

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	47
Attendance AM	91
Attendance PM	37
Wednesday PM	30

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Phil & Kim Tydings; Janis Bland; Judy Arnett; Krubo Joploh; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stone Springs); Ron Robbins; Debbie Rowland; Norman Scearce; Mrs. Anthony Taylor; Jerry and Linda Thomas; Mauricio Garrido; Blanks family
Traveling: Norris Cole, II; Richard Melson, Jr.; Dollie Jones; Valerie Melson; Ashley Thomas
Prayers: Gerri Allen (LA); Stacey Bowman
Repentance:
Baptism:
Sympathy: Judy Arnett and family; Chittick family; Dixon & Cole families; Jones and Thomas families
Birthdays: January — 5 Lisa Owens; 7—Sharnelle Coiwus; 15 Jennifer Arnett 16—Valerie Melson; 25 Denzil Turner, III; 31— Chad Arnett; Krystal Thomas
Anniversaries: January— 12— Tim & Melody Angus
Ladies Reading Group: Zoom Class January 25 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 2 —"Sisters, I Need You"

January 14	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Song Leader	Patrick Cook	Lyle Cole
Lead Lord's Supper	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Server 1	Chris Poole	Chris Poole
Server 2	Ryan McGahee	Denzil Turner, III
Scripture Reader	James Grigsby	Patrick Cook
Sermon	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. Melson
Prayer for Responses	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Closing Prayer	Denzil Turner, III	Frank Brock
Announcements	Lyle Cole	Patrick Thomas
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 05

January 14, 2024

Issue 02

HOLDING FAST THE WORD OF LIFE

John Garza

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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

Philippians 2:12-16 teaches us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling and allow God to work in us. We must do all things without murmuring and disputing, and be children of God without fault, by being blameless and harmless. Now, fundamental to our ability to do all these things is that we "hold fast the word of life" (Phil. 2:16). How can we accomplish this? Ezra 7:10 provides three ways.

First, seek the law of the Lord (Ezra 7:10). Diligent study requires a desire for the Word like a baby longs for milk (1 Pet. 2:2-3), and receiving it and implanting it our hearts (Jas. 1:21). One way that this can be done is through daily Bible study (Ps. 1:1-3). Diligent Bible study is necessary because it will allow us "to present ourselves approved to God... [by] rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:14-16). So, if we really want to "hold fast the word of life" in a way that will help us eternally, we must start by preparing our own hearts to study it diligently!

Second, consistently apply God's Word (Ezra 7:10). There is the danger of being a hearer, and not a doer of the Word (Jas. 1:22-25) in which we deceive ourselves and deprive ourselves of the true blessedness of God's Word, which comes by DOING it, not just HEARING (or reading) it. There is also the danger of being like the Pharisees. Even though what they said was correct, they failed to practice what they preached (Matt. 23:1-3). Those who may not listen to what we say may be drawn to what we believe if we demonstrate the Word of God in our lives (1 Pet. 2:12). So, after we have learned God's Will, let's be sure to live it!

Finally, teach God's Word to others (Ezra 7:10). This is the natural follow-up to study and application, and as the people of God, proclaiming the "Word of Life" is our primary function in this world (1 Pet. 2:9-10). In our proclamation lies the greatest hope of shedding light in this dark world of ours. Because if God has called US through His gospel (2 Thess. 2:14) out of darkness into His marvelous light, then He will do the same for those with whom we share the same gospel! So, as we diligently strive to serve Christ and His kingdom, let's not neglect to share it with others! *gr*

SEEKING THE LOST - LUKE 19:10

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

The Slothful Sluggard

The Biblical word I would like to discuss today is "Sluggard." The Hebrew word thus translated is found twelve times in Book of Proverbs. Five times it is translated "sluggard" and the other seven times it is translated "slothful." The English words sluggard and slothful both indicate slowness of movement. Slothful is defined as, "habitual disinclination to exertion; indolence; laziness..." (Dictionary.com) and Sluggard describes a person, "who is habitually inactive or lazy..." (Dictionary.com). A sluggard can simply be called a slothful person. Proverbs uses these terms numerous times to encourage the reader to become active and even proactive in every aspect of their lives and especially to be so in regard to their spiritual lives.

A summary of how the Hebrew word is used in Proverbs demonstrates the characteristics of the slothful sluggard.

- The slothful sluggard refuses to labor. Proverbs 21:25 and 24:30-31.
- The slothful sluggard makes excuses for not doing anything: "There's a lion!" (Proverbs 22:13; 26:13) "It's too cold!" (Proverbs 20:4).
- These lame excuses and flat refusal to do anything only makes the slothful sluggard's life more difficult. His way is fraught with thorns that impede him. (Proverbs 15:19)
- The slothful sluggard is like a man who sleeps all the time, but gets no rest. (Proverbs 6:9; 26:14)
- Finally, the slothful sluggard is unreliable and brings only bitterness to those who would attempt to rely upon him. (Proverbs 10:26)

All of this is why, Solomon encourage the slothful sluggard to look to or imitate the ant. (Proverbs 6:6-11). The ant may be small, but it works hard and is proactive with regard to seeing to its needs. A slothful sluggard, both spiritually and physically is the very opposite of what a Christian ought to be.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might..." (Ecclesiastes 9:10)

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ..."(Colossians 3:23-24)

- Jack McNeil

Who is the god?

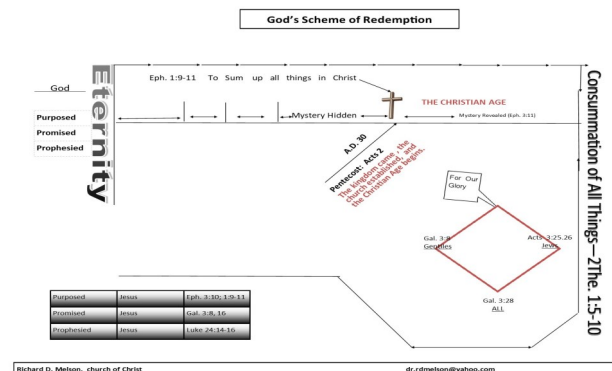


The Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, was so egotistical that he thought that he was all-powerful and could wield his authority to coerce anyone to do anything that he wanted. When Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego did not bow down to him or his image, the king threatened to throw them "into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." And then he asked this sneering question, "Who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?" (Dan. 3:15).

You and I know the answer to that question, and Nebuchadnezzar himself learned the answer to that question, when he later praised "the God of" these three Hebrews (Dan. 3:28).

Let us consider that question in our lives. Who is the god who can affect the moral decline all around us? Who is the god who can turn our wayward children back to righteousness? Who is the god who can take the mess of my life and straighten it out? Who is the god who will deliver us? We know! "Our God is greater than all gods" (2 Chron. 2:5), for our God "is able" (Eph. 3:20-21)!

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



How a Man Was Led to Christ

Man Led to Christ By Bible Lesson Found in the Gutter

A most amazing story has just come to our attention concerning a conversion to Christ through a World Bible School lesson. Alex Ngyeh-Young was walking down the street in Ghana when he came across a paper lying in the gutter. He picked it up and glanced through what was in it. The material was entitled **How To Become A Christian And Establish The Church Of Christ In Your Community.**

Alex was amazed that he had found the paper, but came to the conclusion as he read through it that God wanted to save him from the sins he had committed.

Alex made up his mind to go to church. On the first day of the week he took the paper and found his way to the church of Christ in the village. He revealed the whole story to the preacher who told him how to have salvation. After the service the preacher studied with Alex "face to face" and preached to him "through the Bible". In two days Alex repented, confessed His Lord and was baptized into Christ.

And now the rest of the story! 'The above information was taken almost word for word from a letter written by Alex Ngyeh Young. He sent it to one of our members, Patsy Wootton, thanking her that he was now a Christian through the information she had sent to his country. What Alex may not have known is that the Bible lesson had been mailed from America more than **seven years ago.**

Where all it had been during those seven years we have no way of knowing. But we do know the end result in the life of one person with whom it came into contact.

Let's read it again: *"So is my word that goes out of My mouth: it will not return to Me empty. But will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."* (Isaiah 55:11).

God is reaching out to you through the power of His written Word. How have you responded to His efforts to save your soul? ☞

- ☞ **Pantry Items:** Tuna Fish; Corn Flakes; Saltine Crackers; Apple Sauce; Peanut Butter; Jelly
- ☞ **Senior Lunch**— Will resume in April, 2024
- ☞ **2024 Theme:** Seeking The Lost
- ☞ **Memorial Service** for C.D. Arnett—Saturday 20th at 11:00 AM—Repast to follow in Fellowship Hall
- ☞ Learning to Live with Loss—with Dean Miller April 5-7



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