

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

Bible Class	47
Attendance AM	90
Attendance PM	37
Wednesday PM	32

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Prayer for Health:** Ruby Nickell; Dana Grigsby; Mia Gilbert; Janis Bland; Phil & Kim Tydings; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stone Springs); Ron Robbins; Nina Netherton; Nancy Weimer; Kristina Burns; Dwayne Eslick (home); Otis Adair (home); Mary Rutland is in Kettering Hospital (Room 5512/W)

**Traveling:** Richard Melson, Jr.;

**Prayers:** Those impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton

**Repentance:**

**Baptism:**

**Sympathy:**

**Birthdays: October** — 2 Virginia Robbins; 5— Rhea Wallace; 6— Kevin Gilbert; 9— Victoria Dudley; 12— Phillip Tydings; 13— Norris Cole, II; 14— Patrick Cook; 16— Judy Arnett; 17— Dollie Jones, Mozella Tate, Nancy Weimer; 26—Cadence Vance

**Anniversaries: October**— 1— Tom and Mary Vance ;10 James and Layne Vance

**Ladies Reading Group:** Zoom Class Oct. 17 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 11 in "Sisters, I Need You"

October 13	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Song Leader	Michael Blanks, Jr.	Patrick Cook
Lead Lord's Supper	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Server 1	Jerry Thomas	Jerry Thomas
Server 2	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Scripture Reader	James Grigsby	James Grigsby
Sermon	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. Melson
Prayer for Responses	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Closing Prayer	Tony Moore	Tony Moore
Announcements	Patrick Cook	Patrick Cook
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

October 13, 2024

Issue 41

## FOLLOW THE LEADER

Dan Jenkins

[www.needmoreroadcoc.com](http://www.needmoreroadcoc.com)  
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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](mailto: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

I remember a game I played as a child, but I am not sure what it was called. I think it was called "Follow the Leader," where one child became the leader and whatever he did had to be exactly duplicated in all those other children who were following the leader. If he jumped, they jumped. If he turned in a circle, they turned in a circle. If he walked backwards, they walked backwards. If he did all three in an immediate sequence, they did all three.

There is serious application of this game in the lives of those early Christians. Paul came to Thessalonica as part of the "Macedonian Call" and went first to Philippi and then to Thessalonica. He was only there three weeks before tremendous persecution forced him to leave. He came back there often for several years. In his first letter to that church, Paul spoke of what had happened as the church began. "And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit" (1 Thess. 1:6).

For the first time, these people in Macedonia met a follower of Jesus. He taught them, and they saw the way he lived what he taught. They followed him. They had worshiped images made by the hands of mortals which were embellished with gold and precious stones. Paul taught them about the One who created these very stones, and they "...turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God" (1 Thess. 1:9). What they had seen and heard from the apostle caused them to follow him. Look at verse 6 again. They followed Paul, but he taught them more. They became followers of Paul and "of the Lord." The apostle diverted their focus from him and focused it on the Lord, the One who really matters.

The Greek word for "follower" (mimos) became a word we commonly use today. They saw the folly of idolatry and began to "mimic" Paul and Jesus. Paul was not seeking to become an iconic apostolic hero. He taught them what he taught those in Corinth. "Imitate (mimos) me just as I also imitate Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1). He is the One to follow!

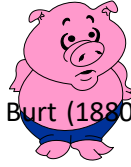
Paul described the lives of these new Christians in this way. "For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus" (1 Thess. 2:14). I will never forget how this verse was taught to the people of Easter Island. Josh Blackmer said, "We have come to this island to ask the people to become followers of 'churches of God which are in' the Bible. The Bible describes that church, and Jesus wants us to read about it and be followers of the Lord as seen in that church."

Read about the Lord. Then become one who mimics the One who really matters!! *GD*

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

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

## “AND THE PIG GOT UP”



Benjamin Hapgood Burt (1880-1950) wrote the following song in 1933:

“One evening in October, when I was one-third sober,  
 An’ taking home a ‘load’ with manly pride;  
 My poor feet began to stutter, so I lay down in the gutter,  
 And a pig came up an’ lay down by my side;  
 Then we sang ‘It’s all fair weather when good friends get  
 together,’  
 Till a lady passing by was heard to say:  
 ‘You can tell a man who “boozes” by the company he  
 chooses’  
 And the pig got up and slowly walked away.”

Many have made light of the sin of drunkenness. Dean Martin, the singer and actor, joked, ‘You’re not drunk if you can lie on the floor without holding on.’ Humorist Robert Benchley (1889-1945) was scolded by a friend, “Don’t you know alcohol is slow poison?” Benchley replied, “So who’s in a hurry?”

Drinking alcohol is no joke, however. The drinker likes to overlook the lives ruined and ended by the drunk driver, and the families destroyed by alcohol. Solomon said, “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (Proverbs 20:1). Alcohol deceives every day, because the drinker sees neither the damage he causes, nor the foolishness he spouts. Over two hundred years ago, Samuel Johnson said, “One of the disadvantages of wine is that it makes a man mistake words for thoughts.”

Solomon also said, “They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again” (Proverbs 23:30-35). !

— Bob Prichard

## Words from the Lord as you evangelize

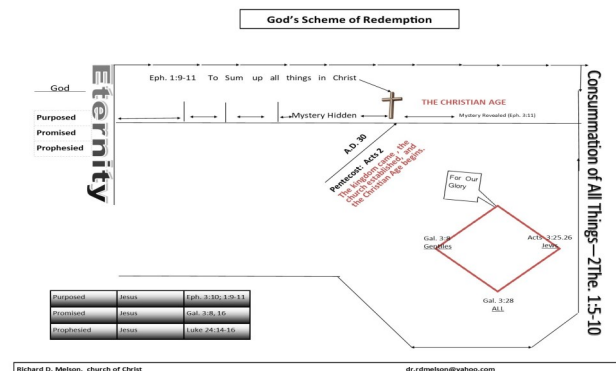


In a recent Bible class, it was noted that first-century Corinth was not only the capital city of Achaia, but it was also “The Capital of Immorality.” Can you imagine how difficult it must have been to teach people about Jesus in the midst of religious perversion, rampant sexual immorality and sinful vices in abundance? Oh, wait! You live in 21st-century American culture! Maybe you can imagine such!

Perhaps that is why “the Lord spoke to Paul” while he was preaching in “The Capital of Immorality” with these reassuring words: “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you...” (Acts 18:9-10). Paul likely faced much discouragement in such an environment (like you do today), so he needed those words.

God tells you to do the same three things: (1) “Do not be afraid.” (2) “Speak.” (3) “Do not keep silent.” Then He provides this comforting guarantee and motivation: “I am with you.” (See the same promise in Matthew 28:19-20). Jesus is standing with you when you speak for Him! Don’t ever doubt it!

David Sproule  
 Thought for the Day



## Melson's Musings ...



### I Feel Closer to God without the Church

There are some Christians who have discovered something that some others are yet to figure out. Their enlightenment has led them to believe (and admit), “I feel closer to God when I am away from the church. I have found my own way to really focus on me and God, and I found that the church was just dragging me down and keeping me from truly finding this inner peace.” This is not an exact quote from anyone, but it is the sentiment that a number of folks have expressed, as they sought to explain the new direction that they chose for their lives.

What do they see that some others do not? There was a time when some of these Christians used to be at every Bible class and worship service of the church. They were active in the education program, in regularly encouraging the brethren and the young people, in participating in the activities of the church, etc. But now, the church is no longer at the center of their lives. They might come to worship on a Sunday morning, but to see them at any other time is rare. They have filled that part of their lives (once occupied with the church) with something else. So the question must be asked—can someone be “closer to God” when he has distanced himself from the church?

A Christian cannot be “closer to God without the church” because the church is the body of Christ (Col. 1:18). One cannot distance himself from Christ’s body and be closer to God!

A Christian cannot be “closer to God without the church” because the church is bought by Christ’s blood (Acts 20:28). One cannot distance himself from Christ’s blood and be closer to God!

A Christian cannot be “closer to God without the church” because the church was/is Jesus’ highest priority (Col. 1:19-23). One cannot distance himself from Christ’s #1 priority and be closer to God!

A Christian cannot be “closer to God without the church” because the church draws nigh unto God’s very throne in its worship assemblies (Eph. 2:21-22). One cannot distance himself from the throne of God and be closer to God!

A Christian cannot be “closer to God without the church” because Christ assembles with the church (Heb. 2:12; Matt. 18:20). One cannot distance himself from Christ’s presence and be closer to God!

- David Sproule

- ☞ **Caden Vance:** Address at Bryan College—Caden Vance Bryan College, 7844. 721 Bryan Drive Dayton, TN 37321-6275
- ☞ **Send cards of encouragement** to Linda Ferguson—226 W. Martindale Road Apt. 103 Englewood, OH 45322 (*no visitors please*)
- ☞ **Potter Children's Home**—Coin bank pick up is coming—week of October 13.
- ☞ **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/>;
- 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