

# HISTORIC LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

*Today is the  
Day*

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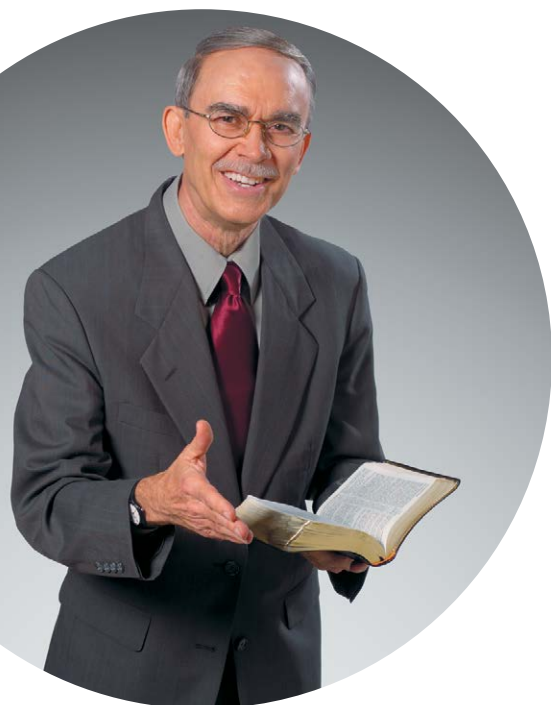
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## From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

# The Bribe

*“All these things I will give you if . . .”* Matthew 4:9

With these words the great deceiver attempted to bribe our Redeemer. A bribe is generally a price or other valuable consideration given or promised with a view to corrupting the behavior of a person. Often immense sums of money are used to get others to do what is wanted. For example, in October 1944, Florida Senator Claude Pepper said that one of those who had helped Hitler to power was John Foster Dulles “because it was Dulles’ company and the Schroeder Bank that had provided Hitler with the money he needed to embark on his career as an international bandit.” William E. Dodd, the American ambassador to Germany from 1933 to 1937, notes in his diary that the American banks represented by Dulles had already guaranteed German bonds to the value of one billion dollars at the end of 1933. (See *God and the Fascists*, Karl Heinz Deschner, 181 (2013).)

Bribes are used by politicians and governments, by churches and all manner of human institutions, groups and families. “He who suffered death for us on Calvary’s cross, just as surely suffered the keenest pangs of hunger as that He died

for us. And no sooner did this suffering commence than Satan was at hand with his temptations. We have a foe no less vigilant to contend with. Satan adapts his temptations to our circumstances. *In every temptation he will present some bribe, some apparent good to be gained.* But in the name of Christ we may have complete victory in resisting his devices.” *Confrontation*, 71, 72. [Emphasis supplied.]

Young women today are bribed to lose their virginity and purity, young men are bribed to lose their honesty and integrity. People are bribed by their associates to try this or that chemical or carnal pleasure. The benefit to be gained is temporary, but if you overcome the temptation to take the bribe, there will be an eternal benefit.

“By the word of God we are to overcome every temptation of the enemy. Satan may present every attraction, bring to our notice every deceiving, alluring bribe, in seeking to eclipse the brightness of Jesus from our view, and to obliterate from our minds His plainest requirements, but we are to meet his deceptions with the word of God.” *The Signs of the Times*, December 3, 1894. [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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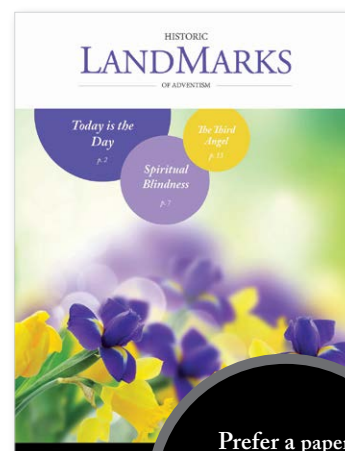
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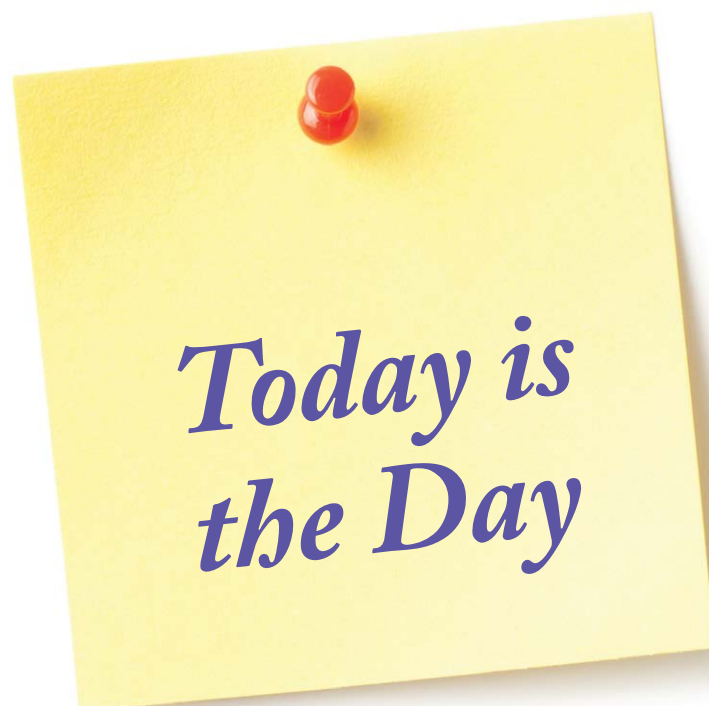
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By John J. Grosboll

**T**here have been many people in this world who have known that a certain night was their last night—some, because they knew they were sentenced to be executed the following morning, and some because they knew they would die of medical complications before the morning. If that person were you, would you be ready?

Jesus predicted several times what it would be like for people on their last night on earth. One of those predictions is found in Luke 17:28–30: “Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.”

Lot came to the night which was to be his last night in Sodom. Jesus used this as an illustration of what it would be like at the end of the world. It

says in Genesis 19:12–14,

“Then the men said to Lot, ‘Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law,

your sons, your daughters, and whomever

you have in the city—take them out of this place! For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them

has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it.’

“So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, ‘Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!’ But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.”

Lot’s family refused to listen to the warning because they saw no visible evidence that the end was near. They carried on their regular activities until Lot went out of Sodom and then the city was destroyed. Did the time come when they would have liked to have left the city? Here is what happened early the next morning.

“Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground” (Genesis 19:24, 25).

All were destroyed. There was one person who started out of the city of Sodom with Lot and actually never made it to safety, Lot’s wife. One of the shortest texts in the gospel is Luke 17:32, where, after Jesus described the way it

was in the days of Lot, He says in three words: “Remember Lot’s wife.”

In Genesis 19:26, we are told what happened to Lot’s wife. Remember, the angel commanded them to flee the city and not look back. “But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.”

Why did Lot’s wife look back? Her heart had remained in the city with her family and possessions. Jesus gave instructions to prevent us from

having that experience by saying, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19–21).

The last night on earth will be just like that last night in Sodom. Will it be easy to make a decision for God when we come right to the end of the world? Will it be easy to make a decision to pray and to be religious on that last night? Yes, it will be easy to make a decision to pray then, but it will be too late. Revelation 6:14–17 describes this as the biggest prayer meeting there has ever been, but it will be too late then to decide to be saved.

Notice what will happen. “Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves

in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’”

Is there some earthly treasure that you are clinging to like Lot’s wife did that is keeping you from going all the way with the Lord? What often keeps some people from following the Lord is their money. So Jesus said in Luke 14:33, “So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

For some people the thing that keeps them from following the Lord all the way is their evil habits. The Bible refers to this as the “temporary pleasures of sin.” In Hebrews 11 concerning Moses, the Bible says he chose “rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward” (verses 25, 26).

For some people the reason is their job. They cannot keep all the commandments and keep doing what they are doing for a living. Concerning this, Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things [what you need in this life] shall be added to you.”

For some people it is their jewelry or adornment. Notice what Paul said about this in 1 Timothy 2:9, 10: “In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.”

The thing that keeps other people from following the Lord all the way is their family. Jesus also had something to say about this as well. He said, “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to ‘set a

“  
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is within your reach and  
you neglect to improve the  
privilege of hearing or seeing  
it, you virtually reject it.*”



man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matthew 10:34-39).

Did you know that you can drown in honey as well as in vinegar? There are many ways that Satan works through human influence to bind his captives. He secures multitudes of people to himself by attaching them by the silken cords of affection to those who are enemies of the cross of Christ. It doesn't matter whether this attachment is parental, filial, conjugal, or social, the effect is the same. The opposers of truth exert their power to control the conscience of the souls held under their sway who have not sufficient courage or independence to obey their own convictions of duty.

Some people think it really doesn't matter what you believe if only your life is right, but your life is molded by your faith. If the light of truth is within your reach and you neglect to improve the privilege of hearing or seeing it, you virtually reject it and are choosing darkness rather than light. When the last night on earth comes, people's excuses will be swept away.

The Bible teaches that God's mercy has a limit. That is what happened in Noah's day. Jesus said that the end of the world would

be like it was in the days of Noah. He said, "As the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:37-39).

People will not know until it's too late. That is why Jesus said you need to be ready. There is a limit to God's mercy. Notice what God said about this in the days of Noah: "The LORD said, 'My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years'" (Genesis 6:3).

God's mercy has a limit. Bible prophecy clearly shows that we are close to the end of the world. Bible prophecies that show us that we are living in the very last epochal period of earth's history are found first of all in the book of Daniel, in chapters 2, 7, 8, 11 and 12.

As we go through those lines of prophecy, we see that we are living in the period of time that the Bible calls in the book of Daniel "the time of the end." We have been living in that period of time for over 200 years. Through Bible prophecies, God predicted the history of the world in advance. And as we study these prophecies, we see that all have been fulfilled, except for the final scenes of earth's history. When you compare the visions in chapters 2, 7, 11 and 12, you can see where we are today in the stream of time.

In the very last days, the Bible predicts that many people would say the following: " '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 the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Micah 4:2, 3). You can read the same thing in Isaiah 2. In other words, in the last days there will be



*There have been many people who have known that a certain night was their last night in this world.*

an international, political, and religious peace movement.

We are living in that time when all the nations are trying to figure out a way to avoid war. This is a specific sign that we are in the last days. This is a phenomenon of our time that has never before been seen. Its first manifestation was the proposal of a world court to solve disputes, about 1899, and then the League of Nations, and now the United Nations. This kind of worldwide peace-seeking development has never been seen before. There is an international, political, religious, peace movement today. But what is actually going to be happening is just the opposite.

This is what the Lord says is going to happen. In Joel 3:9–14 the Lord says, “Proclaim this among the nations: ‘Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near, let them come up. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, “I am strong.”’ Assemble and come, all you nations, and gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O LORD. ‘Let the nations be awakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow—for their wickedness is great.’ Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision!”

We are living in a time when there is a great international, political, religious peace movement, at the same time, there are the greatest preparations for war that have ever existed since the history of the world began. This situation is exactly what the Bible predicted would happen in the last days. Jesus said, as recorded in Matthew 24, that there would be wars and rumors of wars in the last days.

Jesus also said that in the last days there would be a vast increase in lawlessness, the occurrence of which has



*Some people cannot follow the Lord and keep all the commandments because of what they do for living.*

frightened people today everywhere in the world. (See Matthew 24:12.) He predicted there would be a vast increase in promiscuity of all kinds in the last days. (See Luke 17:28–30.) You can read the same prediction or the same account in Ezekiel 16:49 and 50. And in 2 Timothy 3:13, Paul gives the same prophecy of the last days.

The Bible predicts that in the last days there would be an increase in all types of violence and terrorism. Notice what it says in Genesis 6:11: “The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.” The earth was filled with violence in Noah’s day and Jesus said it would be like that at the end of the world.

The signs in the heavens that Jesus predicted in Matthew 24:29 have appeared, and it is predicted in Revelation 11:18 that in the last days the nations will be angry. Paul predicted in 2 Timothy 3:2, 3 that there will be a state of social morals where children are disobedient to parents and parental authority cannot be

enforced. This prophecy is also about the last days.

Then, of all things, the Bible predicts that in the last days people will be outwardly religious, that they will have a form of godliness, but they will deny the power of it. (See 2 Timothy 3:5.)

Peter also predicted that the last days would be a great day, or time, of unbelief. In 2 Peter 3, he says, “knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.’ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which now exist are kept in store by the same word, reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” (verses 3–7, literal translation).





Notice, Peter says that in the last days there will be great scoffing at the Bible teaching that God created the world in seven days, that the world came into existence by the word of God. He also said that it would be said that everything has continued uniformly from the beginning of creation. That is the uniformitarian theory. Eighteen hundred years before it occurred, Peter predicted that unbelief in God's word would happen.

Peter also predicted that in the last days people would not believe in a world-wide flood. All of these Bible prophecies have been fulfilled in our time during the last hundred years, right to the letter. So the question that comes to mind is, Why do people then make excuses instead of getting ready for the end of the age (world KJV)? There are many reasons.

Some people neglect or reject truth because they want to retain their friends. Some people say that they will accept and act on truth later. We must beware of procrastination, for the Bible says, "Today is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

There are stories in the Bible about men who decided they were going to

follow the Lord later, but never got around to it. One example of this would be Felix, as recorded in Acts 24 and 25. He told Paul that at a later time when it was convenient for him he would consider what Paul told him.

There are others who don't follow the Lord because they want to keep enjoying some sinful pleasure. Just as it was in the days of Noah, the message of truth to get ready for the end, is not popular. The end came suddenly at a time of which the scoffers were not aware. God drew a line.

God told Noah to preach that everything in this world was coming to an end. If you wanted to save your life, you had to accept the warning that God sent through Noah and get into the boat. But the people were not willing to make a big enough commitment to get into the boat. It would have required a person to risk everything on whether or not the prophecy Noah was preaching would be fulfilled. It is the same today. There are millions of people who are waiting and just watching to see if Bible prophecy will actually come true.

People say, "I would lose my job if I am obedient to everything the Bible

says." Well, friend, Jesus lost everything to make salvation possible for you, and the question needs to be asked, "Has God drawn a line today like He did in Noah's day?" Yes He has.

The line that God has drawn today is found in Revelation 14:9–12. It reads, "Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.' Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."

How long did it take for a person to be saved in Noah's day? It was only the time it took for them to get into the ark of safety.

How long does it take to be saved today? Well, however long it takes you to decide that you are going to "keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" by obeying the three angels' messages—the focal point of the latter half of the book of Revelation. It describes the eternal destiny of those who accept the last warning messages to the world and those who reject those same messages—the three angels' messages.

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

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It is quite evident that the majority of earth's population is spiritually blind which causes a lack of divine understanding. In order for us to obey God, our spiritual eyes must first be open to appreciate Christ and spiritual things. It is the Holy Spirit that enlightens the human mind, but in order for that to be done there is something on our part that we must do.

“And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, Thou son of David, have mercy on me. And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou son of David, have mercy on me.

“

*The prayer of faith is the key that unlocks the treasury of heaven.*

“And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; He calleth thee. And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto Him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.”

### THE PROGRESSIVE NATURE OF HIS HEALING

- Bartimaeus heard about Jesus.
- Bartimaeus had a need that only Jesus could satisfy.
- Many people tried to discourage him and cause him to lose his blessing.
- Bartimaeus would not be dissuaded or discouraged.
- Jesus acknowledged his determination and called for him.
- Bartimaeus was obedient to the call of Jesus.
- Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he desired Him to do for him.
- Bartimaeus requested that his eyes might be open
- His faith in Jesus caused him to receive his sight.

“And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God” (Luke 18:42, 43).

### THE KEY:

“The prayer of faith is the key that unlocks the treasury of heaven. As we commit our souls to God, let us remember that He holds Himself responsible to hear and answer our supplications. He invites us to come to Him, and He bestows on us His best and choicest gifts—gifts that will supply our great need. He loves to help us. Let us trust in His wisdom and His power. O what faith we

should have! O what peace and comfort we should enjoy! Open your heart to the Spirit of God. Then the Lord will work through you and bless your labors.” — *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 8, 196. (To Elder Daniells and His Fellow-Workers, April 12, 1903.)

### WHAT IS FAITH?

“Faith is not a happy flight of feeling; it is simply taking God at His word—*believing* that He will fulfill His promises because He said He would.” *Our High Calling*, 119.

“For what saith the scripture? Abraham *believed* God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness” (Romans 4:3).

“We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I *believed*, and therefore have I spoken” (2 Corinthians 4:13).

Bartimaeus took Jesus at His word, believed that He was able to open his blinded eyes and the miracle happened.

For human beings to appreciate spiritual things it is vital that their spiritual eyes be open, that the scales of unbelief which blind the eyes be removed so that divine understanding may become a reality. For some people this is their desire while many others would rather remain in blindness.

Jesus made reference to such persons when He told the parable of the sower, “Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them” (Matthew 13:13–15).

“In these words He explained that His illustrations were to awaken thought in the minds of His hearers. If they desired a fuller explanation of His words they could ask it of Him, as the disciples had done, and receive it.

“The Pharisees understood the parable, but affected not to perceive its meaning. They

closed their eyes lest they should see and their ears lest they should hear; therefore their hearts could not be reached. They were to suffer retribution for their willful ignorance and self-imposed blindness.”  
*The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 2, 236.

“Jesus desired to awaken inquiry. He sought to arouse the careless, and impress truth upon the heart. ... If His hearers had desired a knowledge of divine things, they might have understood His words; for He was always willing to explain them to the honest inquirer. ...

“To minds that were open to the Holy Spirit, the significance of the Saviour’s teaching unfolded more and more. Mysteries grew clear, and that which had been hard to grasp became evident.”  
*Christ’s Object Lessons*, 20, 21.

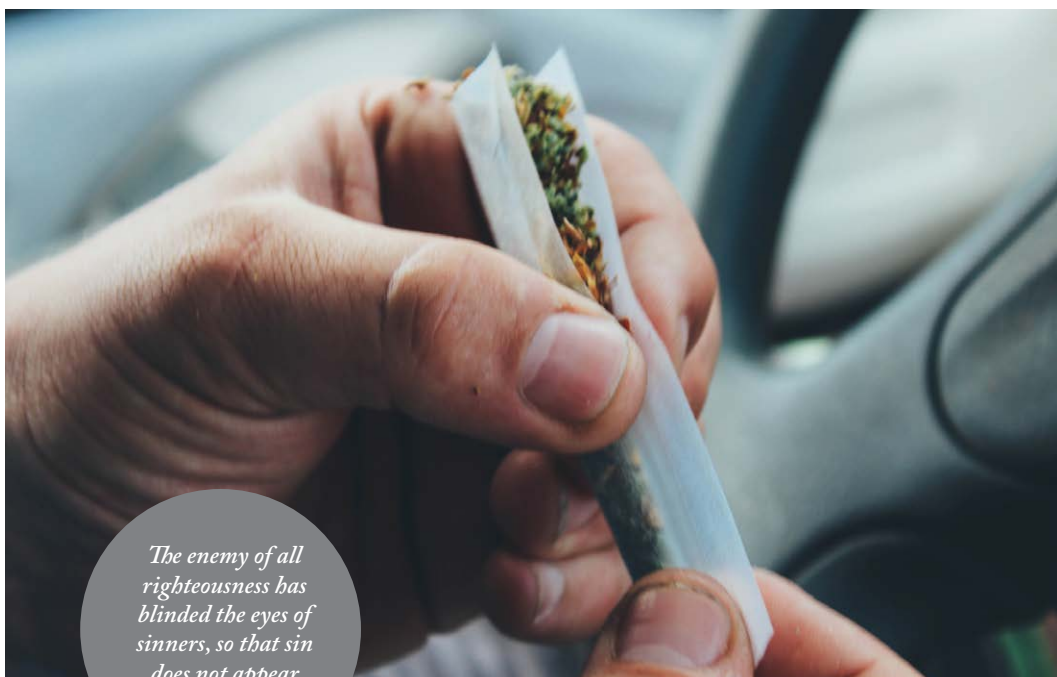
So there are many people, even among professed Christians, who willfully close their eyes to truth because they do not want to obey what God says. Such individuals are willful unbelievers, failing to take God at His word and to do His words and therefore they cannot be blessed with divine understanding.

On the other hand there are those, like blind Bartimaeus, who walk by faith and are quick to obey what Jesus commands even though it may go against their cherished desires. Such persons have learned to use the divine key which is the prayer of faith.

Let’s go back to blind Bartimaeus. He learned to use the divine key, the prayer of faith.

Bartimaeus was about his daily activity, begging by the wayside when he heard that Jesus was passing by. There was this one burning desire that he had – to receive his sight. So he prayed his prayer of faith, “Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me” (Luke 18:38). Jesus heard that prayer of faith and encouraged Bartimaeus’ faith when He asked him “What wilt thou that I should do unto thee” (verse 41, *first part*)?

Jesus had before Him a person who was desperate, trusting, sincere, believing



*The enemy of all righteousness has blinded the eyes of sinners, so that sin does not appear sinful.*

and determined. Bartimaeus wanted to receive his sight. He wanted to see, to enjoy and appreciate that which he could never enjoy and appreciate while being blind. So his prayer of faith gave him that blessing. So it can be for each one of us. Our spiritual eyes may be open by the exercise of faith.

Ellen White explains Bartimaeus’ experience as follows: “Blind Bartimaeus is waiting by the wayside; he has waited long to meet Christ.

“Throngs of people who possess their sight are passing to and fro, but they have no desire to see Jesus. One look of faith would touch His heart of love, and bring them the blessings of His grace; but they know not the sickness and poverty of their souls, and they feel no need of Christ. Not so with the poor blind man. His only hope is in Jesus. As he waits and watches, he hears the tread of many feet, and he eagerly inquires, What means this noise of travel?

The by-standers answer that ‘Jesus of Nazareth passeth by’ (Luke 18:37).

With the eagerness of intense desire, he cries, ‘Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me’ (verse 38). They try to silence him, but he cries the more vehemently, ‘Thou Son of David, have mercy on me’ (verse 39). This appeal is heard. His persevering faith is rewarded. Not only is physical sight restored, but the eyes of his understanding are opened. In Christ he sees his Redeemer, and the Sun of Righteousness shines into his soul.” *Sons and Daughters of God*, 126.

### THE POINT IS THIS

In order to appreciate spiritual things, in order to truly love Christ as man’s redeemer, man’s intercessor, and to obey Him, in order to experience divine understanding, it is absolutely important that our spiritual eyes be opened so that we may see.

### FAITH IS THE ANSWER

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not



seen. ... But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11: 1, 6).

"The summing up of the benefit of prayer is that devotion that leads to faith in God's promises. This faith is the key that opens the divine treasury, is the hand by which we appropriate to our use the richest gifts of God. The prayer of the contrite heart unlocks the treasure house of supplies, and lays hold of omnipotent power. ... The prayer of faith ... wells up from perfect trust and assurance, and by its fervor makes manifest to the world, to angels, and to men, that you do believe in God, and have made Christ your personal Saviour." *The Signs of the Times*, June 18, 1896.

### WHAT ARE THE PROGRESSIVE STEPS WHICH LEAD TO THE LOSS OF SPIRITUAL EYESIGHT?

"The loss of the first love has opened the door to a great amount of selfishness, evil surmising, evil speaking, envy, jealousy, hard-heartedness. This is the fruit borne when the fervor of the first love has grown cold. There has been but little restraint upon the tongue, for prayer has been neglected. A Pharisaical righteousness has been cherished; there is deadness of spirituality, and a lack of spiritual eye-sight is the result." *Special Testimony to Our Ministers*, 2, 27.

### WHO BLINDS HUMAN BEINGS' SPIRITUAL EYESIGHT?

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (2 Corinthians 4:4).

"The enemy of all righteousness has blinded the eyes of sinners, so that sin does not appear sinful." *The Signs of the Times*, January 23, 1879.  
 "In the beginning it was Satan's purpose to separate man from God. And this purpose he has carried out in every age. Constantly he is at

work among the children of men. He sways all classes. The same method of deception, the same logic, that he used to deceive the holy pair in Eden, he has used in all succeeding ages. His plan of work has ever been one of deception. At times he assumes a cloak of piety, purity, and holiness. Often he transforms himself into an angel of light. He has blinded the eyes of men so that they can not see beneath the surface and discern his real purpose." *Ibid.*, July 23, 1902.

The chief method Satan uses to blind human beings is *deception*. John the Revelator wrote: "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Revelation 12:9).

The word *deceiveth* that John used means *to cause to roam or wander* — from

*safety, truth or virtue*. It means *to go astray, be out of the way*.

In order to lead a person out of the way the person must be caused not to SEE. This is what Satan has done to every human being. He has caused us not to see who Jesus is to us. He has caused us not to see truth in its true meaning. He has blinded all of us.

### WHAT ELSE BLINDS THE SPIRITUAL EYE?

- False and unsanctified love blinds the eye. (*The Great Controversy* [1888], 571.)
- By choosing darkness rather than light. ("Ellen G. White Comments," *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, 1147.)
- Blinded by selfishness and self-sufficiency. (*Temperance*, 234, 235.)
- Spiritual eye blinded by unbelief. (*Testimonies*, vol. 5, 258.)
- Wrong practices blind the eye. (*This Day With God*, 163.)
- Spiritual eye blinded because the truth is not obeyed. (*The Upward Look*, 318.)
- Covetousness has blinded the eye. (*The Review and Herald*, October 5, 1886.)
- Pride and self-esteem blind spiritual eye. (*The Signs of the Times*, January 15, 1885.)
- Spiritual eye is blinded by self-indulgence. (*The Review and Herald*, June 11, 1901.)
- Eye blinded by the glitter of earthly glory. (*Ibid.*, April 6, 1911.)
- Blinded by Satan's sophistries, deceptive theories. (SpTBo7, 3.)
- The love of the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life have blinded the spiritual eye. (*Phamphlet* 98, 20.)
- By despising reproof and despising the visions. (*Phamphlet* 016, 18.)
- The spiritual eye is blinded by turning away from the truth and not accepting Christ. (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, 181.)

- Blinded by the spirit of commercialism. (*Loma Linda Messages*, 312.)
- The many evils which exist in the church blind the eye. (*The Review and Herald*, June 12, 1894.)

## THE REMEDY FOR SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

Jesus says, “I counsel thee to ... anoint thine eyes with *eyesalve*, that thou mayest see” (Revelation 3:18).

“The eyes of fallen men may be anointed with *the eye-salve of spiritual comprehension*, and they may see themselves as they really are—poor, and miserable, and blind, and naked. They may be brought to realize their need of repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” *The Review and Herald*, July 24, 1888.

Jesus told Nicodemus the solution in these words “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again” (John 3:5–7).

The servant of the Lord, commenting on these verses, wrote, “Many are in peril today; their eyes have been blinded; and as Christ said to Nicodemus, I say to them, ‘Ye must be born again’ (John 3:7).” *The Signs of the Times*, June 2, 1890.

The “born again” experience is the miracle of miracles. We are told: “Satan has blinded the eyes of those who see nothing beyond the earthly, temporal interests. ... They are spiritually blind, and the Lord Jesus performs a greater miracle when he restores spiritual vision to those who have been blinded by the glitter and tinsel of this world, than if he healed the most malignant disease.” *Ibid.*, March 28, 1895.

“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light” (Matthew 6:22).

*But if thine eye  
be evil, thy whole  
body shall be full  
of darkness.*

*Matthew 6:23*

The word *light* actually means *lamp* and has to do with the source of light or the medium through which it shines, not to the light itself. The *light* of the body is that insight that places a true relative value on the things of time and eternity.

The *eye* refers to the eye of the soul that gives a person heavenly vision and that enables him/her to behold that which is invisible to the natural eyesight. Such eyesight is a guide to the soul.

Ellen White defines Matthew 6:22 in this way: “These words have a first and second sense, a literal and a figurative meaning. They are full of truth in regard to the bodily eye, with which we see external objects. And they are true also in regard to the spiritual eye, the conscience, with which we estimate good and evil. If the eye of the soul, the conscience, is perfectly healthy, the soul will be taught aright.

“But when the conscience is guided by human perceptions, which are not subdued and softened by the grace of Christ, the mind is in a diseased condition. Things are not seen in their true bearings. The imagination is wrought upon, and the eye of the mind sees things in a false, distorted light.” *Mind, Character and Personality*, vol. 1, 323.

“The idea is entertained by many that a man may practice anything that he conscientiously believes to be right. But the question is, Has the man a well-instructed, good conscience, or is it biased and warped by his own preconceived opinions? *Conscience is not to take the place of ‘Thus saith the Lord.’* Consciences do not all harmonize and are not all inspired alike. Some consciences are dead, seared as with a hot iron. Men may be conscientiously wrong as well as conscientiously right. Paul did not believe in Jesus of Nazareth, and he hunted the Christians from city to city, verily believing that he was doing service to God.” *Ibid.*, 322.

The apostle Paul, speaking concerning those who once knew the truth but have had their consciences blinded by Satan wrote, “‘Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron’ (1 Timothy 4:1, 2). Those who have turned away from a plain ‘Thus saith the Lord,’ will be blinded in a superstitious faith in every kind of apostasy, and will be led into that terrible iniquity which God’s word represents as being drunken

with the blood of the saints.” *The Review and Herald*, August 31, 1897.

### OUR SPIRITUAL EYE MUST BE SINGLE

“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light” (Matthew 6:22).

“Singleness of purpose, wholehearted devotion to God, is the condition pointed out by the Saviour’s words. Let the purpose be sincere and unwavering to discern the truth and to obey it at whatever cost, and you will receive divine enlightenment.” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 91.

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The summing up of  
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the key that opens the divine  
treasury.

### THE MAIN THING WHICH CAUSES AN EVIL EYE

“But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness” (Matthew 6:23).

“But when the eye is blinded by the *love of self*, there is only darkness. ‘If thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness’ (Matthew 6:23). It was this fearful darkness that wrapped the Jews in stubborn unbelief, making it impossible for them to appreciate the character and mission of Him who came to save them from their sins.” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 92.

Note also the following: “‘But if thine eye be evil,’ if you study selfish purposes, and work only to that end, the whole character is defective, the whole body is full of darkness. Such do not look to Jesus. They do not behold His character, and they are

not changed into His image. The spiritual vision is defective, and the way from earth to heaven is darkened by the hellish shadow of Satan. So Satan is pleased to have it, for he can lead that person blindfolded to ruin.” *Christ Triumphant*, 64.

### SINGLENES OF EYE MEANS HAVING CHRIST’S CHARACTER

“Those who have an eye single to the glory of God, will manifest in their lives the loveliness and purity of Christ’s character. The enemy will not be able to pervert their understanding, causing them to view things in a false light, and misjudge the words and motives of their brethren. They will not plan how they may gain approbation; neither will they be so deeply affected by any course that may be pursued toward them that they will give up in discouragement. Shall they forsake their post of duty because they are slighted, or imagine that they are not appreciated? No; they will seek to honor Him whose servants they are. They have the Captain of their salvation to please, His orders to obey, and they will leave the result with Him.” *Gospel Workers*, 442.

### PRAYER OF FAITH

Open my eyes, that I may see  
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
That will unclasp and set me free.

#### Refrain:

Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready, my  
God, Thy will to see, Open my eyes, illumine  
me, Spirit divine! Clara H. Scott, 1895.

“All who feel their need of Christ as did blind Bartimeus, and who will be as earnest and determined as he was, will, like him, receive the blessing which they crave.” *Sons and Daughters of God*, 126.

[All emphasis supplied.] **LM**

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## *The Third Angel is the Key*

By Maurice Hoppe

**T**here are actually two parts to the third angel's message, but it is usually the first part that is talked about.

Revelation 14:9–11 KJV states: “And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”

Many are familiar with this part of the third angel's message which includes the mark of the beast and his image. These verses give the warning but give no instruction on how to escape the image to the beast. However, verse 12 gives us the answer. It says, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Even though all have sinned, this special group of people will keep the commandments of God. These people have gone to Jesus in the Most Holy Place and confessed their sins. Jesus is now giving them strength to obey the commandments. This verse is the hope and solution of the third angel's message given in verses 9 to 11 and the "faith of Jesus."

The whole plan of salvation is to take the fallen race and remove the sin so that we can return to the kingdom of glory. We see that process taking place in verse 12. The third angel's message is the last call to the world to come out of sin through the blood of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary by confessing sin. The following statement gives us an understanding of this.

"As the ministration of Jesus closed in the holy place, and He passed into the holiest, and stood before the ark containing the law of God, He sent another mighty angel with a third message to the world. A parchment was placed in the angel's hand, and as he descended to the earth in power and majesty, he proclaimed a fearful warning, with the most terrible threatening ever borne to man. This message was designed to put

the children of God upon their guard, by showing them the hour of temptation and anguish that was before them. Said the angel, 'They will be brought into close combat with the beast and his image. Their only hope of eternal life is to remain steadfast. Although their lives are at stake, they must hold fast the truth.' The third angel closes his message thus: 'Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus' (Revelation 14:12). As he repeated these words, he pointed to the heavenly sanctuary. The minds of all who embrace this message are directed to the most holy place, where Jesus stands before the ark, making His final intercession for all those for whom mercy still lingers and for those who have ignorantly broken the law of God. This atonement is made for the righteous dead as well as for the righteous living. It includes all who died trusting in Christ, but who, not having received the light upon God's commandments, had sinned

ignorantly in transgressing its precepts." *Early Writings*, 254.

The origin or setting of the third angel's message is directly tied to October 22, 1844.

As Jesus entered the Most Holy Place He sent another mighty angel to all the world with a message on a parchment which

was placed in his hands. At that time, God's people could not teach the message because they did not yet know who the beast was, who the false prophet was, or where the sanctuary was. Ellen White covers all of these things in the book, *The Great Controversy*, in the

chapter called "God's Law Immutable" beginning on page 433.

"The minds of all who embrace this message are directed to the most holy place, where Jesus stands before the ark, making His final intercession for all those for whom mercy still lingers and for those who have ignorantly broken the law of God." *Early Writings*, 254. This also indicates that this is the last message to the world, His final intercession. The third angel's message is a very important message and it has been going to the world since 1844 and is soon to close.

Another statement we read: "This message was designed to put the children of God upon their guard, by showing them the hour of temptation and anguish that was before them. Said the angel, 'They will be brought into close combat with the beast and his image.'" Ibid.

The beast is the papacy which came into power in A.D. 538 when the pope was set up as head of the church. The church then proceeded to say that it would intercede with God in heaven for you and to confess your sins to them. The papacy still does that. It also changed the law of God by introducing Sunday as the day of worship, obedience to the enforcement of which will result in receiving the mark of the beast. This mark will be inflicted on all who accept the spurious Sabbath. But we read in the third angel's message that there will be a group of people who will resist that demand of an enforced Sunday law and keep the seventh day holy as God commanded. The combat will get very close. Some will be put into prison; some will be fined; some will be bribed. This will be a time when the faith of God's people will be tested to the limit. Unless they maintain "the faith of Jesus," they will undoubtedly fail the test.

We read that "Their only hope of eternal life is to remain steadfast. Although their lives are at stake, they must hold fast the truth." Ibid. Then it says, "The

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*The third angel closes his message thus: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."*

*Revelation 14:12*

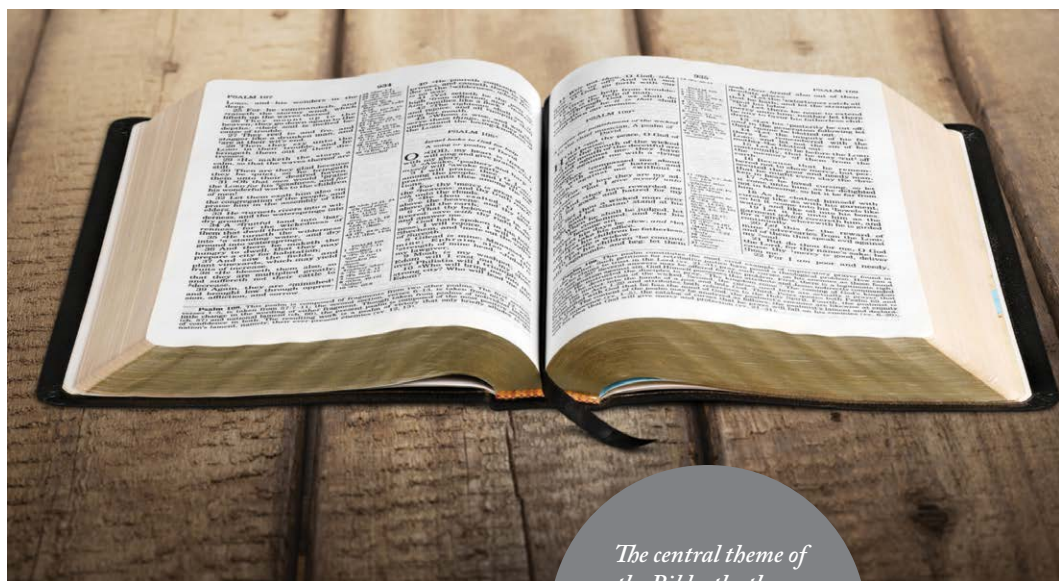
third angel closes his message thus: 'Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus' (Revelation 14:12). As he repeated these words, he pointed to the heavenly sanctuary." Ibid. That tells us that the heavenly sanctuary and Christ's ministry there has to be a very prominent part of our message in the last days because people are directed there to get rid of their sins so that they can keep the commandments and have the faith of Jesus.

The key point of the third angel's message is the sanctuary in heaven where you can get forgiveness, freedom from sin, and gain salvation. The rest of the message is just a warning. We must understand the atonement process through the sanctuary in heaven in order to give the third angel's message. Today, a false gospel is being preached that there is no need of concern about the sin problem for Jesus took care of it all at the cross. The true gospel walks the sinner through the heavenly sanctuary where the sinner repents of his sin and his heart is cleansed by the blood of Christ. One gospel leads to eternal salvation and the other to destruction.

Hebrews 8:1, 2 states, "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man."

Jesus went to the Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary at His ascension. Paul tells us that the throne of God was there. He then moved from the Holy Place to the Most Holy Place in 1844 and that is where the third angel's message is directing our attention to where Jesus is finishing His final ministry for us.

In *The Great Controversy*, 413, we are told: "Turning again to the book of Hebrews, the seekers for truth found that the existence of a second, or new-cove-



*The central theme of the Bible, the theme about which every other in the whole book clusters, is the redemption plan.*

nant sanctuary, was implied in the words of Paul already quoted: 'Then verily the first covenant had *also* ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary' (Hebrews 9:1). And the use of the word "also" intimates that Paul has before made mention of this sanctuary. Turning back to the beginning of the previous chapter, they read: 'Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an High Priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a Minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man' (Hebrews 8:1, 2).

"Here is revealed the sanctuary of the new covenant." [Emphasis author's.]

The new covenant was made by the Father and the Son, which was the plan whereby sin could be removed from the person and he could return to the kingdom of glory. That covenant is carried out in the sanctuary in heaven. If we deny the sanctuary in heaven, then we take away our hope for salvation. When Jesus ascended to the Holy Place in heaven, the Jews refused to go there. They opened the temple on earth and started sacrificing again. That was a clear indication of their rejection of the new covenant.





Today, in the Second Advent, we are facing a similar situation. Those who reject the third angel's message that points directly to the Most Holy Place are doing the same thing the Jews did in cutting off their salvation. We want to be part of the saints mentioned in Revelation 14:12 who accept the heavenly sanctuary and Christ's ministry there and teach others about it. There is a dividing line, the sanctuary message, between those saved and those not saved.

Remember, "The minds of all who embrace this message are directed to the most holy place where Jesus stands before the ark, making His final intercession for all those for whom mercy still lingers and for those who have ignorantly broken the law of God. This atonement is made for the righteous dead as well as for the righteous living." *Early Writings*, 254.

So, it is the third angel's message that provides salvation and righteousness for the saints. If you know about Revelation 14:12, you can go to the sanctuary and be saved even if you do not understand the warning. But if you just understand the warning and fail to deal with the sin problem you could lose your eternal salvation.

"After Jesus opened the door of the most holy, the light of the Sabbath was seen, and the people of God were tested, as the children of Israel were tested anciently, to see if they would keep God's law. I saw the third angel pointing upward, showing the disappointed ones the way to the holiest of the heavenly sanctuary." *Early Writings*, 254, 255.

This is the second time that the third angel is directing them to the heavenly sanctuary, emphasizing the importance of it. What did they find?

"As they by faith enter the most holy, they find Jesus, and hope and joy spring up anew. I saw them looking back,

reviewing the past, from the proclamation of the second advent of Jesus, down through their experience to the passing of the time in 1844. They see their disappointment explained, and joy and certainty again animate them. The third angel has lighted up the past, the present, and the future, and they know that God has indeed led them by His mysterious providence." *Ibid.*, 255.

Looking into the sanctuary they found Jesus ministering in the Most Holy Place and then understood their disappointment. During the Dark Ages, the pope had instructed the people to confess their sins to the priests. The message the disciples had that we are to confess our sins to Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary was lost.

We are told: "Now in the holy of holies they again beheld Him, their compassionate High Priest, soon to appear as their king and deliverer. Light from the sanctuary illumined the past, the present, and the future. They knew that God had led them by His unerring providence." *The Great Controversy*, 423.

If the third angel's message does not include the heavenly sanctuary and Christ's ministry there, it is a false message because that is the foundation of the third angel's message. Without that in the message, there is no hope. The third angel's message is sending us "light from the sanctuary."

"The subject of the sanctuary was the key which unlocked the mystery of the disappointment of 1844." *Ibid.*

"The central theme of the Bible, the theme about which every other in the whole book clusters, is the redemption plan, the restoration in the human soul of the image of God. ...

"He who grasps this thought has before him an infinite field for study. He has the key that will unlock to him the whole treasure house of God's word." *Education*, 125, 126. [LM](#)

*Maurice Hoppe is a member of Steps to Life board.*

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Today, a false gospel is  
being preached that there is  
no need of concern about the  
sin problem for Jesus took care  
of it all at the cross.

# Learn of Christ

*Martin Luther*

Learn to know Christ and Him crucified.  
Learn to sing unto Him a new song;  
to despair of thyself, and say, Thou, O Lord Jesus!  
Thou art my righteousness, and I am Thy sin!  
Thou hast taken what is mine,  
and given me what is Thine.  
What Thou wert not Thou hast become,  
in order that what I was not I might become.

*Luther's Sammtliche Schriften, 1516.*



# Joseph, Slave to Ruler in Egypt

Clues – Genesis 39-41 KJV

## Across:

B1	These men could not help Pharaoh	41:8
B6	Joseph was this in the land of affliction	41:52
B18	Pharaoh did this after his first dream	41:5
D3	Joseph's fellow prisoners each had this	40:5
D10	The _____ favored kine ate the others	41:4
D14	Joseph was put here falsely	39:20
E1	Potiphar entrusted Joseph with how much of his wealth?	39:6
F7	The kind of grapes in the butler's dream	40:9, 10
F12	Joseph did this to his master's wife	39:8
G4	Pharaoh said these kine ate the others	41:20
H7	None of Pharaoh's "staff" could do this for him	41:8
I17	Joseph's _____ saw that the Lord blessed him	39:3
J3	In the butler's memory Joseph as a _____ man	41:12
J11	Pharaoh became wroth with the _____ of butlers & bakers	40:2
K8	The butler's branches represented _____ days	40:12
L14	Butler to Pharaoh: "I do _____" .... (about Joseph)	41:9
M8	The only thing Potiphar knew of what he had	39:6
N2	In the first seven years this yielded abundantly	41:47
N15	The thin ears did this to the good ears	41:24
O8	Pharaoh did this twice in one night	41:4, 7
P17	The baker's baskets represented three _____	40:12, 18
Q3	Birds ate all manner of bakemeats from this	40:17
Q10	Joseph laid up food in and around cities for _____ years	41:48
R15	Joseph asked the butler to _____ him to Pharaoh	40:14
S2	To meet Pharaoh Joseph did this with his clothes	41:14
S10	A gold chain was put on Joseph's _____	41:42

## Down:

A8	The butler dreamed he pressed grapes into this	40:11
A12	On Pharaoh's birthday who was restored?	40:21
B3	Joseph asked why the prisoners looked so _____	40:7
B10	God gave Pharaoh a dream message _____ for emphasis	41:32
B18	In Pharaoh's first dream he _____ by the river	41:1
B21	Joseph's father-in-law had this "occupation"	41:45
C5	Joseph to Pharaoh: God will give an answer of _____	41:16
C16	Lean kine ate up the _____ seven fat kine	41:20
D7	When was Pharaoh troubled over his dreams?	41:8
F9	Captain of the guard who bought Joseph as a slave	39:1
G11	Joseph found this in the sight of his master	39:4
H3	How often was Joseph tempted (three words)	39:10
H18	In Pharaoh's dream these kine were eaten up	41:4
H20	Joseph: lay up food for a _____ against the famine	41:36
I5	In Pharaoh's dream these ears were eaten up	41:7
J12	The baker had three baskets here	40:16

- Answer Key:

39:5  
39:4  
40:14  
41:23  
40:13  
39:21  
39:14  
39:9  
41:2  
41:1

[illegible]





## Consecration



Sabbath-keepers will be tested and proved. A close and searching work must go on among the people of God. How soon, like ancient Israel we forget God and His wondrous works, and rebel against Him. Some look to the world, and desire to follow its fashions, and participate in its pleasures in the same manner that the children of Israel looked back into Egypt, and lusted for the good things they had enjoyed there, which God chose to withhold from them to prove them, and thereby test their fidelity to Him. He wished to see if His people valued more highly His service, and the freedom He had so miraculously given them, than the indulgences they enjoyed in Egypt while in servitude to a tyrannical, idolatrous people.

Every true follower of Jesus will have sacrifices to make. God will prove them, and test the genuineness of their faith. I have been shown that picnics [Note: the simple outdoor gathering of families or church members is not referred to here, but that in which church members "united with the world" in a carnival type of community gathering quite common then. *The Adventist Home*, 525], donations, shows, and other gatherings of pleasure, the true followers of Jesus

will discard. They can find no Jesus there, and no influence which will make them heavenly-minded, and increase their growth in grace. The word of God obeyed, leads us to come out from all these things and be separate. The things of the world are sought for, and considered worthy to be admired and enjoyed by all those who are not devoted lovers of the cross, and are not spiritual worshippers of a crucified Jesus.

There is chaff among us, and this is why we are so weak. Some are constantly leaning to the world. Their views and feelings harmonize much better with the spirit of the world than with Christ's self-denying followers. It is perfectly natural for them to prefer the company of those whose spirit will best agree with their own. And such have quite too much influence among God's people. They take a part with them, and have a name among them, and are a text for unbelievers and the weak and unconsecrated ones in the church. These persons of two minds will ever have objections to the plain, pointed, testimony which reproves individual wrongs. In this refining time, these persons will either be converted wholly, and sanctified by obeying the truth, or they will be left with the world, where they belong, to receive their reward with them.

"By their fruits ye shall know them" (Matthew 7:20). All of Christ's followers bear fruit to His glory. Their

lives testify that a good work has been wrought in them by the Spirit of God, and their fruit is unto holiness. It is elevated and pure. Those who bear no fruit have no experience in the things of God. They are not in the vine. Read John 15:4, 5. "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing."

If we would be spiritual worshippers of Jesus Christ, we must sacrifice every idol, and fully obey the first four commandments. "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment" (Matthew 22:37, 38).

The first four commandments allow us no separation of the affections from God. Nor is anything allowed to divide, or share, our supreme delight in Him. Whatever divides the affections, and takes away from the soul supreme love to God, takes the form of an idol. Our carnal hearts would cling to, and seek to carry along, our idols; but we cannot advance until we put them away; for they separate from God. The great Head of the church has chosen His people out of the world, and required them to be separate. He designs that the spirit and life of His commandments shall draw them to Himself, and separate them from the elements of the world. To love God and keep His commandments is to be far from loving the world's pleasures and friendship. There is no concord between Christ and Belial. The people of God may safely trust in Him alone, and without fear press on in the way of obedience.

*Spiritual Gifts*, volume 4b, 78, 79. **LM**

# The Menace of Mingling

It is interesting to note that the meaning of *mingling* is *to become mixed, blended or united*. On this note, the following paragraph is full of meaning.

“During the sojourn of the Israelites in Egyptian bondage, they largely lost sight of the knowledge of God and of His law; in their *constant mingling* with heathenism and idolatry they lost almost all the knowledge of the true God and of His laws, which had been entrusted to them.” *Practical Lessons*, F.C. Gilbert, page 157. [Emphasis supplied.]

Constant mingling with heathenism and idolatry caused the Israelites to lose almost all of their knowledge of the true God and His laws. Today we face the same danger.

Let us put our own name in place of the Israelites. Are we not sojourning here while we wait for our Lord’s return? Have we not also lost the knowledge of the true God and His laws by mingling with the world? Is it not time to take the advice of Paul to “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. . . . that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless indeed you are disqualified” (2 Corinthians 13:5 NKJV)? The devil’s plan is to lure Christians away from Godly paths until they have blended with the world.

Egypt is a symbol for sin. Living a life of worldliness today is akin to living in Egypt. The more we mingle and blend with the world’s habits in eating, drinking, dressing and entertainment,

we trade the knowledge of God with the knowledge of the world until the danger is unrecognized.

God says in Exodus 20:1–3, “And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.”

God has brought us out of the world—out of the *house of bondage* into the freedom of His glorious light. Why hunger for those things that we have left behind, as the Israelites did for the leeks of Egypt, when God has eternal realities in mind?

“We might expect the Israelites to harden their hearts against the reproofs of the prophet. We listen to hear them respond, ‘We do not wish to be continually reminded of our sins. Speak to us words of peace, encouragement, and hope, but do not keep ever before us the dismal relation of our backslidings.’ How often do the professed people of God at the present day turn away from instruction, and neglect oft-repeated warnings. They dislike to be reminded of their defects of character. They are unwilling to be reproved for their pride and idolatry in turning from the requirements of God to seek the gains, friendship, or pleasures of the world.” *The Signs of the Times*, June 23, 1881. What a heartbreaking parallel!

Are we mingling and becoming blended with this world? Pray to God for help and guidance. **LM**

*Heavenly Father: Our sojourn here has been long and we need Your help. We are beginning to wear down and are tempted to seek the momentary pleasures of this world by constant mingling with those who would draw us astray. Oh Lord, give us strength and grace to stand in Thy ways bringing honor to Your name as true representatives of Jesus in this world. Thank You for hearing our cry. Amen.*



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"We love your new *LandMarks* magazine. Thank you for your ministry. May the Lord continue to bless you all."

—**E & SS, New York**

"Thank you for all you do to bless others. Love the *LandMarks* magazine."

—**MC, Colorado**

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### March Sermon of the Month

## Two Women and the Tribulation

By Marshall Grosboll

Revelation describes two women, each claiming Christ as her husband – one adorned with garments or glory, the other decked out in gold and dressed like a whore.

All who  
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free of charge.

## March 2019

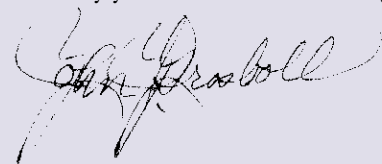
Dear Friend,

In this world it is inevitable that we will be bereaved and separated from our friends and loved ones, not only by death, but by a variety of other possible circumstances. Whether those from whom we are separated are saved or lost we will still meet again. If in this meeting you are on one side of the holy city and the other person is on the other side of the holy city, what thoughts will be going through each one's mind?

The choices that we make in this world have eternal consequences not only for us but for others. I was made glad yesterday when I found out about a young man who is working in a very secular environment who found a person who had some interest in spiritual things and brought to him the book, *The Great Controversy*. Because he had brought some extra copies, he asked if anybody else there wanted one. Interestingly, a person whom he did not know would be interested in anything religious asked for a copy.

The people you work with, go to school with, socialize or associate with are all going to meet you again. You are either going to have the thought that you did everything that you could to reach others with the knowledge of present truth or, even if you are saved, you will know in eternity of a lack that resulted from your failure to look for opportunities to share the truth with those who do not know it. "Even if we do not lose our souls, we shall realize in eternity the result of our unused talents. For all the knowledge and ability that we might have gained and did not, there will be an eternal loss." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 363.

Sincerely your brother in witnessing,



John J. Grosboll



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

## Papua New Guinea



## Youth at Work

Laymembers Association of Free Seventh Day Adventists



**Top:** A team of young workers wait for public transportation to begin their day's work.

**Right:** A group of committed youth trek across the plains enroute to save souls.

**Bottom:** Climbing mountains to reach the unreached.



The founders of the Laymembers Association of Free Seventh Day Adventists in Papua New Guinea quickly realized the need for training the young to carry on the work of evangelism, especially in a country that is as diverse as this one. With over 800 dialects and languages, spreading the three angels' messages is indeed a challenge.

Prevailing upon the vigor of the young, the Laymembers Association works to carry the truth to the seashore, plains, and highlands of Papua New Guinea. Because of a lack of transportation, they have to rely on public transportation, which can be quite expensive and time consuming. Often the only alternative is to walk, carrying all of their personal needs as well as evangelistic materials on their backs, sometimes spending several days away from home and family.

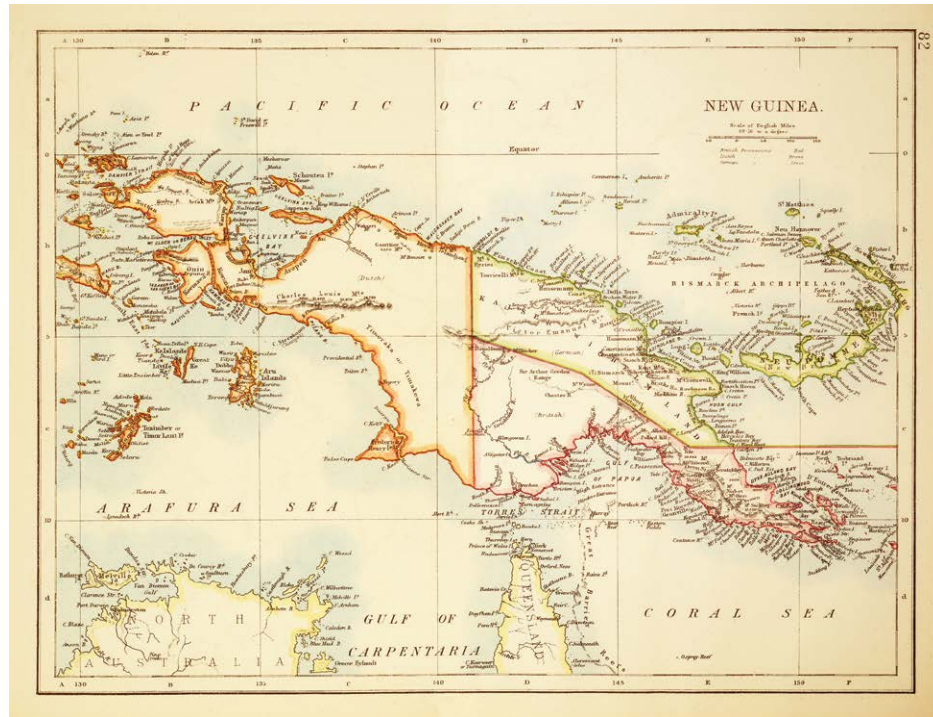
Youth training programs are held regularly to give guidance and counsel to ensure that the young are trained up in the way they should go and are able to encourage others accordingly.

An effective method the youth groups often use to evangelize is street preaching. A critical component of this effort is a good portable public address system. Steps to Life has committed to providing ten of these units to these groups to assist them in fulfilling the Great Commission.

To assist us in our support of these dedicated young workers, please mark your Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings PNG Youth. [LM](#)



*from the*  
**Mission Fields**



## *Working, Learning, Helping*

### *Committed Youth in Papua New Guinea*

By John R. Pearson

No outreach effort is truly successful unless the youth are involved. The young can more easily connect with others of similar age. In addition, often adults are more willing to accept literature from a young person with a warm smile than from a serious-looking or intimidating adult.

More important, however, is the experience that the youth acquire that fits them up to be front-line workers in the Great Controversy. By becoming involved in all aspects of Christian service, the young can become prepared to face the challenges that all who walk the narrow way meet constantly.

In Papua New Guinea, the Laymembers Association has a whole cadre of young workers spread out over the seashore, the plains, and the mountains to carry the torch of truth to every corner of the country.



*Papua New Guinea is a country in the South Pacific with more than 800 tribal languages and the median age of the population is 23. Young people can reach these tribes the best.*

“The gospel invitation is to be given to the rich and the poor, the high and the low, and we must devise means for carrying the truth into new places, and to all classes of people. The Lord bids us, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that My house may be filled’ (Luke 14:23). He says, ‘Begin in the highways; thoroughly work the highways; prepare a company who in unity with you can go forth to do the very work that Christ did in seeking and saving the lost.’” *Evangelism*, 549.

Several of the regions, including Asafa, Tuta, Markham, Komasi, and Punano, have a youth choir that provides inspirational singing to promote thoughtful meditation during Sabbath services and for the camp meetings as well.

“Music forms a part of God’s worship in the courts above, and we should endeavor, in our songs of praise, to approach as nearly as possible to the harmony of the heavenly choirs. The proper training of the voice is an important feature in education and should not be neglected. Singing, as a part of religious service, is as much an

act of worship as is prayer. The heart must feel the spirit of the song to give it right expression.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 594.

Dispersed throughout the country are teams of young workers who carry their personal needs as well as evangelistic literature in backpacks as they strive to reach the unreached. They may travel “two by two” or in larger groups, as time and means allow.

“The workers should go forth two by two, that they may pray and consult together.” *Evangelism*, 520.

Special youth camp meetings are also held from time to time, with a dual purpose. First, they provide encouragement and spiritual food to assist the youth in establishing a foundation based solidly on the present truth of the three angels’ messages. Second, they provide an opportunity for spiritual growth by giving the youth opportunities to lead Bible studies and discussion groups, preparing them for future work in soul-saving.

“Experienced workers today do a noble work when, instead of trying to carry all the burdens

themselves, they train younger workers and place burdens on their shoulders.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 368.

The Association also takes advantage of the vigor of the young, enlisting them to assist in the construction of worship centers when a new group has grown enough to need a church building. The youth are also depended on to a significant amount of the outreach, often spending several days away from the comforts of home to carry the message to the unreached.

“In order that the work may go forward in all its branches, God calls for youthful vigor, zeal, and courage. He has chosen the youth to aid in the advancement of His cause. To plan with clear mind and execute with courageous hand demands fresh, uncrippled energies. Young men and women are invited to give God the strength of their youth, that through the exercise of their powers, through keen thought and vigorous action, they may bring glory to Him and salvation to their fellow men.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 535.

Please keep the young workers in Papua New Guinea in your prayers.



*Common Cultivated Vetch*  
VICIA EU-SATIVA



*Common Wild Vetch*  
VICIA ANGUSTIFOLIA, VAR. A. SEGETALIS

## Amazing Milkweed

When we take a walk in the open fields in July we are going to find that the air is filled with a strong sweet aroma that is quite amazing, although it can be overpowering at times. A quick search is likely to turn up some milkweed plants with their large globular clusters of unusually shaped pinkish or yellowish flowers.

There are 11 different species of milkweed, but common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) is both the most common and the most aromatic species.

In the fall, this plant has a different kind of beauty. As the aerial parts of the plant begin to die back, the pods open, releasing thousands of seeds that float through the air on their wispy filaments. These filaments are very soft and silky and were once used to stuff pillows.


Milkweed usually grows in open fields as it prefers to get lots of sunlight. It tends to grow in small colonies because it partly spreads by rhizomes. These are underground stems. With herbs that grow this way, the aerial parts are not individual plants, they are the leafy stalks of a single plant that are connected by the rhizomes below the ground.

Milkweed has an interesting history. Its common name comes from the milky latex that exudes from the plant whenever it is damaged. During the Second World War when Japan threatened to control the world's supply of rubber trees, the latex from milkweed was considered as a possible alternative source of rubber in the west; its botanical name was given to it by Carl Linnaeus, the famous botanist and creator of our earliest system of plant classification. ... The

dried stalks were also used as a source of plant fiber for making rope by Native Americans.

Milkweed contains some very bitter constituents as well as minute amounts of potentially toxic constituents called cardioactive glycosides. These constituents occur in most members of the Milkweed family, and in even higher quantities in the very closely related Dogbane family. These herbs have the ability to manufacture cardioactive glycosides as a way of discouraging foraging by insects and mammals. Some insects, however, have developed a tolerance for these constituents and have actually developed the ability to concentrate them in their tissues. This makes them unpalatable and even toxic to many potential predators. Most notable of these is the monarch butterfly. Both the caterpillars and the adults of this species are brightly colored to warn predators that they are not good to eat. <http://vitalitymagazine.com/article/marvellous-milkweed/>

Monarch caterpillars feed exclusively on the leaves of milkweed, the only host plant for this iconic butterfly species. As such, milkweed is critical for the survival of monarchs. Without it, they cannot complete their life cycle and their populations decline. [www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants/Milkweed](http://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants/Milkweed)

As the sweet aroma of the Milkweed draws the Monarch and other insects so should we attract others to Jesus. "Men and women who commune with God, who have an abiding Christ, make the very atmosphere holy, because they are co-operating with holy angels. Such witness is needed for this time. We need the melting power of God, the power to draw with Christ." *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 52. 



Q:

*What was the  
“reproach” that  
was rolled away in  
Joshua 5:9?*

A:

“And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.”

“Heathen nations had reproached the Lord, and His people, because the Hebrews had not possessed the land of Canaan, which they expected to inherit soon after leaving Egypt. Their enemies had triumphed, because they had so long wandered in the wilderness [40 years], and they proudly lifted themselves up against God, declaring that He was not able to lead them into the land of Canaan. They had now passed over Jordan on dry land, and their enemies could no longer reproach them.” *Spiritual Gifts*, 4a, 61.

“One other text, if any one were needed to settle the fact that Israel did not get out of Egypt as long as they were in the wilderness, is found in the book of Joshua. You remember the passage, after they had crossed Jordan, then they were circumcised, it is written, ‘This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you’ (Joshua 5:9). Those people, you see, who left Egypt, never got out of

Egypt till they had crossed Jordan; for not until then was the reproach of Egypt taken away. Then they were all converted men. That whole nation crossed Jordan by faith. It was a nation that believed God, and there was not a dissenting voice nor a doubting thought—then they were out of Egypt. Thus you see that it is perfectly evident that spiritual Egypt is the literal Egypt of the Bible.” March 7, 1897, A.T. Jones, *General Conference Daily Bulletin*.

“It was because they would not forsake the idols of Egypt, that the men who left that country with Moses did not enter into the promised land. A people cannot at one and the same time be both free and in bondage. The bondage of Egypt—“the reproach of Egypt”—was not merely the physical labor which the people were forced to do without reward, but was the abominable idolatry of Egypt, into which they had fallen. It was from this that God would deliver His people, when He said to Pharaoh, ‘Let My people go, that they may serve Me’ (Exodus 7:16).” *The Present Truth*, UK 836, December 31, 1896. LM



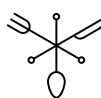




“

*The relation that exists between the mind and the body is very intimate. When one is affected, the other sympathizes.*

*The Ministry of Healing, 241*



## *Cardiac Health*

**H**eat protection begins in the kitchen. As it is with most chronic conditions, your fork is your best defense against heart attacks, strokes and other forms of cardiovascular disease. But while a basic produce-heavy, clean-protein diet is a must, some foods really shine when it comes to heart health.



### Avocados

- Cardiovascular health powerhouse
- Can lower levels of total cholesterol
- Contains more than twice the amount of potassium than bananas
- High in fiber and extremely low in sugar
- The only fruit that contains a significant amount of heart-healthy monounsaturated fats
- Not necessary to purchase organic as the thick outer skin protects the inner flesh from pesticide residues



### Tomatoes

- Heart-healthy, thanks in large part to lycopene
- Eating lycopene-rich foods regularly is linked to a lower risk of heart disease
- The richest source of lycopene
- Becoming healthier when you cook them; cooked tomatoes contain up to 2.5 times as much lycopene as raw tomatoes



### Berries

- Nature's healthy equivalent of a candy bowl
- Packed with anthocyanins, which have antioxidants
- Good source of fiber, which is known to help decrease cholesterol
- Anthocyanins in blueberries protect against hypertension, or high blood pressure



### Walnuts

- Rich in vitamin E
- Great source for omega-3 fatty acids, which help ease inflammation, and just ¼ cup fulfills most people's daily need
- Raw, unsalted walnuts will garner you the most heart health benefits

### Broccoli

- Most heart-healthy among greens
- Prevents plaque from clogging up arteries
- Improves the body's ability to detoxify itself
- Reduction in cancer risk



### Edamame

- Rich in isoflavones, which are phytonutrients that can boost functioning of your arteries and veins
- Replacing animal protein with plant protein such as edamame is linked to better health and even a longer life
- The fiber can help lower LDL cholesterol levels and help manage your weight to lower heart disease risk



# 5 Ways to Protect Your Heart



## See your dentist regularly

Oral health translates to heart health. A study from Taiwan of more than 100,000 people showed that those who had their teeth professionally cleaned and scaled by a dentist or dental hygienist lowered their risk of heart attack by 24% (13% for stroke) compared with those who never had a dental cleaning.

## Quit smoking

Even one or two cigarettes a day can dramatically increase the risk of heart attack, stroke or other serious conditions, says Jason Freeman, MD, director of Interventional Cardiology at South Nassau Communities Hospital in Oceanside, New York. A major risk factor on its own, the risk of heart disease increases further when smoking is combined with high blood cholesterol, high blood pressure and obesity, according to the National Heart Blood and Lung Institute. (And avoid secondhand smoke, which can also increase cardiac risk.)



## Monitor your blood pressure

The American Heart Association says normal blood pressure should be below 120/80 mm/Hg. High blood pressure increases the risk of heart attack, heart failure and stroke; if you have been diagnosed with high blood pressure, aim to lower your blood pressure to less than 140/80 mm/Hg. Check with your practitioner regarding what blood pressure level is right for you.

## Take the stairs

As an easy on-the-go exercise, take the stairs instead of an escalator or elevator whenever you can. It is also a great way to monitor your cardiac health. If you can't make it up the same amount of stairs you did a week ago without stopping, see your physician for a checkup.



## Control your emotions

Strong emotions, such as anger, sadness, frustration or anxiety, can increase blood pressure and put stress on the heart. A 2004 Canadian study reported that heart attack risk for people with high levels of psychosocial distress nearly matched the risk seen in smokers.

Excerpts from [www.energytimes.com/pages/features/0317/foods.html](http://www.energytimes.com/pages/features/0317/foods.html) LM

# *Knots That Can't Be Untied*

John and Paul Baxter liked to play in the woods near their home. They liked to watch the birds fly among the branches. They liked to hear the bluejays scold. They liked when the leaves sang in the cool spring breeze. They liked to stand beside the tall pines that stretched long, bushy arms toward the sky. Sometimes it seemed they almost reached the sky. Another reason the boys liked the woods was because they were always finding something there that they had never seen before.

That's the way it was the day they discovered the tree that looked as if a knot had been tied in it. The knot was about half way up the tree. The boys looked at it. They walked around it. How could a tree grow that way? the boys wondered. The trunk was at least four inches through the middle. Surely no one could have tied a knot in a tree that was so big.

When Dad came home from work, Paul and John showed him the tree.

"It's a knot, all right," Mr. Baxter told his sons. "But it must have been tied a long, long time ago. I think it was tied when the tree was a tiny sapling." He ran his long fingers over the pattern of the knot as he spoke.

"Maybe this is the way it happened," he said. "Long ago some boy may have played in these woods just as you do now. When he felt the young sapling, he discovered that it could be bent very easily. Twisting it under and around itself, he tied a knot in it."

Mr. Baxter examined the tree again. Then he turned back to the boys.

"Do you think you could untie that knot?"


"No, never," Paul said.

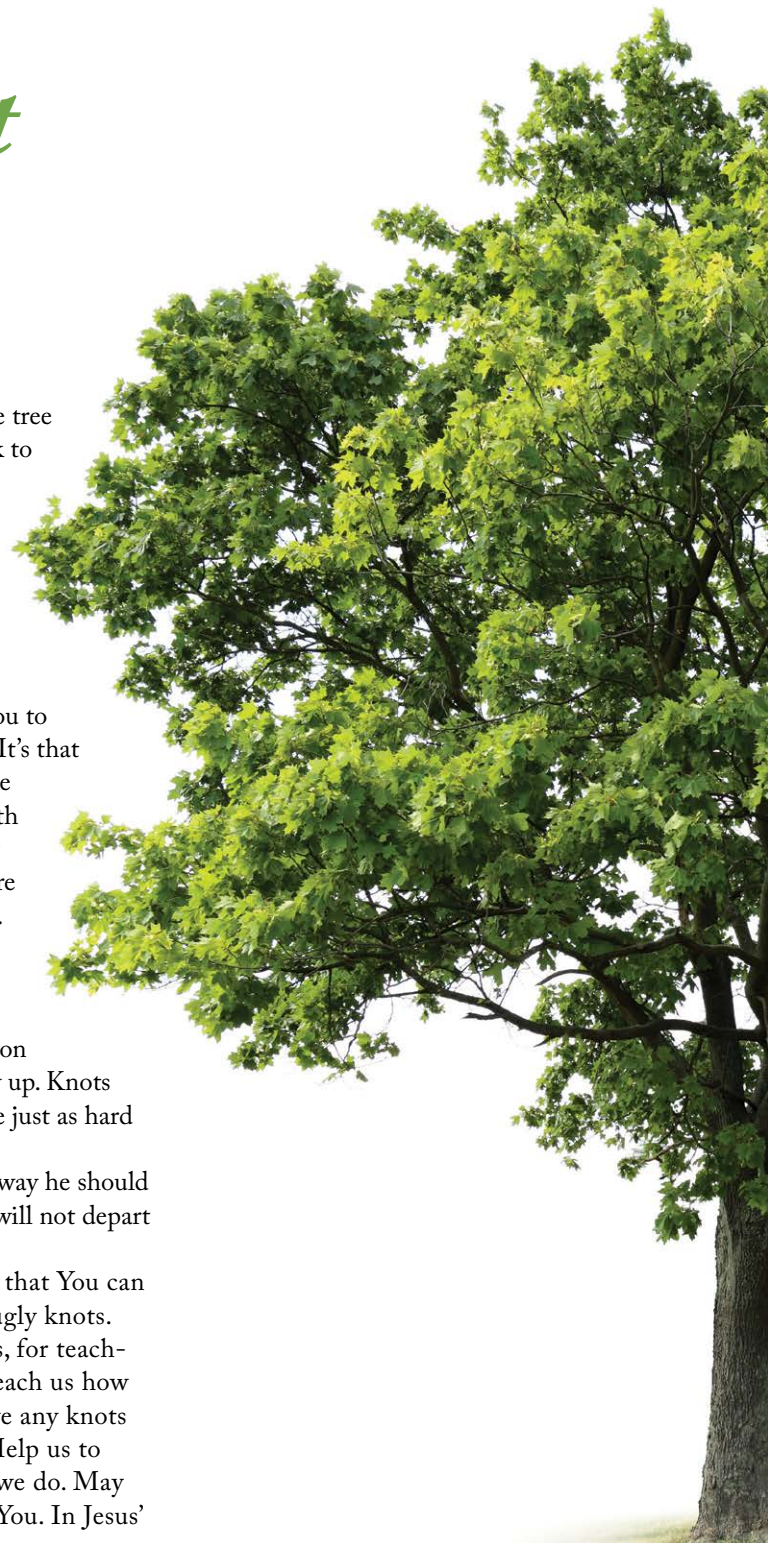
"It's grown together that way now. No one could ever untie the knot."

"That's what I wanted you to say," the boys' father said. "It's that way with young fellows like you, too. There's an old truth that says, 'As a twig is bent ...' which means as boys are bent, so the man will grow. The way you start out in life, the habits you make when you are young, will determine the kind of person you will be when you grow up. Knots tied in young boys' lives are just as hard to untie as this tree knot."

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

Dear Lord, we are glad that You can keep our lives free from ugly knots. We thank You for parents, for teachers and for pastors who teach us how to live — so we won't have any knots in our minds and souls. Help us to choose wisely the things we do. May we always be pleasing to You. In Jesus' dear name. Amen.

*Happy Moments With God*, Margaret Anderson, © 1962, 45, 46. 





# *Be Born Again*

By John J. Grosboll

**T**here are many people in the world today who, though they have an intellectual knowledge of the truth, are lacking the moral character that will fit them for eternal life.

While Apollos was teaching and preaching in Corinth, the apostle Paul went to the city of Ephesus. (See Acts 19.) At that time, Ephesus was one of the leading commercial cities of the world. It was a harbor city, a center of trade and shipping from all parts of the civilized world. Its streets were filled with people from many lands. Thus the city of Ephesus, like the city of Corinth, presented a favorable missionary field, from which the gospel could be taken to all parts of the world.



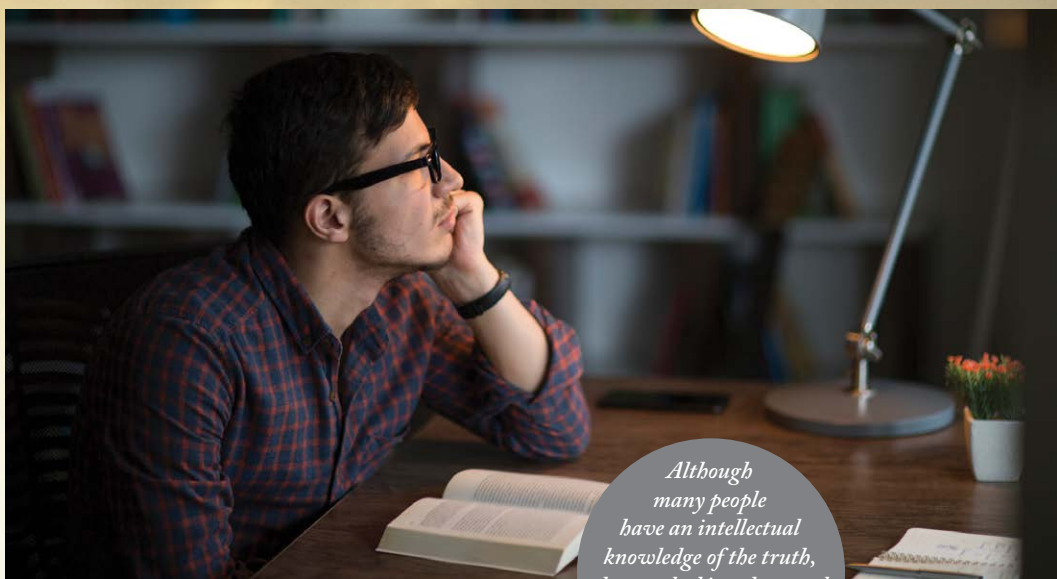
Within 20 to 30 years after Jesus ascended to heaven, the gospel had been preached to every creature under heaven. Part of the reason for this success was Paul's concentrated effort in the large commercial cities where the gospel would be dispersed to all parts of the world. The Jews had been widely dispersed in all civilized lands and were generally expecting the speedy advent of the Messiah, for while they attended their annual feasts at Jerusalem, some of them had gone to hear John the Baptist preach by the Jordan and heard from him that the time of the Messiah was at hand. On return to their homes they had talked about it and the knowledge of the Messiah was widely dispersed throughout the world at that time.

Jesus had made many promises to His disciples that those who accepted and followed Him would receive the Holy Spirit. He had promised, "John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:5, 8).

While Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost, in the audience were some who had clamored for the crucifixion of Christ. Coming to the conviction of what they had done, they said to Peter, "What shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent [change your mind], and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission [forgiveness] of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:37, *last part*, 38).

Many were baptized and did receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In Ephesus, Paul met twelve brethren who had listened to the preaching of John the Baptist, but didn't fully understand the gospel perfectly or the gift of the promised Holy Spirit. Paul asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"



*Although many people have an intellectual knowledge of the truth, they are lacking the moral character that will fit them for eternal life.*

So they said to him, 'We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.' And he said to them, 'Into what then were you baptized?' So they said, 'Into John's baptism.'

"Then Paul said, 'John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus'" (Acts 19:1, *last part*–4). Paul explained to them about Jesus' mission in this world and how He had suffered a cruel and shameful death. He told how the Lord of life had broken the barriers of the tomb and had arisen on the third day, triumphant over death. This same triumph was promised to all those who believe and follow Him and they would receive the Holy Spirit.

Paul repeated to the twelve the commission that Jesus had given to His disciples: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

By faith these twelve brethren grasped what Paul was teaching them. The Bible says, "When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues [other languages] and prophesied" (Acts 19:5).

One of the most interesting things in this story is that these twelve men, by cherishing a humble and teachable spirit, gained precious knowledge and a new religious experience they had never had before. Their example presents a lesson of great value to Christians in our age also. There are many claiming to be Christians who make but little progress in their spiritual life because they are too self-sufficient to be learners. They are content with their present knowledge of God's word, which may be very meager, and make no effort to obtain greater light. Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9).

Are you a seeker? Are you asking? Are you seeking the Lord and asking for more spiritual truth or do you think you know enough already? Give yourself



to God and He will guide you by His divine hand just as Moses was.

You may think of yourself as lowly and ungifted, but if with a loving, trusting heart you obey every intimation of God's will, then He will give you more and more truth and knowledge. It is not enough to be content with an intellectual knowledge of religious truth. Jesus longs to send His Spirit to work upon the hearts of those who seek Him. Many talk about salvation, but they are not experiencing it. The Bible is so clear about this point. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Unless you are born of water and of the spirit, there is no chance that you can enter the kingdom of heaven" (John 3:3, 5). Or simply, only those who are born again will see the kingdom of God.

The Holy Spirit works upon the heart creating new emotions, new thoughts, and new feelings. Jesus spoke of it as a new birth. The life giving power of the Holy Spirit, proceeding from Christ and imparted to every disciple, pervades the soul and changes the motives and the affections. This affects even the most secret thoughts and brings forth fruit in holy deeds. Referring to the Holy Spirit, Jesus told Nicodemus that it is like the wind. You see the results, but you can't actually see the wind itself (verse 8).

In the same way, the operations of the Holy Spirit upon the heart cannot be seen with human eye, but the results can be seen. We are sustained both physically and spiritually through the blessings

that God places within our reach as we take and receive them. Are you watching? Are you praying? Are you studying God's word and giving heed to the instructions that you see there or just stumbling along without seeking for an experience in the Holy Spirit that would result in a holy life? The Holy Spirit brings to each believer an experience in "... holiness, without which no one will see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14).

God's children who are living just before the close of the age (world KJV) are described as those who have the testimony of Jesus Christ and keep God's commandments. Revelation 14:12 says, "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." There are many who believe they can be saved while in transgression of God's law but John specifically says in Revelation that the saints will be keeping the commandments of God.

In His sermon on the mount, Jesus said, "Not everyone that says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name,

and done many wonders in Your name'" (Matthew 7:21, 22)?

These people are not atheists or unbelievers. They claim to be Christians who call Jesus Lord. They tell Him that they have made a mistake. They believe that they are saved because they have

prophesied in His name and cast out demons in His name, and have done many miracles in His name. They know that they are saved.

Every time I read this Scripture it causes a tremor to go through my mind and sometimes through my whole body as I realize the terrible shock that these people are going to have.

Jesus says, "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness'" (Matthew 7:23)! Can you imagine? They believe they are saved. They had the spirit, but it wasn't the right spirit. The Holy Spirit never leads a person to "practice lawlessness" by breaking the law of God.

Paul says, "The mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved" (2 Thessalonians 2:7-10).

These "protesters" are deceived because they did not receive the love of the truth. It is not enough to have an intellectual knowledge of the truth. You must also love it and choose to follow and obey it so you can receive the Holy Spirit and be changed in character. Those who do not love the truth enough to obey it will be sent a strong delusion so that they will believe the lie that you can be saved in sin. They believe that you can go ahead and keep breaking God's law and God will still save you. The New Testament does not teach that. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 7:19, "Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God is what matters."

God's children in the last days will be keeping His commandments. In

*It is not enough to be content with an intellectual knowledge of religious truth. Jesus longs to send His Spirit to work upon the hearts of those who seek Him.*

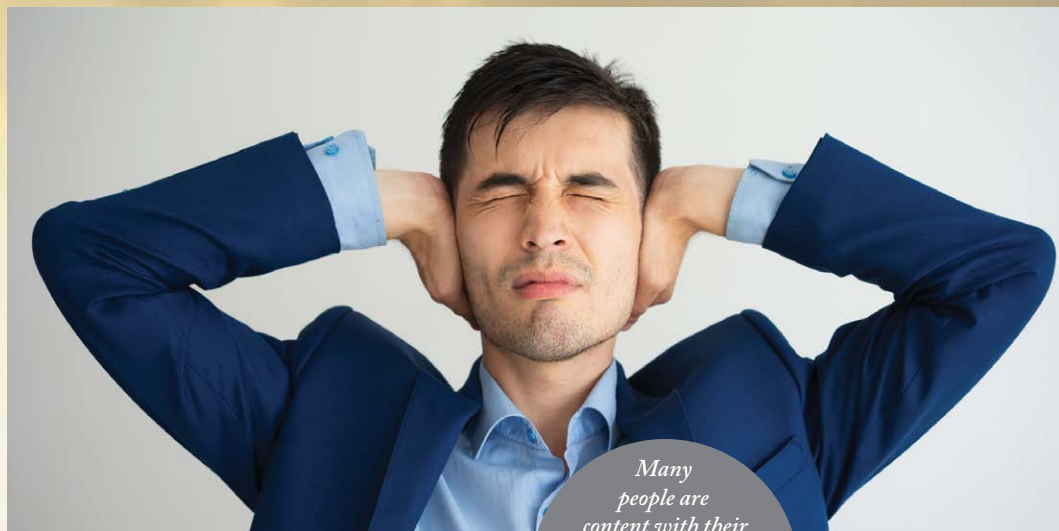
Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians, he speaks of a condemnation on those "who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thessalonians 2:12). The Bible says that all unrighteousness is sin (1 John 5:17). "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4 KJV). So in other words, those who find pleasure in sin have pleasure in breaking the law of God.

All must choose their own destiny. There are many people today who have unwittingly violated one of the precepts of God's law. Look again at Exodus 20:3–17 and ask yourself the question, "Am I keeping God's commandments or not?" When the understanding is enlightened and the claims of the 4th commandment are urged upon the conscience, then a person sees himself or herself as a sinner in the sight of God. Notice that James 2:10 says that whoever offends in one point of the law is guilty of all. Keeping only 90% of the law is not enough.

We are bidden to search the Scriptures and all who are honest seekers after truth will not plead ignorance of the law as an excuse for transgression. Light is within the reach of all. God's word is plain, His law is holy, just and good (Romans 7:12). Earnest seekers after truth will repent of their transgression and plead that the atoning blood of Christ may pardon their sins so that they may be converted and live in harmony with all of God's commandments.

When the Holy Spirit works on the heart, that person will be led to be in harmony with everything that Christ and His apostles have taught.

There's no promise in the Bible for salvation *in* sin. The promise of salvation is salvation *from* sin. The angel said to Joseph, "You shall call His name JESUS, for He shall save His people *from* their sins" (Matthew 1:21). [Emphasis supplied.] God is going to have a people at the end of the world who are obedient to all His commandments (Revelation 14:12). Revelation 22:14 says, "Blessed



*Many people are content with their present knowledge of God's word, which may be very meager, and make no effort to obtain greater light.*

are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city." But then notice what it says in the next verse: "But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral (see the seventh commandment) and murderers (see the sixth commandment) and idolaters (see the first and second commandment), and whoever loves and practices a lie (see the ninth commandment)" (verse 15).

When Jesus returns, the whole world is going to be separated into two classes—the saved and the lost. In Matthew 25:31–33, Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left."

The world population will be separated, some to the right hand and some to the left hand. Those on the right will receive the benediction of Christ, the

gift of eternal life and will enter into the kingdom. Jesus said, "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'" (verse 34). But to those on the left, He will say, "'Depart ... into eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels'" (verse 41, literal translation).

Waste no time in choosing life, for soon God will ask, "Has this person been obedient to My law or not?" The decisions that you make day by day are going to determine your eternal destiny. Yield yourself to the work of the Holy Spirit that will transform your character so that your life will come into harmony with God's word and with His law.

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

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March 31 – April 6

## A Candidate for Heaven

### Key Text

“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God” (Hebrews 11:5).

**Study Help:** *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 84–89.

### Introduction

“How often those who trusted the word of God, though in themselves utterly helpless, have withstood the power of the whole world—Enoch, pure in heart, holy in life, holding fast his faith in the triumph of righteousness against a corrupt and scoffing generation.” *Education*, 254.

## Sunday

### IN AN AGE OF MORAL CORRUPTION

- a. What summarizes the experience of Enoch? Genesis 5:18–22.

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**Note:** “There never has been and never will be an age when the moral darkness will be so dense as when Enoch lived a life of irreproachable righteousness.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, 1088.

“Enoch had temptations as well as we. He was surrounded with society no more friendly to righteousness than is that which surrounds us. The atmosphere he breathed was tainted with sin and corruption, the same as ours; yet he lived a life of holiness.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 122.

“We should not, my brethren and sisters, float along with the popular current. Our present work is to come out from the world and be separate. This is the only way we can walk with God, as did Enoch.” *Ibid.*, vol. 5, 535.

“Enoch’s walk with God was not in a trance or a vision, but in all the duties of his daily life. He did not become a hermit,

shutting himself entirely from the world; for he had, in the world, a work to do for God.” *Ibid.*, vol. 8, 329, 330.

## Monday

### A HEALTHY FEAR OF GOD

- a. What was Enoch’s priority during his earthly life? Genesis 5:23, 24.

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**Note:** “The Lord loved Enoch because he steadfastly followed Him, and abhorred iniquity, and earnestly sought heavenly knowledge that he might do His will perfectly. He yearned to unite himself still more closely to God, whom he feared, revered, and adored. God would not permit Enoch to die as other men, but sent His angels to take him to Heaven without seeing death.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, 57.

“For three hundred years Enoch had been seeking purity of heart, that he might be in harmony with heaven. ...

“To such communion God is calling us. As was Enoch’s, so must be their holiness of character who shall be redeemed from among men at the Lord’s second coming.” *Gospel Workers*, 53, 54.

- b. What was shown to the first prophet in history, and why was he entrusted with such a vision? Jude 14, 15.

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**Note:** “Enoch was the first prophet among mankind. ... His life was a specimen of Christian consistency. Holy lips alone should speak forth the words of God in denunciation and judgments.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, 1088.

- c. What types of behavior provoke God’s wrath? Jude 5–8, 10, 11, 16; Matthew 11:20, 23, 24.

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*It will be more tolerable in the day of judgment for the cities of the plain than for those who have known the love of Christ, and yet have turned away.*

**Note:** “The fate of Sodom is a solemn admonition, not merely to those who are guilty of outbreking sin, but to all who are trifling with Heaven-sent light and privileges. ...

“It will be more tolerable in the day of judgment for the cities of the plain than for those who have known the love of Christ, and yet have turned away to choose the pleasures of a world of sin.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 165.

## Tuesday

### KEEPING OUR PERSPECTIVE

- a. What assisted Enoch in maintaining his purity?  
1 Corinthians 15:33; Titus 1:15, 16.

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**Note:** “He [Enoch] did not make his abode with the wicked. He did not locate in Sodom, thinking to save Sodom. He placed himself and his family where the atmosphere would be as pure as possible. Then at times he went forth to the inhabitants of the world with his God-given message. Every visit he made to the world was painful to him. He saw and understood something of the leprosy of sin. After proclaiming his message, he always took back with him to his place of retirement some who had received the warning. Some of these became overcomers, and died before the Flood came. But some had lived so long in the corrupting influence of sin that they could

not endure righteousness.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, 1087, 1088.

“The greater and more pressing his labors, the more constant and earnest were his [Enoch’s] prayers. He continued to exclude himself at certain periods from all society. After remaining for a time among the people, laboring to benefit them by instruction and example, he would withdraw, to spend a season in solitude, hungering and thirsting for that divine knowledge which God alone can impart.” *Gospel Workers*, 52.

- b. What can we learn from Enoch’s example? Hebrews 11:5.

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**Note:** “The infinite, unfathomable love of God through Christ became the subject of his [Enoch’s] meditations day and night. With all the fervor of his soul he sought to reveal that love to the people among whom he dwelt. ...

“As the scenes of the future were opened to his view, Enoch became a preacher of righteousness, bearing God’s message to all who would hear the words of warning. ...

“The power of God that wrought with His servant was felt by those who heard. Some gave heed to the warning and renounced their sins, but the multitudes mocked at the solemn message. The servants of God are to bear a similar message to the world in the last days, and it will also be received with unbelief and mockery.” *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 329, 330.

## Wednesday

### BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

- a. What will help us to be over-comers like Enoch?  
Galatians 6:8, 9.

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**Note:** “As year after year passed, deeper and deeper grew the tide of human guilt, darker and darker gathered the clouds of divine judgment. Yet Enoch, the witness of faith, held on his way, warning, pleading, and teaching, striving to turn back the tide of guilt and to stay the bolts of vengeance.

“The men of that generation mocked the folly of him who sought not to gather gold or silver, or to build up possessions here. But Enoch’s heart was upon eternal treasures.” *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 330.

- b. What should guide our daily thoughts and decisions?  
Philippians 4:8; Hosea 14:9.

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**Note:** “The greater the existing iniquity, the more earnest was his [Enoch’s] longing for the home of God. While still on earth, he dwelt, by faith, in the realms of light.” *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 330, 331.

“Did he [Enoch] see God by his side? Only by faith. He knew that the Lord was there, and he adhered steadfastly to the principles of truth. We, too, are to walk with God. When we do this, our faces will be lighted up by the brightness of His presence, and when we meet one another, we shall speak of His power, saying, Praise God. Good is the Lord, and good is the word of the Lord. ...

“Those who will be translated at the close of time, will be those who commune with God on earth. Those who make manifest that their life is hid with Christ in God will ever be representing Him in all their life-practices. Selfishness will be cut out by the roots.

“Let us realize the weakness of humanity, and see where man fails in his self-sufficiency. We shall then be filled with a desire to be just what God desires us to be—pure, noble, sanctified. ... To be like God will be the one desire of the soul.

“This is the desire that filled Enoch’s heart. ... He did not mark out his own course, or set up his own will, as if he thought himself fully qualified to manage matters. He strove to conform himself to the divine likeness.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, 1087.

## Thursday

### A PURIFYING PROCESS

- a. What is the ultimate reward of all who live a pure life? Matthew 5:8.

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**Note:** “God has a heaven full of blessings that He wants to bestow on those who are earnestly seeking for that help which the Lord alone can give. It was in looking in faith to Jesus, in asking of Him, in believing that every word spoken would be verified, that Enoch walked with God. He kept close by the side of God, obeying His every word.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, 1087.

“How few are aware that they have darling idols, that they have cherished sins! God sees these sins to which you may be blinded, and He works with His pruning knife to strike deep and separate these cherished sins from you. You all want to choose for yourselves the process of purification. How hard it is for you to submit to the crucifixion of self; but when the work is all submitted to God, to Him who knows our weakness and our sinfulness, He takes the very best way to bring about the desired results. It was through constant conflict and simple faith that Enoch walked with God. You may all do the same. You may be thoroughly converted and transformed, and be indeed children of God, enjoying not only the knowledge of His will, but, by your example, leading others in the same path of humble obedience and consecration.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 543.

“He [Enoch] lived in a corrupt age, when moral pollution was teeming all around him; yet he trained his mind to devotion, to love purity. His conversation was upon heavenly things. He educated his mind to run in this channel, and he bore the impress of the divine. His countenance was lighted up with the light which shineth in the face of Jesus.” *Ibid.*, vol. 2, 122.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What should we realize about Enoch’s generation?
- 2 What are we to learn from the fate of Sodom?
- 3 Explain Enoch’s policy about his environment.
- 4 With what purpose in mind did Enoch study God’s word?
- 5 How is this week’s lesson to bring us hope?

April 7 – 13

# The Enigma of Trials

## Key Text

“He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold” (Job 23:10).

**Study Help:** *Messages to Young People*, 78–80, 94–98; *Early Writings*, 46–48.

## Introduction

“The suffering soul is made patient, trustful, triumphant in God under adverse circumstances.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 355.

## Sunday

### AN INNOCENT TARGET

- a. What is written about the character of Job? Job 1:1; 29:15; 31:6.

**Note:** “Job did not neglect his duty to those outside of his household; he was benevolent, kind, thoughtful of the interest of others.” *The Review and Herald*, August 30, 1881.

- b. What troublesome influences are operating in this world, hidden behind the scenes—and why do we need to be aware of them? Ephesians 6:12.

**Note:** “From the days of Adam to our own time, our great enemy has been exercising his power to oppress and destroy. He is now preparing for his last campaign against the church. All who seek to follow Jesus will be brought into conflict with this relentless foe. The more nearly the Christian imitates the divine Pattern, the more surely will he make himself a mark for the attacks of Satan.” *The Great Controversy*, 510.

“If our eyes could be opened to see the good and evil agencies at work, there would be no trifling, no vanity, no jesting or joking.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 41.

## Monday

### PARENTAL VIGILANCE

- a. What were Job’s concerns for his children and what are the implications for all parents? Job 1:4, 5.

**Note:** “It were well for parents to learn from the man of Uz a lesson of steadfastness and devotion. Job ... labored earnestly for the salvation of his own family. Amid the festivities of his sons and daughters, he trembled lest his children should displease God. As a faithful priest of the household, he offered sacrifices for them individually. He knew the offensive character of sin, and the thought that his children might forget the divine claims, led him to God as an intercessor in their behalf.” *The Review and Herald*, August 30, 1881.

“You roll vast responsibilities upon the preacher and hold him accountable for the souls of your children; but you do not sense your own responsibility as parents. ... Your sons and daughters are corrupted by your own example and lax precepts; and, notwithstanding this lack of domestic training, you expect the minister to counteract your daily work and accomplish the wonderful achievement of training their hearts and lives to virtue and piety. After the minister has done all he can do for the church by faithful, affectionate admonition, patient discipline, and fervent prayer to reclaim and save the soul, yet is not successful, the fathers and mothers often blame him because their children are not converted, when it may be because of their own neglect. The burden rests with the parents; and will they take up the work that God has entrusted to them, and with fidelity perform it? Will they move onward and upward, working in a humble, patient, persevering way to reach the exalted standard themselves and to bring their children up with them?” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 494, 495.

“It is the parents’ work to give line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little. Correct wrong tendencies, not in passion, but in love. The children may be saved if fathers and mothers will do their work faithfully. ...

“We are teaching lessons to the children which we wish them to copy. If we wish our children to be chaste, pure-minded, and noble, we must be so ourselves. If we are impostors, professing to be children of God, while our impatience, fretfulness, and deception stamp us children of Satan, our children will be no better than we. All efforts of parents should be to go forward to perfection of Christian character.” *The Review and Herald*, April 14, 1885.



## Tuesday

### TRAGEDY STRIKES

- a. What incited the devil's wrath against Job? Job 1:6–11.

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- b. Despite Job's fidelity, what series of shocks soon came with regard to his earthly possessions and the temporal lives of his children? Job 1:12–19.

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**Note:** "All suffering is not the result of a perverted life. Job is brought before us as a man whom the Lord permitted Satan to afflict. The enemy stripped him of all he possessed; his family ties were broken; his children were taken from him." *The Signs of the Times*, June 21, 1899.

- c. What can we learn from how Job responded to these trials? Job 1:20–22.

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**Note:** "Christ is our Guide and Comforter, who comforts us in all our tribulations. When He gives us a bitter draught to drink, He also holds a cup of blessing to our lips. He fills the heart with submission, with joy and peace in believing, and enables us to say submissively, Not my will, but Thy will, O Lord, be done." *Selected Messages*, Book. 2, 270.

- d. In the face of Satan's perverse accusations before the heavenly universe, why can we still have hope? Job 2:1–6.

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**Note:** "There is no power in the whole satanic force that can disable the soul that trusts, in simple confidence, in the wisdom that comes from God.

"Christ is our tower of strength, and Satan can have no power over the soul that walks with God in humility of mind. ... In Christ there is perfect and complete help for every tempted soul. Dangers beset every path, but the whole universe of heaven is standing on guard, that none may be tempted above that which he is able to bear." *My Life Today*, 316.

## Wednesday

### RESPONDING WITH FAITH AND WISDOM

- a. What was the devil's next attacks upon Job and how did the faithful man of Uz respond? Job 2:8–10.

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**Note:** "Job was deprived of his worldly possessions and so afflicted in body that he was abhorred by his relatives and friends, yet he preserved his integrity and faithfulness to God." *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 525.

- b. What reveals the tremendous depth of Job's tragic situation? Job 2:11–13.

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- c. What did Job realize about his predicament, and how does the apostle Peter echo these thoughts for our benefit? Job 23:8–10; 1 Peter 1:3, 6, 7.

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**Note:** “The fact that we are called upon to endure trial proves that the Lord Jesus sees in us something very precious, which He desires to develop. If He saw in us nothing whereby He might glorify His name He would not spend time in refining us. We do not take special pains in pruning brambles. Christ does not cast worthless stones into His furnace. It is valuable ore that He tests.” *Testimonies*, vol. 7, 214.

**d. Why does God want us to understand the value of trial? 1 Peter 4:12, 13.**

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**Note:** “The furnace fires are not to destroy, but to refine, enoble, sanctify. Without trial we should not feel so much our need of God and His help; and we should become proud and self-sufficient. ...

“Your heavenly Father loves you, and He will draw you to Himself by the trials that seem to you severe.” *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 123, 124.

“We should not dishonor God by the mournful relation of trials that appear grievous. All trials that are received as educators will produce joy.” *Ibid.*, vol. 6, 365.

## Thursday

### PREPARING FOR GREATER BLESSINGS

**a. In the midst of unexpected trials that may be keen and cutting, what does the Lord want us to bear in mind? Jeremiah 29:11; John 16:33.**

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**Note:** “God leads His children by a way that they know not, but He does not forget or cast off those who put their trust in Him. He permitted affliction to come upon Job, but He did not forsake him. ... The very trials that task our faith most severely and make it seem that God has forsaken us, are to lead us closer to Christ, that we may lay all our burdens at His feet and experience the peace which He will give us in exchange.

“God has always tried His people in the furnace of affliction. It is in the heat of the furnace that the dross is separated from the true gold of the Christian character. Jesus watches the test; He knows what is needed to purify the precious metal, that it



*You roll vast responsibilities upon the preacher and hold him accountable for the souls of your children; but you do not sense your own responsibility as parents.*

may reflect the radiance of His love. It is by close, testing trials that God disciplines His servants. He sees that some have powers which may be used in the advancement of His work, and He puts these persons upon trial; in His providence He brings them into positions that test their character and reveal defects and weaknesses that have been hidden from their own knowledge. He gives them opportunity to correct these defects and to fit themselves for His service. He shows them their own weakness, and teaches them to lean upon Him; for He is their only help and safeguard. Thus His object is attained. They are educated, trained, and disciplined, prepared to fulfill the grand purpose for which their powers were given them.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 129, 130.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How is a moment-by-moment sense of the great controversy to affect us?
- 2 As the great controversy intensifies, what should parents realize?
- 3 Why was Job able to respond to the attacks against him with relative calm?
- 4 The next time an unexpected trial comes my way, what should I remember?
- 5 Why will we grow if we view trials in a more mature way?

April 14 – 20

# The Patience of Job

## Key Text

“Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job” (James 5:11, *first part*).

**Study Help:** *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 341–348.

## Introduction

“He [God] permitted trials to come upon you, that, through them, you might experience the peaceable fruits of righteousness.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 416.

## Sunday

### HOPE BEHIND THE CLOUD

- a. Being human, how did Job feel about his predicament? Job 3:1–3, 9–11, 20–22.

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- b. What should we all consider in hard times? Job 5:17–19.

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**Note:** “The very time to exercise faith is when we feel destitute of the Spirit. When thick clouds of darkness seem to hover over the mind, then is the time to let living faith pierce the darkness and scatter the clouds.” *Early Writings*, 72.

“To every stricken one, Jesus comes with the ministry of healing. The life of bereavement, pain, and suffering may be brightened by precious revealings of His presence.

“God would not have us remain pressed down by dumb sorrow, with sore and breaking hearts. He would have us look up and behold His dear face of love. The blessed Saviour stands by many whose eyes are so blinded by tears that they do not discern Him. He longs to clasp our hands, to have us look to

Him in simple faith, permitting Him to guide us. His heart is open to our griefs, our sorrows, and our trials. He has loved us with an everlasting love and with loving-kindness compassed us about. We may keep the heart stayed upon Him and meditate upon His loving-kindness all the day. He will lift the soul above the daily sorrow and perplexity, into a realm of peace.”

*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 12.

## Monday

### WHOSE HEART DO WE TEND TO SEARCH?

- a. Why did Job seek to search his heart? Proverbs 26:2; Job 9:1–4; 10:1, 2.

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**Note:** “To a great degree the experiences of life are the fruition of our own thoughts and deeds.” *Education*, 146.

- b. When we fall into unexpected suffering, why is it wise for us to follow Job’s example of self-examination? 2 Corinthians 13:5; Psalm 139:23, 24.

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**Note:** “If each will search and see what sins are lurking in his own heart to shut out Jesus, he will find such a work to do that he will be ready to esteem others better than himself. He will no longer seek to pluck the mote out of his brother’s eye while a beam is in his own eye.” *Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists*, 213.

- c. Why does Jesus warn us against being quick to judge the cause of others’ afflictions? Luke 13:1–5.

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*The blessed Saviour stands by many whose eyes are so blinded by tears that they do not discern Him.*

- d. What was Job's response when friends misjudged his affliction? Job 16:1-3.

**Note:** "Still another element of bitterness was added to his [Job's] cup. His friends, seeing in adversity but the retribution of sin, pressed on his bruised and burdened spirit their accusations of wrongdoing." *Education*, 155.

"There is wickedness in our world, but all the suffering is not the result of a perverted course of life. Job is brought distinctly before us as a man whom the Lord allowed Satan to afflict. The enemy stripped him of all he possessed; his family ties were broken; his children were taken from him. For a time his body was covered with loathsome sores, and he suffered greatly. His friends came to comfort him, but they tried to make him see that he was responsible, by his sinful course, for his afflictions. ... By seeking to make him guilty before God, and deserving of His punishment, they brought a grievous test upon him, and represented God in a false light." "Ellen G. White Comments," *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, 1140.

## Tuesday

### REFLECTING THE DIVINE COMFORTER

- a. What should we learn from Job's attitude toward his friends? Job 16:4, 5.

**Note:** "Let no Christian be found an accuser of the brethren. Satan is the one who bears this title; he accuses them before God day and night, he stirs up the enemies of our faith to accuse us, and he prompts those of like precious faith to criticize and condemn one another. We are not to take part in his work. These are days of trial and of great peril, the adversary of souls is upon the track of every one; and while we stand out separate from the world, we should press together in faith and love. United, we are strong; divided, we are weak.

"We are exhorted to love as brethren, to be kind, courteous, forbearing, in honor preferring one another." *Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists*, 213, 214.

- b. How are we, like the psalmist, to be comforted when no human understands nor sympathizes with our pain or sorrow? Psalm 27:10; 73:25, 26.

**Note:** "Into the experience of all there come times of keen disappointment and utter discouragement—days when sorrow is the portion, and it is hard to believe that God is still the kind benefactor of His earthborn children; days when troubles harass the soul, till death seems preferable to life. It is then that many lose their hold on God and are brought into the slavery of doubt, the bondage of unbelief. Could we at such times discern with spiritual insight the meaning of God's providences we should see angels seeking to save us from ourselves, striving to plant our feet upon a foundation more firm than the everlasting hills, and new faith, new life, would spring into being." *Prophets and Kings*, 162.

"While we review, not the dark chapters in our experience, but the manifestations of God's great mercy and unfailing love, we shall praise far more than complain. We shall talk of the loving faithfulness of God as the true, tender, compassionate shepherd of His flock, which He has declared that none shall



pluck out of His hand. The language of the heart will not be selfish murmuring and repining. Praise, like clear-flowing streams, will come from God's truly believing ones." *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 367.

## Wednesday

### DEVELOPING PATIENCE

- a. What perspective helps us develop patience in trial? James 5:10; Lamentations 3:31–33.

**Note:** "Life is disciplinary. While in the world, the Christian will meet with adverse influences. There will be provocations to test the temper; and it is by meeting these in a right spirit that the Christian graces are developed. If injuries and insults are meekly borne, if insulting words are responded to by gentle answers, and oppressive acts by kindness, this is evidence that the Spirit of Christ dwells in the heart, that sap from the living Vine is flowing to the branches. We are in the school of Christ in this life, where we are to learn to be meek and lowly of heart; and in the day of final accounts we shall see that all the obstacles we meet, all the hardships and annoyances that we are called to bear, are practical lessons in the application of principles of Christian life. If well endured, they develop the Christlike in the character and distinguish the Christian from the worldling.

"There is a high standard to which we are to attain if we would be children of God, noble, pure, holy, and undefiled; and a pruning process is necessary if we would reach this standard. How would this pruning be accomplished if there were no difficulties to meet, no obstacles to surmount, nothing to call out patience and endurance? These trials are not the smallest blessings in our experience. They are designed to nerve us to determination to succeed. We are to use them as God's means to gain decided victories over self instead of allowing them to hinder, oppress, and destroy us." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 344, 345.

- b. How does Scripture connect trials with patience? Romans 5:3, 4.

**Note:** "The Lord frequently places us in difficult positions to stimulate us to greater exertion. In His providence special annoyances sometimes occur to test our patience and faith. God gives us lessons of trust. He would teach us where to look

for help and strength in time of need. Thus we obtain practical knowledge of His divine will, which we so much need in our life experience. Faith grows strong in earnest conflict with doubt and fear." *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 116, 117.

## Thursday

### AGONIZING IN PRAYER

- a. Why are today's trials essential for the conflict ahead? Zechariah 13:9.

**Note:** "God's love for His children during the period of their severest trial is as strong and tender as in the days of their sunniest prosperity; but it is needful for them to be placed in the furnace of fire; their earthliness must be consumed, that the image of Christ may be perfectly reflected.

"The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger—a faith that will not faint though severely tried. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time. ... Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God.

"We should now acquaint ourselves with God by proving His promises. Angels record every prayer that is earnest and sincere. We should rather dispense with selfish gratifications than neglect communion with God. The deepest poverty, the greatest self-denial, with His approval, is better than riches, honors, ease, and friendship without it. We must take time to pray. If we allow our minds to be absorbed by worldly interests, the Lord may give us time by removing from us our idols of gold, of houses, or of fertile lands." *The Great Controversy*, 621, 622.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Where is God when people such as Job are suffering?
- 2 How might I be guilty of the error of Job's friends?
- 3 What should we do when there seems to be no answer to our suffering?
- 4 How do our trials develop patience?
- 5 Describe the type of experience we need in preparation for the final events.

April 21 – 27

# Glory Only to God

## Key Text

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us” (Titus 3:5, *first part*).

**Study Help:** *Education*, 253–261.

## Introduction

“We have nothing to recommend us to God; but the plea that we may urge now and ever is our utterly helpless condition that makes His redeeming power a necessity.” *The Desire of Ages*, 317.

## Sunday

### THE SUFFERING OF A VIRTUOUS MAN

- a. What were the virtues that characterized Job’s daily life? Job 29:5, 8–16.

**Note:** “God has given in His word a picture of a prosperous man—one whose life was in the truest sense a success, a man whom both heaven and earth delighted to honor. [Job 29:4–16 quoted.]” *Education*, 142.

- b. What timeless lesson are we to learn from Job’s trials? Psalm 34:18, 19.

**Note:** “It is very natural for human beings to think that great calamities are a sure index of great crimes and enormous sins; but men often make a mistake in thus measuring character. We are not living in the time of retributive judgment. Good and evil are mingled, and calamities come upon all. Sometimes men do pass the boundary line beyond God’s protecting care,

and then Satan exercises his power upon them, and God does not interpose. Job was sorely afflicted, and his friends sought to make him acknowledge that his suffering was the result of sin, and cause him to feel under condemnation. They represented his case as that of a great sinner.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, 1140.

## Monday

### THE WAKE-UP CALL

- a. Although Job’s conscience was clean and his life virtuous, what did God want His faithful servant to pause to consider? Job 38:1–7; 40:1, 2.

**Note:** “Every opening flower, every leaf with its delicate veins, will testify of the infinite skill of the great Master Artist. The massive rocks and towering mountains that rise in the distance are not the result of chance. They speak in silent eloquence of One who sits upon the throne of the universe, high and lifted up. ... All His plans are perfect. What awe and reverence should His name inspire!” *Our High Calling*, 251.

- b. How did Job respond to God’s wake-up call? How should all respond who, like Job, may have been cruelly misunderstood and unjustly maligned by others? Job 40:3–5; 42:6.

**Note:** “Some shortsighted, short-experienced friends cannot, with their narrow vision, appreciate the feelings of one who has been in close harmony with the soul of Christ in connection with the salvation of others. His motives are misunderstood and his actions misconstrued by those who would be his friends, until, like Job, he sends forth the earnest prayer: Save me from my friends. God takes the case of Job in hand Himself. His patience has been severely taxed; but when God speaks, all his pettish feelings are changed. The self-justification which he felt was necessary to withstand the condemnation of his friends is not necessary toward God. He never misjudges; He never errs. Says the Lord to Job, ‘Gird up now thy loins like a man;’ and Job no sooner hears the divine voice than his soul is

bowed down with a sense of his sinfulness, and he says before God, ‘I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes’ (Job 38:3; 42:6).” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 509.

“We are living in perilous times. Seventh-day Adventists are professedly the commandment-keeping people of God; but they are losing their devotional spirit. This spirit of reverence for God teaches men how to approach their Maker—with sacredness and awe through faith, not in themselves, but in a Mediator. Thus man is kept fast, under whatever circumstances he is placed.” *Notebook Leaflets*, vol. 1, 121.

## Tuesday

### GOD’S ABUNDANT GRACE

- a. What should we learn from the Lord’s final verdict concerning Job and his friends? Job 42:7–9.

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- b. What did God then do for Job? Why? Job 42:10–17; Psalm 66:10–12.

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**Note:** “From the depths of discouragement and despondency Job rose to the heights of implicit trust in the mercy and the saving power of God.” *Prophets and Kings*, 163.

“When Job caught a glimpse of his Creator, he abhorred himself and repented in dust and ashes. Then the Lord was able to bless him abundantly and to make his last years the best of his life.” *Ibid.*, 164.

- c. Why should the attitude of faithful Job be an inspiration to every Christian? James 5:11; Ephesians 2:8–10.

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**Note:** “Those who live nearest to Jesus discern most clearly the frailty and sinfulness of humanity, and their only hope is in the merit of a crucified and risen Saviour.” *The Great Controversy*, 471.

“In His divine arrangement, through His unmerited favor, the Lord has ordained that good works shall be rewarded. We are accepted through Christ’s merit alone; and the acts of mercy, the deeds of charity, which we perform, are the fruits of faith; and they become a blessing to us; for men are to be rewarded according to their works. It is the fragrance of the merit of Christ that makes our good works acceptable to God, and it is grace that enables us to do the works for which He rewards us. Our works in and of themselves have no merit. When we have done all that it is possible for us to do, we are to count ourselves as unprofitable servants. We deserve no thanks from God. We have only done what it was our duty to do, and our works could not have been performed in the strength of our own sinful natures.” *The Review and Herald*, January 29, 1895.

## Wednesday

### CHRIST UPLIFTED

- a. As virtuous a man as Job was, what should we realize about the spiritual needs of this man (or those of any other person)? 1 Peter 1:18, 19.

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**Note:** “The prayers, the praise, the penitent confession of sin ascend from true believers as incense to the heavenly sanctuary, but passing through the corrupt channels of humanity, they are so defiled that unless purified by blood, they can never be of value with God. They ascend not in spotless purity, and unless the Intercessor, who is at God’s right hand, presents and purifies all by His righteousness, it is not acceptable to God. All incense from earthly tabernacles must be moist with the cleansing drops of the blood of Christ.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 344.

“The more of the Spirit of Christ we have, the more humble we shall become. When we obtain clear views of Christ, no words of self-exaltation will escape our lips. When the Lord gave to Job a view of His majesty, Job ceased to vindicate his own righteousness. He felt his sinfulness, and humbled himself before the purity and holiness of God. ‘I abhor myself,’ he said, ‘and repent in dust and ashes’ (Job 42:6). Yet by the pen of inspiration, God presents Job as perfect and upright, one that feared God and eschewed evil. ‘There is none like him in the earth’ (Job 1:8).” *The Signs of the Times*, August 11, 1898.



- b. How do we know that Job trusted in Christ as his Saviour? Job 19:25–27. To what inspiring determination should this lead each of us?

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**Note:** “You now have precious hours of probation granted you to form a right character. ... You now have a period allotted you in which to redeem the time. You cannot in your own strength put away your errors and wrongs; they have been increasing upon you for years, because you have not seen them in their hideousness and in the strength of God resolutely put them away. By living faith you must lay hold on an arm that is mighty to save. Humble your poor, proud, self-righteous heart before God; get low, very low, all broken in your sinfulness at His feet. Devote yourself to the work of preparation. Rest not until you can truly say: My Redeemer liveth, and, because He lives, I shall live also.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 88.

## Thursday

### TRUSTING IN GOD’S GOODNESS

- a. When the outlook is bleak, what strengthens us to follow the faith of Job? Job 13:15, 16.

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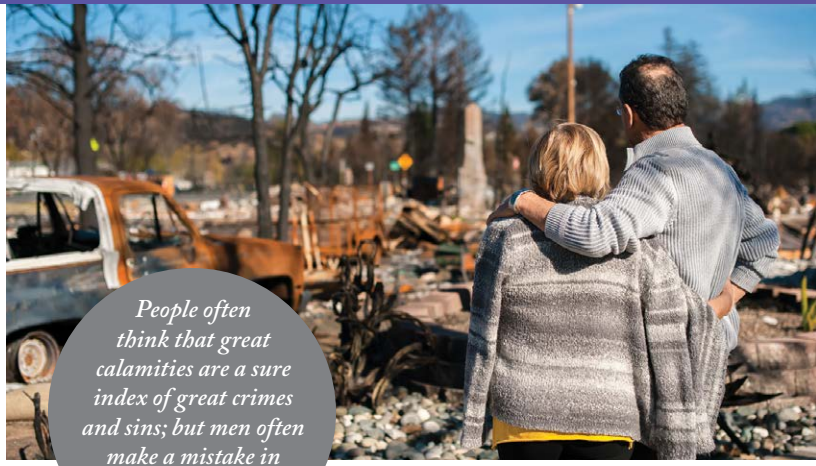
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**Note:** “We are justified to walk by sight as long as we can, but when we can no longer see the way clearly, then we need to put our hand in our heavenly Father’s and let Him lead. There are emergencies in the life of all in which we can neither follow sight nor trust to memory or experience. All we can do is simply to trust and wait. We shall honor God to trust Him because He is our heavenly Father.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, 186.

“Are you tempted to give way to feelings of anxious foreboding or utter despondency? In the darkest days, when appearances seem most forbidding, fear not. Have faith in God.” *Prophets and Kings*, 164.



People often think that great calamities are a sure index of great crimes and sins; but men often make a mistake in thus measuring character.

- b. How does the history of Job illustrate righteousness by faith, and how is this theme to be reflected in our lives? Romans 5:1–5; Titus 3:3–7.

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**Note:** “It is only as we depend upon the strength and righteousness of Christ that we can stand the testing of God. We shall have to educate the mind, and again and again bring to our remembrance the fact that Christ has His hand upon us. With His own divine lips He has said, ‘Without Me ye can do nothing’ (John 15:5, *last part*), but through Christ we can do all things. It is not for us to mark out the way in which we shall walk; but if we take everything that comes to us as in the providence of God, even our tribulation will work patience, and we need not sink in discouragement while we look by faith to Jesus.” *The Signs of the Times*, March 28, 1892.

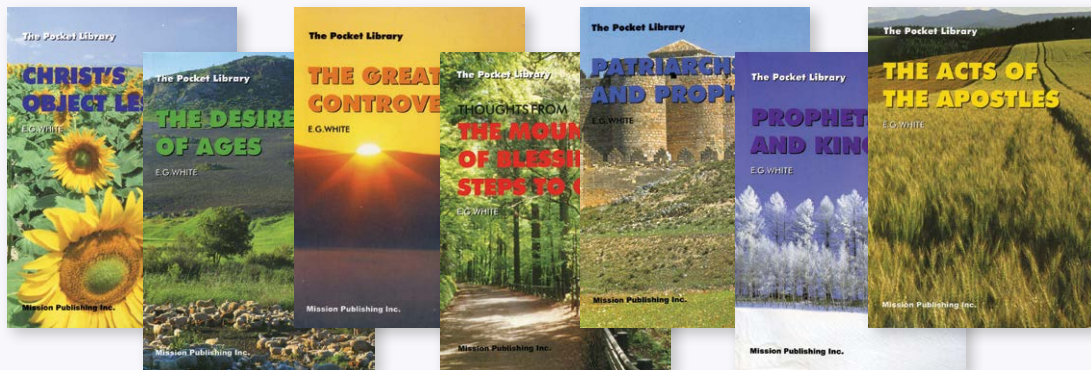
## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Why may I be in danger of misjudging the case of a suffering person?
- 2 What is nearly extinct in the worship of God, yet is nonetheless essential?
- 3 What startled Job out of his misery?
- 4 Why is it so important to depend on the divine Redeemer?
- 5 No matter how bad things get, what should we always keep in mind?

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# Memories—What Veggies?

**T**he majority of the time, my family just did not seem to get enough vegetables into our diets. Growing up in a meat and potato environment, we really did not think about anything green. My mom was a really good cook but since dad liked his meat and potatoes, which was what comprised the majority of our meals, that is what we ate. Mom used to make “grease gravy” and it really tasted good on our meat and potatoes. The only time we really had any vegetables that I can remember was when the corn-on-the-cob showed up on our plates. YUM! But that was often swamped with butter!

Now, as an adult, I enjoy the variety of flavors that I find in different foods. In fact, I was really surprised to find how many different vegetables and grains were out there. I am very thankful for God’s abundant variety of foods.

I remember when I first decided to become a vegan and saw pictures on vegan food cans and packets showing meat just like mom used to make and it looked so good. My first thought was that it would be easy being vegan replacing the meat with all the products available. Though it may be a good replacement initially for some when changing their diet, unfortunately it was

not agreeable to my family’s taste buds and many meals were discarded. Soon I learned about seasoning foods and to make most of my meals from scratch. No one has the same taste buds; so I learned to take a recipe and trim it to the taste of my family. Praise the Lord for the skill to do that! Yes, it took practice and is still a work in progress.

God has provided so many varieties of vegetables to choose from and innumerable ways they can be prepared. There are many different seasonings available to add to our enjoyment of different foods. Praise God from whom all blessings flow! **LM**

Fruit

**Vegetables**

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



## VEGGIE GRAVY

### Ingredients

2 cups tomatoes, chopped  
2 stalks celery, chopped  
1 small onion, chopped  
¼ cup flour  
½-1 tsp. garlic powder  
1 tsp. salt  
¼ cup water

### Process

Simmer tomatoes with onion and celery 5-10 minutes. Mix flour and water and add slowly to tomato mixture, stirring constantly over low heat until thickened and add seasonings—remember to season it to your taste buds! This is great over hot baked potatoes, toast, or anything else requiring gravy.







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*Love and loyalty to  
Christ are the spring  
of all true service.  
In the heart touched  
by His love, there is  
begotten a desire to  
work for Him.*

*Ellen G. White*