

The likeness of God...

And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings. Acts 17:26 NKJV

Some versions of the Bible say from one blood and some say from one man. It means that from the blood of the one man, Adam, comes all humans who walk the face of the earth. Have you ever stopped to realize that all of us descended from Adam and Eve? Have you ever pondered the meaning of those words?

When God created man, there was only one race – the human race. It was His intent for us to live peaceably together and love each other. Man, on the other hand, ruined all that with the help of Satan.

After sin entered the world, Adam and Eve were put out of a garden that was paradise. Before much longer, man had rebelled so much against God that He had to separate them and place them in different parts of the world to keep down their plotting against Him. Therefore boundaries were set and cultures evolved.

In man's greed, they began to desire to conquer and domi-

"I will meditate on Your precepts and contemplate Your ways."

- PSALM 119:15



SYLVIA HUGHES
Meditating on his Word

nant other nations and peoples. Those nations we know most about is Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. As men began to conquer and rule, they began to think of themselves as better than anyone else. Some even proclaimed themselves to be gods.

In our recent past was Adolph Hitler, who wanted to exterminate the Jews. Even today, there are those who are trying to exterminate certain groups of people from the world.

We have been conditioned in our world to take note of race. We are even required to check a little box on forms to note our race. Why is this so? Satan, the enemy of our soul, finds no greater delight than to separate us from each other and to make us think we are all different. But the soul inside us shares the same desires in life. That's because we all have been made in

the likeness of God.

James said, "With it (the tongue) we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, these things should not be this way."

What is the answer to our dilemma? There is only one. It is to return to the God who created us and that died for us. Without God, without the Holy Spirit living in us, we are at the mercy of the enemy of our soul. His desire is division and chaos. His desire is to devour us.

But God's desire is the same as at our beginning - for us to be one human race, to love each other and walk with Him.

Galatians 3:28 says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

If you haven't already, come home today. "For all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Sylvia Hughes is a longtime Sunday School and women's Bible study teacher, and a retired newspaper editor. She can be reached via email at blameditations@gmail.com.

Make room...

A lady attended the Super Bowl. A man in the aisle next to her noticed there was an empty seat beside her. This scene perplexed him, seeing how crowded the stadium was, so he asked her if she knew whose seat was.

She replied, "That seat was my husband's, but he died." The man replied with compassion, "I'm so sorry to hear that." And, after a moment, he thought, "But, I'm sure you had a friend who would've come with you." She looked up at the man and told him, "Well, they all insisted on attending his funeral today."

We make room for what matters to us.

I have often uttered that I'm too busy or too financially strapped, or too stressed to involve myself with others' requests. The truth of the matter is we will always make room for what matters.

We make room for Facebook. We make room for trips to the bank and the grocery store. We take time to play games, watch TV or read books. We feel so stretched, yet we find a way to squeeze in whatever we want.

I am not saying that you are not busy. I'm sure you are, and tight on cash, perhaps. I am sure you feel the way you say. I don't want to imply for a moment that you are lying.

On the contrary, I actually want us to think through how many things are on your plate that we need to move off. Maybe

"This is the day the Lord has made."

- PSALM 118:24



THE REV. EMMANUEL WEBB HOGGARD
Grace & Truth

today, you need to think through some things that you can put on the back burner long enough to focus on what matters most.

In Acts 10, Peter goes up on the roof to pray during lunchtime. Scripture says he was hungry. Well, yea, it's lunchtime. God places him in a trance where he sees all these animals that he was not supposed to eat because of his religious dietary restrictions. God says to him, "Kill and eat." God informs Peter that, through Christ, a lot has changed according to the past ceremonial expectations, including preaching to the Gentiles.

God tells him to go to a man named Cornelius' house and preach. Cornelius was expecting Peter and had a house full of people hungry to hear what God had said, and the Holy Spirit fell in the house, filling all these Gentiles.

Now, if you are new to some Biblical passages, let me help

you. A Gentile is any person who is not of Jewish descent. The Jewish people were quite prejudiced against any other nationality, specifically in the realm of religion.

God called Peter to open this "new way" to the Gentiles, and suddenly freedom in Christ spread like wildfire. Today, most of the world has heard of Jesus Christ, and Gentiles primarily fund His mission. Are we not so glad God opened this door through Peter?

This incredible blessing may not have happened if Peter had not created some room to meet with his Master. Peter made room to pray, which made room for all of us Gentiles to find our way into Christ. Making room for the Lord is making room for the lost. We make room for what matters, and what matters is knowing God and making Him known.

So, today, you may need to let something go, maybe a meal, so you can make room for the Lord in hopes that an opportunity may arise that you will be ready to share the Lord with the lost. If you don't spend time with the Father, you may have nothing to offer to those who need it most. Make room today for what matters, really.

The Rev. Emanuel Webb Hoggard is Pastor of Askewville Assembly of God Church. He can be reached via email at pastorwebb@hotmail.com.

Bible Trivia

BY WILSON CASEY

1. Is the book of Darius in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Philipians 4, what does the apostle Paul instruct us to do rather than worry? Cry, Pray, Love, Talk

3. Who, perhaps, did Jesus give a standing ovation to in Acts 7:55-59? Herod, James, John the Baptist, Stephen
4. How long did the journey of Ezra take from Babylon to Jerusalem? 3 days, 2 weeks, 4 months, 4 years

5. Who's the runaway slave in the book of Philemon? Lemuel, Marcus, Doulos, Onesimus
6. All of Job's children were killed in a ...? Flood, Fire, Wind, Stampede

- 4 months; 5) Onesimus; 6) Wind

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Pray; 3) Stephen; 4)

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Special Events

Church announcements are published each week in the Bertie Ledger-Advance. The deadline to submit news items for this listing is 5 p.m. each Monday. Submissions may be emailed to twhite@ncweeklies.com.

On-Going

Worship Services Canceled

WINDSOR – Siloam Baptist Church has canceled all services until further notice due to the upswing in COVID-19 cases throughout Bertie County.

Two Inside Services

ASKEWVILLE – Askewville Assembly of God is having two services each Sunday morning.

Services are at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. with Sunday School at 10 a.m. between them. The church provides a speaker for the parking lot, and is also utilizing Facebook Live. Sunday and Wednesday night services are online. The church is also having devotions daily at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. each Monday through Saturday. For more information, call the church at 252-794-4034.

Inside & Outside Service

ROXBEL – Sandy Branch Missionary Baptist Church is holding a Drive Thru Service in the church sanctuary and parking lot at 10 a.m. Sunday Morning. The church is also doing Facebook Live for its services. When in the parking lot turn the radio to 98.1 or roll down the car windows.

Evening Prayer Online

ROXBEL – St. Mark Episcopal Church is holding Evening Prayer services at 5 p.m. on the second and fourth Sunday. Services are on the church's Facebook page.

Outside Services

WINDSOR – St. Thomas' Episcopal Church will hold services at the outdoor altar at 11 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Online services are also available on the church's Facebook page.

Park and Praise

AHOSKIE - Park and Praise will be held at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church at 10 a.m. each Sunday. Those wishing to participate in services can do so by going to the Calvary Missionary Baptist Church Ahoskie Facebook page. Listeners may also call 1-701-802-5324 and enter access code 298177 to listen.

Various Options

AHOSKIE – Carpenter's Shop International Church is meeting at 10 a.m. each Sunday in the sanctuary while following strict social distancing guidelines.

Services can also be streamed from Facebook or the church website (www.csicministries.com).

Women's Ministry

WINDSOR – The Women's Ministry meets from 6-8 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at Cedar Landing Missionary Baptist Church.

The meetings include fun activities, free food, door prizes and lots of love.

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 32:10-11

Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him. Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous: sing, all you who are upright in heart!

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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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