

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	54
Attendance AM	96
Attendance PM	33
Wednesday PM	38

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Phil & Kim Tydings; Mary Sanders; Janis Bland; Rhea Wallace; C.D. Arnett; Krubo Joploh; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stones Springs); Ron Robbins; Debbie Rowland (MVH); David Dudley; Norman Scearce; Mrs. Anthony Taylor

Traveling: Norris Cole, II; Richard Melson, Jr. Dollie Jones;

Prayers:

Repentance: Berdie Oakes

Baptism:

Sympathy:

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

Anniversaries: December— None

Ladies Reading Group: Zoom Class December 28 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 1—"Sisters, I Need You"

December 24	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	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. Melson
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

December 24, 2023

Issue 52

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

"THEY'RE ALL A PACK OF LIES AND KIDS FAIRY TALES!"

Carl B. Garner

The above quote came from a government employee who was ridiculing the birth of Jesus, His life and resurrection. He was explaining why he opposed the "Christmas displays" that foster a belief in what he called "fairy tales." As we all know, that is happening a lot these days, and the Bible is receiving a lot of opposition, to the point that they are being banned in some communities.

We know God never authorized a celebration of Jesus' birthday as is so common today, but the opposition to "Christmas" is growing, and in several ways, that troubles me. What if our nation became so secularized that it became a crime to be a Christian, to assemble with other Christians to worship God, to utter the name of Jesus in public? Is that where we are headed? Is that what this nation is destined to be?

What about those Bible stories—are they merely "kid's fairy tales"? Is the Bible filled with a "pack of lies"? All those stories—Is there any evidence for any of them? Or, are we merely being duped, believing fables? It may surprise some, but the Bible's contents are very well supported by credible evidence, with historical facts that few have seen and most never even looked for. Often it has been honest skeptics themselves who have found the strongest support, evidence for the biblical text. One man who rejected the Bible is widely known universally—John Stuart Mill. Though he denied Jesus' deity, Mill wrote the following about Him:

About the life and sayings of Jesus there is a stamp of personal originality combined with profundity of insight which must place the prophet of Nazareth, even in the estimation of those who have no belief in his inspiration, in the very first rank of the men of sublime genius of whom our species can boast.

To deny the inspiration of the prophetic words found in the Bible demands that we reject reason and ignore what evidence reveals. Many men of impeccable integrity, thinking logically, have investigated and overwhelmingly declared the evidence as valid. Scripture does not encourage closed minds in such things. As a matter of fact God demands that we "prove all things" (1 Thess. 5:21). Thayer defines "prove" in these exact words: "Test; examine, scrutinize; to see whether a thing is genuine or not." There were no "tricks," no shenanigans. Readers of the Bible are told to investigate. The Bible is what it claims to be—no more, but certainly no less.

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

Life In A Madhouse ?

It was a terribly hectic day at the doctor's office. And it was made worse by the new receptionist who was trying very hard to cope with the chaos, but just could not get all together. Answering the phone, checking in new patients, and doing so many new things was just more than the new receptionist could handle. The psychiatrist had taken all he could, but finally had to correct her phone answering technique. "When you answer the phone," he said, "just say we're terribly busy today. Please don't say it's a madhouse around here."

What is it like in your life? Are you so busy some of these days that you don't know what to do next? If you are retired, do you sometimes wonder how you had time to go to work? It's sometimes hard to tell the difference between just being very busy and living in a madhouse, isn't it?

Jesus was also extremely busy, but He still had time to "get away from it all" to spend time communing with His Heavenly Father. "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. And Simon and they that were with him followed after him. And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek for thee. And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth" (Mark 1:35-38). Simon's comment, "All men seek for thee," demonstrates how busy He was, and how many claims were made for His time and energy. But there was still time for prayer, for time with friends like Mary, and Martha, and Lazarus, and to bless children.

Even in the midst of the busy pace of life, however, Jesus offers us peace. He said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

There is tribulation in the world, but He offers peace.

He says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). Maybe it is time to give some of your burdens to Him, and take up his yoke.

- Bob Prichard

Can God's expectations for a king apply to you?

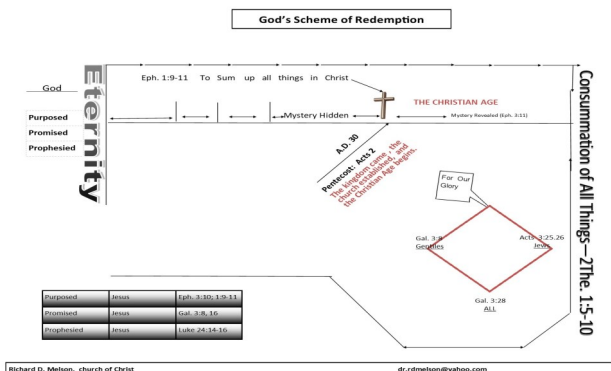


God foresaw the time when His people would demand a king, and He set out some parameters for those who would reign over His nation. Consider these two responsibilities. First, the king was to "write for himself a copy of this law in a book" (Deut. 17:18). Do you remember when you used to study for tests in school? Did it help you to get the information locked in your head better if you actually wrote it out with your own hand? What would happen with your Bible knowledge if you took sections of it and wrote it out in your own handwriting?

Second, the king was to keep his handwritten copy of the law "with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life" (17:19). God knew what He was requiring! What happens to your faith when you have read the Bible every day? It is not merely a rote exercise!

Why did God want the king to do this? For the same reason that we should! "That he may learn to fear the Lord...to observe all the words...that he may not turn aside..." (17:19-20)..

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



-Continued from page one

When honest people search out these things they discover that the words of the Bible are from inspired sources. The more modern "stories" that surround this time of the year are just that, stories. Contrariwise, when they search the Bible they find verifiable historical sources.

Note the following prophecies along with the accompanying fulfillment in the New Testament:

- ◆ He would be born in Bethlehem (see Micah 5:2).
- ◆ He would be born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14), and the fulfillment is recorded in Matthew 1:18-25.
- ◆ Men would slaughter babies hoping to kill Him (see Jer. 31:15; Matt. 2:16-18).
- ◆ His betrayal by a friend for thirty pieces of silver (Zech. 11; Matt. 26:14-16).
- ◆ A potter's field would be purchased by blood money paid for His betrayal (Zech. 11; Matt. 27:6-10).
- ◆ None of His bones would be broken (Psa. 34:20; John 19:33-36).
- ◆ He would be born in the days of Roman kings (Dan. 2:31-44; Luke 2:1-3).

These and some 300 others, and Jesus is the only person who could and did fulfill them. Remember the words of 2 Peter 1:20-21: "Prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

Skeptics still deny it, and they can continue to do so until that Judgment Day, but nothing will change the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Neither the Bible nor God is on trial here or anywhere. It is man that is on trial, and a day is coming when a Righteous God will judge all who ever lived on this earth. Denying that fact changes nothing. Do your homework—search the scriptures with an open mind. The more you do, the more you will be convinced and want to be with Him throughout eternity.

(via the Southwesterner — 12/22/2019)

- ☞ **Pantry Items:** We need to replenish the pantry. Boxed Meals (e.g. Hamburger Helper); Canned Meals (Ravioli etc.); Pop Tarts; Canned Soups; Cereal
- ☞ **New Wednesday Bible Study:** Adult class- *Principles of Old Testament Prophecy*—How to understand and interpret Old Testament Prophecy
- ☞ **Senior Lunch**— Will resume in April, 2024



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