

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	67
Attendance AM	102
Attendance PM	32
Wednesday PM	37

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Phil & Kim Tydings; Mary Sanders; Janis Bland; Rhea Wallace; C.D. Arnett; Krubo Joploh; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stone Springs); Ron Robbins; Debbie Rowland (Hospice); David Dudley; Norman Scearce; Mrs. Anthony Taylor; Gladys Chittick (Stone Springs); Dana and Larry Grigsby (home) ; Jerry and Linda Thomas; Mauricio Garrido

Traveling: Norris Cole, II; Richard Melson, Jr.; Deborah Crane

Prayers: Christina Barnes; Anthony Barnes

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy:

Birthdays: December — 5 Herman Farmer; 11—Nina Netheron, Kim Tydings; 15 Dana Grigsby, Richard Melson, DeWayne Eslick; 23— Tony Moore; 24 Mia Gilbert; 26 Theresa Wallace

Anniversaries: December— 29-Tony & Princess Moore

Ladies Reading Group: Zoom Class January 11 @ 6:00

PM Lesson 2-3 —"Sisters, I Need You"

December 31	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Lyle Cole	Lyle Cole
Song Leader	Michael Blanks, Jr.	Chris Poole
Lead Lord's Supper	Patrick Cook	Patrick Cook
Server 1	Chris Poole	Norris Cole
Server 2	James Grigsby	Denzil Turner, III
Scripture Reader	Ryan McGahee	Patrick Thomas
Sermon	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. Melson
Prayer for Responses	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Closing Prayer	Anthony Grgigsby	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 31, 2023

Issue 53

THERE WILL BE NO SIGNS!

Dave Miller

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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

We often hear people discussing the end of time and delineating the "signs" which, they say are proof that Christ's return is imminent. These signs include 'wars and rumors of wars,' 'earthquakes,' and various political/military events which one observes on the evening news. These loud proponents of gloom claim to be representing the Bible in their calculations and forecasts.

Consider for a moment what the Bible actually teaches. In Matthew 24:1-35, Jesus pinpointed numerous signs by which His disciples and Jewish Christians could recognize the occasion of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. These signs (e.g., "wars and rumors of wars" - v. 6; "famines and earthquakes" - v.7; gospel preached to whole world - v. 14: the approach of the Roman armies - v. 15 & Luke 21:20) functioned as signals by which the faithful could identify the "end" (vs. 6,14) of the Jewish commonwealth. Jesus was providing descriptive detail in response to the disciples' question concerning the destruction of the temple (24:2-3). Just as tender branches and fresh leaves signal the approach of summer (vs. 32), so the multiple signs which Jesus pinpointed would signal the coming of Christ in judgement upon the Jewish nation (vs. 33) in 70 A.D.

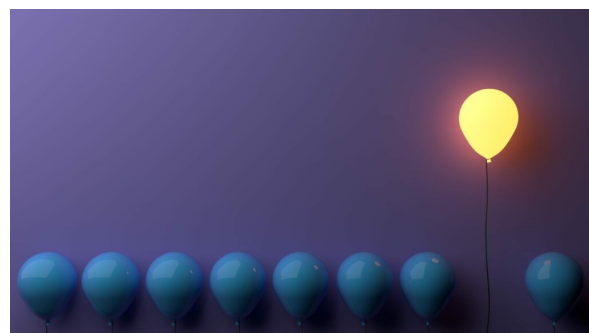
But then Jesus turns His attention to the question of the end of time and His second coming in vs. 36. Notice the difference! Now Jesus goes out of His way to stress the total absence of signs signaling the end of the world and second coming! He declares that His final coming will be comparable to the Deluge of Noah's day (v. 37)in that it will be totally unexpected. Right up to the very day Noah and his family entered the ark, life was going on as usual! No signs! Jesus says farmers will be in the field as usual (V. 40); women will be involved in their activities (as usual (v. 41). Jesus even likens the unexpected nature of His final coming to the exploits of the thief (V. 43). Both Paul (1 Thessalonians 5:2) and Peter (2 Peter 3:10) repeat this analogy. The coming of a thief in the night is preceded by absolutely no signals!

Contrary to the prevalent notions of our day concerning the "signs of the times," the Bible asserts that there will be a total absence of signs to prepare the world for the end of time. The only hope of the entire world is to render obedience to the written revelation of the Bible (24:46)!

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

The Suffering Savior

Your effect on the hearts of others



In Acts chapter eight, we learn of the evangelist Philip’s interaction with an Ethiopian man whose curiosity was sparked by Isaiah’s writings about the silent sufferer in Isaiah 53. Beginning from this Scripture, Philip “preached unto him Jesus” (Acts 8:35).

First, Isaiah revealed that the word that best describes the man of Isaiah 53 is “insignificant.” Humanity was unimpressed as they beheld this “tender plant,” “a root out of a dry ground,” one who had “no form or comeliness” and “no beauty.” The promised Messiah was viewed only as a “man of sorrows and acquainted with grief,” and He was summarily rejected by men (Jn. 1:11). Secondly, Isaiah identifies the vicarious nature of this man’s great suffering by using the word “our” multiple times. This man, who was judged to be insignificant and unimportant, bore our griefs, carried our sorrows, was wounded for our iniquities and chastised for our peace. Isaiah demands that we acknowledge the vicarious nature of this man’s silent suffering. He was guilty of nothing and could not be convicted of sin, yet He was pierced, chastened, scourged and experienced the most violent execution known to man (Jn. 8:46).

Thirdly, Isaiah depicts this sufferer as the atoning Lamb, brought to the slaughter, on whom the Lord has laid “the iniquity of us all” (Isa. 53:6-7). Sin demands a price, and our just and righteous God cannot withhold the wages earned by every sinner (Rom. 6:23; 1 Pet. 1:18-19). The unjust trial, the false imprisonment and criminal’s death suffered by this Lamb pleased the Father only because it enabled Him to accept His Son as offering for our sin (Isa. 53:10-12).

A reading of Isaiah 53 leaves us humbled and ashamed to have rejected the one who left glory to “bare our sins in his own body on the tree” (1 Pet. 2:24). When we are faced with the horrible reality of our own sinfulness and the terrible penalty owed, Isaiah 53 presents us with the spotless Lamb of God who suffered and died in our place. If you believe all that Isaiah reveals about Jesus, be like the Ethiopian eunuch, accept the sacrifice of the suffering Savior by obeying His gospel and you will be set free (Jn.8:36).

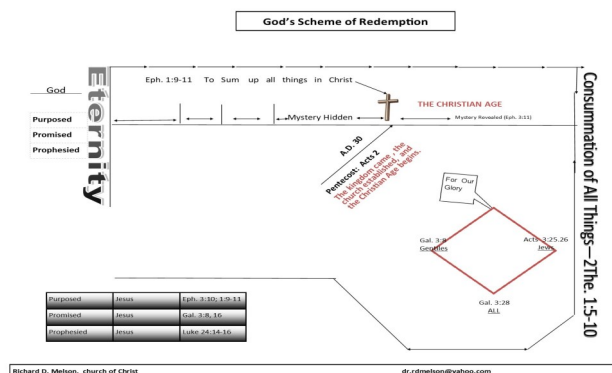
- Clay Bond

When the twelve spies came back from their 40-day reconnaissance mission into the Promised Land, the majority reported that “the people” and “the cities” in the land were “greater” and seemingly indestructible. The report, although based on false information, “discouraged” (literally, “melted”) the “hearts” of the people (Deut. 1:28). What a negative influence!

Compare that with Philemon in the New Testament. Paul wrote that he had heard of this Christian brother’s “love and faith” and “the sharing of [his] faith,” which brought Paul “much joy and comfort” (Phile. 5-7). But Paul’s joy and comfort were actually “because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by” Philemon (Phile. 7). What a positive influence!

Think about the influence that you have on others. Could it be that your words, attitudes and actions “melt” people’s hearts and discourage them? Or do you use your words, attitudes and actions to “refresh” people’s hearts and encourage them? The choice is yours! The difference is immeasurable!

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson’s Musings ...



*“... they took note that these men had been with Jesus”
They Had Been With Jesus*

Yes, for three years they had been with Him! He had called and commissioned them. They were learners (disciples) and then sent (apostles), They had been equipped, trained and schooled by Christ They left nets, boats, crops, business, tax-stands and wandered around with Jesus for three years. Learning did not take place by sitting and listening to someone lecture! It took place by watching someone's life; observing a pattern of living; acting and responding to various situations. They walked with the Master - feeling his heartbeat, hearing him speak, seeing him pray and watching his response to critics.

They were a defective bunch' They lacked spiritual perception, humility, faith, commitment and power. But Jesus dealt with them by patience, perseverance and prayer. By instruction and example He dealt with their weaknesses, Gradually, He transformed these weak and impotent men into stalwarts that would change the world.

What hope there is for us weak and defective disciples, He is still patiently working on us! Luke 6:40 says, "A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher."

The apostles had become like their teacher. The servant reflects his master! Imagine walking with Jesus every day. One who never got angry except over matters that robbed God of His glory. One who gave himself to others! One who helped everyone! Who loved everyone! What impact! What effect!

Jesus had accomplished His purpose in them. The Sanhedrin “saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived they had been with Jesus. “How did they know”? Because they loved what Jesus loved! They served as Jesus served! They reflected Him!

Do people see that we have been with Jesus? Are we 'living mirrors that reflect Him?' *✍*
- Clarence DeLoach, Jr.

- ✍ **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
- ✍



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