

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

Bible Class	19
Attendance AM	19
Attendance PM	22
Wednesday PM	28

**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; Richard Melson; Rhonda Fox (flu); Janet Fortner (Penny's aunt) will have hip surgery in March

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

**Prayers:** Richard & Debra Barr

**Repentance:**

**Baptism:**

**Sympathy:** Family of Cindy Bailey (Penny's cousin)

**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 March 6 @ 6:00 PM Chapter 3 in "Bible A's for Ladies"

February 23	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Tony Moore	Tony Moore
Song Leader	Patrick Cook	Lyle Cole
Lead Lord's Supper	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Server 1	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Server 2	Chris Poole	Jerry Thomas
Scripture Reader	Ran McGahee	Patrick Thomas
Sermon	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. Melson
Prayer for Responses	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Closing Prayer	Michael Blanks, Jr.	Michael Blanks, Jr.
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

February 23, 2025

Issue 08

[www.needmoreroadcoc.com](http://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](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

## RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR ENEMIES

Cody Westbrook

The existence of enemies is a painful reality of the faithful Christian life, but not one that should surprise us. Our Lord had enemies. The Jewish leaders, Judas, and, of course, Satan himself all opposed Him and sought His ultimate failure and demise. The world hated Jesus and because it hated Him, it hates His people. Jesus said,

*If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you (John 15:18-19).*

John would later write, "Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you" (1 John 3:13). Christians are lights shining in a world of darkness (Matt. 5:16), and darkness, by its very nature, hates light (John 3:19-21). Therefore, it follows naturally that those who walk in darkness would do everything within their power to fight against and extinguish the light.

How should we deal with those who hate and fight against us? The carnal person typically seeks the demise of his enemies. He desires to completely defeat and overwhelm them. But, God's people live by a higher standard (cf. Eph. 4:1) and therefore, must deal with their enemies in a different way. In this article we will briefly consider three contexts of scripture, which speak to the relationship we are to have with our enemies. The combined thought of these passages is overwhelmingly clear—God's desire is that we love those who hate us and strive to convert them from enemies to brethren.

First, consider Matthew 5:38-42. Jesus said,

*You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.*

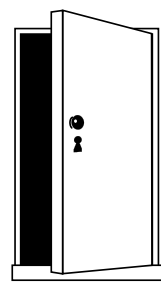
The examples Jesus referenced had great meaning to every person in His audience. A slap to the right cheek would be a backhanded blow, a great sign of disrespect in the time of the New Testament. The cloak was an outer garment that was used for warmth and even bedding in the open field. Roman soldiers had the ability to compel a person to carry a load for them up to one mile. Jesus commanded more—go the extra mile! Each of these items illustrates God's desire for His people to forego retaliation. Such is difficult and often contrary to our nature as human beings. Retaliation is often our initial inclination but Jesus forbids that kind of reaction and commands something far more impactful.

(continued on page 3)

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

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

## “I Had Rather Be a Doorkeeper”



As God prepared His people to enter the Promised Land, He assigned the tribe of Levi to be in charge of all things related to worship under the Law. That meant that the Levites provided all of the priests, as well as those who would care for the tabernacle/temple, implements used in worship, and any other possible assignment relating to the worship of God.

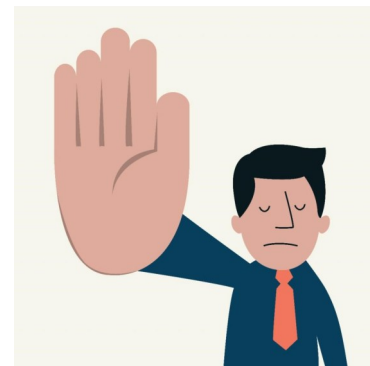
Among the various families of the Levites, each family received a particular assignment. The family of Kohath was assigned to carry the tabernacle furnishings as they traveled, but even though they were Levites, they could not serve as priests. Korah, the head of the family, felt slighted, and led a rebellion against Moses and Aaron. “And Moses said unto Korah, Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi: Seemeth it but a small thing unto you, that the God of Israel hath separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself to do the service of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to minister unto them? And he hath brought thee near to him, and all thy brethren the sons of Levi with thee: and seek ye the priesthood also?” (Numbers 16:10). The wrath of God fell on Korah and the other rebels, and the earth opened up and swallowed them.

God was merciful to Korah’s family, however. “And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up together with Korah, when that company died, what time the fire devoured two hundred and fifty men: and they became a sign. Notwithstanding the children of Korah died not” (Numbers 26:10-11).

Several generations later, the family of Korah was still serving faithfully in the temple, not as priests, but as gatekeepers and singers. Perhaps this prompted them to write in Psalm 84:10, “For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.” In other words, they had more joy from one day in the service of the Lord, than for a thousand days in the service of evil. There is joy in simple service to God, in whatever humble capacity we find ourselves. Aren’t we grateful for the many who serve the cause of Christ in those unsung positions that we could never do without.

— Bob Prichard

## God is with you at work!

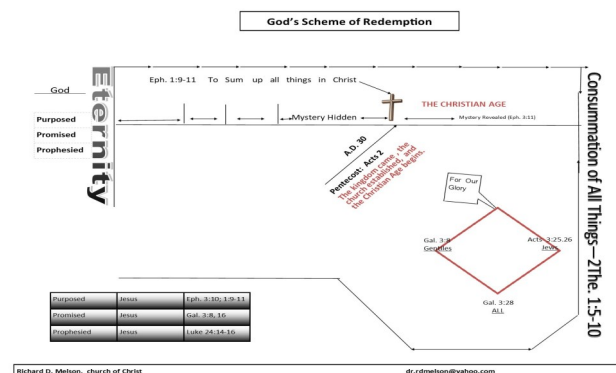


Some Christians endure much hardship in their workplace—from their boss, coworkers, clientele, etc. It breaks my heart to hear of the mistreatments that many have experienced.

Can I remind you what happened to Jacob? Well, he worked for his father-in-law. That might have been a recipe for trouble from the beginning. It started out well, but things changed. Laban’s “countenance...was not favorable to him as before” (Gen. 31:2, 5). Jacob “served” “with all his might” and did the best he could (31:5), but things did not improve. Laban “deceived” him and “changed [his] wages ten times” (31:7). Does any of that sound familiar? Have you been mistreated on the job?

Underline three statements and remember these when you go to work: (1) Even in all of this, Jacob said, “But the God of my father has been with me” (31:5). (2) The Lord told him, “I have seen all that Laban is doing to you” (31:12). (3) Jacob realized, “God did not allow him to hurt me” (31:7). Remember in all that happens, God is with you, sees it all and protects you.

David Sproule  
Thought for the Day



## Melson’s Musings ...



(continued from page 1)

Our second passage flows logically from the first, providing the positive reaction to be coupled with the negative (e.g. do not retaliate). In Matthew 5:44 Jesus said, “love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.” The conventional wisdom of the day suggested love for those who love you (your neighbor) and hatred for those who hate you (your enemy). Jesus turned that wisdom on its head by commanding us to love all people, and especially those who do not love us in return. Notice the 4 imperatives in the passage—**love, bless, do good, and pray!** Each of these suggests action with love as the foundation. To agape someone is to desire their best interest. That desire should always be coupled with action. It is easy to seek the best interest of those who seek ours; even “tax collectors” do that (Matt. 5:46). However it is very difficult to actively seek good for someone who only seeks our harm. Yet, that is exactly what Jesus enjoins in this context.

Practically speaking, what does it mean to love our enemies and forego retaliation against them? Consider Romans 12:17-21 :

*Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. Therefore, “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on*

*his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

In this context Paul reemphasizes the instruction of our Lord to turn away from an attitude of retaliation. However, just because God’s people are not to take retributive matters into their own hands does not mean that justice will be left out of the equation. Our just God will deal with the enemies of His people, and therefore we must trust Him to “take vengeance.” Our responsibility is to “feed” our enemies. Remember, Jesus commanded that we love our enemies; do good to them and pray for them. Meeting the needs of hunger and thirst is just one example of the kind of service that springs from the kind of heart that God’s demands reside in His people.

How does God desire us to treat our enemies? What kind of relationship should we have with those who hate us? In sum, our Father wants us to love and serve them. Though they may abuse us in a multitude of ways, our mindset is to be that of our Savior’s: *who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously (1 Pet. 2:23).*

Our goal must not be the ultimate demise of our enemies, but instead, their salvation.

- ☞ March 1—Men’s Business Meeting @ 9:00 AM
- ☞ March 2—First Sunday, noon meal, no 5:00 PM service

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