

## News & Notes

Sunday, August 27, 2006

**Remember in Prayer:** Sandra Alberson; Melvin Bennett; Carrol Cherry; Vikie Cobb; Diane Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Tommy Dawson; Flora Estes; Marie Hall; Terrell Hopkins; Marylyn Hubbard; Carolyn Jordan; Dot Ketchum; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Howard Moody; Lillie Mae Shelby; Jon Street; Jayme and Trucilla Spence; Calvin Ursery; James Williams; Charles West; Alvie Williford;

**Sympathy** is extended to the family of Gathier Bennett.

**Pantry item** for the month of August is dryer sheets.

There will be a **devotional and games** for all kids ages ten and under on September 15@7:00 PM in the dinning hall.

**Area events:** August 27-30@7:30 PM each evening: Gospel meeting at the Marlow Church of Christ with Burt Jones; September 11-14@7:00 PM each evening: Gospel meeting at the West Amory Church of Christ with W. C. Edwards;

### Sermon In Preview:

AM: Is There Not a Cause (1Samuel 17:23-31)

PM: Division and Worldly Wisdom (1Corinthians 1)

### For the Record (August 20, 2005):

Attendance: 67    Contribution: \$1133.00    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)

## WORSHIP

(Part 1 of 2)

Chuck Northrop

Because of the very fact that God created the universe and everything contained in it, God is worthy to be worshiped. As the apostle John reveals the vision he saw on the Lord's day of the throne of God, those around the throne exclaimed, "*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created*" (Revelation 4:11). The psalmist exclaimed,

*"Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights. Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created"* (Psalms 148:1-5).

### THE OBJECT AND NATURE OF WORSHIP

Because of the attributes of God, He is the only one worthy of worship. When Jesus was in the wilderness being tempted by the devil, the devil took Jesus up on a high mountain and showed Him "*all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me*" (Matthew 4:8-9). In spite of this temptation and claim to power Jesus said, "*Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve*" (Matthew 4:10). Since God is the only one worthy of worship, we must focus our worship only toward Him and only as He has instructed neither adding to nor taking away from His instructions.

In John 4, Jesus was asked concerning worship by a woman of Samaria. Because of Jesus' conversation with her, she perceived that He was a prophet and said, "*Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship*" (John 4:20). Jesus seized the opportunity to teach the woman about worship and said,

*"Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth"* (John 4:21-24).

Notice that Jesus taught concerning the "*true worshippers*" as opposed to false worshippers. Further He taught the object of worship – the Father and He taught the proper way in which to worship the Father – "*in spirit and in truth.*"

"*In spirit*" refers to the inner man. When worship is done "*in spirit,*" it is done from the spirit or heart of man. It is not mechanical ritual or ceremonial worship done without thought. True worship proceeds from the heart, the will, the spirit of man in harmony with the Spirit of God.

"*In truth*" refers to that which is real and that which is opposed to error. True worship, therefore, is according to the truth of God's word. Jesus prayed, "*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth*" (John 17:17). Thus, only that worship which is done according to the word of God is acceptable to God.

In summation of John 4, we learned three vitally important aspects of worship. First, we must worship the Father. Second, we must worship the Father in spirit (the inner man) and in truth (according to God's word). Third, only the worship of the Father done in spirit and truth enjoys divine approval and is thereby true worship.

The importance of worship cannot be stressed enough. It is humanity's privilege and responsibility to worship God for He is worthy to receive glory, honor, and praise. The English term

"worship" means "worth-ship" and denotes a being or object that a worshiper deems worthy of adoration or devotion. Since Jesus taught that the true worshiper worships the Father "*in spirit and in truth*" (John 4:24), then we would expect God to give us a prescribed pattern for worship. And since God with holy writ has given us "*all things that pertain unto life and godliness*" (2Peter 1:3), we find this prescribed pattern within the pages of the New Testament.

## FIVE ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP

After the establishment of the church, the church "*continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers*" (Acts 2:42). This passage describes the first worship assembly of the church. This assembly took place on Pentecost, which was always on the first day of the week. Therefore, as we consider the five elements of worship, they are done when the church gathers or assembles on the first day of the week. The importance of this assembly is seen in the exhortation of Hebrews 10:25: "*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*"

### **Prayer:**

From Acts 2:42, we find that prayer was a part of New Testament worship. Since the Christian's life is a life of prayer (1Thessalonians 5:17), it is only natural that prayers be made when Christians gather for the worship assembly. Prayer is said to be the most common expression of worship. The very nature of prayer expresses that God exists and that man is in need of God's help. When Christians assemble there are many things that can be prayed for. Christians can pray for their enemies (Matthew 5:44-45); for laborers in the kingdom of God (Matthew 9:38); for escape from temptation (Matthew 26:41); for forgiveness (Acts 8:22-24); and for all mankind (1Timothy 2:1). All Christians are to pray but during the assembly, God's design is for men (adult males) to lead prayers. The apostle Paul recorded, "*I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting*" (1Timothy 2:8).