

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

Bible Class	63
Attendance AM	95
Attendance PM	34
Wednesday PM	33

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Prayer for Health:** Phil & Kim Tydings; Krubo Joploh; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stone Springs); Ron Robbins; Mauricio Garrido; Mozella Tate (shoulder); April Gilbert; Richard Melson, Jr. (back)

**Traveling:** Norris Cole, II; Norris and Diane Cole; Tydings; Richard Melson, Jr.;

**Prayers:**

**Repentance:**

**Baptism:**

**Sympathy:**

**Birthdays: March** — 6 Melody Angus; 9— Rita McGahee; 10 Samuel Jones, Jr.; 11— Mary Vance; 17— Pat Norris; 18—Layne Vance; 27 - Lyle Cole; 28— Cynthia Lease; 30— Timothy Angus, William Bogan

**Anniversaries: March**— None

**Ladies Reading Group:** Zoom Class March 7 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 4 & 5 —"Sisters, I Need You"

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

March 03, 2024

Issue 09

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

## AN EMPTY WAGON GOING NOWHERE

Tom Wacaster

[This was written in 2005, while Tom was engaged in missionary work in India]

This past week has been a week of festivity in honor of the Hindu God. Worship services to that idol occur daily, extending into the late hours of the night during this week long festivity. It is sad to see such devotion to a false god. In contrast it is rewarding to see those who hear the truth and turn away from that false system of worship to serve the true and living God. There is one feature of this week long festivity that caught my interest. During the week gifts are given to this false Hindu god, and at the end of the week's festivity, the idol is placed on a wagon, and taken to the river and thrown in the river, along with the treasures and gifts that were given by the devotees of the idol. Many people die attempting to recover some of the treasures that are cast into the river with the idol. Every town has a number of these idols, and so when these false gods are put on the wagons, the procession can be quite lengthy. We were returning from a late night preaching appointment and passed one of those wagons that had evidently made its way to the river and was now returning to town. The decorations still draped the wagon, but the idol was gone. Gone too were the merrymaking, singing and dancing, and loud musical procession that accompanied the wagon on its way to the river. And I thought to myself, "An empty wagon going nowhere." That adequately describes the essence of the Hindu religion. While it may carry a colorful idol, and be draped with ribbons, and surrounded with singing and dancing, it is really an empty wagon going nowhere. It is empty, vain, and futile, whether it is going to or coming from the river.

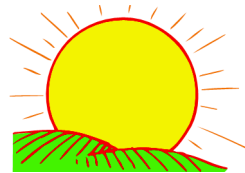
Many a life can be described with the same words. All of us are on the road to eternity. Some travel the narrow way; while others march with the multitudes down that broad path that leads to eternal ruin. Some, like the Hindu idol, are surrounded with wealth, merriment, and pleasure. Some are devotees to false religion; others to no religion at all. Multitudes are marching in the long dark night of spiritual darkness to eternal separation from God. With no awareness of their lost condition, they march on. Like that idolatrous procession going to the river, the masses of humanity are marching toward the river that will forever separate them from the God Who created them and loves them. And so many of them could easily have the epitaph engraved upon their tombstone: "An empty wagon going nowhere." How sad! ☹️

*But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them. (Ps. 115:3-8 NKJ)*

SEEKING THE LOST - LUKE 19:10

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

## What Will You Do With Today?



[This was written December 30, 2005, but it remains true]

Tram Sessions, who had served in the Alabama legislature, clipped a poem from a magazine and mailed it to Coach "Bear" Bryant. Bryant liked the poem so much that he always carried a copy in his wallet. I think I will do the same. The poem gives us all something to think about as we begin a new year.

*This is the beginning of a new day.  
 God has given me this day to use as I will.  
 I can waste it or use it for good.  
 What I do today is very important because I am  
 Exchanging a day of my life for it.  
 When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever,  
 Leaving something in its place I have traded for it.  
 I want it to be a gain, not loss—good, not evil!  
 Success, not failure in order that I  
 Shall not forget the price I paid.*

—W. Heartsill Wilson

There is a great emphasis in scripture on today.

Jesus promised the penitent thief, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).

"But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:13).

"We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)" (2 Corinthians 6:1-2).

**Today** will be soon be gone. What will you leave in its place? Why wait to serve and obey Him?

- Bob Prichard

## What is both tender and firm?

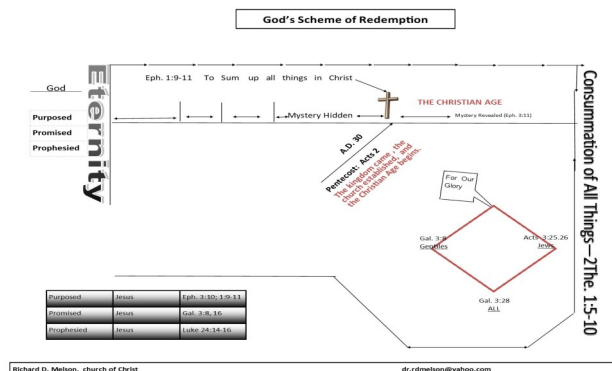


Usually, we would not think that something could be both "tender" and "firm." We might think of a piece of meat and want it either tender or firm, but not both. If something was both tender and firm, we might consider it to be deformed or undesirable.

Is it possible that something could be enhanced and superior because it was both tender and firm? In 1833, Robert Grant penned the hymn, "O Worship the King." The last verse begins, "Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail; Thy mercies, how tender! how firm to the end!" The "mercies" (plural) of God are both "tender" and "firm"!

Repeatedly the psalmists praise the "tender mercies" of our God (Psa. 25:6;40:11; 51:1;69:16;79:8;119:77,156). Where would we be without His "tender mercies"? But His mercies are also "firm"! Every verse of Psalm 136 resounds, "His mercy endures forever." Yes, "His compassions fail not" (Lam. 3:22) and have not yet "ceased forever" (Psa. 77:8). Thank God for His tender and firm mercies!

David Sproule  
 Thought for the Day



## Melson's Musings ...



### Our Father Knows Best

To what extent are we willing to trust God? Are we willing to trust His plan for evangelism? As God's people, we need to be assured of God's wisdom for church growth because our Father knows best.

**Our Father knows the best mission**, the salvation of souls. No doubt, it is that the highest calling because the soul is our most precious possession. This why Jesus once asked, "What profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26). Truly, to lose one's soul would be the greatest tragedy. Yet, to secure the salvation of the soul, the soul must obey the truth (1 Pet. 2:22; Jas. 1:21). Therefore, God has entrusted the church with the greatest mission, the proclamation of the gospel of Christ (Rom. 10:10, 14, 17). It is our responsibility to make sure the lost have the opportunity to obey. If we choose to take our mission lightly, who will turn the sinner from error?

**Our Father knows the best method**. The church is to grow as we go. In fact, the Savior commanded, "GO... and make disciples..." (Matt. 28:19). Therefore, the church grows in souls as we go throughout the world letting our lights shine (Matt. 5:16), teaching publicly or from house to house (Acts 20:20). Therefore, the right method involves every member being a "go-getter." Both men and women can be soul-winners, just consider Aquila and Pricilla. Both young and old can win souls too, just consider Paul and Timothy. Also, young Christians will always need the older Christian to teach them how and set the right example as

soul winners (Tit. 2:1-8). God has blessed every Christian with many opportunities at almost every stage of life. **Our Father knows the best mentality**. God gave no boundaries (Acts 1:8) because He loves every soul, and each person has the right to hear the saving message (2 Pet. 3:9). Therefore, we must have the right mentality and believe that every soul is important to Him. For this reason, God gave us the means for growth (the gospel). He has given us the promise of growth if we sow and water (1 Cor. 3:6), and He has given us the confidence to go into all the world, because He will be with us always (Matt. 28:20)!

- John Garza

- ☞ **Pantry Items:** Tuna Fish; Corn Flakes; Saltine Crackers; Apple Sauce; Peanut Butter; Jelly
- ☞ **Gospel Meeting** with Don Blackwell—Tipp City March 10-13
- ☞ **Senior Lunch**— Will resume in April, 2024
- ☞ **2024 Theme:** Seeking The Lost
- ☞ **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](http://www.wvbs.org) ; [www.apologeticspress.org](http://www.apologeticspress.org) ; [www.searchtv.org](http://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