

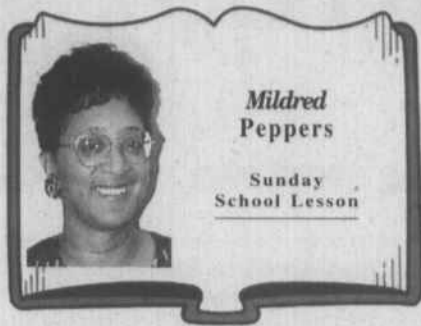
Nothing should separate us from God's love

Lesson Scripture: Romans 8:18-27, 31-34, 38-39

Lesson Aims: to put suffering, persecution and afflictions in the proper perspective; to anticipate the future glory of God; and to keep the faith.

Background: "Living by Faith" is the theme for this month. Chapters 6-8 center on righteous living due to justification and faith. Paul said that the Law is an expression of the holiness of God ("Richard's Complete Bible Handbook") and thus it exposes sin.

Adhering to the Law was impossible due to the sinful nature of man. God gave "free will" but since the "fall," there have been problems controlling the body. God did not change His standards but sent the



Mildred Peppers

Sunday School Lesson

"Redeemer" on our behalf. Without salvation and faith, there is no hope for humanity.

Jesus freed all from the bondage of sin if they would only believe. This freedom did not give a license to sin. On the contrary, the spiritual union with Christ empowered the believer to say no to sin. This also did not mean that once sal-

vation is accepted, we sin no more. The believer's transformation from within manifested itself in thoughts, words and deeds. The believers, once slaves to sin, now

have become slaves to righteousness (6:15-23).

In Chapter 7, Paul presented his argument of trying to live righteously according to the Law but failure resulted. Sin is no longer the master because grace interceded and the Holy Spirit gave power.

Lesson: The Roman

Church has yet to experience Nero's reign. Paul's writing is more or less encouragement for the days ahead. Suffering is on the way! How should a believer respond?

Paul tells believers to endure because the coming glory of God will outweigh the suffering. Think for a moment about the discomfort experienced now compared with the later rewards (medication/treatment, going to school, saving, standing for right).

Believers are to patiently wait for the future. Pray, realizing that the Holy Spirit stands in with groaning on our behalf. Hope gives individuals the strength to wait patiently and hope is in Christ Jesus (v. 28).

Paul raises several questions in verses 31-34. The major one is "Who can con-

demn?" God adopts believers into His family through Christ. His love for us is greater than any other power. The devil can't condemn because of grace and mercy (Jesus). God provides the necessities to live for Him. No matter what faces the believers, good or bad, nothing should separate them from the love of God. By the time that Nero becomes emperor they can find comfort in these words.

Application: Most of us are anticipating the future. Very few of us have given any thought to the "in between."

Paul's words today are very encouraging as we put our faith into practice. Living faithfully includes living through the struggle. Suffering is inevitable - don't let anyone fool you.

Our life choices, genetics, prejudice and doing His will lead to suffering. While going through, we must remember that the rewards are greater.

When God's glory is revealed, the pain and anguish will seem like nothing. God's grace and mercy will inspire us to keep the faith. When things are bad and we can't see our way out, He blesses us with hope. That hope allows us to walk straight with heads high.

You see, we know who we are and whose we are. That knowledge gives us the strength to respond positively to whatever the situation is. There is no power greater than God's! With a father, friend and a brother like Jesus, nothing can separate us from His love. We must choose Him today! See you Sunday.

Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church Leadership Conference will be held April 6

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church will hold its annual Leadership Conference on Saturday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dr. John H. Walker, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Charlotte, will be the instructor and lecturer.

Walker is married to the former Rosie Knight. They have a daughter, Janetta Olivia, and a son, John H. Dr. Walker is a graduate of Greensboro Bible College, where he earned a theological degree and also a Bible degree. He also earned a master of divinity degree from Shaw University, grad-

uating magna cum laude. He earned his doctor of ministry degree in Christian leadership from Conwell Theological Seminary in May 1999.

He is the first vice moderator of the Mecklenburg General Baptist Association. He is a certified instructor (by the Southern

Baptist Seminary Extension Program in Atlanta) and he teaches ITC in Charlotte. He is an adjunct professor at Shaw University Cape Center in Kannapolis. He is a national instructor for the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education Convention.

He is the author of the

book "The Role of the Church in the Reclaiming of the Black Male." He recently completed his second book, "A Fresh Look at the New Testament Deacon." He is working on his third book, "Pearls in the Pew," a guide for equipping the laity for Christian leadership.

Walker has been called

upon frequently to develop seminars, instruct convention courses and lecture. He is a leader with a vision. He has been commissioned to make a difference in this millennium.

Piney Grove Baptist Church is at 4715 Indiana Ave. Dr. James F. Linville is the pastor.

Religion Calendar

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revival

Oak Grove Baptist Church, 3978 Pine Hall Road in Walkertown, will hold revival services April 8-12 at 7:30 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Cornelius Battle, senior pastor of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church of Durham, will be the speaker for the week. Rev. I.L. Anthony is the pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church.

April 8-12

Antioch Baptist will celebrate its 100th church anniversary

Antioch Baptist will celebrate its 100th church anniversary April 8-12 at

7:30 nightly. Speakers for the week are: April 8, Rev. James Gilliam, pastor of Antioch Christian Church; April 9, Rev. Donald Salley, pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church; April 10, Rev. John Jackson, pastor of Goodwill First Baptist Church in Madison; April 11, Rev. Ray L. Watlington, pastor of Christian Fountain Church; and April 12, Rev. Darryl E. McConnell, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Gibsonville.

Rev. J.L. Montgomery is the pastor of Antioch Baptist Church. The public is invited.

For more information, call the church at (336) 744-1213.

April 14

Forsyth County United Usher Board will hold Rainbow Tea

The Forsyth County United Usher Board will hold its annual Rainbow Tea at St. Stephen's Baptist Church at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 14. For information contact Rodney McCormick at 788-1664.

April 18, 25

New Hope Missionary Baptist will sponsor Joy Night services

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church will sponsor a Joy Night Service on April 18 at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Ray Watlington, pastor of Christian Fountain Church, will be the speaker.

New Hope will sponsor a Joy Night Service on April 25 at 7:30 p.m. Pastor L.B. Ford, pastor of Beulah Baptist Church, will be the speaker.

The public is invited to attend both services. New Hope Missionary Baptist Church is at 1201 New Hope Lane. Rev. J.C. Parks is the host pastor.

Other

Judah Praise and Worship Center

Elder Ricky A. Pouncey and the Judah Praise and Worship Center invite you to worship with them in their new home. The Sunday morning worship service begins at 11; Monday night prayer service, at 7; and full Wednesday night worship service, at 7.

The church is at 2411 Urban Street. Pouncey is the pastor, and Bishop Claude C. Turner is the general overseer. For more information,

call (336) 721-3290.

Beulah Baptist holds Wednesday night Bible study

Bored and looking for something productive to do on Wednesday nights? Pastor L. Bruce Ford and the Beulah Baptist Church congregation, 1352 N. Trade Street, invite you to fellowship with us during our Wednesday night Bible study from 7-8 p.m. Every first and third Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m., dinner will be served and various groups will be on the program. For more information, call (336) 722-2907.

Calvary Hill Church of Greater Deliverance is holding Wednesday programs

"Super Wednesday" is held each Wednesday at Cal-

vary Hill Church of Greater Deliverance, except for the second Wednesday of each month. On "Super Wednesday" dinner is served from 5:45-6:45 p.m. Immediately after dinner, a full worship service is held. The public is invited to attend. The church is at 4951 Manning Street. Bishop Claude C. Turner is the pastor. For more information, call 721-3290.

Bible study class for women at Oak Grove Baptist

A Bible study class for women is being held at Oak Grove Baptist Church every first and third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. All interested women are encouraged to attend. The church is at 3978 Pine Hall Road, Walkertown. Rev. I.L. Anthony is the pastor.



One Faith, One Family.

Our Local Houses Of Worship Welcome You To Join Them For Services.

Macedonia Holiness Church Of God Of The Apostolic Faith, Inc.

Sunday Services
 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
 M.Y.P.U. 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Services
 Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 p.m.
 4111 Whitfield Drive
 Phone: 336-767-3700
 Fax: 336-767-7006

Goodwill Baptist Church
 548 Goodwill Rd., Clemmons, NC
 Arcadia Community
764-3930 Phone
764-3975 Pastor's Office
764-5658 Fax
 Transportation Available.

Mt. Olive Baptist Church
 1301 E. Belevs Street
 Winston-Salem, NC 27101
 336-724-5842 or 721-1959

Listing of Services
 Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
 Worship Service 11:00 A.M.
 Wednesday 12:00 Noon &
 Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

Pastor & Mrs. C. E. Gray
"Let God Be God"

Upcoming Events
New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
 1201 New Hope Lane • Winston-Salem, NC 27105
 Rev. John C. Parks, Pastor
 (336) 724-5401

Church Events For April
April 12th & 13th at 7:00 p.m.
 Rejoice Worship Service - Rev. T. S. McCaskill
 Second Calvary Baptist Church, South Carolina

April 16th & 17th at 7:30 p.m.
 Apostolic Order & Leadership - Pastor A. Johnson
 Love Fellowship Church, Lexington, NC

April 21st at 4:00 p.m.
 Gospel Explosion - Bishop T. S. Green
 New Hope Holiness Church, Lexington, NC

Every Thursday - Joy Night Services - 7:30 p.m.
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Devotional Service 10:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship 11:15 a.m.

Morning Service - Videos & Tapes Available - Van Service Available
Website: www.voicesofnewhope.org
"A Church Striving To Make A Difference"

Pentecostal Lighthouse Baptist Church of W.S., Inc.
 4349 Kernersville Road
 Kernersville, NC 27284
 336-650-0033

Schedule of Worship Services
 Sunday Morning Worship 8:00 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
 Monday Study Class 7:00 p.m.
 Tuesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.
 Thursday: Bible Study and Preach Night 7:00 p.m.

Dr. A. Thomas Griffey, III
 Pastor/Teacher

"To Love, To Know, To Serve and To Grow God's Kingdom!"

Piney Grove Baptist Church
 4715 Indiana Ave. • Winston-Salem, NC 27106 • (336) 767-4044

♦ Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 ♦ Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
 ♦ Evening Services 4:00 p.m.

Bible Study Every Wednesday 10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Mission Statement: "A Saving Station for Lost Souls and Enrichment Center for Christians"

James F. Linville
 Pastor
 Website: www.pineygroveinc.org • E-mail: pgbc2005@bellsouth.net