

News & Notes

Sunday, September 9, 2007

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

Sympathy is extended to the family of Diane Cox.

Pantry item for the month of September is spaghetti sauce.

Ashland events: Today: Elder's meeting at 4:00 PM;

Area events: Tonight: Youth night at the Beech Hill church of Christ at 6:00 PM; Beginning today: Gospel meeting at the Central Academy church of Christ outside of Batesville; September 10: FHU Associates meeting at Shirley's Restaurant in Ripley at 6:00 PM; September 16-19: Gospel meeting at the Union church of Christ;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: Current Concerns: Sexual Identity

PM: 2Corinthians: The Perils of Paul (11)

For the Record (September 2, 2007):

Attendance: 96 Contribution: \$1512.00 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)

Addictions

Jeremy Northrop

Webster defines addiction by saying it is a "compulsive need for and use of a habit-forming substance (as heroin, nicotine, or alcohol) characterized by tolerance and by well-defined physiological symptoms upon withdrawal; *broadly* : persistent compulsive use of a substance known by the user to be harmful." While addiction to a substance of any kind is certainly real, a person can also be addicted to a behavior or habit of life. Examples would be gambling and sex addicts. Peter describes such people as "...natural brute beasts...having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children" (2Peter 2:12-14).

One biblical principle that is violated when a person is addicted to a substance or behavior is self-control. Paul listed self-control as part of the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:23). Peter listed it as a quality the Christian needs in order to increase his faith (2Peter 1:5-8). When a person is addicted to a substance or behavior, they are not exercising self-control. Part of the nature of addiction is that the person is out of control. A person involved in an addiction of any kind will usually deny, minimize, rationalize and even blame others for the situation attempting to prove that it is not as bad as it is. No matter how one justifies his or her actions, it does not change the fact that the addict is not practicing self-control.

Another biblical principle that is violated when a person is an addict is stewardship. Jesus taught on the principle of

stewardship in the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30. Paul spoke of the body of the Christian as the temple of God and that destroying it is sin. In 1Corinthians 3:16-17, he says, “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.” Addictions both physical and behavioral generally destroy the body.

While there are certainly other biblical principles that are defied with one who is addicted, the Bible also provides principles for dealing with addiction. The idea of redirecting efforts used in addiction is a biblical concept. In Ephesians 5, Paul describes the brethren as once being ‘darkness’ but now are the ‘light of the Lord.’ Paul admonishes them to walk (live) “as children of light” (5:8). Several times in the writing of Paul he would admonish Christians to no longer live one way but rather to live a certain way (Colossians 3:9-17; Romans 6:5-14; 2Corinthians 5:12-21). If a person were to simply ‘put off’ an evil addiction, then he or she has only accomplished half of the biblical imperative. The person must also ‘put on’ the righteousness of God.

This brings up one final point — good addictions. In Romans 6:17-18, Paul said, “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” To be a slave or an addict of righteousness would certainly be biblical. When Paul spoke of the household of Stephanas in 1Corinthians 16, he commented that they were addicted (King James Version) to the ministry of the saints (1Corinthians 16:15). Today, people who want to follow God need to understand that to be enslaved to a substance or certain behaviors would certainly be sin but to be addicted to His work, His word, and His church is a command of God.

Belonging

Tom Moore

Some of you may remember an episode from the old Andy Griffith Television show in which the Women’s Historical Society discovered that a living descendant of a Revolutionary War hero was living right there in Mayberry. The news generated excitement and curiosity throughout the town as people made plans for recognizing the hero’s relative. Barney Fife, of course, twisted his own family tree to the point that he put himself in line for the honor. The rest of the townspeople felt special just because someone among them was related to a hero.

However, everyone was shocked when the person was finally revealed. A careful analysis of the genealogical records determined that the hero’s descendent was none other than, Otis Campbell, the town drunk. Despite suggestions to find a “substitute Otis” for the presentation, the real Otis showed up for the ceremony true to form. When the ladies finally give him the plaque, Otis holds it in his hands for a moment, and then decides instead to give the plaque to the town. He tells them, “Just because you’re the descendent of a hero doesn’t make you one too. So I would like to present this plaque to the town of Mayberry, to which I am just proud to belong.”

Well, aren’t we all? Aren’t we all just happy to belong, to be included! This is especially true with regard to the spiritual family of God. When one has believed on the Lord (John 3:16), repented of his sin (Luke 13:3), confessed the name of Jesus (Romans 10:9-10), and been baptized for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38) he is added the Lord’s church – His family. I feel privileged to belong to this family. How about you? As such, should we not live our lives in such a way to be honor to the family?