

News & Notes

Sunday, September 8, 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; Ann Ray; Jerry Ray; Katherine Shaw; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Calvin Ursery; Alvie Williford;

Pantry item for the month of September is dryer sheets.

For copies of our **Wednesdays in August** lessons, see Jeff Roberson.

Ashland Events: Periodic singing at Briarcrest Extended Care at 4:00 PM;

Area Events: Beginning today: Gospel meeting at the Grand Junction congregation; September 13: Men's Day at the North Green Street church of Christ in Tupelo, Mississippi;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: The Reality of Satan
PM: The Mission of Satan

For the Record (August 31, 2008):

Attendance: 91 Contribution: \$1446.00 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 Satan — Know Your Enemy

Jeremy Northrop

It is once again the first Sunday of the month. As is our tradition, we will turn again to our theme for the year — increasing in the knowledge of God — taken from Romans 11:33. There the Apostle Paul declared, “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 looked at several different aspects of the knowledge of God throughout this year. For a reminder:

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?

Issues – How Do We Resolve Them?

Several positive comments have been made concerning the past month of August. Thank you and I am glad it was a good period of study.

This month, we turn to a topic that many people do not like to discuss — Satan. Many have noticed this on the outline for the year and asked why we would want to study on Satan. The answer is that it is necessary to

study this biblical topic if we are going to stand on guard against Satan. Several passages show us that we need to stand on guard for Satan:

...nor give place to the devil (Ephesians 4:27).

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (Ephesians 6:11).

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you (James 4:7).

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1Peter 5:8)

Seeing that we have many passages teaching us to stand on guard against the devil, it stands that a good study of Satan will help us to uphold this command.

There are some who deny the reality of Satan saying the all evil is summed up in the word Satan. The passages that speak of Satan vividly show this to be false. In Genesis 3:1 (notice how early in the Bible he is introduced), he is called, "...more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made." In Job 1-2, he is seen having a conversation with God. In Acts 5, Peter asked Ananias, "...why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?" (vs. 3). Further, there are many attributes placed upon Satan throughout the Bible. He is described as the father of lies (John 8:44). He is described as the wicked one (1John 2:13).

We also know how Satan works in his deceptions of mankind. 1John 2:16 says, "For all that is in the world--

the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world." The sins of the world are summed up in this verse. All that we are tempted with comes down to either the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, or the pride of life. Two illustrations show this.

First, in Matthew 4, Satan tempts Jesus three different times. In verse 3, the Bible says, "Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, 'If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.'" This is lust of the flesh. In verse 5-6, it says, "Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" This is lust of the eyes. Finally, in verse 8-9, the text says, "Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, 'All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.'" This is the pride of life.

Another example is the temptation of the Devil to Eve in the garden. In Genesis 3:6, the text says, "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate." Again, we see that it was good for food (lust of the flesh), pleasant to the eyes (lust of the eyes), and desirable to make one wise (pride of life). Today, Satan is going to tempt you and me in the same fashion.

What we will find over the course of the month is that a study of the Devil will help us to stand on guard against him. Hopefully, in the end, we will be even more prepared to resist him and flee from him. In order to do so, we must take the time to get to know our enemy.