

# Church

## Sunday School Lesson

### What Does God Expect of Us?

**PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
(Ezekiel 18:1-13, 25, 30)  
"I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye." (Ezekiel 18:32)  
The principle teaching of personal responsibility is evident throughout the Bible, however, in some ways it is more plain to us in the New Testament. It began with the fall of Adam

and Eve in the garden as they attempted to excuse their irresponsibility by blaming someone, or something, else.  
Eve responded to God by saying, "The serpent beguiled me." Adam, on the other hand, said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." It didn't work with Adam and Eve, and excuses don't work with the Lord today. Most probably the primary questions in the minds of many Christians of our age is this, "What does God expect of me? What is it that I should be doing?"

Deep within them is the realization that they were intended to do something more. Feelings of guilt arise to tell them so. They know that He expects a response from them. Indeed He does. But, like the Israelites of Ezekiel's day, many people are prone to make excuses for their failure to live righteously as God requires. That is the subject for today's study.

**A TWISTED PROVERB**  
(Ezekiel 18:1-4)  
"What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the childrens' teeth

are set on edge?" (Verses 1, 2)  
Here we see a classic case of people denying any responsibility for their actions which brought them to their present predicament. The implication of the proverb is that they were being punished for the sins of past generations. Apparently they are saying that it isn't fair. They question the justice of God in relation to their own fate.  
Yet, for decades God's prophets had been warning them that unless they repented of their myriad transgressions God would bring judgment upon them for they were an abomination to Him it is true that they did reap the consequences of their fathers' wrong doings, just as God had said would happen. The prophet Jeremiah had pleaded with the people to change. They did not. They were guilty also and suffered the results of their own evil ways. Before we come down too hard on Israel's failures, we should look at our own nation, and what is happening in our time.

**THE JUSTICE OF GOD'S WAY**  
(Ezekiel 18:5-13, 25)  
"But if a man be just, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, saith the Lord, God." (Verses 5,9)

The people of Israel were saying that their life in exile was unfair. What must one do to be just in God's sight? In a board sense one who does God's will and lives righteously according to the precept of the Scriptures is just. Within this, however, there is much detail. These verses spell out many acts which God condemns. Read them all. The justice of God's way involves personal responsibility.  
The Omnipotent, Almighty God created this universe. He created man and woman, placed them on earth and provided for them everything needed to sustain life. He breathed into their being the will of choice. They were free moral agents. Free to choose their own life style. God set a penalty for those who chose a sinful, disobedient life.

(The soul which sinneth shall surely die.) Then, because of His love for people, He provided a way of wscapc through the atoning death of His Son, Jesus on the cross. Those who choose to do so may have their sins forgiven. It is a personal matter. God holds each person responsible for what they do and how they act in this life.  
(Sunday School Lesson based on the International Sunday School Lessons)

## Church News

### Women's Club holds bazaar

The Women's Club of Snug Harbor held a bazaar and bake sale Sat. July 5, 1986.  
Mrs. Nolie McKinsey won the quilt of Snug Harbor and Ernest T. Brid-

well of Bethel won the painting.  
The Women's club would like to thank all those who made the bazaar a success.

### Aglow Chapter Meets

The Elizabeth City Chapter of Women's Aglow meets Saturday, July 19th, 9:00 a.m. at the Providence Ruritan Club building on 17 North. The quest speaker is Kay Sawyer of Manteo, N.C. Northeast Area Board

treasurer for the Women's Aglow. A brunch will be served and the meeting is open to the public.  
For more information, call 330-2647.

### Annual Session to be held

The Sunday School and Baptist Training Union of the Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association will hold its 70th annual session July 23rd and

24th at Haven Creek Missionary Baptist Church, Manteo, N.C.  
All churches are asked to please send delegates.

### Services Set for Bay Branch

The Bay Branch A.M.E. Zion Sunday School begins at 10:00 a.m. with Mrs. Esther Hunter in charge.  
At 3:00 p.m. the senior usher board will observe its anniversary.

The Rev. W.B. Moore and the people of Bagley Chapel Baptist Church will render service. Dinner will be served.  
The public is invited to attend.

### Fellowship Service to be held

Ellis Temple Baptist Church will hold its fellowship service on Sunday, July 20, 1986 at 7:00 p.m.  
The guest will be the Rev. McPherson and St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church in Hertford.

The public is invited to attend.

**Dear friends,**



The deep grief of the bereaved family often causes an inability to make decisions, to cope with routine arrangements, to control the emotions. The funeral director, along with the family's spiritual adviser, must use all their resources of character to help the family to work through this difficult time.

Respectfully,  
*Larry S. Swindell*

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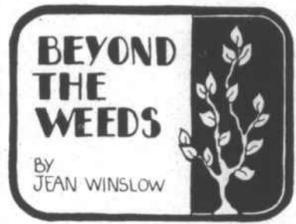
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## Exercise Care in Using Fertilizers

Finish last planting of Southern peas, limas, pole beans, tomatoes.  
Sidegrass tomatoes with compost or a balanced fertilizer. Blossom-end rot may be corrected with an application of two tablespoons calcium chloride to one gallon water.  
Greens and leafy vegetables will lose up to half their vitamin C content in 24 hours if left exposed. Immediately after harvesting cover with a close-weaved moist cloth.  
Many gardeners now use sticky ball traps for apple maggots. These red hemispheres are covered with



Tangle Trap adhesive, or even plain petroleum jelly. Now a warning has come from a reader of National Gar-

dening Magazine. He says that songbirds are also attracted, and small ones can be fatally trapped.  
Don't over-do the Tangle Trap.

**Care of Shade Trees**  
Environmental pollutants can have a highly negative effect on shade trees. HortIdeas Magazine reports some practical tips for home gardeners from Dr. T.T. Kozlowski that may help avoid permanent injury.  
Dr. Kozlowski, who is in the School of Forestry at University of Wisconsin, considers airborne toxic chemical compounds, pesticides, agricultural chemicals, and deicing salts all pollutants. Obviously airborne toxic solutions are hard to escape. Continued lobbying for preventive legislation is a must if we are to escape "acid rain." Let's hear it for the environmentalists!

Least salt-tolerant tree species include balsam firs, box elders, maples, hornbeams, red and white pines, hemlocks, and beeches. Thorough soaking around trees with fresh water may help cleanse the soil.  
A shade tree is hard to replace; have you got enough life-time left to grow another one to maturity? Sobering thought.  
Take care of your tree now, and you won't have to worry about it—ever.

Pesticides can definitely be controlled, however. Since some herbicides can be transmitted from tree to tree via root grafts, be sure to check with your local forester for specifics before applying large doses to trees and ornamental shrubs.  
Spray drift can be dangerous. Some of the worst offenders are invisible clouds of Benlate, captan, and sulfur fungicides. Avoid using any

Salts broadcast on driveways and walks as deicers will leach eventually into the soil. Chemicals absorbed through roots can, in time, kill the mightiest of oaks. An alternative to salts is 8-8-8 fertilizer, which will not only melt ice, but will ultimately enrich the surrounding soil.

## Deadly Diseases of Church Folks

Reverend Henry Bizzell, Pastor  
Hertford United Methodist Church

We ought to be concerned about the health of the churches and church folks.  
What is a disease? Webster's International Unabridged Dictionary gives the following definition: "Disease: A condition which impairs any or all of the natural or regular functions of the body - any disordered or depraved condition or element: moral, social, or political." The last half of the definition is especially appropriate to the intention of this article.  
A diseased church person is one whose functions as a member of the church is in a state of disorder or depravity. Here is a list of some diseases which afflict church folks:  
1) Sunday Sleeping Sickness - This is a peculiar disease. It erupts only on Sunday. The person affected functions normally every day except Sunday. Then he is laid low. Every other day he may rise as early as 6:30 or 7:00 a.m., but on Sunday is absolutely unable to get up until too late for Sunday School or Church Worship. Very strangely, the disorder begins to wear off soon after 11:00 a.m. and he/she is able to carry on an accelerated schedule of activity - golf, boating, family outings, work in the yard, etc.  
2) Spectatoritis - Now, I like to watch others play football, baseball, soccer, etc. I cannot play the sports - never could. However, I like to watch others play. I am a spectator, not a participant. Spectatoritis is a disease deadly to church folks. Come and sit - never become a part of the game. Others are responsible for the action: the choir, the preacher, etc. Preachers work just one hour each week. Everyone else just dresses up, comes, and sits. Somehow, the congregation is to be "spoonfed" - pour in the spiritual nourishment. What a deadly disease!  
3) Schizophrenia - The Divided Self - This is a wide-spread disease of

church folks. There are our jobs, our families, our civic involvements, clubs, sports, recreation, social lives, and there is our church. All of these compete for our attention - pull on us, divide us. The church is only one among many "pulls" on our lives. Frequently, the church gets only what is leftover! This is a deadly disease of church folks - Schizophrenia.  
4) Poor Vision - Who is more impaired than the individual who cannot see, the individual who must feel his way in the dark? Poor vision may be the result of ignorance, or pride, or prejudice. When people can see and know about themselves and their relation to God and their relation to other persons, then they can function with vigor and strength.  
5) Hypersensitivity - Those afflicted wear their "feelings on their sleeves", "have a chip on their shoulder" and are always "up in the miff tree." This is a deadly

disease of church folks.  
6) Heart Trouble - This is the real disease, the basic problem. When the heart is strong and healthy, when it is right, we can overcome the other ailments. A heart warmed by the welcomed presence of God can overcome all the problems. The first five diseases we have mentioned are symptoms of the real disease - heart trouble. When the heart of the individual belongs to God, we can cope with all the other problems.  
Good health to you!

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