

September 28, 2025

EDIFIER

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RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class50

Attendance AM77

Attendance PM39

Wednesday PM43

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health:

Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stone Springs); Ron Robbins; Phil Tydings; Jerry Thomas; Candence Lawson (Richard’s niece—Lung disease)

Traveling:

Richard Melson, Jr. (Utah); Mozella Tate Melson

Prayers:

Norris & Kelsey Cole, II (newlywed); Jaren and Kari Sutherland

Repentance:

Patrick Thomas

Baptism:

Sympathy:

Mozella Tate and family

Member Birthdays: September

3 Ruby Holt; 5– Michael Blanks, Jr.; 27 - Christina Barnes; 29 - Florine Thomas

Anniversaries: September—

1– Chris and Tally Poole; 27– Samuel and Dollie Jones

Ladies Reading Group:

Zoom Class October 02 @ 6:00 PM Chapter 12 in “Bible A’s for Ladies”

September 28

BRETHREN TO SERVE AM

BRETHREN TO SERVE PM

Opening Prayer

Tony Moore

Tony Moore

Song Leader

Lyle Cole

Chris Poole

Lead Lord’s Supper

Anthony Grigsby

Anthonnny Grisgby

Server 1

Patrick Thomas

Patrick Thomas

Server 2

Chris Poole

Jerry Thomas

Scripture Reader

Ryan McGahee

Ryan McGahee

Sermon

Richard D. Melson

Richard D. Melson

Prayer for Responses

Patrick Thomas

Patrick Thomas

Closing Prayer

Michael Blanks, Jr.

Michael Blanks, Jr.

Announcements

Patrick Thomas

Patrick Thomas

Greeter

Samuel Jones

Samuel Jones

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 06September 28, 2025Issue 39

## LEAVING SELFISH AMBITION BEHIND (PART 1)

Kevin W. Rhodes

Like all the beatitudes, Jesus’ statement, “*Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth*” (Mt. 5:5), presents an interesting paradox echoing David’s words in Psalm 37:12. The ancient world understood all too well attempts to gain control of the earth. Between David and Jesus, the Assyrians, Babylonians, Medo-Persians, Greeks, and Romans all had taken steps toward world conquest, and all had ambitious political leaders leading the charge. But this contrast highlights the contrast Jesus intended. These worldly leaders failed because their ambition focused on themselves and their view of conquest centered on political boundaries. Jesus charges us to abandon such selfish ambition in order to embrace meekness instead.

Meekness requires us to give of our-selves instead of attempting to take something from others. Instead of having selfish ambition, the meek take hold of God’s cause and makes it their ambition as Jesus also demonstrated: “*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light*” (Mt. 11:28-30). What Jesus did, Jesus never made about Himself; it was always about His Father and about others. This formed the foundation for how He treated people (Mt. 22:37-40) and how He saw Himself. “*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many*” (Mk. 10:45). Jesus left personal ambition behind and took up the ambition to live for God—even from heaven (Phil. 2:5-8).

Therefore, those who become Jesus’ disciples must sacrifice their will to pursue God’s will. The apostle Paul writes of “*those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness*” (Rom. 2:8). They remain lost and do not follow Christ because they have a personal ambition that they refuse to let go. To enjoy what Jesus offers, you must first realize what Jeremiah did centuries ago, “*O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps*” (Jer. 10:23). So, in order to gain everything that God has to offer, we must first give all that we are to God so that we might become what He wants us to be. As Paul wrote to the Romans, “*I beseech you therefore, breth-ren, by the mercies of God, that you pres-ent your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God*” (Rom. 12:1-2). Thus, to enjoy all that following Jesus offers, we must sacrifice our selfish ambitions and develop an ambition for God. *✍*

What happens when men read the Bible determined to find the will of God —(John 7:17)

[www.needmoreroadcoc.com](http://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](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

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

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

## Think-Don't Drink

*Think-don't drink liquor.* It will go to your head as soon as it goes to your stomach.

*Think-don't drink flattery*-it will make you dizzy to reality, blind to facts, a puffed up bigot instead of a built up man.

*Think-don't drink worldly pleasures*-they as surely intoxicate your soul as liquor will make your body stagger.

*Think-don't drink envy.* It will turn your backbone into a yellow string; it will turn your personality green; it will turn your heart black!

*Think-don't drink false doctrine.* It will reverse the commands of Christ-putting the command of baptism after, not before salvation. It will make feelings the cause of faith-not the result of faith. It will tell men they are saved because they are happy-rather than happy because they are saved.

-A. C. Williams

The nearness of Jesus depends upon the nearness of His word in our hearts. Our Savior prayed, "Sanctify them by thy truth; thy word is truth" (John 17:17.) True and lasting happiness is possible only in Christ and to receive our Savior's word is to receive our Savior. One of the most beautiful entreaties in all the Bible was not accepted by the church to whom it was directed. Jesus said to the church at Laodicea, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." (Rev. 3: 20.) Let us open the door of our hearts that Jesus may come in.

One of the darkest passages in the New Testament is found in the sixth chapter of John: "From that time many of the disciples went back, and walked no more with him." However, it serves as an introduction to one of the most inspiring statements in the Bible: Jesus asked the twelve, "Will ye also go away?" The reply of Simon Peter will live forever. He said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." In that day, in our day, and in all time to come, Jesus our Savior is the only one who possesses the words of life.

- L.D. Harless

## Hide the stains

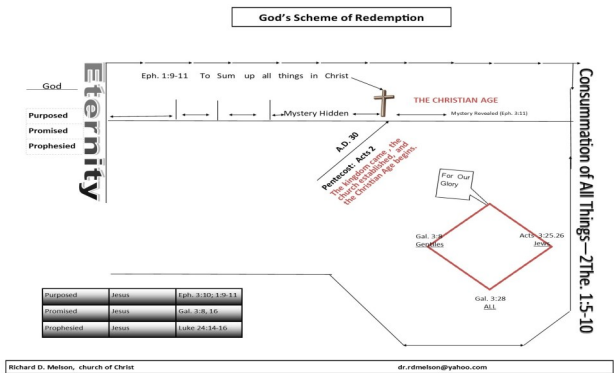


Restaurants and hotels purposefully use carpet that has so many designs and patterns that stains are not easily noticed. They just blend right in. Do we ever try to hide stains in our own lives in similar fashion?

The Lord says that our "sins are like scarlet...are red like crimson" (Isa. 1:18). That is not an easy stain to hide. Have you ever spilled grape juice on your white shirt? That's not coming out and everyone is going to see it. The old hymn says, "Sin had left a crimson stain." That's not easy to get out (or is it?).

You may be able to get your sin-stained soul to blend in with other sin-stained souls around you, but it will never be hidden from the eyes of God! However, it is God who can make you "as white as snow" (Isa. 1:18). When the blood of Jesus washes "us from our sins" (Rev. 1:5), the stain is gone! Even God cannot (and will not) see it any longer (Heb. 8:12)! So, stop trying to hide your sins! Confess them (1 John 1:9), stop them (1 John 2:1) and be cleansed from them (2 Cor. 7:1).

David Sproule  
Thought for the Day



## Melson's Musings ...



## The Divine Presence

*"Speak to Him thou for He hears,  
and spirit with Spirit can meet-  
Closer is He than breathing,  
and nearer than hands and feet."*  
(Tennyson)

*Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.* (Psalm 139:7-12 NKJ)

Not infrequently, when we lift up our voice in public prayer, we say, "Father, we now come into thy presence," as though we had been out of his presence, as though we had been where God was not, as though the presence of the Omnipresent One is confined to a meetinghouse on certain hours and on certain days.

The idea that the Father's presence is confined to a particular place at a particular hour, the idea that we can enter his presence and depart from his presence at will, is at the root of a lot of hypocrisy and mischief among the sons of men. On the other hand, the awareness of his presence at all times and in all places will purify the heart and renovate the life. He who believes, as the Bible surely teaches, that the eyes of God are in every place will turn

away from evil and do good. He will be a man of honor even when alone, even in the darkest places.

When we pray, should we not say, "Father, we are aware of thy presence?" or, "we are grateful for thy presence?" or "we acknowledge thy presence?" God "is not far from each one of us: for in him we live, and move, and have our being." At no time and in no place can we escape his presence; at no time and in no place should we wish to escape his presence: for  
*You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.* (Ps. 16:11 NKJ)

- F.L.C.  
Ministers Monthly October 1957

- ☞ We will resume the study Jesus Christ, The Master Teacher—adult class in the Auditorium at chapter 5 on Wednesday.
- ☞ Preteens and teens signup for the Lock-In on November 2
- ☞ Ladies Day—Sisters Needing Sisters—Nov. 15
- ☞ Fall is now here
- ☞ Check out the new tract titles in the rack
- ☞ 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