

News & Notes

Sunday, April 29, 2007

Remember in Prayer: Alton Lee Alberson; Daryl Alberson; Mary Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Ashley Bryant; Vickie Cobb; Diane Cox; Melba Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Gwynn Curtis; Carolyn Jordan; Bill Kelly; Dot Ketchum; Sam Kidd; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Hadie Pickens; Shirley Rhodes; Stanley and Diana Shaver; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Kevin Steele; Ruby Tapp; Wayne Tapp; Ron Tega; Calvin Ursery;

Sympathy is extended to the family of Carolyn Jordan.

Pantry item for the month of April is Clorox.

If you would like to help with **Vacation Bible School**, please see Sam Ford or Jeff Roberson.

Ashland Events: Today: Fellowship meal tonight after services.

Area events: Beginning today: Lectureship at the Coffeerville church of Christ; Today: *Spring Bring Sunday* at the Chapman church of Christ;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: The Lord's Supper

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

For the Record (April 22, 2007):

Attendance: 92 Contribution: \$1477.00 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)

What Leads to Denominationalism?

Part 1 of 3

Chuck Northrop

As Christians, we must recognize and realize we must always be on guard against the wiles of the devil. Peter wrote in 1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." If we are not sober, if we are not vigilant, the devil will devour us. Along the same lines, Paul penned these words: "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13). On a number of occasions, Paul characterized Christians as soldiers. One of the fundamental and primary purposes of soldiers is to be on guard. If they fail to be on guard, the enemy will overtake them. So, it is with Christians. If the church of Christ is not on guard against the wiles of the devil, the Lord's church will fall prey to his schemes and will become just another denomination. So, how can we be on guard? How can we avoid going into apostasy and becoming a denomination? First, we must guard our attitudes. In order for the devil to draw the Lord's church into denominationalism, the tempter tempts Christians with certain attitudes which become an effective foundation to lead disciples away. What are some of these attitudes?

AN ATTITUDE OF A LACK OF RESPECT TOWARDS GOD AND HIS WORD. Jesus in answering the first temptation of the tempter said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the

mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). If man is going to live, he or she will live because of God. This is true whether we are speaking of physical or spiritual life. The life of man is one hundred percent dependent upon God. Without Him, we would not be. Yet, so many in the world have a lack of respect towards God and His word. Sadly, this is also true with some Christians. Such a lack of respect will lead the church of Christ into denominationalism.

AN ATTITUDE OF LAZINESS. In Acts 17:11, Luke recorded the nobility of the Bereans when he wrote, “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” What was the real difference between the noble Bereans as opposed to the ignoble Thessalonians? Two things: First, they received the word, and second, they searched the scriptures daily. They were not lazy by simply accepting the teaching of others but searched the scriptures for themselves. As Christians, we are responsible for what we hear (Mark 4:24) and how we hear (Luke 8:18). Paul exhortation was more than a suggestion. Remember his exhortation? 2 Timothy 2:15 says, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” The lazy, lethargic, and lackadaisical attitude of some Christians will lead the church of Christ into denominationalism.

AN ATTITUDE OF FEAR. While Jesus taught in the temple, the chief priests and elders asked Him, “By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?” Jesus responded by asking them a question, “The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men?” They reasoned among themselves, and a part of their reasoning was based upon their fear of the people (Matthew 21:23-27). In part, fear lead to their denial of truth. On another occasion, Jesus said, “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28). With these thoughts, it is little wonder

why “the fearful” are placed in a list with the unbelieving, abominable, murderers, whoremongers, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, who “shall have part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone” (Revelation 21:8). Such an attitude of fear will lead the church of Christ into denominationalism.

AN ATTITUDE OF COVETOUSNESS. Paul warned of some “who suppose that godliness is a means of gain” (1 Timothy 6:5 NKJV). Sadly, there are some preachers (if you could call them preachers) who will tickle ears to make a buck (2 Timothy 4:3). Also just as sadly, there are some elders and members who will allow false teaching to keep a good contributor from leaving. Thus, the almighty dollar has more influence than Almighty God and His word. It is no wonder why Paul wrote, “For the love of money is the root of all evil...” (1 Timothy 6:10). This was one of the practices that corrupted Judah of old. Micah recorded, “The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the Lord, and say, Is not the Lord among us? none evil can come upon us” (Micah 3:11). Such an attitude of covetousness will lead the church of Christ into denominationalism.

AN ATTITUDE TO PLEASE MEN. Recently while teaching on the role of women, one young brother pointed out that such teaching will upset people and cause them to leave. If the method of teaching causes some to leave, then woe to that man who will not teach the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). However, if God’s word offends, then woe unto them who will not allow themselves to be instructed by God. Galatians 1:10 is certainly applicable. “For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.” An attitude of pleasing men will lead the church of Christ into denominationalism. Once these and other attitudes are in place, the devil will have free reign and will lead the Lord’s church into becoming a church among churches with little concern for truth. Let us be sober! Let us be vigilant! Let us be on guard against the wiles of the devil.