Contemporary Comments on the Adult Sabbath School Lesson

[Title] The Road to Faith

[Text] Galatians 3:21-25; Leviticus 18:5; Romans 3:9-19; 1 Corinthians 9:20; Romans 3:1, 2; 8:1-4

[Use] November 12, 2011

Lost. That’s what 28-year-old Pamela Salant from Portland was last summer when she spent four days and three nights in an Oregon forest.

On a camping trip to Bear Lake, she and her companion dropped off their gear and went in separate directions looking for a good campsite. Pamela became lost while trying to find her way back to the lake and fell down a 50-foot cliff.

Unable to walk, she knew she had to get to an open area where rescuers would see her. She crawled and scooted herself along a creek, hoping to reach the Columbia River. “That drive to live is so strong,” Pamela later said. “I just felt that I wasn't done yet. I kept pushing and pushing through all the pain. I wasn't just going to lay there.” While waiting for help, she survived by eating caterpillars and berries, drinking water from the creek, and covering herself with moss at night.

The Hood River County Sheriff's Office, the National Guard, and the U.S. Forest Service searched the rugged and dense forest. When she finally heard helicopters above, she made her way to an open area where she could be spotted. Finding a narrow opening in the trees, rescuers lowered a 230 to 250 foot cable to reach her and lifted her to safety.

Pamela suffered from a broken left leg, laceration on her right knee, and fractures in her mid-back. She plans to go camping again someday, but says she’ll be more aware. “I’m going to look at the map and be acquainted with my surroundings,” she said.

At times we may feel spiritually lost in this world. But we are never left to wander aimlessly alone. God has mapped out the road to faith. And that map not only includes the gospel of salvation through Jesus, but also God's law. As we discovered in this week’s lesson, the two go hand-in-hand. As Paul said in Galatians 3:21, “Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.”

God is the giver of both the promise and the law. And both play a role in our salvation. The law is our map. It shows us the way to go—the right way to live. Paul makes it clear in Galatians 3:24 that “the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith.” A guardian is someone who looks after another individual to make sure they’re safe. That’s what the law does. It protects us from sin and helps us to see our need for Jesus. And when we fall short, there is the other part of salvation—forgiveness. The law can no longer condemn us because we have forgiveness for our shortcomings. In our journey to Heaven we have a map, and also Someone to rescue us when we don’t follow it and become lost.

~nc

Additional resource: You Tube

1. Oregon Live
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