

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	39
Attendance AM	71
Attendance PM	20
Wednesday PM	38

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; Rhonda Fox; Dana Grigsby (knee); Richard Melson (back); Sara Newkirk (Buffalo, NY); Dwayne Eslick (hip replacement)

Traveling: Norris Cole, II; Richard Melson, Jr.; Cook & Vance families; Mozella Tate; Lyle Cole

Prayers:

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy:

Birthdays: July— 2—Richard Melson, Jr. 6— Penny Cook; 8— Rachel Blanks; 9— Ruby Nickell; 15— Glenna Adair; 20 - Mike Mamula; 22—Otis Adair

Anniversaries: July — 18—Mike and Brenda Mamula; 23— Chad and Jennifer Arnett; 30-- Norris and Diane Cole

Ladies Reading Group: Zoom Class July 11 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 8&9 —"Sisters, I Need You"

July 07	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Song Leader	Michael Blanks, Jr.	Lyle Cole
Lead Lord's Supper	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Server 1	Tony Moore	Tony Moore
Server 2	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Scripture Reader	Ryan McGahee	Ryan McGahee
Sermon	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Prayer for Responses	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Closing Prayer	Jerry Thomas	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

July 07, 2024

Issue 27

LET FREEDOM RING!

Mike Vestal

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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

As wonderful as it is to be able to celebrate our freedom as a nation, it is a far, far greater thing to be able to celebrate our freedom in Christ. "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). Perhaps many of us as Americans are sometimes guilty of taking our freedom for granted. But each year on the Fourth of July we remember how precious freedom is, and that our freedom came with a heavy price - the lives of thousands. How much more precious is our freedom in Christ? Did it not come at the price of the life of the very Son of God? (1 Peter 1:18- 19; 1 Corinthians 6:20). Our nation gives us the opportunity for "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," **but only in Jesus are such concepts fully realized.**

The book of Galatians has often been called, "The Magna Charta of Christian Liberty," or "The Christian's Declaration of Independence." Notice Galatians 5:1, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. ""Stand fast therefore" has to do with the Christian's *life*. Dead folk do not stand and walk! "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (Galatians 5:24). The expressions "liberty" and "freedom" have to do with the Christian's *liberty*. The truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ is liberating! (John 8:31-32; Romans 6:16-18). William Cowper was right when he said, "He is a freeman whom the truth makes free, and all are slaves beside." This liberty is a freedom *from* sin, not *to* sin.

Note that Galatians 5:1 says, "do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. "It seems to me that this expression, although stated negatively, basically amounts to the **pursuit of happiness**. I say this because the greatest source of satisfaction and joy in life actually is the pursuit of God! (Psalm 16:11, 43:4; Jeremiah 9:23- 24). Anything else is slavery and/or idolatry! How could one become entangled again in bondage? Perhaps going back to the first book of the Bible will help to illustrate. God created Adam and Eve (male and female) to be both morally responsible (receiving commandments) and free (invited, but not coerced into loving obedience). To fail to properly balance moral responsibility and freedom leads to sin. It results either in license (which denies moral responsibility) or in legalism (which denies freedom).

Christians know from both Scripture and experience that human fulfillment (life) is impossible outside some context of authority. For that very reason, our country has a government divided into executive, legislative, and judicial branches. The Christian must understand that God is the ultimate King, Law Giver, and Judge. Our national government is "by the people, for the people, and of the people." Our God *made* people, is *for* us more than we could possibly fathom, and sent Jesus to save as one *of* us! (Hebrews 2:18, 4:15).

Freedom unlimited is an illusion. The mind is free only when under the authority of truth, and the will when under the authority of righteousness. It is only under Christ's yoke that we find the rest He promises, not in casting it aside or replacing it with something else (Matthew 11:28, 29). "Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty"(2 Corinthians 3:17). How thankful we should be for freedom in Christ! May we truly be able to say, "In God We Trust."!

SEEKING THE LOST - LUKE 19:10

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

Why?



The "Quick Takes" page of the May 27, 2006 issue of World spoke of several oddities in the news.

Ed Larkins, of Milford, Mass. named the 300-pound cement gnome given to him for his 70th birthday "Shamus." When bandits stole Shamus, he couldn't believe it. "I went into the house screaming, 'Shamus is gone! Shamus is gone!' It was like losing a child."

When Danish college students wanted to protest a reduction in government grants for education, they dumped 440 pounds of cooked spaghetti (with sauce) on the steps of the finance ministry in Copenhagen.

Perpetual college student Johnny Lechner, an undergraduate student at the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater for twelve years, has accumulated 234 credit hours, more than 100 more hours above what is needed to graduate. He continues his "quest" for a degree in the fall.

Don't you wonder why people do the things they do? What does spaghetti have to do with education grants? Why would anyone spend twelve years and counting, piling up hours without graduating? Why would anyone steal a 300-pound cement gnome? Who would want a 300-pound cement gnome in the first place?

But don't you know that our heavenly Father must look down on us and shake His head in wonder at the way we live sometimes. "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?" (Matthew 6:24-27).

— Bob Prichard

A biblical view of "buying time"



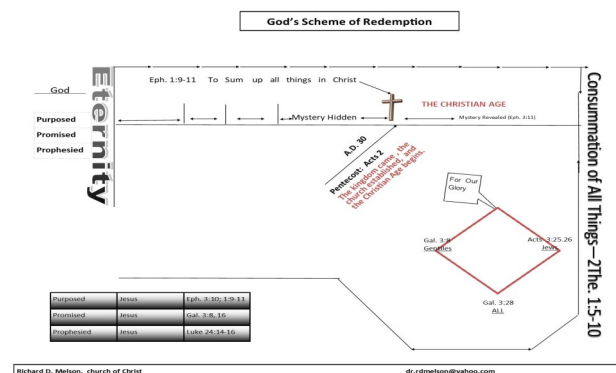
Imagine living in the first century and going down to the local market to do some shopping. When you get down there, you find the "usual"-- bread, fish, fruit, vegetables, clothes, perfumes, etc. Then, off to the side, you see that there is some "time" for sale -- yes, "time" (not thyme). What would you do? Would you buy some "time"? How much would you buy?

A.T. Robertson, a Greek scholar, used this illustration in his comments on Colossians 4:5. Paul said, "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time." Redeeming the time!

The expression means "to buy up for one's self for one's use"; in application, "to make wise and sacred use of every opportunity for doing good" (Thayer). And so, Robertson pictures this, "We all have the same time. Paul goes into the open market and buys it up by using it rightly."

What are you doing with your time? Are you buying up all you can to use it for His good? If you don't buy this minute right now and use it for Him, this minute will pass and cannot be recalled. When you enter the market every morning to buy time, what are you doing with it?

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



Soul Searching Time

Continued from last week

Please give prayerful consideration to the following suggestions:

New Life Resolves

The child of God must resolve to talk with his Father frequently (1 Thess. 5:17; 1 Tim. 2:8; Col. 4:2). Negligence of the privilege of prayer shouts that one's doubt is greater than his faith.

One must resolve to read God's word daily (Psalm 119:105). The Christian loves the directions which keep him secure (Psalm 119:97). How foolish one who frequently prays that he might do God's will while ignoring what God is saying to him in the book.

The Christian must trust God to work His will in the "called out" body (the Church) resulting in souls being saved (Eph. 3:20-21). Those who ignore the "Go" of the great commission have taken out that which primarily addresses the church. One who neglects to talk to others about their souls needs someone to talk to him about his soul.

The Church must always seek to be the glorious church which the gospel calls her to be (Eph. 5:25-27). This requires moral excellence!

The Christian must release the world by killing doubt (Heb. 3:12) and embrace heaven through the victory of faith (1 John 5:3-4).

The disciple of Jesus must be zealous in good works (Titus 2:14). A disciple follows his teacher, and much self-

discipline is required in one walking in the steps of the Savior. Remember, only the follower enjoys spiritual security (John 10:27-28).

Saints are commanded to "Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). Fellowship with Christians inspires working for the Lord, but one must know more if he would serve more while living more in accord with God's will. If you read less than four chapters of your Bible daily, begin now using this means of growth in Christ. Awareness of God's revealed will is vital, but growing in grace requires applying the truth that one reads.

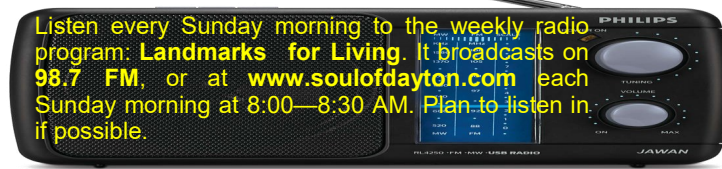
In Christ old things are dead, and all things are new (2 Cor. 5:17). All things relating to-life in Christ are revealed in the New Testament of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:3-4). The Book is old, but the-truths revealed are new every time one reads them. Jesus died for the sins of all history and for the sins of today and tomorrow. Believe it? Then live accordingly! ✍

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. ✍

☞ **Summer Series 2024:** Principles of Victorious Christian Living, each Wednesday June 5—August 28

☞ **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