

News & Notes

Sunday, February 11, 2007

Remember in Prayer: Alton Lee Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Jerry Bennett; Tommy Burns; Matthew Butterfield; John Clemmer; Vikie Cobb; Diane Cox; Lanell Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Jack Hopkins; Dale Johnson; Carolyn Jordan; Bill Kelly; Dot Ketchum; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Ruby Tapp; Wayne Tapp; Ron Tega; Kevin Steele; Calvin Ursery; Rosemary Wilson; Roger Winstead;

Pantry item for the month of February is cooking oil.

The next **elders' meeting** is today at 4:00 PM. If you have anything you would like to bring to their attention, please do so then.

Any **teenagers** interested in going to the area-wide youth meeting at Chapman this evening, please see Jeff Roberson.

Area Events: Today: The Chapman church of Christ will host an area-wide youth meeting. February 15th: The Tippah/Benton County chapter of the Freed-Hardeman University Associates will have their annual benefit dinner at the Beech Hill dining Hall.

Sermon in Preview: Spreading the Good News:

AM: Does Science Prove God?

PM: Alleged Problems with the Bible

For the Record (February 4, 2007):

Attendance: 57 Contribution: \$1195.00 Budget: \$1332.00

The Ashland Church of Christ

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Sunday:

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Worship 5:00 PM

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Shepherds:

Barney King
Carrol Street

spreading the Good News
Ashland Announcer

"GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS..." (MATTHEW 28:19)

Spreading the Good News Do I Really Know? — Evidences Jeremy Northrop

Once again, the day for us to focus on our theme for the year is upon us. Some of you may be thinking this is not the first Sunday of February and you are no doubt correct. So, why are we doing this today? I think I can answer that question. As you know, some of the teenagers and I were out of town last weekend which included the first Sunday in February. Todd Sanderson and Kelly Reed, both from Holly Springs, came and preached in my absence. We had a good time and a great spiritual feast while in east Tennessee. However, since I was out of town on the first Sunday of the month, then the elders and I chose to focus on our theme today — the second Sunday in February.

As you know, in 2007 we who are part of the Ashland church of Christ are focusing on spreading the good news taken from Matthew 28:18-20. Our plan for focusing on this theme is to prepare ourselves for evangelism during the first six months of 2007 and then to practice evangelism during the last six months of 2007. As you remember, last month we focused on some introductory lessons like building up the church, why put a theme like this in place, and our plan for spreading the good news in 2007. This month, we will begin preparing for evangelism and today we will focus on the subject of evidences. In our postmodern pluralistic culture, many are advocating that we all just accept one another regardless of religious background or differences of beliefs. While, biblically, there is some room for tolerance, there is not room for complete tolerance. Jesus certainly condemned people while on earth (see Matthew 23). Paul told us to be careful

of whom we keep company with (1Corinthians 5:9). The goal for us is to find the right standards and adhere to them.

Many today are questioning things like the existence of absolute truth, the deity of God and Christ, the validity of the Bible, and the resurrection of Christ. Christians are to "...always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" (1Peter 3:15). Thus, when people ask us why we believe what we believe, we need to be prepared to give an answer to the question. This is true when people ask us why we believe in God, in an absolute standard of right and wrong, or any other thing the Bible teaches. We must be ready to answer the questions which are asked of us. Today, as we begin this phase of preparing for evangelism, we focus on seeking out answers to questions in the realm of evidences. In our Bible class today we will examine the concept of truth and if we can know truth or not. Then, in our first sermon this morning, we will consider the realm of science and see if science proves God. Finally, in our sermon tonight, we will consider some of the alleged contradictions that people make toward the Bible. It promises to be a good day!

As we all live in this postmodern society, we find ourselves struggling with what has been referred to as classical apologetics. Many are not accepting the concept of absolute truth, the existence of God, or a whole host of other things. While the Christian should keep a quiver full of different tools to help others in their search for God and His word, classical apologetics certainly holds a place in religion today as well as in this pluralistic culture.

For example, the existence of God can be explained in several logical conclusive ways. Paul and the Psalmist used the design argument (Romans 1-2, Psalm 19). This simply says that design demands that there be a designer. When you and I look at a watch for example (this argument has been called 'the watchmaker argument'), we understand that someone or perhaps a group of people has designed that watch. There is a pattern to the work of that watch and the mechanics of that watch are not the product of an accident. So it is with the world in which we live. There is design and characteristics in the world which could not have been the product of an accident. For example, the human heart, the biosphere, and the laws of thermodynamics. Since these things

cannot be the products of an accident, but are obviously designed, then there must be a designer.

Further, since it is obvious that there is great design to the Bible, then there must be a Designer or Author to the Bible. Since the Bible is beyond human production, then it must be the product of God and not man. The Bible is also proved to be true because of its scientific accuracy, its historical accuracy, the fact that it has never been destroyed, and the fact that it cannot be proved wrong.

Also, there is the cause/effect argument for the existence of God. This simply says that creation implies God and therefore God exists. Life as we know cannot be logically explained by organic evolution because non-life cannot give way to life. Since the world implies God, then God must exist. Logic, reason, and the like are all a part of the God of the Bible. Unfortunately, many today want to abandon these ideals.

Then, there is the moral argument for the existence of God. This is closely related to the concept of human altruism which is something the evolutionist have a hard time explaining. If the moral conduct of a person can come under genuine criticism, it can only do so by referring to an absolute objective standard. Since human conduct has in the past come under criticism then an absolute objective standard exist (such as the nature of God). Things like the communism of the former Soviet Union, Pearl Harbor, and even September 11, 2001 have all received serious scrutiny because of their atrocities. People consider such to be wrong. Why? Because there is a standard by which these same people adhere which says they are wrong. Paul spoke of the same types of things in Romans 1.

While it has been only briefly discussed here, the fact is that the evidence proves not only the existence of God but also the fact that God has spoken to us through His word (Hebrews 11:1). We will spend more time discussing this throughout the day.

Of course, in the weeks and months ahead, we will dig deeper into this theme and examine such things as biblical authority, personal salvation and commitment, and the injunction to tell others the good news. However, before we get too far ahead of ourselves, let's sit back and enjoy the day but more than that, let's learn some important truths today so that we can better prepare ourselves to spread the good news.