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RELIGION

Strengthen Your Faith Through Prayer And Regular Church Worship

Scripture of the Week **Revelation - Chapter 22**

James E. Martin.

retirement.

was in Portland.

lovely stepdaughters.

members in the church.

By Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

recording spiritual/gospel music, Mr. Lon-

nie Wilson has been a long time and faithful

member of the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church.

ship of Rev. Dr. Jessie James Clow; then,

served under the leadership of Rev. Dr.

John H. Jackson and, the current pastor, Dr.

He sang baritone in the Chancel Choir.

He grew up in Paris, Texas and later

Mr. Wilson worked as the head waiter

Mr. Wilson was married to Mrs. Alice

Mr. Wilson's advice to young people

He is, now, serving on the Deacon Board of

the church. Mr. Wilson is one of the oldest

came to Portland, Oregon in 1941. He was

employed by the Union Pacific Railroad.

He worked there for 27 years, until his

and stationary pantryman, where he kept

track of the food inventory and filling or-

ders from the commissary, when the train

Wilson, until her death in 1986. He has two

is, 'Put your trust in God FIRST, obey and

love your parents, treat people well and to

"Citing his love for gardening and

He joined Mt. Olivet under the leader-

Overcoming Spiritual Blindness

By Michael Lindsev

Dean of North Portland Bible College The Sunday School lesson for January 28th in the uniform series will be John 9:1-11, 35-41; the whole 9th chapter presents the healing of the man born blind, and his spiritual rebirth.

There is an epidemic sweeping across our land, ravaging families, destroying lives, and caused unimaginable suffering. But this is not a new disease, like AIDS, nor a worsened social problem, like drug/substance abuse. To a great extent, these are some of the symptoms, not the underlying cause.

We can call this disease "sin", but I would prefer to label it "spiritual blindness". So many people have lost their spiritual moorings, and float adrift in the shifting tides of public opinion and personal emotions. That is not to say they all are a menace to society, or on a course bent for self destruction. No, many of them are upstanding people, nice to be around, and I am glad to know them.

But they have still lost something vital, which has distorted their moral vision to the point they make foolish, harmful choices with their lives. And until the moral problem is confronted and solved, no amount of government programs, and no amount of civic action coalitions, will make a lasting impact on the obvious problems of American society. The underlying problem lies in the human heart.

Let me give you two examples. A young man in his twenties has his first job. and by virture of his hard labor he has earned raises and promotions. How is he likely to use his money? This man sees so many around him using cocaine and other recreational drugs, and he thinks he can handle it. The huge advertising campaigns, urging him to "Just Say No", don't really deter him. Why? Because he has adopted the spiritual attitude of society at large: the highest value is personal, immediate happiness, and the future is too uncertain to really matter anyhow. As long as he has no sense of responsibility to the God who made him, and no understanding that he has great personal value as a person created in the image of God, with an eternal destiny, he will be continually tempted to throw his life away, running after momentary gratification.

In another case, a teenage girl is seriously considering getting sexually involved with her boyfriend. She's "luckier" than many of her friends, because the young man is not pressing her too hard, and he's always been really nice to her. Her classes in human sexuality have prepared her for the physical side of sex, but the moral issues have been officially left up to her own judgment. In reality, "safe sex" is a moral standard, for it makes prevention of pregnancy (in teens, as least) a moral obligation. And society assumes that normal people will have sexual relationships, in and out of marriage, and even have and raise children without benefit of marriage. The young woman in our example needs to have spiritual insight to help her make moral decisions in the modern world. She needs to realize that sexuality is a precious gift from her Creator, which brings joy and stability to marriage, but almost always produces heartache and brokenness outside of marriage. Then, she (and her friend) can make choices which will benefit her own future.

Have you read John 9 recently? You might want to read it before you finish these remarks. There are two kinds of spiritual darkness revealed in this chapter: ignorance of Christ, and rejection of Christ. The blind beggar knew next to nothing about Jesus. But after he responded to the Lord by going and washing at Siloam, he received his physical sight--and entered into an adventure which led to spiritual sight as well.

HOLY GUIDANCE

Guide me through life's shades and shadows

Let me walk with you, Lord Jesus,

Over all life's beaten trails;

Over paths of least travail;

Lead the way, for me to follow,

Do not leave me if I stumble

Or my steps begin to slow

I will have no place to go.

Let me follow, in Your footsteps,

To the path that leads above

Lead me by life's great temptations

To Your world of peace and love.

For -- without Your love to guide me --

To Your Kingdom, up above;

The beggar simply chose to be honest in his search to understand the marvelous healing he had received. He honestly answered the questions put to him by his neighbors, and then by the Pharisees. He watched their growing consternation as they of their questioning, he actually began to take Jesus' side, and clarified the meaning of Jesus' works for himself (especially note 9:30-33). The Jesus sought him out, and presented himself as the Messiah/Christ. The man once blind now had spiritual sight as well, and he bowed down and worshipped the Lord.

"Jesus said, 'For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind"" (9:39. NIV). The Pharisees and other Jews thought they had the right religious standards, but they would not accept Jesus--once again he had broken their Sabbath rules (9:14, 16). They thought they could see, but they were spiritually blind, and eternally lost.

So it is today. Many people are "blind" because they have never really understood who Jesus is. Christians have the privilege to bring light to such people, and see them receive spiritual sight. Unfortunately, many other people are spiritually blind because they have rejected Christ and his teachings. Even some people in the churches today--like the Pharisees of old--want to claim religious heritage without any commitment to Christ. I am amazed that some church leaders today can condone practices which the Bible clearly condemns. But maybe they are still blind, too.

EXTEND THE FAMILY SPIRIT

By Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

Coming up, this weekend, the National Council of Negro Women-Portland section, will host a TELECONFERENCE at the Blanchard Education Service Center located on 501 N Dixon.

Join the NCNW, Inc. Be a part of the New Kinship Networks National Teleconference on January 27, 1990. The day will begin at 11 a.m. and will continue until 2 p.m., in the afternoon.

The national representative will be the renounced actress of stage and screen MELBA MOORE.

The public is cordially invited to attend. Come expecting a wealth of information.

For more information, call 287-8553 or 280-5620.

Ms. Edna Pittman, president of Portland Section.

Civil Rights Leader to Speak at City Club

Congressman John Lewis, noted civil rights leader and Democrat representing Georgia's fifth congressional district, will spoke to the City Club of Portland on Friday, Jan. 19th. His speech was entitled "The Civil Rights Legacy: Foundation for a Changing Nation."

Congressman Lewis rose to prominence during the civil rights era and participated in virtually every major civil rights activity. He was the youngest freedom rider in 1961, chaired the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee for three years, worked on numerous voter registration projects and was a leader of the Selma marches. Congressman Lewis was interviewed several times on the "Eye on the Prize II" segment aired Monday evening.

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Great Is His Faithfullness

a construction of the program of the

do your best in school, get a good education and when the opportunity comes -- USE ITL.

This passage was taken from "THE VOICE NEWSLETTER", dated October 9, 1988, by V. Bell.

On the morning of January 22, 1990, Mr. Lonnie Wilson went on home to be with his Lord and Master. He will be greatly missed by so many. Persons in the church and in the community.

While speaking to Dr. Martin, he said "I pray that everyone or more people could be like Mr. Wilson. Many times, when a meeting is called or a worship service is planned, Mr. Wilson is always punctual. He would not feel well but you could always depend on his presence and support. Many young men can learn a lot from his example."

Mr. Wilson's remains have been entrusted to the care of the Caldwell Colonial Mortuary. A funeral service has been planned for Friday at the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. The time has been set for 1:00 p.m., on Friday, January 26, 1990. Please call --284-1954, for further information.

All cards, calls, flowers may be sent to Mr. & Mrs. Charles White, 255 SW Harrison #14D, Portland, Oregon 97201.

Health Awareness Week Attracts Wealth Of Participants

"Take Health to Heart -- Take Action" will be the theme of Health Awareness Week Jan. 22-25 at Mt. Hood Community College, when over 30 local health-related organizations participate in a Health Faire from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 Room. p.m. in the MHCC College Center Lounge. In addition, a series of daily forum discussions are scheduled at different times in the Counseling Conference Room. Admission is free and open to the public.

The week will feature comprehensive health information, health screening and food samples provided by such diverse groups as the American Cancer Society, Planned Parenthood, Kaiser Permanente, Metro Crisis and the MHCC P.E. and Health Division. A nominal fee will be charged for some screening tests.

Topics to be discussed during forum sessions will be AIDS, date rape, pregnancy prevention, V.D., and eating disorders. The discussions will include noted

The American Red Cross' quarterly blood drive also is scheduled during Health Awareness Week. The winter term blood drive is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Town and Gown

"this time of year is particularly crucial for the Red Cross' blood supply," said college health coordinator, Adrienne Anderson, R.N. "The demand is always higher during the holiday periods, so the weeks following are important to rebuilding an adequate supply to meet the needs of area hospitals."

The American Red Cross accepts only voluntary donations of blood. Donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good health. For a complete list of Health Awareness Week Activities, or to preregister for the blood drive, contact Anderson in the Health and Wellness Center at 667-7600. Donors also may register the day of the



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