



**INTRODUCTION**

Isaac lost his eyesight as he grew old, and evidently in his blindness he thought that death was near. He wanted to give the parting blessing to Esau, his older and favorite son. He told Esau to go hunting and prepare a feast of venison that he especially loved. After that feast, the old man would bestow his formal blessing on his son. Our scripture begins at this point.

**THE LESSON**

While Isaac was talking to Esau, Rebekah was listening. So when Esau went out to hunt, she said to Jacob, "I have just heard your father say to Esau, 'Bring me an animal and cook it for me. After I have eaten it, I will give you my blessing in the presence of the Lord before I die.' Now son," Rebekah continued, "listen to me and do what I say. Go to the flock and pick out two fat young goats, so that I can cook them and make some of that food your father likes so much. You can take it to him to eat, and he will give you his blessing before he dies." (Genesis 27:5-10) Esau hated Jacob, because his father had given Jacob the blessing. He thought, "The time to mourn my father's death is near; then I will kill Jacob." But when Rebekah heard about Esau's plan, she sent for Jacob and said, "Listen, your brother Esau is planning to get even with you and kill you. Now son, do what I say. Go at once to my brother Laban in Haran, and stay with him for a while, until your brother's anger cools down and he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send someone to bring you back. Why should I lose both of my sons on the same day?" Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am sick and tired of Esau's foreign wives. If Jacob marries one of these Hitite girls, I might as well die." (Genesis 27:41-46)

The father's blessing was not just the wish of an old man. In this chosen family, the patriarch was given the gift of prophecy. His blessing was not only before the Lord, it was actually from the Lord, accurately foretelling what would happen in future years.

Before Esau and Jacob were born, God determined that Jacob was to be the dominant one. But it seems very strange to see the methods Jacob used to get what God had promised. First, Jacob bought the birthright from Esau for a very small price. Perhaps that was not dishonest but it certainly was very ungenerous and greedy. Then Jacob, with the help of his mother, used deception and outright falsehood to obtain the blessing that his father intended for Esau. Thus, Jacob's crookedness helped to bring about the result that God desired. Does that mean Jacob's crookedness was right? No. A good result does not make a wrong right. Often we are tempted to think it does. A man lies to keep from embarrassing himself or angering someone else. A mother steals to feed her hungry family. A terrorist shoots a hostage or blows up a busy public building to bring some result that he calls good. But lying, stealing, and murder are still wrong.

Sometimes we wonder why our just and holy God allows so much evil to exist in the world. Peter explains in II Peter 3:9, "God is giving the wrong-doers time to repent. Even more wonderful, God not only allows wrong-doing, but sometimes actually uses it to accomplish his purpose. It was through the sly trickery of Jacob and his mother that God's promise of prosperity and power was given to Jacob, as God intend.

What if Jacob and his mother had been honest? Would that promise then have been given to Esau, contrary to God's wish? No, God would have accomplished His purpose in some other way. But God knew what Jacob and Rebekah would do, and He used their wrong to bring about what was right.

Jacob and Rebekah had to bear their guilt and punishment. They were shaken with shock and fear when Esau vowed to kill Jacob. They had to endure 20 years of separation when Jacob ran away. And after 20 years, Jacob still trembled with fear when he came to face Esau again.

God has given us a will of our own. He lets us do wrong, if that is our choice. But we have to accept the consequences. It pays to do right.

# Little Rock's Senior Ushers Celebrate

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celebrate 83 years of service on Sunday, October 25, at 4 p.m. Guest speaker will be Rev. Retoy Gaston of Clinton Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church. Rev. William Milton White, Sr. is the Minister. Everyone is welcome.

**THE WORD OF GOD**

There will be an appreciation service for Rev. Lewis G. Walker, pastor of The Word of God Church. The service will be held

at Shiloh Baptist Church, 2600 Elmin St. from Wednesday - Friday, October 28-30, beginning at 7:30 p.m. nightly and closing on Sunday, November 1, at 3 p.m. There will be a different speaker each night. Please come out and share in this special occasion with us as we gather to praise God.

**CATHY MEMORIAL**

On October 25, the Gospel Choir of Cathy Memorial A.M.E. Zion

Church will celebrate their anniversary at 2:30 p.m. Everyone is invited. The church is located 624 Chicago Ave., Rev. Monroe Culp is the pastor.

**LOAVES AND FISHES**

The Hunger Committee of Catawba Presbytery is sponsoring its annual "In-Gathering of Food Program" on Sunday, October 25, at 4 p.m. at Statesville Ave. Pres- See Loaves on Page 10A

**ATTENTION SINGLES, PARENTS, TEENS AND TEACHERS**  
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## Grace In The Fall

By J.M. Little  
As the four seasons come and go, each testifies of the grace of God. Also, the passing of the seasons remind us of the faithfulness of God.

Fall testifies of the withering work of the Holy Spirit. I don't know if you have ever seen it like that or not. Listen: "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. THE GRASS WITHERETH, and the flower thereof falleth away. But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word by which the gospel is preached unto you." (I Peter 1:24,25) The Apostle Paul here compares man in his proud and natural state to beautiful grass when it is in full growth and very pretty. When fall comes, as we are having now, the grass withereth. Why? The cool blasts of air begin to wither the summer grass. The pretty summer grass is just for a season and cannot help but wither when more powerful forces blow upon it. So it is in the grace of God under HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTION. When the Holy Spirit comes upon a sinner, the sinner is proud and boastful of what he is by nature because he really does not know who he is by nature. But as the Holy Spirit blows upon, and reveals to him his old adamic nature, his corruption and vile, depraved condition, that sinner begins to wither. "But the Word of the Lord endureth forever..." As the gospel is preached to that sinner under HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTION, he dies to his old life that he once gloried in being in. All the things you once gloried in begin to fade away, and the sinner himself dies to everything he was loved. You boasted before of your profession, now as the Holy Spirit opens your heart more and more, you see you had profession without possession. As the Word cuts deeper and deeper into your heart, you wither as the grass under the cool fall blasts. In your heart you weep, but before a sinner can be saved, he has to release his hold of everything. You weep over your lost condition. You thought you were saved, but now you see that you are not. All the glory of your church life dies. "You, too, are dying. You must die, and you will die to everybody and everything before you can be resurrected to new life in Christ and know Him as your Lord and your Saviour. Under the convictions of the Holy Spirit, you lose sight of the things you used to love. No one around you understands what is happening to you but those who are saved. Seeing your lost condition you despair of ever getting to Christ. Once you thought you knew Christ, now you know that you don't, and your cry night and day is: "Oh, that I knew Him. Where can I find Christ?"

You read God's Word and pray, and you don't know what step may be your last. Your soul pants after Christ as the hart pants after the water brook. I know it was so when the Lord was dealing with my heart for salvation. Day and night I longed to know Christ.

As the Lord dealt with my heart, I died to everything I had ever cherished. I cannot explain this gracious work of the Holy Spirit in slaying a sinner in order that He may raise that sinner to new life in Christ. But I know what took place in my heart and life, much of it I don't understand. But there was a definite time when I stood in eternity, as it was, knowing the reality of my lost condition as a lost sinner. And you did, too, if you are saved.

If you are saved you know exactly what I'm talking about. If you are a stranger to what I am laying down here, then you are not saved. I'll be just that dogmatic. You will die to everybody. Man, by nature, is proud and puffed up. No proud man is saved. Some of our preachers are so proud, but you are just a proud jackass on the road to Hell; you are leading your congregation to Hell, too. Man, by nature, is a child of the Devil, according to John 8:44, and you are steeped in pride; the pride in your heart has deceived you. Every man by nature is deceived. You think you have some goodness in you that will make you acceptable before God. Therefore, there has been taught a doctrine in your churches today: "There is some good in the worst of men." That's a lie out of Hell! God declares in His Word that there is no good in man, (Rom. 3:10). I'm going to let my Lord be true and let you be the liar, any have said, "We are not hearing what Brother Little is preaching in our churches." I realize you aren't. Our churches today are just as dead and lifeless as an old, dead dog. Churches today have rejected the Holy Spirit, therefore, you have no true spiritual light, you only have darkness. The world scene is growing worse and worse in the midst of more and more churches not preaching the truth. From here at my home and before I can drive to the I-85 bridge, I pass about a

dozen churches. The truth is not preached in a single one of them! Now you can get mad at this statement all you want and I know many of you will. There is coming a day when you are going to wish you had heeded the Word of the Lord. And this is the word which by the Gospel is preached unto you."

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