

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

Bible Class	27
Attendance AM	69
Attendance PM	31
Wednesday PM	37

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Prayer for Health:** Deonna Cole; Rachel Blanks; Reagan Blanks; Sherry Baker; Mary Sanders (at home); Walter Tolley; Victoria Dudley; Herman and Beulah Farmer; Katherine Willis; Samuel Jones (husband of Dollie Jones); Jerry and Linda Thomas; Jim Thomas (MVH); Otis and Glenna Adair; Clifford Holt; Richard & Florine Thomas; Jack and Carlene Harley;

**Traveling:** Norris Cole, II; Cooks

**Prayers:** Brethren in Ukraine

**Repentance:**

**Baptism:**

**Sympathy:** Dollie Jones and the Ballew family

**Birthdays: March**— 5 Brandon Lease; 6 Melody Angus; 9 Rita McGahee; 10 Samuel "Brandon" Jones; 11 Mary Vance; 17 Pat Norris; 18 Layne Vance; 27 Lyle Cole; 28 Cynthia Lease; 30 Timothy Angus, William Bogan

**Anniversaries: March** —

**Ladies Reading Group:** March 31 @ 6:00 PM

Chapter 4 via Zoom

March 20	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Patrick Cook	Patrick Cook
Song Leader	Lyle Cole	Jerry Thomas
Lead Lord's Supper	Steven Crane	Steven Crane
Server 1	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Server 2	Mike Mamula	Mike Mamula
Scripture Reader	James Grigsby	Frank Brock
Sermon	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Prayer for Responses	Elders / Preacher	Elders / Preacher
Closing Prayer	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Announcements	Walter Tolley	Walter Tolley
Greeter		
Usher		
Usher		

**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 03

March 20, 2022

Issue 12

## LET'S STAY FOCUSED

Roger D. Campbell

[www.needmoreroadcoc.com](http://www.needmoreroadcoc.com)  
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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.  
5:00 P.M.

1st Sunday No 5:00 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible Study  
7:00 P.M.

**Shepherds**

Richard D. Melson  
Alfred Willis, Jr.

**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
- 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

Some things that we do in life do not require special attention on our part. We can successfully complete some tasks while we have the radio blaring and are talking on the telephone at the same time. Other tasks, however, require us to be completely focused on what we are doing. One that drives a school bus had better keep his attention on the task at hand. The same goes for a doctor that is performing open-heart surgery or a restaurant worker that is pouring hot grease. In so many endeavors in life, for one to lose his focus can cause unpleasant results, even real disaster.

As Christians we, too, need to stay focused. We need to always keep in mind who we are, what our purpose in life is, and where we are headed. If we fail to keep our focus, we will soon get off course and into great spiritual danger. On what should the children of God stay focused? Though there may be many correct responses to that question, we want to point out three obvious answers.

**For one thing, God's children must stay focused on Jesus.** After all, He is the One whom we are following! Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (Jn. 10:27). If we are to "follow his steps" (1 Pet. 2:22), then we need to pay attention to where His steps lead us. Yes, it is "Follow the Leader," but it is not a game. On that occasion when Peter walked on water toward Jesus, in the beginning he walked with no problem. Every indication is that at first he was focused on Jesus and not the strong wind. However, when Peter "saw the wind boisterous" his attention stayed on the potential danger and he was afraid (Matt. 14:29,30). Surely a key lesson from Peter's stroll is for us to keep our eyes focused on the Lord and not on the storms of life.

All of us are involved in so many activities in life. Some of them are activities at school, at work, or at home. Some of them may be personal acts of kindness or actually part of the work of the church. First century saints that were running "the Christian race" were exhorted to look "unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:1,2). May we ever be like the apostle Paul, who said of himself, "For to me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21). Let us all strive to do our best not to lose sight of the fact that Jesus needs to be the center of our focus. He died that we might live through Him. That ought to be on our minds each day.

**Second, followers of Jesus must stay focused on the word of God.** Today there is a push to get away from "too much Bible." We expect such from those outside of Christ. It is disheartening, though, to see such an attitude among brethren. Some 21st century saints spend little private time studying God's word and at the same time they want Bible classes turned into a social hour, shorter sermons, and bulletins that are filled with cute stories and social activities instead of Bible-related materials.

(continued on page three)

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

## Manna in the Morning

Picking up sticks in my yard seems to be a never ending job. With March winds blowing, the limbs and little branches just keep on falling. No matter how many I pick up, there are always more.

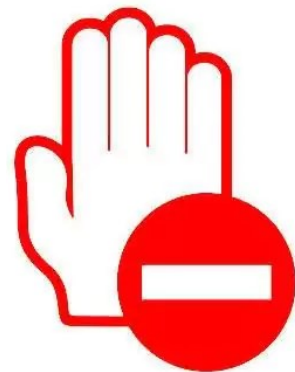
As I was picking up sticks the other day, I was reminded of how the children of Israel would go out each day to pick the manna. "And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it" (Numbers 11:9). "And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey" (Exodus 16:31). God miraculously fed his people with this marvelous food. It was to be picked up each morning, and lasted through the day, but would not last overnight, except for the Sabbath. When other food was available in the Promised Land, it ceased. "And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year" (Joshua 5:12).

What a blessing it was to Israel to be able to go out each day and get this life-sustaining food. And although they appreciated it, they also took it for granted from time to time. Moses explained why God gave them manna. "And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live" (Deuteronomy 8:3).

In John 6, Jesus compared Himself to that manna. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. ... Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (John 6:32-33, 47-51). Let us be sure that we never take for granted the blessing of our manna, Jesus Christ. !

- Bob Pritchard

## Trouble comes when "yet you say"



When the Old Testament comes to an end in the book of Malachi, there was much for the Jew (and now for the modern Bible reader) to learn. Without even looking at the specific instructions from the Lord and the specific rebukes that He issues to them, look at some simple wording used repeatedly in this short book.

In a book that only has 55 verses, the Bible student will read 26 times, "Says the Lord" (usually "says the Lord of hosts"). 26 times! On average, in almost every two verses, God is saying, "Says the Lord, Says the Lord, Says the Lord." Listen up, people! But, 8 times in this short book, after the Lord "says" what needs to be said to these sinful people, He follows that up by saying, "You say," and usually "Yet you say" (1:2, 6, 12; 2:14, 17; 3:8, 13).

When the Lord "says" what we need to hear, there is no room for "yet you say"! There is only room for "hearing" and "doing" (Matt. 7:24-27; Jas. 1:22-25). Otherwise, we've surely got trouble!

David Sproule  
Thought for the Day



## Melson's Musings ...



(continued from page one)

Brethren, we have got to keep our attention on the word of the living God! It is God's word that "is able to save" our souls (Jas. 1:21). Nothing else can do that. It is God's word that serves as a lamp for our feet and a light for our path (Psa. 119:105).

Nothing else can do that. It is God's word that can build us up and give us an inheritance among the sanctified (Acts 20:32). Nothing else can do that. Let us be like babies and "desire the sincere milk of the word that ye (we) may grow thereby" (1 Pet. 2:2). Keep this thought in mind: it is impossible to stay properly focused on Jesus without staying focused on His teaching. When some of Jesus' disciples left Him to walk no more with Him, Jesus turned to the apostles and asked, "Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life" (Jn. 6: 67,68). To turn away from Jesus was to turn away from the source of the words of life! Remember, Jesus said, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? (Lk. 6:46). Staying with Christ means staying with His word. And, keeping focused on Jesus includes staying focused on His word.

**Finally, followers of Jesus must stay focused on heaven.** Going to heaven when our earthly life is over - that is what all this is about! Going to heaven must be the goal that pushes us, the reward that drives us, the destination on which our attention is focused. By faith, Abraham "looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:10). He, along with Sarah, Isaac and Jacob desired "a better country, that is, an heavenly" place (Heb. 11:16). You and I must share that

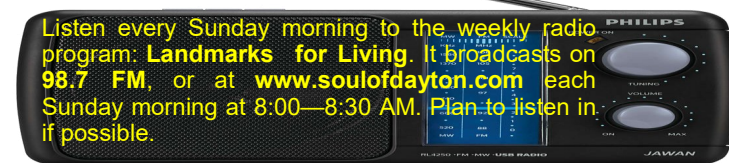
same longing. Hear the truth of II Timothy 2:4: "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." As soldiers of Christ, we must not allow ourselves to become entangled or bogged down with the affairs of this earthly life. We must keep our focus on heaven! Jesus taught His disciples, "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasurer is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:20,21). May our desires ever be set on things above, where Jesus sits at the right hand of God (Col. 3:1,2).

Satan would love to get us so distracted that we would not focus on that which we need to. May the Lord help us all to stay focused on Jesus, His word, and heaven as our final dwelling place. 📖

### SHEPHERD'S CORNER

- ☞ Please take advantage of the updated tracts along with other evangelism and study resources available in the foyer.
- ☞ We will soon be posting weekly attendance and contribution data in the auditorium.
- ☞ There will be a fence on the west side of the property to mitigate foot traffic and provide better security.

We have implemented new email addresses: The Office – office@nmrcoc.com; Preacher: dr.rdmelson@nmrcoc.com; alfred.willis@nmrcoc.com. Finance-finance@nmrcoc.com.



### 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); <https://fun1071.fm>; soulofdayton.com (8:00 AM)
- View: In Search of the Lord's Way— Dish- 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