

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

Bible Class	46
Attendance AM	84
Attendance PM	32
Wednesday PM	26

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Prayer for Health:** Phil & Kim Tydings; Anthony Taylor; Diane Cole (Norris) at home; Krubo Joploh; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stone Springs); Ron Robbins; Mary Vance; Rhonda Fox (at home); Jahmeir Dudley (broken wrist)

**Traveling:** Norris Cole, II; Richard Melson, Jr.; Pat & Penny Cook; Ashley & Alexandria Thomas; Valerie Melson; Lyle Cole

**Prayers:**

**Repentance:**

**Baptism:**

**Sympathy:** Ron Robbins & family

**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 30 @ 6:00 PM  
Lesson 7 —“Sisters, I Need You”

May 26	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Song Leader	Michael Blanks, Jr.	Michael Blanks, Jr.
Lead Lord’s Supper	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Server 1	James Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Server 2	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Scripture Reader	Ryan McGahee	Norris Cole
Sermon	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Prayer for Responses	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Closing Prayer	Michael Blanks, Jr.	Jerry Thomas
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

May 26, 2024

Issue 21

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

## IT IS NOT A RITUAL, IT IS A PATH TO HOLINESS

Dan Jenkins

Because it happens every week, it is easy for the partaking of the Lord’s Supper to become somewhat of a religious ritual and we fail to understand the part it plays in our spiritual growth. The abuse of this feast in Corinth brought dire consequences. “For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep” (1 Cor. 11:30). If one does not remember Jesus and discern His body as he partakes of the bread and cup, he eats and drinks damnation to his soul.

In the New Testament we remember Him, but in the Old Testament they remembered their deliverance from Egyptian bondage. From the time the Sabbath was given until the close of the Old Testament, there was not a weekly assembly, but a time when the Jews, their families, their Gentile neighbors, and even their animals stopped all activity and spent that day thinking about God delivering them from bondage. Tragically, by the time of the New Testament, it had become a day which involved the precise distance one could walk on that day, whether it was sinful to walk through a field of grain and eat the wheat in that field as they walked. It had become a day where one could water his donkey and help his ox get out of a ditch, but the Messiah was forbidden to heal on that day. It was so ritualistic that keeping the rites of that day became a symbol of righteousness!

The failure to keep that day holy by remembering their deliverance from Egypt was a primary reason for the Babylonian captivity that lasted seven decades. God described it this way: “Her priests have violated My law, and have profaned My holy things...and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them” (Ezek. 22:26). The sabbath was holy and so is the Lord’s supper.

So, what happens to us as we remember, not the sabbath, but the Lord in His feast? Peter described those who were failing to add the “Christian Graces” to their faith when he says, “For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten he was cleansed from his old sins” (2 Pet. 1:9). The Lord’s Supper is a weekly reminder of how He purged us from our sins and delivered us from the bondage of sin. It is a time we examine ourselves as we visit the cross. The Lord wanted Israel to remember deliverance from the bondage of Egypt every week and gave them a memorial day to ensure their spiritual growth. The Lord wants us to remember our deliverance from the bondage of sin every week and has given us a memorial feast to ensure our spiritual growth.

As you eat the bread and drink of the cup, never let it become a ritual. But let it be that time when you commune with Him around His table and visit the cross of our salvation.

Are you on Rocky Ground?

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

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



## Causes and Reasons

In his book, *Why Good Arguments Often Fail* (IVP, 2006), James W. Sire tries to help Christians make more persuasive arguments for Christ. He discusses logical fallacies that plague us, and ways to speak the truth without falling into these fallacies. He also draws a distinction between causes for what we believe, and reasons for what we believe, especially as they relate to faith in God.

He cites several answers that might be given for belief in God: "My parents are Christians," "I grew up going to church," etc. These, he says are causes—that is they are not based on rational thought, but have been formed by sociological forces. On the other hand, responses such as "My belief in God gives me hope," "My faith provides meaning and direction for my life," or "There is a lot of evidence that Jesus was and is the Son of God," are reasons—based on rational consideration of the evidence.

Why does it matter? He gives two reasons: (1) "It is important for Christians because without some sense of why they are Christians, they may hold their faith with reservations (and thus weaken their Christian life) or lose their faith entirely." (2) "The distinction is important because one of the charges against Christians is that they believe what they do primarily—or solely—because they have been raised in a Christian environment. They have been caused to believe. If they thought about it, skeptics say, they would change their minds" (Pages 48-49).

Sire makes me think that we really do need to teach our young people to examine the evidence for their faith. Peter exhorts, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). We need to be ready to give the reason for our belief—not the cause. It is of great benefit to have Christian parents, a Christian environment, and Christian influence. At the same time, our faith must be examined. Can you give the reason for your faith?

—Bob Prichard

## It's not just about reading

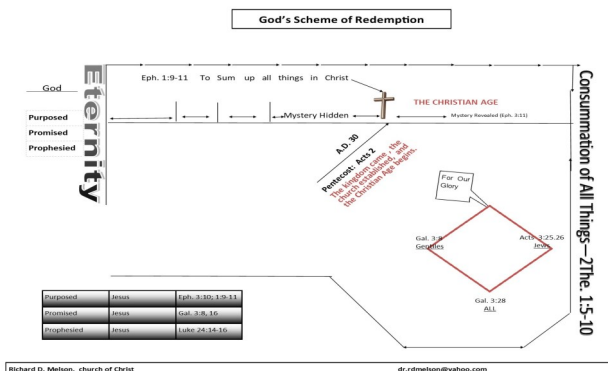


There is no better part of your day (don't even try to argue against this!) than when you get to read your Bible! Thus, reading it should be a principal part of each day. But, we must do more than merely run our eyes over lines of text. We must take time to understand it.

The Ethiopian eunuch was reading from Isaiah 53, but Philip wanted to know, "Do you understand what you are reading?" (Acts 8:30). Ezra, the scribe and priest, "read" the Book of Law "from morning until midday," but he wanted "the people to understand the Law" (Neh. 8:3, 7, 8). The people "rejoice(d) greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them" (8:12). Paul told Christians, "when you read [what I have written], you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ" (Eph. 3:4).

The same God who gave us the words of the Bible gave us a brain to understand those words. Let us enjoy the best part of our day, not only reading His Word but taking time to understand it and apply it daily (Jas. 1:22 -25).

David Sproule  
Thought for the Day



## Melson's Musings ...



### Are You on Rocky Ground?

Matthew 6:19-21 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

I came across an old legend about three cowboys crossing the desert on horseback by night. Suddenly, as they reached a rocky spot, a voice came from heaven and commanded them: "Friends, pick up some pebbles, put them in your pockets and do not look at them till morning." The men looked at each other in astonishment and began to do as they were told. The voice went on to promise that if they obeyed, they would be both glad and sad. The perplexed men put a few pebbles each in their pockets and went on their way.

As the very first sign of dawn arrived, the cowboys pulled out their pebbles. To their amazement, the ordinary pebbles they had picked up the night before, had all been transformed into diamonds, rubies, and other precious gems. At that moment, they realized the significance of the promise that they would be both glad and sad. They were happy to see their beautiful treasure, but sorry -- oh so sorry -- that they had not collected more.

All of us were once ordinary looking pebbles -- shabby, discolored pebbles among many others of the like -- seemingly nothing special. But we were so mercifully picked out of the dust and gently placed for safekeeping into the pocket of the faithful saints who loved us or

prayed for us or shared the Gospel with us and took us along on their journey. And God continues to refine us that we would become precious gems when morning comes. Thank God for His great mercy!

It is yet dark -- and the pebbles are many. We still have a little more time to pocket as many as we can. But morning is drawing near! We don't want to regret that we didn't get more! Love, share, pray in faith!

- Greg Dial



If you have not started making preparation start now by marking the dates and times in your calendar. Saturday 6-8 PM. Rob Whitacre will be with us to lead this training along with Marlon Retana for our Spanish speaking brethren.

- ☞ **Summer Series 2024:** Principles of Victorious Christian Living, each Wednesday June 5—August 28
- ☞ **Senior Lunch** — June 25, Perkins, North Main St in Englewood
- ☞ **2024 Theme:** Seeking The Lost



## 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