

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	50
Attendance AM	94
Attendance PM	35
Wednesday PM	23

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; Karis Grant (Buffalo, NY)

Traveling: Norris Cole, II; Rita McGahee; Richard Melson, Jr.

Prayers:

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy: Lisa Owens; Rita McGahee

Birthdays: December — 5 Herman Farmer; 11— Nina Netheron, Kim Tydings; 15 Dana Grigsby, Richard Melson, DeWayne Eslick; 24 Mia Gilbert; 26 Theresa Wallace

Anniversaries: November— None

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

Potter Children’s Home: Christmas Gift Shop Pickup on December 5th Tuesday @3:30 pm

December 03	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Song Leader	Michael Blanks, Jr.	Patrick Cook
Lead Lord’s Supper	Lyle Cole	Lyle Cole
Server 1	Denzil Turner, III	Denzil Turner, III
Server 2	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Scripture Reader	James Grigsby	James Grigsby
Sermon	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. Melson
Prayer for Responses	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Closing Prayer	Jerry Thomas	Frank Brock
Announcements	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. 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

December 03, 2023

Issue 49

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR PERSONAL EVANGELISM

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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

Personal evangelism is a topic that should interest every Christian. The great commission is a fundamental bible doctrine that we learn from an early age. God wants, yea requires, His people to spread the good news throughout the world. From time to time, it is good for us to “sharpen our sword” in order to improve in the area of personal evangelism. Here are some practical suggestions that will help us to be the best personal evangelists we can be.

First, remember that it is a process. Rarely will a person obey the gospel after only one bible study. Usually, it takes a fair amount of time, effort, and patience in order to convert a person to Christ. Consider the persistence and stick-to-it-iveness of the early church.

- “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ” (Acts 5:42).
- Paul “spake boldly for the space of three months” in the synagogue when he first arrived in Ephesus (Acts 19:8).
- He was “disputing daily” in the school of Tyrannus for two years (Acts 19:9-10).
- While in Ephesus Paul taught “publicly and from house to house” (Acts 20:20) over a timespan of three years (Acts 20:31).

It is sometimes easy for us to become discouraged and give up, thinking that our efforts are futile. But, we must be patient and persistent. Paul wrote, “And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves...” (2 Tim. 2:24-26).

Second, understand that personal evangelism is more than just verbal teaching. Certainly a person must hear the gospel before they can obey it (Rom. 10:17). But often a person is prompted to ask about the gospel because they can see it displayed in someone else’s life. In 1 Peter 2:12 Peter commands that we “have our conversation honest among the gentiles.” The word “honest” carries the idea of “attractive.” So, we are to live beautiful lives that people are attracted to. Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven” (Matt. 5:16). The Christian life is the best life. It is beautiful by design. Thus, as I live consistent with the doctrine that I teach, people will take notice and be prompted to ask “why?” and “how?” They will say, “we will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you” (Zech. 8:23).

Third, maintain a proper understanding of success. Remember that success in personal evangelism is not necessarily measured by baptisms. If the parable of the sower teaches us anything, it teaches us that we have the power to sow the seed, but we do not have the power to make it grow. That power belongs to God (Luke 8; Rom. 1:16). Too often we give up on our evangelistic efforts because we think that we have failed, when in reality we

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

What kind of compliment was that?

There is a phrase that is used fairly often to speak of compliments that are given from one person to another without being expected or solicited – called “unsolicited compliments.” The news reported recently about some women who were receiving unsolicited compliments and wanted them to stop. Hearing the phrase made me think, “Where did we come up with that description? If there are ‘unsolicited compliments,’ does that not imply there are also ‘solicited compliments?’” And, “If ‘solicited compliments’ are actually solicited, then how can they genuinely be ‘compliments?’” “Shouldn’t all compliments be ‘unsolicited?’”

Think about it long enough and your head can start spinning (or get warped like mine). But, who really wants to receive a “solicited compliment”? If you have to fish for one, how complimentary is that? Solomon said, “LET another man praise you” (Prov. 27:2) – not “coerce” or “prompt it out of him.” Earlier he said, “To seek one’s own glory is not glory” (25:27). Compliments are fun to give (and fun to receive when they’re real). Do you compliment?

- David Sproule

Good start. Bad finish.

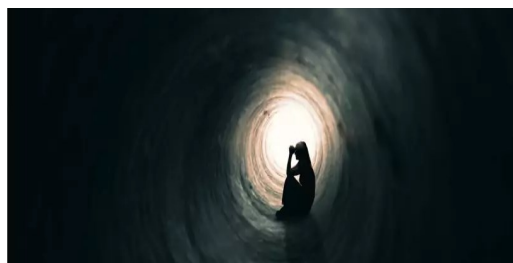
For the ninth king of Judah, he started out in the right direction. 2 Chronicles 26:4 says that Uzziah “did what was right in the sight of the Lord.” To summarize those first years on the throne, “He sought God” and “God helped him” (26:5-7). But, “his fame spread...he became exceedingly strong...he built towers...he fortified them...he dug many wells...he had an army of fighting men...he made devices...his fame spread far and wide” (26:8-15).

The first word of verse 16 speaks volumes. “But when he was strong...” In those first years, “he did what was right in the sight of the Lord.” But, his power, strength and fame went to his head. “...When he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the Lord his God...”

He started out strong, but then he gave himself all the credit and glory, instead of God. In the end, “he was cut off” (26:21). May we start strong and finish strong with God and for God!

- David Sproule

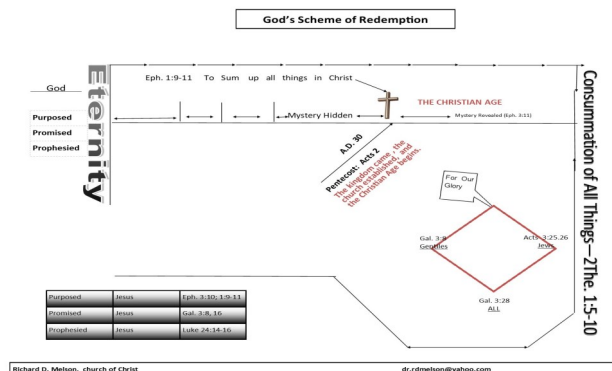
What to do when you don't know what to do



Sometimes things happen that make us ask all kinds of questions. For many of those questions, there is not an answer (or maybe not a “satisfactory” answer). When we cannot find an answer, it often drives us further into the abyss of doubt, fears, heartache, isolation and despair. Once we are down there, it is hard to get out. The apostle Paul has been where you are. (Actually, he was in far worse places.) There were times when he “despaired even to life” (2 Cor. 1:8). There were times when he was “hard pressed on every side,” “perplexed” and basically “struck down” (2 Cor. 4:8-9). What did he do?

Write these down. In context, (1) Paul did not “trust in” himself “but in God” (2 Cor. 1:9). (2) Paul found “help” in the “prayers” of his brethren (1:11). (3) Paul found reasons to give “thanks” (1:11; 4:15). (4) Paul focused on what he could do for others, especially his brethren (1:12, 15-16; 4:15). (5) Paul set his sights on the “eternal weight of glory” (4:17-18; 1:14). (6) Paul preached Jesus (4:5-14). I challenge you to emulate Paul in all six areas and see what happens.

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



Continued from page one

have not. Remember that we plant and water, but it is God that gives the increase (1 Cor. 3:6), and His word will always accomplish what He intends (Isa. 55:11). It is not our job to force someone to become a Christian; all we can do is teach them. Thus, success is measured by sowing the seed in the right way, and for the right reason.

Finally, practice wisdom in evangelism. Every circumstance is unique and thus requires a thoughtful and personalized approach. Jude said, “And of some have compassion, making a difference: and others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire: hating even the garment that is spotted by the flesh” (Jude 22-23). Do you remember the story of Apollos? The scripture says that Aquila and Priscilla “took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly” (Acts 18:26). That they “took him unto them” indicates that they took him aside privately and taught him. Why did they choose that approach? Scripture does not tell us, but surely it was because they believed it would be the one most effective. In our evangelistic efforts we must exercise that same wisdom in judgment. Some situations may call for a group bible study, while others may be better suited for one on one attention. Some are able to wrestle with difficult subjects in scripture, while others may need more time. Whatever the situation may be we must address it with wisdom.

Food For Thought

There are too many church members like the old law on the statute books of the state of Illinois which states:

'Where two railroads cross, if two trains meet, neither is to move until the one has gone.'

Too many people are trying to get to heaven on what they DO NOT DO, rather than what they do. The sins they DO NOT COMMIT will not get them to heaven. Remember, the manikin in the store window does not swear, does not drink, does not steal, or commit any kind of a sin. But, will it go to heaven?

Instead of more people per square mile, we need more square people per mile. There are two classes of failures; those who thought and never did, and those who did and never thought.

- ☞ **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. Items will be picked up Tuesday December 5 at 3:30 PM
- ☞ **Senior Lunch**— Will resume in April, 2024



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 (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