

## News & Notes

Sunday, March 25, 2007

**Remember in Prayer:** Alton Lee Alberson; Daryl Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Emma Bennett; Matthew Butterfield; Vikie Cobb; Diane Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Gwynn Curtis; Carolyn Jordan; Bill Kelly; Dot Ketchum; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Randy Roberson; James Smith; Jamie Spence; Kevin Steele; Tawana Stevens; Ruby Tapp; Wayne Tapp; Ron Tega; Calvin Ursery; Rosemary Wilson; Roger Winstead;

**Pantry item** for the month of March is trash bags.

**Ashland events:** The next elders' will be today at 4:00 PM; Tonight after services, we will have a pot-luck meal in the dining hall.

**Area events:** Beginning today: The Memphis School of Preaching will host their annual lectureship; March 31: The Bluff Road congregation in Coldwater will host Youth Symposium 2007; April 1-5: The Southaven congregation will have a gospel meeting with Brandon Britton.

### Sermon in Preview:

AM: Be Followers of Me (1Corinthians 11:1)

PM: Last-Sunday-of-the-Month Singing

### For the Record (March 18, 2007):

Attendance: 80    Contribution: \$1381.00    Budget: \$1326.00

### *The Ashland Church of Christ*

P. O. Box 25  
Ashland, MS 38603-0025

[www.ashlandcoc.org](http://www.ashlandcoc.org)

[acoc@ashlandcoc.org](mailto:acoc@ashlandcoc.org)

#### 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)

## “Self Examination”

Russ Earl

There are times when we all must go to the doctor for a physical examination. The doctor looks us over, checks our reflexes and various other things. We do this so that we may maintain good health.

In 1 Corinthians 11:28 we read, “*But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.*” We are warned here to examine ourselves, so that we do not partake of the Lord’s Supper in an unworthy manner. The idea of examining ourselves should be an act we all do on a regular basis. It is about more than taking the Lord’s Supper in a worthy manner. If we do not take the time to examine ourselves and correct the things that are wrong, then we will begin to crumble as Christians.

In 2 Corinthians 13:5 the Bible says, “*Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you...*”? We are to examine ourselves daily. This is often times more difficult than it sounds. We can be afraid of what things are brought to our mind.

The time we use to examine ourselves, however, can be a very important time. We can realize our errors, and we can slide them under the rug, letting the sin and error condemn us, or we can be humbled in repentance.

We can realize our faults and shortcomings and correct them. When the time comes upon us that we realize we are in sin is a time when a Christian will either “sink or swim.” If we choose to

repent of our sin and come back to Christ with a heart of repentance, we will remain in Christ.

This is how the growth of a Christian is accomplished. It is not accomplished by parading around with our noses in the air as if we are without sin. There are those who, when their sin is found out, quickly seek to justify themselves and brush off the wrong doing. However the Father does not simply “brush off” the sin, regardless of how small we may think it is.

We are told to “*test ourselves*” as to whether or not we are in the faith. When many hear these words, they are stricken with fear. It is a terrifying thought to come to the realization that we may be in the wrong. However, what many fail to realize is that this is the whole purpose of self examination. When we realize our faults, we can REPENT of them and be back in the right with God.

Sadly, there are those who seem as if they would rather live in torments, than to admit they have sinned or to feel embarrassed of their sin. In 1 Corinthians 12:30 we read that “*For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep*” When we do not examine ourselves daily we become as *weak* or *sick* Christians. In verses 31 and 32, we read that if “*we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged,*” “*we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned WITH the world* (emphasis added R.E)”. When we examine ourselves, it is so that we may judge ourselves so when we realize our sins we may repent of them. No longer will we be “condemned with the world.”

As difficult as it may sound, self examination is something all Christians should actively be doing. Not so we can feel bad about ourselves or feel afraid to sit down and ask ourselves, “Am I living as a Christian?” We are to examine ourselves, so we may not be condemned as those in the world will be condemned. We judge our own actions, so we may not be judged.

Let us not be as the world, brushing off sin and searing our conscience with a hot iron. Instead, let us examine ourselves daily to whether we are “of the faith.” Self examinations can save the soul.

## “Confidence: Is it In You?”

Tim Childs

Confidence is important in every area of life. When we were young babies it was helpful as we took those first steps in learning to walk. If we lacked it, we preferred to crawl and perhaps did so a bit longer than others.

As an older child, upon receiving the first bicycle, again confidence became an issue as we learned to ride. For some in later years, there were training wheels that helped us keep our balance. Taking those wheels off could often be an agonizing decision for both child and parent.

In both of the examples above it becomes apparent there is a correlation between one’s experience and one’s confidence. If the experience is one that is good and positive, confidence grows stronger and there is encouragement to try another step. However, if there is serious failure initially, then one’s confidence takes flight as on the wings of a dove.

Confidence is so greatly needed in our spiritual lives, too. We should be interested in knowing whether the message falling upon our ears is truly from God. Is the speaker, or writer, speaking as the oracles of God? (1 Peter 4:11; 1 Thessalonians 2:13)

Upon determination the message is truly the message of God, confidence is needed in our hearts as we take those first steps in answering the call of the gospel. We need confidence that God will keep his promise in cleansing our sins and forgiving our unrighteousness upon our obeying the truth of the gospel. This is the biblical concept of being saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8). “Faith” that is dead is non-responsive; faith that is living is active, responsive and obedient to Jesus, the Lord and Master (James 2:20).

Our confidence in our Heavenly Father grows over time by the positive experiences we have in our walk with him. He is ever present at our side watching for our well-being and protecting us in times of spiritual danger. Hear the confidence expressed by one of Jesus’ apostles: “Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me” (Acts 27:25). It happened just as God said. To the brethren at Philippi he wrote with utmost confidence: “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19). Is it any wonder that within the pages of our hymnal may be found the tried and true lyrics: “God Will Take Care of You”? Because he will never leave us nor forsake us there is no reason to fear. Time and time again God has proven himself worthy of our confidence.