

HISTORIC  
**LANDMARKS**  
OF ADVENTISM

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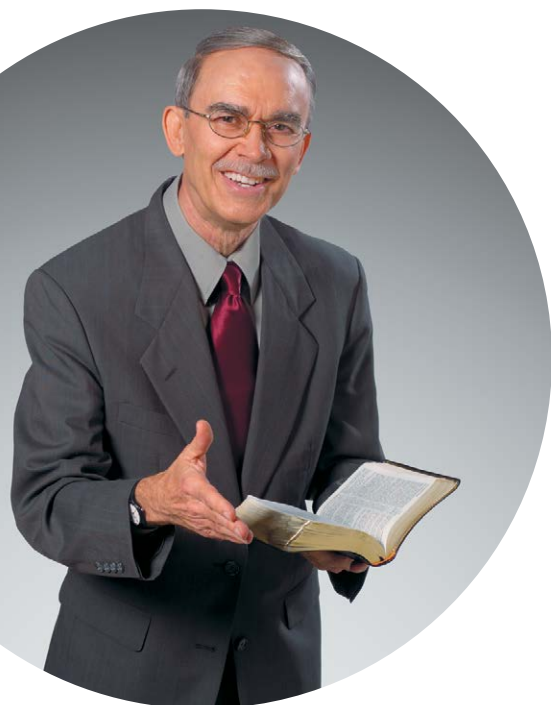
*Choices made bring  
consequences. There are  
limits to the forbearance  
of God.*

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*Testimony:  
The Draw of the  
"Mother Church"*

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## From the Editor

*John J. Grosboll*

# *The Work of the Holy Spirit*

**T**he work of the Holy Spirit is immeasurably great. It is from this source that power and efficiency come to the worker for God; and the Holy Spirit is the comforter, as the personal presence of Christ to the soul. He who looks to Christ in simple, childlike faith, is made a partaker of the divine nature through the agency of the Holy Spirit. When led by the Spirit of God, the Christian may know that he is made complete in Him who is the head of all things. As Christ was glorified on the day of Pentecost, so will He again be glorified in the closing work of the gospel, when He shall prepare a people to stand the final test, in the closing conflict of the great controversy. ...

"The people of God are to be called out from their association with worldlings and evil-doers, to stand in the battle for the Lord against the powers of darkness. When the earth is lightened with the glory of God, we shall see a work similar to that which was wrought when the disciples, filled with the Holy Spirit, proclaimed the power of a risen Saviour. ...

"They [those deceived by the enemies of Christ] said one to another, 'This is the very One who was accused of gluttony, of eating with publicans and sinners; the One who was bound, and scourged, and crucified. We believe in Him as the Son of God, the Prince and Saviour.' The revelation of Christ by the Holy Spirit brought to them a realizing sense of His power and majesty, and they stretched forth their hands unto Him by faith, saying, 'I believe.' Thus it was in the time of the early rain; but the latter rain will be more abundant. ...

"O that we as a people might humble our hearts before God, and plead with Him for the endowment of the Holy Spirit! If we came to the Lord in humility and contrition of soul, He would answer our petitions; for He says that He is more willing to give us the Holy Spirit than are parents to give good gifts to their children. Then would Christ be glorified, and in Him we should discern the fullness of the God-head bodily." *The Review and Herald*, November 29, 1892. **LM**

HISTORIC

## LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

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**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 (2 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. This magazine is designed to help believers 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.

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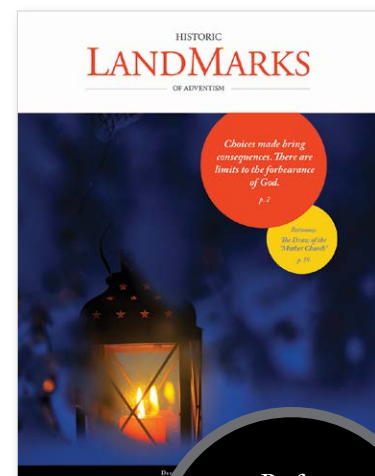
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## *Our Warning Message*

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By John J. Grosboll

**H**istory shows that when a person, family, church, or nation casts aside the law of God, there are real consequences. This process started in heaven before the creation of the world when Lucifer rebelled against the government of heaven, consequently he was cast out.

“Satan stood in amazement at his new condition. His happiness was gone. He looked upon the angels who, with him, were once so happy, but who had been expelled from heaven with him. Before their fall not a shade of discontent had marred their perfect bliss. Now all seemed changed. Countenances which had reflected the image of their Maker were gloomy and despairing. Strife, discord, and bitter recrimination were among them. Previous to their rebellion these things had been unknown in heaven. Satan now beheld the terrible results of his rebellion. He shuddered, and feared to face the future and to contemplate the end of these things.

“The hour for joyful, happy songs of praise to God and His dear Son had come. Satan had led the heavenly choir. He had raised the first note; then all the angelic host had united with him, and glorious strains of music had resounded through heaven in honor of God and His dear Son. But now, instead of strains of sweetest music, discord and angry words fall upon the ear of the great rebel leader.

Where is he? Is it not all a horrible dream? Is he shut out of heaven? Are the gates of heaven never more to open to admit him? The hour of worship draws nigh, when bright and holy angels bow before the Father. No more will he unite in heavenly song. No more will he bow in reverence and holy awe before the presence of the eternal God.

“Could he be again as he was when he was pure, true, and loyal, gladly would he yield up the claims of his authority. But he was lost! beyond redemption, for his presumptuous rebellion! And this was not all; he had led others to rebellion and to the same lost condition with himself—angels, who had never thought to question the will of Heaven or refuse obedience to the law of God till he had put it into their minds, presenting before them that they might enjoy a greater good, a higher and more glorious liberty. This had been the sophistry whereby he had deceived them. A responsibility now rests upon him from which he would fain be released.

“These spirits had become turbulent with disappointed hopes. Instead of

greater good, they were experiencing the sad results of disobedience and disregard of law. Never more would these unhappy beings be swayed by the mild rule of Jesus Christ.

Never more would their spirits be stirred by the deep, earnest love, peace, and joy which His presence had ever inspired in them, to be returned to Him in cheerful obedience and reverential honor.” *The Story of Redemption*, 24–26.

Peace, joy, contentment and happiness

were now only a memory of the past. Everything worthwhile was lost. It was so bad that Satan himself would gladly have gone back. Ellen White saw that he entreated the Lord for readmission, but he was irretrievably ruined. The seeds of rebellion were still in him and he could not be accepted back into heaven. He then carried on his rebellion against the law of God and caused the fall of our first parents.

People today are still deceived by the same Satanic sophistry, believing that by casting off the law of God and any restriction, they will find some kind of joy and happiness. The Bible describes this as “temporary pleasures of sin” (Hebrews 11:25), but in the process, they actually lose their happiness, they lose their joy, and they lose their peace.

Since the fall of Adam and Eve, the enemy of God and man has taught this world to trample under foot God’s moral standard so that we are living in a time of lawlessness. Talking about the last days, Jesus said, “Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold” (Matthew 24:12).

“

*History shows that when a person, family, church, or nation casts aside the law of God, there are real consequences.*

“The signs of the times are plain and startling. Look into the papers that flood our world, filled with recitals of daily crimes, committed not only in the lower walks of life, but also among the higher classes. Those who occupy positions of trust, who are placed as guardians of the peoples’ interest, are untrue to their responsibility. There is embezzlement and fraud. Public money is stolen, and not one tithe of these corrupt transactions comes to the light of day, and we do not see to what extent the wickedness of the world exists.” *The Review and Herald*, May 2, 1893.

The condition of this world has not improved. We have very little idea about how wicked the world is. “The youth of our time are receiving their education from the evil doings of these wicked, but honored men of the world. Theft, murder, adultery, corruption, every sin that has a name, prevails to an awful extent.” Ibid. When God called His people out of Egypt, the children of Israel were the depository for the law of God, which was given to them to guard, keep and teach it, and be a witness in the world.

Deuteronomy 4 tells of the privileges the Jews had because of the law of God. Deuteronomy 6:6–9 says: “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

It is during childhood that a person’s mind is the most plastic and most receptive to new ideas, good or bad. God’s laws were to be handed down to each generation. Had the children of Israel actually done this, the whole history of the world would have been different. However, the history of the children of Israel shows how they fell into idolatry over and over again. Had they been



taught the law, they would never have been in violation of the second commandment.

Children did not learn from their parents the principles of God's law.

"Had fathers and mothers followed the direction given by Christ, we should not now read and hear of sins and crimes committed not only by adults, but even by youth and children.

The evil condition of society exists because parents have

disregarded this instruction, and neglected to train and educate their children to respect and honor the holy commandments of God. Even religious teachers have failed to present the holy standard by which character is measured." *The Review and Herald*, May 2, 1893.

The devil has continually tried to attack any religious teacher or preacher who teaches the law of God. One favorite method of attack is to accuse people of being legalists, but is it not our duty to obey God?

People are attacked with smears or slogans in an attempt to keep them from teaching the principles of God, yet this is something that should be prominent in every Christian church. Think it through. If there is no law then there is no sin, because sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4 KJV). If there is no sin, then there is no need for the gospel. If there is no need for the gospel, there is nothing for a preacher to preach and your whole religion is an empty shell. If there is no sin or wickedness then how do we know what is right or wrong behavior? Thieves and murderers would not be held accountable because all would be doing what seemed right in their

own eyes. Each government has laws and without them there would be total anarchy. The same is true within God's government.

There are consequences to all actions. The devil says you can sin, but you don't have to pay for it; just confess it and it will be forgiven and erased. But forgiveness does not erase. Study the life of David. When he committed that sin with Bathsheba, he repented and was forgiven, but his sin was not erased. The prophet said that the sword would dwell in his family from then on, before mentioning a whole series of terrible things that would follow.

In response to Nathaniel's question, David said that whoever committed that crime should repay fourfold, not knowing that it was he who would repay. David lost four of his sons as a result of his crime. Each loss hurt him more than if he had died himself. Surely he was forgiven, but he had to pay the consequences.

There are both eternal as well as temporal consequences to be paid for a person's choices. Sometimes the price is damage to a person's health, either physical or mental. The wise man said, "Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him. But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are as a shadow, because he does not fear before God" (Ecclesiastes 8:12, 13).

There are limits to the forbearance of God. He has drawn a line. The nation or individual who passes the limit will experience judgments.

"O that every living teacher would teach both in word and doctrine that there are limits to God's longsuffering. Many have gone beyond the limits of His forbearance. The world should be aroused to a wholesome fear of the Lord God of hosts. The time and age in which we live is one of marked depravity; for many disregard the precepts of the law of God. The commandment of God is treated with indifference, and even with open contempt, and the inhabitants of the world are fast approaching the limits of the forbearance of the grace of God. Ere long God will arise and vindicate His honor." *The Review and Herald*, May 2, 1893.



*It is during childhood that a person's mind is the most plastic and most receptive to new ideas, good or bad.*

A familiar example is in Genesis: “Then He said to Abram, ‘Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete [full]’ ” (Genesis 15:13–16).

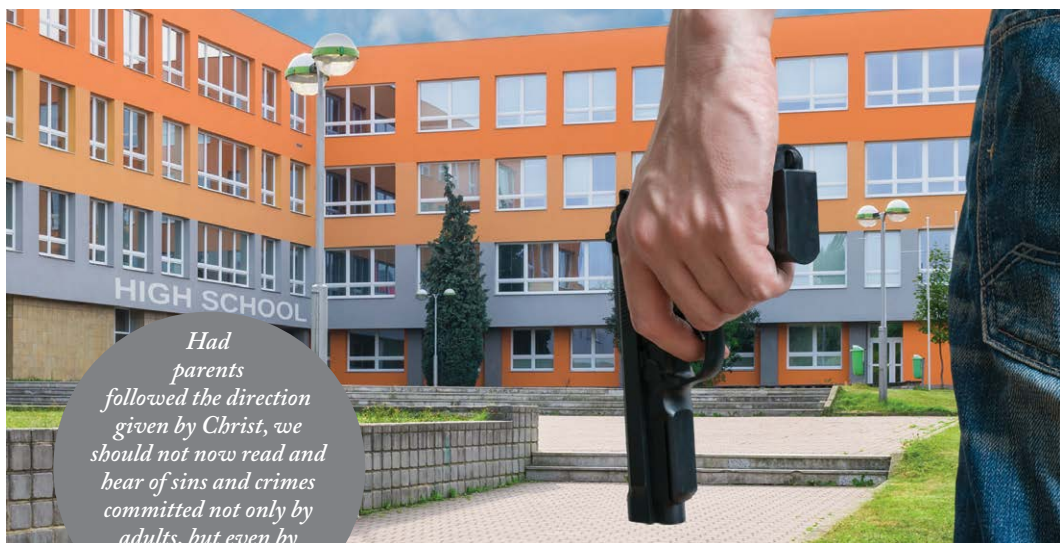
The Amorites had not yet crossed the line the Lord had set. But things changed in the fourth generation. “Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years—on that very same day—it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt” (Exodus 12:40, 41).

What God spoke to Abraham came to pass on the exact same day predicted. When the children of Israel came out of Egypt they dispossessed the Amorites. The Amorites had had a long period of probation, but the time came when their transgression was so large that the Lord said, Enough! They had crossed the line and were guilty of those things recorded in Leviticus 18, a chapter that is rarely read in church because it is too awful.

The scary thing is that the types of things listed in Leviticus 18 are being done today and God has not changed.

“The time will come when all the transgressors of His law will know that God will by no means clear the guilty (Exodus 34:7).” *The Review and Herald*, May 2, 1893.

It says in Exodus 34:6, 7, “The LORD passed before him [Moses] and proclaimed, ‘The LORD, the LORD GOD, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving



*Had parents followed the direction given by Christ, we should not now read and hear of sins and crimes committed not only by adults, but even by youth and children.*

iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation.”

God is merciful. In God's government there is a mingling of mercy and justice. The devil challenged that principle and asserted that God could be just or He could be merciful, but He couldn't be both just and merciful. However, that charge was completely answered when Jesus died on the cross of Calvary. The rest of the universe has no question about that anymore. They know that God is both just and merciful. A just penalty was paid for the sins of the world and God is merciful at the same time.

We see the limits to God's forbearance in the example of the Jews. Jesus told them, “The one that comes to Me I will in no case cast out” (John 6:37, literal translation). If I come to Him, as bad as I am, He has promised not to cast me out, but to save and cleanse me. Paul said He died on the cross to save even the worst, the chief of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15).

But the Jewish nation rejected the great light and truth that was given to them. As a nation they refused to listen.

They rejected the counsel of God against themselves and set themselves stubbornly against the messages and warnings that God sent them.

The time came when they had exhausted the patience of God. When people are going in the wrong way, first God sends them a message of reproof. When the people in Nineveh listened to Jonah's message and turned around, the Lord did not send the judgments to destroy them.

The same God, with the same accuracy, keeps a record of what is happening in the world today. Nations, churches, and individuals are still being offered the wedding garment that is woven in the loom of heaven, to be prepared for the coming of Christ. The Bible says that God does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men (Lamentations 3:33).

The Lord says, “What more could have been done to My vineyard that I have not done in it” (Isaiah 5:4)? It is impossible to say that God could have done more, because when Jesus Christ came, that gave all of heaven in one gift.

There is a land that has had unrivaled mercies and blessings from God, a land

that has been the greatest land of liberty that has ever existed. It has been the glory of the whole earth. It has been blessed by God more than any other country on the face of the globe. But sadly, instead of returning gratitude for His multitude of blessings by honoring God and His law, the inhabitants of the land are turning their backs on God's law, and professed Christians of America have become leavened with pride, covetousness, and self-sufficiency.

Ellen White described the situation in America a hundred and twenty-five years ago when she said, "The love of money, which is the root of all evil, has had a large place in their [the professed Christians of America] hearts. Many whose names are upon the church records have oppressed the poor, and grasped every possible advantage over those who were under them. They have lived to gratify appetite, to make extravagant display; and pride is fast making a Sodom of our world. But God is keeping His reckoning. The treatment of the poor, the robbery of the widow and the fatherless by those who are lifted up against the weak and helpless, is all written in the book of heaven. The cries of those who are oppressed have reached the ears of Him who judgeth righteously." *The Review and Herald*, May 2, 1893.

As judgment has fallen in the streets and equity cannot enter, and the one who departs from evil makes himself a victim, when this nation restricts religious liberty and sacrifices and surrenders the principles of Protestantism, and accepts again, the doctrines and the principles of the papacy, Ellen White says, Then "the measure of their guilt will be full, and 'national apostasy' will be registered in the books of heaven." *Ibid*.

The result of this apostasy will be national ruin. It will also be a time of persecution for God's children. Then we are instructed to pray the prayer found in Psalm 119:126: "It is time for You to

act, O LORD, for they have made void Your law" (literal translation).

When the peoples of this world make void the law of God, God will intervene. These are the words of comfort that the Lord will give to His children who are faithful in keeping His law during this time of persecution that's coming. "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name" (Revelation 3:10–12).

There are limits to the forbearance of God and there is no such thing as breaking the law of God without penalty, even during this lifetime.

Bible writers have this to say about the character of the law of God and our relation to it:

- "The law of God is perfect" (Psalm 19:7, literal translation).
- "The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide" (Psalm 37:31).
- "Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, you people in whose heart is My law: do not fear the reproach of men" (Isaiah 51:7).
- "I delight to do Your will, O My God, and Your law is within My heart" (Psalm 40:8).
- The righteous man says, "His delight is in the law of the LORD" (Psalm 1:2).
- The whole of Psalm 119 is about the law of God.
- "The commandment is a lamp, and the law a light" (Proverbs 6:23).

"Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:2, 3).

The third angel's message, to be given to the world in the last days, will be given by people who keep the commandments. The judgment hour message cannot be preached without a distinct presentation concerning the law of God. If you compare Revelation 14 with Revelation 17, you will find out that the second angel's message is a condemnation of those who break the law.

Paul said, "The carnal [unconverted] mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be" (Romans 8:7).

We as Adventist Christians have been given the responsibility to give the warning to the world that we are in the midst of the judgment right now. The standard of judgment is the law of God. Like Noah's unpopular message of a pending flood, our message is not popular and mostly not welcome. Soon it will be too late to do what we can do right now. May the Lord help us to be faithful witnesses in getting the message out to the world.

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

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## Your Own Way

By W. D. Frazee

In Galatians 2:20 Paul says, speaking of Jesus, “He loved me, and gave Himself for me.”

In the words of the gospel prophet Isaiah, we see the sufferings of the Messiah described hundreds of years before He was born. “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:5, 6).

The expression, “we have turned every one to his own way” in modern phraseology is, everybody doing his own thing. Now the prophet here points out that this is what made necessary the death of Jesus. There is something very alluring, very intriguing, very enticing about having our own way, but often poor choices are made impulsively.

Now the prophet suggests that there is more than one way to have one’s own way. “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way.” A hundred people may have a hundred ways to have their own way due to personal likes and dislikes. Isaiah says this problem is at the root of sin. But while there is an individuality in these various patterns of having our own way they fall more or less into three great categories.

**Open Rebellion—my own way.** I, a creature, shake my puny fist at the God of heaven and say, I want my way and I’m going to have it. This was the way of Nimrod at the tower of Babel. This was the way of Pharaoh as he withstood Moses and Aaron at the time of the Exodus. He perished in the Red Sea. This was the way of Belshazzar as he assembled his lords and drank that fermented wine of Babylon and praised

the gods of silver and gold and defied the God of heaven by calling for the sacred vessels from the temple at Jerusalem to be brought in for the services of these heathen gods. All these and millions of others in turning each one to his own way have openly defied the God of heaven.

**Pretended Loyalty—while having one’s own way.** This does not defy God openly; it seeks to evade His requirements all the while pretending to be loyal. This was the way of King Saul, the first monarch of Israel. The experience of the young king is recorded in 1 Samuel 15. He was anointed with holy oil and crowned king and told to exterminate the Amalekites, a cruel, presumptuous heathen people that had been defying God for hundreds of years. They had filled up their cup of iniquity.

Through the spirit of prophecy God gave him direct instructions in what and

how it should be done. Idol worship and all who shared in it were to be destroyed and no spoils were to be kept. It was to be clear that they were acting as God's sheriffs, but when the job was done they thought, Why lose all the flocks and herds and all the booty? In their greed they began to reason, Wouldn't it be fine to sacrifice this to the Lord at the tabernacle at Gilgal? Secretly they thought that instead of their own cattle, they could use these to sacrifice. King Saul also had second thoughts about sparing Agag. He thought his triumph would be heightened if Agag, the king, was brought home in chains. Samuel, the prophet of God, met them enquiring, Why haven't you obeyed what God said? Saul's feeble excuse was that the people have spared those to sacrifice to the Lord thy God in Gilgal (1 Samuel 15:19–21).

Notice Samuel's response: "Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD"

(1 Samuel 15:22, *first part*)? Loyalty is shown not by pretense, not by profession, not even by sacrifices, but by obedience. Jesus echoed it a thousand years later when He said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15).

"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, He hath also rejected thee from being king" (1 Samuel 15:22,

*last part*, 23). The Spirit pierced through Saul's disguises, his camouflages, his excuses, his rationalizations.

People quite often have two reasons for what they do – the reason they give and the real reason. King Saul had two reasons – the reason he gave which was an excuse and the real reason. God calls it rebellion. This all happened while Saul was claiming to be a loyal supporter of the Lord, a loyal subject of God's kingdom, a loyal commander in God's army. Saul had his own way while pretending it was God's way.

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He strips away the disguise and exposes the camouflage of those who claim to speak in His name but do not keep the commandments of His Father. He said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord,

have we not prophesied in

Thy name? and in Thy name have cast

out devils? and

in Thy name

done many

wonderful

works?

And then

will I pro-

fess unto

them,

I never

knew you:

depart from

Me, ye that

work iniquity

[lawlessness]"

(Matthew 7:21–23).

These people are not

like Pharaoh in open rebellion;

they're not like Belshazzar blaspheming the name of God; they take the name of Jesus upon their lips; they repeat His praises; all they do they do in His name and yet Jesus says they're in rebellion. They are not obedient.

This method of doing one's own way is far more subtle than the first. There is more hope for the open sinner in bold rebellion to find that he needs to be changed and converted than the one who deceives himself. We thank God for the arrow from the Lord's quiver that wounds such a heart, but oh, what a deceptive trap it is to be taken in when one practices the forms of religion and sings the praises of God, while in his inner life he is following his own way.

You see, that was the problem with Judas. Christ gave Judas an opportunity to be converted. Judas went through all the forms: he joined in prayer; he was even ordained a minister by Jesus Himself; He was sent out along with the rest of the twelve to work miracles to heal and preach in Jesus' name but deep in his heart Judas never came to the point of full surrender.

A classic example of this matter of doing something with a different motive is found in John 12. The story begins with Mary anointing the feet of Jesus at the feast in Simon's house. When Mary's box of alabaster was broken and the perfume filled the room, Judas' selfish, covetous soul rose up in protest. He thought the money Mary had spent on the costly ointment could have been sold and put into the treasury. He was the treasurer and actually thought what he could do with it.

Judas said, "Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein" (verses 5, 6). Right there in the presence of Christ he dared to condemn that act of love on Mary's part and give his objection a worthy look while hiding his covetous motive. Judas wanted to be seen as a keen, shrewd, careful, loyal supporter of Jesus and His program and looking after the interests of the kingdom. Interesting though, the disciples all sided with Judas and not with Mary. Only





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who deceives himself.*

the Savior saw through his disguise. Only the Savior could read his heart.

How dangerous it is to cling to sin while covering it up with a holy pretense. Jesus referred to the scribes and Pharisees as “whited sepulchers” (Matthew 23:27). Inside full of dead men’s bones, but covered over with whitewash on the outside.

**Deception—the right thing for the wrong reason.** An example of this is found in the experience of James and John. “John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in Thy name; and we forbid him, because he followeth not with us. And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us” (Luke 9:49, 50). Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem and passing through a Samaritan village James and John ask the Samaritans if they could stay there that night, but because they saw that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, they would not receive Him. “James and John saw this, and they said to Jesus, Lord, wilt Thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elijah did? But He turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is

not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them” (verses 54, 55).

Now James and John were not crooks like Judas. They thought they were being loyal to the Master and were not by any means trying in an underhanded way to undermine His influence. However, their selfish human nature had seized upon the opportunity of getting close to Christ and upholding Him as a way to exalt themselves and get their way. This could also be a temptation for you and me. When they saw somebody else doing some work in Jesus’ name, full of zeal, they said, Oh you mustn’t do this; you’re not with our company. You’re not taking your orders from us so you better quit.

Now the book *The Desire of Ages* in commenting upon this gives us this interesting ray of light, that James and John had thought they were ambitious for their Master’s honor but as Christ instructed them they began to see that they had been ambitious for their own honor. (See *The Desire of Ages*, 437, 438.) What was it they wanted? Their own way. Now their own way happened to be right in exalting Jesus but the way they went at it was in a way to exalt themselves. Again with the Samaritans

they went ahead and Jesus had told them to try to find lodging there and something to eat but the Samaritans wouldn’t receive them so they came back and reported and said, Now Lord, shall we call fire down from heaven and burn them up like Elijah did? And Jesus looked upon them sadly as He said, You do not know what spirit you are of. You think you are trying to help Me and you mean all right, but really the trouble is, you want your own way. You want to either rule or ruin. You want people to jump when you crack the whip and if they won’t do it you’re prepared to use the whip. This is at the foundation of all the persecution in the name of religion down through the ages. Millions of inquisitors and persecutors have put to death tens of millions of conscientious souls in the name of Jesus Christ. Why? They believed they were working for God. Even when the thing we stand for is the right position we still may be very selfish in the way we stand for it.

We live in an interesting age when it has become popular on many fronts to cry out against the establishment, to point out the mistakes in government, in schools, in homes, in the church, and God knows there are plenty of mistakes.

But, whether I ride in the streets, burn down the administration building or choose more subtle ways to show my disregard of authority; whether I smoke marijuana, and point out that it's no worse than my elders getting drunk with whiskey; whether I select a righteous cause and stand for it in the spirit of rebellion, the end result is the same. I am turning to my own way.

When a young person today selects a righteous cause and does it in defiance of his parents, his teachers, and points out their sins and mistakes, only God knows the motive of his heart, but I challenge each young person – be sure when you take a stand in advance of your elders, and God knows many of you need to take stands in advance of your elders, be sure you're doing the right thing for the right reason instead of the right thing for the wrong reason. It makes all the difference in the world. One road leads to heaven and the other leads to hell. All those who are lost will not be people who got drunk or

got high on drugs. Selfishness is something far more permeating in its influence. There are ten thousand forms that selfishness can take.

The prophet says truly when he says, "All we like sheep have gone astray" (Isaiah 53:6). All of us. Every one of us. Some have taken the road of open defiant rebellion, open and above board. Some of us have taken the road of pretending to be loyal to God and yet in our hearts are thieves, crooks, lustful

deceivers, covering it over with white-wash. Some of us have taken the road of seizing the truth and using it as a platform on which to mount for ourselves an exalted throne from which to issue edicts and expect them to be carried out because *we* are standing for Jesus.

Now thank God there's a fourth way to have your own way. We'll find it in Matthew the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter. There's something better than these three ways in which like sheep men go astray. Here's another way. "Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (verse 24). This is not the way of open rebellion; it is not the way of evading and rationalizing; it is not the way of choosing truth and doing the right thing for the wrong reason. This is another way entirely. It's the way of the cross, the way Jesus took, for Jesus did not come to earth to give up bad things so He could be saved. He

gave up all the good things so you and I could be saved. And He invites us to join with Him in that way – the way of self-crucifixion.

Paul says, "I am crucified with Christ" (Galatians 2:20). He

had seen Christ on the Damascus road as the crucified Savior now risen and ascending pleading with Him, Saul the persecutor, to turn from self-pleasing

in the name of religion, and he said, I will show you what great things you must suffer for My name's sake. Thank God, Paul turned his back on all the self-pleasing in the name of religion and took up the cross of Christ and carried

it to his death; didn't he? And he said, "God forbid that I should glory save in that cross" (Galatians 6:14). Now you say, I thought you said that this was a way to have your own way. It is. It's the only way that works. That's the paradox.

I saw some ducks on a lake the other day and as we were watching them eat their dinner while we ate our dinner, we observed how much better they functioned there in the water than we would if we'd been going after our dinner where they were. Do you know why they were doing such a good job of it? They were made for that. They were equipped for that task from head to tail. I want to tell you something, friends, you and I were not made to have our own way. And whenever we try it, sooner or later we're disappointed. We were made for God's way. We were made to please Him. He says, "This people have I formed for Myself; they shall show forth My praise" (Isaiah 43:21). And when you and I turn from self-pleasing and see Jesus on the cross and say, Lord, if You love me that much to die for me, I love You enough to live for You. When we do that then we begin to understand and experience a joy which is not the joy of self-pleasing; it's the joy of pleasing Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. And since that is what we were made for, it works.

As one of old said, "Thou hast made us for Thyself, Oh God, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee." Augustine of Hippo. Nothing but Jesus, having full possession of our heart can truly satisfy the soul. We'll never find satisfaction, friends, in defiance of God in open rebellion. We'll find only disappointment and disillusionment in trying to pretend loyalty to Him and yet really having our own selfish way. And oh, the sad, sad disillusionment of those who take a righteous cause and march under its banner all the while trying to find their own way in the religion of Christ. No friends. Let's make one big pile of all our selfish ways and thoughts and plans

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*Millions of inquisitors and persecutors have put to death tens of millions of conscientious souls in the name of Jesus Christ. Why? They believed they were working for God.*



and turn from it and come to Jesus on the cross and kneel down and give Him everything we have. There's no other way. "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matthew 16:24).

When we do that more and more while we crucify the flesh, while we deny the selfish cravings, we become acquainted with a life which finds its satisfaction in pleasing God and in helping Him make others happy. Jesus said, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:17). Oh yes, to turn from self-pleasing means to enter the role that eventually will bring us eternal joy here and hereafter. So the Psalmist says, "Delight thyself ... in the LORD: and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psalm 37:4). So you want your heart's desire? You'll not get it by going after it. You'll not find it by chasing it. There's only one way that you can find the real fulfillment, the answer to your quest. It's by renouncing self and letting Jesus have full control of your life.

If the disguise of sin and selfishness has been torn away from any of the devil's plans in your mind or heart pray not merely to be illumined but to come to a decision so we can say with Paul on the Damascus road, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do" (Acts 9:6)? **LM**

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*Elder W.D. Frazee studied the Medical Missionary Course at the College of Medical Evangelists in Loma Linda, California. He was called to Utah as a gospel medical evangelist. During the Great Depression, when the church could not afford to hire any assistants, Elder Frazee began inviting professionals to join him as volunteers. This began a faith ministry that would become the foundation for the establishment of the Wildwood Medical Missionary Institute in 1942. He believed that each person is unique, specially designed by the Lord, of infinite value, and has a special place and mission in this world which only he can fill. His life followed this principle and he encouraged others to do the same.*

My stubborn will at last hath yielded;  
I would be Thine and Thine alone.  
And this the prayer my lips are bringing,  
"Lord, let in me Thy will be done."

I'm tired of sin, footsore and weary,  
The darksome path hath dreary grown.  
But now a light has ris'n to cheer me;  
I find in Thee my Star, my Sun.

Thy precious will, O conqu'ring Savior.  
Doth now embrace and compass me;  
All discords hushed, my peace a river,  
My soul a prisoned bird set free.

Shut in with Thee, O Lord, forever,  
My wayward feet no more to roam;  
What pow'r from Thee my soul can sever?  
The center of God's will my home.

Sweet will of God, still fold me closer.  
Till I am wholly lost in Thee;  
Sweet will of God, still fold me closer.  
Till I am wholly lost in Thee.

*Sweet Will of God*, Mrs. C. H. Morris, 1900.



# *Christmas*



**C**hristmas—a Time to Honor God—By the world the holidays are spent in frivolity and extravagance, gluttony and display. ... Thousands of dollars will be worse than thrown away upon the coming Christmas and New Year's in needless indulgences. But it is our privilege to depart from the customs and practices of this degenerate age; and instead of expending means merely for the gratification of the appetite or for needless ornaments or articles of clothing, we may make the coming holidays an occasion in which to honor and glorify God.

Christ should be the supreme object; but as Christmas has been observed, the glory is turned from Him to mortal man, whose sinful, defective character made it necessary for Him to come to our world.





Jesus, the Majesty of heaven, the royal King of heaven, laid aside His royalty, left His throne of glory, His high command, and came into our world to bring to fallen man, weakened in moral power and corrupted by sin, aid divine. . . .

Parents should keep these things before their children and instruct them, line upon line, precept upon precept, in their obligation to God—not their obligation to each other, to honor and glorify one another by gifts and offerings.

### **Turn Thoughts of the Children Into a New Channel**

—There are many things which can be devised with taste and cost far less than the unnecessary presents that are so frequently bestowed upon our children and relatives, and thus courtesy can be shown and happiness brought into the home.

You can teach your children a lesson while you explain to them the reason why you have made a change in the value of their presents, telling them that you are convinced that you have hitherto considered their pleasure more than the glory of God. Tell them that you have thought more of your own pleasure and of their gratification and of keeping in harmony with the customs and traditions of the world, in making presents to those who did not need them, than you have of advancing the cause of God. Like the wise men of old, you may offer to God your best gifts and show by your offerings to Him that you appreciate His Gift to a sinful world. Set your children's thoughts running in a new, unselfish channel by inciting them to present offerings to God for the gift of His only-begotten Son.

### **“Shall We Have a Christmas Tree?”**

—God would be well pleased if on Christmas each church would have a Christmas tree on which shall be hung offerings, great and small, for these houses of worship. [Note: Reference is made in this article to current building projects. As the principles set forth in this connection are applicable today, these specific references are left in the article.] Letters of inquiry have come to us asking, Shall we have a Christmas tree? Will it not be like the world? We answer, You can make it like the world if you have a disposition to do so, or you can make it as unlike the world as possible. There is no particular sin in selecting a fragrant evergreen and placing it in our churches, but the sin lies in the motive which prompts to action and the use which is made of the gifts placed upon the tree.

The tree may be as tall and its branches as wide as shall best suit the occasion; but let its boughs be laden with the golden and silver fruit of your beneficence, and present this to Him as your Christmas gift. Let your donations be sanctified by prayer.

Christmas and New Year celebrations can and should be held in behalf of those who are helpless. God is glorified when we give to help those who have large families to support.

### **A Tree Laden With Offerings Is Not Sinful**

—Let not the parents take the position that an evergreen placed in the church for the amusement of the Sabbath school scholars is a sin, for it may be made a great blessing. Keep before their minds benevolent objects. In no case should mere amusement be the object of these gatherings. While there may be some who will turn these occasions into seasons of careless levity, and whose minds will not receive the divine impress, to other minds and characters these seasons will be highly beneficial. I am fully satisfied that innocent substitutes can be devised for many gatherings that demoralize.

### **Provide Innocent Enjoyment for the Day**

—Will you not arise, my Christian brethren and sisters, and gird yourselves for duty in the fear of God, so arranging this matter that it shall not be dry and uninteresting, but full of innocent enjoyment that shall bear the signet of Heaven? I know the poorer class will respond to these suggestions. The most wealthy should also show an interest and bestow their gifts and offerings proportionate to the means with which God

has entrusted them. Let there be recorded in the heavenly books such a Christmas as has never yet been seen because of the donations which shall be given for the sustaining of the work of God and the upbuilding of His kingdom.

*The Adventist Home*, 480–483. **LM**



# *The Problem in Galatia* *Works of the Flesh*

By John R. Pearson

It was on Paul's second missionary journey that he and Silas visited the churches in Galatia. Only slight mention is made of it in the book of Acts: "Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia" (Acts 16:6). Note that this is only a passing reference, with no details of the work they did there.

The next mention of Galatia in Acts is in 18:23: "After he [Paul] had spent some time there [in Antioch], he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples." Again, we have only passing reference to Galatia.

Interestingly, these are the only two mentions in the book of Acts of the work Paul did in Galatia. Nevertheless, the work that he did there was significant enough that it merited the preservation by divine providence of a letter of rebuke he wrote "to the churches of Galatia" (Galatians 1:2).

Why termed "a letter of rebuke"? After Paul's customary greeting, which

is almost identical in all of his epistles, the very first thing he wrote is, "I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel ..." (Galatians 1:6).

Paul devotes most of the first and second chapters of Galatians to a justification of his whole body of work and to an account of his efforts to correct errors of the early church as it made the transition from the sacrificial services of the Jewish economy to the Christ-based fellowship of the Christian church. (Of course, the Jewish economy had also been Christ-based, although the Pharisees and the Sadducees had made the sacrificial service an end unto itself, failing to understand that these services pointed to the ultimate Sacrifice.)

Then he closes the second chapter with an exquisite exposition of justification by faith, exclaiming, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of

God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Paul begins the third chapter with a second rebuke: "O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified" (Galatians 3:1)?

From what follows in his letter, it is clear that the Galatians had either maintained or returned to their erroneous beliefs of justification by works: "This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh" (Galatians 3:2, 3)?

As Paul continues to explain how justification is by faith and faith alone, he reminds the Galatians of how Abraham was justified, then segues into a brief explanation of righteousness by faith, explaining, "... that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for 'THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH'" (Galatians 3:11). [Emphasis supplied.]



As he continues his explanation of justification by faith, he provides a between-the-lines allusion to the difference between the moral law and the sacrificial law, stating, “Why, then, was the Law added? Because of transgressions, until the descendant came to whom the promise pertained. It was put into effect through angels by means of a mediator” (Galatians 3:19, ISV).

That mediator, of course, was Moses, who, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, wrote the details of the sacrificial law and placed it beside the ark: “So it was, when Moses had completed writing the words of this law in a book, when they were finished, that Moses commanded the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying: ‘Take this Book of the Law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there as a witness against you’” (Deuteronomy 31:24–26).

The remainder of chapter three and the beginning of chapter four give a clear explanation of those who constitute modern Israel, following the rejection of Christ by ancient Israel—the Jewish nation: “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:27–29).

Following his explanation of the very basics of justification and sanctification being by faith and faith alone, and an explanation of who the recipients of the promise given to Abraham are, Paul returns to his concerns for the Galatians, asking, “... how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain” (Galatians 4:9–11).

By relating the story of Hagar and Sarah, Paul expands on the difference between justification by works and justification by faith, noting that “we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. ... So then, brethren, we are not children of the bond-woman but of the free” (Galatians 4:28, 31).

In essence, Paul is again asserting that justification is by faith (Sarah) and not by works (Hagar).

In chapter five, Paul begins by exhorting the Galatians, “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage” (Galatians 5:1).

Seeking to ensure that the Galatians understand his concerns for them, Paul once again points out the error that they have fallen into, writing, “You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth” (Galatians 5:4–7)?

After having established the critical importance of faith as the sole basis for justification and righteousness/sanctification, Paul endeavors to confirm that the Galatians have a clear understanding of the difference between the works of the flesh (recall that the Galatians were attempting to achieve justification by those works under the dictates of the sacrificial law) and the fruits of the Spirit

in verses 19 through 23. (Obviously the Galatians were not attempting to gain justification through the sinful works of the flesh Paul outlines here, but they were, nevertheless, seeking to achieve justification through works.)

Paul closes his epistle by returning to his major theme of the futility of seeking justification through works of the flesh by following the sacrificial law: “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For

in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation” (Galatians 6:14, 15).

Paul’s letter to the Galatians is a perfect example of the treasures hidden in God’s word that can only be found by a thorough mining of that Word. So many different aspects of the plan of salvation are touched on, that many hours could be devoted to a study of this epistle alone. While clearly intended to be an admonition to the Galatians who were “turning away” from the righteousness that faith in Christ establishes, this letter can have a far greater impact for those who seek to understand the gospel that “came through the revelation of Jesus Christ” (Galatians 1:12).

“Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen” (Galatians 6:18). **LM**

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“  
*I have been crucified  
with Christ; it is no longer  
I who live, but Christ lives  
in me; and the life which I  
now live in the flesh I live  
by faith in the Son of  
God...*

## *The Ten Commandments and Apostasy at Mt. Sinai*

Clues – Based on Exodus 19, 20, 31, 32 KJV

### *Across:*

- |     |  |         |
|-----|--|---------|
| B2  | What God's true people will do to His holy day _____                   | 20:8    |
| B11 | Someone we must show respect for _____                                 | 20:12   |
| C18 | God's commandments were written on this unchangeable medium _____      | 31:18   |
| D7  | Moses implored God to do this with His wrath (two words) _____         | 32:12   |
| E1  | God told Moses to never make idols of this _____                       | 20:23   |
| E15 | Aaron's ridiculous claim: The calf came out of the _____               | 32:24   |
| G8  | We must not covet this belonging to others (two words) _____           | 20:17   |
| G18 | God's people will never do this from anyone _____                      | 20:15   |
| H2  | God: My people will have _____ gods before Me (two words)              | 20:3    |
| I12 | God reminded the people He had borne them up on _____ wings            | 19:4    |
| J8  | The kind of calf Aaron made for the people _____                       | 32:4    |
| J18 | God said "all the earth is _____"                                      | 19:5    |
| K13 | Moses told the people they had committed a _____ sin                   | 32:30   |
| L4  | Godly husbands and wives will never commit this _____                  | 20:14   |
| M17 | Moses turned the calf idol into this _____                             | 32:20   |
| O2  | We must never give this testimony regarding anyone else _____          | 20:16   |
| O14 | God to Moses: The people have turned away from their instruction _____ | 32:8    |
| Q6  | We must not make an _____ and worship it                               | 20:4, 5 |
| Q19 | We must never use lightly even God's _____                             | 20:7    |
| R10 | God appeared to Moses in this kind of cloud _____                      | 19:9    |
| R16 | Moses thought the noise was from people who did this _____             | 32:18   |

### *Down:*

- |     |   |          |
|-----|---|----------|
| A3  | The people promised: "All that the Lord has spoken _____" (three words)       | 19:8     |
| A5  | What God did and we are to do on His Sabbath day _____                        | 20:11    |
| A8  | God said, If you obey Me you will be this treasure _____                      | 19:5     |
| A19 | The calf idol apostasy caused God's wrath to become this _____                | 32:10    |
| A21 | We are not to allow our _____ to break God's holy day                         | 20:10    |
| B13 | God said do not use this to make an altar _____                               | 20:25    |
| C18 | God's altar could not have these _____  | 20:26    |
| D16 | The people feared if God spoke to them they would _____                       | 20:19    |
| F12 | How many thousand people died from the calf rebellion? _____                  | 32:28    |
| F20 | God's holy Sabbath is the _____ of each week (two words)                      | 20:10    |
| G15 | Aaron asked the people for this kind of earrings _____                        | 32:2, 3  |
| H2  | Joshua thought this was because of war in the camp _____                      | 32:17    |
| H5  | When God came upon Mt. Sinai these were present _____                         | 19:16    |
| I13 | When Moses came back down to the camp he was filled with this _____           | 32:19    |
| J8  | Someone we must show respect for _____  | 20:12    |
| L18 | If we obey God we'll not do this on His holy day _____                        | 20:9, 10 |
| N10 | God's true people will not _____ a neighbor's house, wife, or livestock, etc. | 20:17    |
| N12 | This, upon the tables, was of God _____                                       | 32:16    |

A	2		4	R	6	7		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		20		A
B																					B
C																					
D																					D
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1		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		13		15	16		18	19	20		22

- N16 Moses to Aaron: why did you bring this upon the people?  
 O2 God wrote His commandments in stone with this \_\_\_\_\_  
 O4 All this tribe took their stand with Moses on the Lord's side \_\_\_\_\_  
 O6 Moses entreated God to repent of the \_\_\_\_\_. He wanted to do  
 O14 Mt. Sinai did this when God descended on it \_\_\_\_\_  
 O19 Proper care for our parents will result in this life \_\_\_\_\_  
 P21 When God came upon Mt. Sinai it was full of this \_\_\_\_\_  
 Q8 How many of the people promised to obey God? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Q17 A child of God will never do this to another \_\_\_\_\_

- 32:21  
 31:18  
 32:26  
 32:12, 14  
 19:18  
 20:12  
 19:18  
 19:8  
 20:13

Answer Key:

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



## *The Draw of the "Mother Church"*

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By Martin Bernar

**M**edellin, Colombia – It was Sunday morning. I had arrived in the beautiful country of Colombia just three days earlier and my travel-size supplies were running out. I headed for the shopping mall. My plan was to get there early to avoid the shopping crowds that would arrive later.

While trying to locate the stores I needed, I heard beautiful music ascending from the ground floor. Looking over the rail I saw a large crowd gathering and hundreds of chairs being set out. A concert, I thought to myself. The music was so beautiful I had to go down and check it out. As I got closer I saw a lady soloist singing a song with Christian lyrics accompanied by beautiful contemporary music. When I say contemporary, it was a far cry from any rock music so often played in Protestant churches today. It was a spiritually uplifting melody without the use of any percussion instruments. Yet, it was modern and attractive to the ears of the young and adults alike. This was a Catholic mass served right in the middle of the shopping mall.



I listened for the next 20 minutes to a sermon about the sacrifice of Jesus, delivered as beautifully as I had ever heard before. After a prayer, the beautiful music filled the entire mall again. As worshipers slowly left the makeshift sanctuary, every soul was touched, my own included.

I contemplated my Sunday morning worship experience throughout that day. I could easily have mistaken the mass that day for an Adventist service. I am a Christian with some firm Protestant beliefs. But wow, I still have a hard time believing I had just witnessed a Catholic mass. It was more relevant and attractive than anything I have seen or heard in the Protestant world.

That very same Sunday as I walked through the city's business district with many high-rise buildings, it was getting dark and the streets were empty. I hurried to get home but soon I came upon a large crowd of people surrounding one tall office building. As I got closer I could see that the bottom floor had a wall of folding doors that opened to the street. Inside was a modern Catholic sanctuary. The 500 seats were filled to capacity and the crowd spilled into the street. A scene very similar to the one I had witnessed that morning unfolded in front of me. The mass was served, accompanied by music like I have never heard before. The crowd was listening so eagerly and silently that a pin falling on the ground would be heard.

I'm stunned by the silence, devotion, and respect as I stood at the end of the street overflow. A prayer followed. When I heard Amen, about five men approached me offering a handshake. Two of them hugged me and wished me blessings. They were complete strangers not only to me, but also among themselves. Yet, a strong sense of brotherhood and spiritual belonging was felt. I wondered when I had experienced something even nearly as close in the Adventist church. I could not remember.

It was the last week of March, the holy week when the Christian world celebrates the death and resurrection of Christ. Daily Catholic events were held throughout the week all over the city.

The following Sunday I visited a small village. As I walked the picturesque streets, I saw a crowd of people approach with palm branches in their hands. It was Palm Sunday. As I watched the scene it was as if I found myself in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago, watching Jesus triumphantly entering into Jerusalem greeted by thousands of followers.

I am still a firm Protestant but I can now see why so many are attracted to the Catholic church. Witnessing this Palm Sunday procession, the scene of Jerusalem reenacted, the whole Biblical story came to life. Everyone was happy and cheerful, just as it was in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago.

For a few days I witnessed several Catholic events in the streets. The locals talked to me about the various Biblical events, witnessed to me, taught me about Jesus, and all the important traditions of their church. I often found myself speechless – our roles have been reversed! Am I not supposed to be the one educating them?

I now understand why the Catholic Church is so attractive in the eyes of the young people in Latin America. The Catholic churches are full of young people, and understandably so. The worship services are attractive, contemporary, full of life, offering answers to the problems of daily life

in the form of personal consultations following the service.

The Spirit of Prophecy confirms: "Many Protestants suppose that the Catholic religion is unattractive, and that its worship is a dull, meaningless round of ceremony. Here they mis-

take. While Romanism is based upon deception, it is not a coarse and clumsy imposture. The religious service of the Romish Church is a most impressive ceremonial. Its gorgeous display and solemn rites fascinate the senses of the people, and silence the voice of reason and of conscience. The eye is charmed. Magnificent

churches, imposing processions, golden altars, jeweled shrines, choice paintings, and exquisite sculpture appeal to the love of beauty. The ear also is captivated. The music is unsurpassed. The rich notes of the deep-toned organ, blending with the melody of many voices as it swells through the lofty domes and pillared aisles of her grand cathedrals, cannot fail to impress the mind with awe and reverence." *The Great Controversy*, 566.

Today, the music is unsurpassed as well and upgraded for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Moreover, large Catholic churches are open seven days a week. Anyone can stop by at any time, sit down, pray, contemplate, have a moment of silence with God. I saw students doing just that on their way to the university every morning. Are there any Protestant churches open where a Protestant student could stop by? Not that I know of.

So often we hear of traditional Protestant churches closing their

“  
*Wow, I still have a hard time believing I had just witnessed a Catholic mass. It was more relevant and attractive than anything I have seen or heard in the Protestant world.*”



Notre Dame Cathedral, Ottawa, Canada.

*The beauty of Catholic cathedrals is unsurpassed. The eye is charmed. Its gorgeous display and solemn rites fascinate the senses.*

doors because there are not enough worshippers. Their worship style is centuries old and unattractive to someone in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Certainly, nothing like this is happening in Latin American Catholic churches.

The Catholic church has whisked itself into the 21<sup>st</sup> century successfully, with ease and grace. Catholicism is relevant to the modern person, has a leader that enjoys a celebrity status, offers a contemporary service, while maintaining its millennia old traditions – a blend that is attractive to millions. It's a success story.

Knowing what I know as a Protestant, everything described above is a

beautifully packaged deception. One cannot resist to think of the text, "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect" (Matthew 24:24 NKJV). If I

did not have the knowledge of the Bible and history I would belong to that deceived group. I'll admit, I liked what I saw in those Catholic services.

However, "Brilliance of style is not necessarily an index of pure, elevated thought. High conceptions of art, delicate refinement of taste, often exist in minds that are earthly and sensual. They are often employed by Satan to lead men to forget the necessities of the soul, to lose sight

of the future, immortal life, to turn away from their infinite Helper, and to live for this world alone." *The Great Controversy*, 566, 567.

But still, I cannot dismiss this recent Catholic experience as a complete deception just yet. There is a lesson to be learned. We must be careful to never preach about God's justice with mercy nowhere to be found. God is love. Let's show it to the world. Now, when I see a stranger in my church, I reach out to him or her with a firm handshake and a smile.

So often I hear the gospel presented as warning. Excuse me, the word *gospel* means exactly the opposite: good news. I choose to portray my church and God as highly relevant to the modern person in the post-Christian world. May God help us to show to the world that we are not a church of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We're a relevant 21<sup>st</sup> century movement with lots to offer: First and foremost – salvation, then fellowship, love, healthy lifestyle backed up by 21<sup>st</sup> century science, education, and respect for God's law that He always balances with mercy. **LM**

*Catholicism has a leader that enjoys a celebrity status, offers a contemporary service, while maintaining its millennia old traditions – a blend that is attractive to millions.*



## Springing Forth

**A**s I was sitting for my morning study I began reading Isaiah 61:11, “For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth ...” I paused. My mind was drawn out to my own garden. My heart was awed at the thought that God was causing my little seeds to spring forth into beautiful plants providing vegetables. All I could do was lift up my heart heavenward to praise and thank Him for the miracle He has brought forth in my backyard!

I then read a little further, “... so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.” That righteousness and praise is going to spring forth through you and through me! We are plants in the Lord’s vineyard and the thought that the Lord is causing righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations, before our neighbors, our family, our workplace is so awesome!

- Wow, what a miracle the Lord hath wrought within each one of us.
- What a miracle that the world is removed from our hearts and our lives.

- What a miracle that we can walk in heavenly places right in our own little circle of life.
- We are walking miracles! Praise the Lord!

My dear brother and sister, “God can breathe new life into every soul that sincerely desires to serve Him, and can touch the lips with a live coal from off the altar, and cause them to become eloquent with His praise. Thousands of voices will be imbued with the power to speak forth the wonderful truths of God’s word. The stammering tongue will be unloosed, and the timid will be made strong to bear courageous testimony to the truth.” *The Review and Herald*, July 20, 1886.

God will breathe new life into you just as He causes new life to sprout from a seed in your garden. Read again Isaiah 61:11 and ask God to “cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all” through you today. He has promised—He will never fail you if you truly believe and follow Him.

“May the Lord help His people to cleanse the soul temple from every defilement, and to maintain such a close connection with Him that they may be partakers of the latter rain when it shall be poured out.” Ibid. **LM**



***Father:**  
Breathe new life  
into my soul and cause  
praise to flow forth. I  
desire to serve Thee. Touch  
my lips with a live coal from  
off the altar and cause them  
to become eloquent with Thy  
praise. I want my stammering  
tongue to be unloosed, and  
be made strong to bear  
courageous testimony to  
Your truths. Cause new  
life to spring forth  
through me to Thy  
glory. Amen.*

“Thanks for the message 'Escaping the Corruption' you sent to us in the *LandMarks Steps to Life* magazine of July.”

—DK, Africa

“We are so thankful for your ministry. We love your *LandMarks* magazine and the ability to listen online to the Sabbath school lesson and weekly sermon. May each and every one of you be truly blessed.”

—E&SS, New York

“Thank you for the DVDs and CDs. We have learned so much. May the Lord continue to bless Steps to Life and staff.”

—D&LF, Florida

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## December Sermon of the Month

### Mystery of the Resurrection

By Marshall Grosboll

The same power that raised Christ from the dead will raise His church, and glorify it with Him.

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

## December 2018

Dear friends,

No farmer wants to be miserly in the planting of his seed, for he knows that the harvest will be proportionate to the sowing. The same is true with the spiritual seed. The word of the Lord will not come back to Him void, but we have a responsibility to see that the seed is scattered into the honest hearted all over the world.

Recently I have again been placed in contact with persons who have experienced a sudden change in circumstances. I have seen this happen again and again: people have been given books or other literature containing the truth for this time but it just sits on their bookshelf. By and by, when there is a sudden change in their circumstances, they take it off the shelf and begin to read it in earnest.

Of course, it cannot be taken off the shelf unless it is there. Some of the following are prime candidates to receive literature of the appropriate kind. Pick the literature that these people have a felt need for and they are apt to read it:

- a woman who has just found out that she is pregnant
- a person who has just been diagnosed with a serious or fatal disease
- new parents
- a person who has lost his or her job
- a person who has a legal judgment against him or her and is facing either a very heavy fine or a prison sentence
- a person who has just received very good news
- a person who is facing financial hardship or bankruptcy
- a person who is having domestic difficulties or is facing divorce, or who is divorced

“When you write to a friend you can enclose one or more [little tracts] without increasing postage. When you meet persons in the cars, on the boat, or in the stage who seem to have an ear to hear, you can hand them a tract.” *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 552.

“There are many places in which the voice of the minister cannot be heard . . . . We know not what may be the results of giving away a leaflet containing present truth.” *Colporteur Ministry*, 4, 5.

Your brother in witnessing,



John J. Grosboll



# 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath Offering

## World Churches



# Philippines

Byambang, Pangasinan in the Philippines



In the August issue of *LandMarks* we reported on the success of the Bayambang Free Seventh-day Adventist Church in establishing a company of believers and their efforts to build a church for their services.

In that report, it was stated, “Because of lack of funds, the building of the church has temporarily come to a standstill.” We are pleased to report that additional funds have been received both from the church members and from *LandMarks* readers and work has resumed on the church building.

The growing success of the Bayambang Free Seventh-day Adventist Church is a textbook example of the way the work should develop according to the counsel we are given in the Spirit of Prophecy:

“When a church is raised up, let the members arise and build. ... [L]et the newly converted ones work with their own hands, saying, ‘We need a meeting-house, and we must have it.’ God calls upon His people to make cheerful, united efforts in His cause. Let this be done, and soon will be heard the voice of thanksgiving, ‘See what the Lord hath wrought!’

“There are some cases, however, in which a young church may not be able at once to bear the whole burden of erecting a house of worship. In these cases let the brethren in other churches help them.” *Gospel Workers*, 432. [LM](#)

*from the*  
**Mission Fields**



*The province of Santander, Colombia.*



*Colombia*

## *Health Seminar*

Dear Brethren at Steps to Life:

We are delighted to share with you the blessings we enjoyed in the month of August.

Our brethren from Mexico, Octaviano and his wife Monica, arrived in Colombia on the 8th. They had to travel from Cruz Grande for eight hours to arrive in Mexico City to take the plane to Bogotá for another 4 hours and two more hours to go through customs. We met them there and then took the bus to Moniquirá, four hours. They were tired!!

Next day we, a group of seven people, traveled to the outpost in Santander. We left Moniquirá at six in the morning and arrived at eight in the night.

We had a very good meeting that Sabbath.

On Sunday we, a group of ten, walked for seven hours down and up the mountain to get to El Sinai for the health seminar, which lasted for eight days. Some of us had to walk half an hour up and down, three times a day for the meetings.

About sixty people from different places and countries got together to learn from our Mexican brethren the different techniques on quiropaxia (chiropractic methods) and natural remedies and to hear the many experiences they have had on the medical mission work. One sister got healed after 26 years of wearing a neck collar after having three therapies on her spine!!

Next Sunday we, a group of nine, traveled to Moniquirá. For a few days we continued with the training on printing,





we started in Mexico in January, with Brother Octaviano.

On Friday we started the health seminar. We had to buy a number of mattresses to accommodate 24 people in the houses of the farm and more brethren in two other houses of two sisters. About 50 people attended the meetings.

We asked our brethren from Mexico to have a deeper training. They made sure we did well on each step. People from four different towns came asking Brother Octaviano to treat their spines. They were thankful for the treatments and we shared literature with them. On Monday we finished the course but people kept coming from towns looking for help.

Octaviano and Monica were very tired but very happy!!

On Wednesday we went to Bogotá and stayed that night at a hotel owned

by the father of one of the students. In gratitude, on Thursday morning Brother Octaviano gave the hotel owner a very good therapy.

Later on Thursday, Octaviano and Monica took the plane back to Mexico. After we returned to our home in Colombia, we started hearing from the students that they were doing therapies to people in different places!

We thank the Lord for all your help, every one of you who made possible to have these seminars with your donations for the traveling expenses of our Mexican brethren.

May the Lord bless each one of you.

In the Christian hope,

*Benjamin and Rosana Cortes*

#### Photo Captions:

**Top Left:** Attendees practice good posture techniques at the health seminar conducted by Brother Octaviano Jacinto at Moniquirá.

**Bottom Left:** Brother Octaviano checking on students the right technique on healing a shoulder.

**Right:** Students practicing spinal extraction at the seminar in El Sinai.



# How Animals Adapt to Winter

**T**he less done, the less energy needed—the key to winter survival. Activity uses up energy, which comes from food; food is in scant supply during a northern winter. Then, too, activity requires water, and near-drought conditions prevail when water is locked up in ice and snow.

Sleeping through the winter saves energy. Typically, mammals that adapt to winter by sleeping through most of it must keep their temperatures much higher than that of their surroundings. But this takes energy. Black bears and raccoons are winter-sleepers and conserve their body fuel by not moving about, dozing much of the time, but easily awakened by intruders into their dens.

Unlike winter-sleepers, true hibernators such as woodchucks have drastically lowered body temperatures, meaning that everything happens at a slower speed, so pulse and breathing rate drop. Hibernating woodchucks breathe only once every six minutes, which is about 200 times slower than their normal rate. At this slow pace, life requires a minimum of energy, and a hibernating animal's fat layers can usually meet the slight demand.

Snow is a protective blanket for small mammals that neither hibernate nor

winter-sleep. Snow is ten times lighter than liquid water and traps air; thus it is an ideal insulator, also allowing for ventilation. Soil with a snow cover may be some 50 degrees warmer than the air above it. Under the blanket of snow, mice, voles, and other small mammals lose little body heat to their surroundings. They stay active and feed on plant food, including some they have stored during the fall.

The chill of winter inactivates most cold-blooded animals. These creatures, whose body temperatures are invariably tied to that of the environment, don't move about when it is cold. Reptiles and amphibians, such as turtles and the vociferous tree frogs, remain covered and dormant during the coldest part of winter. So, too, do adult mourning-cloak butterflies, which stay immobile in attics, decaying logs, or hollow trees.

Although the winter forest may seem silent, life goes on above ground. Active throughout the winter, bobcats pounce small rodents, which live in tunnels and burrows under the blanket of snow. Thick, downy feathers preserve the body heat of the ruffed grouse. On freezing nights they may dive into snow banks; at other times they may

simply fluff their feathers and sit in a tree. Broad, heavily furred feet support the snowshoe hare as it hops across a white blanket in search of twigs, bark and evergreens. Its fur, white only in winter, is its camouflage in snow.

Different animals use different strategies to survive through the long, cold winter conditions.

Excerpts from *Joy of Nature*, The Reader's Digest Association, Inc., © 1977, 64.

"The followers of Christ should expect to be regarded by the world with no more favor than was their Master. But he who has God for his friend and helper can afford to spend a long winter of chilling neglect, abuse, and persecution. By the grace which Christ imparts, he can maintain his faith and trust in God under the sorest trials. He recalls the Saviour's example, and he feels that he can endure affliction and persecution if he may thus gain simplicity of character, lowliness of heart, and an abiding trust in Jesus. The triumph of Christian faith is to suffer, and be strong; to submit, and thus conquer; to be killed all the day long, and yet to live; to bear the cross, and thus win the crown of immortal glory." *Sketches from the Life of Paul*, 300. **LM**





Q:

## What was wrong with David's census?

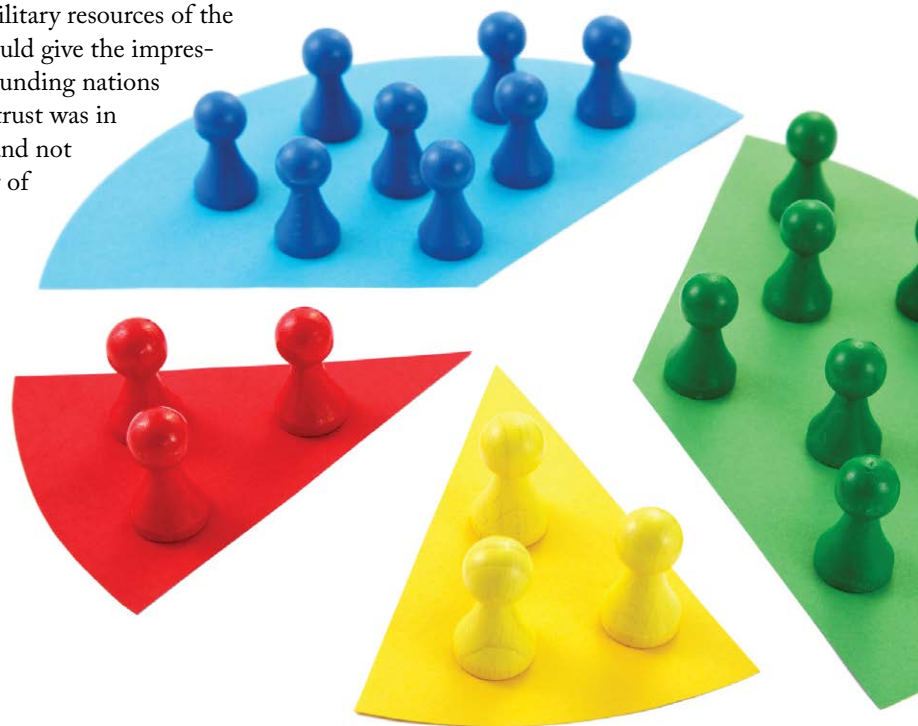
A:

The Bible says, “And David’s heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech Thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of Thy servant; for I have done very foolishly” (2 Samuel 24:10).

“Intercourse with heathen peoples led to a desire to follow their national customs and kindled ambition for worldly greatness. As the people of Jehovah, Israel was to be honored; but as pride and self-confidence increased, the Israelites were not content with this pre-eminence. They cared rather for their standing among other nations. This spirit could not fail to invite temptation. With a view to extending his conquests among foreign nations, David determined to increase his army by requiring military service from all who were of proper age. To effect this, it became necessary to take a census of the population. It was pride and ambition that prompted this action of the king. The numbering of the people would show the contrast between the weakness of the kingdom when David ascended the throne and its strength and prosperity under his rule. This would tend still further to foster the already too

great self-confidence of both king and people. The Scripture says, ‘Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel’ (1 Chronicles 21:1). The prosperity of Israel under David had been due to the blessing of God rather than to the ability of her king or the strength of her armies. But the increasing of the military resources of the kingdom would give the impression to surrounding nations that Israel’s trust was in her armies, and not in the power of Jehovah. ...

*“The object of the undertaking was directly contrary to the principles of a theocracy. Even Joab remonstrated, unscrupulous as he had heretofore shown himself. He said, ‘The Lord make His people a hundred times so many more as they be: but, my lord the king, are they not all my lord’s servants? why then doth my lord require this thing? why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel? Nevertheless the king’s word prevailed against Joab. Wherefore Joab departed, and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem’ (verses 3, 4). The numbering was not finished when David was convicted of his sin. Self-condemned, he ‘said unto God, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech Thee, do away the iniquity of Thy servant; for I have done very foolishly’ (verse 8).” Patriarchs and Prophets, 746, 747. [Emphasis supplied.] LM*





## *Hydrate for Health*

**D**id you know the human brain is made up of 85 percent water, and our blood consists of nearly 80 percent? It's no wonder that water is so critical to health. What's more, water is also a natural cleansing agent. Drinking water is a great way to support the body's internal, natural detoxification system, as well as enhance effective elimination.



Unfortunately, a study released in 2013 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that nearly half of all Americans don't drink enough water. As a result, they can become partially or fully dehydrated.

Partial dehydration can cause problems like fatigue, fuzzy thinking, dry mouth, and even weight gain. And chronic dehydration can increase the risk of many illnesses. When the body doesn't have enough water, for example, the blood becomes thicker, which can increase the risk of heart problems. Not drinking enough water can also worsen digestive issues such as constipation, and increase the risk of bladder and colon cancer.

Cellular energy production, detoxification, and other metabolic processes are dependent upon water. This all makes sense because, on average, our bodies are made up of 75 percent water. Our skin, bones, muscles, blood, and immune system require water to function properly. Even our teeth are made up of about 10 percent water. That, plus all of the water contained in saliva, is why dehydration can increase risk of cavities and tooth decay.

The key is to stay hydrated long before you get thirsty—because by the time you feel parched, you're already dehydrated.

### How much water and how often?

To ensure you can keep dehydration at bay and support proper ongoing detoxification, drink water throughout your day rather than just a couple times a day. This keeps your cells, tissues, and organs consistently hydrated. Keep in mind, though, that you may want to limit your water intake during the last few hours of your day so you don't have to wake up to use the restroom during the night.

The amount of water needed to stay hydrated is determined by consuming half of your body weight in ounces. For example, a 128-pound person needs to drink 64 ounces, or eight 8-ounce glasses of water each day. If you weigh 170 pounds, you will need 85 ounces or 10 and a half glasses a day. And if highly active, drink extra water during and after exercise.

Keep in mind that you can also get water from food. Focusing on these moisture-rich foods can definitely help boost your daily water intake and lessen the need to drink so much water.

90% or more water	
Watermelon (water is in its name)	
Strawberries	Grapefruit
Cantaloupe	Cucumber
Lettuce	Radish
Celery	Zucchini
Tomato	Broccoli

80% or more water	
Peaches	Pineapple
Cranberries	Oranges
Raspberries	Apricots
Blueberries	Plums
Apples	Cherries
Grapes	Carrots

### Does the container matter?

Almost as important as the quantity of water is the quality of the water you choose. Whenever possible, drink pure,

filtered water. The container you drink from is also important. These containers are free of toxic chemicals:

- Glass
- Ceramic
- Stainless steel
- Waxed paper cup

Whenever possible, avoid drinking out of:

- Plastic containers, which contain harmful chemicals
- Styrofoam cups because they also contain hazardous chemicals

No matter which nontoxic container chosen, it's a good idea to keep it filled throughout the day. That way, you'll always remember it's time to drink more water!

### Signs of dehydration:

- Fatigue
- Foggy memory
- Irritability
- Joint pain
- Mood swings
- Weakened immunity

Even mild dehydration can be problematic, so it's important to continually replenish those water stores.

Excerpts from *Inside Health*, Dr. Alschuler and Karolyn A. Gazella, 18, 19.

Inspiration says, "In health and in sickness, pure water is one of Heaven's choicest blessings. Its proper use promotes health. It is the beverage which God provided to quench the thirst of animals and man. Drunk freely, it helps to supply the necessities of the system, and assists nature to resist disease." *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 416. **LM**





# *Victory for the Gospel*

By John J. Grosboll

No sinner has ever fallen so low or become so vile that he or she cannot find deliverance in Christ. The good news is that there is hope for deliverance from the power of Satan and the infirmity of one's own sinful nature.

After the apostle Paul left Athens, known as a city of learning, art, and science, he went to one of the largest mercantile cities of the world at that time, Corinth, a city in direct communication with Rome and other large cities by either land or water. Because it was a trade center catering to all nationalities that travelled through, it offered a tremendous opportunity to the apostle Paul for the spread of the gospel. There were many people there for both business and pleasure, having little thought or care for anything other than the affairs of this present life.

Paul knew that if the gospel were established in Corinth it would be readily communicated and spread to all parts of the world. However, he was not oblivious to the serious obstacles that he would face in the prosecution of his work. Corinth, at that time, was almost entirely given over to idolatry. Venus was the favorite goddess. A large number of dissolute women were employed in connection with the worship of this deity for the purpose of attracting devotees of popular vice, so much so, that the Corinthians had become conspicuous, even among the heathen, for their gross immorality.

In writing to the church at Corinth, Paul says, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor

adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

In addition to the problem with idolatry, Corinth was populated by a larger number of Jews than at any previous time. They had become arrogant and insubordinate, not just to the Christian religion, but also to the Roman government. In fact, they manifested such a malignant spirit of envy and hatred, and created so much sedition and insurrection, that they had been driven away from Rome with many of them finding refuge in Corinth. Among those Jews





who found refuge in Corinth there were many who were innocent of the wrongs that some of their countrymen had perpetrated. From this class there was a man and his wife by the name of Aquila and Priscilla, who afterward became distinguished followers of Christ.

Aquila and Priscilla were tent makers as was the apostle Paul who was also a tent maker by trade. Acts 18:1-3 says, "After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers."

The Jewish people had been instructed by God through Moses to train up their children with industrious habits. For this reason, the Jewish people looked at indolence as a great sin. Their children were all required to learn some trade by which, if necessary, they could earn a livelihood. Failure of a Jewish young person to learn a trade was considered a departure from the instruction of the Lord. Labor was considered elevating in its nature and children were taught to combine religion and business.

At the time of Christ, the Jews, although they had become wealthy as a nation, still followed this ancient custom. Paul, being a Jew, was highly educated and was admired for his genius and eloquence. He was a leader among the Jews, a member of the Sanhedrin, but, in spite of that, his education had not been considered complete until he had learned a trade. The apostle used his trade of tent making to be self-sufficient while preaching the gospel among the Gentiles.

Paul refers to this a number of different times throughout his epistles. In 1 Corinthians 4:12 he says, "We labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure ..."

Again, he refers to it in 2 Corinthians 11:7, literal translation: "Did I commit sin in abasing myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge?" Then again, in 2 Corinthians 12:13: "For what is it in which you were inferior to other churches, except I myself was not burdensome to you? Forgive me this wrong!"

Again He talks about it in his epistles to the Thessalonians.

Paul was an earnest, energetic, self-sacrificing disciple of Christ. He was one of the world's greatest teachers. He crossed the seas and traveled far and wide until a large percentage of the people who lived in the world had heard from his lips the story of the cross of Christ. Yet, in spite of this, he earned his own living by working with his hands.

He might have claimed support from the churches to sustain him, but he forewent this entitlement, even though he was feeble in health. He labored and toiled a large share of the night, frequently all night, that he might make provision for his own and other's necessities. As he worked he instructed those who were making tents with him in the way of salva-

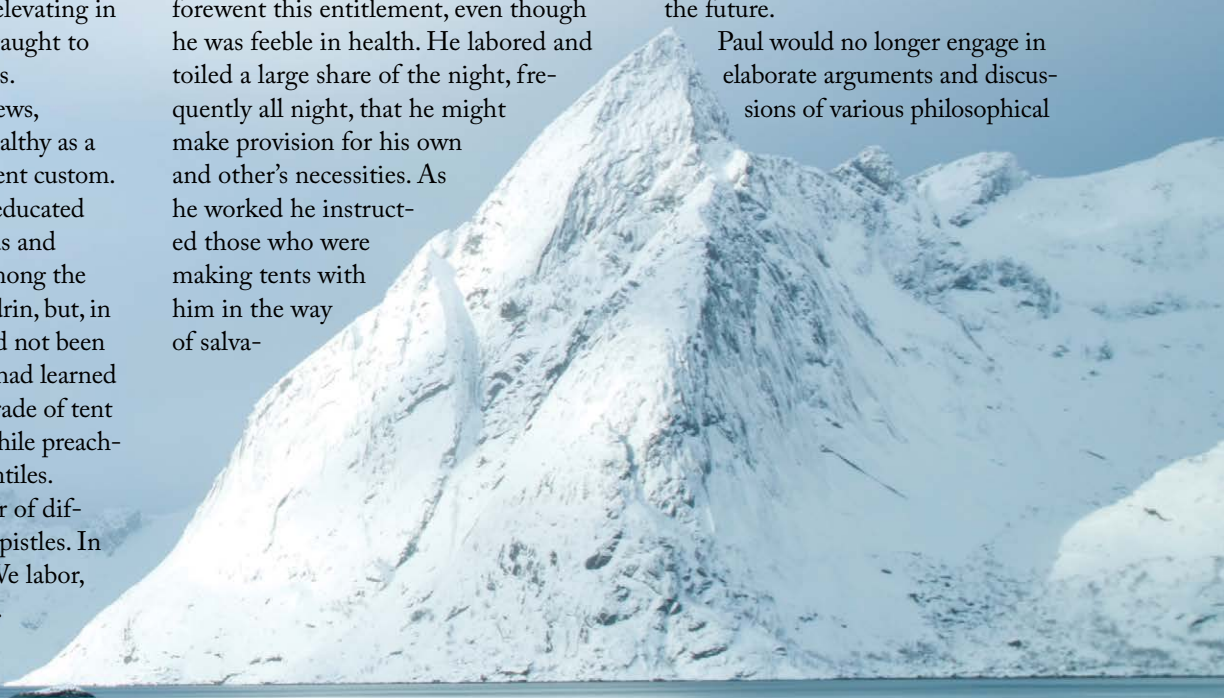
tion. You might think of that today, if you are a gospel worker, if the Lord has called you to spread the gospel. If you think you are suffering great hardship and privations because you are not working in an occupation which brings large financial returns, remember Paul's experience and witness to those in the work place around you.

Paul was in full-time ministry and entitled to receive support for his labor as an apostle of Christ, but he supported himself. His zeal and industry are a rebuke to anyone who claims to be a Christian and is indolent or a lover of selfish ease. In Athens,

Paul had matched logic with logic. He had matched science with science. He had engaged in philosophical discussion with the Athenians, but when he reviewed the time and labor that he had spent in Athens and the number of converts, he decided he would follow a different plan of labor in the future.

Paul would no longer engage in elaborate arguments and discussions of various philosophical

“  
*No sinner has  
ever fallen so low or  
become so vile that he  
or she cannot find  
deliverance in  
Christ.*”



theories. He said, "I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God" (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

Jesus gave a promise when He was on earth that if you continue in His word so that you are His disciples, following and obeying His word, then a miracle will happen in your life and you will be set free from the bondage of sin. "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.' They answered Him, 'We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone'" (John 8:31-33, *first part*). That was a lie. "How can You say, 'You will be made free'?" Jesus answered them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed'" (verses 33, *last part*-36).

Jesus said that those who live in sin are in bondage to sin. If you are committing sin you are a slave of sin, because sin is an enslaving power that brings men and women into bondage. Do not claim that you are not in bondage to anybody or anything. The fact is that if you are committing sin,

you are already in bondage. No slave to sin will experience eternal life and abide in the house forever. Only the Son who abides forever can set you free from the bondage of sin, so that you are not living a life of sin. When the Son sets you free, you will be truly free.

Friend, has Jesus set you free from sin? Are you continuing in His word and following the instructions? The Jews all over the land when Jesus was on earth were notified to watch His movements, as their religion felt threatened by His influence. Jesus was continually followed by spies who took notice of every word and act that they might be able to use against Him. Paul had to meet the very same spirit of opposition and prejudice.

In Corinth, Paul reasoned from Moses and the prophets and showed from Old Testament types and ceremonies that they were prophetic concerning the ministry, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of the Messiah. He showed that the Christian religion was the fulfillment of the Hebrew religion, and that, unless you accepted Christ, all of those ceremonies were meaningless. He brought his hearers down through the types and shadows of the ceremonial law to Christ. He showed how the Old Testament predicted the crucifixion of the Messiah and His priesthood in the sanctuary in heaven.

Paul showed that, according to the prophecies, the Messiah would be of the lineage of Abraham and David. He traced His descent from Abraham through David and proved from Scripture what was to be the character and works of the promised Messiah and the reception and treatment He would receive and that all of these predictions had been fulfilled.

“  
*The Corinthians had  
become conspicuous,  
even among the  
heathen, for their gross  
immorality.*”

The most convincing proof given to the Jews was that the gospel was simply the development of the Hebrew faith. The gospel is the consummation, the glory of the entire Jewish system. Paul then showed that repentance for their rejection of Christ was the only thing that could save the Jewish nation from impending ruin.

Paul rebuked the ignorance of the Jews, showing that the very scriptures that were their chief boast and glory, if they had understood them, showed that they were guilty. He exposed their worldliness and love of station, titles, display, and their selfishness. He appealed to them that even though they were responsible for the crucifixion of the Lord of glory, if they would repent, the impending ruin coming upon the Jewish nation could be averted. These were the final appeals given to the Jewish people.

Unfortunately, the Jews of Corinth closed their eyes to all the evidence that was clearly presented by the apostle and they refused to listen to his appeals. It says in Acts 18:4-6, "He reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was constrained by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, 'Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.'"

When Paul chose to go to the Gentiles, he started right next door to the synagogue. Notice what it says in Acts 18:7, 8: "He departed from there and entered the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed, and were baptized."

Paul showed those who listened that in spite of the dissolute, immoral life that they had been living, they could

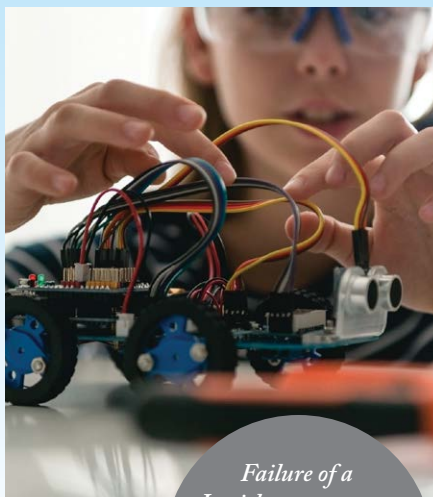
find deliverance in Christ. Hebrews 7:25 says, “Therefore He [that is, Jesus] is also able to save to the uttermost [that is, completely, or entirely, perfectly] those who come to God through Him, since He ever lives to make intercession for them.”

Paul had had an amazing experience on the Damascus road. He was shown that all the ceremonies, rituals, and forms of religion that he had been so careful to observe, were useless. King David also had a conversion experience. After he had grievously sinned by stealing another man’s wife and attempting to cover his sin by having Uriah killed, he prayed, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. ... For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise” (Psalm 51:10, 11, 16, 17).

O friend, have you repented of your sins? Have you chosen to follow Jesus Christ? Have you asked that you may not only be forgiven, but that you may receive the Holy Spirit so that you will have the power to live a new kind of a life?

Paul had a measure of success. Many Corinthians were baptized, but, as the apostle looked at the depravity of that city—he had been opposed and rejected by the Jews and the Gentiles were so immoral and so depraved—he thought that this was not a very good place to stay working and try to build up a church.

He doubted the wisdom of building up a church from the material that he found in that city. Paul thought that Corinth was a very questionable field of labor and decided that he would leave and look for a more promising area. He was anguished in spirit because of the depravity among the Gentiles and the contempt and insult which he had re-



*Failure of a Jewish young person to learn a trade was considered a departure from the instruction of the Lord.*

ceived from the Jews, but the Lord who reads the hearts of all men had another plan that He revealed to Paul.

“Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city’” (Acts 18:9, 10).

In spite of the wickedness of that sinful city, God knew there were many people there susceptible to the truth. If they heard and understood the gospel they would repent, confess, and forsake their sins and be able to receive the Holy Spirit and begin to live a new life through the Spirit’s power. Paul’s preaching was a manifestation of the Spirit and power of God to change into saints of God people who had been ruined by sin.

In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul addresses them as saints of God. He describes the sins of their former lifestyle and says that the unrighteous people who do those things will not inherit the kingdom of God. He goes on to say that though some of them were like that, they had now been washed, sanc-

tified, and justified. Paul understood from this vision that God wanted him to stay in Corinth. It was a guarantee from the Lord Himself, that He would give an increase to the seed that was sown in the preaching of the gospel. Paul was so strengthened and encouraged that he continued to labor there for a year and 6 months.

Many of the people in Corinth who had been most dissolute and immoral accepted the gospel and were changed, becoming monuments of God’s mercy and of the power of the blood of Christ to cleanse from sin and from all uncleanness. Paul saw much success in presenting Christ to the people.

The unbelieving Jews again attempted to stir up trouble, going to the Roman proconsul in their attempt to get Paul arrested. “When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat, saying, ‘This fellow persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.’ And when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, ‘If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you. But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look to it yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such matters.’ And he drove them from the judgment seat” (Acts 18:12–16).

The result of the Jews’ opposition to the gospel being preached in Corinth resulted in a signal triumphant victory in that city.

Friends, the gospel is soon going to triumph over all the world. Jesus invites all to be part of that victory.

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

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# *The Tempting Gloves*

It was Christmas evening. In the Christmas market sparkled numberless lights, and their bright beams were beautifully reflected by the various wares which tempted and invited purchasers.

Many children passed to and fro—gazed with wide-open eyes at the wonderful array of pretty things—and some were induced, after long seeking, to spend the few pennies saved in the money box for this very occasion.

There were parents and other friends of children standing in the well-arranged shops, buying and examining the gifts with which they wished to delight their dear ones.

In the midst of the grown persons and children who thronged the market place, stood a young girl named Magdelain. She was alone, and gazed sadly, with a heavy heart, at the brilliant and beautiful array spread out on every side.

Her parents were very poor, and for this reason had placed her in the service of a lady, where she was employed out of school hours in going on errands, and in working with her needle. For her services she received small wages, which she faithfully took to her parents, who could do little for their own support, having other children to feed and clothe.

Magdelain was sent, this Christmas evening, on an errand by the lady with whom she lived. Her way led through the Christmas market. How gladly she would have purchased some little thing as a Christmas gift! Yet, for that, money was needful, and money she had none.





She thought and said softly to herself, "I could give up playthings, or pretty things I could well use, if I might buy a warm dress, a shawl, or a pair of warm gloves."

It was very cold. Magdelain shivered, and her teeth chattered, for she was but scantily and thinly dressed. She blew on her half-frozen hands, and wrapped them in her apron.

"I do not want either cakes or candy, or dolls, or playthings. But, oh, I wish so for a pair of warm gloves!"

She drew near to one of the shops where many articles of wearing apparel were sold. The cold wind which blew the candle lights to and fro, seemed to pierce to the very bones of the poor girl, and she tremblingly drew herself together to keep warm.

On the right side of the shop, on the counter, lay a pair of warm woollen gloves, lined with soft skin. Magdelain saw them, and the longer she stood looking at them the better she liked them; they looked, too, as if they would just fit her hand.

Her gaze seemed fastened on the gloves—even from the moment she had seen them her hands felt warmer.

But buy—buy them she could not; they were well made and prettily wrought, and must be expensive.

Then came another thought to her mind, "I will secretly take them." The shopkeeper stood on the other side of the shop attending to a purchaser, and busily engaged in praising his goods. Magdelain stood alone, unnoticed, beside the gloves.

She thought and reflected—but the gloves were so pretty, and seemed so warm; her hands which she had drawn out of her apron, were quite stiff with frost.

Already she had stretched out her arm; already she was about to seize the gloves and rapidly conceal them. Her whole body was hot and cold by turns; her heart beat loudly; she could scarcely breathe; she trembled. Suddenly pealed

out, with clear, startling tones, the organ of the neighboring cathedral.

It was a voice, earnest and warning, speaking to Magdelain's heart. Quickly she drew back her arm, and the gloves lay still on the counter.

As a voice from heaven did Magdelain receive the solemn organ tones; they seemed to say to her, "It is wrong that thou wouldst do. Thou shalt not steal!"

Magdelain obeyed the voice. She turned to leave the shop just as there entered a lady richly dressed, and warmly wrapped in a cloak of fur.

She examined and purchased some articles, and then took the gloves in her hand which had tempted Magdelain. She demanded the price, and purchased them. Magdelain had seen this, and was glad that the fatal gloves were now entirely removed from her eyes.

The lady turned to leave the shop, and Magdelain recognized her. She was the lady with whom she lived.

Now, for whom had she bought the gloves? Surely not for herself; she could hardly wear them! Her mind occupied with these thoughts, Magdelain went hastily from the Christmas market to attend to the errand on which she was sent.

In returning homeward again, Magdelain came through the market place. She said, as she passed the spot where she had been so sorely tempted, "Oh, what a fearful moment that was! God, I thank Thee, that Thou didst warn and deliver me from the danger which would have destroyed me! No! rather will I hunger and freeze than—"

"Away with you to prison, boy! You will learn hereafter to keep your hands off! We'll soon cure you of your fancy for stealing. March!"

Magdelain was startled by these harsh words from the reverie into which she had fallen.

A police officer had seized a wild, unruly boy, and was taking him off.

Magdelain ran swiftly, with a beating heart, from the market place, and did not pause till she reached home.

She entered the room. Oh, what a surprise! The table was covered with gifts. There were pretty and useful articles—cakes, clothing, and, above all, the well-known gloves.

The lady with whom she lived came kindly to her, took her hand, and said, "Dear Magdelain, because you are so honest and industrious, so kind and true, and have served me so faithfully, take from


me, as an expression of my gratitude, a gift. Look! all on the table is your own; take all and be happy!"

Magdelain thanked her with tears of joy and surprise. Strangely, however, did she feel as her mistress singled out the articles, and said, "See, here is a cap, here a pair of shoes, here a shawl! and what do you say to these gloves? Do they please you? Yes, they will keep your hands very warm! Now take all these things to the house of your parents—show them what you have earned by your honesty and industry."

On her mother's neck, with sobs and tears, did Magdelain relate to her the story of her sin and temptation.

Her mother said, "My child, pray to be kept from sinful desires; then it shall go well with you!" And at night, before Magdelain went to her bed, she sank on her knees and sent a prayer to her Father in heaven:

"'Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil' (Matthew 6:13)! Amen."

*Choice Stories for Children*, A.B. Publishing, Inc., ©1993, 99–102. 



December 30 – January 5, 2019

## Foundations of Character

### Key Text

“The LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

**Study Help:** *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 637–642; *The Signs of the Times*, June 8, 1888.

### Introduction

“David was susceptible to the influence of the Holy Spirit, and the Lord in His providence trained him for His service, preparing him to carry out His purposes. Christ was the Master-builder of his character.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, 1018.

### Sunday

#### THE NATURAL WORLD

- a. At the beginning where did God place our first parents? Genesis 2:8.

**Note:** “It was under the trees of Eden that the first dwellers on earth had chosen their sanctuary. There Christ had communed with the father of mankind. When banished from Paradise, our first parents still worshiped in the fields and groves, and there Christ met them with the gospel of His grace. It was Christ who spoke with Abraham under the oaks at Mamre; with Isaac as he went out to pray in the fields at the eventide; with Jacob on the hillside at Bethel; with Moses among the mountains of Midian; and with the boy David as he watched his flocks.” *The Desire of Ages*, 290, 291.

- b. How can people today benefit from an early education similar to David’s? Psalm 19:1, 7–14.

**Note:** “The psalmist connects the law of God in the natural world with the laws given to His created intelligences. [Psalm 19:7–14 quoted.]” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, 1144.

### Monday

#### THE HEART OF THE PSALMIST

- a. How did David utilize his artistic gifts? Psalms 66:1, 2, 16, 17; 105:1, 2.

**Note:** “The simple shepherd boy sang the songs of his own composing, and the music of his harp made a sweet accompaniment to the melody of his fresh young voice. The Lord had chosen David, and had ordered his life that he might have an opportunity to train his voice, and cultivate his talent for music and poetry. The Lord was preparing him in his solitary life with his flocks, for the work He designed to commit to his trust in afteryears.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, 1018.

- b. What affirmation did David make as he sang? Psalm 66:18–20.

**Note:** “Who can measure the results of those years of toil and wandering among the lonely hills? The communion with nature and with God, the care of his flocks, the perils and deliverances, the griefs and joys, of his lowly lot, were not only to mold the character of David and to influence his future life, but through the psalms of Israel’s sweet singer they were in all coming ages to kindle love and faith in the hearts of God’s people, bringing them nearer to the ever-loving heart of Him in whom all His creatures live.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 642.

- c. How can appropriate singing be well utilized today? Psalm 100:2.

**Note:** “With patient calmness He [Christ] met the sneers, the taunts, and the ridicule of His fellow workers at the carpenter’s bench. Instead of retorting angrily, He would begin to sing one of David’s beautiful psalms; and His companions, before realizing what they were doing, would unite with Him in the hymn.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 936.

## Tuesday

### OUR FINITE PERSPECTIVE

- a. What was Samuel’s dilemma when God sent him to anoint one of the sons of Jesse? 1 Samuel 16:1–6.

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**Note:** “As Samuel looked upon his princely bearing, he thought, ‘This is indeed the man whom God has chosen as successor to Saul,’ and he waited for the divine sanction that he might anoint him. But Jehovah did not look upon the outward appearance. Eliab did not fear the Lord. Had he been called to the throne, he would have been a proud, exacting ruler.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 638.

- b. What should we learn from this experience of Samuel? 1 Samuel 16:7; John 7:24.

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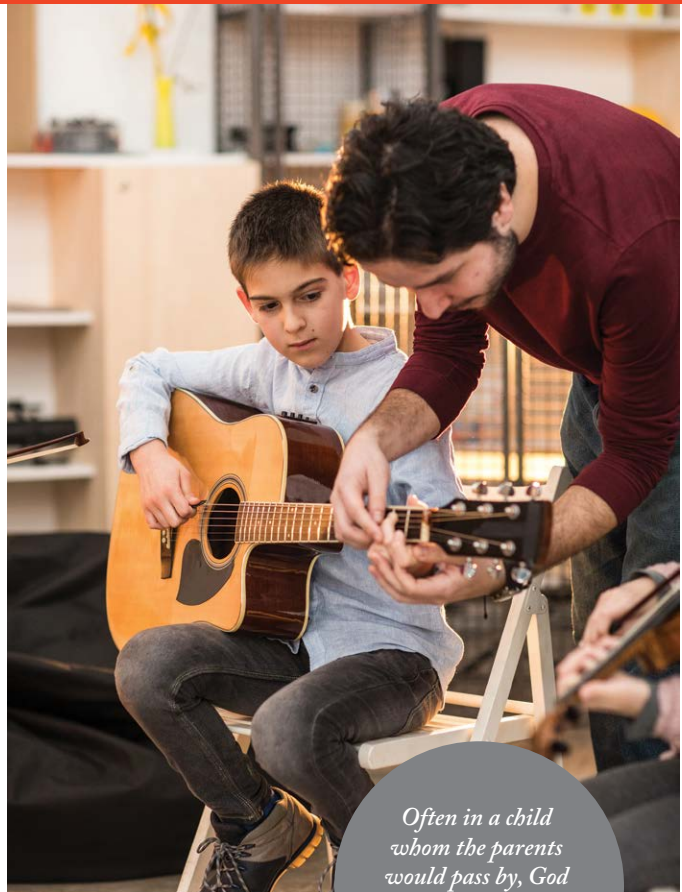


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**Note:** “We may learn from the mistake of Samuel how vain is the estimation that rests on beauty of face or nobility of stature. We may see how incapable is man’s wisdom of understanding the secrets of the heart or of comprehending the counsels of God without special enlightenment from heaven. The thoughts and ways of God in relation to His creatures are above our finite minds; but we may be assured that His children will be brought to fill the very place for which they are qualified, and will be enabled to accomplish the very work committed to their hands, if they will but submit their will to God, that His beneficent plans may not be frustrated by the perversity of man.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 638.



*Often in a child whom the parents would pass by, God sees capabilities far above those revealed to anyone else.*

## Wednesday

### GOD’S CHOICE

- a. What were some of the recognized qualifications of the future king of God’s choice? Describe God’s choice and the wisdom of His plan. 1 Samuel 16:18.

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**Note:** “When God called David from his father’s sheepfold to anoint him king of Israel, He saw in him one to whom He could impart His Spirit.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, 1018.

“David was not of lofty stature, but his countenance was beautiful, expressive of humility, honesty, and true courage. The angel of God signified to Samuel that David was the one for him to anoint, for he was God’s chosen. From that time the Lord gave David a prudent and understanding heart.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 78.



- b. What foundational principles are key in obtaining wisdom and honor? Proverbs 15:33; Ecclesiastes 7:8.

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**Note:** “The elder brothers, from whom Samuel would have chosen, did not possess the qualifications that God saw to be essential in a ruler of His people. Proud, self-centered, self-confident, they were set aside for the one whom they lightly regarded, one who had preserved the simplicity and sincerity of his youth, and who, while little in his own sight, could be trained by God for the responsibilities of the kingdom. So today, in many a child whom the parents would pass by, God sees capabilities far above those revealed by others who are thought to possess great promise.

“And as regards life’s possibilities, who is capable of deciding what is great and what is small? How many a worker in the lowly places of life, by setting on foot agencies for the blessing of the world, has achieved results that kings might envy!

“Let every child, then, receive an education for the highest service.” *Education*, 266, 267.

## Thursday

### THE SECRET ANOINTING

- a. How did David explain how his experience in shepherding sheep taught him his relationship and experience to the Lord? Psalm 23.

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**Note:** “How sweetly are his [David’s] experiences as a shepherd lad reflected in the words: [Psalm 23:1–4 quoted].” *Education*, 164.

- b. Explain the purpose and result of this secret anointing. 1 Samuel 16:13.

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**Note:** “Samuel had not made known his errand, even to the family of Jesse, and the ceremony of anointing David had been performed in secret. It was an intimation to the youth of the high destiny awaiting him, that amid all the varied experiences and perils of his coming years, this knowledge might inspire him to be true to the purpose of God to be accomplished by his life.

“The great honor conferred upon David did not serve to elate him. Notwithstanding the high position which he was to occupy, he quietly continued his employment, content to await the development of the Lord’s plans in His own time and way. As humble and modest as before his anointing, the shepherd boy returned to the hills and watched and guarded his flocks as tenderly as ever.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 641.

“David, in the beauty and vigor of his young manhood, was preparing to take a high position with the noblest of the earth. His talents, as precious gifts from God, were employed to extol the glory of the divine Giver. ... As he beheld the love of God in all the providences of his life, his heart throbbed with more fervent adoration and gratitude, his voice rang out in a richer melody, his harp was swept with more exultant joy; and the shepherd boy proceeded from strength to strength, from knowledge to knowledge; for the Spirit of the Lord was upon him.” *Ibid.*, 642.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What are some of the spiritual benefits of spending time in nature?
- 2 What personal benefits can we derive from the psalms of David?
- 3 What should we learn from the lesson given to Samuel?
- 4 Are we qualified to judge others’ actions?
- 5 How did David respond to the honor showed?

January 6 – 12

# Overcoming Giants

## Key Text

“And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD’s” (1 Samuel 17:47).

**Study Help:** *Conflict and Courage*, 161–164; *The Desire of Ages*, 429–431.

## Introduction

“Those who bear the most solemn message ever given to our world must lay off the pugilistic armor, and put on the armor of Christ’s righteousness.” *Evangelism*, 166.

## Sunday

### DARK CLOUDS

- a. What was David’s response to Saul’s problems and what was the benefit? 1 Samuel 16:14–18, 23.

**Note:** “David was growing in favor with God and man. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he now set his heart more fully to do the will of God than ever before. He had new themes for thought. He had been in the court of the king and had seen the responsibilities of royalty. He had discovered some of the temptations that beset the soul of Saul. ... But while he was absorbed in deep meditation, and harassed by thoughts of anxiety, he turned to his harp, and called forth strains that elevated his mind to the Author of every good, and the dark clouds that seemed to shadow the horizon of the future were dispelled.

“God was teaching David lessons of trust. As Moses was trained for his work, so the Lord was fitting the son of Jesse to become the guide of His chosen people. In his watchcare for his flocks, he was gaining an appreciation of the care that the Great Shepherd has for the sheep of His pasture.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 643, 644.

- b. What threats and challenges was Israel facing during this time? 1 Samuel 17:1–11.

**Note:** “The Philistines propose their own manner of warfare, in selecting a man of great size and strength, whose height is about twelve feet.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, 1018.

## Monday

### PRIORITIES AND ATTITUDES REVEALED

- a. What was David’s main concern in this crisis? 1 Samuel 17:21–26.

**Note:** “When David saw that all Israel were filled with fear, and learned that the Philistine’s defiance was hurled at them day after day, without arousing a champion to silence the boaster, his spirit was stirred within him. He was fired with zeal to preserve the honor of the living God and the credit of His people.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 645.

- b. What was the attitude of David’s eldest brother, Eliab? What was David’s response? 1 Samuel 17:28, 29.

**Note:** “Even as a shepherd, David had manifested daring, courage, and strength but rarely witnessed; and the mysterious visit of Samuel to their father’s house, and his silent departure, had awakened in the minds of the brothers suspicions of the real object of his visit. Their jealousy had been aroused as they saw David honored above them, and they did not regard him with the respect and love due to his integrity and brotherly tenderness. They looked upon him as merely a stripling shepherd, and now the question which he asked was regarded by Eliab as a censure upon his own cowardice in making no attempt to silence the giant of the Philistines.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 645.

## Tuesday

### DAVID AND GOLIATH

- a. Where was David's confidence and how had he obtained it? 1 Samuel 17:32–37.

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**Note:** “Whenever a special deliverance is wrought in our behalf, or new and unexpected favors are granted us, we should acknowledge God's goodness.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 187, 188.

“Our preparation to meet opponents or to minister to the people must be obtained of God at the throne of heavenly grace. Here, in receiving the grace of God, our own incompetence is seen and acknowledged. The dignity and glory of Christ is our strength.” *Evangelism*, 166, 167.

- b. In what practical ways did David emphasize the secret of victory? 1 Samuel 17:38–40, 43–51.

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**Note:** “Goliath trusted in his armor. He terrified the armies of Israel by his defiant, savage boastings, while he made a most imposing display of his armor, which was his strength. David, in his humility and zeal for God and his people, proposed to meet this boaster. Saul consented and had his own kingly armor placed upon David. But he would not consent to wear it. He laid off the king's armor, for he had not proved it. He had proved God and, in trusting in Him, had gained special victories. To put on Saul's armor would give the impression that he was a warrior, when he was only little David who tended the sheep. He did not mean that any credit be given to the armor of Saul, for his trust was in the Lord God of Israel. He selected a few pebbles from the brook, and with his sling and staff, his only weapons, he went forth in the name of the God of Israel to meet the armed warrior.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 218, 219.

## Wednesday

### FAITH DESPITE APPEARANCES

- a. What can we learn from David's deep and abiding trust in God? Psalm 20:5–9.

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**Note:** “The Lord would have us awake to our true spiritual condition. He desires that every soul shall humble heart and mind before Him. The words of inspiration found in the nineteenth and twentieth psalms are presented to me for our people. It is our privilege to accept these precious promises, and to believe the warnings ... .

“In the night season I seemed to be repeating these words to the people: There is need of close examination of self. We have no time now to spend in self-indulgence. If we are connected with God, we shall humble our hearts before Him, and be very zealous in the perfecting of Christian characters. We have a grand and solemn work to do, for the world is to be enlightened in regard to the times in which we live; and they will be enlightened when a straight testimony is borne. They will be led to earnest examination of self.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, 1145, 1146.

- b. How do inspired scriptures confirm that God's people are to overcome the seemingly insurmountable giants of sin and selfishness? Mark 10:26, 27; 11:22, 23; Philippians 1:6; 1 John 5:4.

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**Note:** “In Christ, God has provided means for subduing every sinful trait, and resisting every temptation, however strong. ... Cast yourself at His feet with the cry, ‘Lord, I believe; help *Thou* mine unbelief’ (Mark 9:24). You can never perish while you do this—never.” *The Desire of Ages*, 429. [Emphasis author's.]





*David selected a few pebbles from the brook, and with his sling and staff, his only weapons, he went forth in the name of the God of Israel to meet the armed warrior.*

## Thursday

### THE FINAL WORK

- a. How must all entrusted with the present truth in the last days learn from Jesus and take a warning against falling prey to the spirit of Goliath? Jude 9.

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**Note:** “In the presentation of unpopular truth, which involves a heavy cross, preachers should be careful that every word is as God would have it. Their words should never cut. They should present the truth in humility, with the deepest love for souls and an earnest desire for their salvation, and let the truth cut. They should not defy ministers of other denominations and seek to provoke a debate. They should not stand in a position like that of Goliath when he defied the armies of Israel. Israel did not defy Goliath, but Goliath made his proud boasts against God and His people. The defying, the boasting, and the railing must come from the opposers of truth, who act the Goliath. But none of this spirit should be seen in those whom God has sent forth to proclaim the last message of warning to a doomed world.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 218.

“I was shown that Brother K and other ministers have acted too much the part of Goliath. And then after they have dared and provoked discussion they have trusted in their prepared arguments, as Saul wanted David to trust in his armor. They have not, like humble David, trusted in the God of Israel, and made Him their strength. They have gone forth confident and boastful, like Goliath, magnifying themselves and not hiding behind Jesus. They knew the truth was strong, and therefore have not humbled their hearts and in faith trusted in God to give the truth the victory.” *Ibid.*, 219, 220.

- b. What words of encouragement does the Lord offer His tiny remnant in the last days? Zechariah 4:10, *first part*; Luke 17:6. What is the glory that will lighten the earth? Revelation 18:1.

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**Note:** “And in this last generation the parable of the mustard seed is to reach a signal and triumphant fulfillment. The little seed will become a tree. The last message of warning and mercy is to go to ‘every nation and kindred and tongue’ (Revelation 14:6–14), ‘to take out of them a people for His name’ (Acts 15:14; Revelation 18:1). And the earth shall be lightened with His glory.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 79.

“The revelation of His own glory in the form of humanity will bring heaven so near to men that the beauty adorning the inner temple will be seen in every soul in whom the Saviour dwells. Men will be captivated by the glory of an abiding Christ.” *Ibid.*, 420.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How did David grow while soothing Saul with his harp?
- 2 How did the attitude of David differ from that of his brother?
- 3 Why did David refuse to wear Saul’s armor?
- 4 How can we apply this lesson in confronting personal “giants”?
- 5 Differentiate between the spirit of David and Goliath today.

January 13 – 19

# Crisis

## Key Text

“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12).

**Study Help:** *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 649–659; *The Signs of the Times*, September 21, 1888.

## Introduction

“Every failure on the part of the children of God is due to their lack of faith. When shadows encompass the soul, when we want light and guidance, we must look up; there is light beyond the darkness.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 657.

## Sunday

### FACING PERSECUTION

- a. What triggered jealousy in the heart of Saul against David? 1 Samuel 18:5–9. What explains why Saul’s actions followed his sentiments? 1 Samuel 18:11; 1 John 3:15.

**Note:** “It was the ambition of Saul to be first in the estimation of men; and when this song of praise was sung, a settled conviction entered the mind of the king that David would obtain the hearts of the people and reign in his stead.

“Saul opened his heart to the spirit of jealousy by which his soul was poisoned.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 650.

- b. Why does God allow Christians to undergo situations such as the one experienced by David at this particular point in time? 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12–17.

**Note:** “It was the providence of God that had connected David with Saul. David’s position at court would give him a knowledge of affairs, in preparation for his future greatness. It would enable him to gain the confidence of the nation. The vicissitudes and hardships which befell him, through the enmity of Saul, would lead him to feel his dependence upon God, and to put his whole trust in Him.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 649.

## Monday

### FOILING THE OPPRESSOR

- a. When Saul saw that God had protected David from being murdered, what other plans did he arrange to destroy him? 1 Samuel 18:12, 13, 17, 20, 21, 25. What preserved the life of God’s faithful servant? 1 Samuel 18:14, 30.

- b. How did Saul again relate to David? 1 Samuel 19:9, 10. What arrested Saul’s pursuit of David at Ramah? 1 Samuel 19:19–24; 20:1, *first part*.

**Note:** “He [Saul] was determined to wait for no further chance to kill David; as soon as he should come within reach of him, he intended with his own hand to slay him, whatever might be the consequences.

“But an angel of God met him on the way and controlled him. The Spirit of God held him in Its power, and he went forward uttering prayers to God, interspersed with predictions and sacred melodies. He prophesied of the coming Messiah as the world’s Redeemer. When he came to the prophet’s home in Ramah, he laid aside the outer garments that betokened his rank, and all day and all night he lay before Samuel and his pupils, under the influence of the divine Spirit. ...

“Again the persecutor was defeated in his purpose. He assured David that he was at peace with him, but David had little confidence in the king’s repentance. He took this opportunity to escape, lest the mood of the king should change, as formerly.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 654.



THE RACK.

*The rack, the stake,  
the many inventions  
of cruelty, may kill  
the body, but they  
cannot touch the  
life that is hid with  
Christ in God.*

## Tuesday

### PANICKING INTO SIN

- a. How did David attempt to save himself and with what result? 1 Samuel 21:1-7.

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**Note:** “The young man [David] was in constant fear of discovery, and in his extremity he resorted to deception. David told the priest that he had been sent by the king on a secret errand, one which required the utmost expedition. Here he manifested a want of faith in God, and his sin resulted in causing the death of the high priest. Had the facts been plainly stated, Ahimelech would have known what course to pursue to preserve his life. God requires that truthfulness shall mark His people, even in the greatest peril. David asked the priest for five loaves of bread. There was nothing but hallowed bread in the possession of the man of God, but David succeeded in removing his scruples, and obtained the bread to satisfy his hunger.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 656.

- b. Again facing perceived danger, what course did David take? 1 Samuel 21:10-15.

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**Note:** “The first error of David was his distrust of God at Nob, and his second mistake was his deception before Achish. David had displayed noble traits of character, and his moral worth had won him favor with the people; but as trial came upon him, his faith was shaken, and human weakness appeared. He saw in every man a spy and a betrayer. In a great emergency David had looked up to God with a steady eye of faith, and had vanquished the Philistine giant. He believed in God, he went in His name. But as he had been hunted and persecuted, perplexity and distress had nearly hidden his heavenly Father from his sight.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 656, 657.

“David ought not to have distrusted God for one moment. He had cause for trusting in Him: he was the Lord’s anointed, and in the midst of danger he had been protected by the angels of God; he had been armed with courage to do wonderful things; and if he had but removed his mind from the distressing situation in which he was placed, and had thought of God’s power and majesty, he would have been at peace even in the midst of the shadows of death.” *Ibid.*, 657.

## Wednesday

### ADHERING TO PRINCIPLE

- a. How did David’s weakness before Ahimelech result in Satan gaining a chance to instigate the worst passions of Doeg and Saul? 1 Samuel 22:7-11, 16-19.

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**Note:** “The partial and exaggerated statement of the chief of the herdsmen, was suited for the use of the adversary of God and man. It was presented to the mind of Saul in such a light that the king lost all control of himself, and acted like a mad-man. If he had but calmly waited until he could have heard the whole story, and had exercised his reasoning faculties, how different would have been the terrible record of that day’s doings!” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, 1020.

- b. What can we learn from David’s humble recognition of his own degree of guilt in the slaying of the priests at Nob? 1 Samuel 22:20–23.

- c. What words of Jesus should strengthen us when faced with persecution? Matthew 10:28.

**Note:** “The rack, the stake, the many inventions of cruelty, may kill the body, but they cannot touch the life that is hid with Christ in God.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, 1123, 1124.

## Thursday

### HIDING IN DENS AND CAVES

- a. How did David show nobility of character on several occasions? 1 Samuel 22:1, 3, 4; 2 Samuel 23:13–17.

**Note:** “David’s anxiety was not all for himself, although he realized his peril. He thought of his father and mother, and he concluded that he must seek another refuge for them. He went to the king of Moab, and the Lord put it into the heart of the monarch to courteously grant to the beloved parents of David an asylum in Mizpeh, and they were not disturbed, even in the midst of the enemies of Israel. From this history, we may all learn precious lessons of filial love.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, 1018.

“In the cave of Adullam the family were united in sympathy and affection. The son of Jesse could make melody with voice and harp as he sang, ‘Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity’ (Psalm 133:1)! He had tasted the bitterness of distrust on the part of his own brothers; and the harmony that had taken the place of discord brought joy to the exile’s heart. It was here that David composed the fifty-seventh psalm.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 658.

- b. Who else were compelled to separate from Saul’s influence and join David in the cave? 1 Samuel 22:2; Zephaniah 3:12. How does God develop the faith of persecuted believers? Hebrews 11:37–40.

**Note:** “It was not long before David’s company was joined by others who desired to escape the exactions of the king. There were many who had lost confidence in the ruler of Israel, for they could see that he was no longer guided by the Spirit of the Lord. ‘And everyone that was in distress, and everyone that was in debt, and everyone that was discontented,’ resorted to David, ‘and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men’ (1 Samuel 22:2). Here David had a little kingdom of his own, and in it order and discipline prevailed.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 658.

“When by the jealousy of Saul driven a fugitive into the wilderness, David, cut off from human support, leaned more heavily upon God. The uncertainty and unrest of the wilderness life, its unceasing peril, its necessity for frequent flight, the character of the men who gathered to him there—‘everyone that was in distress, and everyone that was in debt, and everyone that was discontented’ (1 Samuel 22:2)—all rendered the more essential a stern self-discipline. These experiences aroused and developed power to deal with men, sympathy for the oppressed, and hatred of injustice.” *Education*, 152.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Explain the root of Saul’s hatred of David.
- 2 How was Saul prevented from succeeding with his murderous plot?
- 3 What mistakes did David make in Nob and Gath?
- 4 How did David respond to the tragedy at Nob?
- 5 Where, specifically, are some guidelines written to ensure that meekness, sound doctrine, order, and discipline can prevail among twentieth-century Reformers cast out for righteousness’ sake?

January 20 – 26

# Brotherly Love

## Key Text

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).

**Study Help:** *The Youth’s Instructor*, November 24, 1898; *Our High Calling*, 182–184.

## Introduction

“There are many cords which unite us to our fellow men, to humanity, and to God, and this relationship is solemn with its weight of responsibility.” *Our High Calling*, 184.

## Sunday

### A DISTINGUISHED PRINCE

- a. Who was faithful Jonathan, and for what qualities had he been distinguished? 1 Samuel 13:5; 14:1, 6, 13–15.

**Note:** “In Jonathan, the son of Saul, the Lord saw a man of pure integrity—one to whom He could draw nigh, and upon whose heart He could move.” *Sons and Daughters of God*, 208.

“Jonathan, the king’s son, a man who feared the Lord, was chosen as the instrument to deliver Israel. Moved by a divine impulse, he proposed to his armor-bearer that they should make a secret attack upon the enemy’s camp. ‘It may be,’ he urged, ‘that the Lord will work for us: for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few’ (1 Samuel 14:6). ...

“Angels of heaven shielded Jonathan and his attendant, angels fought by their side, and the Philistines fell before them. The earth trembled as though a great multitude with horsemen and chariots were approaching. Jonathan recognized the tokens of divine aid, and even the Philistines knew that God was working for the deliverance of Israel. Great fear seized upon the host, both in the field and in the garrison. In the confusion, mistaking their own soldiers for enemies, the Philistines began to slay one another.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 623.

- b. How do we know that Jonathan was beloved among the people and demonstrated potential as the natural heir to the throne? 1 Samuel 14:24, 27, 43–45.

**Note:** “Saul could not claim the honor of the victory, but he hoped to be honored for his zeal in maintaining the sacredness of his oath. Even at the sacrifice of his son, he would impress upon his subjects the fact that the royal authority must be maintained. ...

“The people refused to allow the sentence to be executed. Braving the anger of the king, they declared, ‘Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid: as the Lord liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day’ (1 Samuel 14:45). The proud monarch dared not disregard this unanimous verdict, and the life of Jonathan was preserved.

“Saul could not but feel that his son was preferred before him, both by the people and by the Lord. Jonathan’s deliverance was a severe reproof to the king’s rashness.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 625.

## Monday

### A DIVINELY INSPIRED FRIENDSHIP

- a. Describe the relationship of Jonathan and David. 1 Samuel 18:1–4.

**Note:** “Especially was the heart of Jonathan knit with David’s, and there was a most sacred bond of union established between them, which remained unbroken till the death of Saul and Jonathan. This was the Lord’s doings, that Jonathan might be the means of preserving the life of David, when Saul would try to kill him.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4a, 79.

- b. How did Jonathan intercede in David's behalf?  
1 Samuel 19:1-7.
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**Note:** "Jonathan revealed the king's intention to David and bade him conceal himself while he would plead with his father to spare the life of the deliverer of Israel. He presented before the king what David had done to preserve the honor and even the life of the nation, and what terrible guilt would rest upon the murderer of the one whom God had used to scatter their enemies." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 652.

## Tuesday

### UNSELFISH LOYALTY

- a. How did David confirm to Jonathan his innocence before Saul and appeal for his help? 1 Samuel 20:1-3, 5-8.
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**Note:** "After the remarkable exhibition of the power of God, Jonathan could not believe that his father would still harm David, since this would be manifest rebellion against God. But David was not convinced." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 654.

- b. How did Jonathan renew his loyalty to David, even at the expense of his own chance at the throne?  
1 Samuel 20:4, 9, 12-17. Which specific characteristics of godly love did Jonathan especially manifest?  
1 Corinthians 13:4, 5.
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**Note:** "Jonathan, by birth heir to the throne, yet knowing himself set aside by the divine decree; to his rival the most tender and faithful of friends, shielding David's life at the peril

of his own; steadfast at his father's side through the dark days of his declining power, and at his side falling at the last—the name of Jonathan is treasured in heaven, and it stands on earth a witness to the existence and the power of unselfish love." *Education*, 157.

## Wednesday

### LOVE THAT TAKES RISKS

- a. How did Jonathan's protection of David place his own life in jeopardy? 1 Samuel 20:27-34. What should we as families learn from Jonathan's manifestation of the depth of true friendship? John 15:13.
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**Note:** "[John 15:13 quoted.] Our love is frequently selfish, for we confine it to prescribed limits. When we come into close union and fellowship with Christ, our love and sympathy and our works of benevolence will reach down deeper and will widen and strengthen with exercise. The love and interest of Christ's followers must be as broad as the world. Those who live merely for 'me and mine' will fail of heaven. God calls upon you as a family to cultivate love, to become less sensitive in regard to yourselves and more sensitive to the griefs and trials of others." *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 530.

- b. Describe the poignant moment when Jonathan and David both realized the hardened intentions of the king, and confirmed their covenant of friendship.  
1 Samuel 20:41, 42.
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**Note:** "The prince was grieved and indignant, and leaving the royal presence, he was no more a guest at the feast. His soul was bowed down with sorrow as he repaired at the appointed time to the spot where David was to learn the king's intentions toward him. Each fell upon the other's neck, and they wept bitterly. The dark passion of the king cast its shadow upon the life of the young men, and their grief was too intense for expression. Jonathan's last words fell upon the ear of David as they separated to pursue their different paths, 'Go in peace,



*Those who live  
merely for "me  
and mine" will  
fail of heaven.*



forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord, saying, The Lord be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed forever' (1 Samuel 20:42)." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 655.

## Thursday

### THE VALUE OF FRIENDSHIP

- a. After Saul's atrocious slaughter of the priests at Nob, what brought comfort to the heart of David in the wilderness of Ziph? 1 Samuel 23:15-18. How did this friendship inspire the heart of David? Psalm 11:1-7.

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**Note:** "At this time, when there were so few bright spots in the path of David, he was rejoiced to receive an unexpected visit from Jonathan, who had learned the place of his refuge. Precious were the moments which these two friends passed in each other's society. They related their varied experiences, and Jonathan strengthened the heart of David ..." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 660.

"After the visit of Jonathan, David encouraged his soul with songs of praise, accompanying his voice with his harp as he sang: [Psalm 11:1-5 quoted]." *Ibid.*, 660, 661.

- b. What is the witness of Christian love, among the brethren? John 13:34, 35.

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**Note:** "God has placed us in this world in companionship with one another. Let us walk together in love, bending our energies to the work of saving souls. As we thus serve God in holy companionship, we shall prove that we are laborers together with Him." *The Upward Look*, 366.

"All who are imbued with His Spirit will love as He loved. The very principle that actuated Christ will actuate them in all their dealing one with another.

"This love is the evidence of their discipleship. 'By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples,' said Jesus, 'if ye have love one to another' (John 13:35). When men are bound together, not by force or self-interest, but by love, they show the working of an influence that is above every human influence. Where this oneness exists, it is evidence that the image of God is being restored in humanity, that a new principle of life has been implanted. It shows that there is power in the divine nature to withstand the supernatural agencies of evil, and that the grace of God subdues the selfishness inherent in the natural heart.

"This love, manifested in the church, will surely stir the wrath of Satan." *The Desire of Ages*, 678.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How had Jonathan demonstrated faith and courage in the war against the Philistines?
- 2 What reasoning did Jonathan use in appealing to Saul to spare the life of David?
- 3 How can we cultivate the Christlike character qualities manifested by Jonathan?
- 4 What warning can we derive from observing the behavior of Saul?
- 5 Cite some of the benefits of true Christian friendship.

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# Tangerines

**A**lthough Americans often use the terms *tangerines* and *mandarins* interchangeably, tangerines—along with clementines and satsumas—are actually types of mandarin oranges. These sweet citrus fruits with loose-fitting skins originated in China, but they are now grown in many parts of the world.

Ounce for ounce, oranges have about twice as much vitamin C as tangerines. But even a medium-size tangerine fulfills about 50 percent of the adult Recommended Daily Allowance. In addition, tangerines are richer in vitamin A (in the form of beta carotene) than any other citrus fruit. A medium-size tangerine contains 775 I.U. of vitamin A, as well as 130mg of potassium. It is also high in pectin, a soluble fiber that helps lower blood cholesterol.

This orange fruit is an excellent remedy for depression and the winter blues.

While most varieties are available from November to March, tangerines are an especially popular Christmas fruit. The following are among the most common types sold in the United States:

**Clementine.** This fruit is seedless, and smaller and sweeter than most other varieties. It is sometimes called an Algerian tangerine, but most clementines sold in the U.S. are actually imported from Spain or Israel.

**Honey tangerine.** Also known as a murcott, this variety has a greener skin than other tangerines, but the flesh is more orange and the flavor is sweeter.

**Satsuma.** Any of several varieties of tangerine, satsumas are a little larger than clementines, nearly seedless, and

very thin-skinned. Japan is the leading producer of satsumas.

**Tangelo.** A cross between a tangerine and grapefruit or pomelo, the tangelo looks like an orange, is tangier than a tangerine, and is sweeter than a grapefruit. Its name is a combination of tangerine and pomelo.

**Tangor.** This hybrid, also known as temple orange or royal mandarin, looks like a tangerine but tastes like an orange; it is juicy and contains many seeds.

**Dancy.** While it is no longer as widely grown, the Dancy tangerine, whose peak season is December, is commonly known as the Christmas Orange since children would often receive them as gifts.

*Foods That Harm Foods That Heal*, The Reader's Digest Association, © 1997, 339.

Fruit

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



## TANGERINE MAPLE CASHEW CREAM

### Ingredients

1 cup raw cashews, soaked for 30 minutes in water to cover

1 cup fresh squeezed tangerine juice

2 tsp. pure maple syrup

### Process

Drain cashews. Place in blender with tangerine juice and maple syrup. Blend on high until mixture is smooth and creamy. Drizzle over a fresh fruit salad, cooked cereal, waffles or toast.







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*Ellen White*

