

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

Bible Class	61
Attendance AM	97
Attendance PM	42
Wednesday PM	28

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Prayer for Health:** Ruby Nickell; The Gilbert family Phil & Kim Tydings; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stone Springs); Ron Robbins; Nina Netherton; Kristina Burns; Otis Adair; Mary Rutland;

**Traveling:** Norris Cole, II; Richard Melson, Jr.; Tony Moore; Deonna Cole

**Prayers:** Kevin and April Gilbert

**Repentance:**

**Baptism:**

**Sympathy:** Diane Cole and Wallace family

**Birthdays: December** — 5 Herman Farmer; 6 David Ward; 11 Nina Netheron, Kimberly Tydings; 15 Dwayne Eslick; Dana Grigsby, Richard Melson; 23 Tony Moore, Sr. 24 Mia Gilbert; 26 Theresa Wallace;

**Anniversaries: December**— 27 Tony and Princess Moore

**Ladies Reading Group:** Zoom Class Dec. 19 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 13 in "Sisters, I Need You"

December 08	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Song Leader	Michael Blanks, Jr.	Lyle Cole
Lead Lord's Supper	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Server 1	Jerry Thomas	Jerry Thomas
Server 2	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Scripture Reader	James Grigsby	Norris Cole
Sermon	Richard D Melson	Richard D. Melson
Prayer for Responses	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Closing Prayer	Patrick Thomas	Patrick 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

December 08, 2024

Issue 49

## FEED US !

Cody Westbrook

[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

For as long as I can remember, I have heard preachers sound the alarm about the sad state of preaching in many pulpits throughout the country. Johnny Ramsey would often talk about preachers who "didn't preach enough Bible to fill a thimble." I recall Andrew Connally lamenting an occasion on which he stepped into a pulpit for a gospel meeting and found a sermon outline book the local preacher had preached from the night before without any study or preparation of his own. Countless preachers tell of occasions of travelling somewhere to preach a gospel sermon only to have members come to them at the end of the service and express how they don't hear sermons like that anymore, and they wish their preacher would just preach the Bible. Brethren, these reports are neither fabricated nor out of date. It is tragic, yet true, that within so many congregations of the Lord's people there is a famine in the land "of hearing the words of the Lord" (Amos 8:11). But this famine does not exist by the will of the people. While it is true that many "turn their ears away from the truth" (2 Tim. 4:4), it is also true that many are spiritually starved and long to be fed (Matt. 5:6; 1 Pet. 2:2; etc.).

A recent UN report stated that over 820 million people worldwide suffer from starvation. Malnutrition causes a number of problems from weight loss and anxiety to stunted growth and impaired brain function. Our physical bodies cannot operate normally without the required nutrition. The same principle applies to the spiritual man. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be filled" (Matt. 5:6). Without an insatiable desire to feed on God's word (1 Pet. 2:2), spiritual malnutrition results. We become weak (Heb. 5:12-13), carnal (1 Cor. 3:1-3), and will ultimately die. God said of Israel, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hos. 4:6). A land full of those who refused to proclaim God's word resulted in the demise of an entire nation. There was no truth, mercy, or knowledge of God in the land (Hos. 4:1). They were spiritual adulterers (Hos. 1-3) and idolaters (Hos. 4:12-13), and therefore God rejected them (Hos. 4:6b). Spiritual starvation is just as catastrophic to the health of the church today as it was to Israel then. We sometimes wear ourselves out looking for answers to spiritual problems within our congregations. Could it be that those problems are the result of a weak spiritual diet?

No excuse is acceptable for a lack of Bible preaching and teaching. Preachers are commanded to "preach the Word" (2 Tim. 4:2). They must preach, "Christ crucified" (1 Cor. 1:23), and "Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake" (2 Cor. 4:5). New Testament preachers preach "the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ" (Acts 8:12). They follow the command of 1 Peter 4:11—"If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God." Too many preachers are preoccupied with "righting the wrongs of the church" and helping the church maintain "relevance" in the modern world by shaking the dust of the preachers of the past from our feet. Such is

(continued on page 3)

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

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

## Run the Race

There is an old story about the Greek Marathon.

Muscular, conditioned runners paced nervously near the starting line for the long-distance race.

The time was near. They "shook out" their muscles, inhaled deeply, and put on their "game faces." In the midst of it all, a young stranger took his place at the starting line. His physique was awesome. Taking no notice of the other contestants, he stared straight ahead. Two prizes would be awarded the winner of the Marathon: a magnificent bouquet of flowers and the honor of standing beside the king until the conclusion of other contests.

There seemed to be no question among the runners about who would win the prize. It is alleged that the stranger was offered money not to run. Someone else attempted to bribe him with property. Refusing the offers, he toed the mark and awaited the signal to run. When the signal was given, he was the first away. At the finish line, he was the first to cross, well ahead of the rest. When it was all done, someone asked the young man if he thought the flowers were worth as much as the money and property he had refused. He replied, "I did not enter the race for the flowers. I ran so that I could stand beside my king!"

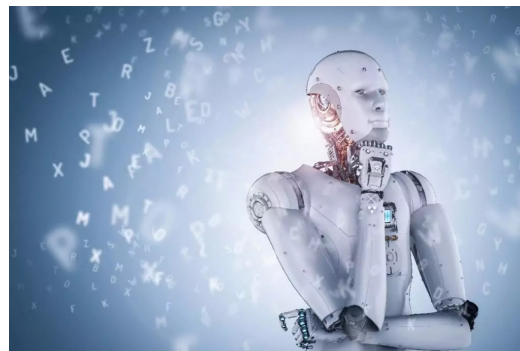
We have a race before us as well, *Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway* (1 Cor. 9:24-27).

Our goal is to cross the finish line that we may stand with our King in heaven.

The world though, is offering us its lures to entice us not to faithfully run the Christian race. Materialism is the downfall to many a Christian runner. The apostle Paul declared, *But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses* (1 Tim. 6:9-12).

— Tom Moore

## Don't assume!

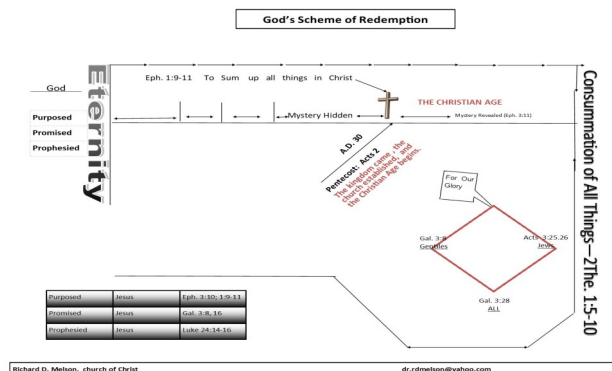


Someone in a social media office somewhere entered some watch words into a database to be flagged in any posts on that social media platform. Then the algorithm was set loose to troll its users' posts. An article, which just happened to be written the day before the national election, had words in it like "tomorrow," "worry," "no matter what," "trust God." Immediately, without paying attention to the entire article and what it actually said, the article was removed.

Machines act like humans sometimes, don't they? Do you know why? Because humans built and programmed them! How many of us have ever heard select words from a certain person and immediately made a judgment, and perhaps even took some action, only to learn later that we had taken what we thought we heard out of context?

The Bible says, "He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him" (Prov. 18:13). Let us remove "folly" and "shame" far from us! Let us not assume! Let us actually listen and give the benefit of the doubt (1 Cor. 13:7)!

David Sproule  
Thought for the Day



## Melson's Musings ...



(continued from page 1)

utter foolishness. It is true that the church must be aware of the times and our preaching should contain relevant application for the issues faced daily. But that does not require us to remove Scripture from our sermons and replace it with emotional appeals and empty speculation that seems to be on the cutting edge of theological "wokeness" to us but realistically is the spiritual equivalent of serving hot water and calling it soup. Is that how Peter preached to an audience containing some whose hands were still stained with the blood of Jesus (Acts 2)? Is that how Stephen preached to ungodly Jews of the same disposition (Acts 7), or how Paul preached in every synagogue he visited (Acts 17:3-4)? No. Those men were gospel preachers who recognized the power of God's word to save (Rom. 1:16; Heb. 4:12) and, therefore, their sermons were filled with Scripture. Shame on every preacher who refuses to follow their example.

We should also recognize that the responsibility for spiritual malnutrition does not fall solely at the preacher's feet. Occasionally someone will observe that the greatest problem the church faces is a dearth of sound preachers. But that doesn't capture the whole picture. Responsibility for a spiritually starving congregation falls ultimately at the feet of the elders. Godly elders will ensure that their congregation is wellfed even if that means they must take care of the preaching themselves. Elders are commanded to "take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28, KJV). A shepherd's job is to hold

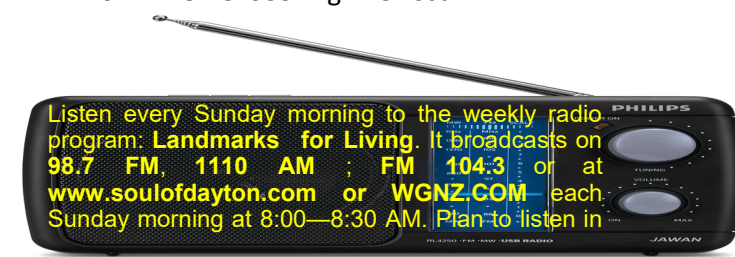
fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict (Tit. 1:9).

Shepherds must ensure that their sheep are fed well and protected from those that mean them harm. No member should starve because no eldership should allow it to happen. No excuse is acceptable for an eldership tolerating non-biblical preaching that leaves the flock longing for nourishment.

That any member of the Lord's church would long to feast on God's Word without ever being satisfied is a travesty. Yet that very scenario unfolds on a regular basis. Make no mistake about it, there are many people in this world, Christians and non-Christians, who long for the Word of God. People want answers; they want the truth; they want to know about the God who loves them and the Savior who died for them and what they must do in order to live an abundant, well pleasing, life in the sight of God. We should be encouraged by the fact that there are many who say, "Feed us!" But we should also feel the weight of responsibility to make sure that it's done. Preachers, preach the Scripture! Elders, demand that preachers preach the Scripture. Members, settle for nothing less. So that it may never be said again, there is a famine in the land, "not a famine of bread nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord" (Amos 8:11).

This article was written December 08, 2019

2024 Theme: Seeking The Lost



Listen every Sunday morning to the weekly radio program: **Landmarks for Living**. It broadcasts on **98.7 FM, 1110 AM, FM 104.3** or at **www.soulofdayton.com** or **WGNZ.COM** each Sunday morning at 8:00—8:30 AM. Plan to listen in

## 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