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WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

The subject. Who is responsible? often arises in our minds and most of the people seem to be without understanding as to who is the responsible person. They always accuse God and try to lay the blame on Him for conditions in their lives by saying, "I had nothing to do with my being here. I came here without the least of my consent." This is true, God has consulted no man yet about his work of creation or anything else. If He had left it to man it would have been in a terrible shape. God did not make man to do as he pleased and have his way in everything. Neither did he create man to live in sin and crime. We learn by reading in Genesis, chapters two and three that God made or created man in his image after his likeness and for his own glory. And then he made a woman for the glory of man, for a helpmeet and not for a slave as some men think. God bless the woman. Although the man is the head of the woman she should share equal with the man in everything. God planted a garden eastward in Eden and there he placed this happy couple showing them at the same time what trees they should eat of and at the same time commanding them not to eat of the tree of knowledge. Who was responsible? From the time God gave commandment man became responsible for his conduct. He did not have to eat of the tree of knowledge in order to keep from starving to death for every tree of the garden and every herb was good for food. Here man is responsible. Nowhere in the word of God do we read where man just had to obey the devil. He obeys him willingly. Some argue that God aimed from the beginning for man to do just what he did to eat of the tree of knowledge and die. This argument is absolutely without foundation and is as far from the bible and common sense as the doctrine of evolution. But we hear God saying to Adam, "Thou shalt not eat of the tree of knowledge." Man did eat and transgress God's holy commandment and was driven out of the garden of Eden on their own will using their own free moral agency as some one has said. God has not at any time forced man to serve him but his service must be willingly done. Who is responsible? We hear God say, "They are without an excuse." After man had transgressed God's holy laws still, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Now it is to whosoever believeth. Who is responsible? The responsible one is the one who does not believe and accept the plan of

life and salvation. Who would be ignorant enough to lay anything to the charge of God. And who would accuse God with folly in this matter. God has done all he can for the human family in order to save them until they accept his offering he has given. Thou art inexcusable, O man. Responsibility lies at your door until you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. Then God will hold you responsible for your whole life's service which you so much owe to Him. God give thee understanding in all things and help you to understand that you are left inexcusable and must give a strict account at the judgment seat of Christ for every moment, hour and all your life and the way you have spent the precious time God has so wonderfully given you here in which to live for Him and to glorify Him. There are some things that we are not responsible for and that is we are not responsible for what we do not know. But we are accountable for all we do know. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not to him it is sin. Jas. 4:17. Of course we would readily derive to the conclusion by this scripture and Rom. 4:15 that a person is not held accountable for that which he does not know. Some preachers are cruel enough I have heard to preach that there are infants in hell. This is not so, as they are not accountable for sin not being able to comprehend with their minds good and evil to that extent of knowledge wherein they are made sinners. And so if they die in this innocent state they are saved. Read Matt. 18:1-3. Paul speaks of when he was an innocent child saying, "For I was alive without the law once but when the commandments came sin revived and I died." Rom. 7:9. Just as long as he was under age of responsibility he was alive. But when the time came in his life when he was old enough to receive knowledge of the law he died. This death is equivalent to the one Adam died in the garden of Eden. Dead in trespasses and in sins. God has said, "Behold all souls are mine, as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine, the soul that sinneth it shall die." Ezek. 18:4, and again we read, "Wherefore as by one man, sin entered into the world and death by sin and so death passed upon all men for that all have sinned." Rom. 5:12. While this is true I am glad God has prepared a way whereby we may inherit eternal life and live forever. "The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:23. "And I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." John 10:28. Jesus said unto her, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that be-

BODARIES OF NORTH CAROLINA

On the north our State is bounded
By Virginia's fair domain,
With her old colonial mansions
And her fields of waving grain,
With her boasts aristocratic,
And great sons that are her pride.
On her battlefields historic
Many of our grandfathers died.

On the east old Ocean's billows
Wash our shores incessantly,
There where Raleigh cast the anchor
When he crossed the briny sea,
Found the goodly lands and forests,
Land without an earthly peer,
Fruits and flowers and fragrant vine-
yards
Wonder ye he gave a cheer?

We meet breezes warm with sunshine,
As we southward bend our way,
Roses fair and sweet magnolias,
Cotton fields and meadows gray.
Carolina, southern sister,
Lovely as a fairyland,
We indeed are proud to own her,
Stand beside her, hold her hand.

But we journey to the westward,
Follow Boone and John Sevier;
There are echoes from the forest,
From each hardy pioneer,
Who for freedom and adventure
Climbed the peaks so near the skies
Climbed the blue and rugged
mountains,
To behold a paradise.

ANNE LOVICK

DEATH, SUFFERING AND PROPERTY LOSS FOLLOW IN THE WAKE OF CARELESSNESS

Lives Lost by Fire in 1925..... 293
Injured by Fire in 1925..... 589
Property Loss by Fire in 1925..... \$6,914,014

It will probably hurt the school boy's and girl's feelings to know that the fire loss last year, in value, destroyed ALL the apples and peaches raised in North Carolina or ALL the peaches, strawberries, cantaloupes and watermelons.

For every hundred pounds of Cotton raised, we burned, in value, seven pounds.

For every hundred pounds of Tobacco we burned, in value, eight and one-third pounds.

For every hundred bushels of Corn we burned, in value, fourteen and three-fourths bushels.

For every hundred bushels of Wheat we burned, in value, ninety-two and one-half bushels.

For every hundred bushels of Sweet Potatoes we burned, in value, eighty-one and three-fourths bushels.

The State is borrowing money for Roads, Schools and other permanent improvements. Our fire loss last year would have paid 6 per cent interest on \$115,233,500.00

North Carolina is one of the Big Furniture Manufacturing States. "You Furnish the Bride, We'll Furnish the Home."

For every hundred dollars worth of Furniture manufactured in North Carolina in 1925, we burned, in value, \$13.82.

MORE THAN 75 PER CENT OF OUR FIRE LOSS IN 1925 WAS DUE TO CARELESSNESS.

Make North Carolina Safe for Life and Property

PARENT-TEACHERS HAVE SPLENDID MEETING

The Parent-Teacher Association met Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the new school building—the library being used. This is quite a large room, but chair after chair had to be brought in to take care of the crowd, the attendance being so good. The President, Mrs. E. R. Tweed, after calling the meeting to order and having the minutes of the previous meeting read, called on various ones to speak, the teachers being called on first. Prof. Kanoy spoke for a few minutes on the indifference of pupils and spoke of how the boys and girls will find opportunities even during school hours to admire and talk with one another. Several grade teachers were called on and some responded. Poor attendance in the lower grades, more work on the part of the pupils, and the importance of parental interest, shown sometimes by visiting were stressed.

Among the parents called on who spoke were Supt. O. S. Dillard, Hon. John Hendricks, Editor H. L. Story, Mrs. Guy Roberts, Mr. Guy Roberts and Dr. Sama.

The ninth grade won the parent attendance honor.

Refreshments consisting of hot chocolate and cakes were served by Mrs. Wm. Farmer, Mrs. Homer Henry, and Miss

PAIR OF TWINS BORN BUT NOT IN SAME YEAR

Altoona, Pa., Jan. 1.—(UP)—Twins were born to Mrs. Oakley Stiffler, but in different years.

The first baby was born at 10:30 P. M., December 31, 1926, and the second at 2:30 A. M., January 1, 1927.

—Asheville Times.

"Did you hear about it?"
"No."
"But it happened right in your neighborhood."
"I know—but my wife has been away."

A QUESTION OF VALUES

I am a nickel.
I am not on speaking terms with the candy man.
I am too small to get into the movies.
I am not large enough to buy a necktie.
I am of small consideration in the purchase of gasoline.
I am not fit to be a tip. But—believe me,
When I go to church and Sunday School, and B. Y. P. U. and the W. M. S. meeting, I am SOME money.
—Selected.

The best New Year resolution for the North Carolina farmer this year is one pledging himself to produce his own food and feed crops.

ASHEVILLE SUIT IN MARSHALL

The long-fought North Fork watershed project went before the court at 10 o'clock this morning. Judge P. A. McElroy, who is sitting at court in Marshall, is conducting a hearing as to whether the recent temporary injunction secured by certain taxpayers shall be made against the city of Asheville.

Taxpayers who brought the suit were represented by Carter, Shuford and Harthorne, and Mark W. Brown.

Defendants were represented by Galloway Roberts, Jones, Williams and Jones, Walter Haynes, and J. Geo. Pennell.

As we go to press the indications are that the entire days of Thursday and Friday will be consumed before a decision is reached.

BUS STATION BECOMES A SUNDAY SCHOOL

In one of his "sentence sermons" recently, Dr. Ellis gives this quotation from Charles Kingsly:

"The only way to regenerate the world is to do the thing which lies nearest us, and not hunt after grand far fetched ones for ourselves."

Within two hours of the time I read this quotation I was in a bus station purchasing a ticket to come home. The agent was a friend of mine and is a deacon in a Baptist church. While waiting for the bus to come a little forlorn boy came in and asked the agent whether he had anything he could sell for one cent. The good man gave the boy an apple and told him to keep his cent. The agent then turned to me and told me how much he missed his Sunday School since he began to work for the bus line, since his duties on Sunday morning held him at the station during the Sunday School hour. He then remarked, "I have been thinking of working me up a class from boys that stay on the streets and go to no Sunday School and teach them here in the bus station." The boy who sat by the stove eating his apple said, "I will come and bring my brother next Sunday."

"All right," said the agent, "come next Sunday morning at ten o'clock and bring the other boys, and we will have our Sunday School here in the Station."

As I came off on the bus two thoughts were in my mind: (1) This agent at the bus station is fulfilling Kingsly's method of bringing in the Kingdom of God. (2) I shall watch with peculiar interest the development of that Sunday School class.

—W. R. CULLOM, in Charity & Children.

GOOSE AND DUCKS HAVE FINE FRIEND

Uncle Jack Way Up in Canada Feeds Them and Then Sends Them Over the World—Was Born Barefooted.

By A. S. McCollum
Baconton, Ga., Dec. 18.—I recently noticed in the Jacksonville Times Union that hunters on the south coast of Florida had killed a wild goose and found around her leg a band was stamped "Mary". "Have faith in God, Mark II chapter, 22 verse. Write No. 48, Kingville, Ontario, Canada.

I sent the clipping from the paper to the above address and received an interesting letter signed "Old Uncle Jack Miner" Uncle Jack wrote that he was born barefooted, was educated out of doors, and ink slinging was entirely out of his line. He also says that at the age of thirteen he was liberated in Canada and took to the woods as naturally as a park hare, and then goes on as follows:

"There were twelve of us in the family and a dollar bill looked like a horse blanket and I took to hunting for the market. I soon learned that the wildest animal knew me for its deadliest enemy and I thought surely the would know a friend if they had one, and I now have thousands of these feathered witnesses that actually know my voice and at times will come down when I call them, and I have learned a few notes of the wild goose language. I now have tags returned to me from North Carolina to Baffin Bay, and forty-one from Hudson Bay. Indians and Esquimos have returned these wild goose tags. As for the ducks, I have a mink skin half full of these tags, returned from 38 different states and provinces, the furthest south coming from Gudan, La., and from west to west covering an area about 2000 miles square. Fifty percent of the birds I tag in the fall return to me in the spring. For the past seven years I have fed these birds from one to two thousand bushels of corn each year and that little bit only gave them a sweet taste to come back. Our government has given me permission to put up nets. The birds are either coaxed or driven in, tagged and liberated."

How fortunate was Uncle Jack to have been born barefooted!

Five demonstrations with soybeans showed a yield of 4,606 pounds of hay per acre where one ton of lime was used on the land as compared with 3,822 pounds of hay per acre where no lime was used.

Faith without works is worth little, so are pledges without action. The business-like farmer will begin now to plan his crop acreages for the coming season.