

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

Bible Class	35
Attendance AM	79
Attendance PM	19
Wednesday PM	30

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Prayer for Health:** Phil Tydings; Janis Bland; C.D.

Arnett; Alyse Poole; Otis & Glenna Adair; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stones Springs); De'Ante & DeAndre Horton; Jennifer Arnette; Savannah Cook

**Traveling:** Richard Melson, Jr.; Norris Cole, II; Mozella Tate

**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 31 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 10

**Potter Children's Home:**

August 27	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Michael Blanks, Jr	Norris Cole
Song Leader	Lyle Cole	Michael Blanks, Jr.
Lead Lord's Supper	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Server 1	Chris Poole	Norris Cole
Server 2	James Grigsby	Lyle Cole
Scripture Reader	Ryan McGahee	Patrick Thomas
Sermon	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Prayer for Responses	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Closing Prayer	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Announcements	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
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 27, 2023

Issue 35

## DOCTRINAL AGNOSTICISM

Cody Westbrook

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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

An agnostic is "a person who holds the view that any ultimate reality is unknown and probably unknowable" (MW). Generally, the concept is applied to the existence of God. But the current time, sadly, requires us to slightly extend the term to "a person who holds the view that any ultimate doctrinal reality is unknown and probably unknowable."

Second Timothy 1:13 commands, "Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me..." To "hold" is to keep or to preserve. The term "pattern" refers to a standard, and "sound words" references correct, true, or healthy teaching. Thus, Timothy's responsibility was to keep tightly the standard of correct teaching. Certainly, no ambiguity exists in the imperative. Timothy knew exactly what the "standard" was, otherwise how could he have kept it? Consider 1 Timothy 1:3-7 as a commentary. There were some in Ephesus who had turned to "idle talk" due to their devotion to "fables and endless genealogies." Such individuals fancied themselves scholars but understood neither what they said nor the things which they affirmed. Consequently, they promoted speculation and turned people away from Christ. Timothy's responsibility was to "charge" them to "teach no other doctrine." He was to hold up sound doctrine (1 Tim. 1:10) against unsound doctrine in such a clear fashion that all could see the contrast between the two. Timothy knew the correct doctrine, and he was to "command and teach" (1 Tim. 4:11) that doctrine to the church at Ephesus.

Paul's instruction to Timothy presents a glaring contrast to some current sentiments within our brotherhood. Statements like "I've never been to Heaven so I can't say for sure what it's like," or "The Bible doesn't explicitly condemn social drinking so I can't say its sinful," or "The Holy Spirit must do something!," mimic the trouble makers in ancient Ephesus. A kind of doctrinal agnosticism has emerged among us in which everything is a question with no clear answer, and every disagreement is added to a growing list of open ended doctrinal questions about which the Bible is just not clear enough for us to reach any definite conclusion.

Certainly, there are some subjects and passages that are difficult to understand and thus forbid dogmatism, and there are matters of judgment and room for disagreement and difference in some things. But, that is not the case in all things, and perhaps not as many things as some would suggest. *CS*

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

## A Monopoly is an Empty Life



Does the name Charles Darrow ring a bell with you? Probably not, but you are familiar with what he did.

During the great depression of the early thirties, Mr. Darrow of Germantown, Pennsylvania, was an unemployed heating engineer. With plenty of spare time on his hands, he concocted a new board game which he made and reproduced by hand.

In 1935, Parker Brothers purchased the game called "Monopoly." Since that time, more than 90 million Monopoly games have been sold. The object of the game is strictly capitalistic. The more financial gain you achieve, the better your chances of winning.

This is the foundation on which many homes are built. Everything done is tied to making the next dollar. Often more lasting, valuable things are pushed aside. The problem with this kind of living is that when you come to the end, you realize you have lost.

Paul said, "We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out" (1 Timothy 6:7). Let us remember the important things and keep our lives in perspective.

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

## Distracted from your true purpose

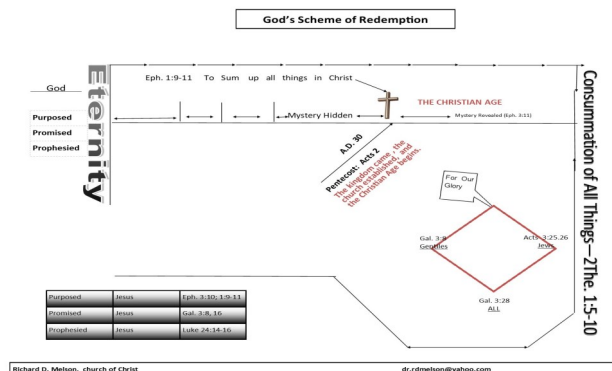


When the car radio was first being introduced in the 1930s, many opposed it, stating strong concerns of the danger of distracting drivers from...driving. Fast forward through the next 90 years. How many more distractions are there in the average car today?

When a person gets behind the wheel of an automobile, he/she has one purpose—to drive to a particular destination. That's it. Is it nice to have a radio? Air conditioning? A phone? Snacks? Certainly. But how often can those distract from the actual purpose at hand?

How many amenities or add-ons are there in our lives that are "nice" to have but are distracting us from our true purpose in life? Do we allow entertainment, friendships, hobbies, family members and even career pursuits to distract us from seeking first God's kingdom (Matt. 6:33), teaching the gospel to lost souls (Mark 16:15), serving our fellow brethren (Gal. 5:13) and glorifying God in all that we do (1 Cor. 10:31)? We were "created for [His] glory" (Isa. 43:7)—are we fulfilling our purpose? !

David Sproule  
Thought for the Day



## Melson's Musings ...



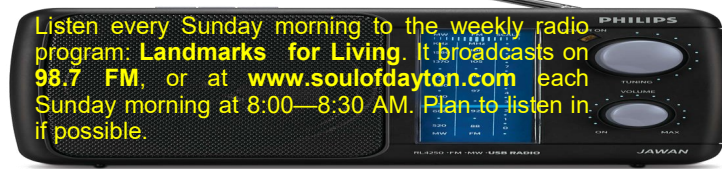
### Answers to Reading Questions

#### Matthew 14

- 1) Why did Herod want to kill John the Baptist? **Because John told Herod it was unlawful for Herod to be married to Herodias (3-5)**
- 2) Why was Herod afraid to kill John? **Because the people considered John to be a prophet (5)**
- 3) What finally led Herod to kill John? **Because of the oaths and those who sat with him at table (6-10)**
- 4) What did Jesus do when he heard of John's death? **He withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place (13)**
- 5) What did Jesus use to feed 5,000 men, plus women and children? **Five loaves of bread and two fish (17)**
- 6) What did Jesus do while he was alone on the mountain? **He prayed (23)**
- 7) Why did Jesus say the disciples did not need to be afraid in the midst of the storm? **Because he was with them (27)**
- 8) What happened to Peter when he looked at the wind instead of at Jesus? **He began to sink (30)**
- 9) Did Jesus rebuke the apostles for worshipping him? **No (33)**
- 10) How many of the sick whom Jesus touched were healed? **All (36)**

- ☞ 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 Scriptures
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



## 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

### Just for Fun Noah and the Ark

Number the pictures in the right order