

March 1, 2026

Melbourne Church of Christ

"A family of believers seeking to grow spiritually while sharing Jesus and serving others."

A Hard Lesson for Many Sowers to Learn

by Dan Jenkins

When younger, I tended to measure the impact of my efforts by the numbers of who responded immediately. I failed to see the many different ways the Bible describes individual responses.

Jesus describes some who turned to the Lord when they first hear the gospel. "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when difficulties or persecution arises, immediately he stumbles" (Matt. 13:20-21). Immediate responses are not always a blessing. The truth is that it takes longer to plant the seed and have a fruitful response.

In Mark 4:26-28, Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head." Kingdom growth involves far more than just sowing the seed. It involves sowing the seed and then waiting day and night before it begins to grow.

With growth, first comes the blade, then the head, and much later it's ready to harvest. Paul described the planting of the church in Corinth as him sowing and Apollos watering. Time is so often involved in these matters. Then Paul adds, "God gave the increase" (1 Cor. 3:6).

Sometimes we get frustrated when we teach others and with no immediate response. We need to remember this parable. Our job is to sow the seed and remember that it is God who gives the increase. The power of conversion is within God, not us.

There may be times that people obey the gospel immediately. But may we never forget that God does not measure us by numbers, he measures us by faithfulness to sow the seed of His word.

The Encouragement Group meets on Thursday's at 9 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Come serve with us as we reach into our community!

**Sunday Classes 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:10 a.m.
Wed. Services 6:00 p.m.**

Visitors, please take a card from the back of the pew, fill it out, and put it in the offering tray. We are glad you're here and want you to know that you're welcome in the family of Christ that meets here!

Listen to sermons at Melbournechurchofchrist.com

Elders

Danny Brightwell 291-3439
Shelby Qualls 291-7424
David Brightwell 307-5714
Alan Love 870-243-4608

Deacons

Joe Cooper 291-4653
Dalton Grigg 421-6240
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Family News

- Senior Citizens, if you need help with changing a light bulb or even cleaning up your yard, you can call Anthony Weston at (870) 919-3236. If anyone in the church wants to help get in touch with Anthony.
- VBS meeting on Sunday, March 15 at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- Jack Harber was recently baptized!
- Marty Webb was released from Pioneer and is now at home.
- Andrea Martz has been diagnosed with Barrett's Esophagus. She will be have more testing this month. Please keep her in prayer.
- Cleve Weaver had a full knee replacement and is at home recovering.
- Marie Walker, Johnny Walkers mother, passed away. Please keep the Walker family in prayer.
- Daniel Brightwell is in WRMC having tests run. Please keep him in prayer.
- Please save the closest parking spots in the front for the elderly and make sure to not park in the fire lane directly in front of the building.

