

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	34
Attendance AM	89
Attendance PM	31
Wednesday PM	32

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); Richard Melson

Traveling: Norris Cole, II; Lyle Cole; Michael Blanks, Jr. Richard Melson, Jr. Rita & Ryan McGahee; Lisa Owens; Mozilla Tate

Prayers:

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy:

Birthdays: May — 2 April Gilbert; 4 Patrick Thomas; 19 James Grigsby; 27 Michelle Saunders; 30 Ron Robbins

Anniversaries: May — None

Ladies Reading Group: Zoom Class May 11 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 5-6.

Potter Children's Home:

May 07	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Song Leader	Michael Blanks, Jr.	Patrick Cook
Lead Lord's Supper	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Server 1	James Grigsby	Alfred Willis, Jr.
Server 2	Chris Poole	Michael Blanks, Jr.
Scripture Reader	Patrick Cook	Anthony Grigsby
Sermon	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Prayer for Responses	Alfred Willis, Jr.	Alfred Willis, Jr.
Closing Prayer	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
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

May 07, 2023

Issue 19

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

CHURCH GROWTH IN THE FIRST CENTURY

John Garza

The growth of the first century church was both spectacular and constant. What caused this tremendous growth? One passage summarizes their success well: "Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied" (Acts 9:31). Brethren, if we are serious about church growth, we will pay close attention to these principles of church growth.

First, the church had peace. Of all people on this earth, the church of Christ should be at peace, because in Christ, there is no enmity. There is only peace (Eph. 2:13-16), and the message which Jesus gave to the church to preach is called "the gospel of peace" (Acts 10:36). It is by this gospel of peace that men are led to salvation in Christ and in His church (Acts 2:38, 41, 47), and as a result, there is peace with God (Rom. 5:1). Therefore, we must also have peace with each other (Jn 17:20-21; 13:33-35).

Second, the church was edified. To "edify" means to build up, strengthen and encourage. The early Christians were built up by sound teaching and preaching (Eph. 4:11-12; 2 Tim. 4:1-2). They were strengthened by every person doing their share (Eph. 4:16). They were encouraged by pursuing and speaking the things which make for peace (Rom. 14:19; Eph. 4:29). When the disciples grew in the faith, in love, in dedication, and in commitment to the Lord, is it any wonder that the church grew?

Finally, the church walked in fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit. To "walk in the fear of the Lord" means having a changed life because of a reverence for God (Pro. 1:7; 16:6). To "walk in the comfort of the Holy Spirit" means to walk according to the Holy Spirit's word (John 14:16; 2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Therefore, the church of the first century grew because they were intent on serving God "with reverence and godly fear" (Heb. 12:28), and they were an active people, walking as God desired.

When we live for God, as He wills, we will accomplish His work according to His purpose, and what will be the result? The church will be multiplied (Acts 9:31; 2:41, 47; 5:14; 6:7). Is the church growing as it should? If it isn't, maybe we need to examine again the early church and pattern our lives after them. It worked for them 2,000 years ago, it will work today! ☺

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

Room for Improvement

J. David Bamberger bought a piece of land in Texas -- five miles southwest of Johnson City. It was a cedar-choked 5,500-acre patch of scrubland. The soil conservation agent told him he had bought the worst piece of land in Blanco County. Bamberger replied, "That's nice." In reality he was wanting to reclaim the land and make it productive. He had heard the tales of how things used to be -- fields of grass that flourished high as a horse's belly.

His work began by using bulldozers, graders, backhoes, and front-end loaders to clear 3,000 acres of cedar. He then contoured ridges into the soil before scattering grass seed by hand. When the rains came, the ridges retarded run off and held the seed enough that within two years, enough grasses had taken root to absorb enough water into the underground aquifer that springs started popping up around the ranch. The water fed the fields of grass that flourished once again as high as a horse's belly. As Joe Nick Patoski tells the story in the October 2000 issue of Texas Monthly, Bamberger has turned "a scrubby, barren Hill County tract into a paradise of lakes, streams, and wildlife that has become a national model for land use."

What one man did for the land should inspire us to look at the rocky soil of our lives and set out to make improvements. As some has said, "The biggest room in the world is the room for self-improvement."

No life ever rises above its ideals. And Jesus gave the highest for his followers. "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). And Paul says, "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children" (Ephesians 5:1). In short, we must work out our own salvation. But don't despair. We have divine help. "For God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

- John Gibson via Glenn Hitchcock

God will finish His work

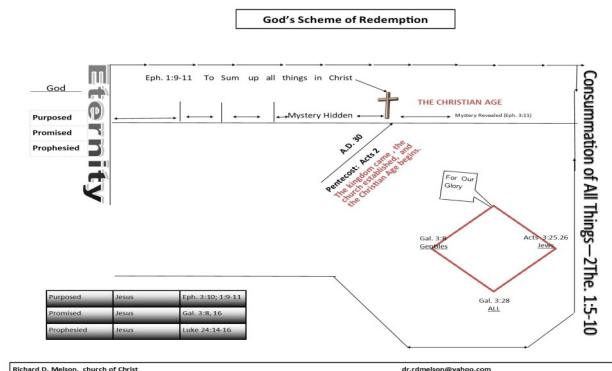


The apostle Paul was trying to encourage the brethren in Philippi and was wanting them to continue to find true joy in serving Christ. Sometimes it is easy for the world to distract us and cause us to forget all of the reasons that we have to rejoice as Christians. Among the many great joys that we have in Christ is this reminder: "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6).

If you are IN Christ, then remain confident that God "has begun a good work IN you." He is at work in you, "both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:12-13). His power is at work within us (Eph. 3:20-21), for His Word is "effectively" at work in us (1 Thess. 2:13).

Secondly, remain confident that if God has "begun a good work in you" that He "will complete it until the day of Christ." God is not going to give up on you! God doesn't have any quit in Him! He will finish what He started! So, the question is, Will you? Let's find true joy in Him!

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



7 Reasons For Our Involvement in Evangelism

Last week I introduced a study on evangelism. I appreciate your attentiveness. The following are some key points from that lesson.

Evangelism defined: Is the act of teaching men the gospel, to bring them to Christ. Teaching enough truth so that the sinner can make the proper decision concerning his eternal destiny.

I want to suggest that are at least seven reasons for our involvement in evangelism:

GRATITUDE to God for the work of Christ Rom. 1:14; 1 Tim. 1:12-13.

OBEDIENCE to God's command Matt. 28:18-20; Jn.14:15.

PITY for those who are lost Matt. 5:4; Rom. 9:2;10:1.

WORLD IS MADE A BETTER PLACE, because of it. 1 Cor. 6:9-11.

INCREASED POPULATION with each day the task grows bigger and bigger.

GREAT JOY in leading a soul to Christ Phil 4:1; 1 Cor.4:15.

PEOPLE WHO ARE SEEKING TRUTH: there are those who are anxiously waiting for us to come to them, to teach them the truth, Acts 16:9; John 4:35.

Thus, whether congregations or individuals, evangelism is our most pressing need! 📖

- Richard

- ☞ **Bible Marking for Ladies:** Whoever wishes to join, every 3rd Sunday at 4 PM at the building starting May 21st.
- ☞ **3rd Sunday Breakfast:** Starting in May—August you can meet for breakfast in the fellowship hall at 8:30-9:15 AM.
- ☞ **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	Speaker	Topic
7-Jun	Tim Hatfield	Holiness of God
14-Jun	Raymond Sweet	Holiness of Christ
21-Jun	Kevin Berry	Holiness in Transformation
28-Jun	Bob Vincent	Holiness and Worship
5-Jul	Richard Nepaul	Holiness and Respect for the Scriptures
12-Jul	Patrick Powers	Holiness and Overcoming Temptation
19-Jul		Holiness and Being a proper Example
26-Jul	John McGiffin	Holiness in Recreational Activities
2-Aug	Norris Cole	Holiness and Drug Use & Abuse
9-Aug		Holiness and Abstaining from Evil
16-Aug	Richard Nepaul	Holiness and Personal Finance
23-Aug	Keith Allen	Holiness and Purity of Speech
30-Aug	Patrick Cook	Holiness and Personal Maturity



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