

## News & Notes

**Sunday, February 3, 2008**

**Remember in Prayer:** Daryl Alberson; Edna Jean Alberson; Steve Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Vikie Cobb; Melba Cox; Lettie Mae Hunt; Charles Johnson; Shirley Judge; Dot Ketchum; Sam Kidd; Hugh Leming; James Luna; Randy Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Kelly Parker; Ann Ray; Jerry Ray; Katherine Shaw; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Ron Tega; Calvin Ursery; Alvie Williford;

**Pantry item** for the month of February is sugar.

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

**Area Events:** February 21: The Freed-Hardeman University Associates of Benton and Tippah Counties will host their annual benefit dinner (Contact Jo Martin at 662223.5861 for details); February 29: Benefit dinner for Jerry Ray;

### Sermon in Preview:

AM: Having a Mind to Study

PM: Having a Heart to Obey

### For the Record (January 27, 2008):

Attendance: 65      Contribution: \$1226.00      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

Romans 11:33

# ASHLAND ANNOUNCER

Increasing in the Knowledge of God



## Increasing in the Knowledge of God Children — We Are HIS!

Jeremy Northrop

My, how quickly time seems to be flying by! We have now begun the second month of 2008 and in conjunction with our theme for the year, we focus this month's article on the concept that we are the children of God. Last month, we had a great study of the ways in which God has spoken to man and what God has specifically said to man. This month, we focus on the idea of being God's children.

In the Old Testament, there are several occasions when God, speaking of the Israelites, says they shall be His people and He will be their God. Jeremiah stated it explicitly in Jeremiah 32:38, "They shall be My people, and I will be their God;" Earlier in the book, Jeremiah stated it this way: "Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart" (Jeremiah 24:7).

David declares that we are God's children and gives thanks to God for such. Consider the words of Psalm 100:

**Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands!  
Serve the Lord with gladness;  
Come before His presence with singing.**

Know that the Lord, He is God;  
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;  
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.  
Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,  
And into His courts with praise.  
Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.  
or the Lord is good;  
His mercy is everlasting,  
And His truth endures to all generations.

As you well know, our verse for the year comes from Romans 11:33 where Paul says, “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!” This year, we have added a verse for the month to go along with our verse for the year which will come from Psalm 100:3, “Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.”

For a few moments consider the wonder of Psalm 100:3. First, God will be a God to us. And we know that He will not just be a dead God like some of the idols or false gods that some have fashioned in their minds. He is a living God who hears us (James 5:16), who saves us (John 3:16), and who will treat us as His children. Second, our God has created us. Again, we know so much more about His concept from other passages. We are created by Him in His image (Genesis 1:26). We know that God has given man supremacy over the rest of creation (Genesis 1:29-30). Finally, Psalm 100:3 tells us that God will be a shepherd to us. We are people which belong to God. Psalm 23 speaks extensively of the Shepherd which the Lord will be to us and the blessings we will receive if we accept Him as our God.

When we think about being children of God and belonging to God, we notice in the New Testament that Christ often told us how that He was about His *Father's* will (Luke 2:49, John 10:32, 37). He constantly

told us how he was doing the will of God who sent Him to the earth (John 4:34).

When we consider the biblical concept of a parent in the physical sense, then we have a better understanding of God's role of being a spiritual parent to His children. The main goal God has for parents is for them to rear their children in His ways and to do His will. Passages like Deuteronomy 11:18-20, Proverbs 22:6, and Ephesians 6:4 indicate such in a great way. Interestingly, Ephesians 6:1-3 gives additional instructions not for parents but for the children. Obedience is the key factor in being good children. Spiritually, obviously the same would be true.

Spiritually, God has not left us without the ability to know His will. He has given us His will so that we may know what He expects of us (John 20:30-31; Hebrews 1:1). He has told us of the great reward awaiting us if we will submit to His will (John 14:1-7). He has even told us of the horrors of Hell awaiting those who will not be faithful to His will (see Luke 16:19-31). We know all things that are necessary in order to be pleasing to God (2Peter 1:3).

Now then, just as God has fulfilled His part, so we (as His children) must do our part. Children today, at some point in their lives, must choose to obey their parents and choose to do so for the right reasons. God's children (Christians) must choose to submit themselves to His will. Matthew said it like this: Matthew 6:33, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” As the children of God, this month we will seek to know more about His will and seek to learn ways in which we can learn it more effectively in our lives.

Of course, we have a lot more aspects of the will of God to examine and learn in the months ahead in 2008. This month, we focus on knowing our place in the divine plan of God — knowing that He is our God, our Creator, and our Shepherd and we must do His will.