

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	47
Attendance AM	52
Attendance PM	41
Wednesday PM	38

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Carlene Harley; Kay Feldman; Florine Thomas; Mary Vance; Jamie Vance; Glenna Adair; Betty Blakely (Stone Springs); Virginia Robbins; Geri Allen (LA); Janis Bland; Lamott Meritt

Traveling: Richard Melson, Jr.; Norris & Diane Cole

Prayers: Phil Tydings; Jaren Sutherlin;

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy: William Bogan, Poole and Holt families

Member Birthdays: March— 6 - Melody Angus; 9— Rita McGahee; 10— Samuel Jones; 11— Mary Vance; 17 - Pat Norris; 18— Layne Vance; 27— Karia Sutherlin, Lyle Cole; 28— Cynthia Lease, Thonda Fox; 30— Timothy Angus, William Bogan

Anniversaries: March —

Ladies Reading Group: Zoom Class March 19 @ 6:00 PM Chapter 4 in "The Begging Place"

March 15	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Song Leader	Patrick Cook	Lyle Cole
Lead Lord's Supper	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Server 1	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Server 2	Ryan McGhaee	Jerry Thomas
Scripture Reader	Steve Washington	Steve Washington
Sermon	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. Melson
Prayer for Responses	Lyle Cole	Lyle Cole
Closing Prayer	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
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 07

March 15, 2026

Issue 11

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

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

MAKING PREPARATION FOR THE APPROACHING BATTLE

Dan Jenkins

Don't wait for the crisis to arrive and then determine what you will do! One area where so many fail is that while they know there may be problems, they make little preparation before they arrive. Every Christian should be wise enough to see some of what lies ahead and be ready.

Think about Jesus' preparation for the temptation by Satan. Our adversary sought to destroy Him by using what John describes as "all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life" (1 John 2:15-17). Have you considered where you might be had Je-sus succumbed to the temptation? When Satan sought the soul of the Man who had fasted for forty days, suppose He had yielded to His fleshly desires. Suppose He had been overcome when His eyes saw all the kingdoms of the world. Suppose He had given in to the allurements of prideful boasting and leaped off the temple.

NMR THEME FOR 2026

Yet, He was ready! Because in His earthly state He was like each of us in every way (Heb. 2:14), God did not just miraculously give Him those "It is written" verses. He had to acquire them in the same way we do. He was ready!

Think about the trials you can see before you. I am well aware that we cannot see them all, but are we making preparation for those we do know are coming? In our immoral world we all are faced with opportunities for sexual immorality. Are there character traits you need to be developing now, in order to deal with those times? Teenage Joseph did not have to decide what to do when Potiphar's wife approached him. His character was such that when the occasion arose he fled! He was ready!

Think about the allurements of material possessions. I am amazed how corruptible "stuff" captures our lives and robs us of our eternal souls. Craving to live like those in Palm Beach is nothing compared to living eternally!

Let me suggest that you arm yourself with the sword of the Spirit, and write on your heart those verses, like Jesus did, which enable you to deal with temptations as they arrive. Let those words dwell in your heart and mold your character. Let them become the shield of faith by which you can deflect every fiery dart of the Devil (Eph 6:16). Failure to do this leaves you a ready prey for the enemy. Get yourself ready. A great battle lies ahead and preparation must be made!

STRONGER THAN EVER IN 2026 - EPH. 6:10

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

Learning to "Back Up"



More than twenty years ago I heard the late Marshall Keeble speak on the subject of marital happiness. He lamented the divorce rate was alarming even then. He said, "The trouble with married folk is they don't know how to back up." They have a fuss and nobody is willing to back up and say, "I was wrong." As he reflected on the foolishness of that practice he went on to remark, "Brethren, I just wouldn't have a car that wouldn't back up."

Many human relations problems could be settled if people could find the "reverse" position in the gearbox of their minds. I wonder how many church splits could have been avoided had contentious brethren been willing to back up. Families who fight over the inheritance of property could save themselves from agony if they would learn to back up. Parents and children could alleviate some of the difficulty encountered in the generation battle simply by learning to back up.

It is not a mark of wisdom and maturity to stand like a stone wall when you are wrong. The mature person owns up to his mistakes. He's not too big to say, "I'm sorry." James writes, "Confess therefore your sins one to another and pray for one another that ye may be healed." James 5:16. He's telling the Christian that it is spiritually healthy to back up.

Why is it hard to back up? What causes a person to insist on saving face? The answer is human pride and selfishness. Satan uses these tools to deceive us. The man who won't back up is deluded. He thinks he's right. He can give you a hundred arguments in defense of his position. Little does he realize that he has fallen victim to Satan's trickery. Proverbs 12:15 says, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes." They way out of human conflict is simple--so easy to see in the lives of others; so hard to practice on a personal level. We need to learn to back up!

Bulletin Digest—1982
Norman L. Bales
Dimmitt, Texas

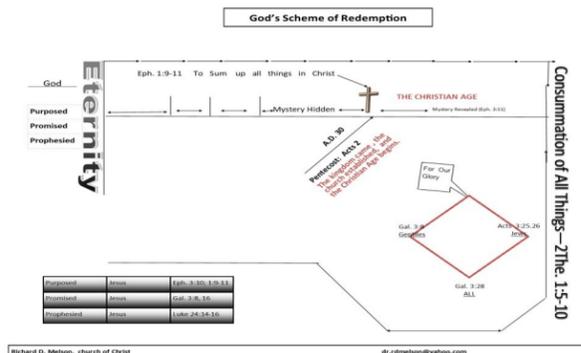
Doing a "Background Check" on the Apostle Paul



It is increasingly common today to run background checks on certain individuals to assess potential employees, screen tenants, vet volunteers and even for one's own personal safety. What if you could run a background check on a Bible character like the apostle Paul. You would find his religious background, his family background, his employment background, etc. (Phil. 3:5-7; 2 Cor. 11:22; Rom. 11:1; Acts 18:3; 23:6). Depending on the extensiveness of the check, you would likely also find his activity in "persecuting the church" (Phil. 3:6), making "havoc of the church" (Acts 8:3), "breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord" (Acts 9:1), "consenting to [the] death" of certain disciples (Acts 8:1; 22:20), as the "chief" of "sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15). Wouldn't it be nice if God didn't hold Paul's past against him? HE DIDN'T! Paul wrote, "And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus...I obtained mercy" (1 Tim. 1:14, 16).

What would God see if He ran a background check on you? Well, it depends. Before forgiving you, He would see everything! But after forgiving you, He would see nothing (Heb. 8:12)!

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

[While this article was written in 1982, it's message remains valuable today.]

Allen and I were inseparable. When we were not getting in my mother's way we were over at his house getting in his mother's way. We were barely fourteen. Grammar school, where we learned precious little grammar, was behind us forever. Meantime, a long, wonderful summer stretched tantalizingly before us. This was to be the best of all summers, the last free fling before entering high school where, we had been informed, teachers actually expected students to study.

Spring had come early that year, following a rugged winter in which Allen and I had spent many hours ice-skating, sailing our makeshift ice-boat, fishing through the ice, and all the other marvelous things that boys in the north used to do in winter--including throwing snowballs at those remarkable derby hats then in vogue--and running wildly, with irate owners of the hats in hot pursuit.

Bobby Burns was so right, "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft a-gley." It was decreed that I would spend that summer on a farm. In those days parents' words were immutable and by no stretch of imagination debatable. It turned out rather well. There were new-found friends, along with fishing, swimming, introductions to evening calls of whippoorwills and screech owls and, in the dead of night, the pleasure of catching a 'possum, bullfrog, or rabbit in the beam of a flashlight.

Eventually the visit ended. The same for summer, or nearly so. There would still be time for Allen and me to go swimming in Lake Michigan, to practice driving my

brother's 1919 Maxwell and, best of all, to catch rides on freight trains. We might even do some research on an amazing discovery we had made. Girls! These creatures, regarded so contemptuously in time past, had suddenly become altogether delightful. Bright prospects for the final week of vacation erased any disturbing thoughts about the coming rigors of high school.

As soon as I could disengage myself from older brothers, whose welcome home included some hard licks to see if I had toughened up, I was off like a shot. Mother called as I ran out the door but I pretended not to hear. Shortly afterward I knew what she wanted to tell me. Allen's mother answered the bell. She greeted me warmly but when I asked for Allen I knew at once that something was wrong. The stunning words came slowly: "Allen fell from a freight train Tuesday; he was buried yesterday."

Fifty-six years have come and gone. I still think of him often. Even more often I think of Solomon's admonition, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow: for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth" (Prov. 27:1).

Dan Harless
Nashville, TN

- ☞ March 18 - Bible class will meet at Tipp City congregation to support the gospel meeting with Phil Sanders
- ☞ Funeral for William Bogan, Jr. is at the House of Wheat Funeral home, Monday March 23. Visitation 9-11 a.m. Funeral at 11:00. Repass to follow in fellowship hall.



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 ; www.apologeticspress.org ; 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; 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