

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	52
Attendance AM	88
Attendance PM	41
Wednesday PM	28

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Anthony Grigsby (eye); Jace Vance; Nancy Weimer; Chris Poole @home recovering from hip replacement; Ruby Cole; Jim Thomas; Otis & Glenna Adair; Clifford Holt; Richard & Florine Thomas; Geraldine Allen (LA); Eion Lusi (Children's Medical); Patrick Cook (knee); Levi Cook; Victoria Dudley (sinus infection); C.D. Arnette (foot/leg infection); Brenda Mamula; Betty Blakely @ MVH (North)

Traveling: Mozilla Tate; Richard Melson, Jr.; (work); Norris Cole, II; Lyle Cole; Norris Cole family

Prayers:

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy:

Birthdays: October — 2 Virginia Robbins; 5 Rhea Wallace; 6 Kevin Gilbert; 9 Victoria Dudley; 13 Norris Cole, II; 14 Patrick Cook; 16 Judy Arnett; 17 Dollie Jones, Nancy Weimer; 26 Caden Vance;

Anniversaries: October — None

Ladies Reading Group: Oct. 13 @6:00 PM via Zoom Lesson 11

Potter Children's Home: Donation Cans on October 16th

October 09	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Song Leader	Patrick Cook	Patrick Cook
Lead Lord's Supper	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Server 1	James Grigsby	Denzil Turner, III
Server 2	Ryan McGahee	Anthony Grigsby
Scripture Reader	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Sermon	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Prayer for Responses	Elders / Preacher	Elders / Preacher
Closing Prayer	C.D. Arnett	C.D. Arnett
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

October 09, 2022

Issue 40

THE CHURCH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Oran Rhodes

Now that we have stepped into the twenty-first century, we need to realize that indeed, as far as the church is concerned, we are entering a time in which the church is facing challenges never experienced before in the lifetime of any who now are living. We have come to a point where the majority within the church has never experienced the conviction, mindset, and enthusiasm for work that was recognized in the first half plus of the twentieth century. It was not that the church did not face problems from within during that period. Doctrinal controversies arose over pacifism, premillennialism, congregational cooperation in support of benevolence and evangelism, etc.; however, in every one of these cases, it was a dispute over biblical teaching. As the century came to a close, there had been over the previous thirty years additional doctrinal disruptions over spiritual gifts, divorce and remarriage, the Holy Spirit, plus a number of other issues. All of these are going to take place from time to time within the church because of the diversity of people and backgrounds, or because of the lack of proper instruction, or because of the contrariness of a few. All of the aforementioned challenges were not new. Each of these can be handled scripturally by all who accept the Bible as the final authority in matters of doctrine and practice.

The very problem of the early twenty-first century, however, is that the final authority of the Bible is not now the ultimate answer to all matters of faith. We have been heading this way for some time, but mark my word, that the difficulties in the ensuing years will be the failure of those within the church to accept the final authority of the Bible in doctrine and practice. All one needs to do today is to read the reasoning of those who have established community churches, or who seek to justify inserting mechanical instruments of music in worship, or having praise teams, or becoming a social agency to reach every stray in society, not with the gospel, but with the social acceptance. I have left out many of the manifestations of the modern day digression, but these should suffice to demonstrate that the reason these challenges cannot be solved is the same reason it is so difficult to talk to members of a cult. If the Bible is not the authority, there is no standard by which a reasonable discussion can take place.

Instead of being a hard-nosed legalist, one who seeks to be guided by what God has instructed us to do and not by what He has not said, is simply a submissive and faithful servant. To do otherwise is open rebellion against heaven. What man likes too often has little to do with what God wants, as the Bible is replete in examples. Now that we have entered the twenty-first century, we do not need a "new" vision or a reinterpretation of the Bible to fit our needs. We do need honest exegesis of the Word of God, to not be hung up on man's traditions, and to crucify self-desires and interests. It is little wonder that many congregations still wearing the name Church of Christ are little more than religion-oriented circuses or that those congregations who seek to maintain truth as the standard of belief and behavior have shrunk significantly in size in the past few years. Some congregations have lethargy as the problem, but much of the change has to do with the lack of appeal to the modern self-centeredness. The challenge to the church now in the twenty-first century is to firmly ground those members they have in the truth and not be willing to compromise to reach people for numbers sake. That means the appeal must remain spiritual and scriptural and those who desire those qualities for their lives will be attracted to the church. Anything less than that and what of value can the church of the twenty-first century offer? (March 2008)

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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.

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

God's Dividing Line

When the Israelites had made an idol and worshipped it, the Lord punished them (Exodus 32).

Moses said, "Whoever is on the Lord's side—come to me! And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves to him" (Exodus 32:26). That day God had a dividing line. God has often used water as a dividing line.

The Flood: The Dividing Line between the Old and the New (Genesis 6:5–7, 17). In response to wickedness, God destroyed the world with a flood (Genesis 6:17). However, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Genesis 6:8). Note how he responded to the news of impending doom (Genesis 6:22; 7:5). What consequences did obedience bring about in Noah's life? He was not unprepared for judgment (Matthew 24:37–39). He moved with godly fear and saved his household (Hebrews 11:7).

The Red Sea: The Dividing Line between Bondage and Freedom (Exodus 14:1–31). During the life of Joseph, the children of Israel enjoyed years of prosperity and peace. However, there arose a Pharaoh who did not know Joseph (Exodus 1:8). He made life bitter for the Israelites (Exodus 1:9–14). When the children of Israel groaned because of their harsh conditions, the Lord heard their cry (Exodus 2:23–24; 3:7). In their deliverance, the Lord tested the Israelites as he led them to what seemed to be a trap. The Lord parted the Red Sea and the Israelites went across in freedom. What was the driving influence behind the people's obedience to cross the Red Sea? It was faith in the Lord (Hebrews 11:29). Once again, obedient faith allowed His people to cross His dividing line.

The Jordan River: The Dividing Line between Naaman's Leprosy and Divine Cure (2 Kings 5:1–14). Naaman was a great Syrian commander who also had the favor of the Lord because He had given him victory. He was a man of honor and valor. However, he had a major setback in his health. He was a leper (2 Kings 5:1). To be cured of his leprosy, Naaman had to dip in the Jordan River.

The Principle: God Expects Us to Respond in Faithful Obedience. In all three examples, obedience was the key. Water is still God's dividing line. God demands obedience to the gospel by being baptized (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

What about you? Have you crossed God's dividing line? There are blessings waiting for you (Ephesians 1:3). Jesus has gone to prepare a place for those who have responded in faithful obedience to the Lord (John 14:3).

—Gus Nichols

House to House /Heart to Heart
Vol. 22 No 6

Justifying sin!

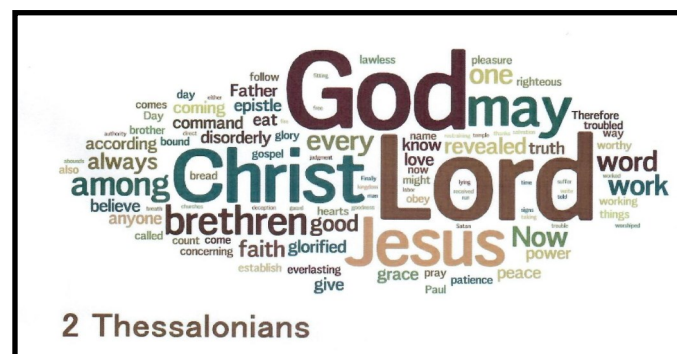


It is so hard to watch people we love get wrapped up in sin! It breaks our hearts (sometimes it feels like it's literally breaking). Sometimes our conscience gets so bothered by it that we may even try to relieve our conscience by finding an acceptable explanation. We might say things like, "He's still a good person, just a little mixed up right now." "At least she's happy, that's what matters." "God knows their hearts, and I'll let Him sort things out. Who am I to judge?"

We may try to explain it away, but when our efforts to soften our own hurt have run their course, the reality remains that sin is still sin. After talking about the progression of sin and its severe consequences, James says, "Do not be deceived" (Jas. 1:16). Paul says, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

It hurts deeply when a loved one gets entangled in sin, but let us not make it worse (for them or for us or for others) by trying to make anything other than what it is—pure "lawlessness" (1 John 3:4).

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



12th Annual Greater Midwest Lectureship

Now that the lectureship is over it is my prayer that we just do not offer a sigh or relief or simply issue forth a check mark on the to-do list. Yes we can say that another congregational objective has been successfully met, and this is good. But more importantly I need to make sure to apply that which was learned to my life.

We have met new brethren, identified faithful congregations where we might worship when traveling away from Dayton.

Spiritual growth occurs when the Christian studies and properly applies the word of God to his life (Heb. 5:12-14; 1 Pet. 2:1-3).

Here we are in the kingdom of Christ, at this time in 2022. We should thank God for allowing us to be in the kingdom at this time and for being able to be used for His glory and His cause. It does us no good to murmur or whine about everything, nor constantly bemoan about how it used be. The days of the past are gone, never to be seen again, the future is unknown to us; we have today and must live for God in it (Jam. 4:13ff).

Please mark in your calendars October 6-8, 2023 for the 13th Annual Midwest Lectureship—For Such A Time As This—Part 2. We will address an additional ten lessons which were not able to be studied this year. If the Lord blesses us to be here next year, we hope for an even better lectureship for His glory and our edification. 📖

SHEPHERDS CORNER

- ☞ We thank every member who helped make the 12th Annual GML a success. Those helped prepare the facility, to those handled the food both days, and others. We thank everyone who attended! Your presence in the assembly is to be commended.
- ☞ **November gospel meeting** with Hiram Kemp of Bowling Green, KY. November 6-10, 2022.
- ☞ **Song Practice:** Starting October 26, on the last Wednesday of the month there will be congregational song practice at 7:00 PM.
- ☞ 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).* **The October breakfast will be the last.**
- ☞ The exterior doors will be getting repaired and hardware updated. There will a handicap button added to door #2 (inside and out).
- ☞ The stall doors in the men's restroom will be repaired.
- ☞ **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.



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 (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