

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

Bible Class	35
Attendance AM	91
Attendance PM	27
Wednesday PM	51

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Prayer for Health:** Phil Tydings; Janis Bland; Mozilla Tate; C.D. Arnett; Otis & Glenna Adair; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stones Springs); De'Ante & DeAndre Horton; Jennifer Arnette

**Traveling:** Richard Melson, Jr.; Norris Cole, II; Richard & Valerie Melson; Dollie Jones; Norris Cole family; Ashley & Alexandria Thomas; Reagan Blanks

**Prayers:**

**Repentance:**

**Baptism:**

**Sympathy:** Family of Dollie Jones and Florine Thomas

**Birthdays: August** — 10 Diane Cole (Norris); 11 Ashley Thomas; 20 Ryan McGahee, Marie Tolley; 21 Naree Poole; 28 Brenda Mamula;

**Anniversaries: August** — 7-Dwayne and Tena Eslick; 25 Richard and Valerie Melson; 31 Patrick and Penny Cook; Patrick and Ashley Thomas

**Ladies Reading Group:** Zoom Class Aug 17 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 9

**Potter Children's Home:**

August 20	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Lyle Cole	Lyle Cole
Song Leader	Chris Poole	Patrick Cook
Lead Lord's Supper	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Server 1	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Server 2	James Grigsby	James Grigsby
Scripture Reader	Ryan McGahee	Patrick Thomas
Sermon	Ryan Voglegesang	Ryan Voglegesang
Prayer for Responses	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Closing Prayer	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Announcements	Lyle Cole	Lyle Cole
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  
2211 Needmore Road  
Dayton, Ohio 45414-9998**

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Visit our website at <https://www.needmoreroadcoc.com>



# THE EDIFIER

Volume 04

August 20, 2023

Issue 34

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

## GOD SO OFTEN WORKS IN THE SHADOWS

Dan Jenkins

The Bible clearly says, "Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father above" (Jas. 1:17). While we might sometimes misunderstand what is truly good, there is no doubt that there has never been a good and perfect gift which does not come from God. It is so wonderful to read the Bible and see where God reveals just how He often works in the background to bring blessings to His people.

Think of the providence of God in the life of Joseph and how it shows He works. Years before anyone understood what was actually happening, God gave Joseph two dreams about what some day would come about. The first dream concerned his brothers' bundles of wheat bowing down to Joseph's bundle. When he told his brothers this dream, their hatred of him became even greater. When he told them of the second dream, where the sun, moon and eleven stars bowed down to Joseph, his father, Jacob, rebuked him by saying, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?" (Gen. 37:7-10).

Because we know the "rest of the story," we read and immediately understand how all of this came about. There was no way Jacob, Joseph or any of his brothers could have imagined how this would happen, even as it was happening. This is such a revelation about how God used events (even the jealous hatred Joseph's brothers had, the lies of Potiphar's wife and the seven years of famine) to accomplish His purpose. Any of them could have asked at various times in their lives, "Where is God?" It is only afterwards that Joseph could look backwards and say to his brothers, "God sent me before you to preserve life... You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive" (Gen. 45:50; 50:20).

Some might foolishly say, "Jacob and his children were so lucky that Joseph was the ruler in Egypt." It was not luck—it was God working in the shadows. How do we know this for certain? It is because God foretold it in the two dreams.

The only way anyone can know that a specific event was God working in the shadows is for God to speak to that specific event and say, "I did that." To see this, read the words of Mordecai to Esther about all that had happened to enable her to become Queen of Persia. "Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). Without divine revelation, we cannot know any specific event happens because God changed the world to make it happen. We do not need to know, for it is enough to know that every good gift comes from our Father. *✍️*

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

## Written in Sand and Stone

## Gird up the loins of your mind



Two friends were walking through the desert and got into an argument. One friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand: Today my best friend slapped me in the face.

They kept on walking until they found an oasis. Thirsty, they stopped for water. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire, fell in, and started drowning. His friend saved him. That evening, he wrote on a stone: Today my best friend saved my life.

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now you write on a stone. Why?" He replied: "When someone hurts us we should write it in sand where the winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where it will be long remembered."

Learn to write your hurts in sand and carve your benefits in stone. Someone observed that it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but an entire lifetime to forget them.

"On the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him." 2 Corinthians 2:7

That expression may be confusing to us and maybe even sound funny. First-century Christians would have readily understood the metaphor. Orientals wore long, loose robes, which were not conducive to running or long journeys, so they would gather up the long robes with a girdle to prepare to run or travel and to provide greater ease and freedom of movement.

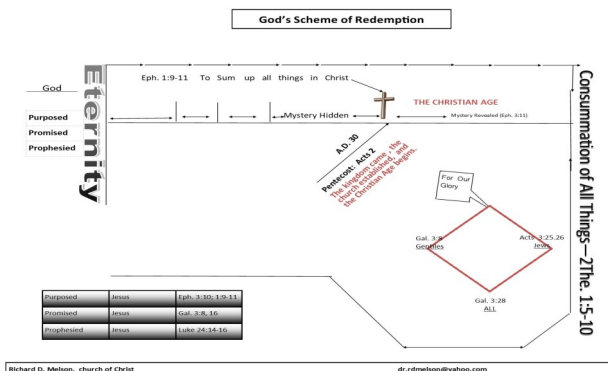
The book of First Peter is interesting in that it contains 30 Greek imperatives. That's a lot of commands! The Christian life is a life of action and obedience to the will of God. Such action, therefore, if properly done, is to be preceded with thought, intent, purpose, desire, etc. In other words, the mind (i.e., heart) must be engaged! Before the first imperative was given, Peter told these Christians to remove all other hindrances and focus their minds on obeying God.

Are there things of this life that may hinder our minds from being truly "set...on things above" (Col. 3:1-2)? Let us "prepare [our] minds for action" (1 Pet. 1:13, NASB), and then, let's act! !

David Sproule  
Thought for the Day



- Via House-to-House/Heart-to-Heart



Richard D. Melson, Church of Christ

## Melson's Musings ...



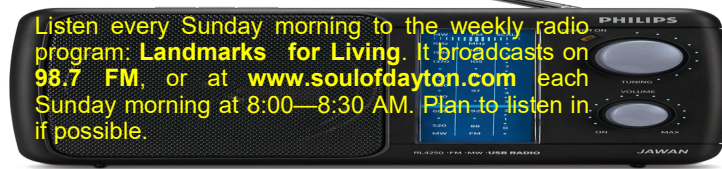
## Answers to Reading Questions

### Matthew 13

- 1) Why did some people misunderstand Jesus? **Because their hearts had become calloused, they hardly heard with their ears, and they had closed their eyes (15)**
- 2) What kinds of people do the four soils in the parable of the sower represent? **Those who don't understand the message of the kingdom (19), the rootless (20-21), those worried and deceived by wealth (22), and those who hear and understand the word (23)**
- 3) Why did Jesus call wealth "deceitful"? **Perhaps because it makes people think that because it can provide many things it can provide everything (22)**
- 4) What lesson is taught by the parable of the tares (weeds)? **Both good and wicked people will be in the church (kingdom) until the end of the world (24-30, 36-43)**
- 5) What lesson does the parable of the mustard seed teach? **The kingdom would begin small, but grow large (31-32)**
- 6) What lesson does the parable of the leaven (yeast) teach? **The kingdom grows surely, but almost imperceptibly (33)**
- 7) Can those who are in the kingdom of heaven finally be cast into the furnace of fire? **Yes (41-42)**
- 8) What lesson is taught by the parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl? **The kingdom is worth everything we possess (44-46)**
- 9) What lessons are taught by the parables of the net and the householder? **Everyone should be invited into the kingdom (47-51); the kingdom has elements of old treasures as well as new (52)**
- 10) Did Jesus have any brothers and sisters? **Yes (55-56)**

- ☞ Richard is attending / preaching at Polishing The Pulpit, Sevierville, TN.
- ☞ Senior Luncheon—Aug 29, 11 AM at Panera Bread
- ☞ **New Bible Study Class:** Wednesday 11:00—12:00 PM
- ☞ **Summer Series 2023**—Theme "*Called Unto Holiness*", June 7 – August 30, each Wednesday we'll have a different speaker for each subject. The 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 Melson	Holiness and Abstaining from Evil
12-Jul	Patrick Powers	Holiness and Overcoming Temptation
19-Jul	Kevin Berry	Holiness and Being a Proper Example
26-Jul	John McGiffin	Holiness in Recreational Activities
2-Aug	Kevin Berry	Holiness and Drug Use & Abuse
9-Aug	Richard Nepal	Holiness and Respect for the
16-Aug	Keith Allen	Holiness and Purity of Speech
23-Aug	Jeffrey Battles	Holiness and Personal Finance
30-Aug	Patrick Cook	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