

News & Notes

Sunday, July 3, 2005

Remember in Prayer: Melba Cox is at home recovering from heart surgery; Sally Etta Crawford; Lawrence Dawson; Tommy Dawson; Ann Feathers; Carol Holmes; Greg Hopper; Leon Jackson; Mary Sue Kidd had a stroke and is at home; 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; Felicia Strickland is recovering from surgery; Calvin and Ollie Ursery; James Willbanks; Alvie and Louise Williford; Ronnie Wilson.

Sympathy is extended to the family of

Pantry item for the month of July is school supplies.

The monthly **singing** at Briar Crest Extended Care is today at 4:30 PM.

The monthly **prayer meeting** is today at 5:00 PM.

Sermon In Preview:

AM: The Role of Parents in the Home

PM: Singing

For the Record (June 26, 2005):

Attendance: 85 Contribution: \$1138.00 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:

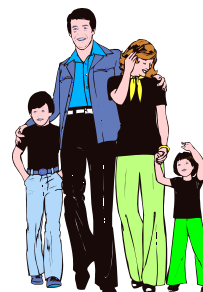
Bible Study 7:00 PM

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).

Addictions

Jeremy Northrop

Webster defines addiction by saying it is a “compulsive need for and use of a habit-forming substance (as heroin, nicotine, or alcohol) characterized by tolerance and by well-defined physiological symptoms upon withdrawal; *broadly* : persistent compulsive use of a substance known by the user to be harmful.” While addiction to a substance of any kind is certainly real, a person can also be addicted to a behavior or habit of life. Examples would be gambling and sex addicts. Peter describes such people as “...natural brute beasts...having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children” (2Peter 2:12-14).

One biblical principle that is violated when a person is addicted to a substance or behavior is self-control. Paul listed self-control as part of the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:23). Peter listed it as a quality the Christian needs in order to increase his faith (2Peter 1:5-8). When a person is addicted to a substance or behavior, they are not exercising self-control. Part of the nature of addiction is that the person is out of control. A person involved in an addiction of any kind will usually deny, minimize, rationalize and even blame others for the situation attempting to prove that it is not as bad as it is. No matter how one justifies his or her actions, it does not change the fact that the addict is not practicing self-control.

Another biblical principle that is violated when a person is an addict is stewardship. Jesus taught on the principle of stewardship in the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30. Paul spoke of the body of the Christian as the temple of God and that destroying it is sin. In 1Corinthians 3:16-17, he says, “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.” Addictions both physical and behavioral generally destroy the body.

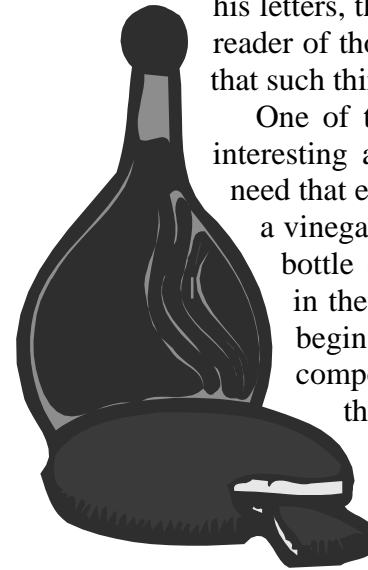
While there are certainly other biblical principles that are defied with one who is addicted, the Bible also provides principles for dealing with addiction. The idea of redirecting efforts used in addiction is a biblical concept. In Ephesians 5, Paul describes the brethren as once being ‘darkness’ but now are the ‘light of the Lord.’ Paul admonishes them to walk (live) “as children of light” (5:8). Several times in the writing of Paul he would admonish Christians to no longer live one way but rather to live a certain way (Colossians 3:9-17; Romans 6:5-14; 2Corinthians 5:12-21). If a person were to simply ‘put off’ an evil addiction, then he or she has only accomplished half of the biblical imperative. The person must also ‘put on’ the righteousness of God.

This brings up one final point — good addictions. In Romans 6:17-18, Paul said, “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” To be a slave or an addict of righteousness would certainly be biblical. When Paul spoke of the household of Stephanas in 1Corinthians 16, he commented that they were addicted (King James Version) to the ministry of the saints (1Corinthians 16:15). Today, people who want to follow God need to understand that to be enslaved to a substance or certain behaviors would certainly be sin but to be addicted to His work, His word, and His church is a command of God.

Stir Up The Salad Dressing

Danny Eldridge

In the Wednesday evening class a few weeks ago, we were discussing II Peter 3. The chapter begins, “*This is now, beloved, the second epistle that I write unto you; and in both of them I stir up your sincere mind by putting you in remembrance.*” In both of his letters, the elder and apostle Peter reminds his reader of those things they have been taught, and that such things will “stir [them] up.”



One of the members of the class offered an interesting analogy with which to illustrate this need that each Christian has. Many people enjoy a vinegar-and-oil type salad dressing. When a bottle of this dressing remains undisturbed in the refrigerator for a while, the contents begin to separate. Although all of the components of the dressing are present in the bottle, they do not continue to remain combined. If you pour from the bottle without first shaking it, the taste will be unpleasing, because the dressing is not in its

proper condition. Something so simple as shaking the bottle will make the dressing pleasing to the taste.

Christians, like vinegar-and-oil salad dressing, need to be stirred up frequently, and such is accomplished by putting us in remembrance of those things that caused us to obey the gospel. Remembering that Jesus is the Son of God (John 8.24), remembering that we have turned away from sin and turned toward God in repentance (Luke 13.3), remembering that we have confessed with our mouths that Jesus is the Son of God (Matthew 10.32), remembering that God has forgiven our sins if we have been immersed in water to be united with Christ (Acts 2.38; 22.16), and remembering that God has added us to His church, the kingdom (Acts 2.47; Matthew 16.18,19; Colossians 1.13) will cause us to be “stirred up,” and to grow in grace and knowledge as Christians (II Peter 3.18).