

**RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE**

Bible Class	45
Attendance AM	76
Attendance PM	26
Wednesday PM	31

**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); Darlene Pugh;  
**Traveling:** Norris Cole, II; Richard Melson, Jr; Deonna Cole; Richard Melson  
**Prayers:**  
**Repentance:**  
**Baptism:**  
**Sympathy:** Blanks family  
**Member Birthdays:** May — 2—April Gilbert 4 - Patrick Thomas; 19— James Grigsby; 30 – Ron Robbins  
**Anniversaries:** May — None  
**Ladies Reading Group:** Zoom Class May 15 @ 6:00 PM Chapter 6 in "Bible A's for Ladies"

May 04	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Song Leader	Chris Poole	Patrick Cook
Lead Lord's Supper	Lyle Cole	Lyle Cole
Server 1	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Server 2	Ryan McGahee	Tony Moore
Scripture Reader	James Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Sermon	Kevin Berry	Kevin Berry
Prayer for Responses	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Closing Prayer	Phil Tydings	Frank Brock
Announcements	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
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

May 04, 2025

Issue 18

## Who Is A CHRISTIAN?

Robert Lupo

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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

How do you identify a Christian? In the Bible, the first time the term "Christian" is used is found in Acts 11:26. Here, we see that it is the disciples of Jesus who were given this title. A disciple is a student or follower of another. So, a Christian is someone who follows the teachings of Christ.

Today, there are many people who claim to be followers of Jesus but teach many different things. Are they all Christians? Before Jesus went to the cross, He prayed this about those who would believe in Him, "...that they all may be one as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me" (John 17:21). Here, we learn two things. The disciples of Jesus must be united, and that unity must be in Christ Jesus.

What does it mean to be "in Christ"? According to Romans 8:1, being in Christ Jesus means you have "no condemnation." In Romans 12:5, being in Christ means that you are part of the "one body." In Ephesians 2:13, if you are in Christ Jesus, then you "...have been brought near by the blood of Christ." So, someone who is "in Christ" is someone who is saved from condemnation, is a member of the one body (or church), and has gained admittance by the blood of Jesus. "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power" (Col. 2:9-10).

This next question is very important. How, then, do we get in Him? Look at the next two verses in Colossians 2. "In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands..." How? "...by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh..." How? "...by the circumcision of Christ..." What is that? "...buried with Him in baptism..." How does baptism do that? "...in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead" (Col. 2:11-12).

In order to be "in Christ," you must be brought into Christ. This passage shows us that this only happens in baptism. Throughout the New Testament, we are commanded to be baptized (cf. Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; John 3:5; 1 Pet. 3:21). It is not a work of man, but as Colossians shows us, it is the working of God.

So, who is a Christian? If you were never baptized into Christ, then you cannot be in Christ. If you are not in Christ, then you were never saved, and you cannot be a member of His church because you never gained admittance by the blood of Jesus. Your salvation is incomplete. A Christian is a disciple of Christ. That means that you follow His teachings. Have you followed Christ into the saving waters of baptism? *✍️*

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

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

## Between a rock and a ...



Two hunters came across a bear so big that they dropped their rifles and ran for cover. One climbed a tree while the other hid in a nearby cave.

The bear was in no hurry to eat, so he sat down between the tree and the cave to reflect on his good fortune. Suddenly, and for no apparent reason, the hunter in the cave came rushing out, almost ran into the waiting bear, hesitated, and then dashed back in again. The same thing happened a second time.

When he emerged the third time, his companion in the tree frantically called out, "Woody, are you crazy? Stay in the cave until he leaves!"

"Can't," panted Woody, "There's another bear in there."

Do you ever feel like you are caught between a rock and a hard place? Problems, struggles, and difficulties can come one after another and leave us feeling overwhelmed. At such times, remember the encouraging messages God has given His people:

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you (James 4:8).

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33).

Next time you are between two bears, remember these messages from God.

—Brent Petrillo, Denver, Colorado

## The arms of Jesus—what a change!

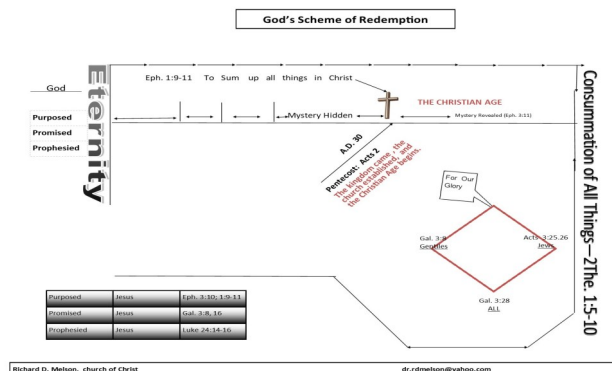


On the FIRST DAY of Jesus' life, where were His arms? Strange question, isn't it? The Bible indicates that His arms were by His side, restrained there by the swaddling cloths (Luke 2:7). Fast forward 33 years. On the LAST DAY of Jesus' life, where were His arms? They were no longer restrained by His side! They were stretched out as far as they could go, in order to be nailed to a tree for you and for me (Mark 15:25; Acts 5:30).

What about NOW? What are Jesus' arms doing now? They are "outstretched" (Ex. 6:6; Deut. 26:8; 1 Kgs. 8:42; Psa. 136:12), representing His almighty power toward us. They are ready to "gather [His] lambs" and "carry them in His bosom" (Isa. 40:11). From the strength of His almighty grasp and everlasting care, no one is able to "snatch" us, except for our own choices (John 10:28).

He came to this earth with His arms restrained, but only so that He could extend them out to His side to bear our sins, so that He could then extend them out in front of Him in our direction to beckon, receive and nurture us! Let us spend more time "leaning on the everlasting arms!"

David Sproule  
Thought for the Day



## Melson's Musings ...



### Equipped 2025

Several members of the congregation attended the Equipped Workshop in Bowling Green, KY at the Cumerland Trace Church of Christ (formerly Lehman Ave). The theme for this year was—Beholding The Glory of The Lord—Studies in Isaiah. There were 58 sessions for men, women and youth conducted from Thursday night ending Sunday evening. Also there were great periods of congregational singing daily.

It was wonderful to see faithful brethren again, but also to meet new members of the family and be strengthened in the Lord. I was grateful see and talk with Bruce and Lisa Harris. Bruce used to be the preacher at Overlook from 1985—1989. He then relocated to Garden City, MI and I lost contact with him. It was great to see them and know that he is still preaching faithfully. Also one is encouraged to see younger Christians and know that the Lord's church is still strong and vibrant in many places. It does not mean that we do not have work to do, but we do not need to believe that the "sky is falling".

The theme and dates for 2026 have been set, and Lord willing the plan is **Genesis: Blessings from the Beginning**. Place the dates in your planner and make plans to attend.



### Not For Sale

A well-dressed couple came into a toy shop with two children. "We want some toys that will keep children entertained," the mother said. "My husband and I both work and the children are alone a great deal."

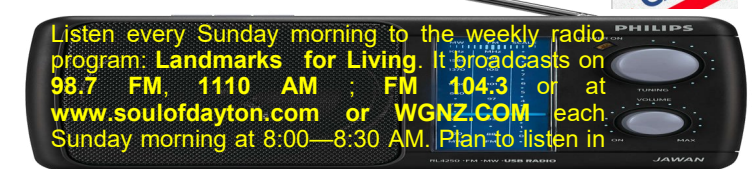
The saleswoman showed them a variety of games and play equipment, but to each there was some objection. "It seems to me," the mother finally said impatiently, "that if you knew what we are really looking for, you could find it among all these toys."

The saleswoman sighed, "I'm sorry, ma'am, but I believe what you are really looking for—what your children want—is a mother and a father, and we don't sell those here."

*Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate. (Ps. 127:3-5 NKJ)*

- Honoring our graduates— This afternoon during the noon meal: Chantinae' (CSU) Gray, Sharnell Coicous (CSU) and Princess Moore
- I am in a gospel meeting through Thursday at the Shelbyville Road congregation, Indianapolis, IN where Ben Vick is the preacher.
- Take a "Christian Gift Card" and give it away to someone you meet.

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