

News & Notes

Sunday, July 10, 2005

Remember in Prayer: Melba Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Lawrence Dawson; Tommy Dawson; Ann Feathers; Greg Hopper; Leon Jackson; Mary Sue Kidd; Deliah Mann; Howard Moody; Janet Rooker; James and Heidi Rutherford; Gabby Rutledge; Caleb Smith; Katie South; Jamie Spence, father of Edna Ray; Austin Simpson will be undergoing some tests; Ruby Street; Calvin and Ollie Ursery; James Willbanks; Alvie and Louise Williford—Alvie was moved to Ripley this past week; Ronnie Wilson is in Baptist Memorial Hospital and not doing well.

Pantry item for the month of July is school supplies.

Our **gospel meeting** with Burt Jones starts one week from today. There is a food sign-up list in the foyer as well as advertisements for this meeting.

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.

Sermon In Preview:

AM: Guest speaker: Josh James

PM: Guest speaker: Josh James

For the Record (July 3, 2005):

Attendance: 77 Contribution: \$1708.00 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

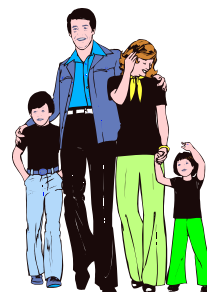
Worship 6:00 PM

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).*

Marks of the Church

Jeremy Northrop

One of the most obvious departures from the divine pattern today involves the singularity of the church. When Jesus established the church in Matthew 16:13-20, He said that He would build His church. He did not say that He would build churches. The conclusion is obvious — Jesus only built one church! Unfortunately men have built many more. Why would anyone want to try and improve on the design that God has set in place? More importantly, how is one to know which church is the church which Jesus built?

First, the one church that Jesus built will carry or wear His name. Paul said, "For there is no partiality with God" (Romans 2:11). Any religious group that names themselves after some man is showing partiality to that man. Naming a religious group after John the baptizer, Martin Luther, or any other man is simply not seen in scripture. The church which Jesus built wears the name of Jesus.

Another mark of the church of the Bible is the way she practices religion. The New Testament church looks to the New Testament for authority for all they say and practice. The plea of any New Testament Christian is to speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent. Many

of the religious practices seen in the denominational world have no basis in scripture and there is simply no authority for these kinds of practices. "...Let God be true but every man a liar" (Romans 3:4). The Church that Jesus built only has one place of authority—the Bible.

Finally, the one church which Jesus built practices the gospel plan of salvation. One simply must hear the word of God (Romans 10:17). Then, he or she must believe what they have heard (Mark 16:15-16). He or she then recognizes the sin that is in the life of all mankind and must repent of the sins that are in his or her life (Luke 13:3, 5). A person must confess Jesus to be the son of God (Acts 8:37). One must be baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38; 1Peter 3:21). Finally, one must live faithful unto God for the remainder of his or her life (Revelation 2:10). These are the steps that one must take to get in Christ and in Christ are all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3). These are the steps one must take to receive the grace of God. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

While culture says it is acceptable to have many different religious groups, Christ says He only built one church. The goal for anyone who would like to please God is to look for the one church that Jesus built and become a part of it by obeying what God said to do.

"The Great Race"

Frank Bell

As I stood there on the side of the road yelling out the times for the runners, I could see that the first ones didn't need as much cheering on as those who came later. I could see in the distance one poor tuckered out soul slowing down. "You can

do it, you can make it," I yelled out. Their pace quickened and they seemed to be able to push on a little further. You could tell they were tiring and the race was taking its toll on them. "Pace yourself," I yelled. I wasn't exactly sure what that meant but they seemed to stride forward a little more confident. As the racers came near the finish line you could see the pain on some of their faces but they ignored it because they saw their destination ahead. They didn't look back or side to side but straight ahead. People stood at the finish line and cheered the runners on. Smiles spread across our faces as the last ones in the race crossed the finish line. What a wonderful feeling to cheer on those in the race.

Everyday we are in a race for heaven. We should be cheering those on that are struggling in the race. "You can do it, you can make it," should be what we are yelling to them as they strive along. But what we end up saying is "What a problem you are to those around us. Look at yourself, if I couldn't do any better than that I would just quit." Many times that is just what they do because they feel no one cares enough to give them a kind word of encouragement. When the race is over I would hope that we all would be standing with Jesus at the finish line on the Day of Judgment cheering on our brothers and sisters in Christ. But if we don't cheer them on now, they won't hear us when we are gone. Even the rich man wanted to send Lazarus back to tell his brothers to straighten up their act but Moses said that if they wouldn't listen to the law and the prophets they would not listen to a dead man. Give someone struggling an encouraging word to help them in the race. What is important is not who finishes first but who finishes.

