

News & Notes

Sunday, March 11, 2007

Remember in Prayer: Alton Lee Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Ashely Anderson; Tommy Burns; Matthew Butterfield; Madelyn Clifton; Vikie Cobb; Diane Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Jack Hopkins; Dale Johnson; Carolyn Jordan; Bill Kelly; Dot Ketchum; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Ansley Ray; Garna Shaver; Jamie Spence; Kevin Steele; Ruby Tapp; Wayne Tapp; Ron Tega; Calvin Ursery; Rosemary Wilson; Roger Winstead; Kathlene Wommack;

Sympathy is extended to the family of Trucilla Spence.

Pantry item for the month of March is trash bags.

The next **elders' meeting** will be today at 4:00 PM.

Area events: March 16-17: The Lomax congregation in Hohenwald, Tennessee will host their annual youth rally; March 17: The Snowdown congregation in Booneville will have a ladies day with Cynthia Guy. March 18-21: The Chapman congregation will have a gospel meeting with William Woodson;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: Christ: Liar, Lunatic, or Lord?

PM: 1Corinthians: The Resurrection, Part 2 (15:35-58)

For the Record (March 4, 2007):

Attendance: 49 Contribution: \$1245.00 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



WHEN TRAGEDY HAPPENS

Garry L. Martin

We never know when tragedy is going to strike. When tragedy does happen we often start asking questions about life and death. We even begin questioning ourselves — asking if there was something we could have done. I have noticed people give wrong answers to others while they are grieving in order to help them get through their feeling of grief. Wrong answers will not provide solace for the future. Let us introduce our thought by consideration of this fact of truth...

“A man knows an event that took place in the past; and yet his knowledge cannot be viewed as causing the event to happen. God’s knowledge of the future is just like that, only covering a different period of time; **and his eternal knowledge of what will happen cannot be viewed as the cause of those future events, nor as imposing any responsibility upon God for their occurrence.** That Almighty God did actually know everything that would happen from all eternity is a fact totally beyond human comprehension, but the scriptural teaching of this fact is indisputable.” (Coffman Commentary on Ephesians) I would like to share the following verse with this thought –

“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” (Galatians 6:10)

God is a loving God and the tragedies in our lives often produce such a panic-stricken feeling that we do not know what to say or do while we are hurting. One thing I do know – God says -- **“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”**

(Romans 8:28) God will work out the best for all who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

Notice “ALL THINGS” work together... What does this mean? Again brother Coffman says, “ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD”... this includes all sufferings, sorrows, infirmities, and everything else of a discouraging and calamitous nature which might befall God's child on earth. "For good ..." cannot mean earthly prosperity, success, bodily health, or any other purely mortal benefit, but is rather a reference to the eternal well being of the soul. Whatever might happen to the Christian in this life, absolutely nothing can happen to HIM or HER, that is, his saved inner self. This is true because God is able to overrule every earthly circumstance in such a manner as to compel its contribution to the eternal redemption that awaits the children of God. As Brunner warned, No universal optimism is meant - (such as) everything will turn out all right for everybody in any case. There stands here the significant limitation, *to them that love God.*” (Coffman Commentary on Ephesians)

Let me end with this poem ... the author is unknown –

Birth is a beginning and death a destination
And life is a journey: from childhood to maturity
and youth to age;
From innocence to awareness and ignorance to knowing;
From foolishness to desecration and then perhaps to wisdom.
From weakness to strength or from strength to weakness
and often back again;
From health to sickness and we pray to health again.
From offense to forgiveness from loneliness to love
from joy to gratitude from pain to compassion
from grief to understanding from fear to faith.
From defeat to defeat to defeat until looking backwards or ahead
we see that victory lies not at some high point along the way
but in having made the journey step by step
a sacred pilgrimage.
Birth is a beginning and death a destination
And life is a journey;
A sacred journey to life everlasting.

Sharpening the Ax

Tom Moore

One man challenged another to an all-day wood chopping contest. The challenger worked very hard, stopping only for a brief lunch break. The other man had a leisurely lunch and took several breaks during the day. At the end of the day, the challenger was surprised and annoyed to find that the other fellow had chopped substantially more wood than he had. "I don't get it," he said. "Every time I checked, you were taking a rest, yet you chopped more wood than I did." "But you didn't notice," said the winning woodsman, "that I was sharpening my ax when I sat down to rest."

Spiritually speaking, if we would spend more time “sharpening our ax” – studying the word of God, we would accomplish much more in the kingdom of God. We can never do better than we know, and seldom do we do as well as we know. Remember, the Bible has given us all that pertains life and godliness (2Peter 1:3), we must have authority for all we do (Colossians 3:17), and it is by the inspired word of God that we will be judged (John 12:48). Thus, if we want to be effective for the Lord we must be about “sharpening our ax.” This is why Paul declared, “Give diligence [study - KJV] to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth” (2Timothy 2:15).