

## News & Notes

Sunday, March 22, 2009

**Remember in Prayer:** Mary Bailey; Freeman Duncan; J.C. Enlow; Sherry Fewell; Lettie Mae Hunt; Lonnie Hurt; Dot Ketchum; Billy Liming; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Alva Powell; Ann Ray; Brandon Ray; Calvin Ursery; Joan Wilkerson; Alvie Williford;

**Sympathy** is extended the families of Chad Duncan, Harley Fowler, and Billy Peeler.

**Pantry item** for the month of March is spaghetti sauce.

**Ashland Events:** Today: Elder's meeting at 4:00 PM; Youth devotional following evening service; March 29: Fellowship meal following morning service and early afternoon service at South Ashland; April 4: Ladies Day.

**Area Events:** March 23-26: Gospel meeting at the Calvary Hill congregation; March 27-28: Marriage seminar at the New Albany congregation;

### Sermon in Preview:

AM: Ezekiel – The Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

PM: Daniel – Faith No Matter What (Daniel 3)

### For the Record (March 15, 2008):

Attendance: 79      Contribution: \$1265.00      Budget: \$1459.00

### 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

## Be Fair When Interpreting the Bible

Eric Lyons

Twenty-first-century Americans think very little about how contradictory our communication sounds to those unfamiliar with modern American English. Driving on parkways and parking on driveways seems very illogical given the definitions of parking and driving. Receiving shipment from trucks and cargo from ships sounds equally bizarre, though not to Americans. We have feet that smell and noses that run. We eat **hamburgers** made of **beef** and **hotdogs** made of **pigs**. What's more, we drive on interstate highways that never cross into other states (e.g., Hawaii's interstate H1), and we are programmed to read speed “limit” signs as speed “minimum” signs.

One of the most awkward questions Americans ask is, “You didn't do that, did you?” How are we supposed to answer such a question? We generally say “No,” but mean “Yes,” and if we mean “No,” we say “Yes.” Recently I asked my two young sons a similar question. One said “No” and the other said “Yes,” but they meant the same thing. They simply were confused as to how to answer such a question. When one pauses to consider the many figures of speech Americans use in communication, he is overwhelmed with the number of paradoxes we regularly invoke.

It is essential for students of the Bible to recognize that the inspired writers also used many figures of speech. If we fail to

identify these idioms, we may ignorantly draw the same conclusion that so many Bible critics have drawn—that the Bible writers made mistakes. In actuality, the “mistakes” are on the interpreter’s part, not God’s or His penmen’s. When skeptics allege that Jesus lied when He stated He would rise from the grave “**after** three days” (Mark 8:31), because on other occasions He indicated that He would rise “**the** third day” (Matthew 16:21; 17:23; 20:19; cf. Acts 10:40), they fail to recognize a common figure of speech in ancient times. “After three days” and “on the third day” frequently meant the same thing (cf. 2 Chronicles 10:5,12; Genesis 42:17-18; Esther 4:16-5:1; see Lyons, 2004). Even Jesus’ first-century enemies used these expressions synonymously (Matthew 27:63-64).

One critic of Christ has condemned Jesus for calling His mother “woman” in John 2:4 (see McKinsey, 1995, p. 134). Allegedly, the Son of God would not use such an impersonal noun in such a disrespectful way. In truth, however, though this expression may sound rude in the 21st century, 2,000 years ago it was used in a most respectful manner (cf. Matthew 15:28; John 19:26; 20:15).

If Bible critics would pause to think of the plethora of figures of speech we use everyday (which to some sound perplexing at best, and contradictory at worst), likely far fewer alleged discrepancies would be levied against the Bible. A fair approach to Scripture is one that takes into account its many figures of speech, rather than simply assuming the worst of its writers.

## REFERENCES

- Lyons, Eric (2004), “Three Days and Three Nights,” *Apologetics Press*, [On-line], URL: <http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/570>.
- McKinsey, C. Dennis (1995), *The Encyclopedia of Biblical Errancy* (Amherst, NY: Prometheus).

## FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING

### PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

### PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

### PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

### NO GARDEN WITHOUT TURNIPS:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

### TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND CULTIVATE  
WITH LOVE THERE WILL BE MUCH FRUIT IN YOUR  
GARDEN BECAUSE YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.

-Unknown