

News & Notes

Sunday, September 30, 2007

Remember in Prayer: Daryl Alberson; Steve Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Mike Carter; Vikie Cobb; Melba Cox; Charles Johnson; Aubrey Huey; Lettie Mae Hunt; Dot Ketchum; Sherry Lawrence; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Sue Moody; Diane Mize; Forrest Phelps; Ann Ray; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Ruby Tapp; Rural Tapp; Ron Tega; Calvin Ursery; Joan Wilkerson; Alvie Williford;

Sympathy is extended to the family of Sallie Etta Crawford.

Pantry item for the month of September is spaghetti sauce.

Ashland Events: Today: Pot-luck meal after evening service;

Area events: September 27-October 3: *Gospel Extravaganza* at the Terry Street church of Christ in Ripley; October 5: The Tippah-Benton County Freed-Hardeman University Associates annual spaghetti supper will be at 3:30 to 6:30 PM at the Tippah County fairgrounds; October 6: Ladies day at Chapman church of Christ in Ripley, Mississippi.

Sermon in Preview:

AM: Current Concerns: Stem Cell Research
PM: Last-Sunday-of-the-Month Singing

For the Record (September 23, 2007):

Attendance: 79 Contribution: \$130.00 Budget: \$1326.00

The Ashland Church of Christ

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Sunday:

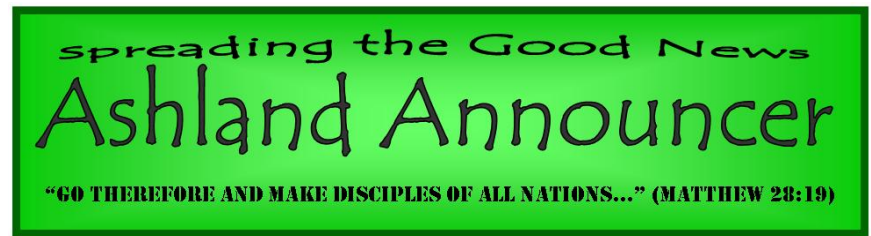
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 5:00 PM

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Shepherds:

Barney King
Carrol Street



The Necessities

Russ Earl

There are things that are necessary to grow physically: exercise, food, water, etc. There are also things that we need if we are to grow spiritually: knowledge, love, understanding, patience and so on. If we are to help the church that Christ built grow we must use the talents with which we were given.

Are talents must be used because they are necessary for us and others to grow. How can one help others grow, help the church grow if they are unwilling to use their talents? No talent is too small or viewed as odd when it comes to doing what is necessary in growth. No matter if it be song leading, or serving on the Lords table, even preaching all are talents should and must be used because they are NECESSARY. Why must we use are talents?

First is because its only logical to do so, as we see in Romans 12:1, it is foolish to think that we would present our bodies to God without showing what the body can do!

Second because we care about the lost souls in the world. It is unbearable to think someone would stand by and let someone die without doing everything to save that life. How can one stand by as life after life goes to hopeless end without doing everything possible? Can we live with ourselves if we don't use our talents to save the lost?

Third, we should want to use our talents because we love the Lords church. Christ loved the church enough to die for it.

Certainly, we can live for it. Every talent that a Christian has ought to be looked upon as belonging to the church. If we truly love the Lord's church then what hinders us from using our talents. Too many times individuals who are very talented in their daily lives, come with little to offer for the church. It shouldn't be this way!

Another reason for using our talents or abilities is our reverence for God. Too often individuals become proud of their actions when they have no reason or right to be so arrogant. However, they do have the right to be appreciative. We should remember the attitude of the Israelites in Deuteronomy 8:17 and not be as they were.

The fifth reason to use our talents is that it is our personal responsibility. Just because others may have greater talents in some areas does not release us from the responsibility of doing our part.

The final reason for using our talents is that in using them we perfect them. The idea of use it or lose it holds true: Practice makes perfect. We must use our talents so that we can improve even more and become of even more use to the Lord's church.

However, when using our talent or talents, we must use them in the work is for the Lord's church and not otherwise, for it would be sinful to misuse our talents. We cannot use them to justify other things, just because they might be useful in other areas. If the acts in which we use them are sinful, we must avoid them.

When we want to do things for the Church we must do so with the right attitude, if we fail to do so then we should not bother with "helping". The wrong attitude no matter the talent is useless. Our heart and our attitude must be right in order to do the most good for the Lord's church.

Let us be in fervent and constant prayer for the growth of the church. Growth by continually doing the will of the Father (Acts 2:47).

The Devil's Beatitudes ...

BLESSED are they who are too tired & busy to go to worship on Sunday: for they are my best workers.

BLESSED are they who do not stand for and proclaim the truth: they are some of my best workers.

BLESSED is the Christian who expects to be begged to come to worship: he is an important member to me.

BLESSED are they who do not go to worship on Sunday evening: they cause the world to say "The church is failing."

BLESSED are they who gossip: for they cause strife and division, which pleases me much.

BLESSED are they who are easily offended: they soon get angry and quit.

BLESSED are they who do not give of their offerings to carry on God's work: they are my helpers.

BLESSED is he who professed to love God but hates his brother: he shall live with me forever.

BLESSED is he who has no time to pray: he will be an easy prey.

BLESSED is he who doesn't read God's word: he will follow me readily.