

News & Notes

Sunday, March 23, 2008

Remember in Prayer: Daryl Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Mary Bailey; Vikie Cobb; Melba Cox; Mary Ann Duke; Shane Fortner; Hazel Huddleson; Corey Hastings; Lettie Mae Hunt; Charles Johnson; Shirley Judge; Don Kelly; Dot Ketchum; Sam Kidd; Wayne Kidd; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Michelle Nelson; Ann Ray; Jerry Ray; Bradley Rease; Jonell Rutledge; Katherine Shaw; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Ron Tega; Calvin Ursery; Alvie Williford;

Pantry item for the month of March is baking soda.

Ashland Events: Today: Elder's meeting at 4:00 PM; March 28: Outing to Catfish Country in Booneville at 5:30 PM; April 12: Clean-up day beginning around 9:00 AM;

Area Events: March 29: Youth Symposium 2008 at the Bluff Road church of Christ; March 30-April 3: Lectureship at the Memphis School of Preaching;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: Sarah (Hebrews 11:8-10)

PM: Moses (Hebrews 11:23-28)

For the Record (March 16, 2008):

Attendance: 85 Contribution: \$1337.00 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



Giving Self to God: Acceptable Sacrifice

James Meadows

“Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” (Micah 6: 6-8)

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable, unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:1,2).

A gospel preacher relates the story of an Indian chief who came to him, offering his belt of wampum that he might win divine favor. “No,” said the preacher, “Christ cannot accept such a sacrifice.” The Indian departed but returned immediately with his guns and the skins of animals he had taken in hunting. “No,” was the reply, “Christ cannot accept such an offering.” Again the chief went away, but soon returned once again with a troubled heart, and offered his wigwam, wife,

child, everything, for pardon and peace. “No,” was still the reply. “Christ cannot accept such a sacrifice.” The chief seemed surprised for a moment; then lifting up tearful eyes said, “Here, Lord, take poor Indian, too.” That present was accepted, and the chief went home full of gladness.

Completely giving of self is essential to being acceptable to God. Jesus said, “So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:33). The Macedonian Christians gave liberally to the Lord because they “first gave their own selves to the Lord” (2 Cor. 8:5). Paul said, “present your bodies a living sacrifice.” Present it in humble obedience to God’s will. Our eyes, ears, tongue, hands, and feet must be presented in their entirety to the Lord as a “living (continual) sacrifice.”

The Ten Commandments of Christianity

At the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus outlines the “secrets” to happiness in this life and eternal rewards in the next. The word “blessed” is generically defined as happiness resulting from spiritual prosperity, and Jesus explains that those who do these things will be blessed/happy/spiritually wealthy. In other words, the secret to happiness is obeying God.

The Beatitudes, recorded in Matthew 5:3-12, have been referred to as the “Ten Commandments of Christianity.” Like the ten commandments, the Beatitudes were given from a mountain, were given by a great prophet of God, signaled the beginning of a new dispensation and were intended to reform the lives and conduct of men. Although the Beatitudes do not cover the full extent of God’s laws, they do reveal the type of character that God expects from the citizens of His kingdom. It is necessary to emphasize that many of these thoughts are con-

trary and contradictory to the thinking and teaching of the majority of the people. Keep in mind that Jesus said, “my kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36) as he indicated to Pilate that His followers do things different than the world. Further, consider the words of Jehovah as He explained, “my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways” (Isaiah 55:8).

So what exactly does the Lord say in these ten verses? What is to be our attitude, thinking and conduct?

1. Acknowledge your spiritual poverty apart from God and turn to Him to fulfill your needs through the blood of Jesus (v. 3).
2. Be genuinely sorry and penitent for your own sins and for the sins of others (v. 4).
3. Conduct yourself with patience, humility, gentleness and modesty as opposed to haughtiness, arrogance and insensitive behavior (v. 5).
4. Desire to be the perfect righteousness of God and desire to please Him by knowing His will and obeying His commands (v. 6).
5. Show compassion, mercy and forgiveness toward your fellowman (v. 7).
6. Free ourselves from evil desires and intentions by carefully and painstakingly directing your thoughts to things that are pure and good (v. 8).
7. Promote and seek to bring about harmony among men (v. 9).
8. Count it an honor to be considered worthy to suffer shame for His name (vs. 10-12; Acts 5:41).

The requirements are easy to understand but the rewards are too glorious to comprehend. Comfort, satisfaction, security and mercy are reward enough, but God promises more to those who obey Him. All who live according to His teachings are His children and therefore rightful heirs with Christ. In addition to all of these things, the obedient will be granted entrance into the heavenly kingdom of God. The door to enter the kingdom is low, requiring us to kneel in order to enter in.