

News & Notes

Sunday, March 9, 2008

Remember in Prayer: Daryl Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Mary Bailey; Vikie Cobb; Melba Cox; 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; Katherine Shaw; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Ron Tega; Calvin Ursery; Alvie Williford;

Pantry item for the month of March is baking soda.

As always please check the **bulletin boards** for additional information.

Ashland Events: Today: Elder's meeting at 4:00 PM; March 16: Devotional for teenager after evening service;

Area Events: March 16-19: Gospel meeting at the Chapman church of Christ with Robert Taylor; March 20-April 3: Lectureship at the Memphis School of Preaching;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: Abel (Hebrews 11:4)

PM: Enoch (Hebrews 11:5-6)

For the Record (March 2 2008):

Attendance: 85 Contribution: \$1591.00 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



MEDITATE UPON GOD'S WORD

Chuck Northrop

The Psalmist spent much time writing on the topic of meditation. He began the Psalms by stating that the blessed man meditates day and night upon God's word (Psalm 1:1-2). Psalm 119:97 further states, "O how love I thy law! It is my dedication all the day." Much worry could be avoided if we spent more time thinking about God's will for mankind. Therefore, five reasons are offered as to why we ought to meditate upon the word of God.

The first reason for meditating upon God's word is that we ought to think through any given situation. The Psalmist spoke of thinking before speaking when he said, "My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spoke I with my tongue" (Psalm 39:3). Too many times we act before we think through situations. Sadly, after the fact, we think and often regret our behavior. How much better it may have been if we had only thought about God's instruction.

The second reason for meditating upon God's word is to see the far reaching effects of any given action. In Psalm 77:12 the Bible says, "I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings." The consequences of God's action is seen in our lives. Certainly they are far reaching. We then ought to plan our actions that we might see the far reaching effects of those actions. Just think of how much sin could be avoided if we first considered the consequences of our actions. God promised "with the temptation

also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). If each Christian meditated and searched for the "escape" much sorrow and pain could be avoided. Also, just think of how much good could be accomplished if we first considered the consequences of our actions. Instead of spinning our wheels with useless endeavors that are not authorized and has never worked, we would be about the Lord's business and accomplish much good for the kingdom.

The third reason for meditating upon God's word is to engraft the word of God upon our hearts. James records by inspiration, "receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21). The word of God is designed to be put into our minds and written upon our heart. It should be our constant study and meditation. The word of God will strengthen us to overcome temptation and trials that come upon us. Before it can do this, we must read it, study, meditate upon it, and obey it. The Psalmist wrote, "I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways." As a result of his meditation, he had respect for God's ways. When we compare God's ways and man's way, we cannot help but be amazed and in awe of God's wisdom.

The fourth reason for meditating upon God's word is to formulate plans and logical answers to the problems of life. God has "given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). Answers to the perplexing problems of life are found within the word of God. We need to study and meditate upon God's word that we might remember those answers when problems arise. As Christians, we should search for the best and most efficient way to doing any task. That requires planning, honest assessment, and meditation. Even after the task is complete, we must honestly and sincerely evaluate the task which also requires meditation.

The fifth reason for meditating upon God's word is to guard ourselves against sin. The Psalmist declared, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11). When we are meditating on God's Word, it will guard us against sin. Paul declared, "...if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8). If we occupy our minds with God's Word, we are thinking about the things that

are virtuous and praiseworthy.

Surely all of us can see the value of meditation especially upon God's Word. Let us determine to take the time to meditate for it will be most profitable to all. It is no wonder why God said, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night" (Psalm 1:1-2).

What Are We Ashamed Of? (Luke 9:26)

Tim Childs

- Are we ashamed of others knowing we believe the Bible is an infallible work whose author is God, and that it represents heavenly authority?
- Are we ashamed of others knowing we are Bible-believing people?
- Are we ashamed of others knowing we believe in the miracles recorded in the Bible?
- Are we ashamed of others knowing we believe God meant what He said when He gave us commands recorded in the Bible?
- Are we ashamed of others knowing we believe that Jesus died and rose again for our justification?
- Are we ashamed of others knowing we believe Jesus' teaching about his kingdom and the terms of entrance he has given?
- Are we ashamed of others knowing we believe Jesus has only one spiritual body; one family of people?
- Are we ashamed of others knowing we profess Christianity with Jesus as the only Lord and Savior?
- Are we ashamed of others knowing we are God's people and we're heaven-bound?
- Are we ashamed of others knowing we believe Jesus is coming again to receive his own?
- Are we ashamed of others knowing we believe in a place of heavenly reward for the righteous?
- Are we ashamed of others knowing we believe in the Bible doctrine of hell and that it is a place of punishment for the unrighteous?