

News & Notes

Sunday, June 25, 2006

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

Sympathy is extended to the families of William Wilson and Bobby Bennett.

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

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

There will be a **baby shower** for Ashley Boneé Sunday, July 2 after the evening service.

Our annual **gospel meeting** will be July 16-19, 2006. Please pick up the literature in the foyer and pass it out advertising this event.

Sermon In Preview:

AM: Fellowship (1John 1:5-2:11)

PM: Philippians: Christ is our Pattern (Philippians 2)

For the Record (June 18, 2005):

Attendance: 70 Contribution: \$1108.00 Budget: \$1352.00

The Ashland Church of Christ

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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



ASHLAND ANNOUNCER

"I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14)

Worship in Instruction

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 instruction on the worship service. Much abuse is taking place in this particular avenue both in the religious world at large and the church of our Lord. Instruction comes by two means: reading God's word and preaching. Biblical authority for reading God's word comes from such passages as Colossians 4:6, 1Timothy 4:13, and Revelation 1:3. Preaching gets authority from Acts 20:7, Acts 2:42, and 2Timothy 4:2.

In fact, the greater context of 2Timothy 4:2 serves as a good place to start when one is studying preaching:

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Biblical preaching should involve several things. This passage shows such. It should always be the word of God. The church should be looking for book, chapter, and verse in the pulpit. Other passages show this to be the case as well. Titus 2:1 says, "But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine..." 1Peter 4:11 says, "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen." The trend today seems to be in many circles to preach from anything but the Bible. However, God wants biblical preaching.

The main text started in this article also shows what preaching should not be: the tickling of ears. The idea is the preachers need to preach to the needs of the congregation not the wants of the congregation. Far too many people are preaching to the wants of the congregation. This is nothing new. Micah of the Old Testament testified that he was a true prophet (Micah 3:8). This was in contrast to the false prophets of the day. There were those prophets who were not giving the people the message of God but rather the message that they wanted to hear. Biblical preaching and teaching is preaching what God knows the people need to hear.

Paul alludes to this concept in Galatians 1:6-10 where the Bible says,

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

The message Paul is giving to the Galatians is that the one true gospel of Christ is a gospel which caters to man's needs. Other

things may have a bunch of things that people want to hear but eventually it will die out. Further, Paul said in Philippians 1:15-16, "Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from good will: The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains..." Preachers need to be preaching God's message to get out to the masses. They should never preach out of selfish ambitions, for money, for fame, or anything else that will bring glory to himself.

Further, 2Timothy 4:1-5 teaches that instruction is necessary. 2Timothy 2:2 says, "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." God's plan for people to hear the gospel involves a Bible and a teacher or someone to instruct others as to the meaning of the passage of scripture. Paul further shows the necessity of a preacher in Romans 10:14-17,

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!' But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our report?' So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Preaching is necessary because it deals with eternal things and the spiritual side of man. It is little wonder that it has often been said: "God had only one Son and He was a preacher."

This makes the goal for the preacher one of grave importance: to preach the word of God regardless of the consequences. The goal for listeners is difficult as well: to keep focused on the sermon and to demand biblical preachers. "To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:27-28).