

## News & Notes

Sunday, April 6, 2008

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

**Pantry item** for the month of April is Dial or Safeguard soap.

**Ashland Events:** Today: Periodic singing at Briarcrest Extended Care at 4:00 PM; April 12: Clean-up day beginning around 9:00 AM;

**Area Events:** April 11: Six-State gospel singing at the church of Christ at Southwind in Memphis; April 13-16: Gospel meeting at the Beech Hill church of Christ;

### Sermon in Preview:

AM: We Sing It. Do We Mean It?

PM: Amazing God (Ephesians 2:1-3)

### For the Record (March 30, 2008):

Attendance: 75      Contribution: \$1342.00      Budget: \$1452.00

### *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 Grace — What is So Amazing About It?

Jeremy Northrop

Once again, the first Sunday of the month is upon us and we change topic of study. In January, we focused on advisory — that God has spoken. In February, we discussed the idea that we are the children of God. Last month, we talked about faith. This month we are going to talk about grace. Next month, we will discuss works and then in June, we will talk about the balance between faith, grace, and works and how they work together. So far, it has been a good year of increasing in the knowledge of God. Of course, that is our theme taken from Romans 11:33 which 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 morning, in our class, we are going to give a more detailed definition of the word grace but one person defined it as ‘unmerited favor.’ More accurately, it is simply ‘favor.’ The idea is that God favored us. He favored us when we did not deserve to be favored.

How often we sing the song. Many of us could probably sing at least the first verse from memory. It is an old favorite of many:

Amazing grace! How Sweet the sound—  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, But now am found—  
Was blind, but now I see.

Over the years, some of us may have very well gotten used to the song and the meaning has gotten lost along the way somehow. That is why we are going to dedicate this month to studying the concept of grace. Specifically, we are going to answer the question: What is so amazing about grace? This will be the topic of our sermon this morning.

Now then, the last Sunday of this month will be dedicated to our annual homecoming and we will have a guest speaker that particular day. However, that leaves five sermons for the month starting tonight and the next two Sundays. So we will focus on the amazing components of our salvation as outlined by Paul in Ephesians 2:1-10. Notice, how nicely this breaks down:

**Amazing need** — Ephesians 2:1-3, “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”

**Amazing God** — Ephesians 2:4-5, “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in tres-

passes, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)...”

**Amazing gift** — Ephesians 2:6-7, God ... “raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

**Amazing grace** — Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

**Amazing results** — Ephesians 2:10, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

While we will notice the place of faith in Ephesians 2:1-10 over the course of this month, briefly notice that works and faith are tied into biblical grace in this passage. Ephesians 2:8 clearly states that faith is our part while grace is God’s part. Further, verse 10 explains that Christians are created for good works. Thus, faith, grace, and works all belong together. It is not grace only. It is not faith only. It is not works only in the sense that our works will merit our salvation. It takes all three! Grace, faith, and works belong together. Truly, this shows some of the depth and riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God.

Of course, Lord willing, in the months ahead, we will examine other aspects of the depth of God’s creation and scheme of redemption. It continues to be a good year and an enriching study for us here in Ashland. But, before we get too far ahead, let’s focus on what we have lined up today. Today, we start a study that will show us just what is so amazing about grace.