

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	40
Attendance AM	69
Attendance PM	38
Wednesday PM	30

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Ruby Nickell; Ruby Cole (home); Phil & Kim Tydings; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stone Springs); Ron Robbins; Nina Netherton; Kristina Burns; Otis Adair; Mary Rutland; April Howard
Traveling: Norris Cole, II; Richard Melson, Jr.; Shanelle Colcouc;
Prayers: Citizens of New Orleans, LA
Repentance:
Baptism:
Sympathy: Send condolences to Mozella Tate 1700 Katy Fort Bend Road Apt. 3107 Katy, TX 77493
Birthdays: January — 5 Lisa Owens; 15 Jennifer Arnett; 16 Valerie Melson; 31 Chad Arnett; Krystal Thomas
Anniversaries: January — Tim and Melody Angus
Ladies Reading Group: Zoom Class Jan 09 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 1 in "Bible A's for Ladies"

January 05	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Song Leader	Michael Blanks, Jr.	Lyle Cole
Lead Lord's Supper	Patrick Cook	Patrick Cook
Server 1	Tony Moore	Tony Moore
Server 2	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Scripture Reader	James Grigsby	James Grigsby
Sermon	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. Melson
Prayer for Responses	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. Melson
Closing Prayer	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
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 06

January 05, 2025

Issue 01

AN ETERNAL CROWN

Dan Jenkins and Richard D. Melson

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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

The football season is about to end. High school state champions for various size schools have been recognized. The colleges have crowned conference champions and will now play for the national title. This year there is the largest number of bowl games in history. In a few weeks there will be the crowning of the NFL Super Bowl winner.

The awarding of trophies and crowns is not a recent practice. The victors in the ancient Olympic-like contests were awarded a wreath, a garland of leaves (the Greek word is stephanos). They used another word (diadema) to describe crowns of gold worn by rulers. This word is found only in Revelation. It was first worn by the dragon and beast, then by the victorious King of kings who triumphs over all evil rulers and wears many crowns (Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 19:12).

It is remarkable how often our life and its eternal rewards are described using the garland crowns of ancient times. It is ironic (or is it providential) that the same concept is still found in sports around the world in the 21st century. The garland trophy given to us is so different from the ancient ones.

That crown given to the ancients is described as a perishable one. "Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown" (1 Cor. 9:25). Those crowns made of woven olive branches would soon dry out and become brittle. Ours is so different. It is eternal. Paul continues by describing how he ran to become victorious.

The Bible mentions at least four aspects of our eternal crown. It is so different from all other crowns.

What is our crown made of? That dragon and that beast may have a golden diadem made by a man, but our garland crown is made by God. "Be faithful until death and I will give you a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). Our crown is eternal, it is a garland crown of eternal life.

It is a crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8). Paul came to the end of his life. He had finished the race and approached the finish line. He had overcome the power of sin and Satan, and God declares him righteous. His life's choices were vindicated. Our righteous God awards a righteous crown.

It is a crown of glory. "When the Chief Shepherd appears, then you will receive the crown of glory which does not fade away" (1 Pet. 5:4). Our glorious God will reward us with His glory. What an amazing crown.

Finally, we are not given a crown, but we become a crown. Isaiah described us when he said, "You shall be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord" (Isa. 62:3). We honor Him by faithful service, and He honors us by making us His crown! ✍️

SEEKING THE LOST - LUKE 19:10

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

Singing Songs in Worship

Song leaders are responsible for setting the tone for much of a congregation's worship. They select the songs that they believe will help a congregation to worship the Lord most fully, effectively and meaningfully. A song leader's primary responsibility is to help worshipers to enter into the presence of God, and to acceptably and heartily praise God.

As with all men who lead the church in its worship, a song leader must remember that it is not about him, but about God! The songs that he selects should be appropriate to the congregation and to the worship assembly. The song leader is merely the conduit by which a congregation is led to worship the Lord in song, which means if the singing portion of worship is misdirected and focuses on him (for whatever reason) instead of on heaven, the worship is no longer flowing through him but is being impeded by him. That's the last thing any sincere worship leader desires.

So, what about the singers? What about the worshiper? Too often some singers/worshipers spend more time criticizing and questioning the song leader (ex: his selection of songs, his style, his directing, his ability, etc.) than they do actually worshiping God. But the song selection and the song leading are not the worshipers' job. Their job is to worship! Their job is to sing "with grace in [their] hearts to the Lord" (Col. 3:16) and to "offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips" (Heb. 13:15). So, as a singer, as a worshiper, how can I do my job of singing to the Lord and worshiping Him "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24) better? Try this:

1. Accept that the song which the leader is singing has been already selected...and move on. What does rolling your eyes or even stewing about it accomplish?
2. Set your heart on worshipping God in that song! That's the whole purpose!
3. Capture quickly in your mind the overall theme of the song. What is this song about? Is it about praise, about Jesus' love, about the cross, about the Christian life, etc.? Know what you're singing.
4. Focus your heart on every word and phrase of the song, and truly contemplate and mean them when they come from your lips.
5. Try to sing parts. Try to follow along with whatever part fits you the best—i.e., soprano, alto, tenor or bass.
6. Listen to others as they sing around you and earnestly try to worship together and to sing to one another.
7. Remember that God is looking at and listening to your heart in every song. That's truly what matters the most!

— David Sproule

I love Wednesday nights, don't you?

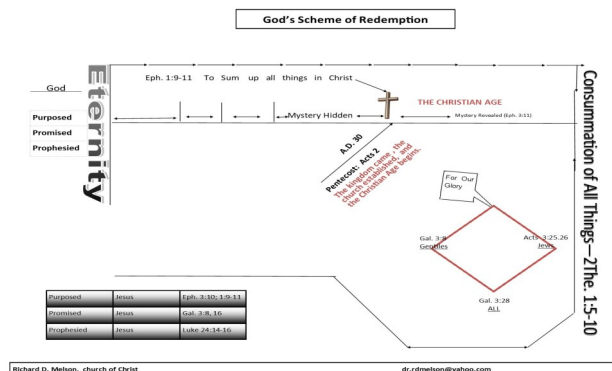


There is something special about the church! God said so (1 Pet. 2:9; Acts 20:28)! There is something special about the church getting together! God said so (Acts 12:12; 1 Cor. 14:26; Heb. 10:24-25)! And, in my opinion, there is something special about Wednesday nights.

That seven days between Sundays—between the times that the church gets to see each other and be with each other and worship together and study together—is a long time! Wednesday nights is that little pick-me-up, reconnection, refueling that Christians need. (How often do you charge your phone battery? Why so often?)

Some question whether it's really worth the extra effort, when maybe they don't get as much out of it. But, your presence makes a big difference to everyone else. That's "worth" it! Some question whether they really "have to be there," since it's not a Sunday-Lord's-Supper worship. But, there is not one earthly thing you could be doing that night which is more valuable to your eternal soul. That's "worth" it! I love Wednesday nights! Don't you?

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Richard D. Melson, church of Christ dr.melson@yahoo.com

Melson's Musings ...



Facing The New Year

As we stand upon the threshold
Of another brand New Year,
Let us breathe a prayer that always
We shall have God's presence near.

Perhaps last year brought trials,
Heartaches, disappointments, too;
It also brought real triumphs,
Happiness and friendships new.

Only God, Who sees the future,
Knows all that lies ahead;
If we knew, our hearts might only
Fill with worry, fear and dread.

Let us face the year believing
That He Who loves us so
Will direct our every footstep--
Daily point the way to go.

Poem by--Esther L. Wilkins

The New Year

Upon the threshold of the year we stand, holding Thy Hand;
The year holds mysteries and vague surprise to meet our eyes;
What will its passing moments bring, to weep, or sing?

We fear to take one step without Thy care and presence there;
But all is clear to Thine all-seeing gaze, counting the days
From dawn of time, till ages cease to be—Eternity!

Upon the threshold of the year we stand, holding Thy Hand;
Thou wilt walk step by step along the way with us each day;
So whether joy or woe shall come this year, we shall not fear!

—Homera Homer-Dixon

Psalm 119:167-175 -My soul keeps Your testimonies, And I love them exceedingly. I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies, For all my ways are before You. Let my cry come before You, O LORD; Give me understanding according to Your word. Let my supplication come before You; Deliver me according to Your word. My lips shall utter praise, For You teach me Your statutes. My tongue shall speak of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness. Let Your hand become my help, For I have chosen Your precepts. I long for Your salvation, O LORD, And Your law is my delight. Let my soul live, and it shall praise You; And let Your judgments help me.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

HEAR GOD'S WORD ROMANS 10:17
ANSWER GOD'S CALL MATTHEW 11:28
PARDON RECEIVE ACTS 2:39
PEACE POSSESS ROMANS 15:33
YIELD TO GOD ROMANS 6:13

NO CONDEMNATION ROMANS 8:1
ETERNAL LIFE IS A GIFT ROMANS 6:23
WALK UPRIGHTLY EPHESIANS 5:2

YOUTH IS THE TIME FOR SERVICE ECCLESIASTES 12:1
EARLY SEEK GOD PSALM 63:1
ATTEND TO GOD'S WORD PSALM 1:2
REJOICE IN THE LORD PHILIPPIANS 4:4



NEWS AND NOTES

- Visit these online resources: www.wvbs.org ; www.apologeticspress.org ; 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