

News & Notes

Sunday, May 7, 2006

Remember in Prayer: Sandra Albertson; Michelle Bennett; Carrol Cherry; Vivkie Cobb; Diane Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Lawrence Dawson; Tommy Dawson; Flora Estes; Marie Hall; 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; Ruby Street; Calvin and Ollie Ursery; Alvie Williford;

Sympathy is extended to the family of Jason Carter.

Pantry item for the month of May is paper goods.

Anyone interested in helping with **Vacation Bible School**, please see Sam Ford. The dates are June 4-7, 2006.

On **May 13th** there will be a trip to the zoo for any one interested, a men's breakfast at South Ashland at 9:00 AM, and a fundraiser for Save-a-Life at Webster's parking lot.

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

AM: The Indestructibility of the Bible

PM: The Inspiration of the Bible

For the Record (April 30, 2005):

Attendance: 80 Contribution: \$1256.00 Budget: \$1352.00

The Ashland Church of Christ

P. O. Box 25

Ashland, MS 38603-0025

www.ashlandcoc.org

acoc@ashlandcoc.org

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)

Pressing Toward the Upward Call of God

The Bible: God's Message to Man — Dedication

Jeremy Northrop

Again, the first Sunday of the month is upon us and we turn our focus to our theme for the year — pressing toward the upward call of God (Philippians 3:14). As you remember, the first Sunday of the year was spent studying some introductory lessons to this most relevant theme. We discussed what it is, why we should press toward it, and then we laid out a plan as to how we are going to spend 2006 pressing toward the upward call of God.

Over the last three months we focused on **reaching in** through introspection. As you know, we have focused each first-Sunday-of-the-month on a particular word. In February, we spoke of humility showing that if we are to press toward the upward call of God, then we must humble ourselves to the will of God. The will of God has some hard lessons to learn and some difficult pills to swallow, if you will. One such difficulty is the fact that all of sinned and are in danger of sin's punishment — Hell. Thus, in March we discussed the subject of acceptance and the choice that man has to turn himself over to God and His word. Finally, last month we discussed the topic of spirituality and the difference between living spiritually and worldly. Introspection involves changing our way of living to the way that God wants us to live. In other words, we focused on becoming a spiritual people. While much more could be studied in terms of spiritual introspection, we brought this part of our study — **reaching in** — to a close with the topic of spirituality.

Today, we turn our study to the topic of **reaching up**. The idea that we need to emphasize with this part of our study is listening to

God and what God has said in His word. The word for today is dedication. Christians should have dedication to God and to what He has said in His word. Most people understand this simple concept but many may not be able to answer the question of why. Why should people be dedicated to God? What makes the Bible such a special book to be heeded? Today, our study will focus on the why of things.

This morning in class, we will discuss question: Why should I believe the Bible? There are many reasons one should believe the Bible. All of the reasons we will look at this morning will begin with the letter 'I.' The Bible is inspired of God (2Timothy 3:16-17; 2Peter 1:19-21). The Bible is indestructible (1Peter 1:22-25). The Bible is inerrant (Jeremiah 1:7-9; Romans 1:16-17). The Bible's information is proof of its indestructibility. It contains information regarding man's salvation, it tells how man can have an abundant life, and it gives assurance of man's salvation. Finally, the Bible's inimitability is proof of its indestructibility. The Bible cannot be imitated. No human creed, culture, or idea can provide the same hope and promise which the Bible provides.

The two sermons today will focus on two of the points presented in the Bible class. Hopefully, they will look at these points in more detail and from a different perspective. This morning during our worship hour, the sermon will focus on the Bible's indestructibility. Many men over the years have tried to destroy the Bible and its holy contents. Many men have played the dangerous game of being a prophet saying the Bible would be extinct. 1Peter 1:22-25 says,

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because 'All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the word of the Lord endures forever.' Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

Folks, the Bible is here to stay. It is not going anywhere and men would do well to submit their lives to it as it is the word of God.

Tonight, we will discuss the topic of inspiration and look at the various evidences and proofs of the Bible's inspiration. Of course, the Bible claims inspiration in 2Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...." The Bible is consistent with other academic disciplines. The Bible has brilliant design. On and on and on the study could go. Come tonight and learn more.

In the months ahead, we will be turning our study of **reaching up** to things like allegiance, obedience, and spiritual growth. Then, the last part of our study will focus on **reaching out** both to other members of the church, the physical needs of the community, and the spiritual needs of both the lost and the saved. Finally, the first Sunday in December, if Lord wills, we will bring out study of the year to a close with some concluding lessons for the year. But, before we get too far ahead of ourselves, let's just sit back and enjoy today. Further, let's all strive to increase our dedication to God and to listen even more diligently to learn God's will for us and listen to what God has said through His word.

The Anvil

Last eve I passed beside the blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
Then looking in I saw upon the floor
Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I,
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"
"Just one," said he, and then with twinkling eye,
"The anvil wears the hammer out, you know."

And so, I thought, the anvil of God's word,
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon.
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone.

John Clifford (1836-1923)