

We cannot hide our sins from God

By T.P. ALEXANDER

Obey God's law (Proverbs 28:4-13)

"Evil men understand not judgement: but they that seek the Lord understand all things." (Proverbs 28:5)

Our lessons are currently in the summer quarter of studies and given under the title "Wisdom for Living."

Mr. Edwin V. Hayden, writing for the International Sunday School Lessons, introduced today's lesson with the following comments: "The old testament records how God revealed His purpose especially to Abraham and his family. Later, He revealed His directives to Moses for the nation that was composed of the descendants of Abraham. God had more to say, however. In applying His law to later generations of Israelites, He spoke through prophets, singers, and wise teachers among His people. Most notable of His wise teachers was Solomon, who asked God for "an understanding heart" and was given a measure of wisdom far beyond

that of other men."

God moves and directs His redemptive purpose through people; believers who will accept the responsibility and move forward in faith to accomplish God's will and purpose in the world. God's intent and purpose for all mankind is that they should be reconciled to Him - Christianity is part of God's redemptive plan and purpose.

The liberating law (Proverbs 28:4-9)

"Better is the poor that walketh in His uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich." (Verse 6)

Solomon, the wisest of man of his day, seemingly conscious of the possibility that the events of the world around them, may turn the peoples hearts away from Godliness and back to their former lifestyles.

The idea that the righteous are to "contend with" or resist the temptations of wickedness reflects the tension that is bound to occur between two

points of view, and those who hold them.

There is an old adage that says "The wish is farther to the thought" that is, a person tends to believe what he wants to believe.

The quality of understanding, just mentioned in these verses, is enough to overcome the disadvantages of poverty in establishing one's standing before God.

God does not look at us in light of our financial worth, whether rich or poor, in determining our standing before Him.

In this writers view, God's view of us is in light of our faith and our obedience in Him...that is, the depth of our faith in Him, and our obedience to His commands.

Pairs to ponder (Proverbs 28:10-12)

"Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit."

Matthew, in his gospel, stated it in this manner "whoso shall offend one of these little

ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. (18:6)

What these verses tell in essence is that the sin of tempting another to sin will bring ruin to the tempter.

A very sobering thought, isn't it?

Covering or confessing?

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsake them shall have mercy." (Verse 13)

The new testament tells us that whoso confesses his sins God will be just and forgive him and also cleanse him/her from all unrighteousness.

This writer believes that one can drive a nail in the wall and hang his hat on that promise.

King David learns this spiritual truth personally and painfully after his sin with Bathsheba, when he became a deceiver and murdered in order to hide his adultery.

We may hide our sinful acts from mankind - but not from the sight of God.

When, if ever, will mankind learn this great spiritual truth?

(Lesson based on the International Sunday School Lessons)

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Isn't It Nifty?
Look who turns **50!**
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
July 25th

With a GRATEFUL HEART AND A HUMBLED SPIRIT I THANK EACH OF YOU WHO REMEMBERED ME IN ANY WAY BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER MY SURGERY. FRIENDS ARE ONE OF THE LORD'S GREATEST BLESSINGS AND I THANK HIM FOR EACH OF YOU.
DARLENE HARRELL & FAMILY

Services

Hertford United Methodist

The Hertford United Methodist Church will be celebrating "Christmas In July" on Sunday, July 26 at 11 a.m. There will be singing of Christmas hymns, a special time with the children and the message of the day, "Good Things come To Those Who Wait." Please bring a non-perishable food item for Open Door of Perquimans County as your Christmas gift. Receptacles will be provided outside the Church Office and in the Sanctuary.

Bay Branch A.M.E. Zion

On July 26, revival will open at 2 p.m. at Bay Branch A.M.E. Zion Church. Rev. W.D. Wiggins, choir and congregation of Joppa Baptist Church will be the guests. Evangelist for July 27-31 will be Rev. Melvin L. Tate, pastor of Mt. Leabon A.M.E. Zion Church, Elizabeth City. Choirs for the week will be Bay Branch Adult Choir, Ellis Temple Choir, Riddick Grove Celestial Choir, Galatia Choir, and Mt. Leabon Choir, respectively.

Oak Grove United Methodist

There will be a revival held at Oak Grove United Methodist Church from July 26-28 at 7 p.m.

Cedar Grove United Methodist

Cedar Grove United Methodist Church will have a one day Vacation bible School on August. 22, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

First Baptist Missionary

The J.H. London Crusaders will celebrate the group's anniversary July 25 and 26. On Saturday at 7 p.m., there will be a musical program at First Baptist Missionary Church at which musicians from around the area will sing. At 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Elder Barry "Chris" Powell of St. John Baptist Church, Columbia will be guest minister. The Tri-County (Washington, Tyrrell and Dare) Gospel Singers will render the music.

Overton attends youth leadership forum on medicine

Antonio Overton of Hertford participated in the 1998 National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine from June 14-24 in Washington, D.C.

A rising senior, Overton was among 350 outstanding high school juniors and seniors from around the world to attain the qualifications required to participate in the forum. He was selected because of his outstanding academic achievements and his interest in the profession of medicine.

The students enjoyed eleven days of discovery and mentorship at some of our nation's most prominent and technologically-advanced medical institutions. The students visited prestigious medical establishments including Georgetown University School of Medicine, National Library of Medicine, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, Howard University College of Medicine, the National Rehabilitation Hospital, The George Washington University School of Medicine and the University of Pennsylvania School of

Medicine. Intensive day-long concentrations at these and other institutions allowed students to examine state-of-the-art diagnostic tools and future medical specialties in detail.

Students also had the opportunity to study and learn from some of our nation's most distinguished medical leaders. Prominent leaders in the medical community were scheduled to speak.

Topics discussed included breakthroughs in genetic research, cancer research, AIDS, sports medicine, neonatal and pediatric research, computers in the world of medicine, public health, clinical decision-making and bioethics.

The National Youth Leadership Forum is a non-profit educational organization that sponsors highly specialized, career-oriented programs for outstanding high school students with demonstrated leadership potential. The National Youth Leadership Forum develops and conducts annual Forums on Medicine, Law, and Defense, Intelligence and Diplomacy.

Grants available in N.C.

The D. Michael Warner Foundation, a grant-making organization serving all of North Carolina, is accepting applications for the Fall 1998 Grant Cycle. The Warner Foundation seeks to partner with charitable organizations that are working in North Carolina to improve the economic circumstances of disadvantaged individuals or communities and to improve race relations.

Grants made by the Warner Foundation typically range

from \$5,000 to \$15,000, up to a maximum of \$40,000, and will be made for both new initiatives and on-going programs that serve the Foundation's goals.

The postmarked deadline for applications for the Fall 1998 cycle is Aug. 17. Contact the D. Michael Warner Foundation at (919) 383-4367 or e-mail info@dmwf.org to request an application form, or download an application from the Warner Foundation website at www.dmwf.org.

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The "Word" for the Week
Holy Spirit Victory
Spring leads to summer and weather fit for travel and vacation fun. Although summer is joyful for some, it brings on the "blues" for others. Part of it is that we are led to have such high expectations. After all, this is a time of the year for relaxation and joy in special places.
But these vacations don't always materialize. We get pumped up with the thoughts of loved ones, friends, and special get-togethers. When everything does not go just the way we think it should, the air goes out of our balloons. Or perhaps we don't have a close family to love and lean upon. Or maybe there are no invitations to special parties and celebrations. Your balloon isn't just deflated. You don't even have a balloon!
Look at what Jesus says, "In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). And 1 John 5:4 says, "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith."
So you are "down" about the prospects for the summer. Turn to the real answer to those "blues." Seek Jesus Christ. Authentic Christianity involves "righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Roman 14:17). And "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace..." (Galatians 5:22). Think about it!
The Weekly Message is brought to you by the following merchants:

Open Letter
Dear Friends,
We read in the Bible that "Jesus wept."
When grief came, He was able to weep, for Jesus wanted and needed to express the feelings within Him. At the loss of a loved one, we need to grieve, to weep, to work through our grief if we are eventually to overcome our loss and move on.
Respectfully,
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