

Thus Saith God's Word

by Rev. Ted Brooks

And said, "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee." (Exodus 16:26)

"Take heed brethren lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God."

"But exhort one another daily while it is called today-least any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ. If we hold the beginnings of our confidence steadfast unto the end. For some when they had heard, did provoke howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses." (Hebrews 3:12-16)

From what we have read in those last verses, it seems that those who followed Moses did not come clean out of Egypt. They were on the road that led out of Egypt, but being on the road will take you no where unless you move in the right direction. You see, the road leads to where it is, where it is you want to be.

There are many of us who want to be well in our bodies and in our minds, and we can be but there is a condition on being well and joyful. In God's words we find these words of comfort, "If thou wilt." In other words, God has a condition on being healed. He declared that unless you do as he says, you cannot be healed.

God's word tells us to hearken, to give close attention to his instructions and for us to be obedient and to give great consideration and to hearken to his voice earnestly, for we are as the Apostle Paul tells us "For we are made partakers of Christ." If we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end. We are warned of being evil, and departing from the living God.

So God said to the people, as they moved along in the wilderness, "Do that which is right in his sight and give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes." Oh my friend, the only hope of Christianity is in the rehabilitating of the Pauline theology. We must get back to an incarnate Christ and the atoning blood, it is on, to atheism and despair.

Look around you today here in Robeson County there is a serious problem of sin among us. In the years past our Christian leaders did not heed the warning of Paul's revelation, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief." My friend, everything that God says, do. We fuss and argue till there is nothing left of his word. Today we have what is known as spiritual adultery. Today our churches are as they were in Paul's day, Christian leaders who did not heed the warnings of God's preachers.

Today we have turned aside to a social gospel and allowed the enemies of Christ to infiltrate Christian seminaries and then the churches. Oh my friend, if only the ministers in our churches had stood firmly on the word of God, the enemies that are now destroying our society would have been driven back.

Folks, God gave us a promise, a glorious promise. God said when the enemy comes in like a flood, the spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. (Isaiah 59:19) My friend, if you want to know what God's standards are, they're to "Hearken to God's voice. Do that which is right. Give ear to his commandments and statutes, and then He declared I will put none of these diseases upon thee."

We made the statement before that the church has lowered its standard to bring in converts. Now let us notice where it has brought us to. When those who claim to be God's people turn aside from the word of God and from the Christ of history, this my friend is far more heinous in the sight of God than the worst case of infidelity in marriage, for it destroys the reality, the great central bride-groom relationship. My friend, God does not minimize promiscuity in sexual relationships, but apostasy, spiritual adultery is worse.

When you have lost the history of Christ, it is reported commonly that there is fornication among you. My friend, then the history of Christ is lost, deacons, church leaders, cannot be firm. They no longer are able to stand firm on

God's word. Ministers are no longer firm on God's word. Pulpits are now filled with liberal theology, that denies the personal God who is there. A liberal theology denies the divine historic Christ. It denies the Bible as God's verbalized word. It denies God's way of salvation. In doing so, they elevate their own humanistic theories to a position above the word of God. They make gods which are not gods, but are merely, the reflection of their own minds. The qualifications of deacons and preachers mean nothing to a liberal. So God sent out a warning, hearken to my voice. Do that which is right in His sight. Give ear to his commandment and keep all his statutes. Do this and I will not put these diseases upon you. My friend, we must call it for what it is. Apostasy is spiritual adultery. Preachers today change wives like birds change birds nests every year.

God gave the church a warning, "Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven, leaveneth the whole lump." (1 Corinthians 5:1-6)

I have seen and witnessed preachers who commit adultery and spiritual adultery and over half of the church doesn't seem to care. Yet the historic Christ tells us a little leaven, leaveneth the whole church.

Oh I know you don't like the word adultery. You wish for that word to be toned down. But spiritual adultery is alive and it is in our midst, to be silent would be grievously wrong. We are to view apostasy for what it really is. We must look and see what the historic Christ saw. Christ looked at it as sin, that which would spread and over take a family. "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child. The rod of discipline will remove it far from him." (Proverbs 22:15) "For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry." (1 Samuel 15:23) "I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with my eyes upon you. Do not be as the horse or as the mule." (Proverbs 32:8-9)

There were those who dwelt in darkness and in the shadow of death. Prisoners in misery and chains because they had rebelled against the word of God. And spurned the counsel of the most high. Therefore he humbled their heart with labor. (Psalm 107:10)

Now do not stiffen your neck like your fathers, but yield to the Lord that his burning anger may turn away from you. (11 Chronicles 30:8)

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come: for men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy. (11 Timothy 3:1-2)

We have said all these things to let you know there are conditions healing from God. We are told if there is something you must do we are to hearken diligently, do right, give ear to his commandments and to keep all his statutes. Do this and I will put none of these diseases upon you. If you or I fail to keep all his statutes, his regulations concerning religion and civil life and consecrate to the same end in life that God himself is consecrated to, which is the highest good for all.

No man can expect to be immune from sickness unless he meets the condition but every man can expect such blessings when he meets them.

So we see that God is responsible for sending disease upon men. It is that of making the law of sowing and reaping. (Galatians 6:7-8)

You see, my friend, had there been no sin, there would have been no curse. All of us who have sickness can examine our life and put our finger on the sin. A word spoken, unkind deed, things done to others. To Adam God said thou shalt surely die. (Genesis 2:17) Walk-be perfect. Genesis 17:1 Keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment that the Lord may fulfill his word. (Genesis 18:19)

So diligently hearken. Do right. Give ear to commandments. Keep all his statutes. (Exodus 15:2) If you obey then you shall be a peculiar people unto me. (Exodus 19:5)

"If you keep my commandments, then will I bless you." (Leviticus 26:3-13) Beware! Forget not God. If you do forget him, you will surely perish. (Deuteronomy 8:11-12)

So again we are told we are partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginnings of our confidence steadfast unto the end.

Book on Indian basketball nearing publication date...

As many of you know, **Tim Brayboy** and **Bruce Barton** have been working on a book about Indian basketball in Robeson & adjoining counties for some time. And the end is in sight.

They expect to present the book at the second annual meeting of the Indian Basketball Alumni Association, Inc. at the Indian Education Resource Center (located in the old "Indian" Pembroke High School building), next door to the UNC-Pembroke chancellor's residence. The meeting will be held tentatively on December 13, 2001, beginning at 7 p.m. Hope to see you there. More information will be forthcoming in the next few days and weeks. The name of the book is:

PLAYING BEFORE AN OVERFLOW CROWD. The story of Indian basketball in Robeson & adjoining counties between 1939-1967.

The book, now about 90% complete, is a history of "Indian" basketball in Robeson as we remember it. Information is scant, but it was a time of rank segregation although positive currents emanated from the unique social incubator and experiment. The book explores what happened, where it happened, when, how, who, and, most importantly, WHY? Also, what valuable lessons can be learned from this special moment in time?

TO RESERVE A COPY, fill in the blanks and send it to Indian Basketball Book, c/o Bruce Barton, Post Office Box 362, Pembroke, N.C. 28372. Or call 910-521-2054 for more information. We also welcome old "Indian" basketball photographs and memories.

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You are invited to a

STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

sponsored by the Lumbee River Fund

Thursday, October 25, 2001
3:00-5:00 pm

Indian Education Resource Center, Pembroke, NC

Please come and share your stories and family photographs with others who are interested in the history and culture of Robeson County's Indian communities. Your participation will contribute to a historical photo exhibit that will take place next summer, and to an archive that is being developed by and for Indian people.

Bring your photographs and we will record your story using our audio equipment and reproduce your photos with our copy stand. You won't need to give away your pictures—the copy stand makes a photo negative of your picture, then you can take the photo back home and we can make another copy of it for you if you wish. Be prepared to talk about one of your pictures, or tell a related story.

The Lumbee River Fund has equipment and financial resources for you to use in telling your own story; this workshop will demonstrate those resources and give you the opportunity to get involved in talking about history in your own family and community. We will also discuss how these materials should be stored and used for our community's benefit.

The workshop is free of charge and all materials will be provided. We only ask you to bring one or more photographs and story that you would be willing to share with the group. The workshop will be led by Bruce Barton (Curator, Indian Education Resource Center), Waltz Maynor (Retired Educator), Malinda Maynor (Graduate Student in Native American History, UNC-Chapel Hill), and Charlie Thompson (Director of Education, Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University).

PLEASE RSVP by phone or email to:
Malinda Maynor, Lumbee River Fund Coordinator
phone: 910-521-9513 or 919-969-9680 • email: mmaynor@nc.rr.com

The Lumbee River Fund supports the study and preservation of Lumbee Indian history, culture, religion, education, and political life. We seek to preserve the past and improve the future lives of Indian people through interdisciplinary research and education at the university, community, state and regional levels. The Lumbee River Fund is a project of UNC Pembroke in collaboration with PSRC's Indian Education Resource Center, the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, and individuals in non-profit and educational institutions in Robeson County and the state of North Carolina.