

News & Notes

Sunday, December 28, 2008

Remember in Prayer: Daryl Alberson; David Anderson; Arland Anderson; Mary Bailey; Mary Childers; Lettie Mae Hunt; Dot Ketchum; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Wayne Orman; Ann Ray; Brandon Ray; Austin Robinson; Katherine Shaw; Gary Spence; Jamie Spence; Calvin Ursery; Joan Wilkerson; Alvie Williford;

Sympathy is extended to the family of Bessie Beibers.

Pantry item for the month of January is Dial or Safeguard soap.

There is a **sign-up list** in the foyer for anyone who would like to host a youth devotional in 2009.

The **website** for the church has been reformatted for 2009. For those with internet access, check it out at www.ashlandcoc.org.

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

Sermon in Preview:

AM: David – A Man after God's Own Heart (Acts 13:22)

PM: Titus – A Pattern of Good Works (Titus 2:7)

For the Record (December 28, 2008):

Attendance: 52 Contribution: \$953.00 Budget: \$1452.00

The Ashland Church of Christ

P. O. Box 25
Ashland, MS 38603-0025
www.ashlandcoc.org
acoc@ashlandcoc.org

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

ASHLAND ANNOUNCER

"Note Those Who So Walk"

Philippians 3:17

2Thessalonians 3:14

"Note Those Who So Walk"

Jeremy Northrop

It may be hard to believe, but 2008 is gone! How fast did the year go by?! Before we know it, we will be celebrating the beginning of 2010. It was a good year for us here at the Ashland church of Christ with some hard times and some good times. A few of the highlights of the year, both good and bad, might be interesting. We had a great youth rally in January. It was good to see it resumed after not having one for about two years. It was good to see brother Jeff Roberson appointed as one of the shepherds here. We had a great joint gospel meeting with the South Ashland congregation (the fifth one, so far). Also, we all experienced sadness in the passing of some who were close to us. Two thousand nine promises to come with challenges, highlights, and sad times as well, but we look forward to it with great anticipation.

This year, for our theme, we are going to be studying about various individuals and groups of people mentioned in the Bible. Some of them will be points of encouragement showing us the right way to conduct ourselves. There will be others from whom we will learn what not to do. We will learn something that each of us can do individually and there will be things we learn that will help us to better function as a group or congregation. It really promises to be an exciting year.

This concept of various character and group studies has its foundation in scripture. In fact, the word 'note' is found four

times in the New King James New Testament (the King James Version uses the words 'salute' and 'mark' in some of these passages).

The first time we see the word is in Romans 16:7. There Paul says, "Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me." Romans 16 as a chapter, is an interesting one in that Paul lists several people by name. For many of them, this is the only time they are mentioned in all of scripture. Andronicus and Junia are in this category. What is said about them in Romans 16:7 is all that inspiration says about them. They may seem insignificant compared to Paul, Peter, or Luke but the Holy Spirit saw fit to include them in this passage and there are some things that we can learn from these two people.

It is important to call people out by name. In this case, it is important to acknowledge people for the good that they have done. Paul also did this for three men in 1Corinthians 16:14-18. We also learn from Paul that some people need to be named because of the negative things they have done. Andronicus and Junia were of note "among the apostles." Paul wanted them greeted and acknowledged.

Paul also used the word 'note' in Philippians 3:17 where he said, "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern." This was not the only time Paul said to look to him for an example of how to live. In 1Corinthians 11:1, he said, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." In the first part of Galatians 4:12, Paul stated, "Brethren, I urge you to become like me...." Here is Philippians 3:17, Paul said that we could follow after his example and to note (notice, acknowledge, make yourself aware of) those who live or conduct themselves as Paul does. In the same context, he points out that many walk as "enemies of the cross of Christ" (see verse 18). In contrast to that, the citizenship of the Christian is in Heaven and thus, there is a certain way that he or she ought to live or conduct themselves while here on the earth. In Philippians 1:27, Paul says, "Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving

together for the faith of the gospel...." May we all strive to live as Paul lived — according to the gospel.

The two other passages where the word 'note' is used are both in a negative sense. One of them is back in Romans 16. Verse 17 says, "Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them." In contrast to noting those, such as Andronicus and Junia, who are doing positive things, this time Paul says we are to notice those who are doing negative things. In order to stand on guard against the enemies of the cross, we must notice what they are doing. Paul tells us how to respond to them: "...and avoid them." There comes a time when fellowship must be severed. In another place, Paul said, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them" (Ephesians 5:11). This is further seen in the last passage in which the word 'note' is used.

The final passage in which the word 'note' is used is 2Thessalonians 3:14. There the apostle says, "And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed." What did Paul mean when he said "avoid them" in Romans 16:17? If there was any confusion, 2Thessalonians 3:14 helps clear it up. The text says "do not keep company with him...." Paul even tells us why we are not to keep company with the person who does not live after the gospel of Christ. Specifically, "that he might be ashamed." It is true that we live in a culture where it seems that the recurring theme is we should not feel shame for anything. This was certainly not the Holy Spirit's persuasion and it ought not to be our persuasion either. There are times when shame is a good thing and will motivate people to do what is right.

Two of the four passages which use the word 'note' are going to serve as our key passages for the year. As we can easily see, the idea of noting various people or groups of people has its foundation in scripture. We need to acknowledge those who are doing right and pattern our lives after them. We need to avoid those who are doing wrong. Thus, throughout 2009, we will take the time to notice some people, both positively and negatively, and learn how we ought to conduct ourselves in the house of God.