

News & Notes

Sunday, September 10, 2006

Remember in Prayer: Sandra Alberson; Dezeray Anderson; Melvin Bennett; Carrol Cherry; Vikie Cobb; Diane Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Tommy Dawson; Liddy Mae Hunt; Marie Hall; Marylyn Hubbard; Carolyn Jordan; Bill Kelly; Dot Ketchum; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Helen Miller; Diane Mize; Howard Moody; Lillie Mae Shelby; Calvin Ursery; James Williams; Charles West; Alvie Williford;

Sympathy is extended to the family of Flora Estes.

Pantry item for the month of September is Velveeta cheese.

Ashland Events: September 15@7:00 PM: Devotional and games for all kids ages 10 and under in the dining hall.

Area events: September 11-14@7:00 PM each evening: Gospel meeting at the West Amory Church of Christ with W. C. Edwards; September 30 beginning@9:30 AM: Ladies day at the Batesville Church of Christ.

Sermon In Preview:

AM: Modesty

PM: The Wisdom of God (1Corinthians 2)

For the Record (September 3, 2005):

Attendance: 64 Contribution: \$1345.00 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

(Part 2 of 2)

Chuck Northrop

Singing

In Hebrews 2:12, the writer of Hebrews quotes Psalms 22:22 to show that Christians are brethren with Christ. The writer testifies, "*Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.*" Within this quotation, please note that singing praise took place in the assembly. Paul instructed in Colossians 3:16, "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*" From these two passages we learn that there are two purposes in worshipping through song—praise and teaching.

Please remember that the Bible instructs us not to add to or take from it (Revelation 22:18-19) and not to go beyond what is written (1Corinthians 4:6 ASV). God's instruction is simply to sing. Therefore, we must not add to this simple instruction with mechanical instruments of music. The verse following Paul's instruction to the Christians in Colossae to sing reminds us of our responsibility to the authority of Christ. In Colossians 3:17 Paul wrote, "*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*"

Further, Paul instructed the church in Ephesus to "*be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*" (Ephesians 5:18-19). In this passage by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul commands a specific instrument to be used—the heart. *We must not substitute nor add to what God has instructed!* The music of the heart is "*the sacrifice of praise*" and "*the fruit of our lips*" (Hebrews 13:15) done unto the praise of God and the building up of one another.

Preaching

When the church gathered during the days of the apostles in the first century, they were instructed as to God's will for them. The instruction took two forms—preaching and reading scripture. The example in Acts 20:7

states, “*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.*” In Colossians 4:16 the Bible says, “*And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.*”

The Bible makes clear what the message of preachers should be. Notice the following verses:

“*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine*” (2Timothy 4:2).

“*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen*” (1Peter 4:11).

“*And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things*” (Romans 10:17).

From the previous verses, the message of preachers should be God’s divine word—the Bible. The message is not to be one of sociology or psychology to tickle the ears of men (2Timothy 4:3-4) but a message “*For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ*” (Ephesians 4:12).

The Lord’s Supper:

Before Jesus was crucified, He instituted the Lord’s Supper. Paul recorded the account in 1Corinthians 11:23-26:

“*For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: [24] And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. [25] After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. [26] For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.*”

Acts 20:7 says, “*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.*” Here, we learn that the church partook of the Lord’s Supper on the first day of the week as part of their assembly. The following will help us better understand the Lord’s Supper.

The Lord’s supper contains two elements—the bread and the fruit of the vine. Since the Jews were commanded not to have any leavening in their houses during the Jewish Passover and because the institution of the Lord’s supper took place during the Passover, we can be sure that it was

unleavened bread and unfermented grape juice. 1Corinthians 11:27-29 gives this warning concerning the Lord’s Supper,

“*Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. [28] But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. [29] For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.*”

The Lord’s Supper is:

- A Communion Feast: “*I delivered unto you*”
- A Symbolic Feast: “*this is my body...this is my blood*”
- A Memorial Feast: “*This do in remembrance of Me*”
- A Proclamation Feast: “*ye do show the Lord’s death...*”

The Collection:

In 1Corinthians 16:1-2 Paul proclaimed, “*Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.*” Because the command was given to Corinth as it was to the church of Galatia, we understand this to be a universal command for all churches. Since it was to be done on the first day of the week, we know that this was a part of their worship service. This is the only provision that God gives for the support of the church and its work. Fund raisers of any type are not authorized by God for the support of the work of the church. Paul also exhorted that the motive behind our giving should be one of cheerfulness. He wrote, “*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver*” (2Corinthians 9:7).

“LIVELY STONES”

Peter wrote to Christians saying “*Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ*” (1Peter 2:5). Thus, it is the responsibility of Christians “*to offer up spiritual sacrifices.*” Those sacrifices are Prayer, the Lord’s supper, the Collection, Singing, and Preaching. When they are done from the heart according to all that God has delivered unto us in His word, they are “*acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*” Anything other than what God has instructed whether done in sincerity or not, is rebellion toward God and unacceptable worship. Let us, therefore, worship God “*in spirit and in truth*” for He is the creator of all; He is worthy to be worshiped; and “*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*” (Hebrews 11:6).