

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	33
Attendance AM	69
Attendance PM	35
Wednesday PM	35

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Katherine Willis and Tena Eslick (recovering from surgery); Samuel Jones (husband of Dollie Jones); Victoria Dudley; Virginia Robbins; C.D. Arnett; Otis and Glenna Adair; Clifford Holt; Richard & Florine Thomas; Jim Thomas; Debbie Rowland; Carlene Harley; LaVern Blanks (aunt of Dollie & Florine); Steven Crane (hip); Kelly Fields; Jared Jackson (COVID)

Traveling: Norris Cole, II; Nancy Weimer; Norris and Diane Cole; Lyle Cole family

Prayers: LaMarr Cole (Miami)

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy:

Birthdays: December— 11 Nina Netheron;

Kimberly Tydings 15 Dwayne Eslick, Sr.; Dana Grigsby; Richard Melson, Sr. 18 Mike Blakley; 24 Mia Gilbert; 26 Theresa Wallace

Anniversaries: December — none

Ladies Reading Group:

Men's Meeting: First Saturday of month @ 9:00 AM in the auditorium

December 19	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Announcements	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Opening Prayer	Mike Mamula	Mike Mamula
Song Leader	Michael Blanks	Michael Blanks
Lead Lord's Supper	Patrick Cook	Patrick Cook
Server 1	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Server 2	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Scripture Reader	Denzil Turner, III	Patrick Thomas
Sermon	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Prayer for Responses	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Closing Prayer	Jerry Thomas	Jerry Thomas
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

December 19, 2021

Issue 51

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

John Waddey

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

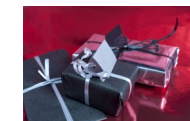
All Members

Supporting

- Christian Courier
- Southwest School of Bible Studies: Austin, TX
- Memphis School of Preaching
- Greater Midwest Lectureship
- Potter Children's Home
- Midwest School of Preaching
- Central Carolina School of Preaching

In just a few more days the big day that all the kids are looking for will be upon us. So pervasive is the influence of this holiday in our culture that Christians can hardly avoid being affected by it. To help us maintain our Christian perspective amidst all the clamor and pressures, we offer the following thoughts:

1. Remember that Christ's Mass is a religious holy day of human origin. See the article in the Americana Encyclopedia.
2. Therefore, we cannot participate in it in a religious fashion. (Galatians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 4:6; Revelation 22:18-19).
3. In our culture December 25th has become a secular holiday as well. We can enjoy the seasonal holiday and its festivities so long as we do not confuse it with the religious aspect.
4. We must not forget the importance of financial responsibility. Many are tempted to overspend, and deeply indebt themselves during the holidays. This often leads them to take away from God, monies they had committed. We must never forget our stewardship in material things. (1 Corinthians 4:2).
5. It is always a temptation to overeat in the feasting of the holiday season. A Christian seeks to live a temperate life on all occasions. (2 Peter 1:6).
6. Some will be tempted to compromise their principles at this time of the year. Many times at office parties there will be the spiked eggnog or the salesman's gift of a bottle of liquor. We must be strong to stand our ground and abstain from the very appearance of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:22).
7. We need to take time to explain to our children the facts about the Catholic origin of the Christmas holy day and why we as Christians do not observe this. It is not uncommon to see young Christians who really see nothing wrong with a religious connotation to the day.
8. We need to learn how to maintain the joy, good will and generosity of the holidays throughout the year. Surely God's people do not need bottled spirits and extravagant festivities to make them do good unto all men. (Galatians 6:10). Our joy springs from our being right with God and our hope of heaven, not from artificial means. (Romans 5:1-2). Our religious devotion is not an annual affair based on a Pagan-Roman Tradition but on a lifetime commitment to Christ. (Matthew 16:24).
9. As we enjoy the good things of the season with our loved ones, let us remember Him for whom all blessings flow. It is so easy for modern man to look at his home, his possessions, his life and think "My hands have accomplished all of this." For such an attitude, God severely punished King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. (Daniel 4:30-32). Be ye thankful for every good and perfect gift which comes down from above. (James 1:17).
10. May we never allow our remembrance of our Lord Jesus to degenerate to a once a year extravaganza such as we see in so much of *Christendom*. Rather, let us live each day as a celebration of thanksgiving and joy to the Savior that became flesh that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). *GW*



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

My Portion of Goods

Some time ago a mother punished her 5-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of expensive gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and she became even more upset when the child used the gold paper to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree.

Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift box to her mother the next morning and said, "This is for you, Momma."

The mother was embarrassed by her earlier over reaction, but her anger flared again when she opened the box and found it was empty.

She spoke to her daughter in a harsh manner. "Don't you know, young lady, when you give someone a present there's supposed to be something inside the package?"

She had tears in her eyes and said, "Oh, Momma, it's not empty! I blew kisses into it until it was full."

The mother was crushed. She fell on her knees and put her arms around her little girl, and she begged her forgiveness for her thoughtless anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later, and it is told that the mother kept that gold box by her bed for all the years of her life.

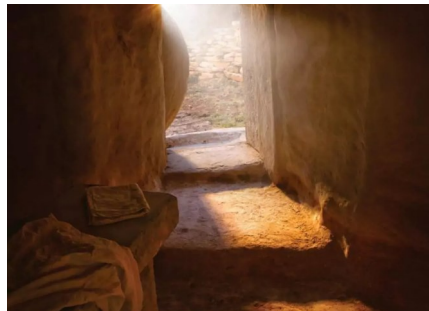
Whenever she was discouraged or faced difficult problems, she would open the box and take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us, as human beings, have been given a Golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends, and GOD. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

~Author Unknown~

Psalm 127:3-5 – Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them.

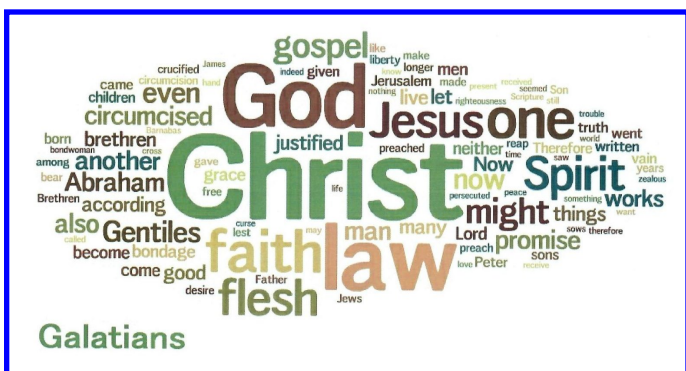
"The gates of Hades shall not prevail against it"



When Jesus promised that He would "build My church" (an immutable guarantee of the establishment of a single church within the lifetime of His disciples [Mark 9:1] that would belong to Christ), He also promised that "the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18). There is an interesting parallel that Jesus' promise has to the prophecy of Daniel, in which was stated that the Lord's kingdom "shall never be destroyed" (Dan. 2:44). The gates of death or the power of death would certainly never wipe the church from the face of the earth.

However, the words of Jesus seem to point more toward Himself and His own death. After making this promise, Jesus began to speak of His crucifixion and tied that to His coming kingdom (Matt. 16:21-28). The "pains of death" and the gates of "Hades" could not hold the Son of God (Acts 2:24-31). He would be raised and His church would be established, and there was NOTHING that the devil could do about it! Jesus said, "I will build My church/kingdom now, and I will keep it alive, and there is no one who can overpower it!" What a thought!

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



A Dozen Ways to Encourage Your Elders

The Lord's church is not some civic organization, some country club, or some ecclesiastical "big business." The Lord's church is the body of His people (Col. 1:18) and has Jesus Christ as its one and only head (Eph. 5:23). As prescribed in the New Testament, this family of God (1 Tim. 3:15) is to be overseen by and shepherded by a group of qualified men (1 Tim. 3:1-7) called "elders" (1 Pet. 5:1).

The responsibility of every church member is to honor (1 Tim. 5:17), respect (1 Thess. 5:12), esteem (1 Thess. 5:13), follow (1 Pet. 5:3; Heb. 13:7), submit to (Heb. 13:17) and obey (Heb. 13:17) those who "watch out" for their souls. Elders have a tremendous responsibility in their roles to oversee the church (and its various works, programs and teachings) and to shepherd the members (in their faith, their growth and their service to the Lord).

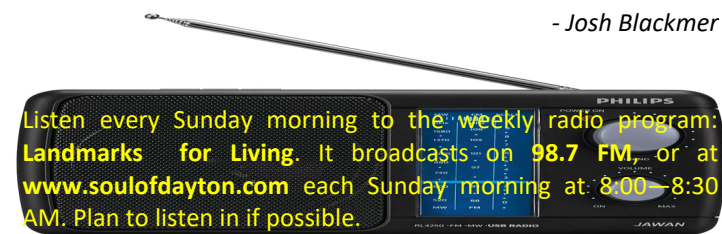
In our efforts to "encourage one another" (1 Thess. 5:11) in the family of God, what can a church member do to encourage its elders/shepherds? This is one of the most important considerations for any Christian. Here are some ready-made ideas to get you started:

1. Pray for them—individually, personally and by name.
2. Let them know that you are praying for them.
3. Thank them for all that they do as an elder and for the sacrifices that they make for the congregation.
4. Tell them how much you appreciate some decision or action that they took.
5. Invite them into your home for a visit or a meal.
6. Encourage their wives and be nice to their children.
7. Send them a note (even electronic one) of appreciation.

8. Take advantage of opportunities that they provide to grow in personal faith and in fellowship with the congregation.
9. Help them in their shepherding efforts by personally encouraging other members and reaching out to those who seem to be struggling or have strayed from the faith.
10. Defend them when they are unfairly criticized or when defamatory comments are made about them by others.
11. Praise them, their work and their decisions to other members of the congregation.
12. Once a year, send a personal, hand-written card to each elder and his wife, and perhaps even include a small gift.

Elders bear great responsibility in shepherding the flock of God. May we do all what we can to love them, encourage them and make their work a joy!

- Josh Blackmer



Elder/Pastor/Bishop/Shepherd Installation Process

- The interview team consisting of Walter Tolley, Patrick Cook, Norris Cole, Patrick Thomas and Anthony Grigsby has met with: Alfred Willis, Jr. and Richard Melson and recommended them for ordination.
- The men on 12/5/2021 approved this recommendation.
- These men will be presented to the congregation and congregation to the men, on 19 December, 2021 after the morning service. ☺

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); <https://fun1071.fm>; [soulofdayton.com](http://www.soulofdayton.com) (8:00 AM)
- 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