

News & Notes

Sunday, April 15, 2007

Remember in Prayer: Alton Lee Alberson; Daryl Alberson; Mary Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Vickie Cobb; Diane Cox; Melba Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Gwynn Curtis; Carolyn Jordan; Jacob Gamblin; Bill Kelly; Dot Ketchum; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Shirley Rhodes; Chris Spence; 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** is posted in the foyer. Please update any changes you need to make.

Ashland events: Today: The elders want to meet with the ladies at 4:00 PM; April 22: Homecoming with Nathan Guy;

Area events: April 20: The Alcorn county Freed-Hardeman associates will host a benefit dinner at the Foote Street church building in Corinth; April 29: Spring Bring Sunday at Chapman;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: The Church (Matthew 16:13-20)

PM: 2Corinthians: The Penitent Must be Forgiven (2)

For the Record (April 8, 2007):

Attendance: 90 Contribution: \$1194.00 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



Is Dancing A Work Of The Flesh?

Gary Colley

Each year there seems to arise the need to give scriptural teaching concerning dancing and its evils. Parents must meet the questions of their young people; young people must have answers for themselves and their friends on the question.

It is very important that we know what the works of the flesh are, as well as "such like" things that are mentioned in God's Word. Because, "that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:21). The words "world" and "flesh" are often used in the Bible to mean evil or worldliness, and thus it does in Galatians 5:19-21.

Is dancing a work of the flesh? The list of words that show us the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21 are uncleanness, lasciviousness, and revellings. There are other words given, but these apply directly to the subject of dancing.

1. **Uncleanness** is from the Greek word AKATHARSIA, which is defined: "lewdness, impurity of motive, the impurity of lustful, luxurious profligate living." This word is also found in Romans 1:24; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Ephesians 4:19; 1 Thessalonians 4:7 (Thayer's Lexicon).

2. **Lasciviousness** is from the Greek word ASELGEIA, which is defined: "intemperance, lasciviousness, licentiousness, wantonness; indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females" (Thayer's Lexicon).

3. **Revellings** is from the Greek word KOMOI, which is defined: "a jovial feast with music and dancing; a carousal, a festive lascivious feasting" (Liddel and Scott Greek Lexicon).

We should not need scholars to explain to us that the modern dance is included in the three words defined above. We can see that the 'such like' of Galatians 5:21 does include the dance. No Christian, striving to live so as to please his Heavenly Father, should participate nor allow those under his care and guidance to be a participant in the modern dance. The Bible condemns it as wrong and evil work.

Yet, if there were no such book as the Bible, it seems one should be convinced of the destructive and dangerous nature of the dance simply by studying the reports of sociologists on the evil results of dancing. The fondling and embracing in dancing is proven to do great damage. Certainly no good thought or noble thing has ever come from dancing.

Christians cannot dance and abstain from every form of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22), for dancing is evil! Neither can we keep ourselves unspotted from the world and deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, for ungodliness and worldly lusts are found in the dance (Titus 2:11-12).

The dance belongs to the world. The Christians belongs to Christ. Let us not then jeopardize our own soul's salvation and the salvation of those we might influence by participating in the modern dance! May God help each of us to so live that Heaven may be our home.

Who Started the Church of Christ?

Virgil L. Hale

Some have charged the church of Christ had its beginning with the Campbells, who came to the United States in the early 1800's. Documentary research of Dr. Robinson, principle of Overdale College in Birmingham, England, shows the following: "In the Furness District of Lancashire, in North West England, there existed in 1669, during the reign of Charles II, a group of eight churches of Christ. Most of them are not now in existence. An old minute-book has been found on the year 1669, and it shows that

they called themselves by the name of the church of Christ, practiced baptism by immersion, celebrated the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day, and had elders and deacons. There was also a church of Christ in Dungannon, Ireland in 1804 and in Allington, Dengigshire. In 1735, John Davis, a young preacher in the Fife District of Scotland was preaching New Testament Christianity, twenty-five years before Thomas Campbell (Alexander Campbell's father) was born."

The church of Christ was promised by Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:18), began on Pentecost (Acts 2:38), and has existed since that day (Daniel 2:44)!

In view of the above, how can anyone honestly accuse us of following a man, Alexander Campbell? There are some, who because of prejudice, refer to us members of the Lord's church as "Campbellites." Those who do so know better, but they are really just promoting what they have heard their ancestors say. There is not a doctrine or practice, engaged in by the Lord's church that originated with Alexander Campbell or any other man.

Anywhere in this world that people follow the teaching of Christ, found in the New Testament, they are a congregation of the New Testament church. After all, He left us a book of instructions plain enough to be followed. If we follow it as we would any other blueprint, we will be what He wants us to be. We claim to be nothing more or less than the New Testament church, and we challenge anyone to prove differently.

When I hear people use the term "Campbellite," I tell them that I have never met anyone who wears that name. In fact, I let it be known that I would like to meet such a person and find out what they believe and practice. However, I make it clear that if such people exist, they are wrong religiously, because they are following a man rather than following the Lord.

It should be clear to all sensible-thinking people, that if we all follow the Bible, we will all be teaching and practicing the same thing. In fact, we will all be simply "Christians" — nothing more, nothing less, and nothing else. Is this not what our Lord prayed for in John chapter 17? Surely it is!