

News & Notes

Sunday, June 10, 2007

Remember in Prayer: Daryl Alberson; Mary Alberson; Steve Alberson; Emma Bennett; Vikie Cobb; Diane Cox; Melba Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Gwynn Curtis; Janie Hurt; Robert Joshlry; Dot Ketchum; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Shirley Ortiz; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Ruby Tapp; Ron Tega; Wayne Tapp; Calvin Ursery; Nancy Griffin Wamack; Alvie Williford;

Pantry item for the month of June is frosting.

Special thanks Sam Ford, Jeff Roberson and to all others who had a hand in our Vacation Bible School. Things went smoothly and attendance was good all week.

Ashland events: Today: Elders' meeting at 4:00 PM.

Area events: Beginning today: Vacation Bible School at the Beech Hill church of Christ; June 17-22: Gospel meeting at the Ripley church of Christ; June 22: The Danville church of Christ will host their sixth annual gospel singing;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: Lessons from Little Creatures (Proverbs 30:24-28)

PM: 2Corinthians: Heaven: The Motivation for Paul's Ministry (5)

For the Record (June 3, 2007):

Attendance: 77 Contribution: \$1286.00 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)

A Good Soldier of Jesus Christ

Chuck Northrop

As Paul wrote his last letter, he encouraged Timothy to endure hardship. He said, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier" (2 Timothy 2:3,4). The concept expressed by the apostle is "suffer hardship with me." Persecution was rampant as Paul was imprisoned, and Timothy needed to endure persecution while he labors for the gospel.

In the first epistle to Timothy, Paul exhorted the young evangelist to "war the good warfare" (1 Timothy 1:18). The apostle, then, speaks of how one must do this. The Christian who wars the good warfare must not be involved with the affairs of this life in such a way as to take priority over the affairs of living as a Christian. What is really important in life is not what most people pursue which are the things of this world. What is really important are those treasures which our Lord spoke of when He said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19-21). Wise Solomon realized the things "under the sun" (things of this life) are "vanity of vanities." Therefore as Christians, we should pursue those things that will last throughout eternity and not those things that will be destroyed at our Lord's second coming (2 Peter 3:10).

It is true that we live in the world, and there are some things about which we must be concerned. These things, however, are not to take priority over our soldiering! Remember it was Jesus who said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33). God will take care of our necessities if we will put Him first in our lives! When we take a close look at our lives, we realize what we think are real problems are not the necessities of life, but those things beyond necessities — the luxuries of life. Luxuries seem to blur our vision of what is really important.

The good soldier makes the soldier’s sacrifice in order to “please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” The rewards of this sacrifice are found in verse 10, “Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.” By being a good soldier, one will both save himself, “and them that hear thee” (1 Timothy 4:16).

We noticed four most basic points as to the good soldier of Jesus Christ. First, the good soldier must endure hardship. We are in a battle, and with any battle, hardship must be endured. Second, the good soldier must not be so involved in the affairs of this life that he cannot “war the good warfare.” Third, the good soldier strives to please his commanding officer, the one who leads our ranks — Christ Jesus. Fourth, the good soldier will receive a reward if he will continue in faithful service. That reward is salvation in Christ with eternal glory. The reward is worth the war!

“I Was Glad”

Bill McFarland

Two basic facts about the assembling of the Lord’s people stand out in the Scriptures. First, the Lord’s people cannot do without the strength they gain from meeting together (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Second, they are to look upon the opportunity to assemble as one of their happiest privileges. As David said, “I was glad when they said unto me, let us go unto the house of the Lord” (Psalm 122:1).

1. We can develop a better attitude toward assembling. Christians should view their assembling together in family terms. We meet to express our love and devotion to our Father, as well as to urge our brothers on in love and good works. There are no moments on earth more precious to people who expect to spend eternity together in God’s household than those moments spent together in worship. May we therefore anticipate worship time with joyful gladness.
2. We can prepare ourselves for the assembly. One who approaches this opportunity with his mind soured by an argument with his mate or by a gripe against a brother will almost certainly miss the joy of the occasion. Why not be ready for the assembly in plenty of time and prepare yourself with a sincere prayer before you leave home? Enter the meeting house with a glad heart and a smile on your face. You will be making the assembly more uplifting to yourself and to your brethren.
3. We can all participate in the worship service. There are some good reasons why an atmosphere of gladness grows when each individual participates. One is that the individual gets more out of it himself. Another is that the fellow next to him is encouraged to join in. A third is that God is pleased, for He requires that each person offer his own worship. Your involvement will bring vitality to our assemblies.

Our assemblies together are important. They have an impact on the spiritual lives of our brothers and they make an impression on our neighbors (cf. 1 Corinthians 14:23,26). Let’s make them occasions of gladness.