

News & Notes

Sunday, June 11, 2006

Remember in Prayer: Jonathan Alberson; Sandra Alberson; Michelle Bennett; Vikie Cobb; Diane Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Flora Estes; Carolyn Jordan; Kirsten Hopkins; Dot Ketchum; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Howard Moody; Freddie Shaw; Lillie Mae Shelby; Jayme and Trucilla Spence; Ruby Street; Calvin Ursery; Alvie Williford;

Pantry item for the month of June is dish washing soap.

The newest edition **House to House/Heart to Heart** has been mailed out into the community. For those not on the mailing route, copies are available in the foyer.

Special thanks to Sammy Ford and all who helped with Vacation Bible School this past week. The week went smoothly and was a blessing to all who came.

There will be an **elder's meeting** this afternoon at 5:00 PM.

Sermon In Preview:

AM: Face to Face with Jesus (Matthew 27:15-26)

PM: Grounded and Settled (Colossians 1:23)

For the Record (May 28, 2005):

Attendance: 79 Contribution: \$1364.00 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 in Communion

Jeremy Northrop

There are five avenues or acts through which one can worship God. They include prayer (Acts 2:42), song (Ephesians 5:19), communion (Acts 20:6-7), instruction (Acts 20:7), and contribution (1Corinthians 16:2). The focus of this article will be on the aspect of communion on the worship service. Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper before He died on the cross.

When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, 'With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you' (Luke 22:14-20).

There are many today who abuse the Lord's Supper in a variety of ways. Some might elevate it and attempt to make it more significant than other avenues of worship. This attitude is seen in such actions as leaving worship when the communion is passed or simply taking communion privately when one forsakes the assembly. Such may be gratifying to man but simply has no scriptural authority. Others abuse communion by not taking it on a

weekly basis. Acts 20:6 is a clear example that the first century church took communion on the first day of the week and it is logical and reasonable to assume they did it every first day of the week.

This article will attempt to answer three questions: (1) Why do we have communion today? (2) What are the elements of communion? and (3) How do we partake in communion? While there are a vast array of other questions which could be answered, these will help one better understand more about the Lord's Supper.

First, communion is a reminder to all Christians that Christ has died for them. 1Corinthians 11:25 says, "In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'" The bread reminds Christians of the body of Christ which was slain for them and the fruit of the vine reminds Christians of the blood of Christ which was shed on Calvary. It is also a memorial of the death of Christ. Luke 22:19 says, "And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.'" It is a weekly funeral to remind Christians what it took to make them Christians — the blood of Christ. Finally, the Lord's Supper is a declaration. Paul said, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes" (1Corinthians 11:26). The Lord's Supper is in a very basic way a declaration that Christ has lived and more significantly that He has died. He not only died but he died for Christians. Thus, Christians have the opportunity to acknowledge the death of Christ every Lord's day in the memorial service of communion.

Next, it is necessary to examine what the elements of communion consist of as many are abusing them. Some say it does not really matter what is used as long as a person is reminded of the death of Christ. However, the fact that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper on Passover is significant in many ways. It was the last time they would have to observe the Passover with its old significance. The Passover was instituted in Exodus 12 as a reminder to the Israelites that God passed over their homes when He performed the tenth plague: the death of the first born. As part of the Passover institution, the Israelites were to remove all leaven from their homes (Exodus 12:15, 18, 19). Leaven includes more than just yeast. It would include any additives or preservatives.

There is no doubt that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper with unleavened bread. The Bible says such in Luke 22:7. Thus, the first element of the Lord's Supper is the unleavened bread which reminds Christians of the body of Christ (Luke 22:19). The fruit of the vine is a phrase which refers to grape juice. One can know this is what was in the cup because of Luke 22:18. The fact that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper on the Passover shows that it was non-alcoholic wine or grape juice. Alcohol was used as a preservative and no preservatives were allowed in the homes of the Israelites during the observance of the Passover. The second element of the Lord's Supper is the fruit of the vine. The third is found in Acts 2:42, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." The Christians on that day continued in the breaking of bread. It is interesting to notice that this was the body of saved believers. This is why it is unnecessary for children or infants to take the Lord's Supper. Christ has not died for them because they do not need a Savior. Such a need only comes after one has reached the age of accountability.

Finally, how does one partake in communion? The Bible offers some wisdom in regard to this question. First the Bible says to take the Lord's Supper in memory of the death of Christ. In 1Corinthians 11:24, Paul quotes Jesus when He said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." Paul also exhorts Christians to take the Lord's supper with the proper mind-set when he wrote, "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?" (1Corinthians 10:16). Finally, Paul exhorts Christians to partake of the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner:

Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body (1Corinthians 11:27-29).

May all Christians everywhere use the means of the Lord's Supper to bring glory to God!