

News & Notes

Sunday, August 3, 2008

Remember in Prayer: Juanita Akin; Daryl Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Mary Bailey; Vikie Cobb; Melba Cox; Lettie Mae Hunt; Charles Johnson; Dot Ketchum; Dawn Givens; Christie Hurt; Wayne Kidd; Earl Liming; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Kaylee Northrop; Ann Ray; Jerry Ray; Katherine Shaw; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Calvin Ursery; Alvie Williford;

Sympathy is extended to the family of Jon Street.

Pantry item for the month of July is pasta.

Ashland Events: Today: Periodic singing at Briarcrest Extended Care at 4:00 PM; August 6: Wednesdays in August;

Area Events: Beginning today: Lectureship at the Chapman church of Christ; August 5: Summer Tuesday series at the Somerville congregation; August 8: Lock-in at Holly Springs church of Christ;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: The Necessity of Baptism

PM: Mechanical Instruments of Music in Worship

For the Record (July 27, 2008):

Attendance: 78 Contribution: \$1247.00 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
Jeff Roberson
Carrol Street

Romans 11:33

ASHLAND ANNOUNCER

Increasing in the Knowledge of God



Increasing in the Knowledge of God Issues — How Do We Resolve Them?

Jeremy Northrop

Today is the first Sunday in August and, as is our tradition here, we will dedicate our time to our theme for the year. Our theme is taken from Romans 11:33 where the apostle Paul said, Romans 11:33, “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 reviewed several themes each month so far this year and have some more good ones to consider. You may remember, so far we have looked at such things as:

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?

Study – How Do We Do It?

This month, we are going to look at the topic or subject of issues. It seems during every period of time in religious history, there is some overwhelming issue that affects the religious world at large. During times

past, it has been such things as the balance of faith, grace, and works or conceiving the gracious nature of God and our response to His grace. Today, the overwhelming issue seems to revolve around the topic of biblical authority.

There are some valuable passages of scripture that teach us some good lessons concerning biblical authority. Think about some of the things we can know.

- We can know absolute truth (John 8:32; Matthew 4:4).
- We can have the ability to reason correctly (2Timothy 2:15; 1Thessalonians 5:21).
- We can have the aspiration to use the ability to reason correctly (Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Acts 17:11).
- We can know that our ultimate authority resides in the Bible alone (Proverbs 30:5-6; Revelation 22:18-19).

These fundamental concepts in terms of religious faith are necessary if one is to interpret the Bible as an absolute standard for all that we say and do. Remember what Paul said, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Colossians 3:17).

The truth is that if we can get authority right, then everything else will fall into place. There are a variety of issues affecting the church of our Lord and many of them involve severe change in the way we view the Bible and the way things have been done since the church’s inception in Acts 2.

Here is a list of some of the issues we will be examining over the course of this month:

The Necessity of Baptism

**Mechanical Instruments of Music in Worship
Women’s Role in the Church
Marking them which Cause Division
The Nature of Hell
The Withdrawal of Fellowship
The Singularity of the Church**

These are many of the issues that have been plaguing the church of our Lord in recent years. Many congregations are taking a more liberal approach to biblical interpretation and thereby are accepting practices that are against truth and against God. Perhaps it is the case that these issues have been avoided in many pulpits. Or, you may be thinking you already know the truth on these matters. If that is the case, then a reminder of what the Bible says will be helpful and reinforcing.

The truth is many of these issues resolve themselves when one chooses to approach the Bible only in matters of religion. When the matter of authority is resolved, then issues solve themselves. Thus, in our class this morning, we will examine the topic of biblical authority: How does the Bible authorize? What is binding and what is not? And other matters surrounding the issue of authority.

We also have other topics that we have scheduled in the months ahead throughout the rest of the year. Here is what we have lined up:

**Satan – Know Your Enemy
Christ – Keeping Our Focus
Offense – Becoming Grounded and Settled
Defense – Preparing For the Attack**

However, before we get too far ahead of ourselves, we want to sit back and enjoy what we have planned for this month. We will take the time this month to learn why we believe what we believe.