

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	57
Attendance AM	71
Attendance PM	38
Wednesday PM	34

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Traveling: Richard Melson, Jr.; Patrick & Penny Cook

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 27	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Song Leader	Lyle Cole	Patrick Cook
Lead Lord’s Supper	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Server 1	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Server 2	James Grigsby	Tony Moore
Scripture Reader	Ryan McGahee	Anthony Grigsby
Sermon	R.D. Melson	R.D. Melson
Prayer for Responses	Tony Moore	Tony Moore
Closing Prayer	Michael Blanks, Jr.	Michael Blanks, Jr.
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 27, 2026

Issue 39

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 (c.f. 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)

STRONGER THAN EVER IN 2026 - EPH. 6:10

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
R.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

Bases are Loaded

Bob and the Lord stood by to observe a baseball game.
The Lord's team was playing Satan's team.

The Lord's team was at bat the score was tied zero to zero, and it was the bottom of the ninth inning with two outs. They continued to watch as a batter stepped up to the plate whose name was Love. Love swung at the first pitch and hit a single, because Love never fails.

The next batter was named Faith, who also got a single because Faith works with Love. The next batter up was named Godly Wisdom. Satan wound up and threw the first pitch. Godly wisdom looked it over and let it pass. Ball one! Three more pitches and Godly Wisdom walked, because Godly Wisdom never swings at what Satan throws.

Now, the bases are loaded. The Lord then turns to Bob and told him He was now going to bring in His star player. Up to bat stepped Grace. Bob said, "he sure doesn't look like much!" Satan's whole team relaxed when they saw Grace. Thinking he had won the game, Satan wound up and fired his first pitch. To the shock of everyone, Grace Hit the Ball Harder than Anyone Had Ever Seen.

But Satan was not worried; his center fielder let very few get by. He went up for the ball, but it went right through his glove, hit him on the head and sent him crashing to the ground. Then it continued over the fence for a home run! The Lord's team won.

The Lord then asked Bob if he knew why Love, Faith, and Godly Wisdom could get on base, but could not win the game. Bob answered that he did not know why. The Lord explained, "If your love, faith and wisdom had won the game, you would think you had done it by yourself. Love, Faith, and Wisdom will get you on base, but My grace and mercy can get you home. My grace and mercy is the only thing Satan cannot steal."

May God go before you today and show you his grace and mercy in everything you do.

Author Unknown

Tools are only useful when used



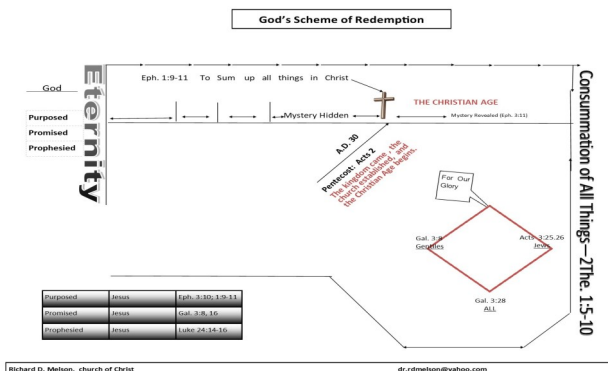
Is your storage room at home or your utility room or your garage like mine? Do you have a bunch of tools in it? Maybe some new ones and definitely some old ones? Maybe even some that you don't know exactly what they do, but you have them?

Yet, if you don't use the tools, they cannot benefit you and they don't have much a purpose but just to sit there.

I am reminded of the plethora of tools that we have at our disposal for Bible study, especially in this congregation. There are the tools of Sunday morning and Wednesday evening Bible classes. There are the tools of Bible tracts, pamphlets and booklets in our lobby. There are the personal evangelism tools for one-on-one studies. There are the tools of Bible study materials that our elders regularly provide for us. There is the massive tool of our website with its thousands of videos and articles. Of course, all of these are simply designed to get us into the Book more.

Our toolbox is full! How often do we open it and use them? They can't help us if we don't use them!

David Sproule
A Thought from the Word



Melson's Musings ...



(Relationships with our Enemies 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.

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 — (we are updating this information—check your provider listing)
- Anchor of the Soul: www.anchorofthesoul.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

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. ☺

