

News & Notes

Sunday, March 12, 2006

Remember in Prayer: M. B. Anthony; James Albertson; Sandra Albertson; Francis Bennett; Carrol Cherry; Lanell Cox-Allen; Diane Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Lawrence Dawson; Tommy Dawson; Flora Estes; Collete Ford; Gloria Fortner; Carrol Holmes; Carolyn Jordan; Dot Kethum; John and Deliah Mann; Phillip Miller; Diane Mize; Howard Moody; Hadie Pickens; Janet Rooker; Lillie Mae Shelby; Jayme and Trucilla Spence; Calvin and Ollie Ursery; Alvie and Louise Williford; Billy Wayne Yancy;

Sympathy is extended to the family of Rick Wollen.

Pantry item for the month of March is canned goods.

Area Events: Six State Gospel Singing at the church of Christ at Southwind (March 24, 2006 @ 7:00 PM); Sardis Lake Christian Camp Benefit Dinner (March 25, 2006 @ 5:00 PM); Gospel meeting with Ted Rush at the Chapman church of Christ (March 19-22).

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

AM: Guest Speaker: Rodney Hilliard

PM: Guest Speaker: Rodney Hilliard

For the Record (February 5, 2005):

Attendance: 74 Contribution: \$1082.00 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)

The Gospel Is For All

Paul N. Merideth

After Jesus' resurrection from the dead, and before his ascension into Heaven, he commissioned his disciples in Mark 16:15, 16 to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." Likewise, we have recorded in Matthew 28:19, 20; "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Jesus is not selective in who he desires to follow him. In fact, the idea is that everyone in every place and in every time are invited to come and take advantage of the salvation which Christ offers. This fact is shown throughout scripture. 2Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." Note carefully the phrases "every creature;" "all the nations;" "not willing that any should perish;" and "all should come to repentance." Who does this exclude? Is this saving gospel message that Christ died for the sins of the world (Romans 1:16; 1John 2:2) dependant upon where ones lives, social status, or skin color? ABSOLUTELY NOT! The gospel is for all. However, there are many who choose to reject God's offer. For whatever reason the vast

majority are choosing, by their actions, to either ignore the gospel call to obedience or reject it. When a person rejects the gospel, they are rejecting the love of God. Either the gospel message or the hearer's heart must be the impenitent heart that must adjust (Galatians 1:10-12; Psalms 119:89).

Just as the gospel is for all, it is also the same for all. Truth is absolute. God's plan to save us is not tailored to each person's felt needs; instead it is universal. The dictates of faith, repentance, confession, immersion, and faithfulness are required of all. Just because a person may live in Cambridge, England doesn't mean they're too smart for the Bible (Romans 1:20-22). Just because a person may live in Las Vegas, Nevada, doesn't make gambling right (Ephesians 4:28; 1 Corinthians 4:1,2). Just because a person may live in Miami, Florida doesn't make immodesty alright (1 Timothy 2:9; Mark 6:22,26). The gospel precepts are universal.

The gospel is for **ALL**. The gospel is the same for **ALL**. Lastly, **ALL** need the gospel. The gospel, or good news, is God's power to save us (Romans 1:16). It is the good news that Christ voluntarily deprived himself of heaven's glory to come among mankind and redeem us from sin (Philippians 2:2-8). It was a terrible thing for Jesus to die upon that cross, but because of that selfless act we can have atonement for sin (2 Corinthians 5:21). God offers His grace and salvation to all. However, it is up to each of us individually to accept that grace and salvation by responding to the gospel with submissive obedient faith. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 paints a dismal picture for those who fail to see that the gospel is for them: *"and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, [8] in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."* May we all see the need for the gospel in our lives. Let us reject selfishness and apathy and replace it with love for God and obedience to Christ's soul saving gospel.

EYE ON "the other guy"

Tim O'Dell

People are often unreasonable, illogical, self-centered; Love them anyway.

If you are kind, People may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, You will win some false friends and some true enemies; Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, People may cheat you; Be honest anyway.

What you spend years building, Someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, They may be jealous; Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, People will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, And it may never be enough; Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, It is between you and God; It never was between you and them anyway.

There is a tendency for us to live our lives with an eye on "the other guy." We'll do what's right to him as long as he does what's right to us. But Jesus does not allow us to live our lives as a reaction to others. We must be determined to do what is right regardless.

Peter, seeing (John) said to Jesus, "But Lord. What about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is it to you? You follow me." (John 21:21-22)

If others around you are making it difficult to do what is right, don't allow yourself to be distracted. Do what is right anyway.