

## News & Notes

Sunday, June 12, 2005

**Remember in Prayer:** Melba Cox is in the hospital after having surgery on Tuesday this past week; Sally Etta Crawford; Tommy Dawson; Ann Feathers; Carol Holmes; Leon Jackson; Mary Sue Kidd; Deliah Mann; Howard Moody; Janet Rooker; Gabby Rutledge; Caleb Smith; Katie South; Jamie Spence, father of Edna Ray; Ruby Street; Calvin and Ollie Ursery; Alvie Williford.

There will be a **gospel meeting** at the Tiplersville church of Christ starting today. See the bulletin board for details.

The **Vacation Bible School** at Beech Hill church of Christ begins this week. Pamphlets with details are in the foyer.

There will be a congregational trip to the **Buffalo Park** in Tupelo on Saturday, June 18, 2005. See Cindy Walker for details.

**Thanks** to all the teachers, helpers, cooks, and other people who helped make our Vacation Bible School this past week a huge success.

### Sermon In Preview:

AM: Preaching Christ: His Resurrection (1Corinthians 15:12-58)

PM: Preaching Through John: His Public Ministry (John 1:19-12:50)

### For the Record (June 5, 2005):

Attendance: 83    Contribution: \$1397.00    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:

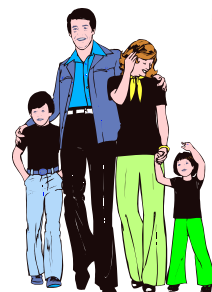
Bible Study 7:00 PM

#### 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).*

GROWING  
in  
FAITH

## Godliness

Jeremy Northrop

In 2Peter 1:5-8, Peter said, "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." The fifth quality that Peter says the Christian should add to his or her faith is godliness. Webster defines the word as pious, devout, or even divine. Perhaps the best way to define the word is God-likeness. Christians are called to be like God in the way that they live, in the actions that they perform, and even in the words that they say.

When Jesus was in the upper room washing each of the disciples feet, Peter questioned His actions and wanted to know why Jesus was doing such a humiliating job. Jesus was trying to teach the apostles a valuable lesson in humility that day. He began to conclude the incident in John 13:15 when He said, "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you." Of course, the example Jesus was trying to give them on that occasion was specifically that of humility but the application can

be seen in every aspect of the life of Christ. Paul began a paragraph in Philippians 2:5 by saying, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.” Peter made a similar comment in 1Peter 2:21 by saying, “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.” Incidentally in Philippians 2, Paul went on to show how Christ was indeed God in the flesh and divine in nature. The point should be clearly seen that Christians are to strive to be like God. There are several points to consider if Christians are going to be more like God.

First, if Christians are to be like God or show godliness, then each will understand that it is an unusual path to follow. Godliness is very much the opposite of worldliness. It is a path from selfishness to selflessness. It is striving to put the needs and desires of others above the needs and desires of self. There are many passages to show such to be the case. Paul said, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2). Paul told Titus that Jesus Christ “...gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works” (Titus 2:14). Jesus Himself prayed, “I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth” (John 17:14-19).

Further, because Christians are different from the world by possessing godliness, than the Christian will be hated by the world. John said, “Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you” (1John 3:13). Jesus said, “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you” (John 15:18). Many have speculated to try and answer the question of why the world hates Christians so. There may be a variety of answers. Perhaps, they resent Christians. Maybe they do not like the fact that Christians have peace of mind, purpose of life, or hope in eternity. Whatever the

reason is, the fundamental point is clear. The world hates Christians because Christians live differently from them.

Finally, to be God-like is to try and obtain the qualities that God has. The person who is trying to be like God will not be dishonest because, “...it is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18). The Christian will seek to put others above himself or herself as instructed in the golden rule (Matthew 7:11). The Christian will strive to live exactly like Christ lived knowing that He is a pattern for godly living. He or she will attempt to live without sin in his or her life. Christians will strive to live “...soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age” (Titus 2:12).

Will the Christian fail? Certainly. All humans fail in one way or another. James said, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience” (James 1:2-3). Jesus also taught a principle through His actions concerning how a Christian is to deal with trials and temptations. When He was tempted by Satan in Matthew 4, each time He responded with scripture. The concept is this: the closer one gets to God, the further he or she gets from Satan. One thing that Christians need to do today is spend much time in meditation upon the word of God (Acts 17:11; 2Timothy 2:15). It is also noteworthy to see Luke’s account of the tempting of Jesus. In Luke 4:13, the text says, “Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.” The lesson to be learned by Christians today is that it is not if the Devil tempts but rather when the devil tempts. He will not give up. He will use everything in His power to prevent everyone he can from doing what is right in the sight of God. Another principle one can learn from the life of Christ revolves around the power of prayer. When life got stressful for Christ, it seems He always found time to communicate with His Heavenly Father. There are records of Jesus spending the night in prayer with the Father (Luke 6:12). He prayed for the future of the church and even Christians today in John 17. He never neglected to pray. Paul and the other apostles followed in this example and constantly spent time in prayer to God.

If a Christian’s faith is to grow, then he or she must reach for the goal and add to his or her faith the very character of God—godliness—God-likeness.