

News & Notes

Sunday, August 28, 2005

Remember in Prayer: Margaret Bennett; Melba Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Lawrence Dawson; Tommy Dawson; Brenda Hodges; Carolyn Jordan; Mary Sue Kidd has been moved to Briarcrest Extended Care this past week; Deliah Mann; Howard Moody; Janet Rooker; Gabby Rutledge; Caleb Smith; Jayme and Trucilla Spence, father of Edna Ray; Jon Street; Austin Simpson; Ruby Street; Arthur Swanson; Calvin and Ollie Ursery; James Willbanks; Alvie and Louise Williford; Mr. Wilson, Mary William's father;

Pantry item for the month of August is liquid soap.

The next **elder's meeting** is today at 5:00 PM. If you have anything you would like to bring to their attention, please do so then.

As always, be sure and check the **bulletin board** for additional announcements and information.

Sermon In Preview:

AM: The Lost Sheep (Matthew 18:10-14).

PM: The Cross Words: "My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?"

For the Record (August 21, 2005):

Attendance: 86 Contribution: \$1310.00 Budget: \$1205.00

The Ashland Church of Christ

P. O. Box 25
Ashland, MS 38603-0025

ashlandcoc@juno.com

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

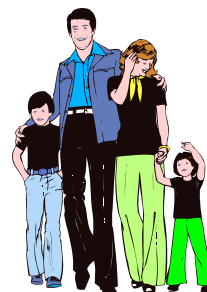
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 PM

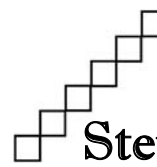
Shepherds:

Barney King
Junior Roberson
Carrol Street



The Ashland Announcer

"Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
Give to the Lord glory and strength" (Psalm 96:7).



Steps to Salvation: BELIEVE

Jeremy Northrop

The thrust or goal of the Bible is the salvation of mankind. Paul said, "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1Thessalonians 5:9). Thus, a good study for the Christian and non-Christian alike is the salvation of mankind. It is good for the Christian to be reminded of the biblical truths (2Peter 1:12). It is good for the non-Christian to know what he or she needs to do in order to be saved. As seen in the last article in this series, the first step to salvation is simply hearing the word of God. Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." The next step is logical and biblical—one must believe the word that he or she has heard.

In the Hebrews 11:6 the writer says, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." This article will focus on some biblical examples of believing the word of God with the goal of salvation in mind, give an explanation of belief, and then end with an exhortation to everyone to believe the word of God for what it is.

In Acts 4:4 the Bible says, "...many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand." Due to the fact that many of the people heard the word and believed it on that day, the number of the New Testament church increased. In Acts 8, one reads the account of a group of people who were practicing sorcery. Among them was a man named Simon. These people changed their beliefs when they heard Peter and John proclaim the word of God to them: "But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done." Finally, another example of people believing the word of God is found in Acts 14. Paul and Barnabas were proclaiming the word of God to the people in the synagogue and the text says that many of them believed it. If people today will do what the people of the New Testament did, then the people today will get what the people of the New Testament got. The biblical imperative is clear: in order to be saved, one must believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul said, "But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe" (Galatians 3:22).

Hebrews 11:1 defines faith: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Faith believes to be real what is not imperially seen or known. Faith is reasoning to an explanation that comes about because of the evidence that exists. One could say that he or she does not believe in God because he or she has not seen, smelled, heard, felt, or tasted God. Faith believes God to be real because the evidence that exists demands such to be the case. The design that exists in the world is one of the proofs or evidences which shows the designer God.

Mark 16:15-16 says, "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who

believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.'" The Bible explicitly says that those who do not believe will not enjoy eternal life with their Creator. There are some who would argue saying the latter part of Mark 16 is not in some early manuscripts and should not be included in the New Testament text. While there is plenty of evidence to show that Mark 16 does belong in the Bible, the essentiality of faith or belief in God does not change even if Mark 16:9-20 were not in the Bible. There are many other passages some of which have already been seen in this article to show that belief in the word of God is absolutely necessary if one is going to spend eternity within Heaven's gates.

The exhortation to the Christian is found in the great commission: "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen" (Matthew 28:18-20). Jesus has commissioned every Christian to tell others the gospel so they can believe it and be saved. The world needs Christians to tell them of the saving power of Jesus Christ. John 3:16 teaches that God has done His part. He has sent His Son and allowed Him to die on the cross and the reason is so that mankind can be saved. The possibility of salvation is there but the reality of salvation will not happen if Christians today do not do their part. Christians must teach others.

"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!'" (Romans 10:14-15).