

News & Notes

Sunday, August 13, 2006

Remember in Prayer: Sandra Alberson; Vikie Cobb; Diane Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Flora Estes; Marie Hall; Carolyn Jordan; Dot Ketchum; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Howard Moody; Lillie Mae Shelby; Jayme and Trucilla Spence; Calvin Ursery; James Williams; Alvie Williford;

Sympathy is extended to the family Donald Hobson.

Pantry item for the month of August is dryer sheets.

Jon Street responded the Lord's invitation requesting forgiveness and prayers.

There will be a **ladies night** Tuesday at 6:30 PM in the dining hall.

Area events: Area wide youth devotional at Chapman on August 20 @ 6:00 PM.

Please check the **bulletin boards** in the foyer for other area events and information.

Sermon In Preview:

AM: The Capstone of Christianity (John 3:16)

PM: Christ is our POWER (Philippians 4)

For the Record (August 6, 2005):

Attendance: 68 Contribution: \$983.00 Budget: \$1352.00

The Ashland Church of Christ

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Sunday:

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Shepherds:

Barney King

Carrol Street



ASHLAND ANNOUNCER

"I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14)

Is It Possible to be a Christian Only?

Mark Lindley

Have you ever heard a riddle or tried to work a puzzle that required you to "think outside the box?" Because our minds are sometimes programmed to think within certain boundaries, it can be difficult to see the obvious solution to a riddle or puzzle. This is also true concerning the question, "Is it possible to be a Christian only?" The Bible answer is a resounding yes! But people must think outside the box to understand how such is possible.

The reason one must think outside the box today is that it is generally assumed any person wanting to be a follower of Christ must be a Catholic or Protestant. In other words, if one wants to be a disciple of Christ and belong to an organized religious group, his only option is to join one of the many denominations in existence.

However, there is another option. Did you know it is possible to be a Christian only, a member of the Lord's church mentioned in the Bible? Did you know that you can be a member of Jesus' church, the one mentioned in the Bible, without ever joining a denomination?

Think outside the box with me. If a man in prison had never heard of any denominational group, and he read and obeyed the Bible only, what would he be? He would be a Christian only. I know this because people in the first

century who followed only God's Word became Christians only (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1Peter 4:16). Imagine a man alone on an island who finds a chest that has washed ashore. The man looks inside, finds a copy of the New Testament, reads and obeys only what he finds in the Bible. What would the man be? He would be a Christian. Jesus said, "The seed is the word of God" (Luke 8:11). Every seed reproduces after its kind. In the first century the seed of God's Word made Christians only, not different brands of Christians. Today, following God's Word only will make one a Christian only. Don't allow your thinking to be limited to the box created by men!

True Understanding

Tom Moore

The story is told of the explorer who some years ago had just returned to his country from the Amazon. The people at home were eager to learn all about the vast and mighty river and the country surrounding it. How he wondered, could he ever describe it to them - how could he ever put into words the feelings that flooded into his heart when he saw the exotic flowers and heard the night sounds of the jungle. How could he communicate to them the smells that filled the air and the sense of danger and excitement that would come whenever he and his fellows explorers encountered strange animals or paddled through treacherous rapids?

So the explorer did what all good explorers do - he said to the people, "go and find out for yourselves what it is like", and to help them he drew a map of the river

pointing out the various features of its course and describing some of the dangers and some of the routes that could be used to avoid those dangers.

The people took the map and they framed and hung it on the wall of the local science museum so that everyone could look at it. Some made copies of it. After a period of time many of those who made copies for themselves considered themselves experts on the river - and indeed they knew its every turn and bend, they knew how broad it was and how deep, where the rapids were and where the falls. They knew the river and they instructed others in what it was like whenever those people indicated an interest in it.

I think that many people today are in the same situation. They may know the scriptures but they do not understand them. And they do not understand them because they have not been there - have not made them a real part of their lives through obedience. Mankind must not simply look at the scriptures and their meaning but have God's word living in them through obedience. All must experience what it means to believe on the Lord, to repent of our sins, to confess His name, to be immersed in water for the remission of sins and allow God to forgive. Everyone must live as the Scriptures instruct. Make the word of God a real part of your life. This is to really know and understand the scriptures.

Think About It!

A man of integrity is not afraid when the gossips talk about him.