

## News & Notes

**Sunday, December 3, 2007**

**Remember in Prayer:** Daryl Alberson; Steve Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Johnny Carr; Mike Carter; Vikie Cobb; Melba Cox; Mandy Ford; Marsh Graves; Aubrey Huey; Lettie Mae Hunt; Charles Johnson; Katie Judge; Dot Ketchum; Sam Kidd; Sherry Lawrence; David Lipe; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Sue Moody; Diane Mize; Ann Ray; Ruth Ross; Katherine Shaw; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Jon Street; Ruby Tapp; Rural Tapp; Ron Tega; Calvin Ursery; Luther Williams; Alvie Williford;

**Pantry item** for the month of December is Ketchup.

**Ashland Events:** Today: Periodic singing at Briarcrest Extended Care at 4:00 PM;

**Area Events:** December 9: Area wide youth night at the Chapman church of Christ;

**Sermon in Preview:** Spreading the Good News

AM: Don't Ever Give Up

PM: Where Do We Go From Here?

**For the Record (November 25, 2007):**

Attendance: 68      Contribution: \$1046.00      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 Putting it all Together — Review

Jeremy Northrop

It is hard to believe that the end of the year is upon us but here we are in December wondering what happened to our year. It seems like yesterday we introduced our theme for the year — spreading the good news. Today, we wind it all up and spend a day reviewing our study of evangelism. First, let's look at our text one final time:

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.

Now, let's review the things we have studied this year.

We began with an introductory day. We discussed the concept of building up the church and then answered the question of why we should be about spreading the good news. In our Sunday evening service, we laid out a plan for the year. This plan was divided into two parts: preparing for evangelism and practicing evangelism. This combined with a day of conclusion and introduction completes for us the 12 months of the year.

In February, we began the first phase of our study and looked at the topic of evidences. Some certainly question whether or not God is real and say that Christianity is an outdated superstition. Some claim that there is no absolute truth. We discussed matters

pertaining to how science proves there is a God and that God has made it possible for us to know truth. Finally, the alleged contradictions or problems with the Bible are simply alleged and not founded in fact. This foundational study of evidences set the stage for the year for us in a good way.

In March, we discussed matters pertaining to biblical authority. Proper religious authority is found only in the word of God (see Colossians 3:17) and there a right and wrong way to handle the Bible (2Timothy 2:15). The events seen in Luke 20:1-8 show people concerned about authority. Certainly, the Bible is proper religious authority. There are many things that are not and we examined some of them.

In April, we discussed man's salvation. The reasoning behind this was that if we are going to tell others about God and His salvation for mankind, then we need to make sure that we are each in a good relationship with God. We discussed such biblical topics as assurance (1John 1:7) and what a person must do to be saved (hear; believe; repent; confess; be baptized; live faithfully).

In May, we looked at the topic of commitment. God does not ask us to blindly follow Him nor does He expect us to sit back and let Him do all the work. He requires a degree of commitment (Proverbs 16:3). This is more than simply announcing our beliefs or donating to a cause. It requires doing what God says regardless of the consequences. He promises us that it will be difficult (Luke 14:26; 1Peter 4:16).

Finally, in June we brought the first phase of our study to a close by discussing matters pertaining to the New Testament church. The overall goal of evangelism is the salvation of mankind which means that people will become members of the church which Christ established (see Acts 2:47 and Acts 20:28). The purpose of the church is summed up by Paul in Ephesians 4:9-16. Namely it is evangelism, edification and benevolence. Worship might also be added to the list (John 4:24; James 5:16).

Then, July came and we kicked off the second phase of our study: practicing evangelism. A lot of times, we hear some excuses that people make as to why they do not practice evangelism. One excuse that is often made is about knowledge. People do not think that they know enough to practice evangelism. The fact

is that if we know enough to be saved then we know enough to teach someone else. It may be the case that we will be confronted with questions that we cannot answer but this is not a reason to avoid evangelism. Avoiding it will only cause us to lose our souls in the day of judgment.

In August, we moved on the topic of courage. We used the text of John 14:1 to comfort our fears. The cure for fear is a growing faith. This is why Peter told us to add to our faith virtue, knowledge, and other characteristics (2Peter 1:5-11). When we have a faith that can move mountains, then we will not be afraid to practice evangelism (1Corinthians 13:2).

In September, we looked at the audience that we are evangelizing. We do not need to evangelize those who are already saved! We must go to those who are lost and teach them what they need to know in order to be saved. We need to look at the book of Acts as our model of evangelism. When we do what they did, we can get what they got.

Then, in October, we looked at the topic of work. Many people will tell us how much they loathe a lazy person but then when the church organizes some even that will cause us to work in the kingdom, the fact is that usually very few will show up. You may remember, we looked at the book of Nehemiah and noticed how they had a mind to work to get the temple rebuilt. We need to rise to the challenge and do the work that God wants us to do.

Last month, we discussed making evangelism a habit for our lives. We need to try and live outside the comfort zone. This means we are going to have to be constantly studying the message of God finding new and deeper meanings every day. This means we are going to have to live in such a way that we will be evangelizing all the people with whom we come in contact. We must (as they did in Acts) develop a habit of evangelism.

It has indeed been a great year. The effects of the year will be even greater if we do not forget the things we have studied and take the time to practiced what we have learned. It would be very sad to leave the year in history. Let us all strive to set a goal for ourselves that we attempt to teach the gospel to someone in our lives that has not heard it. Let us continue to plant the seed and watch God give the increase (1Corinthians 3:6).