

News & Notes

Sunday, September 2, 2007

Remember in Prayer: Daryl Alberson; Steve Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Lynn Bridges; Vikie Cobb; Diane Cox; Melba Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Charles Johnson; Carrol Holmes; Lettie Mae Hunt; Dot Ketchum; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Shirley Ortiz; Forrest Phelps; Ann Ray; Judy Robbins; Katherine Shaw; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Ron Tega; Calvin Ursery; Nancy Griffin Wamack; Alvie Williford;

Sympathy is extended to the family of Kathleen Wammack.

Pantry item for the month of September is spaghetti sauce.

Ashland events: Today: Singing at Briarcrest Extended Care at 4:15 PM;

Area events: September 8: Men's day at the North Green Street church of Christ in Tupelo; September 9: Youth night at the Beech Hill church of Christ; September 10: FHU Associates meeting at Shirley's Restaurant in Ripley at 6:00 PM;

Sermon in Preview: Spreading the Good News

AM: Do What They Did; Get What They Got!

PM: The Second Mandate

For the Record (August 26, 2007):

Attendance: 99 Contribution: \$1434.00 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

Who Do I Need to Evangelize? — Audience

Jeremy Northrop

It is once again the first Sunday of the month and we want to devote our time today to our theme for the year. As usual, we want to take the first part of this article and review some of the things we have studied. In January (that is way too far back there now, I know), we began our theme for the year with some introductory lessons. Our theme, of course, comes from Matthew 28:18-20 which reads

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.

We made January a purpose month answering the question of why we want to spread the good news and then used our evening lesson as a medium to see our plans for the year.

Beginning in February, we focused on the first phase of our study — preparing for evangelism. Thus each month beginning in February, we focused on such themes as evidences, authority, salvation, commitment, and purpose. All of this was with the goal in mind of making sure we ourselves are right with God and understand our own salvation before we begin to share it with others. It proved to be a good way to begin our focus on the study of spreading the good news.

Then, beginning in July, we moved to the focus of practicing evangelism. July served as the kick-off for this phase of our study so our evangelism seminar was planned accordingly. We discussed knowledge in July with specific topics of what a servant of the Lord will do and we answered the question of whether we know enough to be saved. Of course, if we know enough to be saved and have done so, then we know enough to teach someone else.

Last month, we discussed the last phrase of the great commission: "...I, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." We tied this phrase into the topic of courage. Some have expressed fear and anxiety as reasons for not practicing evangelism. Jesus tells us we have nothing to fear for He is with us. A lack of fear is really a lack of faith. So, we focused on the idea of growing faith like Peter talks about in 2Peter 1:5-11. The obvious result of growing genuine faith will be that we will no longer have fear and anxiety.

Whew! That review gets longer and longer every month but that is okay. Review is good and being reminded of things will help us in our goal. This brings us to our plans for today. The book of Acts serves for us today as a model for practicing evangelism. Thus, it is fitting that we take the time to review and learn some things from the book of Acts today. This will be the focus of our study in class. (By the way, if you are reading this and you missed class today, then seriously give some thought to developing a habit to come to Bible class on Sunday. I think you will find that you will greatly benefit if you do.) We will take the outline from Acts 1:8 and slowly work through the book of Acts seeing what we can learn along the way.

Then, the title of our lesson this morning is "Do What They Did; Get What They Got!" As I mentioned earlier, the book of Acts serves as a model for us today to practice evangelism. The focus of our study in our sermon this morning will be to look at what they did in the book of Acts and what we are doing in the name of evangelism today. Then, we will analyze the differences and hopefully make any changes we need to make in order to better pattern ourselves after the church of the Bible. The truth is the church was growing by leaps and bounds throughout the book of Acts. This is interesting considering the church was under great persecution from the Roman Empire. One can see the church

growing in passages Acts 2:41, 4:4, 4:32, 5:14, 6:1 and on and on and on and on... Take the time sometime to read through the book of Acts in one sitting. You will find that it will not take long and you will be encouraged (just by reading) to go out and practice evangelism. Why did they grow so fast? There are probably many factors, some of which we would not be able to make good application of today. But there are some that we can certainly make application and we will examine what those are.

Tonight, we will take a look at some of the details of Matthew 28:18-20. Some of you may be thinking right now that this would have been a good introductory lesson to our theme for the year. Perhaps, you are correct but I chose to wait until now because I think these points will go well with our theme for the day, that of audience. I hope that by the end of the day, we will see that if we are going to practice genuine evangelism, then we are going to have to go and meet the lost. The saved have no reason for us to evangelize them. Further, Jesus tells us to go into all the world. We can practice evangelism across the streets or across the seas. What we cannot do is fail to practice evangelism. To do so puts our own souls in jeopardy.

Deep reflection and study of the great commission will lead one to the conclusion that the gospel alone will motivate. It will motivate people to do what is right and will motivate Christians to teach the lost. The gospel is the tool for evangelism. Paul would later talk about the gospel alone and that it is the gospel that needs to be preached (1Corinthians 9:16). Finally, the gospel is what saves. It is not the people who teach it. It is the pure gospel. This also means that a modified gospel will not do the job. All of this will be in our lesson tonight. It promises to be a good day.

After today, we only have three months of the year left. In October, we will focus on the theme of work discussing the and need to put forth a genuine effort. In November, we will discuss the theme of habit. In the lessons that day, we will talk about ways in which we can build habits and, specifically, habits of practicing evangelism. Then, in December, we will bring it all together with some lessons of review and conclusion. But, before we get too far ahead of ourselves, let's sit back and enjoy the day. Even better, let's make it a point to put into practice the things we learn today so that we are *spreading the good news*.