

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Bible Class | 25 |
| Attendance AM | 73 |
| Attendance PM | 26 |
| Wednesday PM | 33 |

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Walter Tolley; Lavern Clayton (TLH); Donald Hoover; Rhea Wallace; Rachel Blanks; Reagan Blanks; Sherry Baker; Victoria Dudley; Herman and Beulah Farmer; Katherine Willis; Samuel Jones (husband of Dollie Jones); Jerry and Linda Thomas; Jim Thomas; Otis and Glenna Adair; Clifford Holt; Richard & Florine Thomas; Jack and Carlene Harley; Willie Walker (friend of Gilbert's)

Traveling: Norris Cole, II;

Prayers: Brethren in Ukraine

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy:

Birthdays: April— 8 Beulah Farmer, Dwayne Eslick; 11 Mary Sanders; 12 Diane Cole (Lyle); Jacob Hoover; 23 Norris Cole; 25 Carolyn Johnson; 30 Gladys Chittick

Anniversaries: April — 1 Otis & Glenna Adair; C.D. and Judy Arnett

Ladies Reading Group: April 14 @ 6:00 PM Chapter 4 via Zoom

| April 03 | BRETHREN TO SERVE AM | BRETHREN TO SERVE PM |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Opening Prayer | Patrick Thomas | Patrick Thomas |
| Song Leader | Michael Blanks | Jerry Thomas |
| Lead Lord's Supper | Walter Tolley | Walter Tolley |
| Server 1 | Patrick Cook | Patrick Cook |
| Server 2 | Denzil Turner, III | Norris Cole |
| Scripture Reader | James Grigsby | Lyle Cole |
| Sermon | Richard Melson | Richard Melson |
| Prayer for Responses | Elders / Preacher | Elders / Preacher |
| Closing Prayer | Ron Robbins | Frank Brock |
| Announcements | Richard Melson | Richard Melson |
| 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

April 03, 2022

Issue 14

www.needmoreroadcoc.com
Phone: (937) 274-6801
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

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

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
- Midwestern School of Preaching
- Central Carolina School of Preaching

WORKING TOGETHER TO SURVIVE THE HUNT

Neal Pollard

1 Peter 5:8 calls the devil a roaring lion prowling around seeking someone to devour. It is obvious that Peter's readers would have seen or at least heard about these kings of the jungle for the analogy to make sense and be practical. Lions lurk, longing for lunch.

In the savannas of East Africa, their meal of choice is usually either the wildebeest or zebra. Despite this, these two animals continue to graze and migrate together. In fact, because they are chief prey of the lion (and other big cats), they need to stick together. Various observers and experts give different explanations for why. Zebras have great farsightedness and the wildebeests have excellent peripheral vision, but each are poor at seeing what the other sees well. Others explain that wildebeests have mouths better suited for short grass while zebras' are made for the long grass that grow intermittently together on the plains. Still others point to the zebras superior memories, recalling the safety routes of the previous year, and the wildebeests uncanny ability to find water even when such is scarce. Probably, it is the combination of these facts that cause the symbiotic relationship between these two large mammals. They do not all survive, but the vast majority do. The reason is because they utilize their own abilities but also because they rely on the abilities of others.

In a letter where Peter is addressing a people who were at times spiritual prey, he does more than use the simba simile. He urges Christians to stick together and look out for one another. He calls for sincere, fervent, from the heart love for one another (1:22; 4:8). He urges complaint-free hospitality toward one another (4:9). He commands serving one another (4:10). He teaches there to be mutual humility displayed toward one another (5:5). He ends the letter exhorting an affectionate, loving greeting of one another (5:14). As much as anything, this is a recognition of mutual dependence.

If we understand that we are not at home in this world (2:11) and are living and longing for the inheritance in heaven (1:4), we should come to understand our mutual need of each other. That does not just mean looking for others' help, but also giving it. This is by God's design. Notice, for example, the proactive protection we provide each other by being *harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead...* (3:8-9a).

Right before the lion passage, Peter talks about different groups looking out for and helping each other (5:1-6).

(continued on page three)

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

Lent

Many in our religious community are engaged in “a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, almsgiving” and denial called Lent. Should we have joined them in this? Is it time for a self-indulgent society to embrace this as at least one thing we can do to show our devotion to God? Does it matter where this idea comes from, and what it requires?

Lent is a forty-day period between so-called “Ash Wednesday” (not a biblical day) and Easter (not a biblical day). It was introduced by Telsephorus, a bishop of Rome, in the second century. It was not widely accepted before the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. It was originally a forty-hour period of total fasting, but has changed over time. Those who practice it usually select something to “give up” for the time period.

A father chided his son for eating candy, when he had supposedly given up candy for Lent. “But Daddy,” the boy said, “you said you were giving up liquor for Lent, but I saw you drinking wine last night.” “Oh,” he said, “I just gave up hard liquor.” “Oh,” said the boy, “then I’ll give up hard candy!”

What’s wrong with giving up something as a religious exercise? Because we need a “thus saith the Lord” for whatever we do. Some time ago, one of our brethren ran an article in the newspaper with the title, “What the Bible says about Lent.” Underneath, it was completely blank!

Paul warned that one of the marks of apostasy would be to command “to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth” (1 Timothy 4:3). Jesus condemned the law making and forced traditions of the Pharisees: “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:8-9). The keeping of Lent is exactly the same thing—man’s law making of vain worship.

As God’s called out people, we have no business keeping Lent, joining in a community Lenten service, or encouraging others to participate in this practice that violates God’s word. Just consider the licentiousness of “Mardi Gras,” which precedes Lent. Obviously, God had no part in this religious practice.

- Bob Pritchard

Mending the broken



After a long day of fishing, the nets of the first century would become stretched and broken in places. If nothing was done about it, future endeavors to catch fish would result in fish just slipping through the nets. So, every day faithful fishermen would spend time “mending their nets,” so that they could continue to catch and keep the fish in their nets (Matt. 4:21).

The same Greek word for “mending” is found in Galatians 6:1, in an instruction to New Testament Christians. “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness...” The word “restore” involves that same concept as “mending” the nets. Do you know that Christians can sometimes “slip through the cracks”? How is that? They get “caught in” sin but no one notices or works to help put them back together and make them complete again in Christ. Fellow Christian, we need to work every day like those fishermen, gently trying to mend and restore those Christians who have fallen into sin.

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson’s Musings ...



(continued from page one)

Any of us, through suffering, temptation, doubt, or some other factor, could drift away from the safety and security of the fold. Let us be more than mindful of each other. Let us depend on each other to survive the hunt and make it to eternal safety. I will face the lion many times in this life, and I depend on you to help me survive.

Timeless Truth

Last week I was blessed to attend the fifty-fifth annual Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship. The theme was Timeless Truth. In the words of B.J. Clarke, the lectureship and book, “is sent forth with the unabashed conviction that God’s Word is Truth, the absolute Truth for mankind (John 17:17). We affirm that God’s Word is Timeless Truth!”

Great lessons were presented by sound men of the faith from all over the country. Second year preacher students (soon to graduate) gave fine talks daily in chapel. One of those was Joshua Walker, oldest child of the late Don Walker. (Joshua will be preaching in Arkansas after graduation). Hearing these men reminds us that there are still faithful soldiers of the cross in America who have not bowed down to Baal.

Many friends send greetings to Needmore Road especially John Shannon, Glenn Hitchcock, Mike Vestal; Scott Cain, Terrance Brownlow-Dindy and Bo Gooch (second student we help support).

I heartily commend the book to you as well as the lessons via DVD/CD. The lectures address Timeless Truth about

The Truth; Timeless Truth About Deity; Timeless Truth About Creation; Timeless Truth About Redemption; Timeless Truth About the Church; Timeless Truth For the Church; Timeless Commands From God to Men; Timeless Promises from God to Man; Timeless Warning from God to Man; Timeless Truth For Men; and Timeless Truth For Women.

We will have a noon meal followed by service at 1:30 PM today; there is no 5:00 PM worship service today.

SHEPHERD’S CORNER

- ☞ We appreciate everyone who supported the gospel meeting last week.
- ☞ The Elders will meet with the men on Saturday April 9 at 9:00 AM
- ☞ The Elders will meet with the congregation April 10 after morning service.
- ☞ 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 a register board.

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.wvvs.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 (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