

News & Notes

Sunday, February 5, 2006

Remember in Prayer: M. B. Anthony; Al Alberson; Sandra Albertson; Dorris Billingsly; Carrol Cherry; Sally Etta Crawford; Joel Danley and family; Lawrence Dawson; Tommy Dawson; Flora Estes; Randy Hobson; Carrol Holmes; Dot Kethum; Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Howard Moody; Shirley Ortiz; Janet Rooker; Lillie Mae Shelby; Austin Simpson; Jayme and Trucilla Spence; Becky Strickland; Calvin and Ollie Ursery; James Williams; Alvie Williford;

Sympathy is extended to the family of Jack Grandy.

Pantry item for the month of February is spaghetti.

There will be a **singing workshop** February 10-12 at the Booneville Church of Christ. Details are on the bulletin board.

The **Freed-Hardeman Associates** of Tippah and Benton counties will have their annual benefit dinner at the Beech Hill Church of Christ on February 16th at 6:30 PM. See bulletin board for details.

Sermon In Preview: Pressing Toward the Upward Call of God:

AM: *"Unless You Become as Little Children"* (Matthew 18:3)

PM: *"Humble Yourselves under the Mighty Hand of God"* (1Peter 5:6)

For the Record (January 29, 2006):

Attendance: 79 Contribution: \$1106.00 Budget: \$1205.00

The Ashland Church of Christ

P. O. Box 25

Ashland, MS 38603-0025

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Sunday:

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Worship 6:00 PM

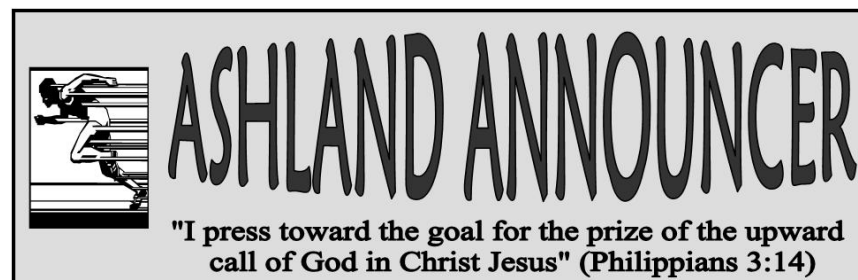
Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Shepherds:

Barney King

Carrol Street



Pressing Toward the Upward Call of God Without Him I Am Nothing — Humility

Jeremy Northrop

Our theme for the year comes from Paul's declaration in Philippians 3:14, "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Last month, we discussed some introductory lessons which centered around this theme. In the classes, we discussed what pressing toward the upward call of God is and in the sermons we discussed why we should desire to press toward the upward call of God and how we intend to go about pressing toward the upward call of God. While there would certainly be several ways one could go about pressing toward the upward call of God, the elders approved the system of introspection, exaltation, and out-reach. Thus, the first of the three begins today. The word for the day is humility. In the class, we intend to study the story of the conversion of Ethiopian eunuch. Then, in the AM worship service, we hope to look at Jesus' statement in Matthew 18:3 and then tonight we plan to discuss Peter's statement in 1Peter 5:6. All of these lessons will focus on the theme of humility.

First, common sense tells us that the quality of humility is one for which people need to strive. Various statements have been made through the years. "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt." "Swallow your pride." "You may have to eat those words." "Be careful not to think too high of yourself." There are people in the world are are arrogant, haughty, and simply unpleasant to be around. Often

times, the people who lack humility are the ones who need it the most. It also just makes good sense from a religious perspective to possess humility. Who is man that he should question God or be arrogant toward God and what He has done for mankind (Psalm 8:4). “Don’t look a gift horse in the mouth!”

Second, the Bible has a wealth of scriptures which teach the value and necessity of humility. Consider a handful of them:

Proverbs 13:10, “By pride comes nothing but strife, but with the well-advised is wisdom.”

Proverbs 16:18, “Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.”

Proverbs 29:23, “A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor.”

1Corinthians 10:12, “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”

James 4:10, “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

1John 2:16, “For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world.”

Biblically speaking, the first reason a Christian needs to be humble is because God said so. And friends, for God-fearing, Bible-believing Christians, this is enough of a reason. Yet, these passages also give us other reasons Christians should learn humility and obedience. Pride will make one humble when he or she has no reason to be prideful. Pride will not result in anything good. Finally, pride defies the direct commands which God through inspiration has given us.

Perhaps the worst thing of all is that pride will prevent one from knowing God. Many of the sins which are so prominent today (atheism, humanism, ect.) are the result of human pride and arrogance. Many people in the world are rejecting and defying any

kind of authority and in a haughty way they are promoting themselves to be better, greater, and more prestigious. Such rejection of authority is simply a matter of pride. Pride prevents wholesome learning and good relationships. The opposite of pride will bring about opposite results. One who is humble will learn of God and come to Christ. One who is humble will be able to build good relationships with others. One who is humble will not be looking out for his own interest but the interest of others (Philippians 2:4). Most importantly, one who is humble will grow in Christ and not defy His will. Those who are full of pride will not inherit the kingdom of Heaven. “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate” (Proverbs 8:13).

Today, we will spend time learning from a man, a group of people, and a command given by Peter. In class this morning we will be studying the powerful conversion of the eunuch of Ethiopia. In Acts 8:31, he makes a noteworthy statement to Philip, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” This morning in worship, our primary text will come from Matthew 18 where Jesus calls a little child to the gathering of people and makes a valuable statement: “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3). Finally, tonight we will be studying the command of Peter in 1Peter 5:6, “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.” A good cross-reference to this is James 4:10.

As we work through these lessons today, remember that humility is under the major point of reaching in — introspection. When one is willing to press toward the upward call of God like Paul in Philippians 3:14, the process will be begin by reaching in to self and realizing that without God, we are nothing. In the months ahead, we will be examining acceptance of God’s will and what it means to be spiritual. Then, later in the year we will be looking at two more major points: reaching up toward God and out toward others. But, before we get to far ahead of ourselves, let us determine to sit back today and focus on the theme of humility. More than that, let us determine now to make any changes which need to be made in our individual lives which will help us to conform better to God’s will.