

News & Notes

Sunday, November 2, 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; Jamie Spence; Calvin Ursery; Alvie Williford;

Sympathy is extended to the families of Bardee Autry and Shirley Gamblin.

Pantry item for the month of November is decaffeinated tea bags.

Ashland Events: Today: Periodic singing at Briarcrest Extended Care;

Area Events: Today: Appreciation day at the Booneville church of Christ; November 9: Family and Friends/Minister's Appreciation day at the Bluff Road congregation;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: Grounded in Love (Ephesians 3:14-21)

PM: Be Steadfast (Colossians 1:19-23)

For the Record (October 26, 2008):

Attendance: 70 Contribution: \$1014.00 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 Defense — Becoming Grounded and Settled

Jeremy Northrop

It is, once again, the first Sunday of the month and, as is our custom, we turn our attention to our theme for the year. You will remember that our theme comes from Romans 11:33 which says, “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!” Our theme is simply, *Increasing in the Knowledge of God*.

It is hard to believe that it is November already! We have this day and one more before we bring our theme study to a conclusion. It would be good again to review the things that we have studied 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.

Christ – Keeping Our Focus.

We have two more months of this study and during that time, we will focus on putting all that we have learned into practice. One thing that the Bible spends a great deal of time discussing is the protection of our faith and the various attacks that false teachers and others will make against it. Jude said, “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). At least 25 of the 27 New Testament books deal with attacks against the faith in either a direct or indirect way.

One of the ever pressing facts about serving Christ is that we are in the middle of a battle. It is not physical in nature but rather spiritual in nature. Since the dawn of time, there has been a constant struggle between good and evil. Quite literally, it has been between God and the Devil. The focus of the Bible has always been on the spiritual side of things. In fact, Paul emphasized such when he said, “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption” (1Corinthians 15:50).

We have looked at the whole armor of God in the past, but consider again what Paul said in Ephesians 6:10-20:

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of

God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

As Paul describes the armor that a Christian is to wear, there are some very interesting observations. One of them is that there is only one offensive weapon — the sword of the spirit, or the word of God. Everything else is about protecting ourselves from the wiles of the devil. Another interesting observation is that there is nothing mentioned about protecting our back. As we fight this spiritual battle, it is God’s intention that we move forward and never retreat. This month, we will study ways in which we are to protect ourselves. Next month, we will discuss the offensive positions and things that we are to do in this great battle.

Over the course of this month, we will discuss the various ways Satan tries to attack the church and consequently the truth. It will be a good month to remind ourselves that we must be ‘grounded and settled’ in order to defend truth.