

# According to Scripture

Sponsored by Pembroke Seventh Day Adventist Church

Last week we looked at what sin is and what it is not. This week let's see who has sinned and what that means to us as well as the answer for the problem of sin. Romans 3:23 tells us that all have sinned, that includes you and me. What does that mean to us, since we are all sinners? Romans 6:23 says that the wages of sin is death, can we earn eternal life? No! Rom. 6:23 also tells us that life is the gift of God. For instance, if a man steals a car, he earns time which he can pay by a number of months/years in prison. If he murders someone and the sentence is death, he can't fulfill the sentence and live. Similarly, if we want to have eternal life, we can't pay the penalty ourselves, because the law condemns us to death. There is no good work, there is no penance, there is nothing that we, of ourselves, can do. Eternal life is a gift, and a gift can not be earned, nor can you force anyone to give a gift to you. Galatians 2:16 tells us that there is no good work or deed of the law by which we can justify ourselves. The word justify (justification), simply means to forgive. The one that we have sinned against is the only one who can give forgiveness. He is not in any way obligated to forgive us, even if we were to stop sinning and live perfectly, there would still be the condemnation of death for our past sins, the penalty for which we can not pay. It is only by faith in the one who paid the penalty, Jesus, who knew no sin. Equally important is the fact that Jesus was the lawgiver, the very one whose law we have broken. If some created being had lived a perfect life and died on a cross in 31 A.D. That may have been admirable but it would have no saving grace or power and it would have meant little to us because it was necessary for the one whose law was transgressed, to have died. Not anyone else, especially not a created being. When we penitently come to Christ, recognizing our need of a personal Savior, and with deep repentance (sorrow) ask for His forgiveness, then we are counted as if we had not sinned (Jer. 31:34). This experience is described in Romans 3:25 where we receive forgiveness of sins that are past, please note that the verse says past and not present, or future sins. Furthermore, there is no where in scripture that you are ever forgiven of a future sin before you commit it. I stress this because some have said that "when one comes to Christ, that one's past, present, and future sins are forgiven". There is no scriptural basis for this, nor is there a sound Biblical argument. The Bible says that when we come to Jesus, "He cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). The word "cleanseth" is not a past tense use of this verb, but rather a present and ongoing work that is known as Sanctification. 1 John 2:1 - Here, John's first admonition is for believers not to sin (linear sin (Greek)) second, if any man sin (punctiliar sin (Greek)), there is an

advocate". The point here being again that is another sin comes up on you that you had not planned on, confession could be made and you could be forgiven, and this is possible because Jesus ministers in the heavenly Sanctuary made without human hands. He is the one who is the only mediator. Not a priest, not Mary, not any other being no matter who they were or how long they have been dead, or how high a place they might have held. Proof texts - Exodus 25:40, God here refers Moses to the pattern of the true Sanctuary, Hebrew 8:1,2 says that besides there being a real sanctuary in heaven, we also have a High priest there. 1 Timothy 2:5 tells us there is one God, and one mediator between God and man Jesus Christ. A questioner once asked me how could Jesus be a mediator between God and man and still be part of a trinity of coequals? Let's go to the Bible... Galatians 3:20 - "Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one." Paul wrote both of the previous two passages, and I believe this one in Galatians explains the other in 1 Timothy 2:5. Jesus was both our brother and our Creator, our sacrifice and our mediator, yet He did not actively hold all of these offices at the same time. Now, because He was made like we are, tempted like we are (Hebrews 2:14-18 & 4:15), also part of Jehovah, and as such able to succor (aid/strengthen) us as we have need and ask. Romans 4:25 tells us that He was raised for our justification. This means that our forgiveness involves more than just His death on Calvary.

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Welcome to RCC Today, a new column devoted to keeping the public up to date on the goings on at Robeson Community College. It is my intent to familiarize you, the reader, with the programs, services, faculty, staff, students, facilities and every other facet of the College. I look forward to sharing information with you on a weekly basis. Many of you may have seen our television program with the same name. It airs every Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. on the Lumberton Cable channel 6 and at other times on WNCP. The column is somewhat of an extension of that, just another way for us to keep you in the know.

I'd like to briefly tell you just a little bit about myself. In 1985 I came to RCC to become the College's first Resource Development Officer. Subsequently, I have worked in the areas of Public Information, Evening Business Instruction, Planning and Research, Institutional Effectiveness, Small Business Center, and Human Resources Development. Currently, my responsibilities include Public Relations and serving as executive director of the RCC Foundation, Inc. I will be the primary writer of information appearing in this column. However, from time to time you may see an article contributed by another member of the RCC staff or faculty and it will be credited to that writer. In addition, you may see some reprints of pertinent information from other sources such as the North Carolina System of Community Colleges. Likewise, these submissions will be properly credited to the original source. Enough introduction, let's get on with the news!

### NEW EMPLOYEES COME ON BOARD

Two new employees recently joined (or rejoined in one case) the RCC family. Mrs. Flora Gail Lowry-Williams is the new Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Instructor/Coordinator. She began her duties on January 6, 1997, and came to the College from Union County where she served as EMS Director for the county's paramedic program. Mrs. Lowry-Williams is married to Horace Williams and is the daughter of Dr. Welton Lowry and the late Mary D. Lowry. After graduating from UNCP in 1980 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a minor in Medical Sociology, Lowry-Williams spent a year doing post graduate work at Bowman Gray School of Medicine. She then earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in Emergency Services at Catawba Valley Community College. Since then she has been working and teaching in the paramedic field and is happy to be back home working in her chosen field.

Mrs. Tammy Bozeman also began her duties on January 6, 1997. Mrs. Bozeman, a 1985 graduate of RCC's Secretarial Science program, served as secretary to the business and cosmetology faculty from 1985-89. She then served as secretary to the Assistant Vice President for Day Curriculum until 1990. After seven years at home with her family, William-B, Andrew-7, and husband Shane, Mrs. Bozeman has returned to RCC as Secretary to Emergency Services.

Not as new, but in their first year of employment are the following Glenda T. Jackson, Cassandra C. Stone, Rodney Williamson, Tela

Lambert, LaShawn Ford and Gail Thompson. Ms. Jackson is a graduate of Durham Business College with an Associate in Executive Secretarial Science. Her work history includes the US Army Medical Department Center and School, US Army Department of Community Recreational Activities, Chevy Chase Insurance and Realty, NC Employment Security Commission and NC Manpower Development in Lumberton. Ms. Jackson is employed with RCC as Executive Assistant for Personnel Services and Instruction and Support Services and is a native of Lumberton.

Cassandra C. Stone has taught various English classes on a part-time basis at Robeson Community College and UNC Pembroke. She has a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts Degree in English Education from UNC Pembroke and is employed with RCC full-time as an English Instructor. Mrs. Stone is married to Jesse S. Stone and they have two children, Jessie-5, and Kara-4. The Stones reside in the Hermitage community in Lumberton.

Rodney Williamson comes to Robeson Community College from the Public Schools of Robeson County where he was employed as Director of Computer Services. He is employed at RCC as Computer Network Technician. Mr. Williamson has a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics.

Tela Lambert graduated from Robeson Community College in 1996 with an Associate Degree in Applied Science in Administrative Office Technology. In April 1996, she was hired by a temporary employment agency to work as a part-time secretary in the RCC Counseling and Ca-

reer Center, and in September, 1996, she was hired full-time for the position by the College. Mrs. Lambert lives in Rowland with her husband, Charles and their four children; Charles-13, Virginia-11, Krystal-9 and Jackie Nicole-7.

LaShawn Ford is a 1992 graduate of North Carolina Central University where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology. During 1994-95 she was employed with the Public Schools of Robeson County as a Science Instructor in the Extended Day Program. For the past year Miss Ford has worked as a part-time instructor in the RCC Learning Center and was employed full-time in August, 1996. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Ford. She has one brother, Bernard, and two sisters, Kimberly and Natalie. She resides in Fairmont.

Gail Thompson, English Instructor, comes to RCC and UNCP where she taught English for one year. A native of Fayetteville, Ms. Thompson taught for nine years at St. Philip's College in San Antonio, TX. She earned the Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Bennett College in Greensboro, NC and a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from Fayetteville State University. She has completed additional graduate course work in English at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. The RCC family extends a big welcome to all these new employees.

### CALLING ALL RCC NURSING GRADS

The RCC Nursing Department is planning a reunion of all graduates of the College's R.N. and L.P.N. programs. The reunion will be held

April 25-26, 1997, on the RCC campus. If you are a graduate of the nursing program, please call the school at 910-738-7101, ask for the nursing department and leave your name, address, telephone number and year of graduation. We can't wait to see you!



Human beings are an adaptive lot. Generally when they are presented with a challenge and given enough time to deal with it, they are capable of coming up with an adaptation to suit their needs. Inventions such as the bow and arrow, agriculture and ceramics are examples of adaptations made by ancient people in many lands, including the ancestors of today's Native Americans. The list of adaptations made throughout prehistory and history by Native Americans is virtually endless.

One Native American adaptation which has not received a lot of attention is Indian Sign Language, also known as Plains Sign Language. In the vast area of the great plains and eastern plateau there lived many different groups of Native people. Although in many ways their respective traditional cultures were somewhat similar, their languages were extremely diverse. Not only were there different languages (including Lakota, Pawnee, Arapaho, Kiowa, Crow, Shoshone, Cheyenne and others), but also entirely different language families (including Algonkian, Caddoan, Kiowan, Shoshonean and Siouan). Meanwhile these people did not live in isolation, but came into regular contact with each other in the conduct of trade and

political alliances.

Because there was so much linguistic diversity, there was a profound need for the development of ways to communicate across language barriers. Over time the people jointly developed a language using gestures instead of spoken words to carry on the necessary business. If one of these Indian nations had been consistently able to dominate the others, sign language might not have been necessary. In the course of human history, dominated nations frequently have been compelled to learn the language of dominant nations. But where there was a relative balance of power as on the plains and eastern plateau, some other adaptation had to be made to meet the linguistic challenge of how to talk to strangers.

Enter Indian Sign Language. Anyone could learn to use it. Words which were difficult to pronounce and sounds which were hard to make from other languages could be avoided. Many signs could be used that simply looked like the object or action they were meant to represent (these are called "iconic" signs). Signs which were widely and repeatedly used by members of various nations became permanent parts of the language. Eventually the language became so complex that even subtle

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## Flowerful Homes

(NAPS)—For a touch of spring, any time of the year, think flowers. Nothing sums up the gentlest season as sweetly or brightens the home as effectively.

"A room is transformed when you introduce freshly cut flowers. Suddenly, it becomes warmer, friendlier—a room where people love to be," said Kevin Ylvisaker, president of the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD).

When you bring the outdoors in with flowers, says Ylvisaker, use them to brighten unlikely places. Flower arrangements in the living room and dining room are a natural, of course. But how about flowers on your desk, in the bathroom, kitchen or bedroom for a bright surprise?

Get creative with containers. Depending on the style of your room use everything from clear glass to crystal, terra cotta, baskets, brass and silver.

For a flowerful home AIFD offers the following buying tips:

- blossoms should have a firm, crisp look.
- look at the center of the blossom; if the pollen has built up, the flower won't last long.
- select buds at different stages of opening so that they won't open all at once.
- leaves on stems should be healthy, not wilted; healthy foliage indicates a healthy flower.
- for the best floral buys seek the advice and guidance of your local professional floral designer.

