

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	45
Attendance AM	101
Attendance PM	43
Wednesday PM	41

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Phil Tydings; Kim Tydings (home); Brenda Mamula (home); Otis & Glenna Adair; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stones Springs); Jerry Thomas

Traveling: Richard Melson, Jr. (work); Norris Cole, II;

Prayers:

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy:

Birthdays: October— 2 Virginia Robbins; 5 Rhea Wallace; 6 Kevin Gilbert; 9 Victoria Dudley; 12 Philip Tydings; 13 Norris Cole, II; 14 Patrick Cook; 16 Judy Arnett; 17 Dollie Jones, Mozella Tate, Nancy Weimer; 26 Cadence Vance

Anniversaries: October— 1 Mary and Tom Vance

Ladies Reading Group: Zoom Class Oct. 12 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 12

Potter Children's Home: Coin cans will be collected week of October 15

October 08	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Denzil Turner, III	Frank Brock
Song Leader	Lyle Cole	Michael Blanks, Jr.
Lead Lord's Supper	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Server 1	James Grigsby	Frank Brock
Server 2	Ryan McGahee	Patrick Thomas
Scripture Reader	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Sermon	Richard D Melson	Richard D Melson
Prayer for Responses	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Closing Prayer	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Announcements	Patrick Cook	Patrick Cook
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

October 08, 2023

Issue 41

BEING BLIND

Jeff Sweetten

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

Fact: we will stand before Him accountable for our actions (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Revelation 20:12). Therefore, being a frequent, participating listener to the Apostles doctrine in the worship assembly and Bible classes, a Christian must be diligent. I do not mean to imply that we should be hyper-critical or nit-picky, however, in view of the fact that what is taught in our assemblies carries eternal consequence, we should be ever vigilant in filtering teachings through the Holy Writ. This failure is a recurring problem with God's people (Jeremiah 5:31).

Jesus' teaching was occasionally offensive – both an aggressive, frontal assault and equally distasteful to some in His audiences; and, remember: Jesus was the perfect Teacher (Psalm 145:17; 1 Peter 2:22). In Matthew 15:1-20, Jesus was accused of transgressing the elders' traditions. Jesus' retort was a condemnation of traditions that broke God's laws, culminating with a direct censure of the scribes' and Pharisees' false worship (vs. 8-9). After this scathing rebuke, as often happens among disciples unfamiliar with divine methods of teaching the truth, His disciples said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?" (v. 12).

It seems odd that they were more concerned with getting along with false teachers than accepting the very words of Jesus, but this flaw is not lost in our generation either. People today still tolerate false teachers within the confines of the brotherhood, glossing over damnable heresy (e.g., false positions on marriage-divorce-remarriage; instrumental music or handclapping in our worship to God; fellowshiping non-members as if they were Christians; etc.).

Allowing for what will surely amount to heresy is falsely cushioned by the delusion that the follower is insulated from the leader. In other words, since I am only allowing for the falseness, and not teaching it directly myself, I will be immune to the consequences of these damnable doctrines. Jesus pointed out that such could not be further from the truth: "...if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch" (v. 14). Because you or I are not actively or verbally promoting false doctrines does not release us from the consequences of allowing its propagation in the church without a fight. The Apostle John is clear in this regard in his letter to the elect lady, stating: "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (2 John 10-11).

To believe that we can stoically sit by and do nothing as false teachings are spread throughout the church is equal to spreading the very heresy itself. This defines a major crisis in the church today: Many know better, but refuse to stand against error and amounts to a self-inflicted, mortal wound, consigning us to an eternal damnation.

We cannot afford to fall blindly under the spell of a ditch-witch, tolerating error; being blind (willfully or apathetically) is sin. *JS*

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

Identity Theft

What Are Identity Theft and Identity Fraud?

Identity theft and identity fraud are terms used to refer to all types of crime in which someone wrongfully obtains and uses another person's personal data in some way that involves fraud or deception, typically for economic gain.

What Are The Most Common Ways That Identity Theft or Fraud Can Happen to You?

In public places, for example, criminals may engage in "shoulder surfing"— watching you from a nearby location as you punch in your telephone calling card number or credit card number – or listen in on your conversation if you give your credit-card number over the telephone.

If you receive applications for "pre-approved" credit cards in the mail, but discard them without tearing up the enclosed materials, criminals may retrieve them and try to activate the cards for their use without your knowledge. Also, if your mail is delivered to a place where others have ready access to it, criminals may simply intercept and redirect your mail to another location.

Many people respond to "spam"— unsolicited E-mail – that promises them some benefit but requests identifying data, without realizing that in many cases, the requester has no intention of keeping his promise. In some cases, criminals reportedly have used computer technology to steal large amounts of personal data.

As Christians, are we in danger of having our identity stolen? Churches of Christ have long been known for our distinctiveness in worship and practice, as we well should be. As "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15), we dare not stray from a "thus saith the Lord."

It seems to me that if we are not careful, though, some will steal the most distinctive sign the Lord has given us. Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:34-35). What is the first thought that comes to mind when people speak of the Oxford church of Christ? Is it, "Those are the people who love each other so much"? Let us work to be sure that no one steals our identity away from us!

- Bob Prichard

It became known

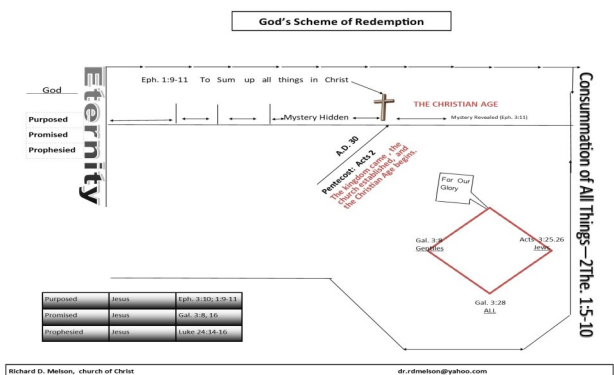


The city of Joppa was a natural harbor along the Mediterranean coast and was a well-traveled commercial seaport. When the beloved Dorcas became sick and died, the disciples sent for Peter in nearby Lydda. Peter travelled about 10 miles to Joppa and did the unthinkable...the amazing...the thrilling—he raised Dorcas from the dead. Would you believe that nobody really cared and that the news of that miracle never went beyond Dorcas' home? Of course not!

The Bible says that the news of Dorcas being raised from the dead "became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord" (Acts 9:42). How did the news become known? By Facebook posts? The six o'clock news? NO! You know it happened by word of mouth! The disciples could not contain their excitement!

Friends, what will it take for "it to become known" to our neighborhoods, our cities, our world that Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead? It is up to the mouths of the writer and readers of these words! May we have the excitement they had in Joppa!

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



A Family That Follows The Lord

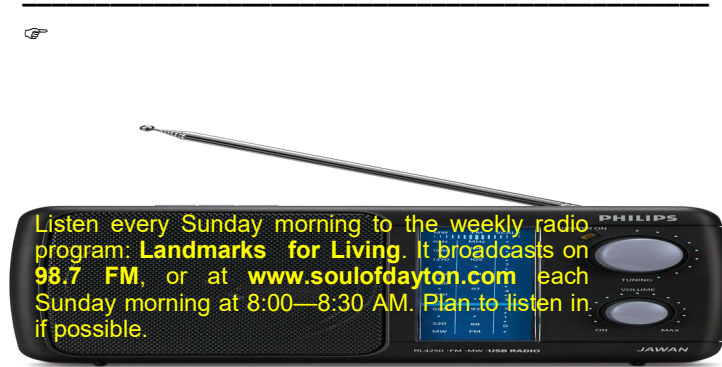
Our world is a philosophical and ideological all you can eat buffet. Because we are people of free will, we must all choose how we will live. What will our values be? How will we view humanity, the world, and God? What direction will we follow in life? This is also true for the family. God said of Abraham, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him" (Gen. 18:19). For Abraham and his family there was no question about how they would live, what their values would be, or what direction they would follow. If we will have strong families today, then we must define the direction for our families in the way that Abraham defined the direction for his. How can we do that?

- ◆ **Be determined.** The Devil will do whatever he can to push us off of the path of righteousness (Matt. 7:13-14), but that is not a challenge unique to us. Do you remember what Joshua said to the children of Israel in Joshua 24:15? Joshua was determined that his family would serve the Lord no matter what. We must have that same determination.
- ◆ **Be committed.** Paul wrote, "...but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:13-14). There were many different avenues that Paul could have pursued, but he was committed to one thing—Christ. Am I, like Paul, committed to the one thing? What about my family? Too often we say that we are committed to Christ but we show something altogether different.

Too often we are committed to baseball, football, school, family events, and other things that distract us from what is really important. Our families must be completely and tirelessly committed to following the direction of our Father.

- ◆ **Be realistic.** When we define the direction of our families, we must prepare for the fact that it will not always be an easy path to follow. Paul promised Timothy "all who live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Tim. 3:12). Following the Lord requires dedication and sacrifice. Jesus said, "If any man will come after me let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). My family will have to make sacrifices in order to follow the direction of God. We may not have the most money or live in the most luxurious house; we may have to miss some little-league football games and other functions, and we may be the least popular family in town because of it. But, we will follow the direction of our God, as revealed in His word, and we will serve and glorify Him together as a family. We will "follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth" (Rev. 14:4), and we will arrive where He is—with the Father in Heaven.

- Cody Westbrook



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