

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

Bible Class	50
Attendance AM	88
Attendance PM	31
Wednesday PM	42

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Prayer for Health:** Phil & Kim Tydings; Krubo Joploh; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stone Springs); Ron Robbins; Mozella Tate (shoulder); Kristina Burns  
**Traveling:** Richard Melson, Jr. ; Dollie Jones; Richard & Valerie Melson; Tally Poole; Ashley & Alexandria Thomas; Norris & Lyle Cole  
**Prayers:**  
**Repentance:**  
**Baptism:**  
**Sympathy:** Family of Francis Winborn; Family Jermaine Gay (Residence Park); Family of Judy Arnett (Hasty death)  
**Birthdays: April** — 8 Beulah Farmer; 11 Mary Sanders; 12— Diane Cole (Lyle); Jacob Hoover; 18—Mary Rutland; 23 - Norris Cole; 25— Carolyn Johnson  
**Anniversaries: April**— 1 – Otis & Glenna Adair; 16 — Michael & Rachel Blanks, Jr.  
**Ladies Reading Group:** Zoom Class April 18 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 6 —"Sisters, I Need You"

April 21	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Song Leader	Michael Blanks, Jr.	Patrick Thomas
Lead Lord's Supper	Patrick Cook	Patrick Cook
Server 1	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Server 2	James Grigsby	Frank Brock
Scripture Reader	Ryan McGahee	Denzil Turner, III
Sermon	Kevin Berry	Kevin Berry
Prayer for Responses	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Closing Prayer	Denzil Turner, III	Denzil Turner, III
Announcements	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Greeter		
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

April 21, 2024

Issue 16

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THINKING ABOUT HEAVEN

Ross Haffner

Every wonderful deed that was ever done was first conceived in the mind. There is a clear and obvious connection between the way we think and the way we act. In Proverbs 23:7 the wise man wrote, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he," so we might ask, what should we be thinking about?

Colossians 3:1-2 admonishes, *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.* When Paul says "seek" he is using a term that focuses on the heart. We must have a desire for heaven. The word "affection" has more to do with the mind. We should set our minds on—spend time thinking about—heaven.

If you are a New Testament Christian you should spend time thinking about heaven because you have died with Christ. Paul writes, *For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory* (Colossians 3:3-4).

When Christ died and His body was buried in a tomb His life was hidden. Whoever witnessed his corpse on the cross could not see life in Him. When Joseph of Arimathea and the women who followed carried Jesus to the tomb they could not see life in Him. But that life was revived! When we die with Christ in baptism we kill the old man of sin and our life is continually hidden with Christ (Romans 6:6). Because of this we have a hope of eternal life in heaven (1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 49).

Thinking about heaven also affects your behavior. Paul commands, "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth..." (Colossians 3:5). This means we must end those parts of ourselves which are earthly, fleshly, and sinful. He provides examples in verses 5-8. Sexual sins and social sins are listed. Thinking about heaven helps me to end my relationship with these transgressions of God's will.

I am benefitted when I think about heaven because it helps me keep the proper perspective in life. I will be more likely to keep my relationships with fellow Christians honest (Colossians 3:9). When I do stumble I'll be willing to confess my faults (James 5:16). I'll want to know more and more about my God, and the wonderful home that has been prepared (Colossians 3:10). My life won't become unbalanced, full of entertainment and earthly activities while starving for the bread of life. Prejudice will be far from me because these earthly distinctions do not matter in God's kingdom. The only distinction that will occupy my mind will be those who have put on Christ, and those who still need to do so. Spend more time thinking about heaven. It will be time well spent and comes with numerous spiritual benefits.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things (Philippians 4:8). ~

[www.needmoreroadcoc.com](http://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](mailto: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

**SEEKING THE LOST - LUKE 19:10**

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

## Precious seed



Norway will soon begin an ambitious building project on a remote Arctic island near the North Pole. The Svalbard International Seed Vault is scheduled to go into operation by 2008. It will provide storage for as many as 3 million seeds. Norway is funding the initial \$3 million construction cost, with the hope other governments, foundations and seed companies will fund a \$260 million endowment to keep the facility going. The seed vault will be the largest seed bank in the world, and will be constructed to preserve seeds from around the world should biological contamination or nuclear war destroy seeds. The facility will provide blast proof doors, air locks and an occasional hungry polar bear for security.

Whether this facility will ever actually be needed is unknown. But, since mankind seems bent on harming itself, this seed vault might well be worth the money.

Why expend so much for seeds? Because seeds, one of God's greatest inventions, are absolutely necessary for life. One small seed can reproduce itself 100, or even 1000 times a year. Seeds supply us with plant food, and the meat we eat comes from animals that eat plants.

"And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat [food]" (Genesis 1:29).

As precious as seeds are to our physical well-being, even more precious is the seed of the kingdom, the Word of God. As Jesus explained the parable of the sower to the disciples, He said, "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God" (Luke 8:11).

No seed equals no harvest. Seed is precious! Ray Bradbury's novel Fahrenheit 451 tells of a future time when no books are allowed. As the novel ends, books are left only as people have memorized them, to be reprinted in a later time of freedom. Do we appreciate the precious life-giving seed that God has preserved for us? What if it were taken away?

—Bob Prichard

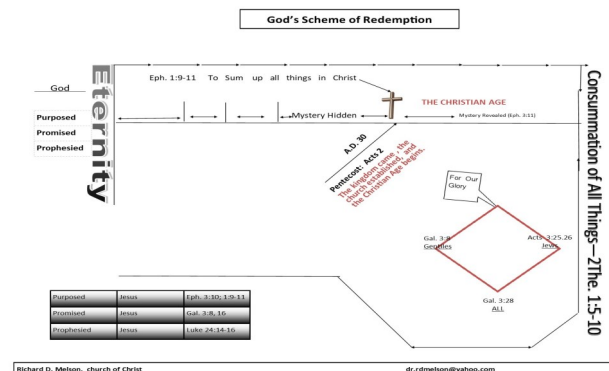
## Even Jesus made it about the Father



We get pretty enamored with ourselves sometimes and our ideas and our wishes, to the point that we often lose sight of others and even lose sight of our true focus on our Father in heaven. As you read through the life of Jesus, it's interesting how often He diverted the focus from Himself to the Father in heaven. "Whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me" (Mark 9:37). "He who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me" (Luke 10:16). "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me" (John 4:34). "I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me" (John 5:30). "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me" (John 12:44-45).

Why am I here? One simple answer: to bring "glory" to my God (Isa. 43:7; 1 Cor. 10:31)! This life is not about me. We see that even in the life of Jesus. He came, first of all, to do the will of the Father. He came, second of all, to save us. It wasn't about Him! Is my focus on me or on Him?

David Sproule  
Thought for the Day



## Melson's Musings ...



### Working together to survive the hunt

1 Peter 5:8 calls the devil a roaring lion prowling around seeking someone to devour. It is obvious that Peter's readers would have seen or at least heard about these kings of the jungle for the analogy to make sense and be practical. Lions lurk, longing for lunch.

In the savannas of East Africa, their meal of choice is usually either the wildebeest or zebra. Despite this, these two animals continue to graze and migrate together. In fact, because they are chief prey of the lion (and other big cats), they need to stick together. Various observers and experts give different explanations for why. Zebras have great farsightedness and the wildebeests have excellent peripheral vision, but each are poor at seeing what the other sees well. Others explain that wildebeests have mouths better suited for short grass while zebras' are made for the long grass that grow intermittently together on the plains. Still others point to the zebras superior memories, recalling the safety routes of the previous year, and the wildebeests uncanny ability to find water even when such is scarce. Probably, it is the combination of these facts that cause the symbiotic relationship between these two large mammals. They do not all survive, but the vast majority do. The reason is because they utilize their own abilities but also because they rely on the abilities of others.

In a letter where Peter is addressing a people who were at times spiritual prey, he does more than use the simba simile. He urges Christians to stick together and look out for one another. He calls for sincere, fervent, from the heart love for one another (1:22; 4:8). He urges complaint-free hospitality toward one another (4:9). He commands

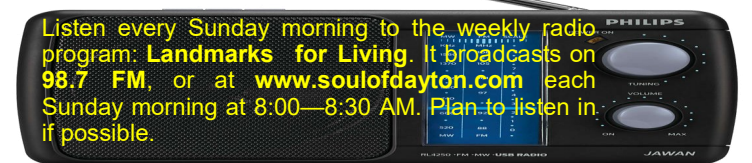
servicing one another (4:10). He teaches there is to be mutual humility displayed toward one another (5:5). He ends the letter exhorting an affectionate, loving greeting of one another (5:14). As much as anything, this is a recognition of mutual dependence.

If we understand that we are not at home in this world (2:11) and are living and longing for the inheritance in heaven (1:4), we should come to understand our mutual need of each other. That does not just mean looking for others' help, but also giving it. This is by God's design. Notice, for example, the proactive protection we provide each other by being harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead... (3:8-9a). Right before the lion passage, Peter talks about different groups looking out for and helping each other (5:1-6).

Any of us, through suffering, temptation, doubt, or some other factor, could drift away from the safety and security of the fold. Let us be more than mindful of each other. Let us depend on each other to survive the hunt and make it to eternal safety. I will face the lion many times in this life, and I depend on you to help me survive.

- Neal Pollard

- ☞ **Pantry Items:** Potter Children's Home Pantry Items: Fruit Loops Cereal; French Onions; Marshmallows; Brown Sugar; Tea Bags
- ☞ **Senior Lunch**— April 30, @ Cracker Barrell on Miller Lane
- ☞ **2024 Theme:** Seeking The Lost



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/> ; [www.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