

Then God said.....

Grace

While preparing this column, a church member shared that when he was 7 years old, he wanted a Daisy Red Ryder BB Gun, but his family did not have money for that sort of thing. What little money they had was carefully parceled out to important obligations. One day he saw several dollars on a table in their small home. He took it and hid it. That money was for a bill his father had to pay the next week. They searched the house, but no luck. He was asked if he knew anything about the money. He denied knowing anything. He lived with guilt and fear until one day, months later the money was found. He felt relief, but carried guilt with him for years.

Do you know anyone who has not sinned? I don't. Do you remember the first time you knew you had done something wrong... so wrong that you lived with guilt?

PICTURE

Remember the first sin in the Bible? God instructed Adam and Eve, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat, for in the day you eat of it, you shall die." (Gen2:16-17) They chose to follow their own way and be their own gods rather than follow God's way.

God found them out just as he finds all of us. There were consequences for their sin. One of the consequences is that we are all born in sin.

Then God said "Grace." They did not die immediately. God made them garments of skin to cover their nakedness. They were clothed in *garments of grace*.

Later in the New Testament, God also said, "Grace." He sent his Son to pay the penalty for sin, from Adam and Eve to all of us today. Jesus died and was raised from the dead so that we might have eternal life.

Just as animals had to die for those garments of skin, so Jesus had to die for us. That is true grace.

As you look around, do you see evidence of sin? Now, look again, do you see evidence of grace? Are you willing to accept that grace for yourself, to put on the Lord Jesus Christ? If so, find a church that is centered in Jesus and God's word, attend and receive your *garments of grace*.