

Who can boast of righteousness? No one

Lesson Scripture:
Romans 3:1-4, 19-31

Lesson Aims: to understand the purposes of the Law, to explain the meaning of "justified by grace through faith," and to be thankful to God.

Background: The remainder of Chapter 1 and all of Chapter 2 of Romans centered on the guilt of the whole world. Paul highlighted the unrighteousness of both groups (Jews and Gentiles) in the church. First, God revealed Himself to all humanity in the creation and beyond.

Even though the Gentiles weren't given the Law, they knew Him and rejected Him. In Chapter 2, Paul focused on the Jews. His argument against them was based on a common thought: they were the chosen ones. This brought about a certain arrogance. As the chosen, they received the Law and developed the attitude that heredity had its privileges.

Their pride prevented them from being humble. What did they do with the Law? They were disobedient also.

The Mosaic Law (613 laws) was designed to establish the foundations of morality. They were to reveal the Law-giver, to show right from wrong, to teach the people how to live in com-



Mildred Peppers

Sunday School Lesson

key verse is 23.

Now what? The Old Testament sacrifices "covered" sin but the blood of Jesus washes the sin away. Where does this salvation come from? The Father of all who is angry over disobedience sent His Son to redeem humanity. Now that's love. His grace is extended to all when, technically, no one deserves it. So, how can anyone boast? Neither Jew nor Gentile. Can one do works to earn salvation? I'm afraid not. The foundation is simple. You must have faith. That's what counts. Is the Law dead? Of course not. For if one has faith in Christ and governs himself/herself accordingly, the Law is practiced.

Application: Who can boast of righteousness? No one. We have sinned and therefore can't dismiss other sinners without dismissing ourselves. God is the God of all humanity, whether Jew, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, or the like. Our salvation is because of His grace and mercy, not our works, our words, or our money. We must have faith. There is no room to boast. God created us, delivered us, protects us and yet we are disobedient. To save us, He sent His only Son. God's grace is truly amazing! Thank you, Almighty God, for grace.

munity, and to point to the Savior. When laws were broken, special days were set aside to offer sacrifices to get back in right relationship with God. The Jews were to be examples for others; instead, they became a "stiff-necked" and disobedient people. The Old Testament never suggested that the Law was a way to salvation ("Richard's Complete Bible Handbook"). Think about the Pharisees; they actually believed that keeping the Law made them righteous.

Lesson: Chapter 3 opens with the advantages of being Jewish. They possess the "oracles of God" (Law). The fact that they are disobedient will not discredit the Law, because judgment will come and God is faithful. Their heredity doesn't give them special privileges. Paul plainly argues here that keeping the Law justifies them. The Law points out sin and therefore all are guilty, needing salvation! The



Students from the Black Achievers Program

Black Achievers will sponsor fashion and talent showcase

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston Lake Family YMCA Black Achievers Program will sponsor its first annual Fashion and Talent Showcase, "A Year in the Life," on Saturday, March 16, at 7 p.m. at the Anderson Center. The host for the evening will be former Achiever Alan "Chip" Brown.

The program will include dances, songs, poetry, skits and a fashion show. The YMCA BOSS Drummers also will perform along with the

Piney Grove Baptist Church Angels Step Team.

"The kids have put together an awesome production," said Maurice Horsey, executive director. There is an enormous amount of talent that will be featured."

Tickets may be purchased at the Winston Lake Family

YMCA. The Black Achievers Program is a career exploration and leadership program for students in grades 8-12. The proceeds from the showcase will benefit the scholarship fund. For more information, call 724-9250 or visit the Web site at www.winstonlake-familyymca.org.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, AND NOTICE OF REVIEW & PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD CONSOLIDATED PLAN WINSTON-SALEM/FORSYTH HOUSING CONSORTIUM

Notice is hereby given by the City of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County regarding the availability of documents for review and comment pertaining to the draft 2002-2003 Annual Expenditure Plan document of the 1999-2003 Consolidated Plan (CP) for subsequent submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT) as follows:

- The 2002-2003 Consolidated Plan submission reflects the fifth year implementation of the new 1999-2003 Five-Year Plan. The Consolidated Plan is a simplification of the process of planning for and applying for federal funds that are provided cities on an "entitlement" formula basis. The CP "consolidates" into one submission document the City's request for CDBG and HOME funds.
- 2002-2003 Annual Plan program implementation encompasses proposed expenditures to be derived from "new" Federal FY 01-02 appropriations, local sales tax, general fund support, General Obligation Bonds to be issued during the current year and projected program income revenues of approximately \$8,600,000. Additional, available resources are derived from unexpended prior year funds which have been allocated to projects and activities to be implemented during the City/County FY 2003 program year.
- Program activities to be undertaken are single family and multi-family housing rehabilitation; emergency repair assistance for owner-occupants; architectural barrier removal for handicapped owners and tenants; mortgage financing for the first-time home buyers of existing property with accompanying rehab, new construction units; public infrastructure improvement tied to housing improvement and development, small business loans; contractor and construction training; and public service activities that specifically address homeless and special population needs for housing and/or supportive services needs tied to housing.
- The CP is a combined plan of the City and County under the auspices of the "Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Housing Consortium" (WSFHC) and is a prerequisite to Consortia funding under the "Home Investment Partnership Program" (HOME).
- Copies of the draft will be available for review by March 14, 2002 and the final plan submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development by May 15, 2002 following public review and comment and submission to the Board of Aldermen at the April 15, 2002 regular Board meeting.

Summary of The Consolidated Plan

The 5-Year CP is a comprehensive planning tool for the definition of lower-income and special population housing needs, by type and scale, and the development of priorities, strategies and programs to address identified housing and other supportive service needs. The CP includes a profile of housing needs and market and inventory conditions, a set of five-year strategies outlining the City and County priorities for the allocation of housing and community development and improvement resources. The resources reflected in the 2002-2003 one-year action plan are those that are reasonably expected to be available to be used to address the needs and conditions described in the community profile. All of the strategies and programs are subsumed under one of the following three priority areas:

1. **Conservation:** Continuation and expansion of single and multi-family rehab activities to protect the resource of the existing housing stock and diverse neighborhoods, assure that assisted units are properly maintained and ensure that the existing stock of habitable housing continues to be available and affordable.
2. **Production:** Foster production of additional single and multi-family housing, for lower income households and persons of special housing needs, through new construction, conversion and adaptive reuse; and to reduce government constraints and provision of incentives to develop housing for all income groups.
3. **Community Building:** Facilitation of the physical development of neighborhoods as reflected in the non-housing community development plan and development of the human resource capital of community resident through the elimination of barriers to housing by lower income persons, families and members of special needs populations (homeless, elderly, physically or mentally disabled, single parents, large families, persons with AIDS); through provision of supportive services, self sufficiency programs, increase in transitional and permanent housing resources, elimination of discriminatory practices in the sale, rental and financing of housing and capacity building of tenants and neighborhood organizations.

The following two areas further undergirds the overall program.

1. **Financing:** Maximize all public funds available for housing production, conservation, support services by using them to leverage maximum private investments to reduce production costs and increase affordability.
2. **Planning & Coordination:** Ensure that process is inclusive of range of organizations and agencies representing community and special need populations; systematic evaluation and assessment of the impact of public programs and policies is conducted on an ongoing basis, coordination of housing programs with city-wide economic development strategies; and development of a comprehensive housing database to afford the capacity to monitor changes in inventory and needs.

Notice of Public Hearing

The proposed 2002-2003 Annual Plan, reflecting the fifth year of the 1999-2003 Five-Year plan will be presented for a public hearing review at the following time and location:

Date: Thursday, March 14, 2002
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Place: City Hall South
100 East 1st Street, 5th Floor

Notice of Public Hearing Review Locations

Copies of FY 2003 Annual Plan, will be provided to housing related government agencies, neighborhood and non-profit organizations. Copies will be available for review at the Public Hearing on March 14, 2002 and by March 20, 2002 at the following locations during regular business hours:

Forsyth County Library Branches:
Main Library (N.C. Room) - 660 West Fifth Street
East Winston - 1110 East Seventh Street
Thruway - Thruway Shopping Center
Reynolda Manor - 2851 Fairlawn Drive

Piedmont Bible College Library **Winston-Salem State University**
716 Franklin Avenue WSSU Campus

Housing/Development Department **Black-Phillips-Smith Government Ctr.**
225 W. Fifth St., Suite 300 2301 North Patterson Avenue

City's Secretary's Office **Forsyth County Office of Housing**
5th Floor, City Hall South 660 West Fifth Street

All requests for appropriate and necessary auxiliary aids and services or more information should be directed to Ms. Joy Knopf, (336) 727-8597. Persons requiring TDD service may call (336) 727-8319. Comments received by May 1, 2002 at the address below will be responded to, and incorporated into one document.

Consolidated Plan Comments
Housing/Neighborhood Development Department
City of Winston-Salem
225 West Fifth Street, 3rd Floor
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

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