

## News & Notes

Sunday, July 6, 2008

**Remember in Prayer:** Daryl Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Venetta Alberson; Mary Bailey; Vikie Cobb; Melba Cox; Jeff Cunningham; Penny Ford Huckabee; Lettie Mae Hunt; Charles Johnson; Dot Ketchum; Wayne Kidd; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Kaylee Northrop; Ann Ray; Jerry Ray; Katherine Shaw; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Calvin Ursery; Joan Wilkerson; Alvie Williford;

**Pantry item** for the month of June is pasta.

**Ashland Events:** Today: Periodic singing at Briarcrest Extended Care at 4:00 PM; July 20-24: Gospel meeting with David Lipe;

**Area Events:** Beginning today: Gospel meeting at the Batesville church of Christ; July 8: Summer Tuesday series at the Somerville congregation; July 12: Song service at the Meigg Street congregation in Corinth; July 13-17: Gospel meeting at the Tiplersville congregation, VBS at the Chapman congregation;

**Sermon in Preview:** Increasing in the Knowledge of God:

AM: Principles of Good Bible Study

PM: Guest Speaker

**For the Record (June 29, 2008):**

Attendance: 79      Contribution: \$1293.00      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 Study — How Do We Do It?

Jeremy Northrop

Half of 2008 is gone! Once again, the first Sunday of the month is upon us and we want to change the focus of our theme. As you well know, this year we have been focusing on the theme of *Increasing in the Knowledge of God* taken from Romans 11:33. In that passage, the apostle Paul said, “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!” We have certainly been learning of God’s ways and have learned the truth of Deuteronomy 29:29 this year. You will remember that is the passage which God said, “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.” Many of us like to ask ‘Why?’ or ‘What if?’ or say ‘But....’ As much as having a knowledge of the answers to these questions and statements might be interesting, many times the answers to such questions are not revealed.

Again, we focus on a review of the things that we have already focused on this year, introduce our topic/theme for this month, and then we will conclude this article with the things that we will be focusing on as 2008 draws to a close. Here is what we have considered so far this year:

**Advisory – God has spoken!  
Children – We are His  
Faith – Is It In You?  
Grace – What’s So Amazing About It?  
Works – Do You Do Them?  
Balance – Why Do We Need It?**

This month, we are going to focus on the topic of studying God’s word. Many of the misunderstanding which exists in the religious world today can be resolved by a good study of God’s word. It is good to learn how to study God’s word so that we can have a good knowledge of God’s will for our lives. He has revealed to us all that He wants us to know on these matters and we need to know what he has said (see 2Peter 1:3). Our verse for the month comes from Acts 17:11 where it is written of the people of Berea: “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”

Notice, how this passage in Acts 17:11 breaks down and thereby teaches us some good principles of Bible study. First, we need to be willing to receive the word of God for exactly what it is. Many look at the Bible with a critical eye and never accept it for the God-breathed all inspired word that it is (2Timothy 3:16-17, 2Peter 1:21). There is a time and place to examine the Bible critically but once the Bible has been proved, we need to receive it as the light to direct our steps (Psalm 119:105). The people of Berea had an open heart.

Second, the people of Berea received the word in all readiness. They were willing and ready to search the standard — the word of God. If ever we had a passage to show that just because the preacher says it does not necessarily make it true, this would be the one. The people of Berea had a willing mind.

Finally, the people of Berea worked to find out what God said. We need to understand that the way God has chosen to communicate to us was through His word, the Bible. Thus, we are going to have to read it, research it, and accept it if we are ever to understand it. They put forth a genuine effort to learn God’s will. The people of Berea had a working attitude.

The Bible teaches that each individual person will be judged and rewarded according to his or her own works (Matthew 16:27). God has revealed to us the works He wants us to be doing (again, 2Peter 2:3). Therefore, we each individually need to have our own faith. We each individually need to be mindful of what the Bible says about matters. It is a sad thing that many people in the church will come to me and say things like, “What is the church’s position on...” or “What do we believe about...” Friends, we need to be more interested in what the Bible says about these topics or what God’s will is for these matters. The church will not be judged as a group, nor can we go to Heaven believing something just because someone else told us it is what we are supposed to believe.

This concept of each of us being individually judged and rewarded is the very reason we need to know how to study what God has revealed. Thus, this morning in our Bible class, we are going to examine why we should study the Bible. Then, in our worship service, we are going to examine some principles of good Bible study.

Of course, we have five more months after this month of new topics and things that we want to examine in reference to our theme. But, we don’t want to get too far ahead of ourselves so let’s all sit back and enjoy the day. One highlight of our month is our upcoming gospel meeting (July 20-24) with brother David Lipe. Let’s all work hard to invite as many as we can to this meeting. Today, let’s sit back and enjoy the day as we study how to study God’s word.