

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	24
Attendance AM	77
Attendance PM	24
Wednesday PM	39

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Nancy Weimer (MVH); Hoover family; Norris Cole family; Rhea Wallace; Rachel & McKenzie Blanks; Tally Poole; Ruby Cole; Katherine Willis; Jim Thomas; Otis & Glenna Adair; Clifford Holt; Richard & Florine Thomas; Geraldine Allen (LA); Eion Lusi (Children’s Medical); Patrick Cook (knee)

Traveling: Richard Melson, Jr.; Norris Cole, II

Prayers:

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy:

Birthdays: September — 3— Ruby Holt; 5 Michael Blanks, Jr. ; 27 Christina Barnes; 29 Florine Thomas;

Anniversaries: September — 1 Chris and Tally Poole; 27— Samuel and Dollie Jones

Ladies Reading Group: Sept. 15 @6:00 PM via Zoom Lesson 9

Potter Children’s Home:

September 11	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Song Leader	Patrick Cook	Patrick Cook
Lead Lord’s Supper	Steven Crane	Steven Crane
Server 1	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Server 2	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Scripture Reader	Denzil Turner, III	Lyle Cole
Sermon	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Prayer for Responses	Elders / Preacher	Elders / Preacher
Closing Prayer	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Announcements	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Greeter	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
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

September 11, 2022

Issue 36

THE DECEPTIVENESS OF THE GRADUAL

Drew Kizer

No one become overweight overnight. No one shows signs of aging within an hour’s time. A man does not suddenly become disenchanted with his wife. A good leader doesn’t go bad all in one day’s time.

Consider the following examples:

A) King Saul started with great potential: “There was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he” (1 Sam. 9:2). But visit Saul later in life and you will find him consulting witches and committing suicide! His downfall was not sudden; he was a victim of the deceptiveness of the gradual.

B) It must have been shocking for the church at Ephesus to hear they had left their “first love” (Rev. 2:4). They started out well; they accomplished many good works, but over time the fire died in their hearts.

C) When Samson was confronted by Philistines he boasted, “I’ll go out as at any other time. I’ve taken care of these fellows before!” But he did not know that the Lord had left him (Jd. 16:20).

The deceptiveness of the gradual fools Christians and churches all the time. Try and warn them and they will say, “What doom? What danger? Nothing has changed. We are the same as we always were.” Years of doing “spiritual business as usual” can sap saints of their fervor and zeal.

You don’t have to be a casualty in Satan’s ploy of gradual unfaithfulness. Here’s how to avoid the deception:

Pray daily. Don’t let it become routine. Pray as if you believe your prayers are reaching the very throne of God! (1 Jn. 5:14-15).

Spend time with God’s Word on a daily basis. This is where the direction and inspiration for your life is found.

Take stock of your motivation. Why do you go to church? Why do you worship? Why are you a Christian? Why do you teach Bible classes? Why do you contribute to the Lord’s work? Are you doing these things to be seen of men, or because you love God? (2 Cor. 5:14).

The Ephesians needed to reverse course and get back to their “first love.” What about you? Have you fallen to the deceptiveness of the gradual? 📖

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.

Preacher

Richard D. Melson
937-321-3973
dr.rdmelson@yahoo.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

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

“I’m A Trifle Deaf, You Know”



Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. (1809-1894) was a writer and physician, and the father of Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. Dr. Holmes, Sr. loved to be flattered, and in his old age he took advantage of his loss of hearing to get more flattery. When someone would compliment him, he would say, “I am a trifle deaf, you know. Do you mind repeating that a little louder.” The usual result was a repeated and broadened compliment, A LITTLE LOUDER. Who among us does not like to be praised and flattered? Praise is valuable, but we have to be careful with flattery. When Eddie Haskel “complimented” Mrs. Cleaver on the old Leave it to Beaver show, his flattery was dripping with insincerity. Someone has said, “Flattery is like chewing gum – enjoy it briefly, but don’t swallow it.”

On the other hand, though, sincere praise and commendation may be just what many of us need. One of the great servants in the early church was a man named Joses, a Levite from Cyprus, who “having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet” (Acts 4:37). Because of his great works in the kingdom, the apostles renamed him Barnabas, or “son of encouragement” (Acts 4:36).

This Levite from Cyprus had a tremendous effect on the early church. “For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord” (Acts 11:24). Without his influence, the church at Jerusalem might have never accepted Paul (Acts 9:27). His work as a missionary was invaluable to the spread of the gospel. He was able to have such a significant impact because he was an encourager.

The world, and the church, are both filled with people who just need to hear a good word some time. Many struggle through day after day, unable to see anything or anyone to cheer them on their way. You could just make someone’s day, just by saying the right thing. They don’t need dishonest flattery, but honest encouragement and appreciation could make such a great difference. We’re all “a trifle deaf” when it comes to hearing compliments and good things. I challenge you to be a Barnabas this week!

- Bob Prichard

Why the church of Christ?



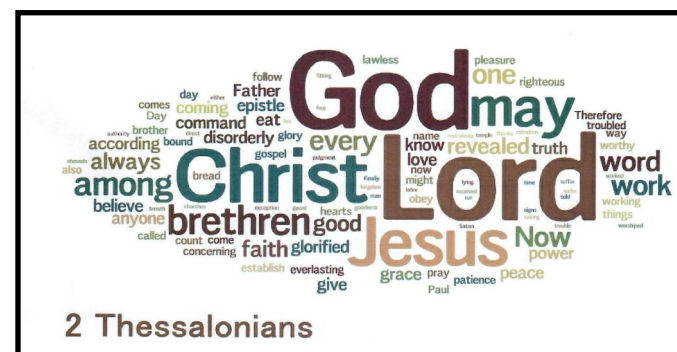
Has someone ever asked you why you are part of the church that you are? There are surely many reasons that someone could offer (and often, very personal reasons) to that kind of question, but can I ask you to think about something? If someone asked you the reason you are part of your church, could you answer, “Because it’s the one you read about in the Bible?”

Think about the simplicity but also the certainty of that answer. The Bible teaches that there is “one church” (Eph. 1:22-23+4:4). Is your church that church? The church that is in the Bible remained steadfast in teaching the “one faith” (Eph. 4:5), the pure “doctrine of Christ” (2 John 9-11), without any kind of addition, subtraction or modification (Gal. 1:6-9; Rev. 22:18-19).

The church in the Bible preached the same message everywhere (1 Cor. 1:10; 4:17; 7:17; 14:33; 16:1). The church in the Bible worshiped in the same way (Acts 2:42; 20:7) and taught the same plan of salvation (Acts 2:38; 8:35-39; 16:30-34; 22:16; Rom. 10:13-17; etc.).

Is your church the one that’s in the Bible? Are you absolutely certain?

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson’s Musings ...




God’s Help With Life’s Struggles

During last 15 weeks on Wednesday evening it was the intent of the teaching program to focus on a specific subject which impacts our daily lives, but from a Biblical worldview with the goal of learning what is God’s solution to this issue. To borrow the words of Balaam, let me live the life of the righteous and die the death of the righteous (Num 23:10). It is true that in order to die the death of the righteous you must live that life.

I pray that we each will review the material presented during the 2022 Summer Series; study it and put it into action as is warranted in your life.

Daily may we say, “I will lift up my eyes to the hills—From whence come my help? My help come from the Lords, who made heaven and earth. (Psa. 121:1); because we cry out “I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.” (Psa. 116:1-2).

Brethren, there is great day coming, none will be able to escape, we each must ask the question “Are you ready? Are you ready for the judgment day?”

No matter what the problems are in life, God has the answer(s). We may not know His solution, but we can rest assured that His solution will always be better than ours (Rom. 3:4; Tit. 1:2). God knows what is best for us because He created us and only wants what is best for (2 Pet. 3:9; John 3:16). 

SHEPHERDS CORNER

- ☞ 12th Annual Greater Midwest Lectureship—September 30—October 1. Plan to attend.
- ☞ If you have a question from any of the Summer Series lessons and would like for the speaker to address it, please submit it to the office and it will get forwarded to the speaker.
- ☞ Join other members every third Sunday of each month for a Fellowship Breakfast **starting at 8:30 am until 9:15 am** in the Fellowship Hall, consisting of pastry, fruit cups, coffee, and orange or apple juice. (*We ask do not take the drinks or food into the auditorium*).
- ☞ **COVID-19** remains a serious issue, therefore we encourage everyone to continue to practice **good hygiene**. **Do not let your guard down**. Wash your hands regularly. If you need to wear a mask, wear a mask. If you are sick stay home. Should you become infected with COVID-19, especially if you were in the assembly, please let us know.
- ☞ The **exterior doors** will be getting repaired and hardware updated. There will a handicap button added to door #2 (inside and out).
- ☞ For security reasons doors will be locked about 15 minutes after the start of service. There will be someone at the door to let in those who might arrive late.
- ☞ **September 17th**— There will be another Active Aggressor training session, 9:00 AM— 10:30 AM



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- Sunday 7:00 am Channel 239; DirecTV Channel 307; GBN 7 PM
- Check out Telstar 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