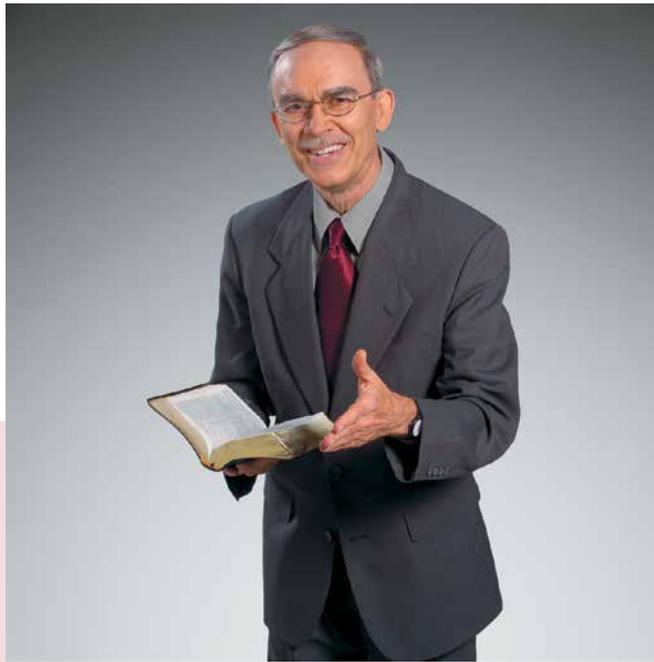


HISTORIC
LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM



June 2018 | \$3.50



Editor's Letter

John J. Grosboll

Obstacles

Many people hesitate to follow the Lord all the way because of one or more obstacles. For some it is their job—afraid that by keeping the Sabbath they will jeopardize their job and experience financial ruin. Jesus promised those who put God first, that all things needed in this life will be provided (see Matthew 6:25–33).

Others are afraid someone in their family will oppose them or, in the case of a marriage, are afraid of a divorce. See the special promises to those who experience this kind of loss as a result of following Him (Mark 10:29, 30).

To choose against a total commitment because of fear of opposition will cost us our souls.

“When Christ was upon this earth, the great mass of the com-

mon people would have accepted Him had it not been that they were afraid of what the Scribes and Pharisees might do.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 9, 264.

“Natural affection for relatives and friends should not lead any soul who sees the light to reject the light, to dishonor God the Father and Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. Every possible excuse for disobedience will be framed by men who choose, as many did in Christ’s day, the favor of men rather than the favor of God. If one chooses wife or children, father or mother, before Christ, that choice will stand through eternal ages, with all its weight of responsibility. . . .

“The soul that has had light in regard to the Lord’s Sabbath, His memorial of creation, and to save

himself from inconvenience and reproach has chosen to remain disloyal, has sold his Lord. He has dishonored the name of Christ, He has taken his stand with the armies of Antichrist; with them at the last great day, he will be found outside the city of God, not with the loyal, the true and righteous, in the heavenly kingdom.” *Selected Messages*, Book 3, 401.

“Our Saviour assures us that there are some who would like to climb up some other way than the toilsome, self-denying way of the cross. They would avoid reproach and shun sacrifices. Christ calls such thieves and robbers. If we are not willing to breast the storm of opposition, if we choose to float with the current, we shall lose eternal life.” *The Signs of the Times*, July 31, 1884.

LANDMARKS

Staff

Editor

John J. Grosboll

Graphic Designer

Martin Bernar

Subscriptions

United States—1 year, \$25.00

Other countries—Cost of Postage Only

If you are unable to purchase a subscription, please request a gift subscription.

Publisher

Steps to Life, Inc.

P. O. Box 782828

Wichita, KS 67278

tel 316.788.5559

fax 316.788.6900

e-mail: historic@stepstolife.org

web: www.stepstolife.org

LandMarks is a magazine of Steps to Life, a ministry established in 1988 by Seventh-day Adventists. It is dedicated to the publication of the historic doctrines held by God's true people in all ages. Its special emphasis is to present truth (II Peter 1:12)—those historic doctrines espoused by Seventh-day Adventist pioneers in the nineteenth century. Its purpose is to help all of God's remnant people to press together in unity, holding high the banner on which is inscribed the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Because the powers of darkness have attempted to take control of God's last-day people through infiltration and false signs and teaching which if possible would deceive the very elect, this magazine is intended to help those believers who are contending with professed brethren over the faith once delivered to the saints. Many historic believers have established home churches where they can bring new interests and converts to hear the Three Angels' Messages instead of the New Theology. This magazine is designed to help them to defend the faith and to expose the flood of false doctrine by which the truth is being assailed in these last days.

It is the goal of *LandMarks'* editors to present articles based on truth from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Viewpoints of writers and/or contributors expressed outside of articles printed in this publication are not necessarily the views of this magazine's editors and are not endorsed by Steps to Life Ministries.

Features

June 2018

4 Finding God's Plan for My Life

Our plans are not always God's plans. He may see that it is best for us and for His cause to refuse our very best intentions. But of one thing we may be assured, He will bless and use in the advancement of His cause those who sincerely devote themselves and all they have to His glory.

By John J. Grosboll

10 The Wedding Garment

Every normal individual wants to wear good apparel to cover his/her body in a manner that is becoming to Christian standards of morality. No Christian in his right mind would want to appear before God improperly dressed. Yet some are totally unaware of their wretched appearance and so blind that they are actually unaware that they are naked.

By Lawrence Nelson

16 Satan's Seven Fears

There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation.

By John Cofer

More in this Issue

20 Bible Puzzle

More Bible Promises and Assurances

23 Keys to the Storehouse

Actions Speak Louder than Words

24 Pen of Inspiration

Elisha, Faithful in Little Things

26 Your Letters

Letters to the Editor

27 Question and Answer

Where was Samson's Strength?

28 Health Nugget

Galloping Consumption

30 Life Sketches

Will You Stand?

36 Story Time

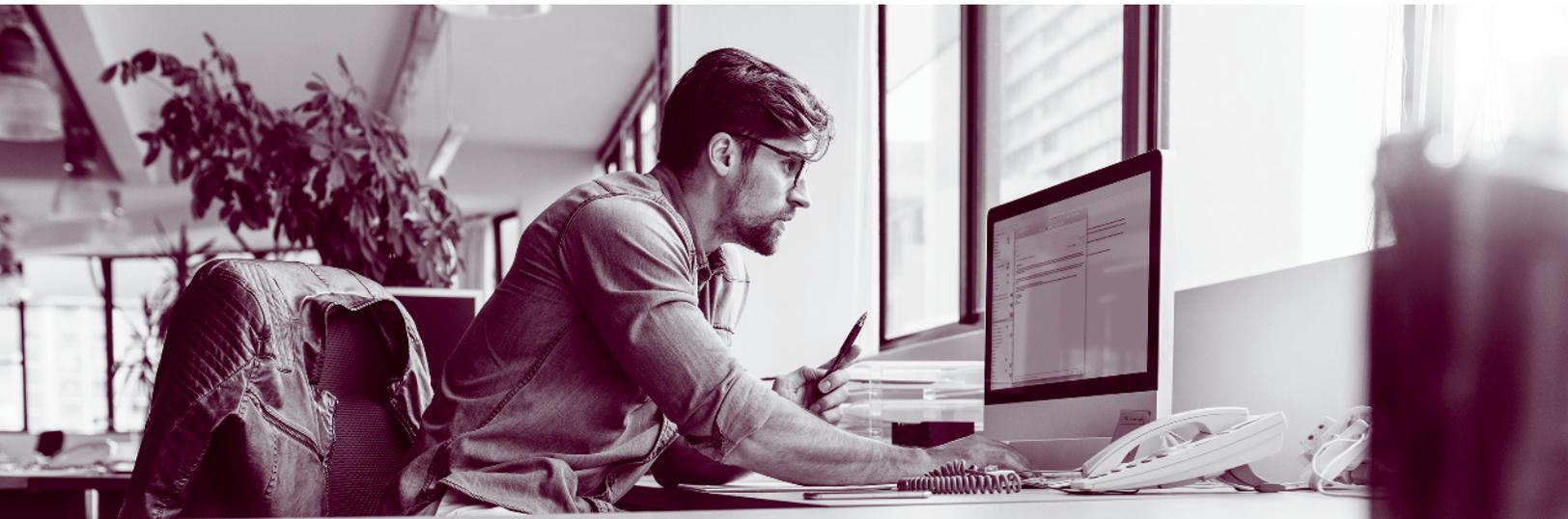
The Righteous Never Forsaken

38 Bible Study Guide

Behold, I Come Quickly

50 Food

Cranberries



*Finding
God's Plan
for
My Life*

By John J. Grosboll

Heaven is a place of order where angels have definite assignments prepared and given to them by God Himself. However, Lucifer convinced one third of the angels that if they sided with him in the revolt, they could have freedom to do as they pleased. This rebellion caused a war in heaven which resulted in the rebels being thrown out.

God has a definite plan for the life of every person in this world and the sooner that plan is realized the better it will be for all. There is no time to waste by giving half of your life to the devil. Of course, God accepts genuine repentance after years of disobedience, but think of the wasted years and what could have been accomplished by surrendering your whole life from your youth.

In order to be motivated to look and find the Lord's plan for one's life, a person has to be convinced that God's plan is better than any he could develop himself. After all, God knows better than you or me, He made us and knows what we are capable of and has been around much longer. He sees the big picture of what He wants to accomplish and where we fit in His plan.

"Not without a purpose does God send trial to His children. He never leads them otherwise than they would choose to be led if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as workers together with Him. He subjects them to discipline to humble them, to lead them, through trial and affliction, to see their weakness and draw near to Him." *In Heavenly Places*, 267. Regarding the mystery of the martyrdom of John the Baptist, a mystery so dark that we cannot comprehend or explain it, Ellen White wrote a similar statement. (See *The Desire of Ages*, 224.)

After the fall, loyal angels continued to perform their assignments and today our lives are dependent on the faithful completion of those assignments. We are told in *The Great Controversy*, 512 and 513 that "A guardian angel is appointed to every follower of Christ. These heavenly watchers shield the righteous from the power of the wicked one." This shield is crucial for our protection from the enemy who would destroy every one of God's children if he could.

Remember the story of Job. Satan accused him of serving God only because of the protection and benefits Job had received. He knew that God had put a hedge of protection around Job. The same is true of all God's children.

"Today as in the past, all heaven is watching to see the church develop in the true science of salvation. The Lord Jesus is among men. His angels walk among us unrecognized and unacknowledged. ... His angels, thousands upon thousands and ten thousand times ten thousand, are commissioned to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation. They guard us against temporal evil and press back the powers of darkness, else we should be destroyed. ...

"Every believer who constantly realizes his dependence on God has his appointed angel, sent from heaven to minister to him. The ministry of these angels is especially essential now, for

loud voice, 'Alleluia!' and the heavenly arches would ring with their lovely songs." *Early Writings*, 39.

The protection of God's children by the angels of heaven is real. "His [God's] angels are appointed to watch over us, and if we put ourselves under their guardianship, then in every time of danger they will be at our right hand. When unconsciously we are in danger of exerting a wrong influence, the angels will be by our side, prompting us to a better course, choosing words for us, and influencing our actions." *My Life Today*, 302.

As God's children we have a right to ask to be under their direction and guardianship. Paul says in Hebrews

God has a definite plan for the life of every person in this world.

Satan is making his last desperate effort to secure the world." *In Heavenly Places*, 101.

What a comfort to know that we are never alone. Ellen White wrote, "I have seen the tender love that God has for His people, and it is very great. I saw angels over the saints with their wings spread about them. Each saint had an attending angel. If the saints wept through discouragement, or were in danger, the angels that ever attended them would fly quickly upward to carry the tidings, and the angels in the city would cease to sing. ... But if the saints fixed their eyes upon the prize before them and glorified God by praising Him, then the angels would bear the glad tidings to the city, and the angels in the city would touch their golden harps and sing with a

1:14, "Are they (angels) not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?" When in trouble, your guardian angels will choose the words and impress you what to speak. "Today ... heavenly messengers are passing through the length and breadth of the land, seeking to comfort the sorrowing, to protect the impenitent, to win the hearts of men to Christ. ...

"Angels are ever present where they are most needed. They are with those who have the hardest battles to fight, with those who must battle against inclination and hereditary tendencies, whose home surroundings are the most discouraging.

"Heavenly beings are appointed to do their work of ministry—to guide, guard, and control those who

shall be heirs of salvation.” *My Life Today*, 303.

Again we read, “Every redeemed one will understand the ministry of angels in his own life. The angel who was his guardian from his earliest moment; the angel who watched his steps, and covered his head in the day of peril; the angel who was with him in the valley of the shadow of death; who marked his resting place, who was the first to greet him in the resurrection morning—what will it be to hold converse with him, and to learn the history of divine interposition in the individual life, of heavenly coop-

William who was a very godly evangelist. Ellen White visited his father’s home when his father was just a boy and told his parents that God had selected the boy to be a minister. He grew up with this knowledge.

God sometimes will select people to do things when they are very young. Jeremiah 1:4, 5 states: “Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: ‘Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born, I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.’”

God knew all about what His plan was for Jeremiah before he was born.

give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.’” He was to live by the Nazarite vow and God heard her prayer. In 1 Samuel 1:20, it says, “So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, ‘Because I have asked for him from the LORD.’”

In verse 22, it says, “But Hannah did not go up to the temple, for she said to her husband, ‘I will not go up until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever’” (literal translation).

So, when the child had been weaned, about three years old, she brought him to the Lord, and “lent him to the LORD; as long as he should live” (verse 28, literal translation). I think this is one of the youngest children on record who was removed from his parental home while he was still a very young child and dedicated to the Lord.

Samuel is spoken of in the Bible as one of the most illustrious men that has ever lived. God had planned a special work for Samuel.

Before the fall of Lucifer, God had a plan for him. His assignment was to be the covering cherub. God had plans for all of the angels. He had a plan for Jeremiah before he was born and a plan for Samuel. God has a plan for every single person. If you are wise you will want to find out what God’s plan is for you, but how are you going to find it?

Elder William’s father was constantly told by his parents as he was growing up that God had selected him to be a minister. When Elder William got to be a young man, he decided he didn’t want to be a minister. We human beings are a stubborn lot. He was very intelligent and

God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led if they could see the end from the beginning.

eration in every work for humanity?

“All the perplexities of life’s experience will then be made plain. Where to us have appeared only confusion and disappointment, broken purposes and thwarted plans, will be seen a grand, overruling, victorious purpose, a divine harmony.” *Ibid.*, 367.

How exciting to know that one day we will meet the representative of Jesus, the ministering spirit who was assigned to be our constant life companion, the one who has seen all, yet still loves us, encouraged us in our disappointments to remain faithful and then to explain to us every “Why” that has ever perplexed us.

How Can I Find Out God’s Plan for My Life?

When I was a young minister, I was privileged to work with Harold

We do not know how old Jeremiah was before God told him, but in verse 6 it says, “Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.”

Jeremiah considered himself not old enough and without enough training for the task. But the Lord told him not to think that way. Verses 7 and 8 say, “‘You shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you,’ says the LORD.”

The Bible records the story of Hannah who was barren and desperately wanted to have a child. So, she prayed to the Lord. In 1 Samuel 1:11, it says, “Then she made a vow and said, ‘O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will

wanted to be a physician. He went to Loma Linda and took a medical course and became a physician. After graduation, before you can actually practice medicine, you are required to take a state board examination to become licensed to practice. So a time was scheduled to take the examination so he could practice in California.

He wasn't worried about the exam having breezed through medical school with not a problem. However, when the day came that he was to take the state board medical examination, he got such a violent fever that he could not take the exam. That's crazy, he thought; I am never sick. What's going on? So he re-scheduled. When the day came for that examination he came down with another violent fever preventing him again from taking the test. During this time the Holy Spirit was working on his heart and he knew now without a doubt what the Lord's plan was for his life work. Eventually he said, OK Lord, I know You want me to be a minister so I'll be a minister.

With confidence in his career change, he went to the conference officials in a Midwestern state and told them he was convicted that the Lord wanted him to be a minister. They told him to go to a particular city where there was no church and start evangelistic meetings. If he succeeded in raising up a church of a hundred people, he could be the pastor of that church.

The Lord had to take him over some rocky roads because like Jonah, he did not want to know the Lord's plan for his life. He thought he had more wisdom and better ideas than the Lord had; so, he started out on a different career path. There is nothing wrong with being a physician, but it is wrong if the Lord has other plans for your life.



God accepts genuine repentance after years of disobedience, but think of the wasted years and what could have been accomplished by surrendering your whole life from your youth.

Genesis 12:1-3 says, "Now the LORD had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'"

The Lord came to him with a promise and also a test. And that's always the way it is. In Hebrews 11:8, 9 is his test. "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going."

Abraham could not explain what he was going to do. All he knew was that the Lord had told him to go. Relatives thought he was crazy. After all, who goes on a trip without knowing where they are going? But "By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise."

"Relying upon the divine promise, without the least outward assurance of its fulfillment, he abandoned home

and kindred and native land, and went forth, he knew not whither, to follow where God should lead. ...

"It was no light test that was thus brought upon Abraham, no small sacrifice that was required of him. There were strong ties to bind him to his country, his kindred, and his home. But he did not hesitate to obey the call. He had no question to ask concerning the land of promise—whether the soil was fertile and the climate healthful; whether the country afforded agreeable surroundings and would afford opportunities for amassing wealth. God has spoken, and His servant must obey; the happiest place on earth for him was the place where God would have him to be." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 126.

That last sentence contains a tremendous secret. If the happiest place on earth for you is the place where God wants you to be, He will make known where that place is.

We are told: "Many are still tested as was Abraham. They do not hear the voice of God speaking directly from the heavens, but He calls them. ..." Ibid.

The question is, How does He call them? How can you find God's plan for your life?

1 "... by the teachings of His word." Ibid. If your plan is contrary to God's word you are on the wrong track.

2 "... the events of His providence." Ibid. These are often events that happen in your life that are unplanned and often unexplained that indicate that God is leading you in a certain direction for His own purpose.

We are told: "They may be required to abandon a career that promises wealth and honor, to leave congenial and profitable associations and separate from kindred, to enter upon what appears to be only a path of self-denial, hardship, and sacrifice." Ibid., 126, 127.

to feel the need of His help, and to depend on Him alone." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 127.

Abraham is called the father of the faithful.

3 There is a call to be obedient to the light you have. God will only give more light as you put into practice that which you do know. "God has a claim on us and all that we have. His claim is paramount to every other. And in acknowledgment of this claim, he bids us render to him a fixed proportion of all that he gives us. The tithe is this specified portion. By the Lord's direction it was consecrated to him in the earliest times. The Scriptures mention tithing in connection with the

the right.'" *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 203. Even children have responsibilities and jobs they can do in their homes.

Jesus said, "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much" (Luke 16:10). God will not give some great work to the person who is slothful in small duties.

6 All are called to minister to others in some way. "Our Lord teaches that the true object of life is ministry. Christ Himself was a worker, and to all His followers He gives the law of service." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 326.

God's plan is that we all be workers. "The toiling beast of burden answers the purpose of its creation better than does the indolent man. God is a constant worker. The angels are workers; they are ministers of God to the children of men. Those who look forward to a heaven of inactivity will be disappointed; for the economy of heaven provides no place for the gratification of indolence." *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 280.

7 Advance the cause of God by your personal effort and talents. "When a minister who has labored successfully in securing souls to Jesus Christ abandons his sacred work in order to secure temporal gain, he is called an apostate, and he will be held accountable to God for the talents that he has misapplied. When men of business, farmers, mechanics, merchants, lawyers, etc., become members of the church, they become servants of Christ; and although their talents may be entirely different, their responsibility to advance the cause of God by personal effort, and with their means, is no less than that which rests upon the minister. The woe which will fall upon the minister if he preach not the gospel, will just

Every believer who constantly realizes his dependence on God has his appointed angel.

God's plan for each life involves His plan for the whole universe. God is winding up the plan of salvation and it will soon be over. "Looking down the ages, He has counted His workers." *Testimonies*, vol. 7, 25. Are you one of that number?

God's plan for your life will have something to do with the finishing of His work because that is what He is doing in this world today. Not all have been called to be a minister. Not all are to be a physician, or a nurse, or a teacher. But whatever your line of work, God's plan for you will involve something to do with finishing His work.

"He calls them away from human influences and aid, and leads them

history of Abraham. The father of the faithful paid tithes to Melchisedec, 'priest of the Most High God' (Genesis 14:18)." *The Signs of the Times*, April 1, 1875.

4 To know God's plan for your life, you must be a faithful Christian in your family. "God judges a man by what he is in his family. Abraham is called the father of the faithful. 'I know him,' said the Searcher of hearts, 'that he will command his children and his household after him' (Genesis 18:19)." *Notebook Leaflets from the Elmshaven Library*, vol. 1, 92.

5 Take your position at your post of duty. "To every one of His appointed agencies the Lord sends the message: "Take your position at your post of duty, and then stand firm for

as surely fall upon the businessman, if he, with his different talents, will not be a co-worker with Christ in accomplishing the same results.

When this is brought home to the individual, some will say, 'This is an hard saying' (John 6:60); nevertheless it is true, although continually contradicted by the practice of men who profess to be followers of Christ." *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 468, 469.

8 Consecrate yourselves to God. "All may fill their appointed places in God's great plan. The Lord accepted Samuel from his very childhood, because his heart was pure. He was given to God, a consecrated offering, and the Lord made him a channel of light." Now notice the next sentence: "If the youth of today will consecrate themselves as did Samuel, the Lord will accept them and use them in His work." *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 537.

9 The Lord's army consists only of volunteers. No one is drafted or forced in the Lord's work. Surrender the will to the Lord and He will open opportunities which you never dreamed possible. Humbly fulfill the role that God has chosen for you.

"When men exalt themselves, feeling that they are a necessity for the success of God's great plan, the Lord causes them to be set aside." *The Desire of Ages*, 436.

The proud will be set aside and someone more dedicated, and maybe even less talented, will be fitted for the job.

10 Fill the responsibilities of the present. God uses people in all fields of work. "Let us remember that while the work we have to do may not be our choice, it is to be accepted as God's choice for us. Whether pleasing or unpleasing, we are to do the duty that lies nearest. ...



God sometimes will select people to do things when they are very young.

"If the Lord desires us to bear a message to Nineveh, it will not be as pleasing to Him for us to go to Joppa or to Capernaum. He has reasons for sending us to the place toward which our feet have been directed." *The Ministry of Healing*, 472, 473.

Remember, "Our plans are not always God's plans. He may see that it is best for us and for His cause to refuse our very best intentions, ... But of one thing we may be assured, He will bless and use in the advancement of His cause those who sincerely devote themselves and all they have to His glory." *Ibid.*, 473.

"The voice of duty is the voice of God—an inborn, heaven-sent guide. Whether it be pleasing or unpleasing, we are to do the duty that lies directly in our pathway. ...

"It is the little things of life that develop the spirit and determine the character. ... Every day a good or bad brick is placed in the structure [of your character]. ... Therefore, in looking for great things to do, neglect not the little opportunities that come to you day by day. He who neglects the little things, and yet flatters himself that he is

ready to do wonderful things for the Master, is in danger of failing altogether. Life is made up, not of great sacrifices and of wonderful achievements, but of little things." *In Heavenly Places*, 226.

In a nutshell, to know and follow more closely God's plan of life is

- to do our best in the work that lies nearest
- to commit our ways to God
- to watch for the indications of His providence

These are rules that ensure safe guidance in the choice of an occupation. If you follow those rules, your guidance in the choice of an occupation is guaranteed for God will guide you.

(Unless appearing in quoted references or otherwise identified, Bible texts are from the New King James Version.) **LM**

Pastor John J. Grosboll is Director of Steps to Life and pastors the Prairie Meadows Church in Wichita, Kansas. He may be contacted by email at: historic@stepstolife.org, or by telephone at: 316-788-5559.



THE WEDDING GARMENT

BY LAWRENCE NELSON

When God looks at the Laodicean church of Revelation 3:15–18, He sees a people who are neither cold nor hot; they think they are rich and in need of nothing, but they make God sick. In fact, so much so that He will spue them out of His mouth. Their condition appears appalling but there is still hope for them if they buy “gold tried in the fire” and anoint their “eyes with eyesalve, that they may see” their need.

We are encouraged when we read in Revelation 19:7–9 that there is a small company within the Laodicean church who have heeded this counsel and availed themselves of the righteousness of Christ. It says, “and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints: And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.”

Every normal individual wants to wear good apparel to cover his or her body in a manner that is representative of Christian standards of morality. No Christian in his right mind would want to appear before God improperly dressed. Yet some are totally unaware of their wretched appearance and so blind that they are actually unaware that they are naked.

How could this be? God's last day servant tells us how such a thing could take place. "The knowledge of our state as God views it, seems to be hidden from us. We see, but perceive not, we hear, but do not understand; and we rest as unconcerned as if the pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night, rested upon our sanctuary. We profess to know God, and to believe the truth, but in works deny Him. Our deeds are directly adverse to the principles of truth and righteousness, by which we profess to be governed." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 84.

Christ advises us to take certain steps that will place upon us the proper clothing that will cover our nakedness. The problem is we do not see for we are blind because we have not surrendered our will to the Saviour. The fact is Christ does not live within the life. Such individuals do not possess His perfect character which He developed while on earth as a human being and which He offers to us as a free gift.

Our condition as God sees it is hidden from us so that we perceive it not. We hear His voice describing our condition, but we do not understand. Many are naked of God's garments. They want God's way but they want it *their* way. "When Adam and Eve sinned the covering of light, God's clothing, disappeared. Perceiving they were naked they tried to fashion clothing for themselves from fig leaves and this is what the transgressor of God's law has done ever since this

time. They have worn the garments of their own devising, by works of their own they have tried to cover their sins, and make themselves acceptable with God." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 311. God cannot accept us if we wear our own clothing, for our clothing reveals our nakedness. Without the divine clothing that God has provided for us, He cannot save us, for we are spiritually unclothed.

This is exactly why God could not save the Jewish nation when Jesus lived here on earth among them. "It was this that proved the ruin of the Jews, and it will prove the ruin of many souls in our own day. Thousands are making the same mistake as did

sive teachings instead of being clothed in obedience to God's word.

God's Clothing

Now it's time for some vital questions. What is God's clothing? How do we put it on and keep it clean? These questions must be answered, for we are about to enter the new earth and no one will go there if they are naked in God's sight.

The clothing which is designed by God is spoken of as the robe of Christ's righteousness, but many have overlooked the fact that Christ's righteousness consists of two parts. One, the robe of Christ's imputed righteousness, and the other, the wed-

Righteousness within is testified to by righteousness without. He who is righteous within is not hard-hearted and unsympathetic, but day by day he grows into the image of Christ.

the Pharisees whom Christ reproved at Matthew's feast. Rather than give up some cherished idea, or discard some idol of opinion, many refuse the truth which comes down from the Father of light. They trust in self, and depend upon their own wisdom, and do not realize their spiritual poverty. They insist on being saved in some way by which they may perform some important work. When they see that there is no way of weaving self into the work, they reject the salvation provided." *The Desire of Ages*, 280.

This is why God has declared of Laodicea that they are wretched, miserable, poor, and blind, and naked because they are following man's divi-

ding garment of imparted righteousness. Both garments must be worn to be acceptable in God's sight and approved for heaven and some day sit with Christ on His throne.

This lovely gift from Christ when placed upon us provides us with forgiveness and justification before God because we are now covered with Christ's righteousness, not our own righteousness which is but filthy rags. As we examine the fabric of this garment we find it to be *imputed*, meaning *to be attributed vicariously*. This simply means that the condition of the sinner is now assumed by another, which Christ called a born-again experience, for when we are clothed with

Christ's righteousness, we can then stand before God justified as though we had never sinned. This condition gives us a legal right to possess heaven because it legally satisfies the requirements of God's eternal law.

Once the filthy garment has been exchanged for Christ's robe of righteousness in the sinner's life, he is now in a position to put on the second article, which is called the wedding garment. This is also a gift from Christ to the forgiven sinner and it is imparted to sanctify, to make holy, the person's character. This is clearly explained in the chapters of *Christ's Object Lessons*, beginning on page 307. Here we told that the article of clothing is called a

in the plural. "He is waiting to strip them of their garments stained and polluted with sin, and to put upon them the white robes [plural] of righteousness." *Steps to Christ*, 53.

"Only those who are clothed in the garments [that's plural again] of His righteousness will be able to endure the glory of His presence when He shall appear with 'power and great glory' (Matthew 24:30)." *The Review and Herald*, July 9, 1908. So in comparing the robe of light which surrounded the first sinless parents to the garments we must put on, Ellen White has stated in *Christ's Object Lessons*, 310, "The robe of light was a symbol of their spiritual garments."

appropriately attired to rise in glory with Him.

In Revelation 16:15 He tells us, "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments [plural], lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." Plainly is seen that the righteous garments which Christ provides are 1) the robe of justification which is imputed to the repentant sinner and, 2) the wedding garment of sanctification imparted to those forgiven and justified and willing to cooperate with Christ in the development of a Christ-like character.

"Righteousness within is testified to by righteousness without. He who is righteous within is not hard-hearted and unsympathetic, but day by day he grows into the image of Christ, going on from strength to strength. He who is being sanctified by the truth will be self-controlled, and will follow in the footsteps of Christ until grace is lost in glory." *The Review and Herald*, June 4, 1895.

In clear words we are told: "The righteousness by which we are justified is imputed; the righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted. The first is our title to heaven, the second is our fitness for heaven." *Ibid.*

Oh what precious gifts God has made available to us, especially to those longing to be saved. We should be proclaiming this message of Christ's righteousness and justification and sanctification everywhere we go, for this is indeed the third angel's message.

"All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel's message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large

Our deeds are directly adverse to the principles of truth and righteousness, by which we profess to be governed.

garment, the robe of heaven, and as you examine the texture, it is referred to by Ellen White as our character. "It is in this life that we are to put on the robe of Christ's righteousness. This is our *only opportunity to form characters* for the home which Christ has made ready for those who obey His commandments." *Ibid.*, 319. The moment we put this garment on we begin the sanctification process, which, if consistently followed daily by faith in Christ we shall be recognized in God's sight as perfect, making us fit to live in heaven with Him.

Perhaps you have never thought of Christ's righteousness as two separate garments, but note how Inspiration indicates that there are two garments, for it is always referred to as being

Again speaking of Christ's willingness to clothe the repentant sinner, we read in *The Great Controversy*, 415: "Christ could stoop to raise unnumbered multitudes from the abyss of ruin and clothe them with the spotless garments [plural] of His own righteousness."

"Clothed in the glorious apparel of Christ's righteousness, they have a place at the King's feast. They have a right to join the blood-washed throng." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 315.

Did you catch that phrase *apparel of Christ's righteousness*? Since Christ's righteousness involves two garments we should be very careful to be sure that we are clothed with both garments, because He is coming soon and unexpectedly, and we must be

measure.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 92.

Christ’s righteousness, both justification and sanctification, are the clothing necessary to be worn by a candidate for heaven. This is God’s prescription for naked Laodicea and it is a prescription to be taken by the individual.

“The work of preparation is an individual work. We are not saved in groups. ... He will examine the case of each individual with as close and searching scrutiny as if there were not another being upon the earth. Everyone must be tested and found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.” *The Great Controversy*, 490.

Now when God says Laodicea, He means you and me, for we are the church. Let us carefully consider our individual spiritual condition, for the scriptures tell us that the majority within the church are unaware of their personal condition. Remember, we have all sinned. We must never forget what happened to our first parents who sinned.

“When sin entered, they [Adam and Eve] severed their connection with God, and the light that had encircled them departed. Naked and ashamed, they tried to supply the place of the heavenly garments by sewing together fig leaves for a covering.

“This is what the transgressors of God’s law have done ever since the day of Adam and Eve’s disobedience. ... They have worn the garments of their own devising, by works of their own they have tried to cover their sins, and make themselves acceptable to God.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 311.

God is permitting the shaking which is now taking place within the church to awaken the sleepers to their nakedness so that they put on the clothing that God is anxious to provide to enable them to stand



The work of preparation is an individual work. We are not saved in groups.

before our God, fully clothed in the righteousness of Christ, justified and preparing unto perfection by the sanctification process. We are to be arrayed in the garments of heaven: “... in the fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints” (Revelation 19:8).

There is no doubt that most everyone reading these words has experienced the effects of wearing the first garment where you have repented of your sins and have been forgiven and by faith, believed in Jesus Christ who has justified you before His Father as though you have never sinned. So there’s no doubting that you have received the imputed righteousness of Christ because you accepted Christ as your personal Savior. But what about this second garment which has to do with our character?

“It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished character, that through faith is imparted [meaning, given] to all who receive Him as their personal Saviour.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 310. This imparted gift will transform our character, making our character Christ-like.

“Righteousness is holiness, likeness to God, and ‘God is love’ (1 John

4:16). It is conformity to the law of God, for ‘all Thy commandments are righteousness’ (Psalm 119:172), and ‘love is the fulfilling of the law’ (Romans 13:10). Righteousness is love, and love is the light and life of God. The righteousness of God is embodied in Christ. We receive righteousness by receiving Him.

“Not by painful struggles or wearisome toil, not by gift or sacrifice, is righteousness obtained; but it is freely given to every soul who hungers and thirsts to receive it. ‘Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money, come ye, buy, and eat, ... without money and without price.’ ‘Their righteousness is of Me, saith the Lord,’ and ‘This is His name whereby He shall be called, The Lord Our Righteousness’ (Isaiah 55:1; 54:17; Jeremiah 23:6).” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 18.

Character has to do with our moral constitution, our peculiarities, our qualities. If Christ is to conform our character to His character, we must therefore partake of His divine nature. In *Selected Messages*, Book I, 374, it says, “In order that we may have the righteousness of Christ, we need daily to be transformed by the influence of

the Spirit, to be a partaker of the divine nature.” And why is it so important to be a partaker of divine nature? Because by this power we can gain the victory over every sin.

“He [Christ] makes an end of the controlling power of sin in the heart, ... for it is necessary that every believer should be delivered from pollution, as well as from the curse and condemnation of the law. ... for Christ works within us, and His righteousness is upon us.” Ibid., 395.

Then these words: “Without this *no soul will be entitled to heaven.*” Ibid.

That should cause us to think. So the wedding garment when worn gives us Christ’s character and this means victory over every sin. This is

given us no assurance that to attain perfection of character is an easy matter. A noble, all-around character is not inherited. It does not come to us by accident. A noble character is earned by individual effort through the merits and grace of Christ. God gives the talents, the powers of the mind; *we form the character.* It is formed by hard, stern battles with self. Conflict after conflict must be waged against hereditary tendencies. We shall have to examine ourselves closely, and allow not one unfavorable trait to remain uncorrected.

“Let no one say, I cannot remedy my defects of character. If you come to this decision, you will certainly fail of obtaining everlasting life. The

imputed righteousness, that is, they accepted Jesus. Therefore they are forgiven and they are justified. They’ve only put on the first garment. But the Laodicean church of Christ is to put on both garments. Not only are we to have a title to heaven, having received forgiveness and justification, but we are to put on a wedding garment tailored to each individual so that our humanity can be combined with divinity. Are you grasping this mighty wonder? For as it was experienced by Christ, so it may happen to you.

“Christ’s humanity was united with divinity, and in this strength He would bear all temptations that Satan could bring against Him, and yet keep His soul untainted by sin. And this power to overcome He would give to every son and daughter of Adam who would accept by faith the righteous attributes of His character.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 223.

Praise God! Can we comprehend such a gift? God giving us power, the same power He gave to His Son? We too can then live above sin if we will permit the sanctification process to develop within us a Christ-like character. When the imputed righteousness of Christ is received by the repentant sinner it is then possible for Christ to impart through the Holy Spirit His pure spotless character to the believer, thus placing the wedding garment upon Him. So it is that we become partakers of the divine nature which enables us to overcome just as Christ overcame, having developed a perfect Christ-like fitness for heaven.

But the problem of Laodicea is an alarming problem, for so many seem to be content with only the robe of forgiveness and justification, giving them a title to heaven. But friend, a title to heaven is worthless until we take possession of heaven, which involves obtaining a fitness for heaven,

The righteousness by which we are justified is imputed; the righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted. The first is our title to heaven, the second is our fitness for heaven.

why we must bring our character into conformity to Christ’s character so we can stop sinning before He comes. Sanctification is a gift of God to each one who will cooperate with Him. His character is to become our character. Without this garment no one will be fitted for heaven. So I ask you sincerely, are we permitting Christ to impart His pure, spotless character, His divine nature, to us?

Consider how sanctification is tailored to fit the individual. First, it is God’s gift. It is free for the asking. Secondly, it requires a hard, stern battle with self every day, through and by the grace of God. “Christ has

impossibility lies in your own will. If you will not, then you can not overcome. The real difficulty arises from the corruption of an unsanctified heart, and an unwillingness to submit to the control of God.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 331.

We have a perfect right to the imputed righteousness. This garment of justification gives us a title to possess heaven, but in order to possess heaven we must also have a fitness for heaven, which is sanctification.

This is the difference between the Seventh-day Adventist church and all other Protestant churches. The other churches claim to have received the

an experience gained only through the sanctification process. We all agree we have been born with a sinful nature, but given the wedding garment tailored to our perfection by divine nature, we can possess a power to overcome as Christ overcame.

Here's where new theology and the truth differ. The new theology would have you believe that because you inherited a sinful nature you are going to sin till Jesus comes. This is a most dangerous and damnable teaching that is being promoted by the devil himself, but God gives us both the imputed and the imparted gift of righteousness so that the following statement can be fulfilled in our lives: "The obedience that Christ rendered God requires from human beings today." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 282.

Since His power of divinity is to be ours, a few words of caution are now in order.

"Let not God be dishonored by the declaration from human lips, 'I am sinless; I am holy.' Sanctified lips will never give utterance to such presumptuous words." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 561.

"If we do not progress, if we do not place ourselves in an attitude to receive both the former and the latter rain, we shall lose our souls." *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 306.

"The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the work of God's grace in the soul. By the power of the Holy Spirit the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character. We are to be wholly transformed to the likeness of Christ." *Ibid.*, 506.

But, "Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection." *Ibid.*

"As we seek God for the Holy Spirit, it will work in us meekness, humbleness of mind, a conscious dependence upon God for the perfecting latter rain." *The Faith I Live By*, 334.



Let no one say, I cannot remedy my defects of character. If you come to this decision, you will certainly fail of obtaining everlasting life.

You see, the seeds of grain must have received the former rain to germinate and continue to mature. They must be watered by the latter rain until the characters are perfected in Christ's likeness. It is encouraging to learn from *Steps to Christ* that such growth in Christ is as effortless and natural as the growth of flowers (see the chapter "Growing Up Into Christ").

"Let no one despair of gaining the victory. Victory is sure when self is surrendered to God." "Ellen G. White Comments," *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, 1095.

That tells me that I can do it and that you can do it. But we must depend on God and not on man's word, for we must have heaven's robes upon us to cover our nakedness.

"The Scriptures plainly show that the work of sanctification is progressive. When in conversion the sinner finds peace with God through the blood of the atonement, the Christian life has but just begun. Now he is to 'go on unto perfection' (Hebrews 6:1)." *The Great Controversy*, 470. Therefore, let us recognize that God has placed both justification and sanctification

in their proper order. Both are of faith and both are necessary in God's plan for saving man. Remember, the nakedness found in Laodicea is largely because of an improper understanding of justification and sanctification. The vast majority are satisfied with forgiveness and justification only. They feel no need of sanctification, of developing Christ-like characters.

May God help each of us to lay hold on and to put on the robes of justification *and* sanctification, for we cannot continue to hold on to one sin and be saved. Our commitment must be inclusive, absolute, and complete.

[All emphasis supplied.] **LM**

For more than fifty years, Lawrence Nelson served the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a church pastor, evangelist, and then in Conference, Union, and General Conference leadership. When God laid upon him the responsibility to "tell it like it is" to alert the people how the church was leading them into the worldwide ecumenical movement, he was forbidden to preach in any church within the Oregon Conference. Elder Nelson passed to his rest on April 18, 2012.



SATAN'S SEVEN FEARS

BY JOHN R. COFER

“Satan trembled as he viewed his work. He was alone in meditation upon the past, the present, and his future plans. His mighty frame shook as with a tempest. An angel from Heaven was passing. He called him, and entreated an interview with Christ. This was granted him. He then related to the Son of God that he repented of his rebellion, and wished again the favor of God. He was willing to take the place God had previously assigned him, and be under his wise command. Christ wept at Satan’s woe, but told him, as the mind of God, that he could never be received into Heaven.”

The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 1, 29

Multitudes believe they are acting out their own desires while they are really only following the promptings and ideas that Satan has given them and they are held captive by him. The apostle Paul instructs the servants of God how to offer them hope to breaking free. “In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will” (2 Timothy 2:25, 26).

Parents today are unwittingly killing their own children. The Bible says, “Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee” (Isaiah 49:15). The generation we live in today is one where, indeed, a mother will abandon her baby. Because of this can we not see that the Spirit of God is leaving this earth? People are not so easily impressed by the Spirit of God as in past times. We are living in perilous times.

Many people are captives of the enemy of souls. The Bible says that Jesus came not only to set the captives free but to preach the acceptable year of deliverance (Isaiah 61).

Under this idea of captivity, the following are seven fears that Satan has, as outlined in the Spirit of Prophecy.

1 Satan fears that he will lose a captive

In the book, *In Heavenly Places*, three of Satan’s fears are revealed, but we will take them one by one.

“If Satan sees that he is in danger of losing one soul, he will exert himself to the utmost to keep that one. And when the individual is aroused to his danger, and, with distress and fer-

vor, looks to Jesus for strength, Satan fears that he will lose a captive and he calls a reinforcement of his angels to hedge in the poor soul, and form a wall of darkness around him, that heaven’s light may not reach him.” *Ibid.*, 253.

This is why prayer is so important—praying for family and for those who are despitely using us. Many people are captive in their thoughts and speaking the words of Satan. We must pray that individuals receive gospel light.

There is a promise in Isaiah for those who are trusting in Jesus. In Isaiah 49:25 we are told: “Even the captives of the mighty [devil] shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered for I will con-

opportunity to hear evidences of the gospel that they may be free from the captivity of Satan.

2 Satan fears the strength and power of Christ

“But if the one in danger perseveres, and in his helplessness casts himself upon the merits of the blood of Christ, our Saviour listens to the earnest prayer of faith, and sends a reinforcement of those angels that excel in strength to deliver him. Satan cannot endure to have his powerful rival appealed to, for he fears and trembles before His strength and majesty.” *Ibid.*

This does not say this person feels strong in himself, but in his helplessness he calls out for help to the

Around every tempted soul there are angels of God, ready to lift up the standard of righteousness, if the tempted one will only show a spirit of resistance to evil.

tend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children.”

Continuing, *In Heavenly Places*, Ellen White wrote: “Around every tempted soul there are angels of God, ready to lift up the standard of righteousness, if the tempted one will only show a spirit of resistance to evil. Each may be an overcomer. Christ has in our behalf withstood the fiercest temptations of the enemy.” *Ibid.*

We can take courage that Jesus has power to deliver the captives. We must pray that heavenly light will be shed upon the captives so that they may make a decision for gospel truth. Pray that they may have the

One who has trod this path before us. The Bible tells us in James 2:19 that the devil fears and trembles at His power. “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.” Satan fears Christ—he is no match for the Godhead.

3 Satan fears the sound of fervent prayer

“At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan’s whole host trembles. ... And when angels, all-powerful, clothed with the armory of heaven, come to the help of the fainting, pursued soul, Satan and his host

fall back. ... The great Commander in heaven and earth has limited Satan's power." Ibid.

Satan knows that fervent prayer and the power of God can cause powerful angels to come in and protect those that fear the Lord. Oh, how we need that protection. Remember that when one angel came from heaven, the earth shook and the evil angels fell back. We can claim this power. In Acts 16:25, 26 it says, "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately

they are fearful at the sound of fervent prayer.

4 Satan fears the name of Jesus

"We cannot save ourselves from the tempter's power; he has conquered humanity, and when we try to stand in our own strength, we shall become a prey to his devices; but 'the name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe' (Proverbs 18:19)." *The Desire of Ages*, 131.

"Satan trembles and flees before the weakest soul who finds refuge in that mighty name." *Christ Triumphant*, 219.

Remember, the name of the Lord is not just the name Jesus, but it is the character of God. We must pray in the

Paul was not harmed when bitten by a serpent because he was doing the will of God. In Bible lands serpents were everywhere and always a danger. The Bible says that Satan fears the name of Jesus. When the word is spoken by faithful preachers, Satan tries to corrupt them morally and socially so their messages will become ineffective.

6 Satan is also fearful of the faithful preaching of the Word

"Satan trembles when the voice of God speaks through His instruments, giving cautions and warnings, and rebuking sin." *The Review and Herald*, June 20, 1882. How often do we hear messages of warnings today? Satan does not want messages of caution and warnings to be preached.

"As the birds are ready to catch up the seed from the wayside, so Satan is ready to catch away the seeds of divine truth from the soul. He fears that the word of God may awaken the careless, and take effect upon the hardened heart. Satan and his angels are in the assemblies where the gospel is preached. While angels of heaven endeavor to impress hearts with the word of God, the enemy is on the alert to make the Word of no effect." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 44.

The dilemma of distraction makes the word of God of no effect. People are often seen text messaging in church or in the middle of a study or their phone will ring. Some will distract individuals as the word is going forth and possibly the word which that person may verily need falls on inattentive ears.

Just as in the days of Noah, the word was there, but the people were distracted—they were eating and drinking, and being merry. In the present day it is the distractions of Facebook, Amazon Prime, Instagram,

*How often do we hear messages of warnings today?
Satan does not want messages of caution and
warnings to be preached.*

all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed."

These men were tortured and chained but they were praying and singing praises "... and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed." Satan's power was checked.

The spiritual application here is that you can open the prison house through the medium of prayer and belief in God. Singing these praises will find that in these seasons of refreshing, we may be set free from the prison house. Paul and Silas, upon praying and singing, were released and they are able to go at liberty. The power of the Holy Spirit will come in and do the work petitioned for in prayer. Evil angels fall back because

name of Jesus and in the character of Jesus. We must do His will. He says, why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not My will. Some do seemingly good things but do not have the character of or a relationship with Jesus. It is imperative that we have faith and works combined.

5 Satan fears the messages spoken by faithful preachers

Mark 16:17, 18 NKJV states: "And these signs shall follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

or the like. As in the days of Noah, these things keep the mind thinking of evil continually, leaving no time to think about God's word. The people were busy then and they are also busy now. The dilemma of distraction is one of Satan's means of trying to turn away the attention of the one who is moved to seek the Saviour.

"With an earnestness equaled only by his malice, he tries to thwart the work of the Spirit of God. While Christ is drawing the soul by His love, Satan tries to turn away the attention of the one who is moved to seek the Saviour. He engages the mind with worldly schemes. He excites criticism, or insinuates doubt and unbelief. The speaker's choice of language or his manner may not please the hearers, and they dwell upon these defects. Thus the truth they need, and which God has graciously sent them, makes no lasting impression." *Ibid.*, 44, 45.

7 Satan fears the true work of repentance, of revival and reformation among Seventh-day Adventists

The book *The Great Controversy*, must be distributed. We have been counseled to distribute this book widely so that people would understand the events coming upon the world. Unfortunately, it has been condensed into a booklet called *The Great Hope*. Every reference to the man of sin being the pope has been removed. Every reference to the reformers is gone. Every identifying mark of the beast has been removed. Every idea of the Sunday laws has been removed. All these identifying marks have been expunged, and this is called "the great hope!"

Has not the sin and the widening gap of apostasy become even greater under this error of revival and reformation? Satan loves a counterfeit.



At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan's whole host trembles.

Even under the guise of revival and reformation, Satan can be working stealthily to cause us to compromise the preaching of the gospel and allow him to pluck away the power and impressions of the Holy Spirit that rest upon our heart. To allow even the idea of asking God for repentance, asking God to create in us a clean heart, seems a thing of the past. It seems like people do not want to do this anymore. Why? Because they would be out of harmony with the world and with the church.

To be in harmony with God in these days, whether you be old or young, would put you out of harmony with the world and, often, the church as well.

"There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation." *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 124.

Brothers and sisters, be careful of these calls to pray for the latter rain and for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, when there is no message for repentance. What power will answer the prayer for spiritual power when there is no call for repentance? Only

Satan can answer that kind of prayer. And according to the book, *Early Writings*, 50, he will most certainly come if we do not understand the true work of repentance and enter into the Most Holy Place experience. If we do not understand that and we are asking for grace and power, even the Spirit of God, Satan will come and answer that prayer with all types of deceptions.

We have lost sight of the true gospel because the faithful ministers have become few. It is hard to find individuals who are preaching the straight truth that would save a soul. What would happen if people start reading the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy? "There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance." *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 124.

But if those hindrances are hidden, and we are preaching peace and safety, and there is no idea how to identify those hindrances and no call to remove them, then Satan has nothing to fear ... absolutely nothing.

She continues: "If Satan had his way, there would never be another awakening, great or small, to the end of time. But we are not ignorant of

Continued on page 35

More Bible Promises and Assurances

Clues in King James Version

BY ROB HAGAR

Across:

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| B2 | In the time of trouble the Lord will be this to us | Psalm 9:9 |
| B14 | God has promised to do this with Satan for us | Isaiah 49:25 |
| D2 | When we sinners return from backsliding God will keep this from us | Jeremiah 3:12 |
| D8 | Jesus promised the believing thief he would go here | Luke 23:43 |
| D17 | If we delight in the Lord this will be fulfilled | Psalm 37:4 |
| F2 | If we acknowledge God He will direct our _____ | Proverbs 3:6 |
| F8 | When we turn to God He promises to _____ us in new paths | Isaiah 42:16 |
| G13 | God never does this to us willingly | Lamentations 3:32, 33 |
| H8 | The Lord promises us power when we are this | Isaiah 40:29 |
| I2 | The Lord has promised to save our _____ | Isaiah 49:25 |
| I17 | The Lord promises this in former and latter times | Joel 2:23 |
| J9 | If we will help the less fortunate God will make us like a watered _____ | Isaiah 58:10, 11 |
| K16 | God has assured us that He will never do this to us | Isaiah 49:15, 16 |
| L3 | We are promised this kind of life | 1 John 2:25 |
| M13 | God promises to put a new one of these within us | Ezekiel 36:26 |
| O2 | Jesus promises that no man can _____ us from His hand | John 10:28 |
| O15 | Jesus has promised that we will live in these in heaven | John 14:2, 3 |
| P7 | John assures us that with our confession God is faithful to do this | 1 John 1:9 |
| Q4 | Even if our father and mother forsake us the Lord will _____ us up | Psalm 27:10 |
| Q14 | God in us is what compared to Satan in us | 1 John 4:4 |
| R7 | Those that seek the Lord _____ shall find Him | Proverbs 8:17 |
| S3 | When we sinners return to God He turns our darkness to this | Isaiah 42:16 |
| S12 | God is able to take this kind of heart from us | Ezekiel 36:26 |
| S18 | The Lord's _____ is well able to hear our prayers | Isaiah 59:1 |

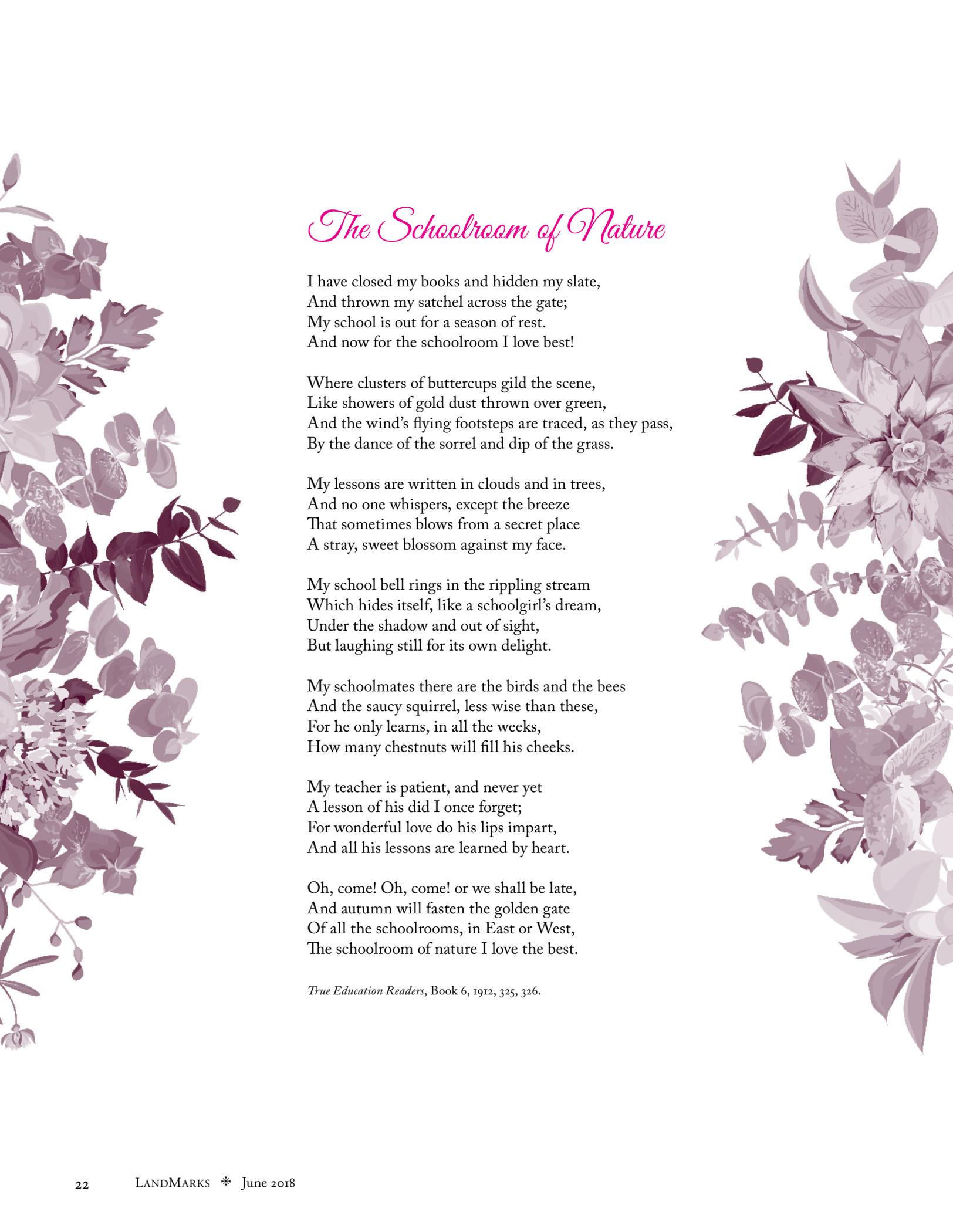
Down:

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| A7 | If we dwell in the uttermost parts of this God will lead us | Psalm 139:9, 10 |
| B4 | In the time of trouble our enemies will do this but God will deliver us | Jeremiah 1:19 |
| B9 | Paul assures us that God's _____ enables us to withstand anything | 2 Corinthians 12:9 |
| B14 | We are promised that the Lord will not do this to us (two words) | Psalm 94:14 |
| B18 | God promises to instruct and teach us, and guide us with this | Psalm 32:8 |
| C11 | When we sinners return to the Lord He will abundantly _____ | Isaiah 55:7 |
| D6 | When we come to Jesus He promises us this | Matthew 11:29 |
| D19 | When we follow God these work for our ultimate good (two words) | Romans 8:28 |
| D21 | The Lord will be our strength in the time of trouble if we _____ Him | Nahum 1:7 |
| E16 | In the time of trouble the Lord will strengthen us to do this | Isaiah 40:31 |
| F2 | When our minds are stayed on God we will have this | Isaiah 26:3 |
| F8 | If we lose this for Jesus' sake we shall find it | Matthew 10:39 |

A	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	A	
B																						B
C																						C
D																						D
E																						E
F																						F
G																						G
H																						H
I																						I
J																						J
K																						K
L																						L
M																						M
N																						N
O																						
P																						P
Q																						Q
R																						R
S																						S
1	2	3		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		19	20	21	22	

Answer key on page 26.

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| H4 | In the time of trouble God will tell us where to go when we turn this way | Isaiah 30:21 |
| H9 | God promises to give these charge over us to keep us from danger | Psalm 91:11 |
| I13 | Those who strive against us in the time of trouble will do this | Isaiah 41:11 |
| J11 | If we sow bountifully we will do this bountifully | 2 Corinthians 9:6 |
| K6 | In the earth made new God will do this to the bow and the sword | Hosea 2:18 |
| K16 | God has promised to never leave or _____ us | Hebrews 13:5 |
| K21 | If we overcome sin on this earth we will sit here with Jesus | Revelation 3:21 |
| N4 | If we give our burdens to God He will do this to us | Psalm 55:22 |
| N10 | In the time of trouble the _____ of the Lord will protect and deliver us | Psalm 34:7 |
| O2 | God has promised to do this with water when we're thirsty | Isaiah 44:3 |
| P7 | God promises to keep these from falling | Psalm 56:13 |
| Q14 | If we seek God we shall not want for any _____ thing | Psalm 34:10 |
| Q18 | If we overcome sin on this earth we will get to eat from this | Revelation 2:7 |



The Schoolroom of Nature

I have closed my books and hidden my slate,
And thrown my satchel across the gate;
My school is out for a season of rest.
And now for the schoolroom I love best!

Where clusters of buttercups gild the scene,
Like showers of gold dust thrown over green,
And the wind's flying footsteps are traced, as they pass,
By the dance of the sorrel and dip of the grass.

My lessons are written in clouds and in trees,
And no one whispers, except the breeze
That sometimes blows from a secret place
A stray, sweet blossom against my face.

My school bell rings in the rippling stream
Which hides itself, like a schoolgirl's dream,
Under the shadow and out of sight,
But laughing still for its own delight.

My schoolmates there are the birds and the bees
And the saucy squirrel, less wise than these,
For he only learns, in all the weeks,
How many chestnuts will fill his cheeks.

My teacher is patient, and never yet
A lesson of his did I once forget;
For wonderful love do his lips impart,
And all his lessons are learned by heart.

Oh, come! Oh, come! or we shall be late,
And autumn will fasten the golden gate
Of all the schoolrooms, in East or West,
The schoolroom of nature I love the best.

True Education Readers, Book 6, 1912, 325, 326.



Heavenly Father: Do not allow me to be so involved with worldly interests that I am drawn away from Your presence and led astray by the customs and actions of the spirit of this world and thus people will not be touched by Your Holy Spirit through me. Oh the terrible loss of souls because my worldly actions may speak louder than my words. Lord, remove the worldly ways from my heart that You may shine through. Amen.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

BY JUDY HALLINGSTAD

What are your actions speaking to others? What is your life-style saying? You may speak the words of Christianity, but actions speak louder than words.

John the Baptist protected himself from worldly influences.

“John did not feel strong enough to stand the great pressure of temptation he would meet in society. He feared his character would be molded according to the prevailing customs. ... In the wilderness, John could the more readily deny himself and bring his appetite under control, and dress in accordance to natural simplicity. *And there was nothing in the wilderness that would take his mind from meditation and prayer.* Satan had access to John, even after he had closed every avenue in his power through which he would enter. But his habits of life were so pure and natural that he could discern the foe, and had strength of spirit and decision of character to resist him.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 2, 47. [Emphasis supplied.]

“If the thoughts are wrong, the feelings will be wrong, and the thoughts and feelings combined make up the moral character.” *Mind, Character and Personality*, vol. 2, 660.’

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord ...” (2 Corinthians 6:17).

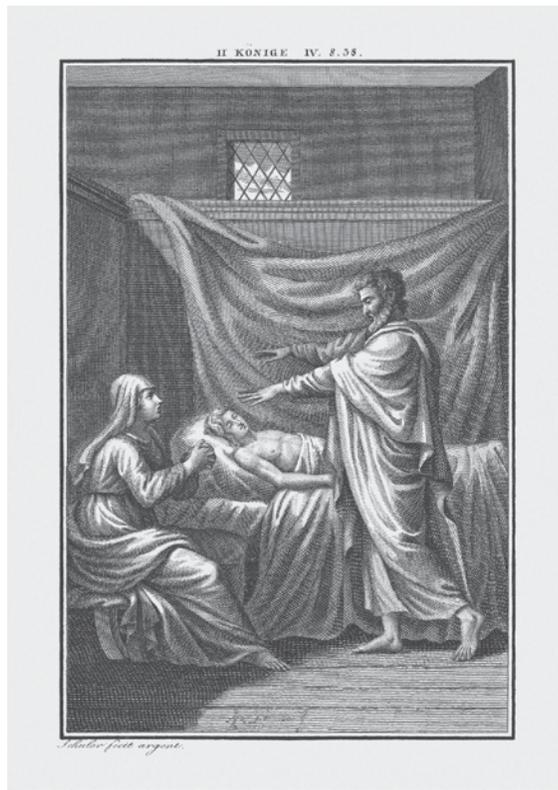
If actions truly speak louder than words, then, like John the Baptist, we must pull away from the world and its lifestyles, its ways of eating, drinking and living so that we may be under the control of the Holy Spirit and not under the control of the unholy spirit. “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world” (1 John 2:15).

“... a man may profess to believe the truth of the soon coming of the Saviour, that the end of all things is at hand; but who will care for that, so long as he acts as though he was expecting a great while to come; so long as he continues absorbed in his worldly interests, and is heaping up treasures to himself, adding house to house, and land

to land? A person’s life never lies; and whatever he preaches by this, no amount of profession or precept will counteract; for ‘actions speak louder than words.’ But when he begins to live out this belief, when he is willing to let himself and his possessions be a consuming sacrifice upon the altar of the Lord, when he is active and energetic in warning his fellow-men of the wrath to come, and presents in all his actions an example consistent with his profession, there is a sensation at once in the ranks of the enemy.” *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, vol. 7, March 13, 1856, 188.

“Be not deceived ...” (Galatians 6:7).

Do not be led astray by the customs and actions of the world which seem to be okay because a multitude is following them. “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil ...” (Exodus 23:2). If your thoughts and actions are more on worldly ways than on the Lord and His ways, you have been deceived! Your actions speak louder! **LM**



Elisha

FAITHFUL IN LITTLE THINGS

BY ELLEN G. WHITE

The early years of the prophet Elisha were passed in the quietude of country life, under the teaching of God and nature and the discipline of useful work. In a time of almost universal apostasy his father's household were among the number who had not bowed the knee to Baal. Theirs was a home where God was honored and where faithfulness to duty was the rule of daily life.

The son of a wealthy farmer, Elisha had taken up the work that lay nearest. While possessing the capabilities of a leader among men, he received a training in life's common duties. In order to direct wisely, he must learn to obey. By faithfulness in little things, he was prepared for weightier trusts.

Of a meek and gentle spirit, Elisha possessed also energy and steadfastness. He cherished the love and fear of God, and in the humble round of daily toil he gained strength of purpose and

nobleness of character, growing in divine grace and knowledge. While co-operating with his father in the home duties, he was learning to co-operate with God.

The prophetic call came to Elisha while with his father's servants he was plowing in the field. As Elijah, divinely directed in seeking a successor, cast his mantle upon the young man's shoulders, Elisha recognized and obeyed the summons. He "went after Elijah, and ministered unto him" (1 Kings 19:21). It was no great work that was at first required of Elisha; commonplace duties still constituted his discipline. He is spoken of as pouring water on the hands of Elijah, his master. As the prophet's personal attendant, he continued to prove faithful in little things, while with daily strengthening purpose he devoted himself to the mission appointed him by God.

When he was first summoned, his resolution had been tested. As he turned to follow Elijah he was bidden by the prophet to return home. He must count the cost—decide for himself to accept or reject the call. But Elisha understood the value of his opportunity. Not for any worldly advantage would he forgo the possibility of becoming God's messenger, or sacrifice the privilege of association with His servant.

As time passed, and Elijah was prepared for translation, so Elisha was prepared to become his successor. And again his faith and resolution were tested. Accompanying Elijah in his round of service, knowing the change soon to come, he was at each place invited by the prophet to turn back. "Tarry here, I pray thee," Elijah said; "for the Lord hath sent me to Bethel." But in his early labor of guiding the plow, Elisha had learned not to fail or to become discouraged; and now

that he had set his hand to the plow in another line of duty, he would not be diverted from his purpose. As often as the invitation to turn back was given, his answer was, "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee" (2 Kings 2:2).

"And they two went on. . . . And they two stood by Jordan. And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground. And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon

Where is the Lord God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over. And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him" (2 Kings 2:6-15).

Henceforth Elisha stood in Elijah's place. And he who had been faithful in that which was least, proved himself faithful also in much.

Elijah, the man of power, had been God's instrument for the overthrow of gigantic evils. Idolatry, which, supported by Ahab and the heathen Jezebel, had seduced the nation, had

Of a meek and gentle spirit, Elisha possessed also energy and steadfastness.

me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

"And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; and he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said,

been cast down. Baal's prophets had been slain. The whole people of Israel had been deeply stirred, and many were returning to the worship of God. As successor to Elijah was needed one who by careful, patient instruction could guide Israel in safe paths. For this work Elisha's early training under God's direction had prepared him.

The lesson is for all. None can know what may be God's purpose in His discipline; but all may be certain that faithfulness in little things is the evidence of fitness for greater responsibilities. Every act of life is a revelation of character, and he only who in small duties proves himself "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed" (2 Timothy 2:15) will be honored by God with weightier trusts.

Education, 58-61. LM

“Grace, mercy and peace. My group and I read the *LandMarks* by John J. Grosboll. Paul says to put on love. We need to work together with your ministry. ... Now we have eight churches which are willing to work together. GOD be with you all.”

—DO, Africa

“I really like *LandMarks*. There is no way it could be any better.”

—BS, Arkansas

“Your *LandMarks* is a gift that keeps on giving throughout the year. I’ve learned so much through your correspondence studies and now through *LandMarks*. I hope you do not mind but I have no pastor here and I’ve come to regard Pastor Grosboll as my pastor. His sermons and articles touch my heart and I have to share them in Sabbath School (a service I started here in lieu of S.D.A. service) and those who attend also enjoy them. Thanks!”

—TW, Oklahoma

“Thank you for the articles in *LandMarks*.”

—KS, Hawaii

Crossword Puzzle (p. 20) Answers

A	2	3	4	5	6	S	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	A	
B	R	E	F	U	G	E	G					C	O	N	T	E	N	D			B	
C		I		A		R		P		A		Y									C	
D	A	N	G	E	R	P	A	R	A	D	I	S	E	H	E	A	R	T				D
E		H		E		C		R		T		W			L		R				E	
F	P	A	T	H	S	L	E	A	D		O		A		L		U				F	
G	E		T		I		O		A	F	F	L	I	C	T		S				G	
H	A		R			F	A	I	N	T		F		K		H		T			H	
I	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N		P			R	A	I	N					I	
J	E		G			G	A	R	D	E	N										J	
K		H		B		E		E		R		F	O	R	G	E	T				K	
L		E	T	E	R	N	A	L		A		I		O		S					H	
M				E		S		P		S	P	I	R	I	T						R	
N			S		A			A			H										O	
O	P	L	U	C	K			N			M	A	N	S	I	O	N				S	
P	O		S		F	O	R	G	I	V	E		K								P	
Q	U		T	A	K	E		E		G	R	E	A	T	E	R					Q	
R	R		A		E	A	R	L	Y		O										R	
S		L	I	G	H	T			S	T	O	N	Y	E	A	R					S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	

June 2018

Dear Friend,

Have you ever asked the question, “Why did Jesus Christ establish His church?” Or more simply, “What is the reason for the church’s existence?”

It is surprising how many people do not know the answer to this query.

The first chapter of the book *The Acts of the Apostles* is entitled “God’s Purpose for His Church” and it gives the answer to this question in the following statements (see pp. 10, 12):

“It was organized for service.”

“Its mission is to carry the gospel to the world.”

It is to reflect to the world “His fullness and His sufficiency.”

The members “are to show forth God’s glory.”

It is going to make a “final and full display of the love of God.”

“It is the theater of His grace in which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts.”

It is the “court of Holy life filled with varied gifts and endowed with the Holy Spirit.”

Several years ago I became aware of the following statement: “Some households have a little church in their home.” *Lift Him Up*, 253.

And this one:

“God calls upon His people now to consecrate all their powers to His service. He would have every household become a home-church.” *Australasian Union Conference Record*, Oct. 14, 1907. “In the home church, children are to learn to pray and to trust in God.” *Pacific Union Recorder*, August 18, 1910.

If every home should be a home church and the mission of the church is to take the gospel to the world, then in each of our homes we should have an organized approach so that each member of the family can have a part in the spreading of the gospel message.

Hopefully you are able to attend an organized church composed of multiple families that is organized in a way to help each member have an active part in taking the three angels’ messages to the world, but if you do not have that privilege, God can make your household a home church that will result in reaching entire communities with the gospel. Pray about it.

Your brother in witnessing,



John J. Grosboll

LIVING BY INSTINCT

An animal is born with an innate or instinctive ability to act and protect itself according to its immediate needs—without instruction or learning gained by experience. It does something automatically, without conscious thought. The first time an animal performs this innate behavior, the animal does it well.

“Instinct covers a wide field of animal behavior, from the simple reaction which directs a creature to move away from excessive cold or heat, to the more rapid reflex actions brought about by contact. It includes higher complex subconscious impulses such as love and hate, those that govern parental care, as well as the urge to migrate at certain seasons of the year.

“Instinct works in strange and mysterious ways. It tells a bird when and where to build its nest—but the bird is quite unaware why it builds the nest. Very young songbirds in a nest show no fear of a stranger and make no attempt to escape. These same babies, fully feathered and ready to leave the nest, have acquired the ability to fear and the impulse to flee from danger. Instinct leads

the newborn mammal baby to its mother’s breast to nurse and the newly hatched duckling to water. Contrariwise, it keeps the baby chick on dry land.

“Instinct keeps an animal in constant readiness to act instantly and to meet any emergency without hesitation. Confronted by the sudden appearance of a mortal enemy, an animal does not make a haphazard dash for safety, but follows a definite method of escape, making all possible use of every advantage. The animal itself may be totally ignorant of why it follows such a course and is unable to foresee the result of its actions.

“When a fox comes bounding along a woodland trail, a squirrel goes up the nearest tree, even though it never saw a fox before in its life. The kangaroo rat instantly performs an automatic escape jump maneuver when it hears the sound of a striking rattlesnake, without ever having encountered a snake. It knows what to do, though it does not always know why.”

The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Animal Life, vol. 1, 13, 14.

Baby sea turtles instinctively crawl toward the ocean as soon as they are hatched. A gosling fresh out of the egg identifies the first person or moving object as its mother and follows it. Joey koalas and kangaroos climb into mother’s pouch soon after birth. Honey bees communicate by dance the direction of a food source. Baby gulls respond to the bright red spot on the parent’s bill to obtain a morsel of food. Baby bats automatically cling to a cave wall. Spiders spin webs, caterpillars spin cocoons, turtles bury their eggs, beavers build dams, chameleons camouflage, butterflies migrate, bears hibernate.

Young salmon, after spending four years in the ocean, seek and travel up the identical river where they were born. Birds migrate from north to south and from south to north with the changing seasons. An animal comes into the world with an inherited sense that it obeys without question. “Even the stork in the sky knows its seasons, and the dove, the swallow, and the crane observe the time for migration. But My people don’t know the requirements of the Lord” (Jeremiah 8:7 ISV).



Steps to Life

Bible Correspondence School

For the final month of this quarter, we thought that we would share with you some of the uplifting and encouraging comments we have received over time from some of our Bible students. Space prohibits including all of them—there are hundreds—but to give some indication of how well these lessons are received and how much they are appreciated, we share the following:



I have moved facilities. Please send all materials here now or I will not receive them. Thank you for the materials. As always they are met with great joy. Please send the tracts, *Healthy Forever*, *Medical Discoveries Predicted*. Thank you. —JZ

I was confused about all the religions. A brother shared with me the books that you sent him and they help. He has since been transferred and I said, “Lord, what will I do?” The next day I get these studies. Thank you! —RG

I enjoy these lessons. Could you double up the lessons as I don't get a lot of postage stamps and will send them in as I am able. This would be greatly appreciated. —RF



June Sermon of the Month

Faith or Feeling

By Marshall Grosboll

The senses have a mighty pull on the human psyche. However, the greatest counterfeit to faith is our feelings. Faith comes by hearing the Word and is strengthened by acting upon that Word regardless of how it feels.

All who have donated in the past month will automatically receive this Sermon of the Month free of charge.



The Gospel Work in



Steps to Life began supporting the work of Brother Benjamin and Sister Rosana Cortes in April of 2014.

Through your donations we have been able to provide monthly support for them as they spearhead a tremendous effort in Colombia to spread the three angels' messages.

In addition to the monthly support for their gospel work, we have provided financial assistance for the construction of a utility building and for enlarging their printing area.

We also were able to provide material support for their recent month-long evangelistic work in Mexico—an effort that shows the wonderful way in which the

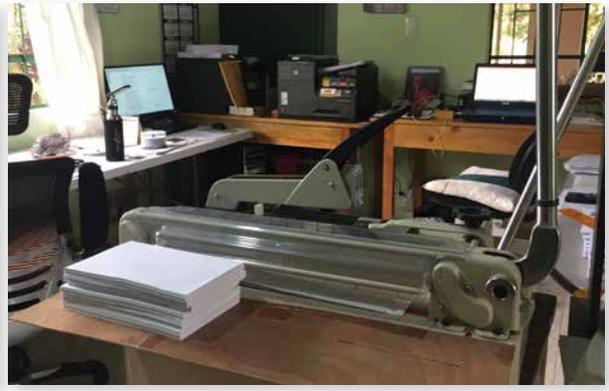
Lord works to accomplish His own purpose when we make a full surrender to Him.

Benjamin had planned a trip to the United States to attend his mother's funeral. Unfortunately, because of stricter enforcement of rules governing the entry to the U.S. by foreigners, Benjamin was unable to enter the U.S. Because he had already purchased his airfare to Mexico and return to Colombia, he could not change his flight without incurring a large change fee. He took advantage of the situation to spend the time in Mexico that he had planned to spend in the U.S., evangelizing in and around Mexico City and Cruz Grande, Guerrero.

During his time there, he conducted Bible studies, held prayer meetings, engaged in home visits and outreach efforts, contacting around 200 people in less than a month.

Although witnessing and working in Baja California and Guerrero states, and in Mexico City was not what Benjamin had originally planned, the Lord had other plans. Rather than lamenting the fact that he could not accomplish what he had originally intended to do, he did the work that was laid out before him.

Following is Brother Benjamin's report on the larger work that he and Sister Rosana are conducting. Please join us as we pray for continued success for their work.



Dear Brethren at Steps to Life:

We are sending you this compilation of pictures so that you can see how much you've been a blessing to our ministry.

We started our ministry 23 years ago in Gacheta and relocated to Moniquira 12 years ago. The Lord opened the way for us to open a school to train missionaries. With your help and the help of some brethren, family, and friends, we've been able to start two other outposts. You've helped us in building a utility building, a house for male students, a house for families, and an extension of the main house for Sabbath meetings, gatherings, the printing room, and the compost site.

We teach classes on printing, vegan cooking, organic agriculture, composting, outreach, Bible studies, natural remedies, a seven day cleansing program, and health seminars (35 so far around Colombia). Your support has also resulted in our being able to go on a mission to work for a month in Mexico, where we shared what the Lord has given us in our experiences in His work for others.

We've been able to print thousands of Spirit of Prophecy books, leaflets, tracts, and booklets to hand out for free in towns, cities, and the countryside. In order to accomplish this, we have received the means to get computers, printers, tables, desks, paper, ink, and other necessary supplies as a donation from you and others.

The Lord has taken and used us at His service in this missionary work.

We want to thank the Lord in providing the means through every one of you who have invested in the Lord's vineyard.

May the Lord bless each one of you.

In Christian love,

Benjamin and Rosana Cortes from Colombia



Question

Where was Samson's strength?

Answer



His soul was vexed to death, that he [Samson] told her [Delilah] all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man" (Judges 16:17).

"There was no virtue in the length of his hair, in itself, but it was a token of his loyalty to God, and when the symbol was sacrificed in the indulgence of lustful passion, the blessings of which it was a token were also forfeited. Had Samson's

head been shaven without fault on his part, his strength would have remained. But his course had shown contempt for the favor and authority of God as much as if he had in disdain himself severed his locks from his head. Therefore God left him to endure the results of his own folly." *The Signs of the Times*, October 13, 1881.

"The divine promise to Manoah was in due time fulfilled in the birth of a son, upon whom the name of Samson was bestowed. By the command of the angel no razor was to come upon the child's head, he being consecrated to God as a Nazarite, from his birth. As the boy grew up, it became evident that he possessed extraordinary physical strength. This was not, however, as Samson and his parents well knew, dependent upon his well-knit sinews, but upon his condition as a Nazarite, of which his unshorn hair was a symbol." *Ibid.*, October 6, 1881.

"The Spirit of God keeps evil under the control of conscience. When man exalts himself above the influence of the Spirit, he reaps a harvest of iniquity. Over such a man the Spirit has less and less influence to restrain him from sowing seeds of disobedience. Warnings have less and less power over him. He gradually loses his fear of God. He sows to the flesh; he will reap corruption." "Ellen G. White Comments," *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, 1112. **LM**



GALLOPING CONSUMPTION

Has anybody noticed the “galloping consumption” taking place at our food tables and eateries?

“It is often asserted that the present generation lives more in twenty-five years than our ancestors of two centuries ago did in fifty. It may be said with equal truthfulness that the present generation eats as much in twenty-five years as our forefathers did in fifty, and in one half the time.

“Haste in traffic, haste in business, haste in education, haste in pleasure, have led to haste in eating, drinking, thinking, sleeping, until physical degeneracy and premature decay stare us in the face on every hand. But of all the evils resulting from the terrible momentum of modern life, hasty eating is the most far-reaching and the worst.

“That nature intended man to find a real pleasure in eating, is evident from the fact that natural foods are variously and delicately flavored, and that man is endowed with the sense of taste to appreciate these flavors, and with the sense of smell to enjoy natural odors. The surface of the tongue is the seat of the sense of taste; hence the pleasure that attends eating does not consist in the amount of food that can be disposed of, nor in the rapidity with which it can be eaten, but in the length of time it remains in the mouth, stimulating this sense of taste. It would be well for the rapid eater to take notice that the taste buds are on the tongue and not scattered throughout the length of the esophagus or in the walls of the stomach.” *The Practical Guide to Health* by Frederick M. Rositer, B.S., M.D., Review and Herald Publishing Assn., 1910, pgs. 555, 556.

I think each one of us has noticed this “galloping consumption” activity either in our own homes or at fast food places and restaurants. When you go out to eat you will see many people gulping down their water or coffee to help “wash” the food down. It seems as if many cannot get the food down fast enough.

“Nature furnishes man with thirty-two teeth, some for breaking off pieces of food, and others designed to crush it. The entire anatomy of the mouth clearly indicates that food should remain in it some time before being swallowed. If food remains

in the mouth only a few moments, an insufficient amount of saliva is secreted, and mingled with the food; hence salivary digestion is but partially performed. If mastication is neglected, the food is not properly crushed and so is not readily acted upon by the saliva or by the gastric juice. Food that is poorly masticated is swallowed in chunks, which resist the action of the gastric juice for a long time, and produce irritation of the walls of the stomach.

“The galloping consumption of food, or eating on the run, is not only a great physical evil, but is a social evil as well. We have come to such a pass that conversation at the home table, if no guests are present, is very little practiced; for galloping consumption and fluent conversation cannot be carried on at the same time. Thus far it is the conversation that has suffered, while the consumption is increasing at a high rate, the hearty laugh, that proverbial digestive tablet, and the

Hasty eating produces a sensation of thirst, hence the common practice in America of rinsing down food with tea, coffee, ice water, etc.

“Hasty eating produces a sensation of thirst, hence the common practice in America and other countries of rinsing down food with tea, coffee, ice water, etc. This delays digestion by diluting the little saliva and gastric juice that have been given time to form; the cold drinks also lower the temperature of the gastric contents, so that digestion is completely at a standstill until the temperature at which digestion takes place is restored, and the fluid has been absorbed.

“Hasty eating leads to overeating, so that the entire digestive system is overburdened, causing all the organs to do too much work—to put in extra time—to rid the system of this surplus food. Excessive consumption of food eventually leads to a consumption of the tissues, either in general or in part, because of the poisons circulating in the fluids of the body and retained in the tissues.

light and airy table talk that make the charm of social eating, are in these days classed among the luxuries of life, and made the accompaniment of evening dress, cut glass, and three-hour banquets or elegant dinners. But they really belong among the necessities, and should accompany slow eating, careful mastication, and a quiet frame of mind. A longer time spent at the table every day in thoroughly preparing food for the different processes of digestion, would save many a man and woman years of misery, ill health, and disappointing, ineffective work.” *Ibid.*, 557–559.

Understanding a little bit more about how we are to chew our food in preparation for digesting it, let us not be part of the galloping consumers at our tables. We are to give glory to God in all areas of our life, which includes the chewing of our food. Let’s try a little “trot” instead of a “gallop”. **LM**



WILL YOU STAND?

BY JOHN J. GROSBOLL

Many people would obey and follow God if He would only remove the struggles and tribulations that they are going through. But since God does not immediately remove their trials, they remain uncommitted and follow the path of least resistance. But the question is still asked, “Why do Christians worldwide suffer so many troubles?”

Jesus said that whatever we give to others will eventually be returned to us. He said, "Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you" (Luke 6:37, *last part*, 38).

This is an eternal principle that God has established in the universe. As we give to others, the same will come back to us, whether we give good or evil.

Before his conversion, the apostle Paul was the leading persecutor of Christians in the world. He was responsible for having men and women put in prison just because they were Christians, and also for the death of many of whom we do not know the number.

The Bible says Paul was present and consenting to the death of Stephen, the first Christian martyr who was stoned to death. However, when he was converted on the road to Damascus, the Lord said to Ananias concerning him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake" (Acts 9:15).

Saul's name was changed and he became the apostle Paul. He suffered many things for Christ's name sake. He was beaten, put in prison, shipwrecked a number of times. He even suffered the same fate that he had consented done to Stephen when on his very first missionary journey he was stoned. The persecutors left him for dead, but after a while he came to and then left town. There is no doubt that during that experience he remembered what he had allowed to be done to Stephen and thought his

end had come, but it was not his time to die yet.

After that experience, Paul went back through the cities where he and Barnabas had preached the gospel. Acts 14:21, 22 says, "When they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra (where Paul had been stoned), Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, 'We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.'"

This is troubling to many people who wonder why it is that if they choose to become a Christian, the only way they can get to the Kingdom

I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, "A servant is not greater than his Master." If they've persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But

Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

of God is through many tribulations.

There are several texts in the New Testament that explain why this is so. In John 7, Jesus' brothers told Him to go and show people what He was doing and declare Himself to the world as the Messiah (see verses 3, 4). Then it says, "For even his brothers did not believe in Him. Then Jesus said to them, 'My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil'" (verses 5-7).

In John 15:18-25, on the night that He was betrayed, Jesus said to His disciples, "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but

this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, "They hated Me without a cause." "

Jesus told His followers that they were following Him because He chose them out of the world and because the world hated Him they would also hate His followers. The apostle John, in his letter in 1 John 3:10-15 explains why they are hated: "In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his

brother's righteous. Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."

In 1 John 5:19, literal translation, John says, "The whole world lies in wickedness." The Christian, without even saying anything, by the very fact that he exists and is living in harmony with the law of God, his life is a rebuke to those who are transgress-

things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). His followers soon found these words to be true. Paul was stoned. Peter was crucified. James was killed with the sword. In fact, the Jews tried to kill all of Christ's apostles. Every one of them was martyred except for the apostle John. The Jews tried without success to kill him but God still had a work for him to do – write the book of Revelation on the lonely Isle of Patmos.

and it is not dead but just wounded, the bird dog goes after that one." He continued, "That is like you and me. The devil is not after you, because he's already got you. But he is after me, because I am just wounded and that is why I am having a lot of trouble." The devil is the one that brought suffering, sickness and sin into this world that results in death.

As long as the devil exists there will be conflict in our world between good and evil. Eventually, every person is going to be totally on either one side or the other. Today there are still many people who are in the valley of decision trying to figure out on what side of the great controversy between good and evil they want to be. Do they love sin so much that they are willing to do whatever they can to be on that side? Or, would they like to have eternal life? Eternal life can only be given to the person who chooses to surrender his sinful nature and follow the Lord.

O, friend, what is happening in your life? Are you like the bird that is dead, or like the one that is wounded, and having a lot of trouble? Remember, it is the devil that causes so much trouble for those who are on the path that leads to everlasting life, but they are not alone in their journey. Jesus said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5, *last part*).

If you're not following the Lord, Jesus said, "All those who hate me love death" (Proverbs 8:36). "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). In Matthew 10:34–39, Jesus said, "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; And 'a

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:33

ing the law of God. So, according to worldlings, something must be done to get this disturbing element out of the way. That is exactly what happened with Cain and Abel. Cain wanted to get Abel out of the way so he would not show him up. This resulted in Cain killing his brother.

John says, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever" (1 John 2:15–17). Before He left them, Jesus said to His disciples, "These

Christ's followers stood out from the crowd. The way they lived was a rebuke to the Jews so they did their best to eliminate them. So, the world today does not like to be rebuked for its lifestyle.

There is a story that has been told of a man who lived in the southern United States before the emancipation proclamation, who had slaves, one of whom was a Christian. He said to this slave, "Why are you having so much trouble? Look at me, I'm not a Christian and I do not have all the trouble that you have." The slave replied, "When you go hunting with your bird dogs and you shoot a bird and it falls down dead, the bird dog doesn't go over to it because the bird is dead. But then you shoot another bird,

man's enemies will be those of his own household.' He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake, will find it."

The apostle Paul said, "... all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12). But do not be discouraged for God has promised His people who are suffering trouble because they have chosen to be Christians that, "As your days, so shall your strength be." "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." (Deuteronomy 33:25, 27).

God has promised to never forsake His own. He has promised to be with them to strengthen and help them in all the troubles and trials that they go through. In Psalm 9:9, 10, it says, "The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; for You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You." Isaiah says, "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord, forever, for in Yah, the LORD, is everlasting strength" (Isaiah 26:3, 4).

Reading the New Testament we find promises equally comforting. Notice what the apostle Paul said about the Christian who is suffering trouble and trial because he has chosen to follow the Lord: "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will



As long as the devil exists, there will be conflict in our world between good and evil.

also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:12, 13).

Peter also speaks to those who suffer because they are Christians: "Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator" (1 Peter 4:19). God is a faithful Creator; He does not forsake His own. Even though they go through trials and troubles, He has promised to be with them, to support them, to sustain them, to help them, right up to the moment of death.

However, there is coming a time when the tables are going to be completely turned. Jesus will say, "Enough!" God will avenge His people, when all cases have been decided. He is going to judge this world and bring judgments upon it because of its sin.

The book of Revelation is very clear that in the last days, because of the wickedness of the world, the Lord God of heaven is going to come down and walk through the whole earth, spreading desolation everywhere. (See Revelation 16.) That is called the "seven last plagues." These

plagues will come upon the people who deliberately choose to remain in violation and rebellion against the law of God. To be in rebellion against the law of God means you are in rebellion against the government of God, and against God Himself.

As we approach the time of the end of the world, it is going to become more and more wicked. Jesus talked about it Matthew 24. Paul talked about it in 2 Timothy 3. John talked about it in the last half of the book of Revelation how the wickedness in this world would become so great that God would finally say, "It's not going to go on anymore."

The Lord is going to come to this world in judgment. When that happens, those who have been obedient will not suffer the plagues that are to come upon the rest of the world. In the Old Testament, foreseeing what would happen at the end of time, the Lord predicted the protection that He was going to put around His own. Notice Psalm 91:4-7: "He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by

night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you.”

Then the Lord will say to His people, “Come, My people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain” (Isaiah 26:20, 21). Up until now, when people die, we bury them and the earth covers up

fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked. Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling” (Psalm 91:7–10).

O, friend, although Christians suffer a lot in the world and have for thousands of years, there is coming a time when the tables are going to be turned. Those who break God’s law and persist in their wickedness are going to receive God’s judgments while His people are protected. When that time comes, where will you be?

The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

the dead. But there is coming a time when the earth is not going to cover the slain anymore. It says, “‘And the songs of the temple shall be wailing in that day,’ says the Lord GOD—‘Many dead bodies everywhere, They shall be cast out in silence’” (Amos 8:3).

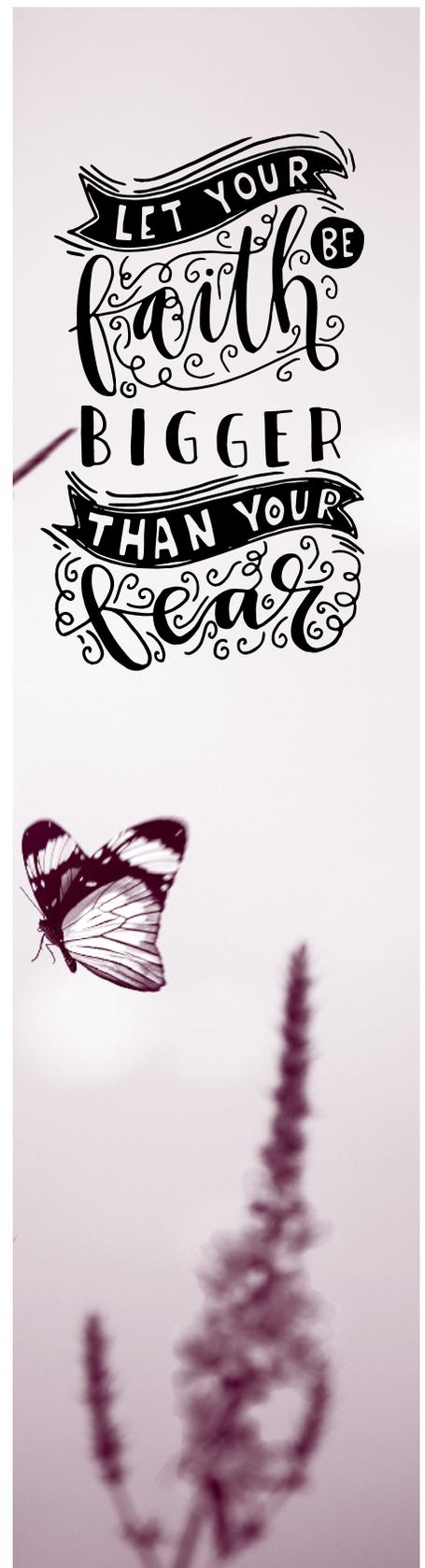
Jeremiah 25:32, 33 says, “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Behold, disaster shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the farthest parts of the earth. And at that day the slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground.’”

When that time comes, the Lord says to His people, “A thousand may

Whatever troubles, or trials, or tribulations that you are suffering right now because you are following Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, they are temporary. That is a wonderful thought. All of a Christian’s troubles are temporary; they will all be over soon. The question is, “Will you be one of those who is accounted ready when your Lord comes?”

(Unless appearing in quoted references or otherwise identified, Bible texts are from the New King James Version.) **LM**

Pastor John J. Grosboll is Director of *Steps to Life* and pastors the *Prairie Meadows Church* in Wichita, Kansas. He may be contacted by email at: historic@stepstolife.org, or by telephone at: 316-788-5559.



Continued from page 19

his devices. It is possible to resist his power. When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come.” Ibid.

What others do is not the issue, but only what we are doing. If we ask God for power, if we come to Him and ask for grace, He will send all of heaven to help us, to strengthen us, to give us the means, not only to preach the gospel but to make it so that the whole world can hear.

God can use those who pray and ask God for grace that there may be some type of revival and so it can be done in His name.

“Satan can no more hinder a shower of blessing from descending upon God’s people than he can close the windows of heaven that rain cannot come upon the earth. Wicked men and devils cannot hinder the work of God, or shut out His presence from the assemblies of His people, if they will, with subdued, contrite hearts, confess and put away their sins, and in faith claim His promises. Every temptation, every opposing influence, whether open or secret, may be successfully resisted, ‘not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts’ (Zechariah 4:6).” Ibid.

There is nothing Satan fears more than that we would, through faithful preachers and faithful preaching, through trusting in the name of Jesus and His mighty power, be removed from his captivity. He trembles at the thought that we be revived and reformed, not by shielding ourselves and putting up walls against repentance, but understanding the true work of repentance and reformation, so that we don’t see the reforms of the church as legalism, but as a manifestation of the love of God. We will not look at the law of God, the Ten Command-



Just as in the days of Noah, the word was there, but the people were distracted—they were eating and drinking, and being merry. In the present day it is the distractions of Facebook, Amazon Prime, Instagram, or the like.

ments as a burden but as a love letter, a letter of strength and assurance to us. We want to be kept unspotted from the world. We cannot do this by our own power but only through His grace. God said, “I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage” (Exodus 20:2). He says you will not have any other god but Me. You will not lie or steal and you will keep my Sabbath day (verses 3, 16, 15, 8–11). All of these things then become promises of victory.

What if we don’t see our true condition and the need of prayer? What if we don’t recognize through our Laodicean blindness the promises of God available to strengthen us on one side or show us our true condition on the other? If we pray that our eyes be opened to have a deeper understanding of our true need, and pray to understand the truth and avoid the moral darkness that surrounds us and the evil that presses in around the

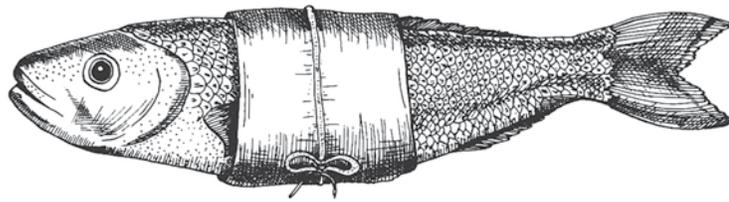
world and the church members, we would have the victory that Satan is so fearful that we may gain.

We need to be a group of people who come together and pray for more grace and for more power as we see the day approaching.

Do you see your need? Do you see the power that is available over Satan and how ready God is to send angels and His Spirit and faithful ministers to help us understand His Word?

God, in His great mercy for us and through His understanding of our great need, has given us the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. What shall we do with these things, especially as we see the day of His coming approaching? **LM**

John Cofer was a speaker at the Steps to Life camp meeting in 2013. He continues to serve in the Lord’s vineyard through his ministry, The Gospel of Truth (www.gospeloftruth.org).



THE RIGHTEOUS NEVER FORSAKEN

It was Saturday night, and the widow of the Pine Cottage sat by her blazing bundle of sticks, with her five tattered children by her side, endeavoring by listening to the artlessness of their prattle, to dissipate the heavy gloom that pressed upon her mind. For a year her own feeble hand had provided for her helpless family, for she had no supporter: she thought of no friend in all the wide, unfriendly world around.

But that mysterious Providence, the wisdom of whose ways is above human comprehension, had visited her with wasting sickness, and her little means had become exhausted. It was now, too, mid-winter, and the snow lay heavy and deep through all the surrounding forests, while storms still seemed gathering in the heavens, and the driving wind roared amid the neighboring pines and rocked her puny mansion.

The last herring smoked upon the coals before her; it was the only article of food she possessed, and no wonder her forlorn, desolate state brought up in her lone bosom all the anxieties of a mother, when she looked upon her children. And no wonder, forlorn as she was, if she permitted the heart swellings of despair to rise, even though she knew that He whose promise is to the widow and to the orphan, cannot forget His word.

Providence had, many years before, taken from her her eldest son, who went from his forest home to try his fortune on the high seas, since which she had heard no tidings of him; and, in her latter time, had by the hand of death, deprived her of the companion and staff of her earthly pilgrimage, in the person of her husband. Yet to this hour she had been upborne; she had not only been able to provide for her little flock, but had never lost an opportunity of ministering to the wants of the miserable and destitute.

The indolent may well bear with poverty, while the ability to gain sustenance remains. The individual who has but his own wants to supply, may suffer with fortitude the winter of want; his affections are not wounded, his heart not wrung. The most desolate in populous cities may hope, for charity has not quite closed her hand and heart, and shut her eyes on misery.

But the industrious mother of helpless and depending children, far from the reach of human charity, has none of these to console her. And such a one was the widow of the Pine Cottage. But as she bent over the fire and took up the last scanty remnant of food, to spread before her children, her spirits seemed to brighten up, as by some sudden and mysterious impulse, and Cowper's beautiful lines came uncalled across her mind:

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning Providence
He hides a smiling face.

The smoked herring was scarcely laid upon the table, when a gentle rap at the door and loud barking of a dog, attracted the attention of the family. The children flew to open it, and a weary traveler in tattered garments and apparently indifferent health, entered and begged a lodging and a mouthful of food. Said he, "It is now twenty-four hours since I tasted bread." The widow's heart bled anew as under a fresh complication of distresses, for her sympathies lingered not around her fireside. She hesitated not even now. Rest and a share of all she had she proffered

said it, "I have a boy, a darling son, somewhere on the face of the wide world, unless heaven has taken him away, and I only act toward you, as I would that others should act toward him. God, who sent manna from heaven, can provide for us as He did for Israel. And how should I this night offend Him, if my son should be a wanderer, destitute as you, and he should have provided for him a home, even as poor as this, were I to turn you unrelieved away."

The widow ended, and the stranger springing from his seat, clasped her in his arms: "God indeed has provided your son a home and has given him wealth to reward the goodness of his benefactress: my mother! oh my mother!" It was her long lost son, returned to her bosom

Rest and a share of all she had she proffered to the stranger. "We shall not be forsaken," said she, "or suffer deeper for an act of charity."

to the stranger. "We shall not be forsaken," said she, "or suffer deeper for an act of charity."

The traveler drew near the board, but when he saw the scanty fare, he raised his eyes toward heaven with astonishment: "And is this *all* your store?" said he, "and a share of this do you offer to one you know not? Then never saw I charity before! But madam," said he, continuing, "do you not wrong your children by giving a part of your last mouthful to a stranger?"

"Ah," said the poor widow, and the teardrops gushed into her eyes as she

from the Indies. He had chosen that disguise that he might the more completely surprise his family; and never was surprise more perfect or followed by a sweeter cup of joy.

That humble residence in the forest was exchanged for one comfortable, and indeed beautiful, in the valley. The widow lived long with her dutiful son, in the enjoyment of plenty, and in the delightful employments of virtue. And at this day the passer-by is pointed to the willow that spreads its branches above her grave.

The Moore McGuffey Readers, Book 4, 114-117. LM

A Glorious, Joy-Inspiring Hope

Key Text

“Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints” (Jude 14, *last part*).

Study Help: *The Great Controversy*, 299–303.

Introduction

“To God’s pilgrim people, so long left to sojourn in ‘the region and shadow of death,’ a precious, joy-inspiring hope is given in the promise of His appearing, who is ‘the resurrection and the life,’ to ‘bring home again His banished’ (Matthew 4:16; John 11:25; 2 Samuel 14:13, *last part*.)” *The Great Controversy*, 299.

Sunday

1 ANIMATED BY GOD’S PROMISES

- a. Very early in history, what was the seventh patriarch from Adam shown in vision—and how did it motivate him in a powerful way? Jude 14, 15.

Note: “By the spirit of prophecy He [God] carried him [Enoch] down through the generations that should live after the Flood, and showed him the great events connected with the second coming of Christ and the end of the world. ...

“In prophetic vision he was instructed concerning the death of Christ, and was shown His coming in glory, attended by all the holy angels, to ransom His people from the grave. He also saw the corrupt state of the world when Christ should appear the second time—that there would be a boastful, presumptuous, self-willed generation, denying the only God and the Lord Jesus Christ, trampling upon the law, and despising the atonement. He saw the righteous crowned with glory and honor, and the wicked banished from the presence of the Lord, and destroyed by fire.

“Enoch became a preacher of righteousness, making known to the people what God had revealed to him.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 85, 86.

Monday

2 JOYOUS CONFIDENCE

- a. Describe the way God’s people in Old Testament times expressed their hope in Christ’s second coming. Psalms 50:1-4; 96:11-13.

Note: “The coming of Christ to usher in the reign of righteousness has inspired the most sublime and impassioned utterances of the sacred writers. The poets and prophets of the Bible have dwelt upon it in words glowing with celestial fire.” *The Great Controversy*, 300.

- b. With what exalted language did the prophet Habakkuk describe Jesus’ return? Habakkuk 3:3-6.

- c. What comforting, encouraging promise is repeated to New Testament believers, and how should this influence us in a mighty way? Acts 1:10, 11.

Note: “The Saviour’s parting promise upon Olivet, that He would come again, lighted up the future for His disciples, filling their hearts with joy and hope that sorrow could not quench nor trials dim.” *The Great Controversy*, 302.

“[Acts 1:11 quoted.] Precious, indeed, was this promise to those sorrowing disciples, that they should again see Jesus who was greatly beloved by them all. Precious also is this promise to every true follower of Christ. None who truly love Jesus will be sorry that He is coming again. And as they approach nearer to the coming of the Son of man, the true lovers of Jesus will look forward with joyous hope, and will seek to get all ready to behold Him whom their souls loveth, who died to redeem them.

“Jesus is coming! But not to listen to the woes of mankind, and to hear the guilty sinner confess his sins, and to speak pardon to him; for every one’s case will then be decided for life or death. Those who have lived in sin will remain sinners forever. Those who have confessed their sins to Jesus in the sanctuary, have made Him their friend and have loved His appearing, will have pardon written for all their sins, and they, having purified their souls ‘in obeying the truth’ (1 Peter 1:22), will remain pure and holy forever.” *The Youth’s Instructor*, April 1, 1854.

Tuesday

3 WORTHY OF OUR SERIOUS PREPARATION

- a. How can we gain courage from the hope expressed by Paul? Titus 2:11–13.

Note: “We are pilgrims and strangers who are waiting, hoping, and praying for that blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. If we believe this and bring it into our practical life, what vigorous action would this faith and hope inspire; what fervent love one for another; what careful holy living for the glory of God; and in our respect for the recompense of the reward, what distinct lines of demarcation would be evidenced between us and the world.” *Evangelism*, 220.

“God designs that His people shall fix their eyes heavenward, looking for the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. While the attention of worldlings is turned to various enterprises, ours should be to the heavens; our faith should reach further and further into the glorious mysteries of the heavenly treasure, drawing the precious, divine rays of light from the heavenly sanctuary to shine in our hearts, as they shine upon the face of Jesus. ...

“The desire of our Lord is that we should be watching, so that when He cometh and knocketh we may open to Him immediately.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 194, 195.

- b. How will Jesus appear to those who are eagerly awaiting His return? Hebrews 9:28, *last part*.



The coming of Christ to usher in the reign of righteousness has inspired the most sublime and impassioned utterances of the sacred writers. The poets and prophets of the Bible have dwelt upon it in words glowing with celestial fire.

Note: “Christ, at the close of His work as mediator, will appear ‘without sin unto salvation’ (Hebrews 9:28), to bless His waiting people with eternal life.” *The Great Controversy*, 485.

“Jesus is coming as He ascended into heaven, only with additional splendor. He is coming with the glory of His Father, and all the holy angels with Him, to escort Him on His way. Instead of the cruel crown of thorns to pierce His holy temples, a crown of dazzling glory will deck His sacred brow. He will not then appear, the man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; but His countenance will shine brighter than the noonday sun. He will not wear a plain seamless coat, but a garment whiter than snow—of dazzling brightness.” *The Youth’s Instructor*, April 1, 1854.

Wednesday

4 LONGING FOR HIS RETURN

- a. What message in Luther’s sermons resonated with the teaching of Paul with regard to the final-judgment hour? Hebrews 9:27.

Note: “Luther declared: ‘I persuade myself verily, that the day of judgment will not be absent full three hundred years. God will not, cannot, suffer this wicked world much longer.’ ‘The great day is drawing near in which the kingdom of abominations shall be overthrown.’” *The Great Controversy*, 303.

b. What conviction did other Reformers have, and what is likewise to be our main priority today? Revelation 16:15.

Note: “This aged world is not far from its end,” said Melancthon. Calvin bids Christians ‘not to hesitate, ardently desiring the day of Christ’s coming as of all events most auspicious’; and declares that ‘the whole family of the faithful will keep in view that day.’ ‘We must hunger after Christ, we must seek, contemplate,’ he says, ‘till the dawning of that great day, when our Lord will fully manifest the glory of His kingdom.’

“‘Has not the Lord Jesus carried up our flesh into heaven?’ said Knox, the Scotch Reformer, ‘and shall He not return? We know that He shall return, and that with expedition.’ Ridley and Latimer, who laid down their lives for the truth, looked in faith for the Lord’s coming. Ridley wrote: ‘The world without doubt—this I do believe, and therefore I say it—draws to an end. Let us with John, the servant of God, cry in our hearts unto our Saviour Christ, Come, Lord Jesus, come.’” *The Great Controversy*, 303.

“The return of Christ to our world will not be long delayed. Let this be the keynote of every message.

“The blessed hope of the second appearing of Christ, with its solemn realities, needs to be often presented to the people. Looking for the soon appearing of our Lord will lead us to regard earthly things as emptiness and nothingness. ...

“It cannot now be said by the Lord’s servants, as it was by the prophet Daniel: ‘The time appointed was long’ (Daniel 10:1). It is now but a short time till the witnesses for God will have done their work in preparing the way of the Lord.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 406.

Thursday

5 ACTIVELY WAITING FOR THE DAY OF PROMISE

a. Explain the responsibility of all who are serious about meeting the Master in peace when He returns. Amos 4:12, last part; Zephaniah 2:3.

Note: “Christ says, ‘I know thy works’ (Revelation 2:2). He knows whether you are living a life of perfection and if you love to talk and think of Him, and whether it is your joy to praise Him. Do we expect to get to heaven at last and join the heavenly choir? Just as we go into the grave we will come up as far as the character is concerned. ... Now is the time for washing and ironing. It is the time to wash our robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb.

“When the lawyer came to Christ and asked, ‘What shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ the answer was, ‘Keep the commandments’ (Luke 10:25; Luke 18:18, 20). Here a positive question is asked by the lawyer, and he receives an answer just as positive.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 9, 262.

b. What will be the deep sentiment of all who wholeheartedly embrace Christ’s promise that He will come back soon? Revelation 22:20.

Note: “I want to honor Him that sitteth on the throne. I want my voice to echo and re-echo through the courts of heaven. Will you be there? Then you must educate your voice to praise Him on earth, and then you can join the heavenly choir and sing the song of Moses and the Lamb. God help us, and fill us with all fullness and power, and then we can taste of the joys of the world to come.” *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, 128.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What should I consider about the depth of my longing for Jesus’ return?
- 2 Why are the promises concerning Jesus’ return to provide us strength?
- 3 Why is it important to cultivate a real desire to share this truth with others?
- 4 How did the 16th century Reformers inspire faith in Christ’s return?
- 5 We are saved by faith, so what reveals genuine commitment in our faith?

July 8 – 14

Signs of Christ's Return

Key Text

“So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand” (Luke 21:31).

Study Help: *The Great Controversy*, 31–38, 304–316, 333, 334.

Introduction

“Christ had bidden His people watch for the signs of His advent and rejoice as they should behold the tokens of their coming King.” *The Great Controversy*, 308.

Sunday

1 A PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS

- a. What prediction did the Son of man make about the grand temple existing in His day—an event the disciples could not fathom? Matthew 24:1, 2.

Note: “As Christ’s attention was attracted to the magnificence of the temple, what must have been the unuttered thoughts of that Rejected One! The view before Him was indeed beautiful, but He said with sadness, I see it all. The buildings are indeed wonderful. You point to these walls as apparently indestructible; but listen to My words: The day will come when ‘there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down’ (Mark 13:2, *last part*).” *The Desire of Ages*, 627.

- b. What questions intrigued the disciples, and how was this intermingled with Christ’s prophecies concerning the end of the world? Matthew 24:3.

Note: “With the overthrow of Jerusalem the disciples associated the events of Christ’s personal coming in temporal glory to take the throne of universal empire, to punish the

impenitent Jews, and to break from off the nation the Roman yoke. The Lord had told them that He would come the second time. Hence at the mention of judgments upon Jerusalem, their minds reverted to that coming.” *The Great Controversy*, 25.

Monday

2 PROPHECY FULFILLED AFTER CHRIST’S ASCENSION

- a. What warning should we heed from the spiritual implications of the fate of the temple in A.D. 70, just as Jesus had prophesied? Isaiah 30:12, 13.

Note: “The blind obstinacy of the Jewish leaders, and the detestable crimes perpetrated within the besieged city, excited the horror and indignation of the Romans. ... In their fury the soldiers hurled blazing brands into the chambers adjoining the temple, and then with their swords they slaughtered in great numbers those who had found shelter there. Blood flowed down the temple steps like water. Thousands upon thousands of Jews perished. Above the sound of battle, voices were heard shouting: ‘Ichabod!’—the glory is departed.” *The Great Controversy*, 33.

“Both the city and the temple were razed to their foundations, and the ground upon which the holy house had stood was ‘plowed like a field’ (Jeremiah 26:18).” *Ibid.*, 35.

- b. Name some interesting points we can glean from how only those who had heeded the words of Jesus were spared. Luke 21:20–22; Psalm 27:5.

Note: “For seven years a man continued to go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, declaring the woes that were to come upon the city. ... This strange being was imprisoned and scourged, but no complaint escaped his lips. To insult and abuse he answered only: ‘Woe, woe to Jerusalem!’ ‘woe, woe to the inhabitants thereof!’ His warning cry ceased not until he was slain in the siege he had foretold.

“Not one Christian perished in the destruction of Jerusalem. Christ had given His disciples warning, and all who

believed His words watched for the promised sign. [Luke 21:20, 21 quoted.]” *The Great Controversy*, 30.

“This warning was given to be heeded forty years after, at the destruction of Jerusalem. ...

“‘Pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day,’ Christ said (Matthew 24:20). ... Forty years after His crucifixion it [the Sabbath] was still to be held sacred. For forty years the disciples were to pray that their flight might not be on the Sabbath day.” *The Desire of Ages*, 630.

Tuesday

3 A PROPHETIC TIME PERIOD—THE DARK AGES

- a. What would eventually come upon the believers after the general destruction of the city of Jerusalem in A.D. 70? Matthew 24:21, 22.

Note: “From the destruction of Jerusalem, Christ passed on rapidly to the greater event, the last link in the chain of this earth’s history—the coming of the Son of God in majesty and glory. Between these two events, there lay open to Christ’s view long centuries of darkness, centuries for His church marked with blood and tears and agony.” *The Desire of Ages*, 630, 631.

- b. How was this same historic period of tribulation depicted in prophecy in the book of Revelation? Revelation 11:2, 3; 13:5.

- c. What scriptural guideline about prophetic time helps us understand how to calculate mathematically the actual length of this period, keeping in mind that the prophetic reckoning is a 30-day month with 360 days each year? Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6.

Note: “The suppression of the Scriptures under the dominion of Rome, the terrible results of that suppression, and the final exaltation of the word of God, are vividly portrayed by the prophetic pencil. To John the exile on lonely Patmos was given a view of the 1260 years during which the papal power was permitted to trample upon God’s word.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, 188.

“The forty and two months are the same as the ‘time and times and the dividing of time’ (Daniel 7:25, *last part*), three years and a half, or 1260 days, of Daniel 7—the time during which the papal power was to oppress God’s people. This period, ... began with the supremacy of the papacy, A.D. 538, and terminated in 1798. At that time the pope was made captive by the French army, the papal power received its deadly wound, and the prediction was fulfilled, ‘He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity’ (Revelation 13:10).” *The Great Controversy*, 439.

Wednesday

4 THREE LANDMARK EVENTS

- a. Just before the end of the 1260-year-prophetic-time period (since the actual persecution was “shortened”), what signs in nature showed that Jesus’ return was soon? Matthew 24:29, 30; Mark 13:24–26; Revelation 6:12, 13.

- b. Examining these prophecies one by one: According to the record of Inspiration and history, which occurred first? Revelation 6:12.

Note: “In fulfillment of this prophecy [of Revelation 6:12] there occurred, in the year 1755, the most terrible earthquake that has ever been recorded. Though commonly known as the earthquake of Lisbon, it extended to the greater part of Europe, Africa, and America. It was felt in Greenland, in the West Indies, in the island of Madeira, in Norway and Sweden, Great Britain and Ireland. It pervaded an extent of not less than four million square miles.” *The Great Controversy*, 304.

c. How was the prophecy about the sun and the moon fulfilled? Mark 13:24.

Note: “The 1260 days, or years, terminated in 1798. A quarter of a century earlier, persecution had almost wholly ceased. Following this persecution, according to the words of Christ, the sun was to be darkened.” *The Great Controversy*, 306.

“May 19, 1780, stands in history as ‘The Dark Day.’ Since the time of Moses no period of darkness of equal density, extent, and duration, has ever been recorded. The description of this event, as given by eyewitnesses, is but an echo of the words of the Lord ... ‘The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come’ (Joel 2:31).” *Ibid.*, 308.

d. How was the prophecy of the stars fulfilled? Mark 13:25; Revelation 6:13.

Note: “[Revelation 6:13 quoted.] This prophecy received a striking and impressive fulfillment in the great meteoric shower of November 13, 1833. That was the most extensive and wonderful display of falling stars which has ever been recorded.” *The Great Controversy*, 333.

Thursday

5 PROVIDED TO MAKE AN IMPACT

a. Besides the three great natural events Christ gave as signs of His soon return, name some other signs, and explain how they are rapidly fulfilling more and more. Matthew 24:6-12; Mark 13:7-9; Luke 21:9-11, 25-27.

b. What should we recall in seeing these signs? Luke 17:26; Jeremiah 8:11, 12.

Note: “Calamities, earthquakes, floods, disasters by land and by sea, will increase. God is looking upon the world today as He looked upon it in Noah’s time. He is sending His message to people today as He sent it in the days of Noah. There is in this age of the world a repetition of the wickedness of the world before the flood.” *The Advocate*, December 1, 1900.

c. Why can we be encouraged by prophecies being fulfilled? 1 Samuel 12:16; 1 Peter 2:9.

Note: “Those who accepted the advent doctrine were roused to the necessity of repentance and humiliation before God. Many had long been halting between Christ and the world; now they felt that it was time to take a stand. ‘The things of eternity assumed to them an unwonted reality. Heaven was brought near, and they felt themselves guilty before God.’ ... Christians were quickened to new spiritual life. They were made to feel that time was short, that what they had to do for their fellow men must be done quickly.” *The Great Controversy*, 340.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 In A.D. 70, why did God allow the magnificent temple to be destroyed?
- 2 Why was the lone man pronouncing woe against Jerusalem not spared?
- 3 How do we know that a day in prophetic time often equals a year?
- 4 Name the dates of the great three-landmark-signs of Christ’s soon return.
- 5 As I see the signs fulfilling, what impact should I allow it to make on me?

Messages of Warning for Our Day

Key Text

“Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah” (Isaiah 1:9).

Study Help: *The Great Controversy*, 270; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 156–170.

Introduction

“The voice of God is heard in a message of warning, bidding His people separate themselves from the prevailing iniquity.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 166.

Sunday

1 THE TIMES IN WHICH WE LIVE

- a. To what time in the history of the world did Jesus compare our days? Matthew 24:37–39; Genesis 6:5, 13.

Note: “The same sins exist in our day which brought the wrath of God upon the world in the days of Noah. Men and women now carry their eating and drinking to gluttony and drunkenness. This prevailing sin, the indulgence of perverted appetite, inflamed the passions of men in the days of Noah and led to general corruption, until their violence and crimes reached to heaven, and God washed the earth of its moral pollution by a flood.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 163.

- b. What do believers have to face today? 2 Peter 3:3–6.

Note: “The world, full of rioting, full of godless pleasure, is asleep, asleep in carnal security. Men are putting afar off the coming of the Lord. They laugh at warnings.” *The Desire of Ages*, 635.

Monday

2 LEARNING FROM A STARTLING EVENT

- a. Besides comparing these last days to Noah’s time, to what other historical scene did the Lord compare the hour of His return? Luke 17:28–30.

Note: “The state of the world now is similar to that which existed in the days of Lot, when Sodom’s corruption called for the angel’s visit to that wicked city, to see whether the cries coming up before heaven were of such a character that the inhabitants of beautiful Sodom—a city that had been so highly favored of God—had so corrupted their ways before the Lord that there was no hope of their redemption. God’s wrath was revealed so signally because the corruption of the Sodomites was so deep.” *Southern Union Worker*, October 16, 1913.

- b. What sin was prominent in Lot’s day? Genesis 19:5–7; Romans 1:21, 26, 27.

Note: “They [the Sodomites] crowded about the house of Lot, and as the crowd increased, vile speeches were made which revealed the state of corruption that existed among the people, and the worst suggestions were received and acted upon. The crowd became more clamorous in their cries to have Lot bring forth the strangers to them; for they had become so base through the indulgence of evil passions, that every good thought had been uprooted, and reason was so clouded that they would even do violence to the angels of heaven.” *The Signs of the Times*, October 9, 1893.

- c. Why is Sodom’s fate a warning to all? Genesis 19:24–26; Luke 17:32, 33.

Note: “The angels had come to see if there were any in the city who were not corrupted, and could be persuaded to flee from the impending doom that threatened Sodom. That night the evil doers added the last drop to their cup of iniquity, and the wrath of God could no longer be delayed.” *The Signs of the Times*, October 9, 1893.

“The warning that was given to Lot comes down to us who live in this degenerate age—‘Escape for thy life.’ The voice of the tempter is crying peace and safety. The evil one would have you feel that you have nothing to fear, and bids you eat, drink, and be merry. Which voice will you heed, the voice of heaven, or the voice that lures you to destruction?” *Ibid.*, October 16, 1893.

Tuesday

3 BECOMING BETTER STEWARDS OF OUR LIVES

- a. What warnings are given about Sodom’s spiritual decline? Ezekiel 16:49.

Note: “Many of those who have so long rejected divine guidance and guardianship are rushing on in the path of levity and selfish pleasure, yea, more, into baser acts and defilement of the body. As a consequence their minds are polluted, and religion is distasteful to them. Some have gone so far in this downward course, and followed so earnestly in the path of the Sodomites, that they are today nigh unto cursing, and the voice of reproof and warning is lost upon them.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 39.

- b. How are we, who are entrusted with great light, warned of degradations more serious even than those of Sodom? Hosea 4:6; Proverbs 1:24–30, 33.

Note: “The Redeemer of the world, the compassionate Friend of man, discloses to our eyes the fact that there is a sin greater than the sin of Sodom. It is that of sinning against greater light. To those who have heard and have not heeded the gospel invitation to repent and have faith in Christ, the sin is greater



The same sins exist in our day which brought the wrath of God upon the world in the days of Noah. The prevailing sin—indulgence of perverted appetite, inflamed the passions of men in the days of Noah and led to general corruption, until their violence and crimes reached to heaven.

than was the sin of Sodom. To those who have professed the name of Jesus, who have professed to know God, and to keep His commandments, and yet who have misrepresented Christ in their daily life and character, who have been warned and entreated, and still dishonor their Redeemer by their unconsecrated lives, the sin is greater than that of Sodom.” *The Signs of the Times*, October 16, 1893.

“Many who profess to believe the truth do not want God in their thoughts, any more than did the antediluvians or Sodomites. One sensible thought of God, awakened by the Holy Spirit, would spoil all their schemes. Self, self, self, has been their god, their alpha and their omega.” *Counsels on Stewardship*, 141.

“The sins of Sodom are repeated in our day, and the earth is destroyed and corrupted under the inhabitants thereof; but the worst feature of the iniquity of this day is a form of godliness without the power thereof. Those who profess to have great light are found among the careless and indifferent, and the cause of Christ is wounded in the house of its professed friends.” *The Signs of the Times*, October 16, 1893.

Wednesday

3 CHOOSING BETTER PRIORITIES

- a. To avoid Lot’s mistake that had led his family in a downward path, what must we realize? Genesis 13:12, 13; 19:30–38; 1 Corinthians 15:33.

Note: “The corruption of Sodom in breaking the law of God was especially manifested in licentiousness.” *The Great Controversy*, 269.

“When Lot entered Sodom he fully intended to keep himself free from iniquity and to command his household after him. But he signally failed. The corrupting influences about him had an effect upon his own faith, and his children’s connection with the inhabitants of Sodom bound up his interest in a measure with theirs. The result is before us.

“Many are still making a similar mistake. In selecting a home they look more to the temporal advantages they may gain than to the moral and social influences that will surround themselves and their families. They choose a beautiful and fertile country, or remove to some flourishing city, in the hope of securing greater prosperity; but their children are surrounded by temptation, and too often they form associations that are unfavorable to the development of piety and the formation of a right character. The atmosphere of lax morality, of unbelief, of indifference to religious things, has a tendency to counteract the influence of the parents. Examples of rebellion against parental and divine authority are ever before the youth; many form attachments for infidels and unbelievers, and cast in their lot with the enemies of God.

“In choosing a home, God would have us consider, first of all, the moral and religious influences that will surround us and our families. We may be placed in trying positions, for many cannot have their surroundings what they would; and whenever duty calls us, God will enable us to stand uncorrupted, if we watch and pray, trusting in the grace of Christ. But we should not needlessly expose ourselves to influences that are unfavorable to the formation of Christian character. When we voluntarily place ourselves in an atmosphere of worldliness and unbelief, we displease God and drive holy angels from our homes.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 168, 169.

- b. Give various reasons why we must avoid the typical attitudes characteristic of today’s culture. 2 Timothy 3:1–5; Isaiah 1:9.

Thursday

5 CHOOSING A SAFER ENVIRONMENT

- a. What does God say about where His people can prosper? Isaiah 32:18, 19.

Note: “My warning is: Keep out of the cities. Build no sanitariums in the cities. Educate our people to get out of the cities into the country, where they can obtain a small piece of land, and make a home for themselves and their children. ...

“Our restaurants must be in the cities; for otherwise the workers in these restaurants could not reach the people and teach them the principles of right living. And for the present we shall have to occupy meeting-houses in the cities. But ere-long there will be such strife and confusion in the cities that those who wish to leave them will not be able.” *The General Conference Bulletin*, April 6, 1903.

“Parents can secure small homes in the country, with land for cultivation, where they can have orchards and where they can raise vegetables and small fruits to take the place of flesh-meat, which is so corrupting to the lifeblood coursing through the veins. On such places the children will not be surrounded with the corrupting influences of city life. God will help His people to find such homes outside of the cities.” *Medical Ministry*, 310.

- b. Why must we heed the appeals for country living? Proverbs 15:31, 32.

Note: “There was a coming out, a decided separation from the wicked, an escape for life. So it was in the days of Noah; so with Lot; so with the disciples prior to the destruction of Jerusalem; and so it will be in the last days.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 166.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 In facing those who scoff at Christ’s return, what should we keep in mind?
- 2 Why do all need to be aware of the history of Sodom and Gomorrah?
- 3 What impact should the fate of these cities exert on the people of God?
- 4 Am I in danger of repeating the mistake of Lot—and if so, how?
- 5 What are the benefits of country living?

July 22 – 28

False Ideas at the Time of the End

Key Text

“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect” (Matthew 24:24).

Study Help: *Prophets and Kings*, 210–212.

Introduction

“There are dangerous heresies that will be presented as Bible doctrines; and we are to become acquainted with the Bible so that we may know how to meet them. The faith of every individual will be tested.” *Evangelism*, 590, 591.

Sunday

1 VIGILANCE NEEDED

- a. What strategy does the enemy of souls use to entice many sincere souls who believe in Jesus’ soon return? Matthew 24:11, 24.

Note: “Satan’s angels are wise to do evil, and they will create that which some will claim to be advanced light, and will proclaim it as new and wonderful; yet while in some respects the message may be truth, it will be mingled with human inventions, and will teach for doctrine the commandments of men. If there was ever a time when we should watch and pray in real earnest, it is now. Many apparently good things will need to be carefully considered with much prayer, for they are specious devices of the enemy to lead souls in a path which lies so close to the path of truth that it will be scarcely distinguishable from it.” *Evangelism*, 590.

“The testimony of the Spirit of God is true. Change not your faith for any phase of doctrine, however pleasing it may appear, that will seduce the soul.

“The fallacies of Satan are now being multiplied, and those who swerve from the path of truth will lose their bearings. Having nothing to which to anchor, they will drift from one

delusion to another, blown about by the winds of strange doctrines. Satan has come down with great power.” *Ibid.*, 362.

Monday

2 DANGEROUS DELUSIONS

- a. Explain the clever trick used by God’s adversary as a deceptive ploy in Moses’ time—and repeated today. Exodus 7:10–13; 2 Timothy 3:5–9.

Note: “The magicians ... their god, Satan, who assisted them in counterfeiting the work of Jehovah.

“The magicians did not really cause their rods to become serpents; but by magic, aided by the great deceiver, they were able to produce this appearance. It was beyond the power of Satan to change the rods to living serpents. The prince of evil, though possessing all the wisdom and might of an angel fallen, has not power to create, or to give life; this is the prerogative of God alone. But all that was in Satan’s power to do, he did; he produced a counterfeit. To human sight the rods were changed to serpents. Such they were believed to be by Pharaoh and his court.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 264.

- b. What deception is the enemy of souls soon to employ? Revelation 13:13.

Note: “Men are deceived by the miracles which Satan’s agents have power to do, not what they pretend to do.” *The Great Controversy*, 553.

- c. With what warning did Christ prophesy of the occult? Matthew 24:25, 26.

Note: “Have not thousands gone forth into the desert, hoping to find Christ? And from thousands of gatherings where men profess to hold communion with departed spirits is not the call now heard, ‘Behold, He is in the secret chambers’ (Matthew 24:26, *last part*)? This is the very claim that spiritism puts forth.” *The Desire of Ages*, 631.

d. As we see the prophecies against the enchanting wiles of spiritualism fulfilling throughout the world, what must we realize? Ephesians 6:11, 12.

Tuesday

3 REALISTIC MIRACLES AND GHOSTS

a. As the end approaches, what special warnings are given to us to avoid trusting in signs and wonders, and why? Matthew 24:4, 5, 11, 24, 25.

Note: “As the people of God approach the perils of the last days, Satan holds earnest consultation with his angels as to the most successful plan of overthrowing their faith. He sees that the popular churches are already lulled to sleep by his deceptive power. By pleasing sophistry and lying wonders he can continue to hold them under his control. Therefore he directs his angels to lay their snares especially for those who are looking for the second advent of Christ and endeavoring to keep all the commandments of God.

“We are warned that in the last days he will work with signs and lying wonders. And he will continue these wonders until the close of probation, that he may point to them as evidence that he is an angel of light and not of darkness. ...

“Some will be tempted to receive these wonders as from God. The sick will be healed before us. Miracles will be performed in our sight. Are we prepared for the trial which awaits us when the lying wonders of Satan shall be more fully exhibited? Will not many souls be ensnared and taken? By departing from the plain precepts and commandments of God, and giving heed to fables, the minds of many are preparing to receive these lying wonders. We must all now seek to arm ourselves for the contest in which we must soon engage. Faith

in God’s word, prayerfully studied and practically applied, will be our shield from Satan’s power and will bring us off conquerors through the blood of Christ.” *Maranatha*, 208.

b. Why do we need to be aware of one of Satan’s favorite occult ploys? 2 Thessalonians 2:9–12; Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6.

Note: “He [Satan] has power to bring before men the appearance of their departed friends. The counterfeit is perfect; the familiar look, the words, the tone, are reproduced with marvelous distinctness. Many are comforted with the assurance that their loved ones are enjoying the bliss of heaven, and without suspicion of danger, they give ear ‘to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils’ (1 Timothy 4:1).” *The Great Controversy*, 552.

Wednesday

3 AVOIDING A SMOOTH, EASY COUNTERFEIT

a. How does the preaching of Noah relate to us as we teach present truth—including the light entrusted on health? Luke 17:26, 27; 1 Peter 2:11.

Note: “Noah preached to the people of his time that God would give them one hundred and twenty years in which to repent of their sins and find refuge in the ark; but they refused the gracious invitation. Abundant time was given them to turn from their sins, overcome their bad habits, and develop righteous characters; but inclination to sin, though weak at first with many, strengthened through repeated indulgence, and hurried them on to irretrievable ruin.” *The Review and Herald*, October 20, 1885.

b. Instead of giving us a smooth, easy path, why does God give us a character-building health message that requires self-denial? Matthew 7:13–15.

Note: “Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick, and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power. They will then be regarded as healed. These works of apparent healing will bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test.” *Maranatha*, 209.

“The way in which Christ worked was to preach the Word, and to relieve suffering by miraculous works of healing. But I am instructed that we cannot now work in this way; for Satan will exercise his power by working miracles. God’s servants today could not work by means of miracles, because spurious works of healing, claiming to be divine, will be wrought.

“For this reason the Lord has marked out a way in which His people are to carry forward a work of physical healing combined with the teaching of the Word. Sanitariums are to be established, and with these institutions are to be connected workers who will carry forward genuine medical missionary work. Thus a guarding influence is thrown around those who come to the sanitariums for treatment.

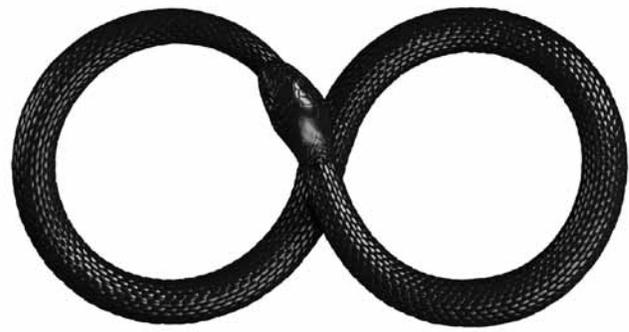
“This is the provision the Lord has made whereby gospel medical missionary work is to be done for many souls. These institutions are to be established out of the cities, and in them educational work is to be intelligently carried forward.” *Medical Ministry*, 14.

Thursday

5 SEEING SHOULD NOT BE BELIEVING!

- a. Describe the ultimate delusion Satan will perform. 2 Corinthians 11:14.

Note: “As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour’s advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation (Revelation 1:13–15). The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: ‘Christ has come! Christ has come!’ The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which



The magicians did not really cause their rods to become serpents; but by magic, aided by the great deceiver, they were able to produce this appearance. It was beyond the power of Satan to change the rods to living serpents.

the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed. He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion.” *Maranatha*, 276.

- b. In view of such peril, what must be our focus? 2 Corinthians 4:8–10, 18.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Why are present-truth Bible doctrines so important at the end of time?
- 2 How can we explain the apparent miracle of Pharaoh’s magicians?
- 3 Name some of the archenemy’s ploys especially aimed at God’s remnant.
- 4 As a general rule, why are we advised not to expect instant healings today?
- 5 How are we to identify the impending counterfeit of Christ’s soon return?

Copyright © 2017 Reformation Herald Publishing Association, 5240 Hollins Road, Roanoke, Virginia. Reprinted by permission.

Cranberries All Year 'Round

By Judy Hallingstad



These little fruits are not just for holidays. Cranberries are great when a few are added to smoothies, which will give your immune system a boost. Yum!

“Cranberries are low in calories (44 per cup), high in fiber, and low in sugar. But like grapes, many of their real benefits aren’t readily apparent from the typical nutrition facts label.

“Studies presented at the 223rd national meeting of the American Chemical Society show that the ruby red berries have some of the most potent antioxidants of any common fruits studied. They possess anticancer properties, inhibit the growth of common food-borne pathogens, and contain antibacterial properties to aid in the prevention of urinary tract infections (UTIs).

“Catherine Neto, Ph.D., assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, isolated several bioactive compounds from whole cranberries and found compounds in the berries that were toxic to a variety of cancer tumor cells. ‘The tumor cell lines that these compounds, inhibited most in our assays included lung, cervical, prostate, breast, and leukemia’, according to Neto.

“Cranberries are high in phenols (also known as phenolic acids),

plant chemicals known to be highly protective against a wide range of health problems and conditions. According to the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, cranberries had a higher phenol concentration than any of the twenty commonly eaten fruits studied: A ½ cup contains 373 phenols per serving, more than red grapes, apples, strawberries, or blueberries.

“It’s widely known that cranberries help prevent UTIs (Urinary Tract Infections). This is accomplished by preventing bacteria from sticking to the lining of the urinary tract. ... Recently studies have also revealed that compounds in cranberries stop certain disease-causing bacteria from sticking to the stomach lining, thus helping to prevent ulcers.

“Remember now, we’re talking about actual, raw cranberries here. Once you dry and sweeten them they may still have a lot of the healthful phenolic compounds, but the calories jump into the stratosphere (from 44 per cup to 370 per cup) and so does the sugar. ...” *150 Healthiest Foods on Earth*, Jonny Bowden, Ph.D., C.N.S., pages 109, 110.

Another Note: “... cranberries aren’t easy to grow. Cranberry farmers often use a variety of chemicals to keep their production rates high And most farmers believe chemicals are necessary for growing cranberries. ... avoid all the chemicals and eat organic cranberries.” <https://foodrevolution.org/blog/food-and-health/cranberry-health-benefits-dark-side-of-cranberry-farming/> **LM**

Recipe

Cranberry Smack

1/2 cup or more fresh cranberries (or thawed)

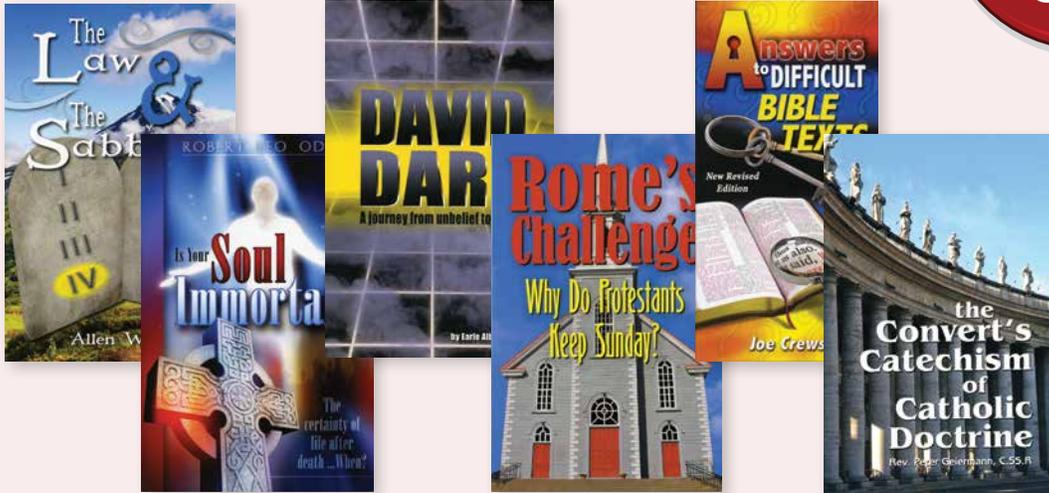
1/2 cup pitted dates

1 large orange, peeled

In a food processor fitted with the “S” blade, or hand processor, process all ingredients until the desired chunky texture is reached. I blend until mostly smooth. Use on oatmeal or on toast. It is delicious! Makes about 1½ cups.

Adventist Apologetics

Defending Our Faith!



THE LAW AND THE SABBATH

Allen Walker

If Christians are under grace and not the law, how can the Sabbath be relevant today? Do the Ten Commandments really have any place in the New Covenant? Allen Walker has untangled the web of confusion in this volume.

PB 160 pgs.....~~\$13.95~~
\$9.46

ROME'S CHALLENGE

Why Do Protestants Keep Sunday?

The pages of this brochure unfold to the reader one of the most glaring conceivable contradictions existing between the practice and theory of the Protestant world...the theory claiming the Bible alone as the teacher, which unequivocally and most positively commands Saturday to be kept 'holy,' whilst their practice proves that they utterly ignore...the Bible." *Catholic Mirror*, December 23, 1893.

PB 29 pgs.....~~\$1.95~~
\$1.46

IS YOUR SOUL IMMORTAL?

Robert Leo Odom

Step-by-step and with Bible Scripture around every turn, you'll uncover the truth about the soul—what it really is, when and where it goes after death, and so much more.

PB 115 pgs.....~~\$10.95~~
\$7.46

ANSWERS TO DIFFICULT BIBLE TEXTS

Joe Crews

Joe Crews tackles the most controversial and confusing texts found in the Bible. Subjects include baptism, the Sabbath, the state of the dead, eternal hell, the rapture and the millennium, law and grace, and much more!

PB 115 pgs.....~~\$5.95~~
\$4.46

DAVID DARE

Earle Albert Rowell

David Dare was reared in an infidel home and is himself a converted infidel. For a number of years he lectured on the Pacific Coast, following the plan of going into a city, advertising his meetings, and inviting folks to interrupt him with questions. In this book, scoffers and skeptics are answered one by one.

PB 57 pgs.....~~\$3.00~~
\$1.46

THE CONVERT'S CATECHISM OF CATHOLIC DOCTRINE

Rev. Peter Geiermann

This facsimile reprint contains in question and answer format why the change of solemnity was made from Saturday to Sunday. It documents the fact that the Catholic church made the change.

PB 112 pgs.....~~\$4.95~~
\$3.46

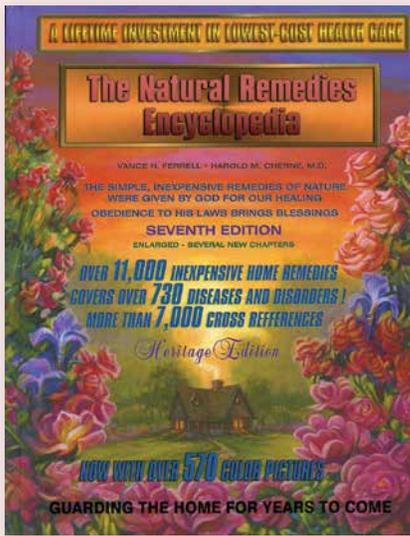
PB: Paper Back

To order, call:

1-800-843-8788

Shipping and handling will be added to all orders.

Change Service Requested



Natural Remedies Encyclopedia

SEVENTH EDITION

Vance Ferrell & Harold Cherne, M.D.

This "master book of home remedies" contains over 11,000 inexpensive home remedies covering over 730 diseases and disorders. It provides "prescriptions from nature's storehouse," covering everything from acid-alkaline foods to water therapy. HB over 1,200 pgs..... ~~\$125.00~~

\$48.95



To order, call:

1-800-843-8788

Media mail shipping, add \$7.00.
Call for priority shipping rate.