

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	50
Attendance AM	84
Attendance PM	32
Wednesday PM	39

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Phil & Kim Tydings; Krubo Joploh; Otis & Glenna Adair; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stones Springs); Ron Robbins; Frank Cook; Shai Eslick

Traveling: Odane Brisett and Sergio Luna

Prayers:

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy:

Birthdays: November— 14 Ruby; 16 Tally Poole

Anniversaries: November— None

Ladies Reading Group: Zoom Class December 7 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 1—"Sisters, I Need You"

Potter Children's Home: Coming Soon—Christmas Gift Shop

November 26	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Lyle Cole	Norris Cole
Song Leader	Michael Blanks, Jr.	Lyle Cole
Lead Lord's Supper	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Server 1	Chris Poole	Norris Cole
Server 2	James Grigsby	Lyle Cole
Scripture Reader	Ryan McGahee	Norris Cole, II
Sermon	Odane Brisett	Sergio Luna, II
Prayer for Responses	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Closing Prayer	Jerry Thomas	Frank Brock
Announcements	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Greeter	John Bouse	John Bouse
Usher	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Usher	Richard Melson, Jr.	Richard Melson, Jr.

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

November 26, 2023

Issue 48

THE MULE WENT ON!

W. Ray Duncan

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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

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

There is no more interesting narration in all the Bible than the story of David and his Son Absalom. Nor are there any that portray more forcibly the prospects of "like father - like Son" disposition in some of Absalom's conduct. David's terrible sin of adultery with Uriah's wife may have had much to do in fostering the pride and self-confidence in the character of his son. Absalom's natural advantages were great and favorable. "There was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: "From the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him." (2 Sam. 14:25). What a terrible contrast when we turn to the spiritual character, for "From the sole of the foot even unto the head there was no soundness in it." (Isa. 1:6). Having good parents or bad does not necessarily make or mar true nobility of character, but a favorable start may count for much in the race of life. Absalom had a wide door of opportunity opened unto him because of his ability to "Win friends and influence people" (2 Sam. 15:6). However, God does not look on the outward appearance as man does, God looks at the heart of a man!

Two years previously Absalom had a sister that was defamed and abused by a half-brother (2 Sam. 13), and Absalom's cold-blooded murder of this half-brother after two full years had passed by reveals a dogged and remorseless spirit (2 Sam.14:23-38). There is danger in any man's life when he allows hate and anger to reside in his heart, for out of the heart are the issues of life!

After the murder Absalom fled to Geshur to escape the wrath of his father, but after several years absence he regained the favor of his father through the influence of his cousin Joab (2 Sam. 14:33). Absalom returned home with every opportunity to begin anew and to make up for some of his misspent life - but will he do it? There are only two paths to walk in this life - one is narrow and leads to eternal life, the other is broad and wide and leads to condemnation. Which will Absalom choose?

We do not have to wait long for the answer, "After this Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him. " (2 Sam.15:1-6) (Remember his ability to influence men by his smooth speech!) The forgiving grace of his father seemed to have little or no effect upon his heart. Our Father has manifested his grace and offered His forgiveness to all - but how few are interested!

Absalom provoked an open rebellion against his dear and loving father. He instructed his men to shout, "Absalom reigns." The hypocritical mask is thrown off, and the secret purposes of his heart are revealed. He declared himself an enemy to the throne of his father, and an aspirant for the position and authority of the king. A many a man has declared himself an enemy of God and finally come out from behind his camouflage when he believes his opportunity has come. Surely David paid a great price for his foolish sins! Betrayed by his own friend Ahithophel, and pursued by his own son, what a ghastly sight! The following day the battle ensued and was fought in the wood of Ephraim: "the people of Israel were slain before the servants of David. . . twenty thousand men. "

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

Children of God Without Fault

In Philippians 2:14-15, the Apostle Paul commanded, "Do all things without complaining and disputing..." for the purpose that we "may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom [we] shine as lights in the world..." Therefore, it is not enough to be "children of God." We must be "without fault", and this is only true if we are "blameless and harmless." Surely, when we do so, we will make a positive impact upon society today.

To be blameless means "free of guilt or free from fault." This does not mean we are sinless, because we all sin (Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8). It means that we live in such a way that those who oppose us have "nothing evil to say of us" (Tit. 2:6-8), because nothing hinders our efforts to influence others like inconsistency or hypocrisy (Luke 6:41-42). Therefore, we must practice what we preach! If we are not blameless in what we say and do, than those who oppose us will quickly find fault in our attitudes and character, and they will use that as justification to reject the message that we preach.

To be harmless means "without mixture of evil and innocent" When met with opposition, it means that we must be free from any suspicion of evil (Rom. 16:19) and live in such a way that we commend the gospel of Christ, not bring shame to it (Matt. 10:16). Therefore, we must react to evil the way God commanded, not with evil but with acts of love. That is how we OVERCOME evil (Rom. 12:17-21). Truly, if we are going to be as harmless as doves, we must love our enemies the way Jesus taught us, with an "active good will." Consequently, this is how we demonstrate ourselves to be "sons of the Most High!" (Psa. 82:6; Luke 6:35).

The challenge we face today is that we are so disgusted by evil, so we are tempted to respond in ways that is not in step with the gospel of Christ. If our ultimate goal is changing hearts, then it must be done the way God has changed our own hearts, through the gospel of love, sacrifice, and mercy! By following in steps of our Savior, we will truly be "blameless and harmless," and "shine as lights in the world!" It is only then that we can impact society effectively.

- John Garza

Your new name

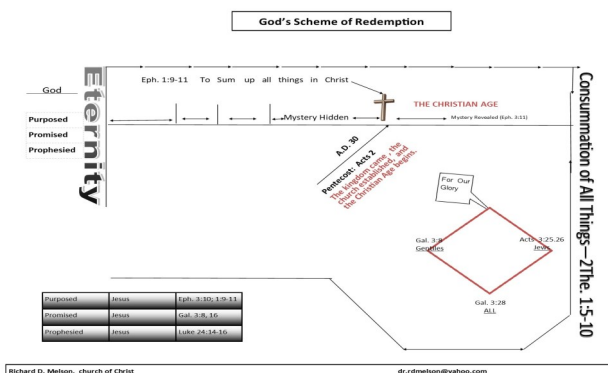


When you were born, your parents gave you a name. You didn't pick it. They did. And that has been your identity ever since. When you were born again, God gave you a new name. You didn't pick it. He did. And, truly, that has become your identity ever since.

Seven hundred years before Christ came, the prophet Isaiah foretold of that day when God's people "shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord will name" (Isa. 62:2). In Acts 11:26, Luke recorded that "the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." The word for "called" was used in the New Testament for a divine calling, indicating that this fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy that the Lord would give this new name to His people. The name "Christian" identifies a relationship and a belonging, as a faithful follower of Christ.

Let us never be "ashamed" of our new name (1 Pet. 4:16)! Rather, let us "glorify God" in it every day! It is our unique identity with Him, which should give us great joy!

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



Continued from page one

David's son was commander of one side of men, and was soundly defeated. He rode away on a mule into the woods to escape David, but, alas, the head of pride and beauty was caught between two branches of an oak and there he died suspended between heaven and earth.

Perhaps David now realizes what he should have realized before, that instead of being concerned with some other man's wife he should have been home teaching his own son! David's sins were many, but his remorse at the death of Absalom is pitiful. Hear him, "O my Son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!" (2 Sam. 18:33) We suppose a many a man has lived to regret the sins of his youth and the neglect of his family. Truly David expressed great concern for his son as he gave orders to his army - but that concern was much too late to correct Absalom's wicked life.

If you have a son (or daughter) give him the best part of yourself today! Tomorrow may be too late. If you are too busy to give your son an hour and a half of your time each day - you are TOO BUSY!! And remember God's great love for you -and how about a little concern for God in your life? ✍

We have been blessed to have with us two of the men the congregation partially supports from the Memphis School of Preaching, Memphis, TN, they are Odane Brisett and Sergio Luna, II. They have been with us since Wednesday afternoon. Brother Odane is from Jamaica, West Indies and Sergio is from Arkansas by way of Houston, TX.

Brother Luna will work with the Hispanic brethren this morning and will preach for English speakers this afternoon. After evening service I will take them back to the airport for the return to Memphis.

The last few days in our area has caused us to be reminded (if you didn't already know) how precious life is. There are too many who take life for granted. Too many who think that "they can have it their own way". There is no respect for authority in too many places. But with all of this, there remains a great opportunity for the people of God to "shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life" (Phil. 2:15-16). ✍

Thanksgiving for God's Gift

Tonight I looked into the wide eyes of our child and thanked God for this small stewardship of time. We give thanks for the friends and support that has enabled us to embrace so great a privilege. Have you hugged a child lately? Thanks be to God for the ability to hug so precious a gift. "Lo, children are a heritage of Jehovah; And the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows in the hand of a mighty man, So are the children of youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: They shall not be put to shame, When they speak with their enemies in the gate." (Psalm 127:3-5 ASV)

-Glenn Hitchcock

- ☞ **Pantry Items:** Boxed Meal (e.g. Hamburger Helper); Canned Meals (Ravioli etc.); Pop Tarts
- ☞ **Potter Children's Home:** Christmas Gift Shop—see list for items.
- ☞ **Senior Lunch**—at Bob Evans 7400 Miller Lane 11:00 AM November 28



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 ; 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