

Church news

God's followers learn about his goodness

Sunday school lesson

THE GOODNESS OF GOD (Romans 8:28-39)

"We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)

The goodness of God! How can anyone take a subject so vast and so great, and give adequate commentary in the space allotted to this column? Hundreds of books and, no doubt, thousands of sermons, by some of the foremost theologians in history have been devoted to this topic. Yet, the apostle Paul in twelve verses of Scripture has given us a view of God's goodness like no other.

These verses contain some of the best known and most loved verses in

the Bible. They have been quoted and read to bolster and give hope to many whose lives contained failures. They have been used to quiet and to give peace to many whose lives have been torn by strife and sorrow and they have been used to re-establish Christians' relationships with God who through the perils of life have lost their way and their faith.

How valuable they have been in past ages, and today! Some of my earliest memory is of mother quoting verses from this passage of Scripture. The Apostle must have known that the recipients of his letter would need the spiritual uplift and assurance provided in these verses. These truly are words which stimulate the Christian thought.

ASSURANCE THE PAST OFFERS (Romans 8:28-30)

Verse 28 tells us that "all things work together for good..." What a comforting assurance this is for every Christian. There is mentioned; however, two qualifications. First, "for them that love God." God loves all people. He loves the world. But it is to those who respond to His love, who love Him, that the promise is given. This gives us much to think about. It tells us something important also.

One cannot play loose and free with the Lord and expect Him to be "on call" whenever trouble arises. There is a second qualification, "to them who are the called according to His purpose." God purposes to save all

people who need the call to salvation. God purposes to call men and women into service in His Kingdom's work. God purposes to save, to bless and to keep all who would accept the gift of His love. Finally, God purposes that Christ will come at the end of the age, and lead the redeemed into an eternal heavenly home.

ASSURANCE THE PRESENT PROVIDES (Romans 8:31-34)

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

There are two spiritual sources of power in our world. The greater of the two, of course, is God who represents righteousness and good. He is

the All Powerful, Omnipotent Creator represents the evil of the world. Satan operates to thwart God's purpose—and he operates within God's permissive will.

For God's adoptive children, the Christians, God lays His protective hand on them and says to Satan "these are mine; you can go so far and no farther." The others stand alone against Satan's cunning, unless God chooses to intercede for reasons known only to Him. Question: How would you like to stand alone against Satan's evil power? Observing our own nation, this writer would have to say that apparently Satan is having a heyday. The book of evidence of how thoroughly evil Satan can work.

and Ruler of the universe. The lesser is Satan (the deceiver) who represents the evil of the world.

The story of Samson, the Nazarite, gives evidence of what can happen to a Christian who succumbs to Satan's enticement to sin. The story of the rich young ruler of the New Testament gives evidence of what can happen when one accepts Satan's temptation of a life of power and money—the humanist life style. But there is good news, too. Paul says that "nothing can separate us from the love of God which is Christ Jesus, our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39) The goodness of God!

(Lesson based on the International Sunday School Lessons)

Church calendar

Vacation bible school set

Snug Harbor Community Church will hold Vacation Bible School August 3rd thru 7th from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Classes will be for K-12th

grades. For information call 426-7757.

Worship services are held Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and Sunday school for all ages at 10:15 a.m. All are welcome.

Revival services scheduled

The Rev. Bob Young from Mosadonna Baptist Church, Edenton, N.C. will hold revival services at Bethel Baptist Church, Hertford, NC, beginning August 9th-14th at 7:30 p.m.

each evening. All members are urged to attend and bring a friend.

The Rev. Gordon Shaw is the pastor.

Choir day celebrated

The Poole's Grove Baptist church will be celebrating choir day Sunday at 3:00 p.m. The Rev. William (Chug)

Sawyer will be the guest speaker. All area choirs are invited.

The public is invited to attend.

Methodist plan service

The United Methodist, A.M.E. Zion, and Wesleyan, congregations of Perquimans County will conduct a service on August 16, 1987 at 3:00 p.m. at the New Hope United Methodist Church. Methodism had its beginning in Perquimans County at the New Hope Church in Durants Neck.

Jeanne White, Chairperson of the Perquimans County Committee for America's 400th Anniversary, explained that this year's religious service by Methodism has been preceded by other demonstrations during the past three years in celebrating religious heritage as a part of the Perquimans County 400th Anniversary program.

British to attend the wheelchair games

The Seventh National Veterans Wheelchair Games, sponsored by the U. S. Veterans Administration and Paralyzed Veterans of America, goes international this year. Eight British military veterans will travel to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to compete in the games. It is the first time that veterans from another country have participated.

through friendships established during other international wheelchair competitions. When Enid Bekker of the British Sports Association for the Disabled heard that the United States had a special wheelchair competition for veterans she wrote the VA asking if she could bring a team of British veterans. "This is a wonderful way of promoting good will and sporting relationships between our two countries with people who have all attained their disability in the service," said Ms. Bekker. "It can only lead to a wider sense of understanding between us."

The Veterans Wheelchair Games are a multi-event sport competition open to all American military service veterans who use wheelchairs for mobility due to spinal cord injuries, certain neurological problems or amputations. Over 400 U.S. veterans are expected to attend. The games, hosted by the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center, will be held on the campus of the University of Michigan from August 18-22.

The British team consist of seven men and one woman who will compete in events which include track and field, swimming, basketball, table tennis, archery and billiards. They will also participate in special tennis and air gun demonstration events.

"We are extremely excited about having disabled veterans from another country join our games this year," said Thomas K. Turnage, Administrator of Veteran Affairs. "There are men and women who have sacrificed much in service to their country. This event will offer them another opportunity to represent their country through the competition, excitement and camaraderie of the Seventh National Veterans Wheelchair Games."

The British Army and Navy are sponsoring the eight athletes. Captain Peter Douglas, Commander of the British Army's Ace Mobile Force, will accompany the athletes to the games. The Ace Mobile Force is a specially trained unit which is stationed along the Norwegian coast to guard against Russian invasion.

IRS offers examination

Those of you interested in taking the 1987 Internal Revenue Service Special Enrollment Examination must submit your application to the IRS postmarked no later than July 31, 1987. No extensions of time to file for the examination will be granted.

The examination is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, September 28 and 29, 1987. Each year the examination is offered to those individuals who wish to apply for enrollment to practice before the IRS. Included on the examination are true-false, multiple choice, and problem type questions that require some computations.

If you are interested in taking the examination, you should obtain the Special Enrollment Examination Application Packet from your local IRS District office. The packet includes materials on the requirements for enrollment and for taking the examination.

The Special Enrollment Examination Packet may be obtained by calling (919) 333-5324 in Greensboro or the toll free number, 1-800-424-1040. Written request for this packet may be sent to the Internal Revenue Service, 320 Federal Place, Greensboro, NC 27401, Attn: Robert Gilmer, SEE Coordinator.

Dear friends,



Of all the crises people confront during a lifetime, none is more traumatic than the death of a spouse. The anguish often is so great that the survivor — usually the wife — ends up immobilized, unable to make basic decisions or build a new life. It is necessary to put the widowed in touch with self-help groups, which aid them in recovering from grief, and rebuilding an active social life.

Respectfully,

Larry Swindell

Swindell Funeral Home, Inc.

509 Dobbs Street
Hertford, N.C.
426-7311



Graduate honored - Estell Felton, Route 2, Hertford, N.C. (left) is among the first class of graduates from the Agricultural Extension Service's three-year Leadership Development Program for Rural Minority Women. Shown with her (right) is Dr. Brenda Allen, state program director.

Felton graduates from leadership program

Comparing graduates to the caterpillar transforming into a butterfly, Dorothy T. Wilson, director of the Method Day Care Center, encouraged graduates of the Leadership Development Program for Rural Minority Women last Wednesday evening to work to make a difference in their communities.

Some 28 women were honored during the July 15-17 seminar in Raleigh. These women are the first class to have completed a three-year North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service program designed to develop leadership skills to be used at home and in the community.

Estelle Felton, Rt. 2, Hertford, was among the graduates recognized by Dr. Brenda Allen, state program director.

The three-day seminar entitled "Opening the Door for Better Communities" encouraged the graduation class and other program members to use their skills to make their

communities a better place to live.

Speakers talked about influencing public policy by changing yourself, working as a volunteer, improving communication skills, projecting a positive image, maintaining good health, developing a county action plan and setting a self contract. Volunteers also heard about on-going efforts in the areas of rural resources, housing, education and opportunities for minorities to go into business for themselves.

The Leadership Development Program for Rural Minority Women is a new thrust of the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service. Funding for the seminar was provided by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and R.J. Reynolds Foundation.

Also, Margaret Noble, Jones; Thelma Powell and Joyce Dawson, Lenoir; Peggy Cary and Earlene Bakley, Northhampton; Coraletta Wilson, Pasquotank; Janet Bullock, Barbara Fenner and Gayle Morgan, Pitt.

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The Lord God is a Liberal!

By Henry A. Bizzell, Jr., Pastor
Hertford United Methodist Church

I have some news for you. The Lord God - Jehovah - Creator - Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is a LIBERAL!

This is not new "news". There are 66 books which publish the story about the God who is a LIBERAL. Together, these books comprise the Holy Bible. The most modern of these books is approximately nineteen hundred years old.

God is a liberal in creation. He has lavishly furnished the universe. The earth, the green planet, abounds with rich vegetation and mineral resources. The limitation and scarcity we sometimes experience are the result of human extravagance, waste, and mismanagement. In creation, God is a lavis LIBERAL giver.

Nonetheless, the area in which God's LIBERALISM is most evident is in his relationship with humanity, with individuals. The Bible traces God's relationship with people. Throughout, we see on the one hand, the living, giving, persevering God who never tires in his effort to give persons salvation and his eternal kingdom. The history of Israel, the Old Testament, tells the story of God in his self-giving, tireless, LIBERAL faithfulness to his covenant with Abraham. Even when Israel is unfaithful,

God remains faithful. He sends prophets to speak to the people. He does not give up when his prophets are rejected. Again and again He tries and is rejected.

Then, He sends His Son, Jesus is rejected and crucified on a cross. But God will not stop. he raises Jesus from death. He sends his Holy Spirit. He brings the church into being. He is the great LIBERAL!

The spiritually sensitive Christian knows that God is a LIBERAL. He knows that God has dealt with him in a LIBERAL self-giving way. He knows God's strength and love which have been the undergirding of his life.

Now, what this LIBERAL God really wants is a church that is LIBERAL. Not a "no" church, a "yes" church — a church made up of leaders who give themselves LIBERALLY to the ministry of Jesus Christ. A people who attend Sunday School and Church worship LIBERALLY. A "no" people are not God-like.

God wants a local church dedicated to the LIBERAL support of benevolent and global missionary causes. The local church that says "no" to outreach ministries needs to respond to God who is LIBERAL and who calls forth LIBERALITY.

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