

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

Bible Class	43
Attendance AM	96
Attendance PM	30
Wednesday PM	36

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Prayer for Health:** Phil & Kim Tydings; Jerry Thomas; Krubo Joploh (The Christ Hospital); Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stone Springs); Ron Robbins; Nina Netherton; Roy Wallace (surgery); Candace Lawson (Greensboro, NC)

**Traveling:** Norris Cole, II; Richard Melson, Jr; Deonna Cole; (Those attending Equipped in Bowling Green, KY)

**Prayers:** Alyse Poole

**Repentance:** Alyse Poole

**Baptism:**

**Sympathy:**

**Member Birthdays: April** — 8 Beulah Farmer 11 Mary Sanders; 12 Diane Cole (Lyle), Jacob Hoover; 18— Mary Rutland; 19—Princess Moore; 23 Norris Cole; 25 Carolyn Johnson

**Anniversaries: April** — 1—Otis and Glenna Adair

**Ladies Reading Group:** Zoom Class May 1 @ 6:00 PM Chapter 5 in "Bible A's for Ladies"

April 27	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Tony Moore	Tony Moore
Song Leader	Michael Blanks, Jr.	Patrick Cook
Lead Lord's Supper	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Server 1	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Server 2	Chris Poole	Anthony Grigsby
Scripture Reader	Ryan McGahee	Lyle Cole
Sermon	Patrick Powers	Patrick Powers
Prayer for Responses	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Closing Prayer	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Announcements	Lyle Cole	Lyle 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

April 27, 2025

Issue 17

## A CONSUMING FIRE

Steven Lloyd

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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

The Lord cannot be approached any way we choose. He can only be approached on His terms. Israel was forewarned that if they approached him on their own terms, there would be negative consequences.

For example, the garment to be worn by Aaron, the high priest when he entered the Tabernacle, had a golden bell attached:

...and its sound shall be heard when he goes into the Holy Place before the Lord, and when he comes out, so that he does not die (Exodus 28:31-35).

Aaron and his sons were to wear linen undergarments designed to cover their naked flesh so when they went into the tent of meeting, or when they came near the altar to minister in the Holy Place they did not die (Exodus 28:40-43). When they offered a food offering to the Lord, they were to wash with water "so that they may not die." "They shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they may not die" (Exodus 30:20).

There are other texts containing warnings that could be included, but let's take a look at some examples.

When Nadab and Abihu, sons of Aaron, offered "unauthorized fire" at the tent of meeting, fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them (Lev. 10:2), much in the same way the same fire consumed the burnt offering described in the previous chapter. The Lord then said, "Drink no wine or strong drink, you or your sons with you, when you go into the tent of meeting, lest you die" (Lev. 10:9).

When Israel left Sinai they began to complain in the hearing of the Lord about their misfortunes.

And the people were as murmurers, speaking evil in the ears of Jehovah: and when Jehovah heard it, his anger was kindled; and the fire of Jehovah burnt among them, and devoured in the uttermost part of the camp. Then the people cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the Lord, and the fire died down. So the name of that place was called Taberah, because the fire of the Lord burned among them (Numbers 11:1-3).

When the Lord's anger was kindled against the people, he would, on occasion, strike them with "a very great plague" (Numbers 11:33). On another occasion, a man broke the Sabbath day by gathering sticks. They didn't know what to do with him so they brought him to Moses. Moses inquired of the Lord, and the Lord said:

The man shall be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp." And all the congregation brought him outside

(continued on page 3)

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

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

## What It Means To Be a Prophet

The term “prophet” and its cognates occur over 500 times in the Bible. In both the Old and New Testaments, prophets are routinely featured as sources of divine instruction and motivation. The regularity with which the Bible uses the term “prophet” stands in contrast to its relative infrequency in contemporary Christianity. But that is changing.

A number of traditions and individuals are starting to adopt the term “prophet,” especially in reference to their preachers. Without necessarily claiming divine inspiration, they insist the term “prophet” is really no different than “preacher.” Perhaps we bear some blame for the misunderstanding. For years we have said a prophet is either a foreteller or a forthteller. While the practice of foretelling might imply divine inspiration, the practice of forthtelling does not. By this latter definition, “prophet” becomes a mere synonym for “preacher.” Maybe we should shape our definition and revisit exactly what Scripture means by “prophet.”

The Greek term prophētēs, from which we get the English word “prophet,” is defined in the standard lexicon as “one who speaks for a god and interprets his will to man.” This definition also holds for nāvi’, the Hebrew word translated “prophet” (e.g., Exodus 7:1). In other words, the prophet puts into words what God is thinking and thus stands in a position superior to other people (Numbers 12:6; Deuteronomy 34:10). Consequently, the prophet is equipped by inspiration to declare what God has not made plain (1 Samuel 9:9; 2 Kings 3:11).

One can observe in Scripture the primary responsibility of prophets is to declare the word of God. Sometimes they predict future events (e.g., Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2), and sometimes they preach a contemporary message (e.g., Jonah 3:4; Nahum 1:2-3). But they are always inspired. This is evident not only from explicit statements, such as “the word of the LORD came to ...” (e.g., Jeremiah 2:1; Ezekiel 17:11), but also from later reflections on the prophets’ work (2 Peter 1:20-21). The prophet themselves were aware of their inspiration. David recognized it when he wrote, “The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue” (2 Samuel 23:2 ESV). Biblical prophets operated under God’s direct inspiration, and they knew it.

Since the “faith” was “once for all delivered” in the first century (Jude 3) and since God granted to the first Christian generation “all things that pertain to life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3), God has no more revelation to give. And since prophets must operate under divine inspiration and direct inspiration has ceased, “prophets,” in the biblical sense, cannot exist today.

*The Southwesterner, December 1, 2019*

- Justin Rogers

## How full are you?

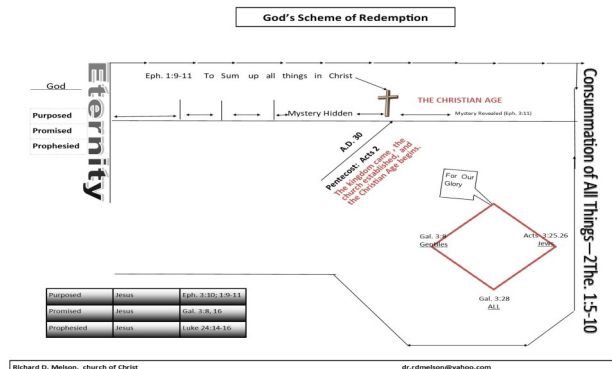


The red light on your dashboard comes on, telling you that you are almost empty and you need to fill up. How much longer will you go? At some point, you are going to have to stop and take the necessary steps to fill it up.

There was a Christian lady in Joppa, who became sick and died (Acts 9:36-37). That was not an unusual occurrence in the early church (or in any age since then). But, regarding this wonderful lady named Dorcas, the Holy Spirit tells us that she was “full of good works and charitable deeds” (9:36).

When you die, what if the Holy Spirit came along and recorded one statement about your level of good works? Would He say, “This person was 1/2 full of good works”? Or, “1/4 full of good works”? Or, “1/8 full of good works”? Or, “This person’s red light for good works was on”? The very reason we are “created in Christ Jesus” is for “good works” (Eph. 2:10), so that others may be impacted by them and glorify God (Matt. 5:16). So, when it comes to good works, how full are you?

*David Sproule  
Thought for the Day*



## Melson's Musings ...



*(continued from page one)*

the camp and stoned him to death with stones, as the Lord commanded Moses (Numbers 15:32-36).

You get the point.

Fred Hoppe worked around high voltage much of his life. He worked for the city of Pasadena, the city of Anaheim, and for Hampton Tedder. We sometimes refer to him as “crazy Fred” for his sense of humor, but Fred is nothing but serious when it comes to work. Fred has conveyed in specific terms I have forgotten how dangerous the environment was he worked in. But I have not forgotten how careful you must be when you enter one of these rooms or manholes. I worked in a few manholes myself. One wrong move and someone dies. Several did die in Pasadena.

Although no exact parallel can be drawn, I see some parallels. If you approach a high voltage power supply without the necessary precautions, you may die. For the ancient nation of Israel, if you entered the tabernacle or Temple God without the necessary precautions, you will die. Some did. Remember Nadab and Abihu. Remember the Sabbath breaker. Remember the number of times a plague broke out in the Israelite camp. Remember those who were bitten by serpents and died.

The writer of Hebrews looks back at the days Israel tested the Lord in the wilderness and writes:

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today,’ that none of you may

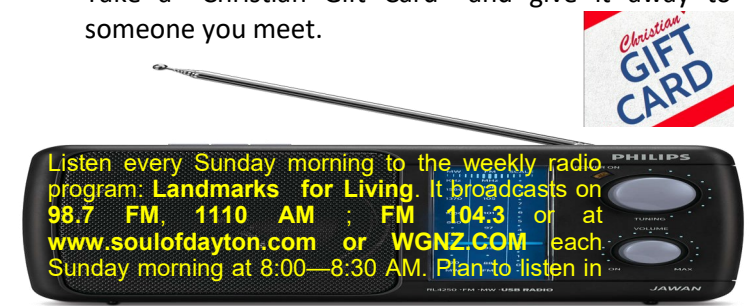
be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Heb. 3:12-13).

And later he exhorts them to be grateful for the kingdom they had received and to offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for ...our God is a consuming fire (Heb. 12:29).

## Playing Cops and Robbers

A young mother and her three extremely active young boys were playing “cops and robbers” one afternoon in the backyard when a neighbor stopped by. One boy aimed his pistol at his mother and yelled, “Bang! You are dead!” She slumped to the ground in a heap. When she did not get up right away the neighbor hurried to see if she had been hurt in the fall. As the neighbor bent over, the overworked mother opened one eye and whispered “Shh. Do not give me away. It is the only chance I get to rest!”

- ☞ **Honoring our graduates**—Next Sunday during the noon meal: Chantinae’ Gray, Sharnell Coicous (CSU) and Princess Moore
- ☞ **Potter Children’s Home**—Commodity Pick Up is on Monday April 28th at 2:00 PM
- ☞ Men’s Business Meeting 9:00 AM on May 3
- ☞ We have a few copies remaining of the 2025 MSOP lectureship book—“Teach All Nations” the cost is \$30
- ☞ Take a “Christian Gift Card” and give it away to someone you meet.



## 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