

# Abram's faith put him in right relations with God

**Lesson Scripture:** Romans 4:2-3,13-25

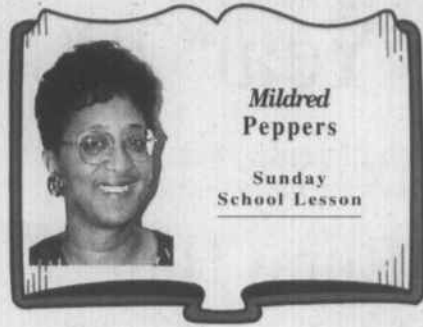
**Lesson Aims:** to understand righteousness, justification and faith; to explain Abraham's righteousness; and to appreciate being joint heirs of the promise.

**Background:** Paul continued to expound on the ideas of justification, righteousness, and faith. We must remember that Paul's aim for this epistle is to explain God's universal righteousness. For this study, let's examine each concept closely.

Righteousness is being in right relationship with God. God is always righteous toward humanity because He cannot lie. He is faithful on each promise. At one time, humanity was "right" with God until sin was committed. Anything that breaks relationship with God is a sin. It can be in thought, word, or deed.

When sin is recognized and owned up to, something must be done to "restore" the broken relationship. God is love, mercy and grace, which are given freely to mend the wrong. Notice that nothing is said here about doing good neither long enough nor well enough to fix things.

To get back to God, humanity must believe that He is all that He says. Therefore, faith makes



**Mildred Peppers**

Sunday School Lesson

people righteous, not their behavior.

Justification is the gracious action of God accepting persons as righteous in consequence of faith resting upon His work through Christ ("Oxford Companion to the Bible"). It is the redemptive activity of God.

In the Old Testament, it was through sacrifice. That blood covered the sin. Now Jesus' blood washed the sin away. God provided this as the only avenue to get back to Him. It was quite costly but freely given! Here again humanity must believe in Jesus, because without that faith there is no hope. Christ's blood atones for sins and not keeping the Law.

Our third concept is faith. Hebrews 11:1 eloquently defines the term. "The Bible Expositor

and Illuminator" states that faith is the acceptance of testimony. "UMI" says that faith is the abandonment of all self-reliance and complete dependency on God to accomplish His will in our lives. Not

based on logic, faith is simply believing. Faith comes from God alone. It cannot be duplicated. Faith is believing while in the dark with no sign of light to lead you out. Approach to God can be done in no other way except by faith

**Lesson:** Let's examine Abraham, our patriarch, based on the three concepts. Abram (Abraham) was called by God to follow Him in Genesis 12:1-3. There is no explanation as to why Abram and not another. Abram believed in the voice and the promises and thus was obedient and left Haran.

Was he good enough? Did his work speak volumes for his character? If he were so good, did he need God? The Scripture says that he believed and is credited as

righteous. Abram's faith put him in right relations with God. Our lesson today doesn't concentrate on his life, but we know the story. If you don't, read Genesis 12-25.

He believed but still sinned. Even so, he continued to believe in God and His promises. Abram lived before the Law was written. It was his faith that makes him an heir, not obedience to the Law. Abram—and his wife even attempted to help God with the promise. They were not forsaken; God blessed them and the son by Hagar.

Abraham's faith eventually matured (years later). The evidence comes when God tells him to sacrifice his son, Isaac. There was no hesitation, but God provided! The promise becomes a reality, and all humanity can become heirs to it if they have the faith.

God extends His grace and mercy to justify us in order that we may commune with Him. Like Abraham and so many others, we sin over and over, but we are restored by our faith in God and His redemptive activity.

All have sinned but God remains faithful to His promise. There can be no room for doubt. God loves and provides for us. We must keep the faith and the promise is sure.

See you Sunday!

## St. Mark celebrates anniversary

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

St. Mark Baptist Church family is celebrating the anniversary of Pastor James Fulwood and First Lady Fulwood, having 28 years of service with St. Mark Church. Several events will take place to celebrate this great occasion.

On April 5 at 7:30 p.m., Pastor Samuel Cornelius and members of New Jerusalem Baptist Church will open this celebration with a worship service. A banquet will be given in their honor at the

Ramada Plaza Coliseum on April 6 at 6 p.m. Pastor John Parks of New Hope Baptist Church will be the guest speaker that night.

On April 7 at 4 p.m., Pastor Robert McGowan and members of Galilee Baptist Church will be the guests to close this celebration.

All pastors and area churches are invited to attend all of these services.

St. Mark Baptist is at 1100 Manley Street. Rev. Dr. James Fulwood is pastor and teacher.

## New Hope holds singles program

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Covenant Keepers singles ministry's Alone But Not Lonely, Part 2, will be held

March 16 at 11:30 a.m. at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 1201 New Hope Lane. Singles, come join Pastor J.C. Parks in this powerful rap session. We will explore questions that you've always wanted to know but afraid to ask.

Married couples are welcome too.

Lunch will be served immediately after the rap session.



Rev. Parks

# Sara Allen Missionary Society of St. James AME will hold Missionary Day

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Sara Allen Missionary Society of St. James AME Church will celebrate its annual Missionary Day on Sunday, March 17, at 11 a.m.

The speaker for the occasion will be Evangelist Janet Pass

from Pearson Memorial AME Church in High Point.

The Sara Allen Missionary Society will recognize Nina Jenerett for the number of years she served, and a memorial service will be held for all missionaries who passed in the previous year.

The young people's department will call the roll of family members who are now serving in the War on Terrorism. That will be followed by a moment of silent prayer for all the family members who were affected by the terrorists' attacks.

The Rev. Mary F. Peterson,

pastor, will open the doors to Christian discipleship. Other personalities on the program are Veronica Ford, president, and Thelma Bridges, coordinator. The Unity Choir will provide the music, with James Smith as organist.

The public is invited.

# Mount Zion Baptist announces Summer Arts Camp

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Mount Zion Baptist Church, under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Serenus T. Churn, Sr., announces Summer Arts Camp 2002 for children ages 5 to 12. The camp will run from June 3 until July 26 and operates from the church, 905 File Street. The hours of operation will be 7 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Campers will be provided a

wonderful mix of spiritual, educational, recreational and cultural activities, in addition to academic and arts classes. Academic classes will include math, reading and writing skills building, and "Self-esteem Through Culture Leads to Academic Excellence," an Afrocentric social studies curriculum.

The arts curriculum will include dance (African and modern jazz); music (the

recorder, African drumming, trap drums and piano); arts and crafts; and creative writing. The camp also will provide for weekly field trips and organized sports, including swimming.

The tuition includes a registration fee of \$25 and a weekly fee of \$60 per child. Parents with two or more children participating are eligible for a discount. Government vouchers

are accepted.

Students will be provided breakfast, lunch and a snack. Early registration is encouraged, as the number of spaces is limited to ensure a small student/teacher ratio.

For an application and additional information, call the church at (336) 722-2325 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. or Dr. Gladys W. Bray, the camp's director, at (336) 723-5758.

## Clark S. Brown & Sons

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daughter, Juanita Wilson, and her grandchildren, Katherine and Nate (Jr.) Wilson; four nephews, five nieces, a host of other relatives and friends.

The funeral was held March 11 at 2 p.m. at Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home Chapel. Rev. Dr. Lillie L. Travis officiated. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery. Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

### HUNTLEY

Mrs. Esther B. Huntley, age 87, 122 N. Dunleith Ave., passed away on March 3 at Silas Creek Manor. She was born the fourth child of Thomas and Nannie Robinson Brewer in Pageland, S.C., on Aug. 5, 1914. She learned the discipline of hard work on that farm with her parents and siblings, and, as a child, she earned a reputation for working well with her hands. She attended Chesterfield County public schools, earned her high school diploma from Brainerd Institute in Chester, S.C., and completed her bachelor's degree in elementary education at Winston-Salem Teachers College (now, Winston-Salem State University). She taught in Marlboro County, S.C., public schools a number of years before her marriage to Berfin Huntley and her move to Winston-Salem. After her move, Mrs. Huntley taught in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools for a number of years and retired in 1976. She joined Goler Metropolitan AME Zion Church and was faithful in serving with the Class Leaders, Gospel Choir, Usher Board, and Sunday school Class 7. She was also a member of the Alpha Mu Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., the North Win-

ston Senior Citizens Club, Meridian Chapter 308 of the Eastern Star, and the Dunleith Avenue Good Neighbor Club.

She is survived by: one sister, Mrs. Vashti Brewer Dargan of Pageland, S.C.; two nieces, Dr. Margaret J. Washmitzer of Washington, D.C., and Mrs. Nannie Brewer Young of Fayetteville, N.C.; one nephew, Dr. William T. Dargan of Durham; a beloved "daughter," Mrs. Dorothy S. Moore; her caretaker and devoted friend, Mrs. Shirley Peoples; and many more grand- and great-grandnieces and nephews.

The funeral was held March 6 at 1 p.m. at Goler Metropolitan AME Zion Church. Dr. James M. Sloan officiated. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery. Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home directors were in charge of the arrangements.

### OLIVER

Ms. Emma E. Oliver, age 90, formerly of 209 W. 14th Street, passed away on March 2 at John Sticht Center. She was born Feb. 19, 1912, in Germantown, N.C., to the late Henry McLean and Ollie Rierison Oliver. She attended the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County public schools. Ms. Oliver was employed by Harry Lee's Laundry. She was a fun-loving person who enjoyed life to the fullest. She was a faithful member of Beulah Baptist Church, where she was involved with the Missionary Society and "Mother of the Church."

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Kay Sandra Oliver Foster.

She is survived by: two daughters, Mrs. Nancy (Thurnell) Dargan Sr. and Ms. Johnnie Mae Woods; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

The funeral was held March 7 at 2 p.m. at Beulah Baptist Church. Rev. L. Bruce Ford officiated. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

## 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 Bible Study	12:00 Noon & 7:00 P.M.

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

## 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"

Website: www.pineygroveint.org • E-mail: pgb2005@bellsouth.net

## 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	5:00 p.m.
Monday Study Class	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Children's Choir Rehearsal	5:30 p.m.
Thursday: Bible Study and Preach Night	7:00 p.m.

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

## 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 March**

- March 10th**  
Deacons/Deaconess Day - 4:00 p.m.  
Pastor A.T. Griffey - Pentecostal Lighthouse
- March 15th**  
Women's Fellowship - 7:00 p.m.
- March 24th**  
Gospel Explosion - 4:00 p.m.  
Pastor Michael Linville - Cedar Creek Baptist Church
- March 30th**  
Senior Citizens Workshop - 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

**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  
"A Church Striving To Make A Difference"

## Galilee Missionary Baptist Church

### Upcoming Events

48th Church Anniversary, March 17, 2002

Guest speaker for 8:00 service -  
**Rev. Paul Lowe**  
Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church

Guest for the 10:30 service  
**Rev. James Potts of the**  
Mt. Prospect Baptist Church, Villa Rica, GA

**Spring Revival, March 19-21**  
7:00 p.m. Nightly  
Pastor Joseph Samuels  
St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC

**Galilee Missionary Baptist Church**  
575 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
Winston-Salem, NC 27101  
Phone: (336) 724-3857

"Snoot" Productions Presents

# "The Upper Room To Calvary"



(Easter Passion Play)

Written and Directed By Rev. & Mrs. C.E. Gray

**Saturday, March 23, 2002**

At The  
**Mt. Olive Baptist Church**

**5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Dinner • 6:30 p.m. Concert • 7:00 p.m. Play**

**Come Witness The Resurrection!**  
Concert Features St. Stephen's Combination Chorale  
For tickets call (336) 721-1959 or (336) 767-4738  
Dinner & Play \$12.00 \* \* Play Only \$7.00  
Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 1301 East Belevs Street, Winston-Salem, NC