

News & Notes

Sunday, July 9, 2006

Remember in Prayer: Jonathan Alberson; Sandra Alberson; Vikie Cobb; Diane Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Flora Estes; Marie Hall; Carrol Holmes; Marilyn Hubbard; Carolyn Jordan; Christine Judge; Dot Ketchum; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Howard Moody; Janet Rooker; Ruth Ross; Freddie Shaw; Lillie Mae Shelby; Jayme and Trucilla Spence; Calvin Ursery; James Williams; Alvie Williford;

Sympathy is extended to the family of Ruby Street.

Pantry item for the month of July is school supplies.

Our **gospel meeting** with Steven Guy will be July 16-19. There is advertisement material in the foyer.

Area events: Gospel meeting at Tiplersville on July 9-30; Vacation Bible School at Theo on July 16-20; Lectureship at Chapman on July 30-August 2.

Sermon In Preview:

AM: The Word of God (Hebrews 4:12)

PM: Christ is Our Prize (Philippians 3)

For the Record (July 2, 2005):

Attendance: 113 Contribution: \$1525.00 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)

ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED?

Jay Yeager

In any study of the scriptures there is an absolute need for honesty. Heaven is too wonderful and hell is too horrible for us to do anything less. That is certainly true of the subject under consideration in this article. Now, before we begin our study, there needs to be some clarification. First, I believe as strongly as anyone that a faithful child of God (one who is doing God's will) cannot be lost, but that is not the issue. The real issue is this: 1). Can a saved person fall away and be lost at last? 2). Can the saved depart from the faith that saved them? 3). Is it possible for a person to be added to the lamb's book of life, and at some later time be blotted out?

1. Can a saved person fall away and be lost at last? I am aware that there are those who would quickly answer, "No! Once saved always saved!" While I intend to prove that to be false, simply for the sake of argument suppose that were true. That would raise a serious question: namely, why would God warn His children of a danger that was non-existent? For Example: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1Corinthians 10:12). To what end did God issue this warning?

Again, "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I might present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (2Corinthians 11:2-3). The devil through his trickery brought the downfall of Adam

and Eve. Paul was fearful that the same thing might happen to the Corinthians, yet how can a person fear the impossible? Friends, I realize that religious bias is hard to overcome, but these verses at the very least admit that the saved can fall away.

2. Can the saved depart (fall away) from the faith that saved them? Friends, if you have any respect for the scriptures you must answer in the affirmative, for the Bible in unmistakable language declares that not only can it happen, but in fact has happened. *“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and the doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron”* (1Timothy 4:1-2). How could the Holy Spirit promise a complete falling away from the faith, if falling away is impossible? “Well,” says one, “they were never really Christians.” Folks, listen please, you cannot depart from a place you have never been!

3. Is it possible for a person to be added to the lamb’s book of life, and at some later time be blotted out? Beloved, those who insist on the idea that if a person falls away they were never really saved in the first place find themselves in conflict with the Son of God. In Revelation chapter three the church at Sardis is being addressed, and here is the inspired record.

“And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; these things saith He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before His angels” (Revelation 3:1-5).

Now, both the former and the present state of the church at Sardis is vital to this discussion. First, what was their former state? They were members of the Lord’s church, therefore they were

saved, for Jesus adds only the saved to the church (Acts 2:47). Who among us would dare deny that? What was their present state? Dead or dying! What was the message to the church at Sardis? Repent or perish! Cleanse your garments or be blotted out of the book of life. In other words the saved can be lost (Revelation 20:15).

How May I Know When I Have Found the Right Church?

Wendell Winkler

Suppose you are sent on a mission to find a man (1) whose name is John Doe, (2) Who is six feet tall, (3) has black hair, (4) Has brown eyes, and (5) Wears glasses. How will you know when you have found the right man? Will it not be when you find the man who meets all the identification features? Surely it will. So it is with the right church. You may know you have found the right church when you find the one that meets all the identification features that characterized the early New Testament church during the days of the apostles as they are recorded in the New Testament.

Those identification features include:

1. No creed but Christ. (Acts 8:36-38).
2. No rule of practice except the Lord's word. (1Peter 4:11)
3. Was spoken of as the church of Christ, the church of the Lord, etc. (Romans 16:16, Acts 20:28).
4. Worshiped the first day of the week by partaking of the Lord's supper and other acts of worship. (Acts 2:43; 20:7)
5. Each local congregation was an independent body, organized with bishops, deacons, evangelists and members. (Philippians 1:1, 2; 2Timothy 4:5)