

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

Bible Class	58
Attendance AM	92
Attendance PM	40
Wednesday PM	31

**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 ; Otis Adair; Mary Rutland is at Legacy of Kettering; Victoria Dudley; David Dudley

**Traveling:** Valerie Melson; Ashley Thomas

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

**Repentance:**

**Baptism:** Jaren Sutherlin and Karia Dillard

**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;

**Anniversaries: October**— 1— Tom and Mary

Vance ;10 James and Layne Vance

**Ladies Reading Group:** Zoom Class Oct. 31 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 12 in "Sisters, I Need You"

October 27	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Song Leader	Patrick Cook	Michael Blanks, Jr.
Lead Lord's Supper	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Server 1	Norris Cole, II	Norris Cole, II
Server 2	Jerry Thomas	Jerry Thomas
Scripture Reader	Ryan McGahee	Tony Moore
Sermon	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. 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

October 27, 2024

Issue 43

## WHO ARE WE TRYING TO PLEASE ?

Josh Blackmer

There were several times in Paul's letters that he had to defend his apostleship and authenticity. On one such occasion he wrote, "For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ" (Gal. 1:10). This raises a good question for us. Who are we trying to please? It is easy to see how this motivation could change the perspective we have on so many things.

If we are living to please God, then our lives and thought processes would be oriented in that direction. There would be several things that I would be putting first, no matter the circumstances. I would be seeking what was best for the advancement and promotion of the kingdom (Matt. 6:33). I would be seeking to establish God's righteousness and not my own (Matt. 6:33; Rom. 10:1-3). I would "keep seeking the things above" and "set [my] mind" on those things (Col. 3:1-2). I would be thinking and pondering on those things that have the highest moral value (Phil. 4:8). I would make every effort to be pleasing to God. "Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him" (2 Cor. 5:9).

By orienting my life in this way, God has made assurances to us. He has assured us that He has our best interest at heart, not wanting any to perish (2 Pet. 3:9). He has proven Himself over and over again to be faithful in His promises, even when mankind hasn't been (Heb. 10:23). He has shown us loving kindness that we do not deserve (Eph. 2:7). He has forgiven us when we didn't deserve it (1 John 1:9). He has given us grace through His Son (2 Tim. 1:9). He even has promised us a reward after already doing so much for us. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Pet. 1:3-5).

If we are trying to please man, we would be given none of those assurances. By pleasing man, I am not serving God. I am a slave to the whim and will of mankind. They can promise me nothing that would be eternal. The ramifications are staggering. I am still in my sin. I have no eternal hope. My life is patterned after a shifting, fleeting form of morality. It leaves my life in a lurch. My family life is like some reality TV show. I would be powerless to do anything about it. Living to please others puts them in the driver's seat of our lives. Who do you want in control of your life? God is the only one who has proven Himself to be capable of guiding us. *sw*

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

SEEKING THE LOST - LUKE 19:10

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

## HUSBAND WANTED !



To what lengths would you go to find a spouse? Helen Zhou, of Sydney, Australia, spent \$3700 on a "Husband Wanted" billboard. She specified the age range (up to 45), financial and lifestyle qualifications, as well as the qualification that the prospective groom must have a good sense of humor. She said she was looking for a frugal man, "An old-fashioned kind of guy, not one who spends every cent and doesn't worry about tomorrow" (World, November 6, 2004).

I don't know the outcome of Miss Zhou's advertising campaign. Perhaps this is "the wave of the future" in finding a spouse. Although it seems strange (and expensive), it is probably no worse a method than those that most people use today to find a spouse.

I found it striking that with all of the specific qualifications that Miss Zhou set out, there were none with a spiritual dimension, when that is the most important factor that she should be considering. She did say that she wanted an "old fashioned kind of guy," one who "doesn't worry about tomorrow." But what kind of tomorrow will there be for the man who is outside of Christ?

Marriage is God's idea, not man's. As God looked down on the first man and woman in the garden, it was God who brought them together. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). Notice that a man cleaves to his wife.

Paul tells wives, "submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord" (Ephesians 5:22). How can a wife do this if she does not know the Lord? He tells the husbands, "love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25). How can a husband do this if he has not obeyed Christ?

"Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it" (Psalm 127:1).

— Bob Prichard

## Why is society running wild?

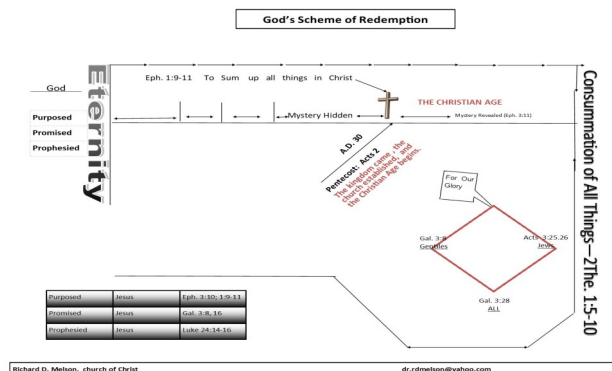


The translations vary slightly on the first part of Proverbs 29:18. They say the same thing but slightly different. "Where there is no revelation" (NKJV), "Where there is no vision" (KJV, ASV, NASB), "Where there is no prophetic vision" (ESV). The meaning of the term here usually is connected to the means by which divine revelation is communicated. Hold that thought. The verse goes on to say that where this is lacking, "the people cast off restraint" (NKJV, ASV, ESV), "the people are unrestrained" (NASB), "the people perish" (KJV). The meaning of the term here indicates people who are out of control as they are allowed to run wild.

Put this together and think about the application. Where divine revelation (i.e., THE BIBLE) is not communicated (i.e., PREACHED FAITHFULLY), the result is catastrophic unrestraint among the people (i.e., UNGODLINESS).

Friends, look around today. What are we seeing? People casting off restraint! Why? Because God's Word is lacking! Guess what our world needs right now?! Now, read the last part of the verse: "Happy is he who keeps the law!" Is that you?

David Sproule  
Thought for the Day



## Melson's Musings ...



### The Ultimate Privilege

There is much talk these days about "privilege." While this word has been in the English language for hundreds of years, it is being wielded in order to divide this country along economic and racial lines. But, no matter what monetary or societal privilege a group of people may or may not have in this world, nothing compares to the privilege of being a Christian. No matter what skin color you have, what neighborhood you grew up in, or what schools you went to, Jesus Christ has offered every soul the ultimate privilege: salvation.

In Deuteronomy 33, Israel is getting ready to enter the Promised Land. Here, Moses gives his blessings to Israel just before leaving to die on Mount Nebo. He tells the people in verse 29, "Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord, the shield of your help and the sword of your majesty!"

Israel had been through a lot in the forty years leading up to this point. Over and over, God provided food, protection and favor to the children of Israel. But over and over, Israel complained, sinned and blasphemed their God. In no way did they deserve God's protection, but He saved them anyway. Moses tells His people that no nation in the entire world is as privileged as them. Why? Because God chose to save them, and they did not do a thing to deserve it.

In the world, mercy like this does not exist. Any mistake you or your ancestors may have made can and will be used to "cancel" you. Instead of intellect or education, it is the color of your skin or your gender that determines whether or not you are allowed to speak in public discourse. This is retribution against those born into

"privilege." The world has no place for mercy. All the world knows is revenge.

But God is infinitely merciful. He does not hold a grudge like the world. Through the sacrifice of His Son, God extended salvation to every man and woman, no matter where they come from. What greater privilege is there? Just like Israel, not one of us did anything to deserve His grace, yet He offers us salvation freely (Eph 2:8-9). "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8).

The world does not understand what it means to be privileged. Only those who have received God's mercy can. No matter what disadvantages we are born into or what struggles we have endured, God has made everyone equal through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Anyone who repents and is baptized in the name of Jesus will be saved (Acts 2:38) and welcomed into the eternal kingdom of the Lord. Thanks be to God for the ultimate privilege of salvation. How happy I am that I have been saved by the Lord.

— Robert Lupo

- 📌 **Caden Vance:** Address at Bryan College—Caden Vance Bryan College, 7844. 721 Bryan Drive Dayton, TN 37321-6275
- 📌 **Daylight saving time 2024:** Time to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night November 2.
- 📌 **Gospel Meeting**—East High Street Nov. 3-7
- 📌 **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