

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| Bible Class   | 53 |
| Attendance AM | 78 |
| Attendance PM | 36 |
| Wednesday PM  | 32 |

PRAYER REQUESTS

**Prayer for Health:** Kevin Gilbert (home); Otis Adair (Stone Springs); Carlene Harley; Krubo Joplo; Richard & Florine Thomas; Pat Norris (home); Betty Blakely (Stone Springs); Janis Bland; Rhonda Fox

**Traveling:** Richard Melson, Jr.; R.D. Melson (gospel meeting)

**Prayers:**

**Repentance:**

**Baptism:**

**Sympathy:**

**Member Birthdays: September**— 3— Ruby Holt; 5— Michale Blanks, Jr.; 27 Christina Barnes; 29 —Florine Thomas

**Anniversaries: September** — 1—Chris & Tally Poole; 27— Samuel & Dollie Jones

**Ladies Reading Group:** Zoom Class Oct. 01 @ 6:00 PM Chapter 12 in “The Begging Place”

| September 20         | 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        | Chris Poole          |
| Server 2             | Jerry Thomas         | Jerry Thomas         |
| Scripture Reader     | Ryan McGahee         | Frank Brock          |
| Sermon               | Kevin Berry          | Kevin Berry          |
| Prayer for Responses | Norris Cole          | Norris Cole          |
| Closing Prayer       | Steve Washington     | Steve Washington     |
| Announcements        | Patrick Thomas       | Patrick Thomas       |
| Greeter              | Frank Brock          | Frank Brock          |
| 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 07

September 20, 2026

Issue 38

A MUTUAL CONFIDENCE

Cody Westbrook

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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**  
R.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

Though he is only mentioned in two passages of scripture, much can be learned from the bad example of Diotrephes. John describes him as one “who loves to have the preeminence” (3 John 9). He spoke wickedly and maliciously, he would not receive faithful brethren, nor would he allow others to do so (3 John 10). He was, by all accounts and purposes, a church tyrant. He was arrogant, abusive, and wicked. His example should cause us to think twice about our own motives and actions. Though he died long ago, his disposition can still live in the church today. If Diotrephes were here today how could he be identified?

If he were a preacher he would talk about himself often. He would emphasize his favorite works and accomplishments exclusively. He would seek out his favorite elders and members and try to get them on his side. He would never be wrong. His image would be the most important thing to him and he would do anything to protect it. He would lobby to get his way, and he would not hesitate to gossip and slander anyone whom he perceived as a threat.

If he were an elder he would view himself as the “chief shepherd” instead of Christ. He would never listen to the members of the congregation or even his fellow elders. If something needed to be done, then it would have to be done his way. His opinion would always be right, and if you crossed him, he would be quick to tell you about it. He would have no desire to actually fulfill the office of an elder. His only desire would be the recognition that comes with the title.

If he were a deacon he would have his sights set on being an elder. He would never do the work assigned to him without making a show of it. He would want everyone to know just how “hard” he works, and without him the congregation could not possibly function. If he were any member of the Lord’s church he would not really care about the church at all. He would only care about himself and what he wants. He would divide the congregation and create a clique of only his biggest fans. He would brag about how much money he puts in the plate and how much he has done for the congregation. As far as he is concerned, nobody is more important than him.

Sadly, scripture does not provide us with information about Diotrephes’ repentance. But, perhaps his spiritual offspring can write a better ending to their own story. “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up” (Jas. 4:10). ~

STRONGER THAN EVER IN 2026 - EPH. 6:10

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

## When the storms of life come raging

Just like you, Jesus experienced storms in His life. To make it through our own storms, we would do well to follow His example.

One day, “when evening had come” (Mark 4:35), Jesus “got into a boat with His disciples” (Luke 8:22), “just as He was” (Mark 4:36), in order that they might “cross over to the other side of the lake” (Luke 8:22). “A great windstorm” (Mark 4:37) “came down on the lake” (Luke 8:23), and “the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling” (Mark 4:37), and they “were in jeopardy” (Luke 8:23). However, Jesus “was in the stern, asleep on a pillow” (Mark 4:38). How could Jesus sleep in “a great tempest” (Matt 8:24), with “the raging of the water” (Luke 8:24)?

Jesus knew some things. Jesus knew that the pillow on which He slept, the boat in which He was riding, the friends who surrounded Him, and even the elements of the wind and water all belonged to His Father. In other words, He knew that His Father was in control and was watching over Him. Whatever might happen that night, He trusted His Father to care for Him!

### Treasures

The word “treasure” is found 22 times in the New Testament and Jesus spoke nearly 75% of those occurrences. Jesus wanted us to focus on where we place our treasures—in other words, what do we treasure? He specifically instructed to stop laying up for ourselves “treasures on earth” (Matt. 6:19), for one “who lays up treasure for himself...is not rich toward God” (Luke 12:21).

It is so easy, tempting, natural and expected to place our emphasis in this life on our jobs, our homes, our possessions, our relationships, our recreation, etc. In and of themselves, none of these things are inherently wrong; however, when they become our focus of life, rather than seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, we are no longer “rich toward God”!

May God help us to stop and consider—am I more concerned about things of this life than I am about heavenly things and preparing myself for eternity with God?

– DS

## Pluck it out!



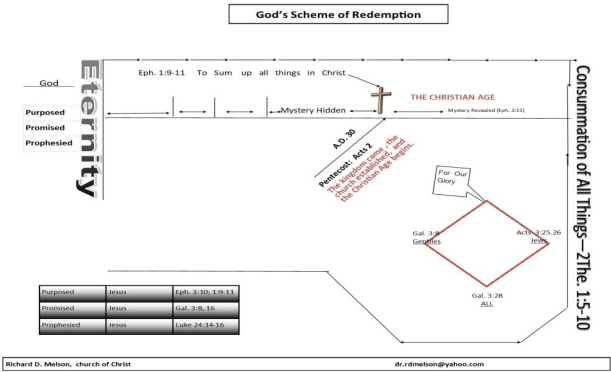
When it comes to dealing with temptation and sin, Jesus does not approach it lightly or use gentle language. Jesus taught that even looking at a woman to lust for her is adultery in the heart (Matt. 5:28). Then, Jesus commands to take aggressive, severe, unyielding measures to eradicate sin and temptation from one’s life.

“If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you...And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you” (Matt. 5:29-30).

Jesus was not demanding that one literally maim his body, but He was calling His followers to pluck out, cut off and completely expunge anything that “causes you to sin.” Too often we minimize sin and temptation.

Too often we have become desensitized to it. Too often we give in to our selfish desires, perhaps thinking one time isn’t so bad. But, Jesus said that yielding to the flesh in this life will lead one “to be cast into hell” eternally. Sin is dangerous! Let us do everything that we can to “resist the devil” (Jas. 4:7) and every “sin which so easily ensnares us” (Heb. 12:1)!

David Sproule  
A Thought from the Word



## Melson’s Musings ...



## Crucify The Flesh

In Galatians 5:24, Paul wrote, “And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” Have you ever considered the intensity of what he wrote? We are to “crucify” the flesh. Not pound, beat, or smash, but CRUCIFY! Why did Paul use this language?

Paul said “crucify” because we must think about the cross. The crucifixion was a strategic effort to silence, discredit and eradicate Jesus. He was nailed to a cross and left to writhe in pain. He was tortured and murdered horribly. Therefore, what was done to Jesus is what must be done to the works of the flesh. We must silence, discredit, and eradicate them.

Additionally, Paul said “crucify” because we must get away from the edge of sin. Many in the Lord’s body are “close enough” Christians. Not really modest but “close enough.” Not really clean of speech but “close enough.” Not really pure of heart but “close enough.” Close enough that they don’t think that anyone will call them on it, but Paul said CRUCIFY. Have nothing to do with the lust of the flesh.

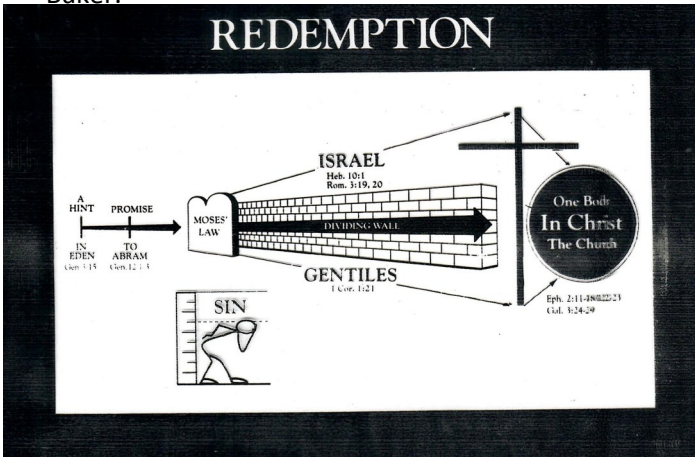
Finally, Paul said “crucify” because the crucifixion is synonymous with obedience. It is the deepest and most profound sense of obedience. This is why Jesus Christ calls us to take up the cross and follow Him (Luke 9:23), and Paul likened obedience to being crucified with Christ and allowing Christ to live within us (Gal. 2:20). The Hebrew writer tells us that Jesus was made perfect by His obedience (Heb. 5:8-9), and if we obey him, we will be too! So, we should understand that crucifying the flesh

requires the deepest and most profound sense of obedience. It’s a serious matter.

If you don’t yet understand what Paul meant when he said, “crucify the flesh”, imagine the hostile intent of the Jews as they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” That same hateful intent is seen in Paul towards sin when he writes, “crucify the flesh.” If you do this, you’ll understand what to do.

– John Garza

- I am in a gospel meeting in Paulding, OH this week.
- The elders of the Tipp City congregation and I thank every member of Needmore Road who attended the gospel meeting last week at Tipp City with Randy Baker.



## 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 — (we are updating this information—check your provider listing)
- Anchor of the Soul: [www.anchorofthesoultv.com](http://www.anchorofthesoultv.com)
- 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