

GOODNEWS LETTER

Number 236 October 1, 2008

HIDE AND SEEK

"For the Son of man is come to seek and save that which was lost," Luke 19:10

Before iPods, video games and cell phones, we used to engage ourselves in activity. We did not use items or mediums to lose ourselves in; we, like the great sport of baseball, engaged ourselves in the activity. We would play all kinds of "outdoor" games. One of the best activities that I remember playing was **Hide and Seek**.

We found the most ingenious places to hide - up a tree, under some thing or, on top of some thing. It was fun, especially when someone would shout **Ollie, Ollie, Auction Free**; or, something that sounded like those words.

Wikipedia reports that the exact origin of the phrase is unknown, but etymologists suspect it is a childish corruption of a phrase that would have made more sense in the **Hide-and-peek** context; such as "**all ye, all ye, oxen free!**", "**all in free**", "**out's in free**", "**all set free**", "**All ye all ye outs in free**", "**All ye, all ye, outs are free**", or "**All the, all the outs in free**"; or possibly a corruption of the German "**Alle, alle auch sind frei**", (literally, "Everyone, everyone also is free").

When you compare the outdoor game of **Hide and Seek** to man's life, there is an amazing correlation to Adam, the first man. Adam set the example of hiding. Since then, mankind can't help it. They run from God the same way, hiding themselves among the trees of camouflage, hoping they won't be spotted. But, they're listening, longing for LORD God to shout: "**Ollie, Ollie, Auction Free.**"

While, hiding from sin is no children's game, there are many similarities to the child-like antics and hiding from God; similarities that are found in everyday life, as well as, eternal matters. Man runs away from sin once he breaks God's law; but, man must understand that he is running away from life itself when he does so.

It's natural for man to hide after he sins. He doesn't know what else to do. So, he runs away, as fast as he can, covering his tracks the best he can.

It doesn't matter what the crime is, either. If man breaks the rules - any rule, his first reaction is to run and hide and not get caught.

A bank robber doesn't stick around after the heist. He runs away. If he steals a car, he runs away, then hides. And, so it goes. When a person cheats, lies or commit

any other sin against God or society, the same thing happens. Man does his best to escape to some safe haven.

That's why the first man and his reaction to sin has to be understood. Adam set the precedence - he was the first to run, and man has been running, since. And, when reading Adam's reaction, after disobeying God in eating of the forbidden fruit, take notice that: **First**, the guilty pair worked fast, ripping leaves off trees and sewing "figs leaves together and made themselves loin coverings," Genesis 3:7. That's what inward guilt does; it effects outward actions every time. It's true, man's first act of survival is self-preservation; to lose himself among and blend in with the surroundings.

Secondly, upon hearing the LORD coming, the first parents tried to hide out and avoid being caught, "the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of LORD GOD among the trees of the garden," Genesis 3:8.

When man sins against any righteous rule, he knows that a problem has been created. There's a witness within man that speaks to his inward self, telling him: "He that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin," James 4:17. And, because Adam knew what to do and did it not, man sinned and brought sin into the world. And now, the moment sin becomes evident, the sinner flees the crime scene - or the church service, as fast as possible.

That's the way it was with Adam and the way of man, ever since. But, what was Adam thinking? Besides Eve, the only person he knew was God. Talk about a feeling of being caught; just listen when God demands, "Where art thou, Adam?" What is man thinking, today? The good Lord is not only **all powerful** (omnipotent) and **all knowing** (omniscient), He is also **everywhere** (omnipresent).

And so, things have not changed. There has to be compatibility between the inward and outward man or, when God's righteousness appears, man's first reaction will be to run.

For every person in the world that is born of woman, the day will come when it is realized that he has "sinned and come short of the glory of God," Romans 3:23. And, when that moment arrives, man becomes aware that he is a sinner, guilty of transgressing God's holy commandment.

From then on, man lives his life in jeopardy. Fear will constantly harass his being; for, who knows, he may die today. That's what sin does. It reveals the fact that we **missed the mark** (sin's definition). And, that we are accountable.

God's holiness is imprinted upon man's spirit, to say it one way. Adam knew that he sinned long before God spoke to him. The second that he ate of the forbidden fruit, God's righteous commandment exposed his failure.

This is exactly the point that the Apostle Paul makes, "For I was alive without the Law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died," Romans 7:9.

Adam never thought about hiding from God, running away or, covering up until he disobeyed the LORD. And, when Adam sinned, the FALL of man began. In the case of everyone else, we see our fall coming the same way as it did to Paul. We were alive once; that is, we weren't counted to have sin, until the commandment spoke to our heart. It was then that we died.

At the very moment we became aware of sin, we died to God. This is an eternal death that has to be reversed. In our natural sin, we shall ever be separated from the life of God. When we died, we died eternally.

Yes, even though Adam brought the great FALL to all men, God has a remedy. Adam's act was no surprise to the LORD Almighty. He knew exactly what Adam would do; even, before God created Adam.

Therefore, there is a blessed future for all of us. Way back, back in eternity, God Looked beyond the first man, and saw the Second man. the LORD knew what was up. The first Adam would sin, but God planned and prepared a Second Adam who would not sin. His name is Jesus.

Jesus would enter man, overcome sin and then, pay for man's transgression. What a blessed deal for mankind! This is how the glorious gospel operates. Once a sinner repents, forgiveness comes and man undergoes a re-birth that circumcises the sinner in the Person of Jesus and rebirths man, in love. This loving transaction brings man under the new and eternal life of God. He has a new Father. The second birth comes by love; as in, "God so loved the world," sending Jesus.

FRIENDS, don't run away, run toward the cross where payment has been made on your sin. Trust, for the account balance is \$0.00.

NOW, IT'S OLLIE OLLIE OXEN FREE

Every sinner can come out of hiding and meet God once again because God forgives the sinner based upon His Son's loving sacrifice that paid sin's debt.

While, all men have the same reaction and run for cover when sin is committed, the problem continues in that he acts as if he never did sin, afterward. He thinks he's okay and still plays the game of hide and seek; usually, the rest of his life.

But, there's a day coming when God's righteousness will shine upon us, and condemnation because of it. After the light shines, we know that God knows. There's no longer any place to hide.

Hiding puts up a safe and comfortable facade, a veneer that man hides behind; that is until the cover is pulled off. It is time for all Adams of the world to turn around and face the call of God. He knows where we are. He knows what we've

done. Man will never get some place of safety from God's "all knowing" and "seeing eye."

Certainly, hiding is the natural response of man. Not only do we fear the Almighty, we don't even know what to do to be saved. That's the reason the GOSPEL is so precious to us.

If the 139th Psalm had been written in Adam's time, would he respond differently? "If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: If I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there." We don't think so. Adam, just like every sinner since, runs, hides and make excuses of what he does and why he does it. But, thank the LORD, we have the 139th Psalm and the rest of God's written word.