

MAN IS BECOME AS ONE OF US

Genesis 3:22

There is no question but that the *knowledge of good and evil* was acquired by Adam and Eve when they partook of the forbidden tree which was *in the midst of the garden* in Eden. This result was foretold by God when He first restricted their eating (2:16-17) and was assured by Satan when he approached Eve (3:5). The result of disobedience is vividly recorded in the remainder of chapter 3. The question which arises for our consideration is whether such *knowledge of good and evil* passed on to the following human race.

In view of the fact that four inherited consequences came as a result of this sin, we may confidently conclude that this fifth consequence also followed.

1. To the serpent, *Because thou hast done this...upon thy belly shalt thou go* (v. 14-15)
2. To the woman, *I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception, in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee* (v. 16).
3. And unto Adam He said, *In sorrow shalt thou eat of the ground. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread"* (v.17-19).
4. *To dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return* (v. 19) has been the evident experience of all who have ever lived. Death was foretold by God in event of disobedience (2:17, 3:3) and confirmed by the writer of Hebrews 9:27, *It is appointed unto man once to die.*

To *become as One of Us, to know good and evil* (3:22) became the fifth consequence. This is clearly indicated in the remaining words of this verse which speak of a loss of innocence which did not here-to-fore exist, *Lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.* That man could live forever did not appear to be a concern of God before the fall when mankind was innocent, but after the fall it appeared to be a situation which God could not allow to continue to exist.

Having lost innocence and life in paradise, mankind must continue to choose good or evil. Even young children are aware of this human trait. Consider, for example, how at a young age even before accountability, a child will lie about breaking a vase or marking on the wall. He is aware of the consequence of doing something he should not. The sin which Adam and Eve committed did not pass on to the human race, but each of the five consequences did; for we all continue to experience the five stated limitations.

But Do We Also Inherit Adam's Sin?

The consequence of an action does not necessarily indicate guilt for that action. When a father commits a crime and is sentenced to prison, he, himself, enters the prison and suffers the blame and confinement. His wife and children, however, although not guilty themselves, suffer shame and humiliation. In a similar circumstance and although not to be blamed themselves, the wife and children of a shiftless drunkard often suffer want and hunger.

In Romans 5 Paul makes several observations which confirm this premise. In verse 12 he explains, *Whereby, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.* We must not understand Paul's comment to indicate that we are guilty of Adam's sin, but rather that death is the consequence we receive because of Adam's sin. We do not inherit Adam's sin. In the next verse Paul explains, *Sin is not imputed when there is no law. We are guilty of sin because we have disobeyed God's law; not because Adam did.*

Verse 20 states, *Moreover the law entered, that the offense may abound.* It is because of God's law which expresses His will that we recognize our failure and guilt. Then Paul added, *But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound* God's marvelous grace is provided that we through obedience to His will may obtain freedom from our own guilt and attain the portals of glory.

In 1 John 1:10 these meaningful words are written, *If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.* Note the wording very carefully. John did not say we inherit Adam's sin, but rather that we OURSELVES have sinned. Having the

"knowledge of good and evil," we become responsible for our actions and must stand in judgment before our Creator.

HARRY COBB
Wedowee, AL

IN TRIBUTE TO BROTHER RAY McMANUS



Ray McManus

March 25, 1957 – October 11, 2004

For the past eighteen years Brother Ray McManus has faithfully and very effectively published THE HARVESTER. This publication has continued to grow in circulation and has reached in a most favorable way the lives of many. As the result of a terrible automobile accident on October 6, however, he passed away from this present life and was buried here at Wedowee on October 13. Words of encouragement, comfort, and hope were spoken by Brethren Billy Prince and Wilbur Bass and by a co-worker, Jeff Steading, who brought tears to all of our eyes.

At forty-seven years of age Brother Ray and his family had served the Lord wherever his work as an electrical engineer had called him: construction of the Alabama Power Company dam here on the Tallapoosa River and with the same employer at Mobile, Gadsden, and Birmingham. Eventually they settled in Randolph County, Alabama, where he served as teacher and headmaster of a private school. He then moved on to work as an electrician at North American Bus Industries. At each location Brother Ray and his family were active and dedicated members of local congregations of the Lord's church.

Brother Ray was well known for his quiet, humble spirit, his commendable manner of life, and his conservative stand regarding obedience to the Lord's word and maintaining a Biblical pattern for His church. He refrained from gossip and was always constructive in his teaching and writings. Being well aware of the example and quality of lives seen in his wife, Deborah, and his children, Rebekah and Ben, we had approached Ray about becoming an elder at the Taylor's Cross Roads congregation where they normally assembled.

An overflow crowd at the memorial service testified of Brother Ray's reputation. His family has accepted his passing with great courage and understanding and is determined to continue his work with THE HARVESTER. He will also be sorely missed by the many congregations and brethren with whom he labored, for as Jonathan said to David regarding his absence, *Thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty* (2 Samuel 20:18).

HARRY COBB
Wedowee, AL

HOME AT LAST

(Title taken March 2000 Harvester No. 171 "Home At Last!" article written by Ray McManus)

...But while I speak physically about arriving "home," there is a spiritual application as well. As Christians we live on this earth on a temporary basis. We are very similar to the Israelites who wandered in the wilderness. This world will not be our final place of abode. It is not a permanent rest stop. As long as we are alive, we will labor here for Christ. However, God has made this special promise: a rest in heaven awaits all those who will be saved. By faith we will enter that rest (Heb. 4) and God will see to it that promise is fulfilled just as he kept his word about the Promised Land for Abraham's descendants. At times heaven may look like a million miles away or even a million years away, but Christians, one day we will all come "home" at last!

RAY McMANUS

For 18 years and 10 months Ray McManus published THE HARVESTER free to those who wished to receive it. Ray was involved in a

terrible automobile accident on Wednesday, October 6th. He left this world on Monday October 11th.

Raymond Anthony McManus began THE HARVESTER in January 1986. Working diligently and faithfully, Ray would rarely be seen without a pencil and paper to write his notes and observations for a future article or sermon. He made many sacrifices in order to be with his family, to work on THE HARVESTER or to prepare a sermon. He edited and distributed THE HARVESTER largely on his own. The only physical assistance he received was from his family helping with a very small portion of folding and stamping.

Ray was quiet, forgiving, and a very humble man. He would do his best to feature articles of other men rather than himself, because he wanted neither to receive all credit nor draw attention to himself. When we looked at the titles of some of the articles he had written, it seemed as if he knew what his future held. Titles such as "Life Is Short!", "Home At Last!", and the very first issue of THE HARVESTER, "Prepared To Die?" are a few examples. As it mentions in the above excerpt from "Home At Last!" he understood things in this life are temporary, including our homes on earth. Instead, it is that permanent home in Heaven for which we should strive. Ray knew not to be like the rich young ruler (Matthew 19:16-24) but to lay up his treasures in heaven.

Even though we have suffered a tremendous loss, THE HARVESTER will continue to be published by Ray's son Ben along with local brethren. This undertaking is made easier because Ray was very organized and extremely detailed. Continue to send in address changes, addresses of those wanting to be added to the mailing list, articles, and any feedback. Please pray for the family and the many people helping to continue the work Ray began on THE HARVESTER.

BEN MCMANUS
Woodland, AL

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE & TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
Nov. 5 – 7	New Bethel Church Cullman, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Nov. 10 – 12	Barnes Church near Livingston, TN	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Nov. 12 – 14	Lizella Church Lizella, GA	Harry Cobb (Wedowee, AL)
Nov. 12 – 14	Dowell Hill Church Columbus, IN	Bill Prince (Oxford, AL)
Nov. 15 – 19	Oak Grove Church near Liberty, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Nov. 21 – 28	Southside Church Springtown, Texas	Harry Cobb (Wedowee, AL)
Dec. 3 – 5	Napoleon Church Woodland, AL	Brad Prince (Wedowee, AL) Chad Prince (Oxford, AL)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Who was Cush's famous son?
2. Where did the angel in chapter 10 of Revelation place his right foot?
3. When God told Abraham that Sarah would have a son, and they questioned it because of their age, what did God say in response?

4. To whom does 1 Peter 3 say women who trust in God are subject?

5. Where does he who ignores correction lead others?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. What name did the Lord give to Solomon? JEDIDIAH (2 Sam. 12:25)
2. How many men from each tribe did Joshua appoint to a map-making committee? THREE (Josh. 18:4)
3. What was the emotional response of the disciples when Jesus said one of them would betray Him? SORROWFUL (Mark 14:19)
4. In the book of Revelation, those who were spared from the tribulation had their robes washed in what to make them white? BLOOD OF THE LAMB (Rev. 7:14)
5. What was the test of unfaithfulness for wives as found in Numbers 5? THE TEST OF BITTER WATER (Num. 5:18)