

## News & Notes

Sunday, January 20, 2008

**Remember in Prayer:** Daryl Alberson; Francis Alberson; Steve Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Francis Bennett; Vikie Cobb; Melba Cox; Lettie Mae Hunt; Charles Johnson; Shirley Judge; Dot Ketchum; Sam Kidd; David Lipe; Michael Lumkins; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Kelly Parker; Ann Ray; Jerry Ray; Ruth Ross; Katherine Shaw; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Jon Street; Ron Tega; Calvin Ursery; Luther Williams; Alvie Williford;

**Pantry item** for the month of January is paper goods.

**Special thanks** to Jeff and Wendy Roberson, Shawna Northrop, and everyone else who helped with our youth rally yesterday. Mark your calendars now for Ashland Youth Rally 2009 (January 31, 2009).

**Ashland Events:** Today: Prayer meeting at 4:00 PM;

**Area Events:** January 26: The Foote Street church of Christ in Corinth will host a ladies day beginning at 9:30 AM;

### Sermon in Preview:

AM: God Said, "Don't Do That!"

PM: God Said, "Do It"

### For the Record (January 13, 2008):

Attendance: 76      Contribution: \$1731.00      Budget: \$1326.00

### The Ashland Church of Christ

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acoc@ashlandcoc.org

#### 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

Romans 11:33

# ASHLAND ANNOUNCER

Increasing in the Knowledge of God



## “Go on to Perfection”

Russ Earl

In the first three verses of Hebrews six we learn a very important aspect of the Christian's life. *“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.”*

The writer informs us how as Christians we should grow and not just be idle servants of God. He is possibly in some distress over the lack of growth that these Christians have shown so far. He says *“leaving the discussion of the elementary principals of Christ.”* We are not to remain babes in Christ. We should grow as Christians and not have to be constantly taught over and over again the elementary principals. A reminder is much different than being taught. To be taught shows how we have failed to learn such things and lack the ability to apply them. To remind us of them is the idea of reinforcing things that we already know.

How many of us can say that we know individuals who have been “members” for years and years; yet they don't understand the most basic principals of the gospel? It's sad to see such individuals come upon “new” understandings on basic principals of which they should have a firm understanding already.

Why is it so important for us to have a firm understanding of the “*elementary principals?*” The reason is, as the writer says, *“let us*

*go on to perfection.*” He wants us to be perfect; this is the idea that we should have a good understanding and have a firm grasp of biblical truths. In second Timothy two and verse fifteen, we should recognize that studying the word of God will prepare us and make us to be perfect. *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

We are to be “diligent” to learn the "elementary principals" so we can move on to perfection. How can we fight Satan and his many weapons if we do not know the word of God well enough to defend ourselves against temptations?

The Lord in His time of temptation by the devil quoted scriptures just as the devil did. However, Christ quoted them within their contexts and knew of the error in the way the devil quoted them. If we are only babes in Christ and do not even understand the basic principals, then it will be much easier for us to be hurt by the devil and the temptations of the world.

From James four and verse seven, we should know that if we “submit” ourselves to God and resist the devil he will flee from us. This is why we want to be good students of the Bible, so we can know the basic principals, defend them and ourselves when under attack and continue to grow as Christians.

However, notice the words of verse three in Hebrews six. He says, "And this we will do if the God permits." After saying how we should move on from the biblical basics, and how we should no longer be "babes in Christ". He goes on to say that if after all this if God permits we are to be taught them again.

Let us not be as those who are babes in Christ! We should strive to know the basics or be able to pass with some ease the "boot camp" of Christian basics. If we were tested on our basic knowledge of God and His word, how would you stand up? Would you pass? Would you be able to answer the questions given, and if so, how easily could you answer them? Would we have to ask others or could we answer them for ourselves? Let's not be "babes in Christ" instead let us “move on to perfection.”

## “Amusing Ourselves to Death”

Max Paterson

Most preachers realize they preach in an age of entertainment. Neil Postman has written a book about this entitled, Amusing Ourselves To Death.

This is a book that presents a powerful argument that television has crippled our ability to think for ourselves and reduced our aptitude for any real communication. Postman argues that TV has not made us the most literate generation in history; rather it has flooded our minds with a bunch of irrelevant and meaningless information.

Some examples of commercials saying nothing about the products they are advertising: a jeans commercial shows the painful drama of the woes of adolescence, but says nothing about the jeans. Perfume ads portray a collage of sensuous images, but says nothing about the perfume. Beer commercials show people having a good time, etc., but nothing about beer. (In fact, they know better than to show what beer does on the highway, to the home, and to individuals.)

The same is true with the sermons some preach. The emphasis today is superficial compared to years gone by. Today, instead of an emphasis on scripture, logic, and depth of content, the emphasis is upon entertainment. A “good” sermon must be amusing and brief, with emphasis on brief. Many preachers are featuring a 20 to 25 minute sermon with many amusing anecdotes, but little doctrine. In fact, one preacher is on record as saying, “I never preach on some doctrinal subjects, because my congregation doesn’t want to hear it.”

The scriptures teach that we are to “preach the word.” (2Timothy 4:2) We are to “Speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.” (1Timothy 6:2) If this is what will meet man’s needs, and it is, and if this is what will take to carry us to heaven, and it is, then we must have men and women in the pew who will demand scripture preaching, and be supportive of those who are committed to Bible preaching. We must preach what people need, not what they want. After all, the gospel is the power of God to salvation, and that is the bottom line.