

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	38
Attendance AM	91
Attendance PM	29
Wednesday PM	32

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Dollie Jones (home); Dana Grigsby; Phil & Kim Tydings; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stone Springs); Ron Robbins; Nina Netherton; Mary Rutland (home); Diane Cole; Rhea Wallace; Carolyn Johnson; Richard Melson; Rhonda Fox (flu)

Traveling: Norris Cole, II; Richard Melson, Jr.

Prayers: Richard & Debra Barr

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy:

Member Birthdays: February — 4 Betty Blakley; 13 Tena Eslick; 16 Grover Frank Brock; 21 Catherine Anderson; Jerry Thomas; 22 Brenda Wiley

Anniversaries: February — 25—Ron & Virginia Robbins

Ladies Reading Group: Zoom Class Feb. 20 @ 6:00 PM Chapter 3 in "Bible A's for Ladies"

February 16	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Lyle Cole	Lyle Cole
Song Leader	Michale Blanks, Jr.	Patrick Cook
Lead Lord's Supper	Tony Moore	Tony Moore
Server 1	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Server 2	Ryan McGahee	Patrick Thomas
Scripture Reader	James Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Sermon	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. Melson
Prayer for Responses	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Closing Prayer	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Announcements	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
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

February 16, 2025

Issue 07

www.needmoreroadcoc.com
Phone: (937) 274-6801
Fax: (937) 999-4949

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

"THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF"

Keith A. Mosher, Sr.

The statement, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," is part of an answer Jesus gave to an Old Testament scribe (lawyer) who came to entrap the Savior (Matt. 22:34-40). Such "lawyers," as the one who would "tempt" Jesus, were expounders of the Mosaic code and considered themselves above others. In fact, to such a "lawyer" there were over six-hundred precepts in the law of Moses and a considerable number could not even be observed. So, those rabbis would make distinctions between "heavy" and "light" commandments as though some were of lesser importance than others (Williams, Pulpit Commentary, 365). That "lawyer" wanted to find out if Jesus sanctioned the traditional teaching.

Jesus gave a plain answer to the scribe which could not be gainsayed. Every Jewish male repeated Deuteronomy 6:4 on a daily basis: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord." This "shema" or morning prayer indicated the chief duty of man to honor God, which obligation was superior to every other duty. The scribe had not asked about a second commandment, but Jesus would not propound an abstract proposition. Jesus showed the lawyer how loving God is done on a practical basis; one is to love one's neighbor as oneself (Matt. 22:39)! This love (agape) is without self-interest. It carries the highest moral responsibility and, in fact, God is agape (1 John 4:8). The apostle John learned the truth concerning loving a neighbor and later was inspired to write: "And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also" (1 John 4:21). How does one measure one's love for one's fellow-man? To what degree is loving oneself considered and to what degree does one connect love for God with love for neighbor are the criteria for true spirituality. Such love involves one's heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30). Jesus' conclusion that loving God, neighbor, and self are the precepts of the entire Mosaic code remind one of a supposed incident in the life of a Jewish scribe named Hillel:

A heathen wished to be converted to the Jewish faith, but only on the understanding that he would be taught the whole of the Torah while standing on one leg. Hillel accepted him, and in response to the heathen's request replied: That which is hateful unto thee do not do unto thy neighbor. This is the whole of Torah. The rest is commentary. Go and study" (Talmud, Shab. 31a).

Jesus expanded Hillel's comment, however, not by insisting that what is "hateful" to one should not be done, but positively to love another as oneself. Are there ways to recognize such love?

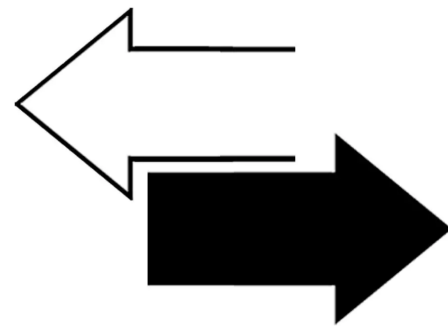
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BEING THE NEW CREATION IN 2025 - 2 COR. 5:17

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



Turn from nothing to everything



[The following article was penned 20 years ago. It seems just like yesterday, when I first read it, but it still has value today. RDM]

Andrew Fischer, of Omaha, Nebraska is quite an entrepreneur. He came up with the idea of offering advertising space on his forehead. According to World magazine, the highest bidder on eBay was "Snorestop," a snoring remedy. The company is paying Fischer \$37,375 to display the company logo on his forehead for a month. (It seems to me that for that kind of money they ought to get more than a month's advertising!)

Would you be willing to advertise on your forehead? That may just become the way we all "use our heads" in the future. Some of us might be willing to get a permanent Coca-Cola ad, or something like that, for the right kind of money.

Revelation 13 describes some beasts that rise up and oppose the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (13:8). One of the beasts "causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (13:16-17). This mark in the right hand or the forehead is a mark of ownership. John continues, saying, that "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six" (13:18).

People have concocted all sorts of theories to suggest what this mark is, or shall be, including the social security number, tattoos, etc. If they would just read the next verse, however, they would see that the mark is symbolic, not literal. "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads" (14:1). Those who follow the beast are marked as his followers by their actions, and those who follow the Lamb are also marked by their actions.

All of us are already marked as serving the Lamb or the beast. It is not always as obvious as a "Snorestop" ad on the forehead, but our actions show who we belong to. What do people see in your life? Are you marked as a servant of God, or do your actions mark you as a servant of the beast?

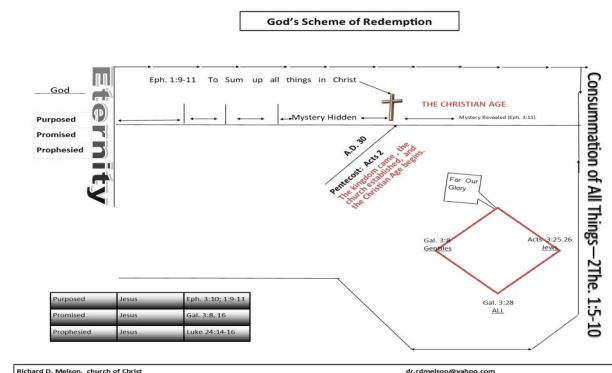
— Bob Prichard

Paul commended the Christians in Thessalonica, shortly after they had been converted to Christ. For what? He praised them for "how you turned to God from idols..." (1 Thess. 2:9). At one time, they had worshiped pieces of stone or wood, and maybe were even the ones who fashioned those pieces of stone or wood into some kind of image (Isa. 44:10). They were literally paying homage to something that was nothing.

They turned from that dead piece of stone or wood "to serve the living and true God" (2:9). What a change that was for them! How invigorating that must have been! Now to serve the God who is "living," "true," real, active, listening, saving, working, caring, etc. No stone could ever do that!

And while continually "serving" (present tense) their continually "living" (present tense) God, they were continually "waiting" (present tense) "for His Son from heaven...who is continually "delivering" (present tense) "us from the wrath to come" (2:10). Does that describe you, too? Have you turned from nothing to everything? What a God we serve!

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



(continued from page 1)

True Christian love presupposes proper estimations of God and self. God revealed Himself so that He could be loved (Rev. 4:11). Love resists any attempt to be forced, but must arise voluntarily and is the reason God gave man self-determination. In loving, one identifies with the object of that love. Therefore, in loving God, one is ennobled, for the deep love of God leads to a profound love of holiness. Such love of holiness should help one begin to understand how noble and dignified a person can become. Self-respect and self-esteem are direct results of knowing and loving God, for man is a created being and the offspring of the Highest (Acts 17:28). Several things occur when one loves a neighbor as one loves self; and when both of the latter "loves" are the direct result of loving God.

One loves God by keeping His commandments (1 John 5:3). Since God is love, He is worthy of obedience, worship, praise, and adoration (Matt. 22:37). And loving God results in the "visitation" (caring for) of one's neighbor (cf. Jas. 1:27).

If one's neighbor succeeds, love rejoices with his success (Rom. 12:15). True love of a neighbor will "distribute to his necessities" and be "given to hospitality" (Rom. 12:13). To be "given" to hospitality means that one is on the constant lookout in seeing to the needs of others.

In answering the lawyer's "test question" about the greatest commandment, Jesus implied that such a sophomoric view of true faith indicated that the scribe was more interested in his own ideas about minute questions than in true relationships to God and man. That

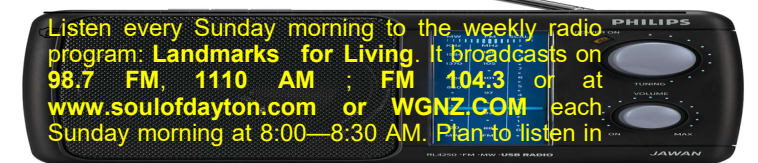
is, the lawyer thought more of his own ideas about religion than he did about loving God. Therefore, he could not love either God or man as commanded, for in his mind he was better than both! The root-principle of Christian love involves the proper estimation of self (c.f. Phil. 2:3). No one can be counted as a follower of Christ who is selfish; no matter how "esteemed" he may seem in the eyes of some. True, agape love seeks the welfare of others and thus draws near the heart of God. In describing what happens when love fails, Nan Terrell Reed wrote:

Two vases stood on the Shelf of Life As Love came by to look,
One was of priceless cloisonné, The other of solid common clay. Which do you think Love took?

He took them both from the Shelf of Life, He took them both with a smile;
He clasped them both with his finger tips, And touched them both with caressing lips, And held them both for awhile!

From tired hands Love let them fall, And never a word was spoken.
One was a priceless cloisonné, The other of solid common clay. Which do you think was broken?

The Forest Hill News, Forest Hill Church of Christ, August 7, 2019



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