

## News & Notes

Sunday, July 1, 2007

**Remember in Prayer:** Daryl Alberson; Mary Alberson; Steve Alberson Vikie Cobb; Diane Cox; Melba Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Gwynn Curtis; Lettie Mae Hunt; Janie Hurt; Dot Ketchum; Tate King; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Rob Norman; Forrest and Cindy Phelps; Katherine Shaw; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Ruby Tapp; Ron Tega; Calvin Ursery; Nancy Griffin Wamack; Mike Westmoreland; Alvie Williford;

**Special thanks** to Cindy Walker and others for the new bulletin board.

**Pantry item** for the month of July is Velveeta.

**Ashland events:** Today: Prayer meeting at 4:00 PM; July 15-19: Evangelism Seminar with Don Underwood;

**Area events:** July 8-12: Gospel meeting at the Tiplersville church of Christ; July 15-18: Vacation Bible School at the Chapman church of Christ;

### Sermon in Preview: Spreading the Good News

AM: Do I Know Enough to be Saved? (Jeremy Northrop)

PM: Guest Speaker: Tyler Roberson

### For the Record (June 24, 2007):

Attendance: 79    Contribution: \$923.00    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

### Do I Need to Study Some More? — Knowledge

Jeremy Northrop

It is hard to believe but once again the first Sunday of the month is upon us and as is our tradition, we will devote our time today to the study of our theme — spreading the good news. This, of course, is taken from the great commission given by Jesus Himself in Matthew 18:18-20. There, the Bible says,

“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.”

So far this year, we have studied such topics as evidences, authority, salvation, commitment, and purpose. All of this has been under the broad heading of preparing for evangelism. Today, we will begin the second phase of our study this year — practicing evangelism. In this part, we will learn about such topics as knowledge, courage, audience, work, and habit formation. Specifically, today we will learn what the Bible says about knowledge. This will kick off the second part of our theme this year. Later this month, we will be having an evangelism seminar. Brother Don Underwood from Bakersfield, California will be teaching us about evangelism and how to practice evangelism.

It has often been said that the Bible never instructs the children of God to pray for knowledge, just for wisdom. Further, we certainly live in a culture where ignorance is accepted and those who do not accept it are somewhat shunned. Certainly, it is true that everyone is ignorant about some things. Ignorance is simply not knowing and all of us do not know about some things. Unfortunately, many are accepting the idea that as long as we do not know about certain matters in religion, we will not be held accountable. This mind-set has caused some to conclude that the Bible does not say anything about knowledge.

What does the Bible say about knowledge? Let's see:

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:7).

“How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge” (Proverbs 1:22).

“But as you abound in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us--see that you abound in this grace also” (2Corinthians 8:7).

“...His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue...” (2Peter 1:3).

“...but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen” (2Peter 3:18).

This is just a small sampling of the verses in the Bible which mention knowledge. Further, the Bible teaches us that ignorance of God's will is not an acceptable excuse for not doing God's will (Romans 1:20-21). This means that we better know God's will if we are going to be acceptable to God. The only way to know

God's will is to study it. It is no wonder Paul said, “Be diligent [‘study’ – KJV] to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2Timothy 2:15). David declared, “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!” (Psalm 119:11).

Often times, people use ignorance as an excuse for not practicing evangelism. The person will say something to effect of “I just do not know what to say” or “I don't know how to answer their questions.” These excuses (and they are just ‘excuses’!) are going to be the focus of our study today. In our class this morning we will talk about some characteristics of servants. Paul said in 2Timothy 2:24, “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient.” The implication (or really the direct statement) is clear: If we are going to be servants of the Lord, then we must be able to teach. If we do not teach, we are not proper servants of God. If we do not know how to teach, then we had better be learning how to teach!

In our sermon this morning, we will be answering the question, “Do I Know Enough to be Saved?” For those of us who have been saved, the answer had better be ‘Yes.’ And if we know enough to be saved, then we know enough to teach someone else. If nothing else, we can teach them about salvation. It is true that many do not practice evangelism because they are afraid they will not have all the answers to the questions they are asked. Here is the facts: we will never know everything. Therefore, we had better teach what we do know. Not to mention, a lot of time we will learn more ourselves when we prepare to teach others. One good example is Paul. Very quickly after he learned the truth, he was teaching others (Acts 9:18-22).

Brother Tyler Roberson will be bringing the lesson tonight as I will be with the teenagers at *Horizons*. Because of his newness to the pulpit, I did not ask him to present a lesson in conjunction with our theme but rather one with which he will be comfortable. Let's all encourage Tyler as he strives to proclaim God's truth. I am confident he will do a good job.

Most of all, the time has come to stop preparing and start doing. Therefore, let us all resolve to practice evangelism in our day-to-day lives and stop making excuses. People's souls are in the balance. Let's do what we can.