

Disobeying God has consequences

By T.P. ALEXANDER
Central Newspaper Services

God's creation marred by sin (Genesis 3:1-13)

With today's lesson we begin the fall quarter of studies given under the title, "God Calls a People to Faithful Living."

The first unit of four lessons, beginning with this week's lesson, is entitled, "God Fashions a People," the text given from the book of Genesis - (means "Beginnings.")

After God had created the heavens and the earth, He created man and woman - named Adam and Eve - to inhabit His earth and to procreate other human beings. Earth, and all that God had created, was perfect.

I personally do not know the approximate date when God created the heavens and the earth. Scholars estimate that it occurred about 6,000 years ago.

His crowning achievement in creation was when He created human beings. He charged them to procreate more people to inhabit the earth that He had created.

All was well and wonderful so long as the people lived according to Godly precepts. But Satan entered upon the scene and his expressed purpose was to thwart God's will and purpose and to turn the beauty of God's creation into deceit and sin.

Adam and Eve were Satan's first targets and he set about to tempt them away from Godliness and to use them in his evil plan.

Have you ever wondered what living on earth would be like if Satan was not present to work his sinful and evil ways among people?

When God created Adam and Eve, He envisioned their lives without the constraints of sin and evil.

Temptation (Genesis 3:1-5)

"And the woman said unto the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." (Verses 2 and 3)

One scholar noted the following concerning these five verses of our lesson text:

"Subtle is a word that reminds us of human nature. Like each of us, it has a good side and a bad side. In a good sense, it means wise, sagacious or perceptive. In a bad sense, it means, "cunning, slyness or trickery." Here, in these verses, the word was used in its bad sense - the serpent was the trickiest creature in Eden."

He took Eve in with the common, everyday variety lie, furthermore, he flatly accused God of lying. He accused God of wanting to keep something good from His creatures and that the forbidden fruit of the garden would make Adam and Eve as gods - or as God, Himself, actually.

Sin (Verses 3:6)

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food - she took of the fruit thereof and did eat - and gave also unto her husband, and he did eat. (Verse 6)

Scripturally speaking, sin is disobedience to God. Adam and Eve, and their garden of Eden experience, on the surface, doesn't seem to be a big thing, humanly speaking.

The core of their experience in Eden was "disobedience to God."

Whether it is an apple, or a stolen million dollars, the spiritual principle is the same. The principle is transgression of God's law, or command.

Consequences (Genesis 3:7-13)

"And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons." (Verse 9)

Sin has consequences. Adam and Eve had been naked before, and in their innocence such a state had seemed normal and proper, but now they were ashamed.

Something was abnormal and improper about their nakedness, for sin had entered their lives.

First, there was shame. Secondly, they heard the voice of God and they were fearful and attempted to hide their nakedness. Thirdly, they attempted to hide their guilt by making excuses.

The kernel of today's lesson is this: "The word of God firm-

ly rejects any and all excuses - we are responsible for our misdeeds."

(Lesson based on the International Sunday School Lessons)

Something New is in the Neighborhood
A Touch of Olde
Antiques • Collectibles
US 17 By-Pass Hertford 426-7878

MATTRESS OUTLET
SAVE • SAVE • SAVE
Name Brand Bedding
335-5737 • Water St.

**TOWN OF HERTFORD
LABOR DAY • HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

ALL TOWN OFFICES
will be closed for
LABOR DAY
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1998

The Family of
Lawrence Corpew
wishes to express our thanks for all the visits, cards, prayers, food; anyway your Love was shown to him during his illness. The different churches, groups, Bethel Fire Department, etc. You've all been so kind to all of us, both before and since our loss. May God Bless each of you.
The Family

**TOWN OF HERTFORD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Town of Hertford will hold a public hearing on September 14, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building at 114 W. Grubb Street. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear comments on the Town of Hertford entering into a Installment Purchase Contract for the purpose of funding the upgrade of Hertford's electric system.

Open Letter
Dear Friends,
Labor Day weekend has come to represent the end of summer to many Americans. It's that one last chance to get in some sun or some fishing before autumn sets in. It is important to remember that the mental and physical labor of many generations has given us the inheritance of this great nation.
Respectfully,
W. Larry Swindell
Swindell Funeral Home
509 Dobbs Street 426-7311 Hertford

King grants available

Programs that foster legacy, philosophy of King may apply

The N.C. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission has announced that mini-grant applications are available. Grants, ranging from \$500 to \$2,500, will be awarded to organizations that wish to develop or continue year-round activities which foster the legacy and philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Applications will be mailed upon request by calling Diane Ward, staff liaison for the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission, at the N.C. Human Relations Commission in Raleigh, (919) 733-7996. Applications forms may be downloaded from the Internet at the following address: <http://www.doa.state.nc.us/doa/hrc/welcome.htm>.

Applications must be delivered by certified mail, Federal Express or receipted mail, postmarked by Oct. 1, or may be hand delivered to the

Human Relations Commission, 217 W. Jones St., Raleigh, by 5 p.m., Oct. 1. Faxed copies will not be accepted.

Only proposals from non-profit, church and/or religious organizations with tax-exempt status will be considered. Martin Luther King Jr. committees or groups without authorized tax-exempt status will be considered only if they operate under the auspices of a non-profit community-based organization, church or local governmental agency.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Commission is housed in the N.C. Department of Administration's Human Relations Commission. The commission encourages appropriate ceremonies and activities throughout the state relating to the observance of the legal holiday honoring Dr. King's birthday; provides assistance to local governments and private organizations across the state with respect to the observance of the holiday; and promotes an awareness and appreciation of the life and work of Dr. King.

Services

❖ Bethlehem

Church of Christ
Bethlehem Church of Christ will hold revival Sept. 6-9, at 7:30 p.m. Sunday morning worship service starts at 11 a.m. Ronnie Woolard will be bringing the message. The church is located on Pender Road. Call the church office at 426-1555 for more information.

❖ Bay Branch

A.M.E. Zion
Bay Branch A.M.E. Zion Church Sunday School will be held at 10 a.m. Morning worship will be held at 11 a.m. Music will be rendered by the senior choir. At 2:30 p.m. Homecoming will be observed. Rev. Larry Cherry and the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church family of Virginia Beach, Va. will be the guests. Dinner will be served. These services will be held Sept. 6.

❖ First Baptist

Missionary
The First Baptist Missionary Church will hold Pre Men's Day and a celebration and prayer breakfast, Saturday, Sept. 5 at 7:30 a.m. at the church fellowship hall. Cost will be \$3 each, take out will be available for pick-up starting at 6:50 a.m.. A program is planned by Deacon Zack White.

The Final Program will be Sunday, Sept. 6 at 2:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Missionary Church. Rev. Joseph Thompson and the Open Door Fellowship Church of South Mills will be special guest. Bro Rodney Lyons is chairman, Bro Arthur Mitchell co-chairman, and Rev. J.H. London is pastor. Dinner will be served by the women of the church. Donations will be accepted.

To get the **Daily Advance** call Teri today! **335-0841**
It's the perfect companion to **The Perquimans Weekly**

Swindell Monument Company

JACK E. HENLEY
JAN 12 1924 FEB 23 1976

426-7311
509 Dobb St.
Hertford

"The Lighthouse"
Gifts and Home Accessories

SUMMER CLEARANCE SALE

All Summer Florals **20% OFF**
Take An Additional **10% OFF**
ALREADY REDUCED PRICES!

SEE NEW FLORALS, BUFFET LAMPS, OLIO GLYCERINE SOAPS, PRINTS, ITALIAN PORCELAIN ROOSTERS, SWAN CREEK CANDLES, ARAIS WINDCHIMES, "OLD SALTS" COLLECTIBLES, SALAD & PASTA GIFT SETS AND MUCH MORE!

Christmas items of garland, wreaths, & Christmas trees now available

Open Mon. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat. 9 - 5

LAMPS, LAMP SHADES AND REPAIRS
BROAD STREET CENTER, EDENTON
(Across from Tennis Courts) 482-7593

The "Word" for the Week
From My Heart
S. Keith Vaughan, Pastor
The Hertford Baptist Church

I heard an amusing but pointed story about an unsaved man who was on his way to attend a costume ball on Sunday evening. He was wearing a red suit with a tail and a skintight mask with horns. He looked like Satan - that is, he conformed to the widely accepted picture of the devil. As he hurried along, he was caught in a sudden rainstorm, so he took shelter in a church where the service was just ending. Rushing into the building, he shocked the members, who thought he was the real thing. A flash of lightning and a clap of thunder added to the illusion. The congregation panicked and rushed for the rear exits. The intruder thought the church had been struck and was on fire, so he raced after them. Everyone got out except an elderly lady. Turning in fear, she stretched out her hands and pleaded for mercy, "Oh devil, please don't hurt me. I know I've been a member of this church for 30 years, but I've been on your side all the time!"

We smile at this story, but regrettably it applies to many professing Christians who attend God's house just out of habit or to maintain social status in the community. They've never known the life-changing reality of receiving Christ as their personal Savior. Like that lady, they'd have to admit they are not really on the Lord's side.

Is your "Christianity" a sham? Is it merely a mental joyride that leaves your heart empty and dissatisfied, and with no assurance of Heaven? Remember, you're either a child of the devil or the King. Joshua 24:15 says "...choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Whose side are you on?

Worship in the church of your choice this week with your family. Your life will be richly blessed.

The Weekly Message is brought to you by the following merchants:

Smith's Jewelry & Fine Gifts 426-7404 139 N. Church Street Hertford	WOODARD'S PHARMACY For All Your Pharmaceutical Needs Third Party Insurance 426-5527 Downtown Hertford	REED OIL CO. LP GAS EXON LP GAS Cylinder & Bulk LP Gas Quality Gas Appliances 426-5458
Dozier's Florist 426-5721 Be-Lo Shopping Center Hertford Member FTD	Charles H. Ward, Inc. Ace Hardware Dixie Auto Parts Wards Shopping Ctr. Hertford 426-5716	Alexander Electrical Contractor, Inc of Edenton •Industrial•Commercial•Residential "Serving All Your Electrical Needs" Office 482-2400 Highway 17 N. Near the 5 mile Y
HOLLOWELL OIL CO. SUPPLIERS OF PROPANE GAS & OIL PRODUCTS PHONE: 426-5745	Michelle's Family Hair Care •Michelle Brown - Owner/Stylist •Brenda Mills - Stylist 426-5312 Hertford	Chowan Hospital 482-8451