God (Jeremiah 2:32). In most communities, there are those who once were faithful but are not now. Maybe they do not attend classes, night services, or other meetings as they once did. They have ceased to participate in the work of the local church. Their light has gone out (Matthew 5:14-16). They have virtually quit. But a winner never quits, and a quitter never wins. Let's be doers—not quitters!

—Clarence DeLoach, Jr.



27 books
260 Chapters
7,957 Verses
180,552 Words
838,380 Letters
Smallest book: 3 John
Largest book: Luke
Middle book: 2 Thessalonians
Middle chapters: Romans 8, 9
Middle verse: Acts 27:17
Shortest verse: John 11:35
Longest verse: Revelation 20:4
Longest chapter: Luke 1

New Testament Statistics

"Blessed is he that readeth."
REVELATION 1:3

—Information from BibleWorks software

Respect God's Word that much?

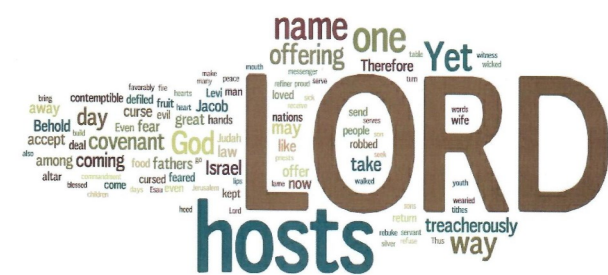


How can you tell how much someone respects God's Word? There may be a number of ways to answer that question, but one key measurement is to listen to his words. Consider the highest respect that two persons had for God's Word—a respect that we must emulate.

In John 12:49-50, Jesus stated, "For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak." Think about that. Jesus would ONLY speak what the Father spoke. Now consider John 16:13—"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." The Holy Spirit also would ONLY speak what the Father spoke.

The Father, the Son and the Spirit all spoke the same thing and would not speak anything differently from each other. What about us? Do we teach the same as They teach?

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Malachi

Melson's Musings ...



(continued from Page one)


Perhaps if the congregation has had elders in the past, some will fear reviving a past unpleasant experience while congregations that have never had elders and have existed for years may have a fear of entering "the unknown." All of these statements reflect a lack of courage. There is nothing to fear when it is the Lord's own directions that we follow (Psa. 16:8). It is not from God from which the spirit of fear proceeds (2 Tim. 1:7) and when we have a genuine love, fear is dispelled.

Tradition is another hurdle that must be cleared. Sometimes this obstacle is linked with fear. There is something about having been set in a particular position so long that makes any change from that position appear to be at best questionable. Maturity in spiritual growth gives freedom from being bound by the customs and traditions of time. Though it may be "traditional" for a congregation to not have an eldership, the length of time this condition has prevailed or the number who accept it does not justify it. Though an eldership may appear to be "some new thing" to a congregation, it is still God's desire for the church. Human tradition can void the word.

Perhaps the most difficult impediment that must be removed is the desire for power. In a congregation without elders, every man who attends the business meetings is a man with a say whether or not he is a man with a way. To put it another way, there are too many *Chiefs and not enough Indians*. Whether many will admit it or not (or actually recognize it), some would rather do without an eldership rather than have one simply because they might lose their ability to influence (or even dominate) the decisions that are made in regard to the

overall work program of the church. Humility is the lacking factor in this case and the great need of all. Our service for the Lord's cause must be done with all humility (Acts 20:19). God resists those who seek to be the "greatest" in the kingdom by being the greatest in power. The way to the top of the kingdom is by staying at the bottom (Luke 14:11). Undoubtedly, many of the problems that seem to hinder a congregation without elders stem directly from a lack of submission to one another in humility.

In conclusion, we would say once more that God's desire is for every congregation is to mature to the point where she can have elders that shepherd the flock. If you find yourself in a congregation without shepherds, the best thing you can do to help attain the goal of appointing an eldership is to emphasize the obvious wisdom of God in His designs for the structure of His Son's church. You can expect to run into problems such as apathy, fear, tradition and a lust for influence and power. However, as you fill yourself with zeal to boldly mature in the faith no matter where the faith leads you with humility, others will see the wisdom of God's word and will desire to follow the faith fully as well. If you are a leading man in a congregation without elders, what are you doing right now to help establish an eldership in the future? Won't you do all that you can to make sure that the congregation you worship and work with is able to appoint qualified men? Amen!



What To Do With Your Time
 In happy moments: Praise God.
 In difficult moments: Seek God.
 In quiet moments: Worship God.
 In painful moments: Trust God.
 Every moment: Thank God.

BULLETIN DIGEST Florence Ave. church of Christ
 844 Pine St, Abilene, TX 79601 Grass Valley, CA

NEWS AND NOTES

- Visit these online resources: www.wvbs.org ; www.apologeticspress.org ; www.searchtv.org; <http://gbntv.org/>; <http://kibbystreetcoc.org/index.php/let> (Let The Bible Speak); 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