

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

Bible Class	43
Attendance AM	71
Attendance PM	21
Wednesday PM	28

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Prayer for Health:** Dollie Jones; Marie Tolly; Frank Brock; 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; Luka Cook; Deonna Cole; Norris Cole, II

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

**Prayers:** Citizens of various parts of Southern California

**Repentance:**

**Baptism:**

**Sympathy:** Thomas / Jones family—cousin David Dinkins of Dayton died

**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 23 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 1 in "Bible A's for Ladies"

January 19	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Song Leader	Chris Poole	Michael Blanks, Jr.
Lead Lord's Supper	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Server 1	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Server 2	Ryan McGahee	Patrick Thomas
Scripture Reader	James Grigsby	James Grigsby
Sermon	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. Melson
Prayer for Responses	Lyle Cole	Lyle Cole
Closing Prayer	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
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 06

January 19, 2025

Issue 03

[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

## IT'S ALMOST HALF-TIME (HOW'S YOUR GAME PLAN?)

Mike Vestal

It is a sobering fact. It's almost half-time at our house, and I'm talking about something far bigger than any ball game. Greater even than the Super Bowl, I am speaking about what could be called the "Soul Bowl." You see, half of the time my wife and I have with our children before they go off to college and start their own lives is just about gone! We've been blessed to have the "home field advantage" for a number of years, but it won't be too long before other playing fields enter into the picture, and this, of course, is as God designed it (Matt. 19:4-6). But there will also be plenty of those "away" games in what can only be described as hostile territory, places where Satan will try to find holes in my children's defenses so he can score. And the opposition's "crowd" won't be nearly as friendly as the home crowd!

Yes, it's almost half-time at the Vestal house. And as any good sports junky knows, half-time is a time for evaluation and adjustment. It's a time for strategy and for making necessary changes. And it's important to do this even when the score may be in our favor. One thing is sure: the opposition isn't just going to lay down and die. In far too many homes, Satan is "Captain Comeback." After all, the devil is the master of misdirection; he's had so long to perfect his fakes, traps and blitzes. His short passes are like darts, and his bombs are legendary (Eph. 6:10-18). We're definitely talking about "Hall of Shame" stuff here. But what's more, the Devil's no quitter. He knows that it isn't over until the trumpet sounds (1 Thess. 4:16-18; Rev. 12:12).

It's nearly half-time at my house, so it's time for this dad to consider the score. I need to see the pictures of the highlights (and lowlights) of the first half, to get the injury report on the priceless players God has given me to coach (Psalm 127:1-5; Prov. 22:6) and to see what adjustments need to be made in the game plan with its X's and O's. But as my kids' "coach," I also need to use this time to encourage them-to remind them that victory IS possible, indeed assured, because of Jesus as we trust and obey Him (2 Cor. 2:14; 1 John 5:4). God, the team owner and general manager, only makes the right moves. He has provided the personnel, facilities and equipment to get the job done.

No matter what the score, half-time should be humbling to us dads as coaches. I am reminded of how short the time we have with our kids really is (cf. Eph. 5:16). Dads, the season is incredibly short, so take full advantage of your opportunities now! Before we know it, they're grown. And unlike sports, there is no "next" season. Oh, how this "coach" should have played and laughed with his kids more during the first half. To be sure, we've had our share of fun (and then some), but this coach could have made the first half even more enjoyable for his players with a little more imagination and improvisation. Sometimes coaches are guilty of predictably just "grinding it out." This may occasionally be effective in sports, but it's also always boring. And it doesn't work when constantly practiced in our homes.

(continued on page three)

**BEING THE NEW CREATION IN 2025 - 2 COR. 5:17**

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

## Beautiful Harmony

What cooperation! What unity! What harmony! I wish I was describing a congregation of God's people, but instead, it was the Prague Symphony Orchestra. Brenda Caldwell gave us tickets to the January concert in the Knox Concert Series, and I had the chance to hear and see a great orchestra up close. The experience of hearing the orchestra reminded me anew about the importance of unity and cooperation.

The Prague Symphony Orchestra is composed of some 89 musicians, as well as a conductor, stage crew, etc. Almost a third of the musicians were violinists. It was interesting to see all of those bows moving in unison. Their skill was evident. This great skill means they used their God-given talents, and practiced endless hours. George Eliot said, "Tis God gives skill, But not without men's hands: He could not make Antonio Stradivari's violins without Antonio." I wonder what we might accomplish in the Lord's church if we were as diligent in honing our God-given talents and skills to be used in His service in the same way these musicians did.

All of the musicians were playing the same piece of music, and were "on the same page." They were playing as individuals, under the direction of the conductor. As we follow Christ and scripture, we also work in unity and harmony.

From my vantage point in the concert, I could observe some of the musicians better than others. I was especially interested in the gentleman who played the tambourine during the first piece, Dvorak's "Carnival Overture." I never knew that anyone could be so enthusiastic playing the tambourine! It would seem this would not take as much skill as say a violin, or a cello, or an oboe. Yet he played it with so much energy and vigor, adding to the overall beauty of the piece, providing just the right accent needed. In the Lord's work, there are often "parts" which seem minor—preparing the communion, counting the attendance, turning on the heat, etc., but think what a difference it makes when some of those "minor" jobs aren't done as they should be. As Paul reminded the Corinthians, "For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?" (1 Corinthians 11:14-15). We all have something to contribute to the Lord's work, and we need everyone!

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).

— Bob Prichard

## What makes His "special people" special?

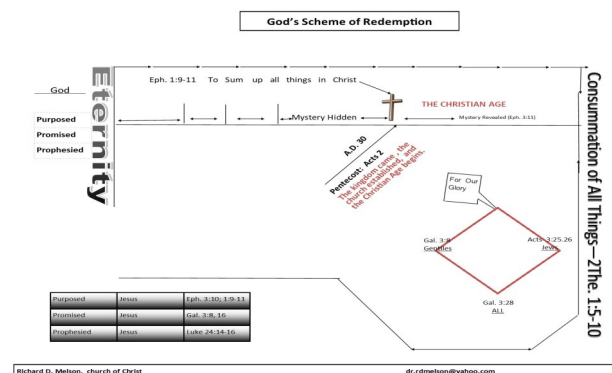


Perhaps the word "special" has been so overused (and misused) that it has lost "specialness" when it comes to God's use of that word in the Bible. In both the Old Testament and the New Testament, God identified His people as "special." What does that involve?

God identifies His people as "a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth" (Deut. 7:6; 14:2; Ex. 19:5). These are ones He "loves" (Deut. 7:6-8), has "chosen" (Deut. 7:6; 1 Pet. 2:9), has "brought" to Himself (Ex. 19:4-5), and to whom He extends His "mercy" (1 Pet. 2:9-10). If you are one of His people, do you feel "special"? You are to God!

But in every context of Scripture where God identifies His people as "special," He equally specifies what He expects of them. "Obey My voice and keep My covenant" (Ex. 19:5), "love Him and keep His commandments" (Deut. 7:9; 26:18), "proclaim the excellencies of Him...abstain from fleshly lusts" (1 Pet. 2:9-12), being "zealous for good works" (Tit. 2:14). God's people are "special" because of Whose they are and what they do for Him!

David Sproule  
Thought for the Day



## Melson's Musings ...



(continued from page one)

As this coach contemplates half-time, he could have better distinguished between majors and minors. I could have been thankful for every yard that was gained even when every play may not have been a touchdown. I could have been more thankful that penalties, including personal fouls, were kept to a bare minimum. This dad could have fussed less at his players and encouraged them more. He could have seen their talent and greatness as God made them, and not occasionally forced them to play "out of position."

This coach could have remembered that for all their talent and greatness, his players were still only "rookies," not veterans. Despite society's pressure (and sometimes their dad's) to make them too old too soon, they are children, not adults.

Finally, this dad-coach is humbled at half-time by the realization that he should have made sure that his kids saw even more of Jesus in their dad. I am not ashamed to say that I love the Lord and sincerely try to serve Him. However, I am ashamed to say that too often my thoughts, words and actions are not what God desires them to be. May God, my family and friends forgive me!

What's the score at your house? How's your game plan? Are you in the first quarter as a parent? Is it about half-time for you, too? Maybe the two minute warning has just signaled for you as a parent. Whatever your status may be as a parent, COACH TO WIN! May we truly be able to say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15).

## DEDICATED WOMEN AND THEIR FAMOUS SONGS

Not every hymn was inspired by some outstanding experience in life. Anne Sherwood Hawks was a contented housewife in Brooklyn, New York. She had a devoted family and no major problems. It was on a beautiful June day in 1872 that Mrs. Hawks, realizing how greatly blessed she was, wrote the hymn, "I Need Thee Every Hour." It was out of joy and assurance, and not out of pain or sorrow, that this wonderful hymn was formed.

Since she had written many types of verse, the writing of this hymn was not a new experience. She had been encouraged by Dr. Robert Lowry who set the verses to music for her. The song gained great popularity through its use by Moody and Sankey and at Chicago's World Columbian Exposition.

It was not until the death of her husband that Anne Hawks understood why her hymn had touched so many hearts. She then came to feel the need of the Lord every hour and turned to her own song for comfort as long as she lived.

*I need Thee ev'ry hour, Most gracious Lord;  
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.  
I need Thee, O I need Thee;  
Ev'ry hour I need Thee!  
O Bless me now, my Saviour, I come to Thee.*

- Irma Batey



## 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