

News & Notes

Sunday, October 5, 2008

Remember in Prayer: Daryl Alberson; David Anderson; Michelle Allen; Arland Anderson; Mary Bailey; Johnny Carr; Mary Childers; Vikie Cobb; Virginia Harden; Diana Hayes; Bobby Hopkins; Lettie Mae Hunt; Dot Ketchum; Earl Liming; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Shirley Ortiz; Michael Owens; Alva Powell; Ann Ray; Brandon Ray; Wayne Robbins; Katherine Shaw; Gary Spence; Calvin Ursery; Joan Wilderson; Alvie Williford;

Pantry item for the month of October is baking soda.

Ashland Events: Today: Periodic singing at Briarcrest Extended Care at 4:00 PM; October 11: Men's breakfast at 8:00 AM; October 12-15: Joint gospel meeting with the South Ashland congregation.

Area Events: Beginning today: gospel meeting at the Booneville congregation; October 10-11: Marriage seminar at the Chapman congregation; October 11: Ladies' day at the Zion Rest congregation; October 12: Homecoming at the Beech Hill congregation;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: Jesus, Son of God

PM: Jesus, Son of Man

For the Record (September 28, 2008):

Attendance: 76 Contribution: \$1130.00 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 Christ — Keeping Our Focus

Jeremy Northrop

It is hard to believe that 2008 is rapidly coming to an end. October has now started and one of the highlights of this month will be our joint gospel meeting with the South Ashland congregation. That will, of course, begin next Sunday and go through Wednesday (the 15th). Today is the first Sunday of the month and as is our tradition, we will turn our attention to the new theme for October. For a reminder, we have looked at the following themes 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?

Study – How Do We Do It?

Issues – How Do We Resolve Them?

Satan – Know Your Enemy

Of course, all of this coincides with our theme for the year, taken from Romans 11:33, *Increasing in the Knowledge of God*. In that passage Paul states, 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!” Of course, we will never know the complete knowledge of God in this life, but the constant study of God’s word is a lifetime endeavor for each and every Christian (2Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:11).

As you remember, last month, we spent the month studying different aspects of the devil. It was good for us to get the time to know our arch enemy. This month, however, we will starkly change the focus of our study and look to our Savior, Jesus Christ. Our theme verse for the month of October will be Hebrews 12:2. There the writer states,

...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

To begin this study, we will focus on the three ways that Jesus describes Himself in John 14:7. There He says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” In the sermons today, we will notice two very important aspects of the person of Jesus — His humanity and His deity. Since we have our joint gospel meeting beginning next Sunday and since we sing praises to God on the last Sunday evening of each month, then there will only be three other sermons this month which will focus on Christ. We will examine such things as the idea that Christ is the source and price paid for man’s salvation and we will examine the fact that Christ has given us an example to imitate. As you well know, this is just the tip of the ice-burg when it comes to a study of Jesus. Hopefully, this month will help us to greater appreciate our Savior and the sacrifice that He made for our salvation.

There are several descriptions placed upon Jesus in the Holy scriptures. The each give us insight into His plan, personality, and purpose, especially while He walked the earth. Of course, Jesus is eternal and was present at creation (John 1:1-4). In John 8:58, Jesus said “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” We know that Jesus will be the judge of our actions on the last day (2Corinthians 5:10). His eternal nature is something spoken of time and again in the Bible. Many say that the gospel records are the accounts of the life of Christ. Technically, they are the accounts of the life of Christ *on earth*. Christ is eternal. He has always been and will always be.

Isaiah describes Christ in a great way:

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

In these various descriptions, we see the deity of Christ, the humanity of Christ, and the passion of Christ. Indeed there are a great many more aspects of Jesus at which we could look. It is a great study and one worthy of our consideration.

Of course, we have two more months (yea, only two) before we close out our study for the year. In those months we will look at our duties of being spiritually ready for defense — becoming grounded and settled. This will come from Colossians 1:23. Then, in December, we will focus on being spiritually ready for offense — preparing for the attack. The Bible outlines ways that we are to deal with false teachers and things we need to do to avoid becoming entrapped in false doctrines. That’s all to come. This month, we will focus on Jesus.