

News & Notes

Sunday, March 2, 2008

Remember in Prayer: Daryl Alberson; Steve Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Mary Bailey; Vikie Cobb; Melba Cox; Collette Ford; Hazel Huddleson; Lettie Mae Hunt; Charles Johnson; Shirley Judge; Don Kelly; Dot Ketchum; Sam Kidd; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Michelle Nelson; Ann Ray; Jerry Ray; Judy Reeves; Katherine Shaw; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Ron Tega; Calvin Ursery; Alvie Williford;

Sympathy is extended to the family of Sherry Lawrence.

Pantry item for the month of March is baking soda.

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

Area Events: March 1: Ladies Day at the New Bethel church of Christ in New Site; March 8: Gospel meeting at the Antioch church of Christ in Ramer, Tennessee;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: "Oh, You of Little Faith" (Matthew 6:30)

PM: "I Have Not Found Such Great Faith" (Matthew 8:10)

For the Record (February 24, 2008):

Attendance: 65 Contribution: \$1332.00 Budget: \$1326.00

The Ashland Church of Christ

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Ashland, MS 38603-0025

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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 Faith — Is It In You?

Jeremy Northrop

The first Sunday of the month is once again upon us and as is our tradition at the Ashland church of Christ, we will focus on our theme for the year — increasing in the knowledge of God — taken from Romans 11:33. There, Paul states: "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!" As is our custom with this article on the first Sunday of the month, we will look at what we have already studied, the topic for the month (this month, faith), and then tie it into our theme for the year by looking at what we will be studying over the remainder of the year.

Already this year, we have looked at the topic of advisory (that was back in January, is that too far back for some of us?!). We discussed the idea that God has spoken to us through both natural and special revelation. We then have the responsibility to listen to what God has spoken and plan our lives accordingly to meet His will.

Next, in February, we discussed the concept that we are the children of God. As His children, there are things that He will do for us as our spiritual Father. Also, there are things that we must do in order to be acceptable children to Him. This relationship is very

important to our spiritual well-being. Without Him, we could do nothing. Without our part, we will receive the condemnation of Hell (Mark 16:15-16).

Beginning today and taking us through the duration of March, we are going to be focusing our studies on faith. Most of our study will come from the great faith chapter — Hebrews 11. This morning in our class, we will discuss the first verse of Hebrews 11 which gives us a description of faith. There the writer says, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” We will be spending the majority of the rest of the month studying many of the heroes and heroines of faith mentioned in the rest of the chapter.

The Bible uses the word faith in different ways. This is very interesting when we study the concept. In some cases, the word is used to refer to the system of belief to which Christians subscribe. This is the ‘one faith’ Paul speaks of in Ephesians 4:4-6. This is the group to which Christians were added in the book of Acts (see Acts 6:7). Elymas tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith in Acts 13:8. The churches were strengthened in the faith in Acts 16:5. Paul and Barnabas exhorted individuals to continue in the faith in Acts 14:22. All of these refer to the system of belief.

Also, the Bible uses the word faith in terms of personal faith. This morning in our sermon we are going to look at Matthew 6 where Jesus rebukes some disciples accusing them of having ‘little’ faith. After He discusses worry, He concludes by saying, “Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?” (Matthew 6:30).

In contrast to those of little faith, just a few chapters later in Matthew 8, Jesus converses with a centurion. The centurion says that Jesus does not need to come and heal his servant but that He just needs to speak a word. Look at Jesus’ reaction to the centurion: “When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to

those who followed, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!’”

As was mentioned a little earlier, over the course of the month, we will study the various people of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11. If the Holy Spirit chooses to record these men and women in the Bible for all to know about, then it is worth our looking into the qualities of these men and women. In fact, the writer of Hebrews exhorts Christians today to remain faithful. The conclusion of Hebrews 11 is found in Hebrews 12:1-2,

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Faith is a very important biblical concept. We know of the levels or degrees of faith that we each can have. We know of the system of belief that is called the faith. We have a record of faithful giants recorded for us. This topic then is very important to us personally and collectively. Hence, the theme for March is simply: Faith — Is It In You?

Many of the themes that we will study throughout the rest of the year are designed to build our faith. We need to know about grace and works and what their role is in our faith. We will learn some principles for studying the Bible which will increase our faith. Later in the year, we will spend a month studying about Christ and Satan so that we can know our Savior and our enemy. The last two months of the year, we will discuss the offense and defense of our faith. Our faith can protect us and likewise we need to protect our faith. It promises to be a great year.