

News & Notes

Sunday, May 4, 2008

Remember in Prayer: Daryl Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Venetta Alberson; Mary Bailey; Melvin Bennett; Johnny Childers; Vikie Cobb; Melba Cox; Mary Ann Duke; Lettie Mae Hunt; Charles Johnson; Shirley Judge; Dot Ketchum; Sam Kidd; Wayne Kidd; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Willie Mae Needham; Ann Ray; Jerry Ray; Jonell Rutledge; Katherine Shaw; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Calvin Ursery; Alvie Williford;

Pantry item for the month of May is pasta.

We are in need of the **cardboard cylinders** from paper towel rolls and **boxes** for Vacation Bible School projects.

Special thanks to Melissa Bennett and Heather Joyner for planning the trip to the zoo.

If you would like **CDs** from our homecoming, see Jeff Roberson.

Ashland Events: June 8-11: Vacation Bible School;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: Work Defined

PM: The Motivation for Our Work

For the Record (April 27, 2008):

Attendance: 113 Contribution: \$1354.00 Budget: \$1452.00

The Ashland Church of Christ

P. O. Box 25
Ashland, MS 38603-0025

www.ashlandcoc.org

acoc@ashlandcoc.org

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 Works — Do You Do Them?

Jeremy Northrop

How very quickly time is flying by these days! It doesn't seem like we should be beginning the fifth month of the year but here we are. As is our tradition, we spend the day focusing on our theme for the year taken from Romans 11:33 — increasing in the knowledge of God. In that passage, Paul stated, "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 you know, we have divided our study into twelve sub-topics. Let's take the time to notice the things we have already studied:

Advisory — God has spoken!

Children — We are His

Faith — Is It In You?

Grace — What's So Amazing About It?

Today, we are going to introduce a third component of Christianity — Works. As you can see, this topic combined with the topics of the last two months gives us a good look at balanced Biblical Christianity.

Often times, when the discussion of faith, grace, and works comes up, one component is pitted against the other two. One might say that a person is saved by grace alone and even sight Ephesians 2:8 as proof of

this. Yet, that passage shows that there are at least two components as it mentions faith as well as grace. Others say that faith is all one needs to be saved. Very often John 3:16 is used to support this claim. Yet, there is another passage that bears interest on this matter: James 2:24, “You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.” Incidentally, this is the only time the phrase, ‘faith only’ is used in the New Testament and it is used in a negative sense. Then, there may be those who say that man is justified by the works that he does. Yet, Ephesians 2:9 says that it is not by works, lest anyone should boast.

As we have seen in our study of Ephesians 2:1-10 last month, faith, grace, and works go together. Thus, it is appropriate that we spend some time studying or learning about each of them. We have spent a month each on faith and grace and now we will spend some time on works. Today, in our class, we will focus on Nehemiah 4:6b where the Bible says, “...for the people had a mind to work.” We are going to look at the idea of what work is in the Father’s eyes, and then we will look at the motivation for our work. Then, throughout the course of this month, we will look at various aspects of the work we need to be doing. A lot of people are hard-working but might find themselves doing work that the Father does not want them to be doing.

For now, let’s notice some of the passages in the New Testament which teach us that we need to be working and make some comments on each of them. First, Jesus is our example and notice what He said to His disciples after His discussion with the woman of Samaria. His disciples arrived and the woman of Samaria left to go to the city. His disciples then urged Jesus to eat. In John 4:32, Jesus said, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” The disciples were still thinking about physical nourishment and asked one another if anyone had anything to eat for the Messiah. Jesus then responded with some interesting words:

John 4:34-38

“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest?’ Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”

Jesus turned the discussion of physical food into a discussion about spiritual work. He had to do His Father’s work. In other places, He would speak of having to be about His Father’s business (Luke 2:49). Remember, in the garden when He prayed, He wanted the will of God to be done (Luke 2:42). We need to follow the example of Jesus and be about our Father’s work.

Also, the truth is that faith and works go together. James makes this point clear when he says, “But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?” (James 2:20, see also James 2:26). The person who has genuine faith will produce works. The goal for the Christian is to be about the works of God. This is, as we have seen, the point of 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.” We need to be about God’s good works.

Of course, this is only part of our overall study of increasing in the knowledge of God. In the months ahead, we will discuss such things as balance, study, issues, Satan, Christ, offense, and defense. Right now, let’s sit back and relax and enjoy the day.