

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

Bible Class	30
Attendance AM	67
Attendance PM	35
Wednesday	31

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Prayer for Health:** C.D. Arnett; Ron Robbins; Janis Bland (broken toe); Chris Poole in PT for hip replacement; Ruby Cole; Jim Thomas (Soin Medical); Otis & Glenna Adair; Clifford Holt (eye surgery); Richard & Florine Thomas; Levi Cook; Betty Blakely; Frank Cook

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

**Prayers:** DeWayne Eslick and family traveling

**Repentance:**

**Baptism:**

**Sympathy:**

**Birthdays: December** — 11 Nina Netherton; 15 Dwayne Eslick, Sr., Dana Grigsby, Richard Melson; 18 Mike Blakley; 24 Mia Gilbert; 26 Theresa Wallace

**Anniversaries: December** — None

**Ladies Reading Group:** Dec. 29 @6:00 PM via Zoom Lesson 1

**Potter Children's Home:**

December 25	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Steven Crane	Steven Crane
Song Leader	Lyle Cole Sr	Jerry Thomas
Lead Lord's Supper	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Server 1	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Server 2	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Scripture Reader	Denzil Turner, III	Frank Brock
Sermon	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Prayer for Responses	Elders / Preacher	Elders / Preacher
Closing Prayer	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
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

December 25, 2022

Issue 51

## A TIME FOR REFLECTION

Dan Jenkins

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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](mailto: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

Is there any better time for reflection than the end of a year? In one week the year 2022 will be history. We are one year closer to the time of our death and one year closer to determining where we will spend eternity. Consider the following thoughts which seem so timely as this year comes to a close.

**Are you numbering your days?** This question comes from a consideration of Psalm 90. "The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years . . . so teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." So many fail to sense the reality of their coming death. It may be hard for someone at 25 to think they have lived a third of their lives or someone at 35 to understand they have lived half of theirs, but as this year comes to a close, count the days you have left!

**Have you forgotten His grace?** The end of a year provides a time to look backward to where each of us has lived. There are no degrees of being lost. Each of us, in the past, was just as vile and lost as mass murders or child molesters. It is by His grace we live. Peter described what was happening in the lives of some Christians in his day. They had become Christians but had become barren and unfruitful and were spiritually blind. What had happened? What could cause a man to arrive at such a situation? He had ". . . forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sin" (2 Pet. 1:8-9). When we glory in our own "goodness" we lose sight of His. Have you forgotten His grace?

**Have you buried the past?** Obviously, one can never forget the past, but far too many live in guilt and have the lowest self-esteem. We must learn to live in the present and let God deal with what has passed. He has forgotten it and so must we. Paul described himself as the chief of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15), who had become what he was by God's grace (1 Cor. 15:10). Look at this principle by which he lived: "But one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal . . ." (Phil. 3:13-14). A new year awaits each of us. The old one must be forgotten, for there is a new year before us with greater opportunities and challenges!

**You alone will determine what kind of year you will have in 2023.** A precious brother (Harold Pack) told me when he awoke each day he had a decision to make. "Will I have a good day or a bad one? I may have headaches and pain, but I can have the best headache day I could possibly have." Apply that to 2023. It will likely have adversity, but your attitude towards problems determines if the year will be a good year or bad one! 📖

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

## Love is Sugar

A lady prepared to bake a blueberry pie, only to discover she had no sugar. So she began to search through her recipes for a pie that required no sugar. She tried apple, cherry, peach, banana, pineapple, chocolate, etc., only to find they all called for sugar. Finally, she concluded that you just do not make a pie without sugar.

What sugar is to pie, love is to Christian service. You just do not have service that honors Jesus Christ without love. No matter how you try to serve Jesus without love, your service will leave a “bad taste” with others.

If we have not love we are left with pride, impatience, envy, greed, rudeness, and irritability.

Even a little service with love means more to Jesus and others than a lot of activity without it.

The world needs more warm hearts and fewer hot heads. The fellow who is deeply in love with himself should get a divorce. Love looks through a telescope, envy, through a microscope. Happiness is a healthy mental attitude, a grateful spirit, a clear conscience, and a heart full of love.

--The Black Creek Courier, Middleburg, FL

## 10 Things To Remember

1. You have a purpose in life – use it, Gen. 1:26.
2. You are somebody’s child – respect your legacy, Proverbs 4:1.
3. You will make many mistakes – God has an eraser, Rom. 3:23.
4. Every person has a soul – honor all men, 1 Peter 2:17.
5. Cling tightly to gratitude - avoid materialism, Matt. 16:26.
6. Wasted energy can never be recycled – stay focused, Phil. 1:21.
7. There are always good things to meditate on – seek them out, Phil. 4: 8-9.
8. Relationships are never really broken as long a mediator exists, 1 Tim. 2:5.
9. Never place a timetable on grief/sorrow – there are no timetables in eternity, Rev. 22:5.
10. There will always be someone to encourage – start now, Eph. 5:15.

- Glenn Hitchcock

## Numb?



One of the most heinous acts in history involved the worship of the god Molech, a heathen god to which children were sacrificed. It would be nice to say that only heathens ever sacrificed children to this god, but even God’s people turned from Him and offered their children as sacrifices in the fires of Molech (1 Kgs. 11:5-7, 33; Jer. 32:35). How could a people, who knew God and knew the preciousness of children in His sight, ever approve of such depravity?

We stand here 2,500 to 3,000 years later, and it’s easy to point the finger. But how many precious, innocent children (yet unborn) have been sacrificed to the god of “choice,” “convenience,” “humiliation,” “selfishness,” etc.? Why does this not sicken us like the sacrificing of children to Molech? How can a Christian (someone who belongs to the living God and claims a love for God) show any ounce of approval? How is every child of God not filled with rage at the nonchalant attitude in our society toward the crushing dismemberment and murder of little babies? Have we become numb to sin? God help us to wake up!

David Sproule  
Thought for the Day

## Melson’s Musings ...



### A Time For Reflection

During the final days of the wilderness wanderings, the great leader Moses delivered his final address to the Israelites. Among those things that he said were the following words: “The eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year” (Deut. 11: 12). Moses' words were in reference to the land that the people would enter to possess, and their ongoing relationship to this land and to God who gave it to them. (cf. Deut. 11:11). Moses' words here are also appropriate as we complete the annual journey from the current to the new year. They are words that provide a timely reminder of two basic aspects of the New Year.

1. **WHAT GOD WILL DO.** Moses reassured the Israelites of God's care for them from the beginning of the year even to the end of it. As you and I face the unknowns and uncertainties of a new year, we need to be reassured of the providential care of God. This care is reflected in four words God has often repeated to His people: “I AM WITH YOU” (cf. Gen. 26:24; 28:15; Isa. 41:10; Matt. 28:20, et al).

Both the end of the current year and the start of a new year is a time to remember that “the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard” (Isa. 52:12). Jehovah has promised to go before us, be behind us, and within us, as a source of strength (Eph. 3:16; cf. Heb. 13:5-6) if we remain faithful to Him.

2. **WHAT WE MUST DO.** Moses' words (Deut. 11: 12ff) are also a challenge at the crossroads of the current and new year for us to obey the Lord (v. 13), love the Lord (v. 13), serve the Lord (v. 13), walk with the Lord (v. 22), holdfast to the Lord (v. 22), and teach the Lord's words (v. 19). God has promised to be with us and do His part. We must do our part.

Norman Vincent Peale reported an incident from his boyhood that occurred on the last day of 1910. His father, a minister, was writing his final letter of that year. At the top of the letter he wrote, “Dec. 31, 1910.” Then he turned to his son and said, “Norman, that's the last time I shall write 1910. Tomorrow I shall write 'January 1, 1911.'” Norman asked, “Papa, what do you think 1911 will be like?” His father replied, “Norman, it will be just exactly what you, I and God do with it... That goes for every year you'll ever live.”

2023 will be what you, I and God do with it. God will do His part. May He strengthen us to do our part. 📖

## SHEPHERDS CORNER

- ☞ **Flu & Covid19:** The flu and COVID-19 remain 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.
- ☞ **Spring Gospel Meeting Dates:** March 12 –17, 2023
- ☞ **Text-To-Give:** Those members who desire to use the **Text-To-Give** on Sundays follow the directions below:

— The Elders

Text to Give: (844) 542-1443  
Specific Amount: Text "GIVE (AMOUNT)"

### First-Time Donor Setup

Initial donations can be completed in less than 60 seconds.

1. Donors text "GIVE" to 844-542-1443.
2. New donors will receive a link in a text message to a secure online donation form to enter basic contact info, donation details, and credit card and payment info to complete their donation.
3. Donors will receive a confirmation via text message.
4. An email receipt will be sent within 30 minutes.



Listen every Sunday morning to the weekly radio program: **Landmarks for Living**. It broadcasts on **98.7 FM**, or at **www.soulofdayton.com** each Sunday morning at 8:00—8:30 AM. Plan to listen in, if possible.

## 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