

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	49
Attendance AM	90
Attendance PM	33
Wednesday PM	35

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Phil & Kim Tydings; Richard Melson, Jr.; Krubo Joploh; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stone Springs); Ron Robbins; Mozella Tate (shoulder); Kristina Burns

Traveling: Richard Melson, Jr. ; Norris Cole, II; Norris & Diane Cole; Rita & Ryan McGahee; Dwayne and Tena Eslick

Prayers:

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy:

Birthdays: May— 2 - April Gilbert; 4 - Patrick Thomas; 19 - James Grigsby; 27 - Michelle Saunders; 30 - Ron Robbins

Anniversaries: May — None

Ladies Reading Group: Zoom Class May 16 @ 6:00 PM
Lesson 7 —“Sisters, I Need You”

May 05	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Patrick Cook	Patrick Cook
Song Leader	Michael Blanks, Jr.	Lyle Cole
Lead Lord’s Supper	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Server 1	Tony Moore	Tony Moore
Server 2	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Scripture Reader	Ryan McGahee	Ryan McGahee
Sermon	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Prayer for Responses	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Closing Prayer	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Announcements	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
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

May 05, 2024

Issue 18

ARE YOUR PREPARING FOR HEAVEN?

Cody Westbrook

Everyone understands the practical importance of preparation. Before taking a long vacation we first take time to secure lodging, map the route, and pack every item necessary for a successful trip. We prepare for major decisions like marriage and childbirth. We prepare for major expenditures and investments like houses and retirement funds. Benjamin Franklin said, “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.” By and large everyone understands the truth of that statement as it pertains to major life events and decisions, but we must also realize the truth of the principle as it pertains to our eternal destiny. Heaven is the Christian’s hope but that hope should not be taken lightly. We will not enter into the dwelling place of our God by accident. It can only be a reality if we prepare properly right now.

Peter describes our hope of Heaven and the need to prepare for its realization in 1 Peter 1:3-21. First, Peter identifies the reality of our hope (1 Pet. 1:3-5). For faithful Christians, Heaven is not a wish or a possibility, but a certainty. It is an “inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away” (1 Pet. 1:4). It is a realistic hope because it is alive and because it is based upon the fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Pet. 1:3). Second, Peter explains the need to rejoice in our hope in spite of suffering (1 Pet. 1:6-9). Trial is not enjoyable but it is inescapable and also beneficial. Third, Peter describes the production of our hope (1 Pet. 1:10-12). Faithful men and women throughout history played a role in the achievement of God’s scheme of redemption (cf. Heb. 11). We should rejoice because we are the current beneficiaries of the blessings that “prophets have inquired and searched carefully” for and “angels desire to look into” (1 Pet. 1:10, 12). Finally, Peter discusses the need to prepare for the realization of our hope (1 Pet. 1:13-21). Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. When the Lord returns, those who hear “Well done good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Lord” (Matt. 25:21) will not do so by accident. Rather, because they lived faithful lives of service to their Lord.

Three imperatives make up the preparation section (1 Pet. 1:13-21) and define for us how God expects us to live in light of our hope of Heaven. First, “rest your hope” (1 Pet. 1:13), second, “be holy” (1 Pet. 1:15-16), and third, “conduct yourselves... in fear” (1 Pet. 1:17). To “rest your hope” on Heaven is to firmly cement our attention, desire, and expectation there, and nowhere else. Jesus said “Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven” (Matt. 6:19). We are to direct our attention to “things above” and not things of the earth (Col. 3:1). Putting stock in the possessions, pursuits, and even the people of this world is futile. Heaven is the only sure investment. In conjunction with placing our hope correctly is living correctly. Peter quotes Leviticus 11:44-45 to emphasize the need for Christians to live holy lives (1 Pet. 1:15-16). Holiness is sanctification and set-apart-ness. John said, “everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure” (1 John 3:3). If we are unwilling to reject sin to live for and like the Lord now, we cannot expect to live with Him

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SEEKING THE LOST - LUKE 19:10

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

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

The Power of a Comma



In her best-selling book about punctuation, *Eats, Shoots & Leaves* (p. 74), Lynn Truss made a striking point concerning the way punctuation can change a sentence. She cites Luke 23:43 as an example. The King James Version renders the verse, "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." Thus Jesus promised the repentant "thief on the cross" that they would be together in paradise that day.

As Truss points out, however, the preferred Roman Catholic rendering of the verse is "Verily I say unto thee this day, Thou shalt be with me in paradise." Notice the subtle change by moving the comma. While the KJV gives the understanding that Jesus and the thief would be together in paradise that very day, the sense of the Catholic rendering is that while Jesus and the thief would be together in paradise at some point, the time is unspecified.

Why does this comma make any difference? The reason the placement of the comma matters is the Catholic doctrine of purgatory, defined as a place intermediate between heaven and earth, where the dead who have not done sufficient penance in life may endure suffering for a certain period of time to satisfy the demands of justice left from life. Under current teaching about purgatory, the righteous on earth can pray, burn candles, and do works of penance to help those in purgatory make that last step from temporary suffering to heaven.

The choice of where to put the comma in Luke 23:43 is one that the translators have made, since the original autographs of the Greek do not contain commas. (Biblical Hebrew does not even have vowels!) Wherever we place the comma, however, there is no mention in the Bible of purgatory. Two false doctrines—original sin and salvation through meritorious works, made the idea of purgatory necessary. Let us be sure that we do not read into the text those things which are not there!

—Bob Prichard

"I'm trying to get my life together"

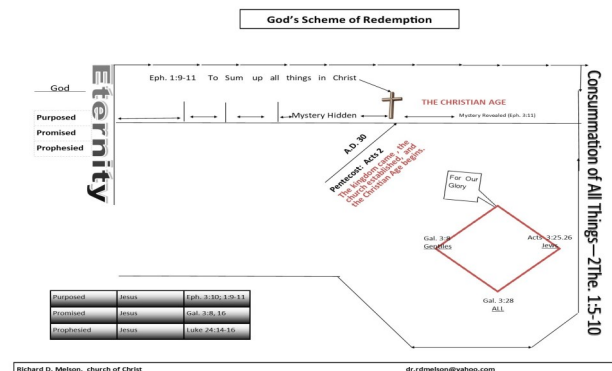


So many folks who are not yet Christians have held off on making that final decision to be baptized into Christ and to give their life to the Lord UNTIL "I get things in my life straightened out." Likewise, many Christians have stumbled over the years and then hold off coming back to the Lord UNTIL "I get my life put together again."

With all due respect (and I mean that!), friends, you've got it backwards. When your life is in pieces (like Humpty Dumpty after his "great fall"), you are ill-equipped to "put it back together again"...by yourself. But do you know who is perfectly qualified to "straighten out" the kinks in your life and "put you together" just right? The ONE who made you!

A truly penitent heart will realize that the One, in whose image I have been "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psa. 139:14), knows the pieces of my heart (1 Sam. 16:7) and my life (John 2:25), and HE will help me put everything together just right (2 Cor. 5:17). Do you trust Him?

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



(continued from page one)

for eternity! Godly fear is the final item in the list (1 Pet. 1:17). We serve a God who "without partiality judges according to each one's work." Therefore, we must be ever mindful of the fact that we will stand before Him in judgment, and fear Him. That is, a healthy respect for His authority and fear of His discipline.

According to 1 Peter 1:13-21, preparing for Heaven means resting our hope there, living holy lives, and fearing God. Practically speaking, how are these things manifested in daily living? Consider the following questions:

- Do you pray? If so, how often? What are your prayers mostly about? Thanksgiving? Praise? Petition? Self-improvement?
- Do you spend time in God's Word daily? Are you reading scripture? Meditating? Memorizing? Constantly looking for ways to apply it?
- Are you focusing on spiritual growth? Are you looking for areas in which to grow, setting goals, and meeting them?
- Are you looking for ways to serve?
- Are you growing in your love for God?
- Do you reflect on the blessings the Lord has provided?

These are just a few questions that we should ask ourselves regularly because the answers can help us gauge our efforts to prepare for eternity with our Lord. Everyone understands the importance of preparing for a long trip away from home, but infinitely more important is our preparation for our eternal home. May God bless us as we live faithfully in His service, preparing to be with Him in eternity.



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 along with Marlon Retana for our Spanish speaking brethren.

- ☞ **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 after morning worship.
- ☞ **Pantry Items:** Potter Children's Home Pantry Items: Fruit Loops Cereal; French Onions; Marshmallows; Brown Sugar; Tea Bags. Pick up Monday May 6 @9:30
- ☞ **Senior Lunch**— May 21, 11:00 AM @ Frazoli on Miller Lane
- ☞ **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