

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

Bible Class	40
Attendance AM	95
Attendance PM	36
Wednesday PM	43

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Prayer for Health:** Phil Tydings; Kim Tydings; Krubo Joploh; Michael Gorsky; Otis & Glenna Adair; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stones Springs); Jerry Thomas; Ron Robiins; Janis Bland; Carolyn Johnson

**Traveling:** Richard Melson, Jr. (work); Janis Bland; Berdie Oates

**Prayers:**

**Repentance:**

**Baptism:**

**Sympathy:** family of Jeanette Ivory

**Birthdays: October**— 2 Virginia Robbins; 5 Rhea Wallace; 6 Kevin Gilbert; 9 Victoria Dudley; 12 Philip Tydings; 13 John Bouse, 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. 26 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 12

**Potter Children's Home:**

October 22	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Lyle Cole	Norris Cole
Song Leader	Michael Blanks, Jr	Chris Poole
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 D Melson	Richard D Melson
Prayer for Responses	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Closing Prayer	Jerry Thomas	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

October 22, 2023

Issue 43

[www.needmoreroadcoc.com](http://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](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

## PREACHING IS NOT LIKE IT USED TO BE

Dan Jenkins

Suppose it were possible to bring a first-century Christian to the assemblies of the church today. Many physical things obviously would be different, but of greater concern would be those spiritual differences. Think for a moment about how different he might find the preaching today from the kind of preaching he heard in the infant church.

The preaching in the first century can best be described as inspired prophecy. Because they had only the Old Testament, God gave the sermons to prophets who revealed God's New Testament for men. Read the words of those prophets and think of the differences between those words and those words spoken today.

First-century preaching was so plain it convicted those visitors who came to the assembly. Paul described that situation with these words: "But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convicted by all" (1 Cor. 14:24). Far too many pulpits today resound with "polished messages" which never bring conviction. Far too many sermons are outwardly perfect but would be welcomed in denominational pulpits. There is little that is distinctive, and visitors go away feeling satisfied without ever having been challenged in their beliefs. Our world is not like the NT world.

Paul's letters to young Timothy give great insight into the clarity of the messages from inspired preachers (prophets) in the early church. In his second letter to Timothy, he defines what it means to preach the word. Read these words carefully. "Preach the word. Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and teaching" (2 Tim. 4:2). The King James translates the word "teaching" as "doctrine," yet many preachers avoid doctrinal preaching. One cannot preach the word without speaking directly to the religious errors in our land. Paul then gives the reason to convince, rebuke and exhort with doctrine. "For the time will come when men will not endure sound doctrine." That time has certainly come!

Finally, look at Paul's words in his first letter to Timothy. In chapter four, he described how inspired preachers taught the truth. He said, "The Spirit expressly says. . ." He described false teaching as doctrines of devils and then specifically described these doctrines. Preaching today often avoids speaking directly about false teaching.

Having described the Spirit's preaching, Paul told Timothy, "If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ" (4:6). What does this say about modern preaching? The verse clearly implies that if we do not instruct the brethren, we are not good ministers of Jesus. Our world has changed. Let us speak as the oracles of God!

~

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

## Where are we going ?

When Christopher Columbus first sailed west, his crew was very uneasy about sailing into the unknown. To disguise the true length of the journey, Columbus kept two sets of logs one with the true distance for himself, and one with shorter distances for the crew, so that they would think that they were not as far from home. Ironically, the false logs turned out to be more accurate than the one that he considered the true log.

Getting far from home, and going into the unknown can be exciting, but also very scary. I wonder what it was like for the crew that set forth with Abram when he left Ur of the Chaldees to go out into the unknown? What kind of "sales job" did he have to make to Sarai, Lot, and all of the others who went with him? When Columbus set out for the new world, he thought that he was going somewhere, but he didn't really know. When Abraham set out, he knew he was going somewhere, but he really had no idea where it would be. Hebrews 11 tells us, "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went" (verse 8). How could he make that journey, and not know where he was going? How could he risk his family this way? "By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise" (verse 9). The key to how and why he did this is found in the next verse. "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

Abraham is often thought as the great father of the faithful. He earned this reputation by trusting God, and obeying Him, even when it meant going out into the unknown.

Each of us is daily making a journey into the unknown. It is sometimes hard to know what tomorrow will be like. We have our ideas of what we expect, but we don't really know. And the tomorrow of eternity is just a step away for all of us. The key for us, as it was for Abraham, is that we should be looking for that heavenly city "whose builder and maker is God." Perhaps the best advice for all of us, as we go forward, is to simply "look up." Remember what the Father has planned for us.

- Bob Prichard

## His untrack-out-to-the-able riches

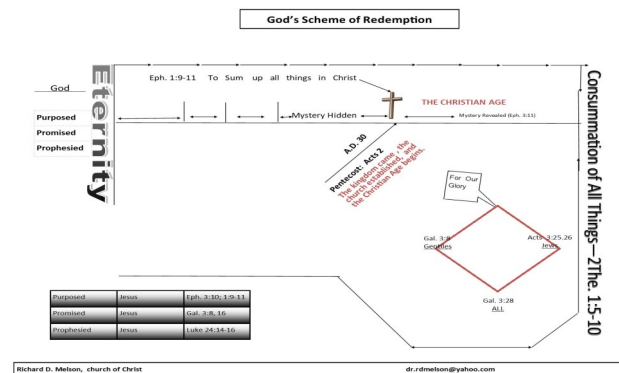


Picture the comic strip detective holding his magnifying glass, hunched over, following the clues. Picture the hunter in the thick brush with his hound trailing the scent of some wild game. In both of those illustrations, there is something that is trackable, in order to reach the end of locating and securing that which has been tracked, so that the tracking is completed.

In regard to the "riches" that are found in Christ, Paul says that the above type of "tracking" cannot be done. He uses a compound word in Ephesians 3:8 (translated "unsearchable" and "unfathomable"), which literally means "not to be tracked out." The New Testament tells us about the "riches" that belong to Christians, but we will never be able to reach the end of fully comprehending them here or even "tracking" them all down.

Doesn't that just fill you with joy and encouragement?! The detective and hunter will track something down and then be done. The Christian will never be done with tracking down his rich blessings in Christ!

David Sproule  
Thought for the Day



## Melson's Musings ...



### The Power of the Written Word

Friedrich Nietzsche said, "All I need is a sheet of paper and something to write with, and then I can turn the world upside down."

Unquestionably, Nietzsche understood the power of the written word to influence minds and bring about change. He recognized that words written live on long after the death of the author and produce fruit for generations to come. The problem is that Nietzsche used his pen for evil, and along with so many like him, his words continue to sow the seeds of evil to this day. We must never underestimate the power of the written word to destroy, but likewise to build. Proverbs 18:21 says "Death and life are in the power of the tongue..." Just as many have unleashed their words on the world to produce wickedness, so God's people have, and must continue, to use the power of the written word to produce righteousness.

Solomon said, "The mouth of the righteous is a well of life..." (Pro. 10:11). That is the case because the righteous man speaks words that point people to the Prince of Life (Acts 3:15). Peter said, "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God..." (1 Pet. 4:11). In our everyday conversation we speak words that are good for edification and imparting grace to those who hear (Eph. 4:29-31). When we stand behind the pulpit, we "preach Christ crucified..." (1 Cor. 1:23). And, when we pick up our pen or sit down behind a keyboard, we write "the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). The written word is an invaluable tool for teaching others the gospel. To be able to read the thoughts of one who has studied Scripture and carefully sought to instruct others from its pages, gives a person

the opportunity to reflect upon what is written time and time again, that they may understand and grow (cf. Eph. 3:4). Writing gives us the ability to reach souls whom we may never see in the flesh. It provides an aide to Bible study and can help people grow closer to God. The spoken word is indeed powerful, but a word spoken may quickly be forgotten. Not so for words that are written. They may live on and continue to produce good fruit long after the death of the writer.

Let us never underestimate the power of the written word.

- Cody Westbrook



## 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](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

