

News & Notes

Sunday, June 18, 2006

Remember in Prayer: Jonathan Alberson; Sandra Alberson; Vikie Cobb; Diane Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Tommy Dawson; Flora Estes; Brandon Hayes; Carolyn Jordan; Kirsten Hopkins; Dot Ketchum; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Howard Moody; Freddie Shaw; Lillie Mae Shelby; Jayme and Trucilla Spence; Ruby Street; Calvin Uersery; James Williams; Alvie Williford;

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

Jeff Roberson responded to the Lord's invitation this past week asking for the prayers of the church.

There will be a **youth devotional** tonight after services in the dining hall.

There will be a **teacher's meeting** this morning after services.

There are **several events** going on in the area. Please check the bulletin board for details.

Sermon In Preview:

AM: Your Soul's Salvation

PM: Philippians: Christ is our Purpose (Philippians 1)

For the Record (June 11, 2005):

Attendance: 80 Contribution: \$1334.00 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)

WHY CHRISTIANS DON'T STUDY THEIR BIBLES

Jim O'Connor

Scriptural growth is inseparably attached to growth in knowledge of spiritual things. That knowledge can only be obtained from God's word, the source of "*all things that pertain to life and godliness*" (2 Peter 1:3). This makes it essential that Christians study their Bibles. Why, then, do not more Christians do so? Perhaps we'll not see all of the reasons, nor find the positive solution to the problem. But it's a question that needs to be pursued--and pursued seriously--because of the impact that a lack of knowledge can have on the individual soul and on the church. Think about the following suggested reasons why some do not study as they should.

1. FEAR. Some may be afraid of the added responsibility that goes with added knowledge. The more one knows, the more one is responsible to reflect in one's life and to share with others.

However, a Christian is responsible to know what he is responsible for, and to meet that responsibility in a responsible way. Ignorance is not bliss, and to labor under such a deception is a form of escapism that the Bible describes as "darkness" (John 3:19).

2. LAZINESS. There is much labor involved in a study of the Bible; and it's true, as Solomon said, "*Much study is a weariness of the flesh*" (Ecclesiastes 12:12). It doesn't come easy. God never promised that it would. It's good to remember, and hopefully motivating, that one who is rested from a lack of labor here will have no labor to rest from when the Lord comes (2 Thessalonians 1:7; Revelation 14:13).

3. CONTENTMENT. Some may feel that they already know all they need to know. They're contented with their level of achievement. However, one who is contented in such a fashion is proud and, therefore, needs to study what the Bible says about pride. "We never graduate from Bible study until we meet the Author face to face."

4. NOT ENOUGH TIME. It's difficult for some to budget their time so as to have enough time to spend with God's word. They don't seem to be able to find that "quiet time" for Bible study. To overcome this, one need but sacrifice a little sleep, a little

mealtime, a TV show, or something else, in order to make time. Someone has wisely said, "If we're too busy to study the Bible, we're too busy."

5. INTELLECTUAL INFERIORITY COMPLEX.

Some may be self-convinced, or otherwise convinced, that they can't learn the scriptures. One who is in such a serious state is selling himself short and severely questioning God's ability to communicate. If a person really can't understand the Bible, he's not responsible; but he'd better not reach that decision himself. My suggestion to a slow learner is to keep at it until he dies, or until the Lord comes, and then let God make the decision on responsibility. It just might be that one who is intellectually capable of deciding he can't learn is intellectually capable of learning.

In closing, let me suggest that a solution to the problem is an application of the four R's.

1. Repent of the "I can't" attitude.
2. Resolve to study diligently.
3. Request the help of God.
4. Refuse to go back on your repentance and resolution.