

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	54
Attendance AM	83
Attendance PM	29
Wednesday PM	40

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 (ribs); Rhonda Fox; Jahmeir Dudley (broken wrist); Dana Grigsby

Traveling: Norris Cole, II; Richard Melson, Jr.;

Prayers:

Repentance: Christina Barnes

Baptism:

Sympathy:

Birthdays: June— 1— Stephanie Hoover; 2— Alyse Poole; 4 - Janis Bland; 5— James Vance, III; 6— Carlene Harley; 8— Randy Farmer; 13— Deonna Cole; 19 - Linda Thomas; 25—Richard Thomas; 29 - Anthony Grigsby, James Vance

Anniversaries: June — 20—Philip and Kim Tydings; 28 — Jerry and Linda Thomas; 30-- Larry and Dana Grigsby

Ladies Reading Group: Zoom Class June 13 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 8 —“Sisters, I Need You”

June 23	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Song Leader	Patrick Cook	Michael Blank, 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	Lyle Cole	Lyle Cole
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

June 23, 2024

Issue 25

“IT DOESN’T COUNT”

Steve Higginbotham

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

On August 8, 1988, the Chicago Cubs played the first ever night game at Wrigley Field. For nearly 60 years, other teams were playing at night and were seeing a huge increase in attendance and revenue. So on August 8, 1988, the Chicago Cubs finally hosted their first night game under the lights.

However, if you look at the record books, you will see that the first night game at Wrigley Field was not played on August 8, 1988, but on August 9, 1988. Why the discrepancy? Because the first game didn't count. It was rained out in the fourth inning. So while the players played and fans cheered at Wrigley field on August 8, what they were doing that night didn't count.

I can't help but think of how many spiritual applications this historical tidbit packs.

- Consider how many people eat the Lord's Supper each week, but fail to remember Jesus while doing so. No one can deny they attempted to memorialize Jesus, but their attempt "didn't count" (1 Corinthians 11:27).
- Consider how many people sit on a pew and respectfully bow their heads in prayer, but their lives are full of hidden sins. While an attempt was made to pray, it "didn't count" (James 5:16).
- Consider how many hymns are sung by people who give no thought to the words they are singing because they're more concerned about the musical notation and aesthetics. While an attempt at praise was made, it "didn't count" (Ephesians 5:19).
- Consider how many people are "baptized," but through a mode or for reasons that are not authorized. While an attempt was made in such cases, "it didn't count" (Romans 6:17).
- Consider how many good works are done to be "seen of men." While no one would deny the works helped the recipients, it "didn't count" for the one doing the works (1 Corinthians 13:3).

On August 8, 1988 the players played just as hard as they did on August 9, 1988. On August 8, 1988, the fans cheered just as enthusiastically as they did on August 9, 1988. Yet, in spite of their efforts and feelings, the game on August 8, 1988 didn't count because of the rules.

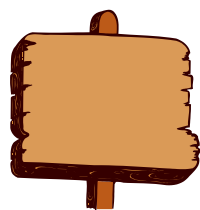
Likewise friends, the religion of Jesus has rules. If we want to be pleasing to God, more is required of us than just "doing" and "feeling;" we must "do" and "feel" according to the rules (2 Timothy 2:5).

The Messenger, the Maud Church of Christ Weekly Bulletin, October 15, 2017.

SEEKING THE LOST - LUKE 19:10

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

You Can Miss It!



Have you had the experience of asking for directions, listening carefully to instructions that are a bit confusing, and then hearing the words, "You can't miss it!"? I have found that I not only can, but also do miss it sometimes. Sometimes I haven't really paid attention well enough. Sometimes the landmarks are not as described. Sometimes my direction giver just doesn't know what he is talking about.

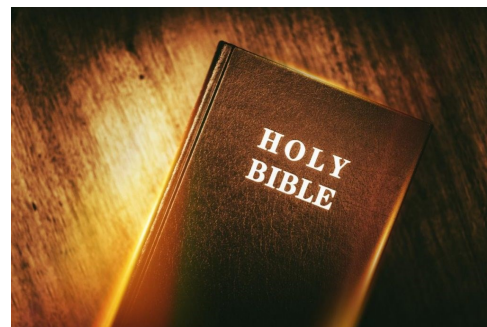
One place I don't want to miss is heaven. I am glad that I have inspired instructions to help me get there. I don't have to rely on man's instructions, and that is especially important considering that man gives so many conflicting instructions about how to get to this divine destination. When I read of the grace of God revealed through His Son, I know that if I will obey His commands revealed through the New Testament, I will reach my destination.

When it comes to heaven, there are some who say you can't miss it, if you once get on the road to heaven ("Once saved always saved"). Even without considering what the scriptures say, does that make any sense? What road may I get on that is designed so that I cannot choose to take a detour or a side-road, or even make a U-turn on?

I think of Demas, a trusted servant who worked side by side with Paul, but made a choice to leave the road to heaven. "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica" (2 Timothy 4:10). I think of Simon, a baptized believer, who left the road very quickly. Peter told him, "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity" (Acts 8:22-23). Thankfully, Simon repented, and was back on the road to heaven. Other passages to consider include 1 Corinthians 9:27; James 5:19-20, and 2 Peter 2:20-22. You can miss it—but you shouldn't. Obey Christ and remain faithful to the end (Revelation 2:10).

— Bob Prichard

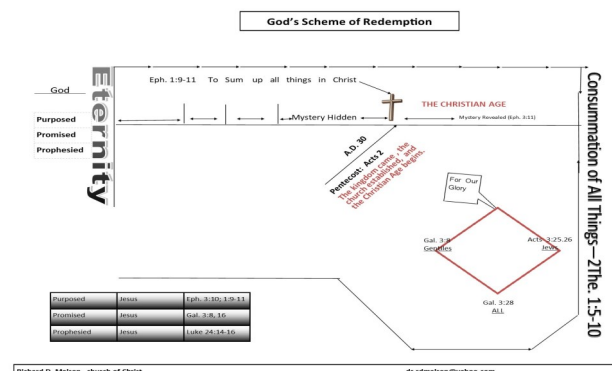
Sound doctrine affects everything



There are some folks who have tried to separate the idea of "sound doctrine" from one's behavioral choices. For example, some have categorized (in their minds) "doctrinal" matters, such as the organization or worship or various practices of the church, to be different from "personal" matters, such as one's speech or behavior or habits, and they may suggest that "sound doctrine" dictates the "doctrinal" matters of the church but not one's "personal" matters. They could not be more in error.

Paul lists a number of personal behaviors in the first chapter of First Timothy, including "murderers...manslayers...fornicators...sodomites...kidnappers...liars...perjurers" (1 Tim. 1:9-10). He concluded the list by saying, "and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine." Sinful behaviors are "contrary to sound doctrine." No wonder Christians are urged to "Hold fast the pattern of sound words" (2 Tim. 1:13). Sound doctrine is not just something for elders of the church to follow—it impacts everything about our lives! Sound (i.e., healthy) doctrine leads to sound (i.e., healthy) living in the eyes of God!

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



Church Growth ... Here We Go Again

It seems every 20 or 40 years this subject rears its head, I mean "church growth". This term has been used for decades and depending on the source can have different meanings. The scriptures are clear that the ultimate source of "increase" or "growth" in the body of Christ (the Church) is God's responsibility; ours is to obey His word! We thank those who are committed to evangelizing according to God's plan, may you continue to be blessed.

Many have forgotten how we chased numbers and promoted programs and gimmicks in the 1980's to "get people in", only not to have them converted to the Lord. We were concerned only with how many came up out of the water (numbers), but not with how many obeyed the gospel and were converted to the Lord. We need to be doing things God's way and remember that the power is in God's plan not man's (Rom. 1:16).

I firmly believe that God will give the increase as He has promised in His Word, but the schedule is not mine nor yours, nor any man-made program. Men, women and accountable aged children must obey from the heart that form of doctrine (Rom. 6:17-18) and continue in it (1 Cor. 15:1-2) for salvation.

There are some conditions which are conducive to the growth of a congregation:

1. Uncompromising Commitment To The Word of God. It is that which sanctifies (John 17:17), in so doing it continues as the pillar and ground of the truth. As the prophet Isaiah notes, take root downward and bear fruit upward (Isa. 37:31).
2. Strong and Effective Leadership. Note I did not say eldership, but leadership. When there are no elders there must be those faithful men (1 Cor. 4:2) who will work with the evangelist (2 Tim. 4:5; Acts 15:22) to "lead" in the work till such time as men are mature who can be

appointed to serve as bishops (Tit. 1:5). Those who lead still must watch for the souls and must give account. The preacher must preach the word, in season and out (2 Tim 4:1-2); the mouths of those who would subvert the faith must be stopped (Tit. 1:11); the saints must be "built up" in the faith (Eph. 4:9-16). To this end congregations need to create a climate for leadership; not to be afraid of it, but willingly desirous of having biblically qualified leadership.

3. Committed To Prayer. This is often overlooked by us, but not by the Lord! The Church of the first century continued steadfastly in...prayer (Acts 2:42). As you study the New Testament observe how often our brethren prayed. Prayer stands as a declaration of our dependence upon God-that growth does not come by man's own might, but by the power of Almighty Jehovah (Zech. 4:6; 1 Cor. 3:6-7).

Summer Series: Principles of Victorious Christian Living

I want to thank each of the preachers who have already taught to help us live for the Lord! One thing that every Christian should be desirous of doing is to sow and water the seed of the kingdom.

- ☞ **Parking Lot Work:** June 28 & 29 - Please avoid using the parking lot as it will be sealed, recoated and restriped.
- ☞ **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



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 ; 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