

News & Notes

Sunday, May 24, 2009

Remember in Prayer: Arland Anderson; Robbie Alberson; Robert Bennett; Freeman Duncan; Shannon Hastings; Wayne Hawkins; Dot Ketchum; Robert King; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Betty Moore; Alva Powell; Ann Ray; Brandon Ray; Bob Riles; Shad Street; Calvin Ursery; Alvie Williford;

Sympathy is extended to the family of Alva Powell.

Pantry item for the month of May is Purex liquid laundry detergent.

There will be a **come-and-go reception for Shane Fortner** May 30th from 2-5 PM at the Abel's Store clubhouse.

Ashland Events: Today: Elder's meeting at 4:00 PM; June 7-10: Vacation Bible School;

Area Events: May 31-June 3: Gospel meeting at the North Rienzi church of Christ; June 1-5: Lectureship at the Calvary Hill congregation in Oxford;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: Apostle Profile: Thomas

PM: Apostle Profile: Matthew

For the Record (May 17, 2009):

Attendance: 73 Contribution: \$1206.00 Budget: \$1459.00

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

ASHLAND ANNOUNCER

"Note Those Who So Walk"

Philippians 3:17

2Thessalonians 3:14

GOD

Max Patterson

There are many anthropomorphic phrases (attributes of God spoken of in human terms) used of God in the Bible. Why, if God is a spirit (John 4:24), would He be described in human terms? One very important answer to this question is that that is the only way we as human beings can understand.

God is described as having actions that are familiar to humans: He speaks (Genesis 2:6), He hears (Exodus 2:24), He remembers (Genesis 8:21), He walks (Leviticus 26:12), He smells (Genesis 8:21), He tastes (Psalm 11:4,5), and He has a nose (Deuteronomy 33:10).

The works of God are ascribed to Him in human terms: He is a builder (Hebrews 11:10), a shepherd (Psalm 23:1), a bridegroom (Isaiah 61:10), and a husbandman (John 15:1).

God is also said to have emotions that are often characteristic of human beings: grief (Psalm 78:40), anger (Jeremiah 7:18,19), joy (Isaiah 62:5), vengeance (Deuteronomy 32:35), wrath (Psalm 2:5), love (John 3:16), and rejoicing (Isaiah 65:19).

These terms are used so that we may know those things about God that it is necessary for us to know. God is a person who

does certain things from within His own power, and for the good of our world.

Let us be thankful that we have such a great God, and that He has revealed himself to man, and that his revelation is complete in Jesus Christ. It is because we, as human beings, can understand, that we can know what to do, and therefore have salvation.

The main focus of our life is to put this God first in our lives. Both Genesis one and the first of the ten commandments put God first. There is a good reason for this. Men tend to be like the God in which they believe. It is of first necessity that we get the idea of God right because we become like the God we worship.

If a man worships a licentious god like the Baals of the O.T., he will become licentious in his thinking and actions. If one worships a hard, stern god, than one is apt to become a hard, stern person. If we sentimentalize God, then we have a sentimentalized religion. The kind of god we believe in and worship will make a difference in the kind of life we live, and whether we keep the commandments of God. A man's god dictates his ethics and his conduct.

We have many false gods today. William Jennings Bryan's list included: gold, fashion, fame, ease, intellect, travel, war, passion, chance, and drink. John Stacy, in his book on the Ten Commandments, lists the following modern day gods: nature, health, sports, knowledge, pleasure, popularity, wealth, man, self. Other lists might include children, rivers, lakes, mountains, cows, crocodiles and the heavenly bodies.

Only one is the right claimant of man's inner throne – almighty God. Away with all false gods! They are enemies of the soul. They take away serenity and true joy. Services to them leads to unhappiness and death. The first commandment is still “You shall not have any other gods in place of me” (Exodus 2:3).

Reversal of Fortune

Tom Moore

What most absorbs your time, your attention, and your heart? In the account of Lazarus and the rich man Jesus paints a dramatic scene of contrasts - riches and poverty, heaven and hell, compassion and indifference, inclusion and exclusion. We also see an abrupt and dramatic reversal of fortune. Lazarus was not only poor, but incapacitated. He was "laid" at the gates of the rich man's house. The dogs which licked his sores probably also stole the little bread he procured for himself. Dogs in the ancient world symbolized contempt. Enduring the torment of these savage dogs only added to the poor man's miseries and sufferings. The rich man treated the beggar with contempt and indifference, until he found his fortunes reversed!

The name Lazarus means God is my help. Despite a life of misfortune and suffering, Lazarus did not lose hope in God. His eyes were set on a treasure stored up for him in heaven. The rich man, however, could not see beyond his material treasure. He not only had every thing he needed, he indulged in his wealth to excess. He was too absorbed in what he had to notice the needs of those around him. He lost sight of God and the treasure of heaven because he was preoccupied with seeking happiness in material things. He served wealth rather than God. In the end the rich man became a beggar!

Do you know the joy and freedom of possessing God as your only treasure? And is your hope securely anchored in heaven. The Hebrew writer declared, "We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain" (Hebrews 6:19; ESV).

Think About It!