

News & Notes

Sunday, March 4, 2007

Remember in Prayer: Alton Lee Alberson; Tommy Alberson; 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; Jamie Spence; Ruby Tapp; Wayne Tapp; Ron Tega; Kevin Steele; 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 monthly **prayer meeting** will be today at 4:00 PM.

Area events: March 9: The East Main congregation in Tupelo will host a fund-raising dinner for the Memphis School of Preaching; 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.

Sermon in Preview: Spreading the Good News:

AM: What is Proper Religious Authority?

PM: Things that are Not Proper Religious Authority

For the Record (February 25, 2007):

Attendance: 71 Contribution: \$1037.00 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 What Do I Do? — Authority

Jeremy Northrop

How quickly the first Sunday of the month seems to creep up on us! It doesn't seem like that long ago, we were pausing to focus on our theme — spreading the good news — in February. Now, February has passed and March is here. Many good comments have been said about the theme that has been chosen for this year. Some are very excited about it and hope to improve their skills and be able to win more souls for Christ. We certainly hope such will happen. In this article, first, let's take a moment and review the things we have studied so far this year. Then, let's focus on our topic chosen for today. Finally, let's look at the future and notice the things we will be studying in the months ahead.

We have divided our study this year into two parts: First **preparing for evangelism** and then second, **practicing evangelism**. Way back in January, we began our study for the year by focusing on some introductory lessons. In our class that day, we had a lesson entitled *Building up the Church*. Then, in our sermon that Sunday morning, we answered the question of why spread the good news. Finally, in our sermon that Sunday evening, we laid out the plan that we have put into place this year that will help us to spread the good news. The day was a good day and a great kick-off to our theme for the year.

Last month, we focused on the topic of evidences. We discussed in our class the concept of truth. After all, Jesus said, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Specifically, we discussed the concept of the existence of absolute truth. Unfortunately, we live in a day where more and more people are denying the existence of absolute truth and thereby denying

Christianity and the God of the Bible. The fact is that absolute truth does exist and if anyone denies such, the proposition is, in and of itself, a contradiction. In our sermons that day, we discussed the probability of science proving God and answered some questions that evening concerning some alleged contradictions with the Bible. The Bible is perfect in all its ways and proves to be the book that it claims to be.

Today, we are going to move our study to the concept of authority. Many accept the Bible to be real but then do not interpret it in the same way as other people. Does God simply accept all the many different ways that have been set forth to interpret the Bible? How does the Bible authorize us to do things? How is the Bible inspired of God? These important questions need to be answered if the brotherhood will have the religious unity which Christ prayed for in John 17. In our sermon this morning we will discuss what is proper religious authority. Jesus said in our theme text, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). Then, while this will not be an exhaustive study by any means, there are in our world today many places people go to establish religious authority. Tonight, we will discuss some of the more prominent ideas people have for religious authority. Many people turn to such things as feelings, creed books, religious leaders, and a myriad of other things. Why are these things not proper religious authority?

We know that the Bible is proper religious authority because

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2Timothy 3:16-17).

Further, we know that the Bible has all that we need because Peter said it "His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2Peter 1:3). Finally, we know that anything that comes from man is not of any value. Paul warned the Galatians not to leave the gospel that has called them with emphatic language:

"I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are

some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:6-9).

As one person correctly said, if the creeds of man give us more than what the Bible says, they are too much; if they give us less than what the Bible says, they are not enough; if they give us exactly what the Bible says, they are unnecessary because we already have the Bible. We therefore, understand that the Bible alone is proper religious authority and anything else it not.

It is little wonder then that Paul exhorted Timothy to "preach the word" (2Timothy 4:2). He did not want Timothy to give fables or what made the people feel good but rather Bible. Today, we need to demand book, chapter, and verse in our pulpits. We need to make sure that what we read from a religious standpoint is Bible-based. We need to make sure we are studying the Bible in our Bible-classes. Finally, we need to make sure that we compare everything we hear with the Bible (Psalm 119:11, Acts 17:11). When such is accomplished, then we will grow and teach others.

In the months ahead, we will study salvation, commitment, and purpose which will all finish our first phase for the year. Then, in July, we will begin our second phase or **practicing evangelism** and study such things as knowledge, courage, audience, work, and habit. Finally, in December, we will bring it all together with some concluding lessons. All of that is to come. But, before we get too far ahead of ourselves, we want to sit back and enjoy today learning more about God so that we can teach others more about God. Focus on the lessons today with the thought of being able to teach someone else.

Matthew 28:18-20, "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen."