

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	53
Attendance AM	72
Attendance PM	40
Wednesday PM	36

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Mike Mamula; Phil & Kim Tydings; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stone Springs); Ron Robbins; Nina Netherton; Mary Rutland (home); Roy Wallace (surgery); Candace Lawson @ Wesly Long Hospital (Greensboro, NC)- heart failure

Traveling: Norris Cole, II; Richard Melson, Jr.; Deonna Cole; Eslick family

Prayers:

Repentance:

Baptism: Chantinae' Gray

Sympathy:

Member Birthdays: April — 8 Beulah Farmer 11 Mary Sanders; 12 Diane Cole (Lyle), Jacob Hoover; 19— Princess Moore; 23 Norris Cole; 25 Carolyn Johnson

Anniversaries: April — 1—Otis and Glenna Adair

Ladies Reading Group: Zoom Class April 17 @ 6:00 PM Chapter 4 in "Bible A's for Ladies"

April 13	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Lyle Cole	Lyle Cole
Song Leader	Chris Poole	Michael Blanks, Jr.
Lead Lord's Supper	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Server 1	James Grigsby	Norris Cole
Server 2	Phil Tydings	Anthony Grigsby
Scripture Reader	Tony Moore	Tony Moore
Sermon	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. Melson
Prayer for Responses	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Closing Prayer	Patrick Cook	Patrick Cook
Announcements	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. Melson
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

April 13, 2025

Issue 15

WHY I'M NOT A CHRISTIAN

Dereck Gentle

Every now and then someone will say something to the effect that "I'm not a Christian because..." and they will give some reason or the other. Perhaps one such someone is you. If so, might your reason be one of the following?

There are hypocrites in the church

Of course, there are! Jesus said there would be—and that He would wait until judgment day to sort them out from sincere believers (Matt. 13:24-30). Besides, isn't it interesting how hypocrites do not keep us from doing anything else we want to do? Allowing the presence of those who are not all they pretend to be is like refusing to go to the doctor because, in the waiting room, there may be people who pretend to be sick to get attention (hypochondriacs).

"I really need to, but I'll wait until later"

I wonder if people who say this really understand what they are saying to God. "God, I'm going to continue practicing those sins that Jesus suffered for on the cross. And since I really love my way better than Your way, You can just wait until I get good and ready. Besides, just who do you think You are—demanding that I live my life at Your beck and call?" Do you believe God is at your beck and call and that you can come to Him at the time of your own choosing? The Bible says, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).

"I'm not so bad"

I wonder if your spouse and children would agree. The Bible says that one must be perfect to enter heaven (Rev. 21:8, 27); and that our best, that is "all our righteousness, are like filthy rags" (Is. 64:6). The Bible says also, "If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves and that truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8) and, "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9).

"I'm too bad. I'm beyond hope"

Do not flatter yourself! Do you really believe that you are more powerful in your sin than the blood of Jesus is powerful to save? In a perverted way, you proudly imagine yourself stronger than God. However, the Bible says, "But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more" (Rom. 5:20).

"I would have to give up too much"

I can see their point. Selfishness, hangovers, painful child custody battles, guilt, etc. are all hard to give up. And to think you have to miss hell with all its suffering and regrets forever and ever. Well, what is the love, peace, and joy of God compared to all that? Jesus asked, "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Matt. 16:26).

(continued on page 3)

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

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

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

A Great Difference

An English writer has said, "The early Christians did not go around saying, 'Look what the world is come to.' Rather they went out with great joy and said to all men, 'Look what is coming to the world!'" There is a great difference between these two attitudes. Yes, the world is in bad shape; but read the second chapter of Romans and you will find that the world was in an awful condition in Paul's time.

Nearly all thoughtful men agree that man is in a terrible predicament, but the unique Gospel of Jesus Christ offers the solution to man's problems. Look! See what has come into the world—God's revelation of Himself in all His power, wisdom, and love through Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. This is indeed glorious news! This is a message which we cannot keep to ourselves, but we must tell everybody it. No wonder Christians are radiant with joy. They have found the treasure all men are seeking. They have seen what has come into the world in the presence of Jesus Christ, and they are working for the advancement of His kingdom until He comes again.

As Satan sought to destroy one of God's faithful servants it should be noted what confidence God placed in Job. While Satan was allowed to "touch all that he had," Our Creator was confident that the tempter could touch Job's power of choice. Yes, Job suffered loses of health and wealth but remember what was left – the amazing gift of life and the power to choose!

Let me urge you to study the Book of Job from the perspective of "Job's choices." Here are some quick lessons: 1. Loss of health did not incite bad choices. 2. Loss of wealth did induce poor choices. 3. Loss of family members shook Job but did not lead to failing to choose God's way. 4. When friends failed him, Job made good choices. 5. When Job's wife made a poor judgment concerning God, Job was unflappable!

What's the lesson for us? God gave each of us amazing gifts. The gift of life with the ability to make proper decisions – to this, Satan can't take away. Aren't you happy about that? Our Father gave us the instruction manual to accompany our lives that our choices may glorify Him. Wow! I don't have to go around attempting to make choices for me, but for Him! Psalm 119:11-12 – "Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You! Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes!"

Thanks be to God for His amazing gifts that promotes a quality of life that is beyond this world! Are you ready to choose it? (Josh. 24:14-15)

- Glenn Hitchcock

"I am poor and needy"

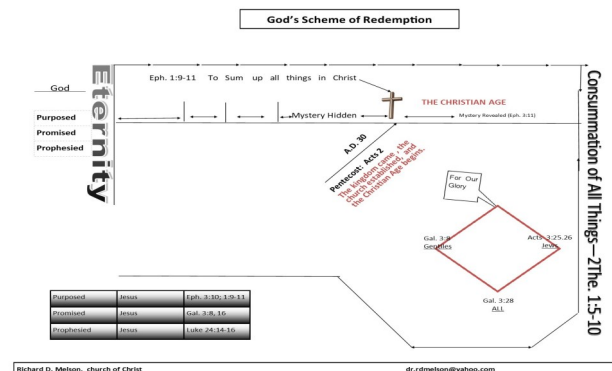


As you think about King David in the Bible—growing up in the household of Jesse, being chosen at a young age to be the next king of Israel, being close friends with the king's son, becoming king and living in the king's house—it is unlikely that you have ever pictured him as "poor and needy." And yet, that is exactly how he describes himself in Psalm 70:5.

We hear "poor and needy," and we immediately think materially, but that is not likely the case for David in this text. David was facing great opposition and was crying out to God to deliver him. David was not a panhandler with a cardboard sign on the streets, but he was "poor and needy" for God, desperately calling upon God to "make haste" to "help" him.

Are you "poor and needy" for God? Some Christians are living rather contented lives when it comes to God. They need Him when they need Him, but most of the time they're good on their own. Let us not wait until we are facing opposition to realize how much we need God!

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



A Living Hope

(continued from page one)

"My friends would make fun of me"

This reason is not usually put into words but it is a thought that enters the mind of a person confronted with the gospel. Just remember: your friends may laugh you into hell, but they cannot laugh you out. The Bible says that Moses was a man of faith, "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.. Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches..." (Heb. 11:25, 26). God promises, ". . .they shall not be ashamed who wait for me (Is. 49:23).

"I'll have to work this out in my own way"

Again, another arrogant attitude, telling God that He must accept you on your own terms. It forgets that our "own way" is what got us into this fix in the first place. The Bible says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14:12); and Jesus told us, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

Of course, these are not reasons, but excuses. I hope you are not trying to use one. If so, you are missing out on too much.

In Acts chapter eight, we learn of the evangelist Philip's interaction with an Ethiopian man whose curiosity was sparked by Isaiah's writings about the silent sufferer in Isaiah 53. Beginning from this Scripture, Philip "preached unto him Jesus" (Acts 8:35).

First, Isaiah revealed that the word that best describes the man of Isaiah 53 is "insignificant." Humanity was unimpressed as they beheld this "tender plant," "a root out of a dry ground," one who had "no form or comeliness" and "no beauty." The promised Messiah was

viewed only as a "man of sorrows and acquainted with grief," and He was summarily rejected by men (Jn. 1:11). Secondly, Isaiah identifies the vicarious nature of this man's great suffering by using the word "our" multiple times. This man, who was judged to be insignificant and unimportant, bore our griefs, carried our sorrows, was wounded for our iniquities and chastised for our peace. Isaiah demands that we acknowledge the vicarious nature of this man's silent suffering. He was guilty of nothing and could not be convicted of sin, yet He was pierced, chastened, scourged and experienced the most violent execution known to man (Jn. 8:46).

Thirdly, Isaiah depicts this sufferer as the atoning Lamb, brought to the slaughter, on whom the Lord has laid "the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6-7). Sin demands a price, and our just and righteous God cannot withhold the wages earned by every sinner (Rom. 6:23; 1 Pet. 1:18-19). The unjust trial, the false imprisonment and criminal's death suffered by this Lamb pleased the Father only because it enabled Him to accept His Son as offering for our sin (Isa. 53:10-12).

A reading of Isaiah 53 leaves us humbled and ashamed to have rejected the one who left glory to "bare our sins in his own body on the tree" (1 Pet. 2:24). When we are faced with the horrible reality of our own sinfulness and the terrible penalty owed, Isaiah 53 presents us with the spotless Lamb of God who suffered and died in our place. If you believe all that Isaiah reveals about Jesus, be like the Ethiopian eunuch, accept the sacrifice of the suffering Savior by obeying His gospel and you will be set free (Jn.8:36).

Lake Country Church of Christ Weekly Bulletin, April 3, 2016
- Clay Bond

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 ; 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