

News & Notes

Sunday, October 19, 2008

Remember in Prayer: Daryl Alberson; David Anderson; Arland Anderson; Mary Bailey; Mary Childers; Vikie Cobb; Diana Hayes; Bobby Hopkins; Lettie Mae Hunt; Dot Ketchum; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Ann Ray; Brandon Ray; Verra Roberson; Austin Robinson; Katherine Shaw; Gary Spence; Calvin Ursery; Alvie Williford;

Pantry item for the month of October is baking soda.

If you would like **audio CDs** of the lessons from our joint gospel meeting, see Jeff Roberson.

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

Area Events: October 25: Ladies day at the North Green Street church of Christ in Tupelo;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: Jesus, Our Great High Priest (Hebrews 2:11, 9:11)

PM: Jesus, Our Example (Philippians 2:5-11)

For the Record (October 12, 2008):

Attendance: 149 Contribution: \$1546.00 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



"REGARD NOT YOUR STUFF"

Tom Wacaster

It is not uncommon for a single verse to contain a little nugget of truth that astounds and challenges even the most experienced Bible students. Today while reading again the wonderful story of Joseph, I came across the statement Joseph made to his brethren: "*regard not your stuff.*"

"Stuff" is our English word for material possessions. All of us have our "stuff," much of which sits on the shelf collecting dust, or is stored away in some box in the attic where spiders and moths destroy their once-intrinsic value. Historians might look back on this generation and declare it the age of the "storage shed." The past 50 years has seen a dramatic increase in the personal possessions of the average American. In the 1950's, the average family lived in a 900 square foot house, with a single bathroom, two bedrooms, a small but adequate living area for family entertainment, and a single car garage for the one and only automobile that the family owned. With each passing decade the standard of living has increased. Today the average house contains 2500 square feet of living space, four bedrooms, two and half baths, a den (or family room), a living room, and a two-car garage. In the 1950's, those seldom-used items were stored in the attic. In the 1970's our possessions increased, and along with it the need for more space. So we backed our cars out of the garage and filled up the garage with our "stuff." The 1980's introduced us to the "storage shed" at some remote area – and for a modest monthly fee we could store all that unwanted "stuff" that cluttered up our attics and garages. Now we have attics, garages, and storage sheds full of "stuff."

I am sure that Jacob had his "stuff." After all, with so many wives, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, he simply could not avoid collecting "stuff." Now Joseph invites his father to leave that "stuff" behind and come to Egypt. In faith this great patriarch saw in

life's disappointments and setbacks the hand of God moving to save the lives of his father and brothers. As he revealed himself to his brethren he invites them to go get their father and bring him and his family to Egypt. *"Take ye wagons out of the land of Egypt for your little ones, and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. Also regard not your stuff; for the good of all the land of Egypt is yours"* (Genesis 45:20).

God abides in His heavenly home. He wants us to join Him. He invites, pleads, and has sent the "wagons" (His Son, the gospel, etc.) to safely carry us to that heavenly home. But in order to receive that wonderful inheritance, we must maintain a healthy attitude toward our "stuff." Our Lord encourages us with these words:

"Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than the food, and the body than the raiment? Behold the birds of the heaven, that they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; and your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are not ye of much more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit unto the measure of his life? And why are ye anxious concerning raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God doth so clothe the grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Be not therefore anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? For after all these things do the Gentiles seek; for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Be not therefore anxious for the morrow: for the morrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (Matthew 6:25-34).

Jesus' message to us is the same as that of Joseph to his brethren: *"regard not your stuff."* Some years ago I came across the following rather humorous but pointed anecdote:

"Stuff"

[Each] spring I start stirring in my stuff. There is closet stuff, drawer stuff, attic stuff, and basement stuff. I separate the good stuff from the

bad stuff, then I stuff the good stuff back in drawers and closets, attic and basement; then I stuff the bad stuff anywhere the stuff is not too crowded until I decide if I will need the bad stuff. when the Lord calls me home, my children will both want the good stuff; but the bad stuff, stuffed wherever there is room among the other stuff, will be stuffed in bags and taken to the dump where all the other people's stuff has been taken.

Whenever we have company, they always bring bags and bags of stuff and we have to move all of our stuff that's stuffed in every nook and cranny that's full of *our* stuff so they can hang and stuff *their* stuff.

When I visit my son, he always moves his stuff so I will have room for my stuff. My daughter-in-law always clears a drawer of her stuff so I have room for my stuff. Their stuff and my stuff – it would be so much easier to use their stuff and leave my stuff at home with the rest of my stuff.

This spring I had an extra closet built so I could have a place for all the stuff too good to throw away and too bad to keep with my good stuff. You may not have this problem, but I seem to spend a lot of time with stuff - food stuff, cleaning stuff, medicine stuff, clothes stuff, and outside stuff. Whatever would life be like if we didn't have all the stuff?

Whenever we travel, we bring all our good stuff. We mix all the stuff we brought together, then when we get ready to go home, all our stuff is scattered and mixed with everyone else's stuff, and someone has lost some stuff. Finally, all our stuff is stuffed in the car, and we go home and unload all our stuff and start washing and arranging all the stuff with the stuff we left at home.

Now, there is all that stuff we use to make us smell better than we do. There is the stuff to make our hair look good, the stuff to cover a bad complexion, stuff to make us look younger and stuff to make us look healthier, stuff to hold us in, and stuff to fill us out. There is stuff to read, stuff to play with, stuff to entertain us, and stuff to eat – we stuff ourselves with all the good food stuff.

Well, our lives are filled with stuff – good stuff, bad stuff, little stuff, big stuff, useful stuff, junky stuff, and everyone's stuff. Now, whenever we leave all our stuff and go to heaven, whatever happens to our stuff won't matter. We will have all the good stuff God has prepared for us.