

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	43
Attendance AM	68
Attendance PM	31
Wednesday PM	29

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Phil & Kim Tydings; Janis Bland; Judy Arnett; Krubo Joploh; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stone Springs); Ron Robbins; Mrs. Anthony Taylor; Mauricio Garrido; Blanks family
Traveling: Norris Cole, II; Richard Melson, Jr.;
Prayers: Gerri Allen (LA); Stacey Bowman
Repentance:
Baptism:
Sympathy: Carlene Harley and family
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 3 —"Sisters, I Need You"

January 21	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Song Leader	Chris Poole	Patrick Cook
Lead Lord's Supper	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Server 1	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Server 2	Ryan McGahee	Patrick Thomas
Scripture Reader	Denzil Turner, III	Denzil Turner, III
Sermon	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. Melson
Prayer for Responses	Lyle Cole	Lyle Cole
Closing Prayer	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Announcements	Richard Melson	Richard 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 05

January 21, 2024

Issue 03

PREACHING THE WORD

Foy L. Smith and Richard D. Melson

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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 are some people who are still interested in the pure gospel of Jesus Christ. We are trying to give you something each week that will provoke your most serious deliberation throughout the week. If it helps you through the week then my time is considered well spent.

The world needs the gospel of Christ. The world has had too much philosophy and not enough gospel. The fundamental duty of the Church is to preach the truth of Christ. The Church is a preaching institution. But most people have forgotten this if they ever knew it. With some the Church has become a bazaar for the distribution of food and clothing. With some it is no more than a soup line, existing for the sole purpose of distributing "loaves and fishes", with some it is an institution for the promotion of selfish interests. But with the Lord it is the institution burdened with the responsibility of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jeremiah 23:29 declares the Bible to be a "hammer and a fire". The inspired penman of Hebrews declares in chapter 4:12 the Bible to be a "two-edged sword." A hammer has the power to break, a fire consumes and a knife cuts. These figures accurately describe the power of the word of God over sin. But too many people in today's society want a hammer with a slick head, a fire that won't burn, and a knife too dull to cut. The word of the gospel is powerful when employed correctly. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation. (Ron. 1:16.) Perverted it becomes a potion of death and destruction.

A fearful responsibility rests upon the church as it, preaches the truth. Falsehood never liberated a single soul from the bondage of sin. One can't wrap falsehood up in enough sincerity to save a single soul. The truth of Christ is not compatible with error. Where truth is planted error is uprooted. There is too much preaching now about the Bible and not enough preaching from the Bible itself. An old preacher said to a young preacher once, "Abe, when you preach, always take a long text; that much of your sermon will be right, whether the rest is or not." And friends, all too often, about the only meat a congregation receives is the long text that the preacher reads - and many don't even like to hear a long text anymore. Human hearts still cry out for the bread of life. Many have cried out for the "bread of life" only to receive a serpent. God's word, the New Testament, is sufficient. It is all the human heart needs for its present and eternal satisfaction. The word is not a dead letter as some claim. It is alive and active. It is sufficient for conversion (Ps. 19:7). It furnishes unto all good works (2 Tim. 3:16, 17). It gives us all things that pertain unto life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). We must neither add to it nor take from it (Rev. 22:18, 19). It is truly the creed that needs no revision. It meets the needs of the whole world (Mt. 28:19).

(continued on page 3)

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

If Children Ran The World

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if you ran the world? You could probably think of many changes you would make. The world would no doubt be a better place if you were running the world.

Walter Waldheim comments: "If children were allowed to run the country, we'd have soda flowing out of the drinking fountains, bridges built with Tinkertoys, Styrofoam airliners, and bad countries would have to play by themselves."

In many ways, our generation has failed the world. We have allowed our world to be a place filled with violence and ugliness. My prayer is that the next generation will do better than we have.

Perhaps this is why Jesus was known as One Who welcomed the children. The disciples just knew that He was too busy to be bothered by the children. "And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them" (Mark 10:14-16).

What does it mean to be a child in the kingdom of God? Children often have beautiful characteristics such as optimism and trust. They just know that daddy can fix anything, and that mother's kiss can cure any injury. They can see the wonder in the commonplace things of the world, and time provides the opportunity to learn and grow. And of course, one of the most enduring characteristics of children is that they forgive so easily. Rather than harboring grudges and ill feelings, they quickly make up. Life is too short for fussing and feuding. And if someone won't play right, they just may have to play by themselves.

Have you received the kingdom of God as a little child? When the people of Samaria "believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women" (Acts 8:12).

- Bob Prichard

In what does God "delight" ?

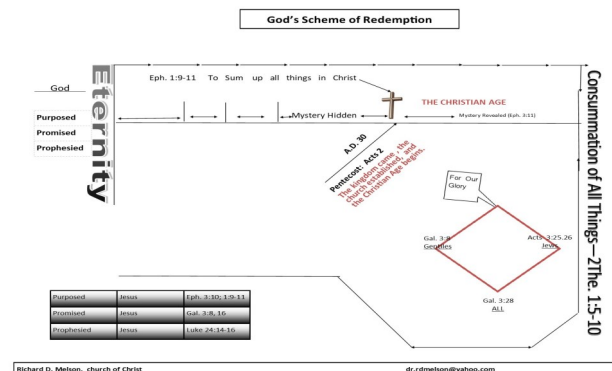


There are certain people that you know exactly "what is pleasing" to them. For some it's fresh flowers. Others like the solitude of holding a fishing pole on a quiet lake. For many it's a trip through the Starbucks drive-thru. But what is it that is a "delight" to God? Or, as the Hebrew word is defined, what "is pleasing" to God?

Perhaps multiple answers could be given, but focus on Proverbs 15:8 – "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, But the prayer of the upright is His delight."

Think about that. God finds "delight" in "the prayer of the upright." As a child of God, when you pray, God does not find your words, your petitions, your heartache to be a burden or an annoyance. Instead, listening to you, sympathizing with you and responding to you is "His delight." Remember that every time you pray, and may you "trust" Him and "delight yourself in the Lord" (Psa. 37:3-4) every time you get to take your cares, requests and thanksgivings to Him! !

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



(continued from page one)

It is pure (Ps. 119:140). It is perfect (Ps.19:7). It is enduring (Lk. 21:33). And we shall be judged by it (Jn. 12:48). Our objections to human creeds are many: They are not inspired of God... they do not meet the needs of the whole world... they are not perfect... they must be revised every few years... we shall not be judged by them... they make void God's word.. they teach things contrary to the word of God... and they are the main instruments in keeping religious people divided. We plead for the acceptance of God's word.

Oh it will be a dark day when gospel preachers-true and faithful preachers-substitute book reviews, current events, science, philosophy or anything else for the Word of the Living God. Over many pulpits in Kentucky in days of old were the words; "Preach the word". Daniel Webster said when the preacher took his text from the Bible and preached from the newspaper, he preferred to stay at home. Might not this be the cause of so many empty pews today?

There are many times adults wonder if children are paying attention in Bible class and better what about in worship services? Some places think that we need to move the children out and play with them or have a so-called "children's church" (whatever that is). Maybe it is story-time; but whatever they call it the question is where is the authority for it. Well this is not my point here; it is this, in worship children can and are paying attention and learning. I have received several questions from children

who are paying attention in worship. One such question is, "Can you get baptized often in church?"

Well if I understand what is being asked, the Bible teaches that a person who sins—that is one who disobeys God's commands is a person who needs to be forgiven (1 John 3:4). The only way for this person who knows that they are guilty to be forgiven is by obeying the gospel, which is completed in baptism for the forgiveness of sin (Acts 2:38). A person only needs to be baptized for the forgiveness of sins once. If a person is immersed in water not having been taught the gospel (Mark 16:15), meaning were taught a teaching a man, then their baptism was not authorized by God. Just being baptized is not what is important, but being converted so that when you are baptized into Christ you are ready to start this new life in Christ (Rom. 6:1-12).

I thank all the children who are paying attention and asking questions. I will keep working to answering your questions. Keep them coming.

- ☞ **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
- ☞ Learning to Live with Loss—with Dean Miller April 5-7



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