

News & Notes

Sunday, January 6, 2008

Remember in Prayer: Daryl Alberson; Francis Alberson; Steve Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Francis Bennett; Vikie Cobb; Melba Cox; Lettie Mae Hunt; Charles Johnson; Dot Ketchum; Sam Kidd; David Lipe; Michael Lumkins; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Kelly Parker; Ann 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.

If you want to purchase a **youth rally t-shirt**, please sign the list in the foyer ASAP.

Be sure and check the **bulletin boards** in the foyer for any additional information.

Ashland Events: Today: Periodic singing at Briarcrest Extended Care at 4:15 PM; January 19: Ashland Youth Rally at 9:30 AM;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: What has God Spoken?

PM: Therefore, We Need to Listen!

For the Record (December 30, 2007):

Attendance: 73 Contribution: \$1107.00 Budget: \$1326.00

The Ashland Church of Christ

P. O. Box 25
Ashland, MS 38603-0025

www.ashlandcoc.org

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



Increasing in the Knowledge of God Advisory — God Has Spoken!

Jeremy Northrop

Just where did the time go? It does not seem like a year ago when we were bringing in our theme for 2007. It was a good year, wasn't it? We have learned a lot about spreading the good news and our responsibility to do such. While we are not going to make that study the focus of the new year, we do want to make sure that we continue to tell others of the saving power of Christ and His message.

This year brings a new theme and a new focus of study. We mildly introduced it last month — increasing in the knowledge of God. This comes from the words of the apostle Paul to the Romans: “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!” (11:33). This passage brings up several points. Let's notice a few of the more obvious ones. We will see them in reverse order in Romans 11:33: (1) no human can ever completely understand God — “How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!”; (2) God is not only all-knowing but also is all-wise — “...both the wisdom and knowledge of God!”; (3) Both the wisdom and knowledge of God contain great value — “...the riches both of...”; (4) The wisdom and knowledge of God is not a light subject — “...the depth of the...”; (5) Finally, the overall

point is emphasized by the apostle in the beginning exclamation — “Oh” (the point is also emphasized by the use of two exclamation points in the one verse).

While some would argue from Romans 11:33 that we thus have no need to study because it is impossible for us to know everything about God, we also need to be aware that God has told us all that we need to know. Peter said, “...His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue...” (2Peter 1:3). Our goal for the year is to increase in the things that God would have us to know and thereby the things that He has revealed to us through His holy word.

The idea of increasing in the knowledge of God certainly comes with biblical authority. The Bereans were a people who made sure they practiced genuine religion (Acts 17:11). Paul encouraged Timothy to study and to grow and even made efforts to grow himself (2Timothy 2:15; 2Timothy 4:13). Peter exhorted Christians to add to their faith (2Peter 1:5-11).

Of course, you know the preacher here is one of those guys who likes to be organized (everyone has to have a flaw). I have put a plan into place that will help us to accomplish this goal. While in years past, our theme has only been the point of the focus on the first Sunday of each month, this year we will focus on each monthly sub-theme for the duration of the month. The ideas will be presented as follows:

January: Advisory – God has spoken!
February: Children – We are His.
March: Faith – Is It In You?
April: Grace – What’s So Amazing About It?
May: Works – Do You Do Them?
June: Balance – Why Do We Need It?
July: Study – How Do We Do It?
August: Issues – How Do We Resolve Them?
September: Satan – Know Your Enemy.

October: Christ – Keeping Our Focus.

November: Offense – Becoming Grounded and Settled.

December: Defense – Preparing For the Attack.

This month, in conjunction with our youth rally (scheduled the 19th), we will focus on the idea that God has communicated to us. Our efforts will help to allay some of the misconceptions of God’s communication thereby helping us to understand His will.

Over the course of this month, we will be introducing several new aspects of the theme for the year. You can already see that the bulletin has undergone an overhaul. As you will see today, we will have the verse for the year (Romans 11:33) on the overhead and each month we will also post a verse for the month. Let’s all try to commit these to memory and apply the principles to our lives. Also, later this month we will introduce a ‘tract of the week’ program. Our young men will be passing out a different Bible tract every week that we each need to take the time to read and then give to someone we believe will benefit from it. This will help each of us to grow and will encourage us all to practice evangelism. Also, for those of you who have internet access, I would encourage you to take a look at our website (www.ashlandcoc.org) as it has undergone an overhaul. The look has changed to match our theme and one new link has been added: Bible Study Tools. All of the handouts that we have used in our Bible study over the past year have been posted on the website in portable document format (.pdf) for us to use and share with others.

No doubt, it promises to be a great year for us here at the Ashland church of Christ. Let me encourage you to decide now to be even more involved in the work of the church here and make extra efforts to grow in the knowledge of our Lord. Brethren, let us resolve to be better today than we were yesterday as we are all *increasing in the knowledge of God*.