

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	49
Attendance AM	82
Attendance PM	23
Wednesday PM	18

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Dollie Jones (Stone Springs); Marie Tolly; Ruby Cole (home); Phil & Kim Tydings; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stone Springs); Ron Robbins; Nina Netherton; Mary Rutland (home);

Traveling: Michael Blanks, Jr.; Norris Cole, II

Prayers: Citizens of various parts of Southern California & western North Carolina; Carlene Harley

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy:

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 26	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Tony Moore	Tony Moore
Song Leader	Patrick Cook	Richard D. Melson
Lead Lord's Supper	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Server 1	Lyle Cole	Lyle Cole
Server 2	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Scripture Reader	Ryan McGahee	Patrick Thomas
Sermon	Richard D. Melson	Kevin Berry
Prayer for Responses	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. Melson
Closing Prayer	Lyle Cole	Lyle Cole
Announcements	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
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 26, 2025

Issue 04

COURAGE

Clay Bond

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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 Bible is a book that is filled with accounts of courageous men and women, people who faced down danger and death with lion-like boldness (Proverbs 28:1). Turning to our Old Testament we can read the story of Gideon, who had the courage to turn away from the false religion of his father. He threw down the altar of Baal and built an altar to the true and living God (Judges 6). We might also read of Esther, who had the courage to thwart custom by going before her king unbidden to plead for the lives of her people (Esther 4:16). Her courageous act saved the lives of countless people.

Going further into our Old Testament we read the familiar story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. These young men knew that if they refused to worship the king's idol they would be thrown into the burning fiery furnace, yet they courageously refused. It took a tremendous level of mental and emotional strength to do what was right even in the face of death (Daniel 3). Listen to what these three young men said to a king, "be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up" (Daniel 3:18).

These examples teach us so much about the wonderful virtue of courage that the world seems to miss. Many see one who is courageous almost as a bullhead, reckless fool who rushes into danger and, against all odds, survives the impossible. But the scriptures show us quite a different picture. The Word of God paints courage as the virtue that can help us stand for what is right even when we know it will bring abuse on us. It takes tremendous courage to speak the truth on controversial issues. Just ask John the Baptist. He was beheaded because he spoke about morality to someone who was determined to live an immoral life (Matthew 14:4-10).

As followers of Jesus Christ we cannot allow the world to dictate what we can and cannot believe. Nor can we allow fear to stop us from declaring God's truth on moral issues. Whether it is a "hot topic" in the news, like homosexuality, or one of the more commonly accepted evils like rampant divorce, Christians must stay true to our Lord and share His message of freedom from sin with the world around us (Romans 6:23; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Some may frown at religious people for speaking out against immorality. Some may go beyond a frown and declare it to be wrong, intolerant or unconstitutional to speak against sin. But the truth is it really doesn't matter what the majority feels, believes and declares. When God condemns a practice, His people must stand with Him. God's ways are much higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). God's Word condemns sexual immorality in all its forms, including fornication, adultery, and yes, even homosexuality (1 Corinthians 6:9; Leviticus 18:22; Ephesians 5:11). It is not easy to be God's watchmen, but He fully expects His people to warn others of the dangers of sin (Ezekiel 33).

Some may say religion is for the weak, but being a follower of Christ is not for the faint of heart. To walk in the steps of Jesus we must be ready to confront sin even if it makes us

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

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

Life in a Madhouse

It was a terribly hectic day at the doctor's office. And it was made worse by the new receptionist who was trying very hard to cope with the chaos, but just could not get all together. Answering the phone, checking in new patients, and doing so many new things was just more than the new receptionist could handle. The psychiatrist had taken all he could, but finally had to correct her phone answering technique. "When you answer the phone," he said, "just say we're terribly busy today. Please don't say it's a madhouse around here."

What is it like in your life? Are you so busy some of these days that you don't know what to do next? If you are retired, do you sometimes wonder how you had time to go to work? It's sometimes hard to tell the difference between just being very busy and living in a madhouse, isn't it?

Jesus was also extremely busy, but He still had time to "get away from it all" to spend time communing with His Heavenly Father. "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. And Simon and they that were with him followed after him. And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek for thee. And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth" (Mark 1:35-38). Simon's comment, "All men seek for thee," demonstrates how busy He was, and how many claims were made for His time and energy. But there was still time for prayer, for time with friends like Mary, and Martha, and Lazarus, and to bless children.

Even in the midst of the busy pace of life, however, Jesus offers us peace. He said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

There is tribulation in the world, but He offers peace.

He says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). Maybe it is time to give some of your burdens to Him, and take up his yoke.

— Bob Prichard

Best of the Best

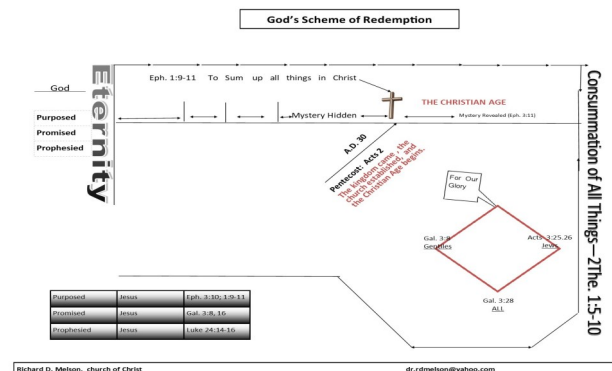


Who are "the best of the best"? Commander Mike Metcalf, in Top Gun, told the pilots, "Gentlemen, you are the top 1% of all naval aviators – the elite, the best of the best." Chief Zed, in Men in Black, told the recruits, "You're all here because you're the best of the best." Of course, all of that is fiction. In the real world, who are "the best of the best"?

"The best of the best" are usually labeled such for something grand that they have done: the highest test scores, the fastest times on the clock, the biggest paychecks, etc. Is it possible that you could be "the best of the best" because of something that someone else did?

Christians are the "alive from the dead" (Rom. 6:13), the "redeemed from among men" (Rev. 14:3-4), the "sanctified in Christ Jesus" (1 Cor. 1:2), "the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21), "those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life" (Rev. 21:27). Through submissive obedience, one becomes alive, redeemed, sanctified, righteous and enrolled, but it is only because of the greatest act ever in the history of mankind, which was done on their behalf (John 15:13)! Are you among His "best of the best"?

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



(continued from page one)

social outcasts. Even if it costs us our business, our friends, our good standing or even our head, we must be valiant for the truth that sets men free from the bondage of sin (Romans 1:16; Philippians 1:17; 1 Timothy 3:15; John 8:32). It takes far more courage to speak truth when it is unpopular and unwelcome than it does to follow the crowd (Exodus 23:2). Those wonderful Old Testament examples remind each one of us that courage is an attainable virtue. It can be a reality for all who put their trust in God (Psalm 27:14). May we all have the courage and strength of heart to say and do what is right no matter the cost. Do you have the courage to declare "all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27)?

After spending week after week in hard training for the racetrack, the boy cannot run as fast as a rabbit. The best punter on the All-American football team cannot kick as hard as a mule. It is good to have a strong body, but how much better to have a properly developed mind, a cultured soul? Man was made for greater things. All of our mistakes can be explained in a two-word expression-misplaced emphasis.

There is no moral worth in sorrow. It is of value only when it works repentance—a change-in our hearts and lives.

Your pack of troubles has wearied you. You have fretted and complained beneath the burden of it. And yet, if you had the power to do so, you would not exchange your pack of trouble with that of any other person in the world. Now, isn't that true?

DEDICATED WOMEN AND THEIR FAMOUS SONGS

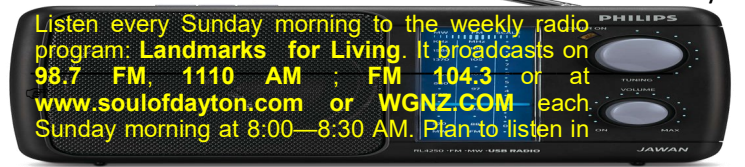
Another American woman whose poetic talent made her famous was Mary A. Lathbury (1841-1913). Through the influence and encouragement of her father she dedicated her life and talents to the Lord. She became secretary to a leader of the Chautauqua movement and at his request wrote her two most famous songs for the vesper services held on the banks of Lake Chautauqua.

*Day is dying in the West;
Heav'n is touching earth with rest;
Wait and worship while the night
Sets her evening lamps alight
Through all the sky.
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts!
Heav'n and earth are full of Thee;
Heav'n and earth are praising Thee,
O Lord Most High!*

Miss Lathbury's other song "Break Thou the Bread of Life" was written in 1880 for the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle. She called it "A Study Song." Its lovely reference to the Sea of Galilee is made doubly interesting when one remembers that the hymn was written beside beautiful Lake Chautauqua.

*Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, To me-to me
As Thou didst bless the bread By Galilee;
Then shall all bondage cease, All fetters fall;
And I shall find my peace, My All-in-All!*

— Irma Batey



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