

The Sunday School Lesson

A Ministry of the **Burnt Swamp Baptist Association**

GOD EVALUATES HIS CHURCHES

Rev. 2 and 3
Rev. 2:8-11; 3:14-22

by Rev. Walton Lewis, Pastor of West End Church

The seven letters to the seven churches located in the province of Asia. The letters follow a general pattern. Each has the address, author, commendation, condemnation, exhortation, invitation and promise of reward or remuneration. Two churches are for our discussion in our lesson because each will enlighten us as church members.

Smyrna was situated on the coast which made the city of many travelers. It was a prosperous city. Here was located the temple in honor of the goddess Roma. This church was credited to Paul when he was at Ephesus.

The church was going through trials and some were murdered. Jesus is encouraging the members to be faithful unto death, I will give you a crown. Notice unto death and not until death are different terms. Unto death means your faithfulness brings about death. Here is an example, Bishop Polycarp was martyred. He was asked to "Swear the oath and revile Christ and be freed." In replay Polycarp replied: "Fourscore and six years have I been His servant and He has done me no wrong. How then can I blaspheme my King who has saved me." This was what John was trying to get all Christians to be faithful in all circumstances. It may seem hard to be faithful but it is and will be worth it. To die as a Christian will prevent the second death.

Matthew 10:28 and fear not them who kill the body, but not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Chapter 3:14-22. Two statements need exploration. (Amen) was used by Jesus frequently. He used amen fifty-one times in the Synoptic and fifty times in John's Gospel. Amen is a word of affirmation and confirmation "So be it." "The beginning of the creation of God," is misunderstood many times by readers unless you understand. "Beginning" in Greek has two meanings, "The first in a series" and "the originator of something." Our Lord was the originator of the created universe in that he was its Creator.

No commendation but condemnation for the church. Neither hot or cold but lukewarm. We like hot or cold tea, but not warm. So God was sick because of the complacency of the church. It was materially rich. The church said that it did not need a thing. What a contrast is the realistic humility expressed in the words of the hymn "I

Need Thee Every Hour." That is the true Christian spirit of dependence.

Quite different was Christ's evaluation of this church from its self-evaluation. He said you do not realize you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. It was poor in a banking center, blind in a medical center, naked in an industrial or manufacturing or highest quality of woolen goods. It is possible for church today to be rich in

abundance of wealth but poor spiritually.

He gives an invitation and offers a reward for accepting him. Lately there seems to be a returning to Him. Let's pray and work that this is happening because it is later than you think.

X-rays of the Mona Lisa show that there are three completely different versions of the subject, all painted by Leonardo da Vinci, beneath the final portrait.



The word "sophomore" is a combination of the two Greek words meaning foolish, and wise.

Volunteers... Give of Themselves

by Cammie Brayboy

Under the Community Schools Program for the Robeson County School System, Archie Oxendine, coordinator, people from all walks of life are volunteering their time and talent to students. They all have their own reasons for doing so. For Larry Nelson Revels of Route 2, Pembroke, those reasons include a desire to give something back to the school system which was responsible for his being able to think in a logical and orderly manner.

"The Robeson County School System gave me a good solid foundation for acquiring a math and chemistry degree from Pembroke State University," said Revels.

"The dedication of the teachers, and especially the math teachers of Pembroke High School inspired me to continue my studies in the field of math and chemistry," Revels continued. "Because they were so interested in my progress and encouraged me to become the best that I could be, I've felt a moral obligation to offer the same kind of support to other students. Sometimes just having the ability to succeed is not enough. Many times we need to be encouraged. We need someone who believes in us. During my tenure as a volunteer, I have tried to convey a sense of self-confidence and determination to the students. Only time will tell if I have been successful in getting my message across," he stated.

"If we would all return something of ourselves to our community via the schools, civic organizations, etc. the county would become a better place for all of us to live. That should be the ultimate goal for mankind...to leave the world a little better than we found it," he continued.

Revels is employed by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. He works with the Boll Weevil Eradication Trial Program and has been employed there for five years. In his position as Work Unit Leader of Sampson County, Revels has to put in many overtime hours during the

summer months. Comp time and annual leave made it possible for him to volunteer in excess of 300 hours to the Robeson County School System as a tutor in geometry, algebra and general math.

Revels volunteered his services in the classroom of Mr. Numer Locklear at Pembroke Junior High School. According to his work schedule, some days he would go into the classroom at 8 in the morning and remain all day.

According to Mr. Locklear, the grades of all the students helped by Revels improved. "I think," said Mr. Locklear, "that the volunteer program is a tremendous program... Mr. Revels have been a tremendous asset to the math program here. With his expertise in the area, he has contributed greatly to the overall program."

Mr. Locklear stated that Revels came whenever he could. "When he was coming," he said, "I would just work it into my lesson plan for that day. Sometimes he worked with students in small groups... and sometimes on a one-to-one basis. The students were very responsive to him. They recognized their need for additional help and were very receptive to tutoring."

"The volunteer service made it possible for me to work more on a one-to-one basis with the students... I hope that the program will expand... In light of the recent competency testing, the areas of English and math can benefit greatly from the program... What is my reaction to the volunteer program? I LOVE IT!"

Archie Oxendine, Coordinator of the Community Schools Program, very aptly said: "The benefits of the volunteer program are threefold. The volunteer has his reward in helping others. The teacher is allowed more time for one-on-one teaching. And the students get an added boost in grades, as well as self-esteem."

As a token of appreciation, Mr. Oxendine presented Revels a T-shirt which encourages others to volunteer.



Shown left to right: Archie Oxendine, Coordinator of the Community Schools Program; Larry Revels who displays his T-shirt; Tony Locklear, student at Pembroke Junior High School; and Tony Chavis, student.



Shown left to right are Tony Chavis, student, and Tony Locklear, student.



By law, the Congressional cafeteria must serve bean soup every day.

Cats enjoy vegetables... usually cooked, but some, such as green beans, peas and mushrooms are eaten raw.

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BONELESS BOTTOM ROUND OR Rump Roast 2.48 LB.

CUBE STEAK 2.68 LB.

BONELESS Eye of Round Steak 2.98 LB.

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STAR KIST TUNA 88¢

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GATORADE 58¢

PIGGLY WIGGLY DRINKS 78¢

Oscar Mayer PATTIES 2.99

BOLOGNA 1.39

HAM 1.59

Bologna 1.39

Ham & Cheese 1.39

PORK SALE

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PORK LOIN END ROAST 1.49 LB.

LUNDY T-P BACON 1.49

REGULAR CUT UP FRYERS 49¢ LB.

COUNTRY STYLE CUT-UPS 53¢ LB.

SCOTT TOWELS 59¢

Pork & Beans 69¢

RINSO 1.19

Charmin TISSUE 1.79

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