

Church news

God's people form a different and new relationship with him

Sunday school lesson

A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

(Read from your Bible
Romans 5:1-11)
"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son; much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." (Romans 5:10)

The Apostle Paul left evidence of having been a methodical person; his epistles indicate such. As we read his letter to the Rome Christians, a progression of thought emerges and we can see his intent to develop in his readers' minds a new testament principle. He wants the Romans to know the importance and necessity of faith in Jesus, as Savior and Lord, and that God's redemptive plan for all man-

kind is in effect and on-going. He spoke of three groups of people of his day. Those who were non-Jewish and non-Christian, which he called pagan. To the pagans he showed their lack of understanding of God's revelation of Himself through nature; the creation of such an amazing universe. It was not full light of revelation but light enough for pagans to see. The Jews were lost through legalistic observances of God's ancient laws.

They had not heeded all of God's loving pleas through His prophets to love mercy, do justice and walk humbly before God. To all this they added the rejection of His promised Messiah when He came to them. The third group, the Christians, Paul

showed that those who, in faith, accept Christ's atoning death will be forgiven of their sins and made right before God. These have a new relationship with God.

OUR CONDITION AS JUSTIFIED

(Romans 5:1-5)
Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Verse 1)

Peace! Isn't that what most people long for and even search for. Listen to the voices of the maddening crowds throughout the world and couched within them hear the plea for peace. Listen to the voices of those who have achieved a high level of success in life, and most often you will discern the desire for peace and serenity; away from life's fast lanes.

Christ, on several occasions, noted that He came to bring peace. The angel announced His birth in Bethlehem with "Peace on Earth."

To be justified is to be declared free of guilt, as one writer declares, it because God now views us as having no guilt. We are no longer estranged from Him. The end result is that we are at peace with God, instead of being in a condition of strife.

Recently I attended a Spring revival service where, at the end of the service, many people made their way to the pulpit to state that they were not sure of their salvation, and sought help from the evangelist.

Paul makes the point to the Rome Christians that they may know that their new relationship with God is

real in two ways; verses 3-5. First, through testing. Second, by the Holy Spirit. When Christians face trials and tribulation in life they are able to keep their perspective. They are able to view these matters through the telescope of eternity—discerning the difference between those things which are temporary and those which are eternal. The love of God, manifested through the Holy Spirit, sustains and keeps them.

OUR CONDITION ASSURED

(Romans 5:6-11)
"But God commandeth us to love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Verse 8)

A well known evangelist of yesteryear had a sermon under the topic

"Free Grace." He said that God's grace was free but it wasn't cheap. He gave His only Son as atonement for mankind's sins. In these verses the apostle seems to be saying the same thing. Christ died for us. This is the very heart of what Paul has to say to us here. Christ's death for us is the climatic proof of God's love. The apostle's appeal is for us to grasp it, believe it. Commit our lives to it, for it is only in Christ Jesus that mankind has hope.

(Lesson based on the International Sunday School Lessons)

Church calendar

Anniversary celebrated

First Baptist Missionary Church, Hyde Park Street in Hertford, N.C. will celebrate its 121 Anniversary on Sunday, July 5, 1987 at 11:00 a.m. services. The church began as a Bush shelter in 1866 across the street from the present church location. Too much cannot be said about the courageous and loyal support given by the faithful members during the years of struggle from its beginning

to the present time.

Guest speaker for the celebration will be a Hertford native, Mrs. Cassie Williams Holland of Washington, D.C. Mrs. Holland is a graduate of the Elizabeth City State University. Recognition of members 80 years of age and older will be given.

The public is invited and an old-fashioned dinner will be served following the morning worship services.

Money needed for transplant

While taking your children to ball practice, swimming lessons, summer camp, and on vacation, take a moment to think about Virginia Lynn Hbfler

Virginia Lynn ten year old daughter f Philip and Margaret Hbfler of Gatesville, North Carolina, is not looking forward to summer fun. She is planning on a summer in Children's dire need of a liver transplant.

The expenses incurred in receiving a transplant are astronomical. A short term goal has been set with a minimum of at least \$50,000 to be used for Virginia Lynn's expenses. Virginia Lynn will have at least a 10 to 12 week stay in Pittsburg and a lifetime need for cyclosporine, an anti-rejection drug which will cost approximately \$180.00 per bottle.

To help pay non-medicaid covered expenses a trust account has been opened with Gatesville Southern Bank in the name of Children's Transplant Association for the benefit of Virginia Lynn Hbfler. Non-medicaid covered expenses shall include, but not be limited to hospital cost, physicians' cost transportation, food, lodging and any other expense for Virginia Lynn's parents (or appropriate family member) to accompany her out of town for medical pro-

cedures and evaluations, for special devices or machinery prescribed by physicians, and any other items related to Virginia Lynn Hbfler's need for a liver transplant not covered by Medicaid.

now, as you go to activities with your precious little ones, remember Virginia Lynn and her forthcoming trip to Pittsburg. She has made two previous trips, one for candidate evaluation and the second for hopeful liver transplant. The second trip was filled with double disappointment as the two donated livers were damaged and could not be used.

Remember Virginia Lynn with a donation worthy of the love you have for your children. Join us in Virginia Lynn's fight for life. Make your tax-deductible check payable to: Children's Transplant Association (Be sure to indicate that you check is for the benefit of Virginia Lynn Hbfler).

Mail your donation to: Children's Transplant Association Fund, For Virginia Lynn Hbfler, Southern Bank, Post Office Box 544, Gatesville, NC 27938.

Thank you so much for finding it in your heart to help save the life of this precious little girl, affording her the priceless gift of life and the hope of many summers to come.

Car clinic offered

A free Car Care Clinic, a 15-minute diagnostic test of your automobile, being offered this weekend can improve your car's operating efficiency and save you money. Vans and pickup trucks will also be tested.

The Elizabeth City Car Care Clinic will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, July 10 and 11, at Southgate Mall—West Ehringhaus Street. Automotive technicians will check tire pressure and wear, hoses, belts, air filters, oil and transmission fluid levels and engine performance (electronic analysis of engine emissions).

Results of the 1986 Car Care Clinic showed that 92.5 percent of the vehicles tested had one or more major

maintenance problems that correction of those problems would produce an average fuel savings of at least 30 gallons per vehicle per year.

Participants will receive a copy of all test results with recommended repairs and maintenance procedures to increase vehicle energy efficiency, and several brochures on energy efficient vehicle maintenance and driving techniques.

This free clinic is being conducted by the Independent Garage Owners of North Carolina Department of Commerce, with petroleum violation escrow funds, in cooperation with The UNC Institute for Transportation Research and Education.



photo by Gina Jepson

Pictured above the Perquimans County runners are seen as they run out of town with the olympic festival torch.

Proud To Be An American

By Raymond C. Needman, Pastor
Hertford Baptist Church

It is not unusual to hear some citizen of our nation say, "I am proud to be an American!" One of the blessings that evokes such a spirit is the freedom which we enjoy in our land. The first settlers of this continent were seeking freedom from the oppression of their government and freedom to worship God as they wished. It is worth our taking note of—they were seeking freedom to worship God, not freedom from worshipping God. Their first contract of government, the Mayflower Compact, was signed, "In the name of God, Amen." The Declaration of Independence was concluded "with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence."

As we celebrate our national independence, let our minds reflect upon those who forged the foundation on which this great nation was established. Without hesitancy or shame they acknowledged God as the source of their blessings and the sustainer and protector of our people. They believed that the real strength of American democracy resided not in its economics, but in the Godly morals and ethics of its people. Even the pledge to our flag is a constant reminder that our nation is rooted in an unwavering acknowledgement of god; for we find in it this phrase, "one nation under God."

The fourth of July should call us to a fresh examination of the

word freedom, for true freedom does not mean simply that "I do as I please regardless of anyone else." Jesus said, "If the Son, therefore, shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Again He said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." The freedom in our land that has blessed us is that which makes us free to respect others and their rights, that makes us free to love and care for the highest and best in our fellowmen. It is the freedom that sets us free from the spirit of greed, dishonesty and hatred, that makes us far more zealous to please God than ourselves. God's word says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." We need only look around today to see that when we, by our lives and actions, declare our independence from God, we soon become slavishly bound to that which is less than noble and praise worthy. When the freedom we seek focuses only upon ourselves, it ceases to be real freedom, and in fact, becomes one of the worst kinds of slavery.

This is indeed a time in the year when Americans can truly be thankful for a nation that has been blessed of God. May it also be a time when we affirm afresh our faith in Him who has preserved us down through these years. let us again with heart and voice sing "God bless America, land that I love."

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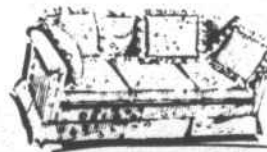
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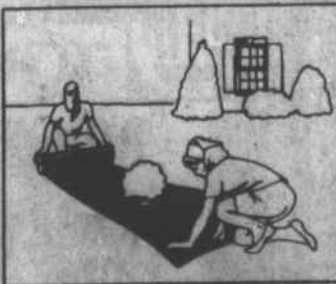
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