

News & Notes

Sunday, April 1, 2007

Remember in Prayer: Alton Lee Alberson; Daryl Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Vikie Cobb; Diane Cox; Melba Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Gwynn Curtis; Carolyn Jordan; Bill Kelly; Dot Ketchum; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Jamie Spence; Kevin Steele; Ruby Tapp; Wayne Tapp; Ron Tega; Calvin Ursery;

Pantry item for the month of April is Clorox.

The **'We Care' list** in posted in the foyer. Please update any changes you need to make.

Ashland events: The next periodic singing at Briarcrest Extended Care will be today at 4:15 PM; April 22: Homecoming with Nathan Guy;

Area events: Beginning today: The Southaven congregation will have a gospel meeting with Brandon Britton. April 20: The Alcorn county Freed-Hardeman associates will host a benefit dinner at the Foote Street church building in Corinth;

Sermon in Preview: Spreading the Good News:

AM: What Must I Do to Be Saved?

PM: Is Baptism Really Necessary?

For the Record (March 25, 2007):

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

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
First Thing First — Salvation
Jeremy Northrop

Again it is the first Sunday of the month and we will turn our attention to our theme for the year — spreading the good news — taken from Matthew 28:18-20. As we usually do, in this edition of the bulletin, we will review some of the things we have studied in reference to this theme, focus on our study for the day, and finally look ahead to the future and notice our plans for the weeks and months ahead.

As you most likely remember, January was reserved for some introductory lessons to our theme for the year. We discussed what spreading the good news is, why we need to spread the good news, and the plan that we have put in place to help us prepare to spread the good news in 2007. We divided our study into two phases for the year: first, we are going to prepare for evangelism and then we will practice evangelism. Finally, in December, we will bring all of our lessons together with some concluding lessons. Of the five months that we have dedicated to preparing for evangelism, we are in the third month. In the past two months, we have focused on evidences proving God and His word to be real and authoritative in which we discussed how the Bible authorizes and what is and what is not proper religious authority.

Believe it or not, there is a method to my madness (I know that some of you who know me do not believe that at all!). Now that we have proven God and His word to be genuine and then shown how the Bible does and does not authorize, the next logical step in my mind is to make sure that we ourselves have responded to the good news in a good way. So today, we will focus on the topic of

salvation. There are two reasons that I want to do this: first, we must make sure that we are saved before we convince anyone else they need to be saved. Second, it reminds us of the gospel or the good news. It makes us familiar again with exactly what the good news is. The greatest message of the Bible is the fact that it can save men from their sin. Several passages show us that God wants us to be saved and has provided a way in which we can be saved:

John 3:16-17, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

2Peter 3:9, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

1Timothy 2:4, God ... “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

John 8:31-32, “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’”

Luke 19:10, “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

God wants us to be saved, sent His Son so that we could be saved, and worked out a plan of obedience so that we can be saved. He has done His part. Now we have to make sure we do our part.

One of the greatest messages of the New Testament is the fact that we can indeed have assurance. Some people hope they might be saved. Others wonder if they are saved. The Bible has told us that we can know we are saved. The book of 1John gives great insight into this topic of assurance. John said in 1John 1:7, “But if

we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” 1John 3:20 is also helpful: “For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.”

The Bible also tells us that there is something man must do in order to be saved. Contrary to what some might advocate, God does not simply save people at His own whim or desire. While He certainly wants all people to be saved, He will not simply save all people. Each individual person must do something. Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15). He also made the point clear that all would not be saved when He said, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

Further, the Bible is clear what one must do in order to be saved. First, one must hear the word of God (Romans 10:17). Then, one must believe the word which they have heard (Hebrews 11:7). Third, one must repent of their sin (Acts 17:30). Then, one must confess Jesus (Acts 8:37). One must be baptized (Acts 2:38). Finally, one must live a faithful life (Acts 14:22).

One of the more pressing issues troubling God’s people today is the issue of baptism. Some will claim it to be a ritualistic act that is not necessary today. They might even claim the thief on the cross was saved without being baptized. The problem is the person who reasons in such a way is not taking into account the fact that Jesus Himself saved the thief and died under the old law. The Bible makes it clear in so many passages that baptism is necessary not the least of which is Mark 16:15-16: “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.’”

Are you saved? Have you made sure your own soul is saved before you try to teach anyone else?

Of course, in the months ahead, we will study other topics like commitment, knowledge, and work. It will prove to be a good year if the Lord wills. Today, we learn the gospel — the good news — the salvation of mankind.