

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	28
Attendance AM	85
Attendance PM	41
Wednesday PM	38

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Richard Melson; C.D. Arnett; Phil Tydings; Carlene Harley; Mary Rutland; Ron Robbins; Janis Bland; Ruby Cole; Jim Thomas; Otis & Glenna Adair; Clifford Holt; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely; Katherine Willis

Traveling: Richard Melson, Jr. & Valerie Melson; Norris Cole, II; Mozilla Tate; Richard Melson

Prayers:

Repentance:

Baptism: Edison Jaramilio Varon (Hispanic work)

Sympathy: Valerie Melson & family

Birthdays: February — 4 Betty Blakely; 13 Tena Eslick; 16 Frank Brock; 18 Katherine Willis; 21 Catherine Anderson, Jerry Thomas; 22 Brenda Wiley

Anniversaries: February— None

Ladies Reading Group: Feb. 9 @6:00 PM via Zoom Lesson 2

Potter Children's Home:

February 05	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Alfred Willis	Alfred Willis
Song Leader	Michael Blanks, Jr	Patrick Cook
Lead Lord's Supper	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Server 1	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Server 2	Lyle Cole	Lyle Cole
Scripture Reader	Denzil Turner, III	Anthony Grigsby
Sermon	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Prayer for Responses	Lyle Cole	Lyle Cole
Closing Prayer	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Announcements	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
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 04

February 05, 2023

Issue 06

BE A CONFORMIST !

Rick Brumback

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.

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

There are those who believe that if anything has become conventional or standard, it must be rejected in favor of the "original". Evidently whatever is normal for the mainstream of society is put off, and pains are taken to express individuality in bold strokes that are sometimes shocking. Conformity and nonconformity are neither good nor bad inherently. What determines the acceptability of these terms is the standard either rejected or embraced. The apostle Paul said that we are not to be conformed to the pattern of this world, Romans 12:2. In this regard, nonconformity is desirable. However, for all the staunch, rebellious individualists out there, I would like to introduce a situation in which conformity is not only desirable, but imperative.

When we approach God, we need to conform to His standard, the Gospel, in two fashions. The first involves our mind. We all know people that are so set in their ways that a crowbar could not pry them loose. The mind becomes fixed in a certain mode of operation, a particular pattern of thinking, so that we are reluctant to change. We need to remember, however, that whatever our pattern for thought, our lives follow where our mind goes. Proverbs 23:7 says that as a man thinks in his heart (the Bible heart is the mind), so is he. What we think, we do. What shall we think and do? King Solomon stated, "There is away which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death," Proverbs 14:12. The first challenge of conformity therefore becomes the act of changing our thinking to conform to God's view of things. For example, some people think that any method of worship should be acceptable to God. Jesus stated in John 4:24, however, that God has a particular standard of worship in mind. We are to worship in spirit and in truth, referring to God's truth, not man's. Therefore, to worship in a fashion acceptable to God, we must begin by thinking like God with respect to worship. In Philippians 2:5, Paul said we are to think like Christ; in 1Corinthians 2:16, he stated that the apostles had the mind of Christ. In one of the clearest instructions, Romans 12:2, we are told not to conform to the pattern of this world. That is the thinking we must shed. Instead, we are told to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. How are they renewed? By learning to think as the Gospel teaches. When we can evaluate what is sinful and what is not, according to the Word, then we have conformed to God's pattern of thinking. When we measure success in life in the same fashion as God, then we have conformed our thought patterns to those of the Gospel. This is the first step toward being acceptable before God. We learn His truth and then conform our thinking to it.

The second facet of conformity, and I believe the harder of the two, is to conform our lives to the truth which now shapes our thoughts. Paul points out that we had a manner of life in times past which fulfilled the desires of the flesh and of the mind, Ephesians 2:3. Although difficult, we must learn to curb the worldly habits and lifestyles we have cultivated over an extended period of time. It is easy to speak of averting our eyes and not

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

“The Wheelbarrow in the Garage”

Traveling preacher Billy Sunday (1862-1935) once said, “Going to church don’t make anybody a Christian, any more than taking a wheelbarrow into a garage makes it an automobile.” There is plenty of truth here. The land is filled with church-going people who are less than they should be. They claim to be Christians, but their lives don’t show it. In *The Scarlet Letter*, Nathaniel Hawthorne said that “No man, for any considerable period, can wear one face to himself, and another to the multitude, without finally getting bewildered as to which may be the true.” The hypocritical life eventually catches up with even the most skillful of hypocrites.

“Just” going to church will not make anyone a Christian, but neither does staying away from church make anyone any better. There are hypocrites at church each Sunday morning, but there are even bigger hypocrites staying home, pretending that what they are doing is more important than meeting with the saints for worship. Even if some of the saints seem to be “ain’ts,” why would anyone who claims to have any interest in the things of God not be in worship?

Hebrews 10:23-25 reminds us of our responsibilities in worship. “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” When we assemble together, we must consider one another by provoking to love and good works, as well as exhorting one another. Power words like “provoking” and “exhorting” indicates that this is serious business.

There's more to the story, though. The verses immediately following in Hebrews 10 warn, “For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?” (10:26-29). It is a serious thing to forsake the assembly of the saints!

- Bob Prichard

Why should it be incredible to you?

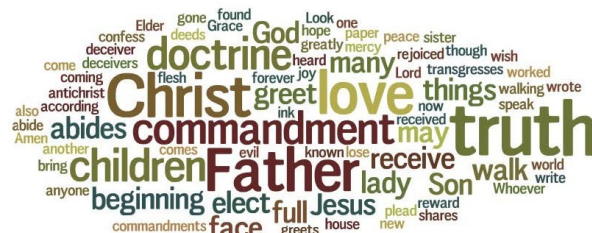


The apostle Paul had been arrested, imprisoned and confined without cause for well over two years because he preached “the resurrection of the dead” (Act 23:6; 24:21; 28:20). When he finally stood on trial before King Agrippa, Paul asked the question to the king and the multitude that was gathered, “Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?” (Acts 26:8). Think about that question.

If God is truly God, what is there that is “impossible” (Mark 10:27) for Him? What is there that He is not “able to do” (Eph. 3:20)? As the Almighty God “who made the world and everything in it” (Acts 17:24) and “who made you and formed you from the womb” (Isa. 44:2), why should it be thought incredible that God raises the dead or does any other mighty work?

Child of God, do not limit your God! Do not make Him fit your expectations! Do not demote Him or doubt His might! Why should it be incredible to you that He can make a difference in your life? !

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



2 John

Melson’s Musings ...



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lusting when tempted, but often the action itself is much harder to produce. The rich, young ruler, apparently long used to his possessions and wealth, understood Jesus' instructions to sell all and distribute the proceeds to the poor. What he found difficult was conforming his actions to these commands, Matthew 19:16-22. When Paul speaks of conversion he likens it to dying to our former life, Romans 6:11-13. Jesus said that "dying" in favor of another's interests was the highest form of love, John 15:13. As we change our thinking to conform to God's truth, and then change our patterns of living to conform to that truth, then we have died to self and live for Christ, Galatians 2:20.

Today, learn to think as God thinks, then learn to live according to that thinking. Conform in lifestyle, worship, hatred of sin, defining success, and all other aspects of life. To conform to the principles of Christianity is to please our Father and live. 📖

“I Promise”

I love the promises of Scripture. Paul wrote, “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us” (2 Cor. 1:20). Paraphrase: If God says He will do something, He will do it. F.B. Meyer said, “If any promise of God should fail, the heavens would clothe themselves with sackcloth . . . a hollow wind would moan through a ruined creation the awful fact that God can lie.” But God cannot lie . . . does not lie . . . will never lie!

Of all the promises, none is sweeter than the promise that God is with us. This promise was echoed by the writer of Hebrews: For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”(13:5-6). Without the knowledge that God is with us, life will traumatize us, but because He has promised, our lives run deep instead of fast. Thank you, Heavenly Father for Your sure Promises. 📖

- Glenn Hitchcock

- ☞ **Our Spring Gospel Meeting Dates:** March 12–17, 2023 with Dan Jenkins of West Palm Beach, FL
- ☞ **Text-To-Give:** Those members who desire to use the **Text-To-Give** on Sundays follow the directions below:

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 ; 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 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