

## News & Notes

Sunday, August 31, 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; Renea Hightower; 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;

**Pantry item** for the month of August is Sugar.

If you would like **CDs from our Wednesdays in August** program, see Jeff Roberson.

**Ashland Events:** Fellowship meal following evening service;

**Area Events:** September 2: Summer Tuesday series at the Somerville congregation; September 6: Picnic at Pinevale Children's Home; September 7-12: Gospel meeting at the Grand Junction congregation;

### Sermon in Preview:

AM: How Do We Resolve Issues?

PM: Last-Sunday-of-the-Month Singing

### For the Record (August 24, 2008):

Attendance: 85      Contribution: \$.120200      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



## SAINTS

Jay Yeager

The word “saint” is a term often repeated in the New Testament in reference to faithful Christians (I Corinthians 1:2; Romans 12:13; Acts 9:13 et al), and those familiar with the scriptures understand the term as well as it’s meaning. However, all may not have studied to have a sufficient knowledge of this subject. That would at least seem to be the case in light of modern practices that confuse many.

Beloved, I recognize that sincere people are only looking for the truth on any subject (thanks be to God for such folks). Therefore, we will let the Bible answer two common questions about saints.

### **I. Does one become a saint post mortem (after death)?**

Friends, if the word “saint” is a synonymous expression for a faithful Christian (and it is), what human procedure could possible be applied that decides that after death? If we are not living saints, we will not become one after death! The word of God leaves no room for debate over this issue.

*“But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints, for it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem”* (Romans 15:25-26).

Surely we can understand these verses. Who provided the financial aide? The living saints of Macedonia and Achaia (I Corinthians 1:2; II Corinthians 9:1-2), who benefited from their collection (I Corinthians 16:1-2)? The living saints at Jerusalem! Therefore, any doctrine that teaches one becomes a saint after death is a false doctrine.

## II. Should we pray to souls who have departed this life?

Beloved, I could say “No” and leave it at that, but you would not be satisfied (nor should you be) with less than a scriptural answer. Therefore, let me give you two reasons why that would be both absolutely wrong and a complete waste of time and energy.

1. When the disciples came to Jesus and asked the Son of God to teach them to pray, Jesus taught them to direct their prayers to the Father. ***“When you pray, say, our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name”*** (Luke 11:1-2). The only acceptable prayer is that which is offered unto the God Father (Matthew 6:9). We are to pray in Jesus name (John 14:13; Ephesians 5:20). Why? Because Jesus is (our High Priest – Hebrews 4:15) is the only mediator between man and God (I Timothy 2:5).

2. Those that have departed this life are unaware of events among the living. I am not suggesting that the dead are unaware of their own surroundings (Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 6:9-10), but God through Solomon made it clear that the dead are no longer aware of things connected to this world. ***“For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hate, and their envy is now perished; neither have they any more portion forever in anything that is done under the sun”*** (Ecclesiastes 9:5-6).

## TELL HIM GENTLY

Has your brother sinned against you?  
Is the fault one he has known?  
Jesus tells you to go to him.  
Tell him gently - all alone!

It may be he will not hear you,  
And repentance may postpone;  
Yet, before you talk to others,  
Tell him gently - all alone!

Telling others is forbidden,  
Till in private you have shown  
To the man his sin against you;  
Tell him gently - all alone!

How much hurt results from gossip!  
By this habit strife is shown;  
Rather, since you love your brother,  
Tell him gently - all alone!

[author unknown]

In Matthew 18:15, Jesus explains how to deal with personal offenses, “And if thy brother sin against thee, go, show him his fault between thee and him alone: if he hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.”

Think About It!

-Tom Moore