

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	39
Attendance AM	80
Attendance PM	22
Wednesday PM	43

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. ; Norris Cole, II

Prayers:

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy:

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 May 2 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 6-7 —"Sisters, I Need You"

April 28	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Song Leader	Patrick Cook	Michael Blanks, Jr.
Lead Lord's Supper	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Server 1	James Grigsby	James Grigsby
Server 2	Denzil Turner, III	Denzil Turner, III
Scripture Reader	Ryan McGahee	Norris Cole
Sermon	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Prayer for Responses	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Closing Prayer	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Announcements	Lyle Cole	Lyle Cole
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 28, 2024

Issue 17

THE DEBT WE OWE THE WORLD

Cody Westbrook

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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

"Debt" is something that many people prefer not to think about. One recent study showed that the average American household with debt owes more than \$104,000. Most who are in financial debt desire to be debt free, and understandably so. But there is a certain kind of **debt** that God's people owe which we will never be able to fully repay. Paul spoke of it in Romans 1:14 when he said, "I am a debtor both to Greeks, and to Barbarians; both to wise, and to unwise." Everyone who has been saved by the blood of Christ stands in the same shoes. We are indebted to the world and to our God to proclaim the gospel of His Son, Jesus the Christ.

We must understand the reason for our debt. Why do we owe a debt to the world to teach the gospel? Normally when we are indebted to someone it is because of something they have done for us. But this debt has nothing to do with anything the world has done for us; rather it has everything to do with what God has done for us. We have been redeemed from death by the blood of the Lamb (Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:18-20). We are the beneficiaries of the selfless sacrifice of Jesus the Christ. Therefore, it is our responsibility to shout from the mountain tops the good news of that salvation. Like Peter and John, our attitude should be, "we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). "The love of Christ constrains us" (2 Cor. 5:13-15) and should push us onward. We should have a "burning fire shut up in our bones" (Jer. 20:9) that fuels our desire to tell the world that the Savior lives. We are indebted to the world to preach the gospel, and, as Paul said, For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me, if I do not preach the gospel (1 Cor. 9:16)!

We must understand the scope of our debt. Paul knew that he was in debt to everyone— Jew and gentile (Rom. 1:14-16)—because everyone has the same problem (Rom. 3:23) and everyone needs the same solution (Rom. 6:23). The gospel of Jesus the Christ is not prejudiced. It does not see black, white, rich, or poor. It only sees souls that are in need of salvation. God's people must have the same vision. Peter said, In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality: but in every nation whoever fears him, and works righteousness, is accepted with him (Acts 10:34-35). Paul wrote, Tribulation and anguish on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek: for there is no partiality with God (Rom. 2:9-11).

The prophet Jonah made the mistake of allowing prejudice to blind him from seeing people for who they really were—souls made in the image of God. Our debt is to take the gospel to all people (Mark 16:15), regardless of skin color, ethnicity, or social status.

(continued on page three)

SEEKING THE LOST - LUKE 19:10

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

Blind. Please Help



The blind man sat on a street corner begging. His sign said simply, "Blind. Please help." A stranger came up and said, "Let me change your sign," as he wrote a message on the other side. At the end of the day, the blind man recognized the footsteps of the stranger, and called out to him saying, "People have been so much more generous today than ever before. What did you write on my sign?" The stranger replied, "I wrote 'Today is the first day of spring, and I cannot see it.'"

The blind man was helped that day by people who had a change in perspective. How many beautiful spring days have you witnessed, and then never given a second thought? We do take so much for granted, don't we!

American author Nathaniel Hawthorne (The Scarlet Letter) once wrote, "Our creator would never have made us such lovely days, and have given us the deep hearts to enjoy them, above and beyond all thought, unless we were meant to be immortal." Surely with all He has done for us, He wants us to enjoy our existence beyond this life. What a waste if all of the memories and experiences of life simply end with death.

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life: (John 3:14-16). "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:27-28). "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24). Knowing that we have passed from death unto life, let us appreciate the beautiful world God has given us as a time to prepare for eternity!

—Bob Prichard

Silly excuses aren't so silly!

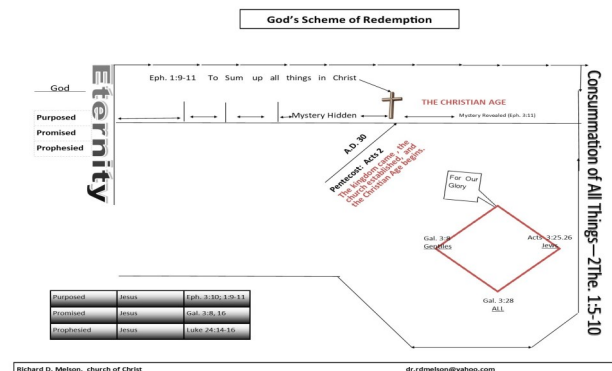


Kids! They know how to make excuses, don't they! Whew! When they don't want to do something, they can come up with "the best reasons" to explain their inactivity. "My foot hurts." "I need to go to the bathroom." "I'm tired." As adults, we can see right through their excuses to just how pitiful their efforts to avoid action really are.

It makes me wonder. If we can see right through excuses that kids make, how effective do you think that our excuses are in the eyes of our Father in heaven? Are they just as pitiful? When God calls us to action (speaking to lost souls, encouraging brethren, worshiping with the church, etc.), do you think that He is really persuaded by our "But I'm so busy," "Someone else will handle it," "I'm basically being a good person already," "I'll make it up to Him in some other way"?

In the Parable of the Great Supper in Luke 14:15-24, the master became angry at his servants' excuses, and he just went and found others who would follow him. Will He also give up on us because of our excuses?

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



(continued from page one)

We must understand the term of our debt. When you finance a home or a car you know that at the end of an agreed term the debt will be paid and the home or car will be ours. Our debt to the world has a term limit as well—death. As long as we live on this earth there is work to be done for the Lord in carrying His gospel to a lost and dying world. Jesus said, "I must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work" (John 9:4). That should be our attitude.

Of the house of Stephanas, Paul said, "they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints" (1 Cor. 16:15). Could he say of me, "he has devoted himself to the work of soul winning"? Could Jesus say of us, with confidence, what He said of Himself—"I must be about my Father's business" (Luke 2:49)?

Equipped 2024 Living Faith, Studies in the Gospel of John was the theme of the workshop I spoke on last week and along with several others attended in Bowling Green, Kentucky at the Lehman Ave congregation. It was very uplifting 3 and a half days of great Bible study, Christian fellowship and encouragement. As someone once said, "it was just what the doctor ordered"! This year we also were able to attend the Potter Children's Home for dinner. It was a great on the campus of the Potter. The brethren are doing great work for the Lord at this facility.

It was the apostle who penned to Timothy regarding the Scripture that through them the Christian would be thoroughly equipped (NKJV) for every good work (2 Tim. 3:17). The word translated "equipped" comes from a term which means "equip fully" as with a teacher. The goal of

the study of God's word as a Christian is thus to completely furnish oneself so that he can serve God in the teaching of His Word and faithfully living the Christian life in this world.



The next major event for the congregation is the House-to-House Congregational Evangelism Training Seminar, June 8-9. This is a training program for the entire congregation. "Training the saved to teach the lost". If you have not started making preparation start now by marking the dates in your calendar. Rob Whitacre will be with us to lead this training.

- ☞ **Graduates:** Congratulations to **Tony Moore:** received his MBA on Saturday (4/27) from the University of Mary; **Denzil Turner, III** will graduate from the University of Dayton on Sunday May 5, with his BS in Finance. We will honor these brethren on May 19.
- ☞ **Pantry Items:** Potter Children's Home Pantry Items: Fruit Loops Cereal; French Onions; Marshmallows; Brown Sugar; Tea Bags. Pick up week of May 5
- ☞ **Senior Lunch**— April 30, @ Cracker Barrell on Miller Lane
- ☞ **Men's Business Meeting:** Saturday May 4, 9:00 AM
- ☞ **Noon Meal:** Sunday May 5th
- ☞ **2024 Theme:** Seeking The Lost



NEWS AND NOTES

- Visit these online resources: www.wvbs.org ; www.apologeticspress.org ; www.searchtv.org ; <http://gbntv.org/>; 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