

ELIMINATING HYPOCRISY WITHIN OURSELVES

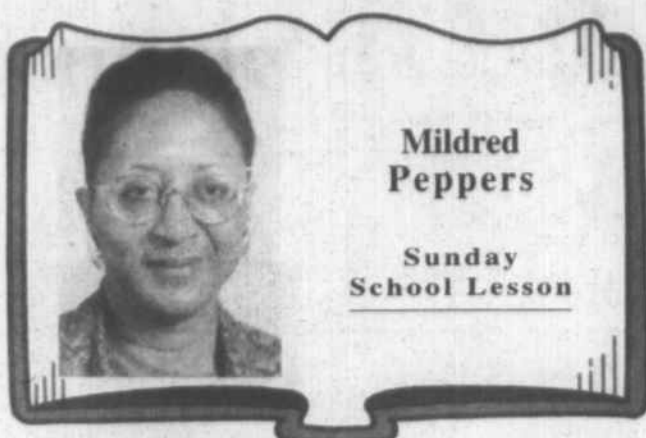
Lesson Galatians 2:11-21
Scripture:

Lesson Aims: To understand the motivation behind the Galatians epistle; to recognize that all believers make up one body in Christ; and to weed out any hypocrisy in our lives by the aid of the Holy Spirit.

Background: The new community (church) founded by Jesus, the Christ is an organism and not an organization. The implication here is growth and change, whereas an organization is static and very often exclusive. After the Day of Pentecost, this new community expanded rapidly. Peter preached Jesus as Lord and Christ to those present (Acts 2:6-36). Upon hearing Peter, three thousand were saved thus taking the "Good News" back to their homes. In following Christ, a believer had to serve not be served. Only the Holy Spirit can empower the individual to do this. Paul and

Barnabas traveled to the island of Crete and into the central part (Galatia) of Asia Minor on the first missionary trip. Right on their heels were the Judaizers teaching false doctrine and discrediting Paul's authority. The Judaizers were Jewish converts who wanted the Gentiles to adhere to the Mosaic Law. Even though Jews and Gentiles converted, the wall that divided them in every aspect of their lives remained. Simply put, prejudice was alive and well. The false teachers sparked confusion for the Gentile converts. Paul learned about the false teachings and wrote this letter to correct the problem.

Lesson: Paul writes this epistle around AD 49. He quickly affirms his apostleship and refutes the Judaizers' moral accusations in chapter one. The apostle informs them about the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15) some fourteen years earlier. He does this to authenticate his title and what he is preaching. The



Mildred Peppers

Sunday School Lesson

pillars of the Jerusalem church; Peter, James, and John recognize God's grace upon Paul and Barnabas by giving the right hand of fellowship asking only that they remember the poor there. The Gentiles are to ignore the claims of the Judaizers. They don't have to be circumcised or follow dietary laws to be saved. It is important that the believers realize that prejudice can't coexist with Christ. Paul then shares an incident that hap-

pened earlier in Antioch.

Paul confronts Peter when he comes to the city to investigate the church for the Jerusalem leaders. Peter separates himself from the Gentile believers as if they were unclean. His actions are so influential that Barnabas and others do the same thing. Disappointed, Paul calls him out rather harshly. Paul raises the issue of Legalism (the Judaizers' teachings) to Peter.

The key point here is that no one could keep the Law thus Jesus is needed. It is faith in Him that saves not obedience, ritual or sacrifice! Peter's hypocrisy is obvious. Peter knows better, read Acts 10. Within this confrontation, Paul uses the absurd to drive home a point. Read verse 17 carefully. The Law defines sin therefore keeping it (which no one can) doesn't bring salvation. Paul states that he has been crucified with Christ and the new person doesn't see life the same way. Think of the symbolism of baptism. The new life represents one of faith acknowledging that God extends His grace to all. To remain caught up in the Law implies two things: first, you can keep the Law and secondly, there is no need for Jesus! The Law has a place but not in salvation.

Application: Conflict will come in the community, do you know how to handle it? So exactly what is Paul saying? If

you believe in Jesus, the Christ, prejudice must be wiped out. Believing in Him and clinging to prejudice will not fit. It's like oil and water it doesn't mix. The Law condemns but it can't save. Don't use it to make yourself superior to others; you are only fooling yourself! When we cling to the old way of thinking, God is disappointed with our behavior. If His grace is given to us, can't it also be given to people who are different? Legalism divides! Don't get caught up in that! Righteousness is a state of being that gives us new motives and new ideas for our new life as individuals and as a community. If you continue to cling to the old ways - check yourself! Your citizenship may not be in the new community. Echoes Adult Teacher Commentary says "grace takes many and makes one body in Christ. Christ met us where we were and transformed us breaking down all divisions through His sacrifice." Amen!!!

Calendar

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church is located at 1033 Newbirth Dr. in East Bend. For additional information, call 336-699-3583.

Starting Nov. 10

Revival
Solid Rock Missionary Baptist Church will hold its "Revived For The Harvest" Fall Revival Nov. 10 - 12 with guest revivalist the Rev. Ronnie Williams. Services will be at 7 p.m. each night. The church is located at 3010 Carver School Road.

Nov. 11

Teleseminar
There will be a free teleseminar for ministry leaders trying to stretch their outreach budget on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at noon. Hosted by Awesome Insight, a resource of Beyond Marketing Group Inc., will offer some practical solutions to

today's ministry budget concern. Go to www.awesomeinsight.com for more information or call (336) 722-6270.

Starting Nov. 12

Pastoral anniversary celebration
Restoration Christian Fellowship, 1931 Vargrave St., will observe the 8th Pastoral Anniversary of Pastors Halbert and Rochelle Richardson from Nov. 12 - 16. The speakers and events are: Pastor Reginald Holiday of Bethany Fellowship Church of Greensboro on Nov. 12 at 7 p.m.; There will be a 7 p.m. Pound Party and Friends and Family Celebration on Thursday, Nov. 12. On Friday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m., the speaker will be Bishop Alfred Owens of Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church of Washington, D.C. The 10 a.m. speaker on Sunday, Nov. 16 will be Apostle Steve Deitz of Resurrection International Church of Hickory. Bishop Daniel Coleman of True Victory Ministries will close the cele-

bration at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 16. For more information, call 336-995-1650 or 336-725-4888.

Nov. 14

Food for sale
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church will sponsor a Fall Food Festival on Nov. 14. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. and dinner from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. Chitterlings plate are \$8; fish plates are \$7 and chicken pot pie (homemade) is \$8. Bake goods will be for sale as well. The church is at 810 N. Highland Avenue.

Gospel Jazz

An Evening of Elegance of Gospel Jazz will be held Friday, Nov. 14 at 8 p.m. at Saints Home United Methodist Church, 1390 Thurmond St. The special guest will be Independent National Gospel Jazz Recording Artist Jenesis and Friends. Tickets are \$10 and \$18 for couples. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. The church's pastor is

the Rev. Effie McClain. Call 336-767-4823 for more information.

Fall Bazaar

The 2nd Annual Fall Festival Bazaar will be held on Friday Nov. 14 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church Education and Enrichment Center, 630 N. Patterson Avenue. The public is invited to attend. The vendor fee is \$40, which includes one table and one space. The deadline for registration is Monday, Nov. 10. For more information, contact Joyce Henry at 336-724-9411, ext 215.

Nov. 16

Deaconess Board anniversary
The Deaconess Board of Mt. Olive Baptist Church will celebrate its 48th Anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 16 at 4 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. Prince Rivers of United Metropolitan Church. The host pastor is Dr. Charles E. Gray,

and the church is located at 1301 C. E. Gray Drive.

Anniversary events


The Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church will have a Third Anniversary Celebration for Pastor Paul W. Hart on Nov. 16 during the 11 a.m. worship hour. The guest speaker will be Minister Velma McCloud, associate minister at Piney Grove Baptist Church and a lifelong friend of Pastor Hart. The speaker at the 4 p.m. program will be Pastor Keith McDaniel and his church fami-

ly from First Elon Baptist Church in Elon. The church is at 1905 N. Jackson Avenue. For more information, call 336-761-1351.

Churches will worship together

Rev. Mack H. L. McConnel and members of St. James Missionary Baptist Church of Winston-Salem will fellowship with New Liberty Baptist Ministry Inc., 101 North Broad St. on Nov. 16 at 4 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Linda M. Beal is the host pastor. The public is welcome to attend the service.

**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.

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 Fax: 336-767-7006

Bishop R.L. Wise, Sr.
D.D.; S.T.D. - Pastor

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