

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

Bible Class	44
Attendance AM	110
Attendance PM	26
Wednesday PM	40

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Prayer for Health:** Phil Tydings (home); C.D. Arnett; Virginia & Ron Robbins; Ruby Cole; Otis & Glenna Adair; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stones Springs); Debbie Rowland; Patrick Cook (tests); Jerry Thomas (tests)

**Traveling:** Richard Melson, Jr.; Norris Cole, II; Michael Blanks, Jr.; Willis family;

**Prayers:** Deborah Crane & family

**Repentance:** Janis Bland; Catherine Anderson

**Baptism:**

**Sympathy:**

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

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

**Ladies Reading Group:** Zoom Class will be postponed until a later date. Continue to study lesson 5.

**Potter Children's Home:**

April 16	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Michael Blanks, Jr.	Jerry Thomas
Song Leader	Patrick Cook	Lyle Cole
Lead Lord's Supper	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Server 1	Denzil Tuner, III	Anthony Grigsby
Server 2	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Scripture Reader	Ryan McGahee	Patrick Thomas
Sermon	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Prayer for Responses	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Closing Prayer	Jerry Thomas	Jerry Thomas
Announcements	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Greeter	John Bouse	John Bouse
Usher	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
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

April 16, 2023

Issue 16

## THE GIVING GOD

Guy N. Woods (deceased)

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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.

**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

James, author of the New Testament book bearing his name, wrote, "But if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." (James 1:5).

The words, "God who giveth" in the Greek text are in this order: *tou didontos Theou*, literally, **THE GIVING GOD!** So characteristic of God to give, and so much a part of his nature is giving that he is identified to us in this text as a giver. Moreover, he gives to all; there are no favored few among the faithful disciples; each is regarded by him with equal favor and his bounties are bestowed accordingly. Even more remarkably he gives "liberally," unreservedly without expectation of material return. Most wonderful of all, however, is the fact that he "upbraideth not," i.e., he does not reproach us when we ask (literally, does not throw it back into our teeth)!

Our sharing with others is not always freely, gladly and happily done but sometimes reluctantly, grudgingly and with reproaches. How often does this happen? We must make a request and later to repeat it only to be met with this objection: "What? Back again? You are forevermore asking for something. Aren't you ever satisfied?" This the giving God never does. He does not upbraid us for asking nor does he chide us for the misuse of the gracious bounties he has already provided.

The promise of this passage is in keeping with the assurance of the Savior in the Sermon on the Mount: "Ask and it shall be given you." (Matthew 7:7). The offer is unconditional. Faithful disciples will, of course, distinguish between the fact of a response and the manner of it and leave the latter to the discretion of him who responds. We often recognize this proviso of prayer in our petition, "If it be thy will, grant our request." As an example, it was necessary for the Lord to leave the disciples and to return to heaven, and this he did though they prayed earnestly and fervently that he would remain with them. It was expedient that he should go away. (John 16:7). In his going, a vastly greater blessing would come to them than were he to grant their petition and to remain with them.

It is ever thus. There is, indeed, no such thing as an unanswered prayer uttered by the Lord's faithful disciples. He answers every prayer his children pray! True, he does not always say "Yes". Often, the answer is "No." But, the "No," is as much an answer as the "Yes" would be and springs from the same motive-our well being! When a child, because of its immaturity, makes request of its parents which they cannot, for the child's welfare, grant, the refusal of the specific request is not a disregard of the petition, but an answer to it and an answer grounded in the best interests of the child itself. In similar fashion, when the Lord withholds some special request on which we have set our hearts let us remember that in his infinite wisdom he seeks only our good and to be content with the divine goodness always evidenced in such instances. 📖

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

## Arrogance

Henry Kissinger is a talented man. At times he has poked fun at his own arrogance. "I have been called indispensable and a miracle worker," he once said. "I know, because I remember every word I say."

I suppose we all recognize the value of self-esteem. We try to instill some of it in our children. We know that those who think they can't – can't. We read to our children such books as The Little Engine That Could to help develop a "can do" attitude.

But there's a fine line somewhere between confidence and a dangerous pride which the Bible constantly warns against. In fact, pride has been called "the never-failing vice of fools." And one of the ancient proverbs of scripture declares, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18).

An example? Ancient Assyria exalted her own greatness. As a prairie fire she swept over the earth. One king after another fell before her. As she headed toward Jerusalem she said: "Shall I not, as I have done unto Samaria and her idols, so do to Jerusalem and her idols? (Isaiah 10:11). But she was riding for a fall! God said, "I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks" (Isaiah 10:12). And like a mighty tree, Assyria was hewn down.

Arrogance has a way of blinding us and causing us to be led away as captives in chains. "Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him" (Proverbs 26:12).

I'm convinced that arrogance played no small part in the rejection of Jesus by the religious leaders of his day. How could some unknown, from the little town of Nazareth, teach them anything? So they stumbled over him.

I visited for awhile this morning with a lovely lady who is almost 89 years of age – Tonsie Lee Best. I couldn't help but reflect that her life is beautiful in large part because there is a complete lack of arrogance. If anyone ever fulfilled Romans 12:16, she does. "Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; never be conceited." Having such an example as Tonsie Lee helps me see more clearly how ugly arrogance really is.

I'm going to try to remember that the capitalization of "I" is a dangerous business.

John Gipson  
Principles For Living, page 93

## Is a person defined by their faith or their mistakes?

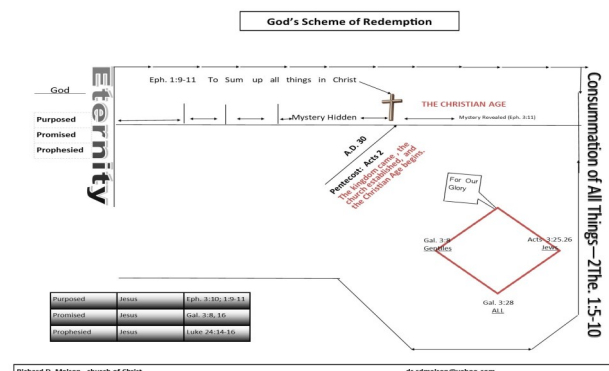


If I ask you to think of a well-known Bible story about David and another Bible character, what would first come to mind—David and Goliath (in 1 Samuel 17) OR David and Bathsheba (in 2 Samuel 11)? Which of those events most defines the life of David? If I ask you to think of a well-known Bible story about Peter's three-fold expression of his feelings toward Jesus, what account would first come to mind—Peter denying Jesus three times (in Luke 22:54-62) OR Peter affirming his love for Jesus three times (in John 21:15-17)? Which of those events most defines the life of Peter?

Sometimes a person's failures are what we (as humans) remember, but what God focuses on is what the person does after their mistakes! In deep grief (Psa. 51), David said, "I have sinned against the Lord" (2 Sam. 12:13), and Peter penitently "went out and wept bitterly" (Luke 22:61).

We all sin. Is that what defines us? Maybe to man, but in God's eyes, it's what we do after we sin that matters! Let us focus on that! !

David Sproule  
Thought for the Day



## Melson's Musings ...



### Jesus, Our Way Out of Religious Confusion

Many people who genuinely desire to follow Jesus are sick and tired of the many denominations and conflicting teachings. Is it possible for people today to simply be Christians and not a part of denominational division of today? Absolutely! Jesus shows us the way out of religious confusion!

For a moment, let's consider Jesus' own example in the religious atmosphere of His day. When Jesus came to this earth, the Israelites were living under the Mosaic Law. In that law, God did not make any provision for the division of His people into religious sects or parties. Yet, by the time of Jesus, the Jews had formed several religious parties, and it was assumed that all who were serious about religion would be associated with one of these groups. To which did Jesus belong? NONE! Instead, He maintained a non-sectarian relationship with God to the very end. As an Israelite, living at a time when the Law of Moses was still in effect, He was simply an "Israelite." Even more so, He encouraged all to live by the Law while it was still in effect (Matt. 5:17-20).

Today, we avoid division by obeying the Law of Christ (Gal. 6:2). First, we began by obeying the same instructions that Peter gave on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38, 42). By being saved in this way, we know that the Lord truly adds us to HIS church just as He added them (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47) Then what? Since the early Christians joined no other religious organization, neither should we! By being in Christ, we are automatically united with all others who are in Him, but as members of the Lord's church, we should carefully study the New Testament description of that church. This description is found in the book of Acts and in the Epistles. It is here that we find instruction from the Lord's apostles regarding how to worship the Lord acceptably, how to be scripturally organized as local congregations, and how to live and work together as Christians, spreading the gospel

of Christ through word and example. Since the apostles were guided by the Holy Spirit, we can be sure that their instructions were exactly what Jesus wanted them to be! If we mimic the early churches by following the apostles' instructions (Acts 2:42), we will simply be "Christians," and we can be certain the Lord is pleased with us (Luke 10:16).—*John Garza*

- ☞ **Bible Marking for Ladies:** Whoever wishes to join, every 3rd Sunday at 4 PM at the building starting May 21st
- ☞ **Equipped 2023** Practical Christianity—April 20-23 (Bowling Green, KY)
- ☞ **Summer Series 2023**—Theme "*Called Unto Holiness*", June 7 – August 30, each Wednesday we'll have a different speaker for each subject. The tentative schedule is:

Date	Topic
7-June	Holiness of God
14-June	Holiness of Christ
21-June	Holiness in Transformation
28-June	Holiness and Worship
5-July	Holiness and Respect for the Scriptures
12-July	Holiness and Overcoming Temptation
19-July	Holiness and Being a proper Example
26-July	Holiness in Recreational Activities
2-August	Holiness and Drug Use & Abuse
9-August	Holiness and Abstaining from Evil
16-August	Holiness and Personal Finance
23-August	Holiness and Purity of Speech
30-August	Holiness and Personal Maturity



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