

NORTH HILLS NOTES

LIFESTORY: GOD RESTORES

March 29, 2008

By Terry Benson

The Plan was always there, even before the great sorrow of disobedience, before squirrels chattered, before stars were hung. God always planned to insure the permanence of Creation. And what a costly plan it was. But the God who lives and loves and breathes and creates, who smiled with great pleasure on his newly-formed Adam and Eve, and who wept at their fall – is also the God who would stop at nothing short of the complete restoration of all that had been lost.

God restores our innocence, which we lost through guilt.

“All have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet now God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins.” Romans 3:23, 24 (NLT)

God restores our oneness, which we lost through shame.

“Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them...” 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 (NLT)

God restores our immortality, which we lost through death.

“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.” 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NIV)

God restores our home, which we lost through all of the above.

“I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’” Revelation 21:3, 4 (NIV)