

# HISTORIC LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

*The Peace Which Passes  
All Understanding*

*p. 8*



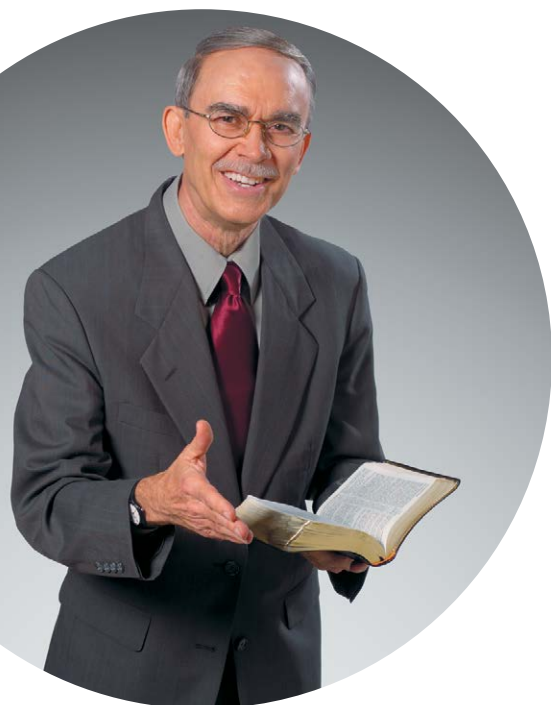
*The Kingdoms*

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*A Fractured  
Remnant*

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## From the Editor

*John J. Grosboll*

## Where Is Your Flock? *(Jeremiah 13:20)*

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

“Instead of pleasantly asking their children to do what they wish done, parents often order them in a scolding tone, and at the same time administer a censure or a reproach which the children have not merited. Parents, this course pursued toward your children destroys their cheerfulness and their ambition to please you . . . Upon whom rests this great sin? If home had been made attractive, if the parents had manifested affection for their children, if they had wisely sought innocent enjoyment for them, and taught them the lesson of cheerful obedience, they would have touched an answering chord in their young hearts, and willing feet and hands and hearts would have carried out their wishes. By speaking kindly to their children, and praising them when they try to do right, parents may encourage their efforts, make them very happy, and throw around the family circle a charm which will chase away every dark

shadow, and bring cheerful sunlight in. Mutual kindness and forbearance will make home a paradise, and attract holy angels into the family circle; but they will flee from a house where there are unpleasant words, fretfulness, and strife. Unkindness, complaining, and anger shut Jesus from the dwelling.

“Some parents fail to give their children a religious education, and also neglect their school education. Neither should be neglected. Children’s minds will be active; and if they are not engaged in physical labor, or occupied with study, they will be exposed to evil influences. It is a sin for parents to allow their children to grow up in ignorance. They should supply them with useful and interesting books, and should teach them to have hours for labor and hours for study and reading. Parents should aim to elevate the minds of their children, and to improve their mental faculties. The mind left to itself, uncultivated, is generally low, sensual, and corrupt. Satan improves his opportunity, and educates idle minds.” *The Signs of the Times*, April 17, 1884. [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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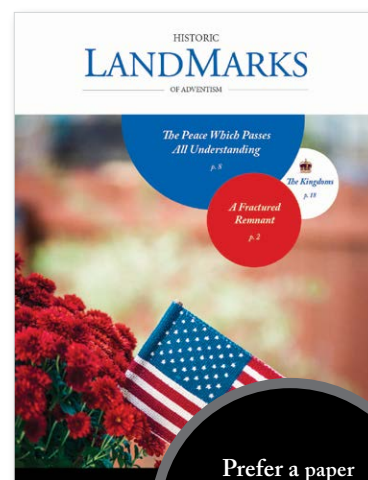
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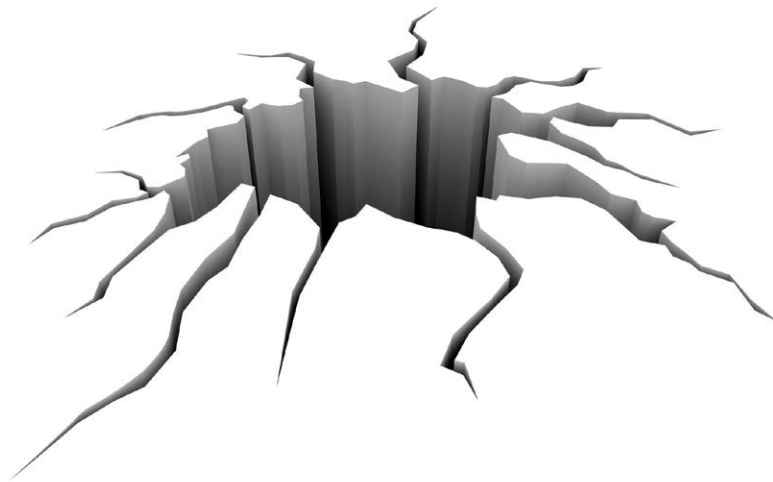
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# *A Fractured Remnant*

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By John J. Grosboll

I can remember when I was young, hearing Adventist preachers tell people that although there were many different identifying marks of Babylon in the Bible, you only needed to know two things to find God's people in the last days. They were called a remnant and the remnant is the last of anything. The remnant keep the commandments of God and they have the testimony of Jesus, the Spirit of Prophecy (Revelation 19:10). They said, if you know those two things, you can find God's people.

I decided that I wanted to be part of God's remnant people when Jesus comes and because of that, anything that happens to God's remnant people is of great concern to me. It is not something that I just look on as a spectator or observer. God's remnant people are so important to me that although there are some in God's professed remnant church who consider me an enemy, I still pray for them to be saved. It is a great concern to me when I see God's remnant people fractured. Why is that happening? What is going on?

This is not the first time God's people have been fractured. Hosea 5:11 says: "Ephraim is oppressed and broken in judgment, because he willingly walked by human precept."

Another time God's people were fractured is mentioned in Matthew 26:31: "Then Jesus said to them, 'All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: "I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."'"

I've tried to imagine that, and I cannot comprehend what it must have felt like to be the Lord. He came to this world to willingly pay an infinite price to save people, a price that would cost unbelievable suffering and sorrow but when He did, every single person forsook Him. This is something that God's people at some point in the future will experience.

The remnant is a small number of people scattered all over the world. It is easy to comprehend being in a situation where it seems as if you are the only one left who believes and everybody in the world has forsaken you. You are all alone with nobody left, but you still have faith. When we look at the fracture among God's people today, we need to remember what God is getting us ready for.

Inspiration says, "As we approach the last crisis it is of vital moment that harmony and unity exist among the Lord's instrumentalities. The world is filled with storm and war and variance. Yet under one head—the papal power—the people

will unite to oppose God in the person of His witnesses. This union is cemented by the great apostate. While he seeks to unite his agents in warring against the truth he will work to divide and scatter its advocates." *Testimonies*, vol. 7, 182.

This worldwide union will "have one mind" and make war against the Lamb. They cannot go to heaven to make war, so they make war against the Lamb by attacking His people in this world. At the same time, the devil unites his forces and tries to divide and scatter those who advocate the truth.

It is important to understand who is behind all these problems. If it seems those against you are in your family or local church, don't think that they are your enemies. It is the devil who is behind what is going on. He is using them as pawns, and they are often unaware that they are being directed by a superior force. That is why Jesus said to pray for your enemies. (See Matthew 5:44.) The real enemy is the evil spirit that is using that person as a pawn.

As the devil wars against the truth, he will work to divide and scatter its advocates by jealousy, evil surmising, and evil speaking, which are instigated by him to produce discord and dissension. If only we could overcome those three things, we could solve problems more quickly than almost anything else we could do.

"The members of Christ's church have the power to thwart the purpose of the adversary of souls. At such a time as this let them not be found at variance with one another or with any of the Lord's workers. Amidst the general discord let there be one place where harmony and unity exist because the Bible is made the

guide of life. Let the people of God feel that a responsibility rests upon them to build up His instrumentalities." *Ibid.*

Ellen White says a deeper problem lies in our families. She says, "He knows that the spirit governing in the home will be brought into the church." *The Upward Look*, 163.

You can be sure that if there is trouble in your church, there is trouble in the homes of the members in your church. "How many there are who reveal selfishness and unkindness in their dealings with one another. How many

professing Christians seem never to be satisfied unless they are engaged in strife? How many home circles are broken because the members receive and act upon Satan's suggestions? Well does Satan know what heaven is, and what the influence of the angels is." *Ibid.*

He's been there. He knows what it's like.

"His work is to bring into every family the cruel elements of self-will, harshness, selfishness. Thus he seeks to destroy the happiness of the family. He knows that the spirit governing in the home will be brought into the church." *Ibid.*

You can't talk about the family without talking about husbands and wives. She says, "The husband is to treat his wife, the mother of his children, with due respect, and the wife is to love and reverence her husband. How can she do this if he treats her like a servant, to be dictated to, ordered about, scolded, found fault with before the children? He is forcing her to dislike him and even to hate him." *Ibid.*

The devil often uses men to talk in a wrong way and destroy the happiness in the family.

“

*As we approach the last crisis it is of vital moment that harmony and unity exist among the Lord's instrumentalities.*

The strength of the church and also the nation is the family. Strong families strengthen the church. With a lot of broken families in your church, your church will be weak.

### Some of the causes of weakness in the church

**I** **Personal dislike** – Within families there can be two people who have absolutely opposite temperaments; they think and reason differently. One may say: I have a rational mind. Why can't my wife figure this out?

Because we are so different, it is easy to develop dislikes for each other while co-habiting. There are husbands and wives who have developed personal dislikes for each other, sometimes just because they don't agree on some point.

Some things Ellen White wrote about the church also apply to the family. After all, if you are Christians, your family is a little church.

"Let us be careful how we pass sentence of condemnation of one for whom we may be cherishing dislike because he does not meet our ideas, for the sentence will reflect upon ourselves, and do far more harm to us than to the one we condemned.

Christ would have His church strong in unity. Let us all praise God that we are not to be judged according to finite man's discernment, which is very liable to be perverted." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 15, 195.

Friend, sometimes there is intense dislike for somebody in a person's own family. None of us are perfect; so we need to have mercy

on other family members. Maybe the thing you dislike most in a person is something they are aware of and are working on to overcome and they need encouragement. It is much harder to overcome something if someone is criticizing you and tearing you down. Pray that the Lord will help you to love those difficult family members. Without the right feelings toward them it will be impossible to love church members.

**2** **Rebellion** – Many years ago George Vandeman wrote a book called *A Planet in Rebellion*. Ellen White wrote in *Selected Messages*, vol. 2, 58: "Rebellion and apostasy are in the very air we breathe. We shall be affected by it unless we, by faith, hang our helpless souls upon Christ."

Rebellion is in the air. This is a special problem in families with children. The Bible says, "Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry" (1 Samuel 15:23.)

How do you deal with the problem of rebellion in your family? Ellen White wrote: "My soul is sick and discouraged in regard to those who have been so long rebellious in Waukon [a city in Iowa]. Souls in Waukon have rebelled and stood fast in their rebellion, and very recently they have professed to see themselves, and their stubbornness is changed to a spirit of witchcraft or divination. I call upon all who have the cause of God one particle at heart to rise in the name of the Lord and put down the manifestations among them." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 11, 352.

Children must know that whether they are rebels or not, there are rules in your home that are not going to be changed. Ellen White said to one father who had a problem with a son who wanted to smoke, you need to say to your son, I want the angels of heaven to abide in my home, and so I cannot allow smoking, drinking, or carousing. You cannot bring your girl friend over to my house to sleep with overnight. You can't do that here. I have rules in this house.

Rebellion is never solved by letting down the rules. A son like that should be told that if he is determined to live that way, he will



*The devil unites his forces and tries to divide and scatter those who advocate the truth.*

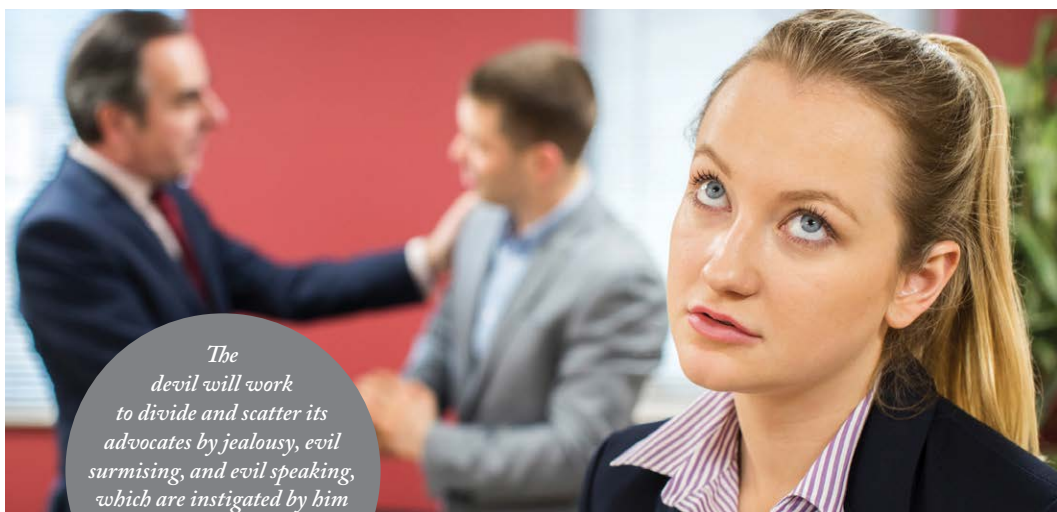
have to leave home and live wherever he chooses, because there are rules in your father's house.

However, in addition to having rules, in a situation like this the Lord must be sought for wisdom to know what to do so that this child or person will understand that we still love them. In fact, that we love them so much that we would die for them. How can we help them to find that out? One thing is for sure, making a house with no rules is not showing them love. Rebellion is a huge problem affecting not just homes, but churches.

**3 Evil Surmising** – Ellen White wrote, “The church is made up of persons of different temperaments and of various dispositions; they have come from different denominations. ... If the love of Christ is in the hearts of the members of the church, through the abundant grace of Christ, there will be oneness, unity, among brethren. ... Selfishness is sin, and it grieves away the Spirit of Christ. When we cherish unkind thoughts and harbor suspicions against our brethren, we are cutting ourselves off from the channel of God's light and love.” *The Signs of the Times*, April 13, 1891.

Many things happen in this world which may seem to be suspicious but of which we have limited facts. When you see a situation in your family or your church and you don't know all the facts, remember, you can put either a positive or negative spin on that. Some people always put a negative spin on everything. They often get in trouble, which extends to their families and the churches they attend.

“Jealousy is as cruel as the grave, and should never be cherished in the heart, much less expressed in the actions. How cruel it is to cherish evil surmising against those who are members of Christ's body! Accusation, condemnation, and revenge are all of Satanic origin, and evil thoughts of others



*The devil will work to divide and scatter its advocates by jealousy, evil surmising, and evil speaking, which are instigated by him to produce discord and dissension.*

should be at once rejected from the mind ...” Ibid.

Jealousy comes directly from the devil. It is he who stirs us up to accuse and condemn one another and to get even with one another. We all at some time have had evil thoughts come into our minds about others, but they are to be rejected.

**4 Overbearing or Arbitrary Spirit** – Ellen White wrote, “While at family prayer that night at Bro. S.’s I was again taken off in vision, and that portion of the vision that had passed from me was repeated, and I was shown the overbearing course of R. and C., that their influence in the church was to cause division. They possessed an exalted spirit, and not the meek spirit of Christ.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 2, 181.

It only takes a couple of overbearing people to cause division in a church.

**5 Pride of Opinion** – “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches

of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end’ (Ephesians 3:14–21).

“Here are brought to view the possibilities of the Christian life. How far short of reaching this standard falls the church of today! Strife, discord, selfish pride of opinion, self-exaltation,—self, self, self,—all this is manifest in those who claim to be followers of the meek and lowly Jesus. When shall we awake?” *The Ellen G. White, 1888 Materials*, 1794.

Believing my opinion to be better than your opinion divides churches. It divides families. It creates all manner of unhappiness because we think we are so much smarter and know so much better than somebody else.



If you would like to become a really wise person, ask the Lord to help you to look in an objective analytical way at the position of the person that thinks totally opposite from you. You may just learn something.

“

*You can be sure that if there is trouble in your church, there is trouble in the homes of the members in your church.*

6

### **Impulsive and Erratic Movements**

– “The religious life of some is characterized by impulsive movements. They are as likely to be erratic as to be correct. Some are impatient and restless, while others are indolent and indifferent, and there is such a diversity of opinion and action that there is division instead of harmony in the church.” *The Review and Herald*, October 22, 1889.

This behavior can never produce a harmonious church in unity.

Erratic, impulsive behavior results in division in the church.

7

### **Hard-heartedness**

– “The reason why there are so many hardhearted men and women in the world is that true affection has been regarded as weakness, and has been discouraged and repressed. The better nature of these persons was stifled in childhood; and unless the light of divine love shall melt away their cold selfishness, their happiness will be forever ruined. If we wish our children to possess the tender spirit of Jesus, and the sympathy that angels manifest for us, we must encourage the generous, loving impulses of childhood.” *The Desire of Ages*, 516.

Jesus said, “What God has joined together, let not man put asunder” (Matthew 19:6). However, the Jews then questioned why Moses had told them that they could divorce their wives and put them away (verses 7, 8). Jesus told them permission was given, not because it was right, but because of the hardness of their hearts. (See Deuteronomy 24:1–4.)

8

### **Lack of Discipline**

– There is very little discipline in churches today. People can do just about anything

and still be a church member, but this will result in receiving the curse of God.

“God charged Eli with honoring his sons above the Lord. Eli had permitted the offering appointed by God as a blessing to Israel to be made a thing of abhorrence, rather than bring his sons to shame for their impious and abominable practices. Those who follow their own inclination, in blind affection for their children, indulging them in the gratification of their selfish desires, and do not bring to bear the authority of God to rebuke sin and correct evil, make it manifest that they are honoring their wicked children more than they honor God. They are more anxious to shield their reputation than to glorify God; more desirous to please their children than to please the Lord and to keep His service from every appearance of evil.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 578.

9

### **Sinful Neglect**

– “Though we have an individual work and an individual responsibility before God, we are not to follow our own independent judgment, regardless of the opinions and feelings of our brethren; for this course would lead to disorder in the church.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 30.

Each must realize that they are neither king nor pope. In church matters all must get counsel with other people.

10

### **Disrespect**

– Disrespect destroys families; it can also destroy a church. Ellen White says when the problem is with the husband: “There are many living martyrs today who suffer in silence.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 3, 372.

These victims are not dead, but they are considered martyrs. Could it be when we get to heaven that there may be people there with red around the border of their garment that we never knew were martyrs? Who are these living martyrs?

“They are abused with the tongue and who are tantalized, who are hurt and wounded by coarse, harsh denunciations, whose lot seems to be to live and to suffer, receiving comfort only from Jesus, who is the source of their strength. Such souls are



missionaries. They are Christ's noble ones, and their names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

"Remember, Jesus knows it all—every sorrow, every grief—He will not leave you to sink, for His arms are beneath you. You may be an enlightenment to a whole neighborhood if you are indeed patient, kind, forbearing. In this, my sister, consider your questions answered." Ibid.

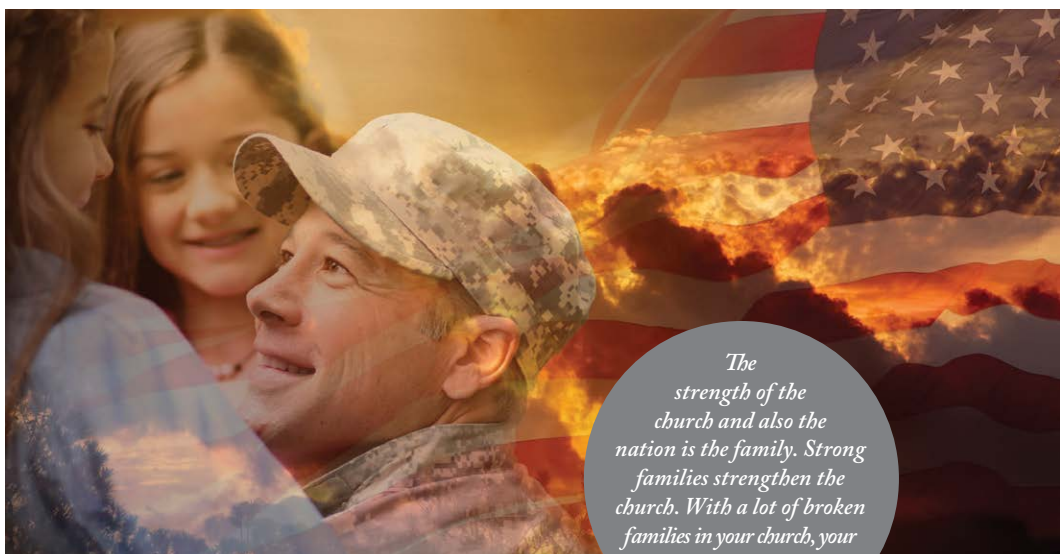
"When discouraging words are spoken to you, do not reply unless you can return a pleasant answer. When you are tried and tempted by unkind words, do not retaliate. Say to yourself, 'I will not disappoint my Saviour.'" Ibid., vol. 8, 442.

"One mother says her husband is an unbeliever. She has children but they are taught by the father to disrespect the mother. She is deeply burdened for her children. She does not know what course she can pursue." Ibid., vol. 3, 368.

"Because Satan uses the father of your children to counteract your work, do not be discouraged; do not give up the conflict. Do as you wish them to do. Treat your husband with kindness at all times and on all occasions, and bind your children to your heart with the cords of love. This is your work; this is the burden you have to bear. Talk not your home trials to anyone but Jesus; pour them into His ear." Ibid., 369.

### **What can be done when communications between disparate parties have broken down?**

**I** Look for an opportunity to be a good Samaritan. Remember, when the Samaritan passed the Jew who was wounded, Ellen White says he knew that if the situation were reversed, the Jew would just spit in his face and go on. He knew the wounded man was an enemy. He said, You are in trouble, so I am going to help you out anyway. The Bible says this story is actually a



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prophecy about the Messiah, "They that hate Me without a cause are more than the hairs of My head: they that would destroy Me, being Mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I did not take away" (Psalm 69:4).

**2** If you have said or done anything that is wrong by which the other party is offended, confess your mistake to them and ask for forgiveness. You don't need to mention what they've done, but if you have done just one thing against them, confess it, tell them you are sorry, and ask for forgiveness.

**3** Pray and be brave enough to say, Lord, I am willing for You to do whatever it takes to save my child. Don't pray that prayer unless you are serious. I know a mother who prayed that prayer, and in a short time later, her son got cancer, from which he eventually died. But before he died, he came back to the Lord. That is not the pleasant way to come back to the Lord, but when Jesus returns this mother and son will be reunited.

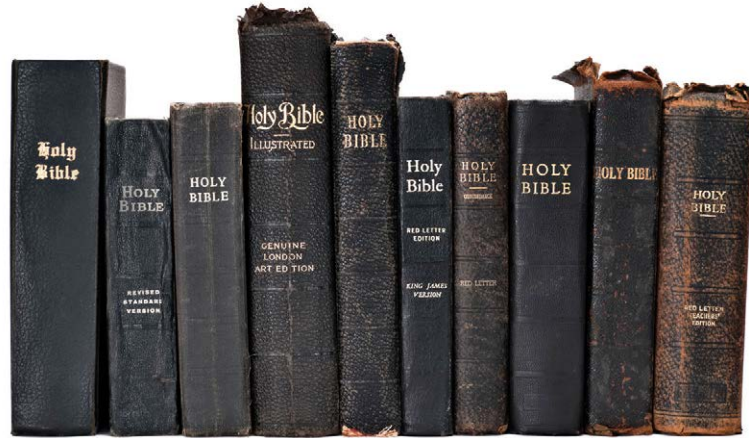
**4** A rift between parent and child will not be healed by giving money. Ask God for special wisdom whether you should actually give to your child what he or she is asking for as it may not be wise.

**5** If your son or daughter or perceived enemy is suffering with a medical problem or some other kind of serious problem, even if they are on the pathway to hell, it is proper for you to do something to try to alleviate their problem. They may see Jesus in you. Remember, Jesus healed ten lepers but only one said, Thank you.

If there is one in ten, or even one in a hundred that reaches salvation because of what you did to help them, it would be worthwhile and there will be rejoicing in heaven.

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

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# *The Peace Which Passes All Understanding*

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By John R. Pearson

*"Great peace have they which love Thy law:  
And nothing shall offend them."*

*Psalm 119:165 (KJV)*

**T**he objective of one's study of God's word should be two-fold: (1) to obtain a better and deeper understanding of the plan of salvation and (2) to discern more clearly the character of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who is to be our example in all things. Our study can be wasted effort, however, if we become bogged down in "side issues" unrelated to these two objectives. It is important to remember that there is a ditch on each side of the road, and the enemy of souls doesn't care which ditch we fall into.

On one side is the literalist, who believes that every word in the Bible is inspired. On the other is the generalist, who claims that some of the Bible is inspired, but some of it isn't. He sometimes feels qualified to make the distinction between what the Holy Spirit has impressed upon the writer and what is simply an uninspired statement.

To give balance to our understanding, our loving Lord has provided this clear statement on the subject of inspiration:

"The Bible is written by inspired men, but it is not God's mode of thought and expression. It is that of humanity. God as a writer is not represented. Men will often say such an expression is not like God. But God has not put Himself in words, in logic, in rhetoric, on trial in the Bible. The writers of the Bible were God's penmen, not His pen." *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 21.

Just as the authors of the Bible served as God's penmen, so the translators served as His mouthpiece. Not one of the Bible writers spoke Old English. The common languages of their times were Greek and Hebrew, and less commonly, Aramaic. Thus we owe a great debt to William Tyndale and others like him who translated the original manuscripts into the languages of the common people of their day. A special debt of gratitude is owed to James Strong, who oversaw an exhaustive indexing of the King James Bible, which was published in 1890 as Strong's *Concordance*.

The purpose of Strong's *Concordance* was not to provide content or commentary about the Bible, but rather to provide an index to the Bible, which allows the reader to find where specific Greek or Hebrew words appear in the Bible and allows a student of the Bible to re-find a phrase or passage previously studied. It also lets the reader directly compare how the same word may be used elsewhere in the Bible. In this way Strong provides an independent check against varying translations and offers an opportunity for a greater

and more technically accurate understanding of text.

With that in mind, let's look at the Bible text at the head of this article.

Though almost all Bible versions agree unanimously on the translation of the first phrase of this verse, affirming that those who love the law enjoy great peace, the translation of the second part of the verse varies somewhat in different Bible versions.

Let's begin by looking at translations of the Hebrew first, giving our attention to the Hebrew word that is translated as "offend" in the King James Version.

The Hebrew word is *mikshôl* (Strong's number H4383). The entry in Strong's *Concordance* states:

Masculine from H3782: a stumbling-block, literally or figuratively (obstacle, enticement (specifically an idol), scruple): - caused to fall, offence, X [no-] thing offered, ruin, stumbling-block.

For a deeper understanding of the meaning of this word, we can look at the Hebrew word from which it is derived.

H3782 [*kâshal*]: A primitive root; to totter or waver (through weakness of the legs, especially the ankle); by implication to falter, stumble, faint or fall: - be-reave [from the margin], cast down, be decayed, (cause to) fail, (cause, make to) fall (down, -ing), feeble, be (the) ruin (-ed, of), (be) overthrown, (cause to) stumble, X utterly, be weak.

It is perhaps a bit puzzling why the translators of the King James Version chose *offend* as the translation until you look up that word in Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary. There you will find many different variations of the meaning, such

as to attack, to displease, to shock, to annoy, as well as several others. The sixth definition is as follows:

"To disturb, annoy, or cause to fall or stumble."

Then Mr. Webster gives Psalm 119:165 as an example of the use in this connotation: "Great peace have they that love Thy law, and nothing shall offend them."

It is interesting—and again, a bit puzzling—that Mr.

Webster chose Psalm 119:165 as an illustration of "offend" by quoting the translation that did

not use the definition he just gave, undoubtedly because the KJV was the only English translation widely available at the time. Apparently, he had access to some kind of a Hebrew reference to know the connection between *stumble* and *offend*.

Most other Bible translations have chosen a different translation of the word under discussion here:

**New King James Version:** nothing causes them to stumble.

**International Standard Version:** nothing makes them stumble.

**American Standard Version:** they have no occasion of stumbling.

**English Standard Version:** nothing can make them stumble.

**God's Word:** nothing can make those people stumble.

**Young's Literal Translation:** they have no stumbling-block.

**American Revised Version:** they have no occasion of stumbling.

We cannot know precisely what David intended to convey when he

“  
The Bible is written  
by inspired men, but it is  
not God's mode of thought  
and expression. It is that of  
humanity. God as a writer  
is not represented.”



“  
*God has not put  
 Himself in words, in  
 logic, in rhetoric, on trial in  
 the Bible. The writers of the  
 Bible were God’s penmen,  
 not His pen.*”

wrote this specific text, but by comparing “here a little and there a little,” we can perhaps gain a deeper understanding of what the Holy Spirit intended us to grasp from this text.

The obvious question that comes to mind when reading Psalm 119:165 is, Why does a love of the law prevent one from stumbling, from being cast down or faltering in his or her Christian walk?

To obtain an answer to this question is why I turned to Strong’s in the first place. I could not see the logic implied in the Scripture that loving God’s law is a defense against being offended or stumbling.

In turning to Strong’s *Concordance* to see the different contexts in which the original Hebrew word is used I hoped to gain a more robust understanding of its meaning.

Some form of that word occurs 15 times in the KJV Old Testament and is translated in several different ways.

Translation	Occurrences
Stumblingblock	6
Offense	2
Block	1
Fall	1
Offend	1
Ruin	1
Ruins	1
Stumbling	1
Stumblingblocks	1

There is a passage in Isaiah that provides a more typical contextual example of the use of both Hebrew words—*mikshôl* and *kâshal*. Here the Lord is warning Isaiah about the dangers of yielding to popular thinking and customs.

*“For the LORD spoke thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying:*

*Do not say, “A conspiracy,”  
 Concerning all that this people call a  
 conspiracy,*

*Nor be afraid of their threats, nor be  
 troubled.*

*The LORD of hosts,  
 Him you shall hallow;  
 Let Him be your fear,  
 And let Him be your dread.  
 He will be as a sanctuary,  
 But a stone of stumbling and a rock of  
 offense [mikshôl]*

*To both the houses of Israel,  
 As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants  
 of Jerusalem.*

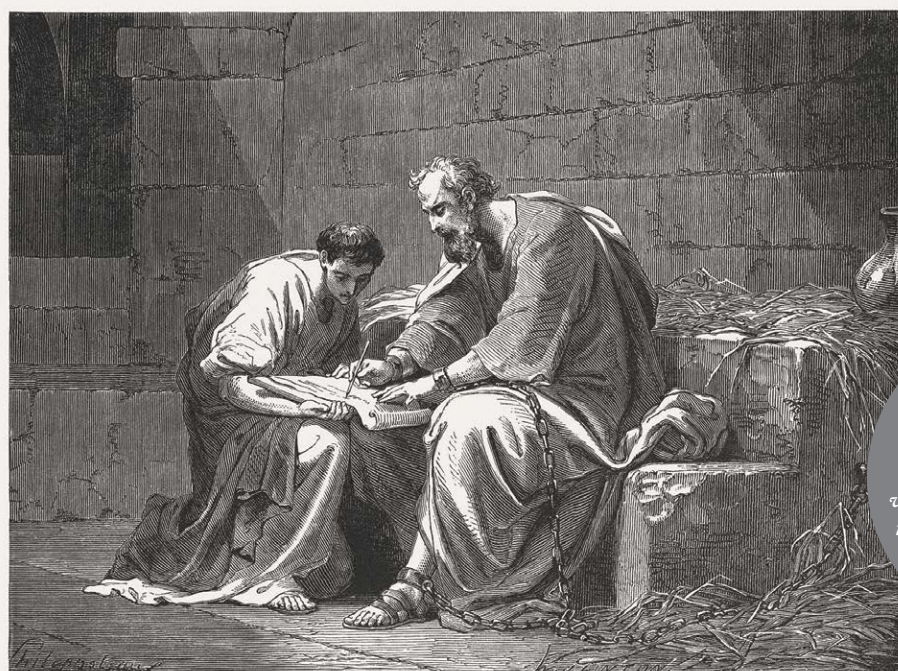
*And many among them shall **stumble**  
 [kâshal];*

*They shall fall and be broken,  
 Be snared and taken” (Isaiah 8:11–15).*

Thus it seems logical that those who love the law abide by that law in their daily walk, having the assurance that “great peace” is theirs. Regardless of the external stimuli they experience, regardless of the attraction of worldliness, regardless of the influence of friends and family, they maintain their firm hold on the truth. Because they love the law, they cannot be shaken from the path of truth and righteousness. It is those who have only a superficial understanding of the law, who acknowledge it with their lips but not with their hearts, who will be caused to stumble or be shaken out.

The following quotes from Inspiration provide an even deeper understanding of the certainty of the peace experienced by those who love divine law.

“David was greatly tried in his day in seeing men pouring contempt upon God’s law. Men threw off restraint, and depravity was the result. The law of God had become a dead letter to those whom God had created. Men refused to receive the holy precepts as the rule of their life. Wickedness was so great that David feared lest God’s forbearance should cease, and he sent up a heart-felt prayer to heaven, saying, ‘It is time for Thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void Thy law. Therefore I love Thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold’ (Psalm 119:126, 127).



*Not one of the Bible writers spoke Old English. The common languages of their times were Greek and Hebrew. In this artist's representation, Paul writes to the Ephesians.*

"If David thought in his day that men had exceeded the limits of God's mercy, and that God would work to vindicate the honor of His law and bring the wickedness of the wicked to an end, then what influence should the widespread iniquity of our day have upon those who love and fear God? When there is widespread disobedience, when iniquity is increasing to a swelling tide, will the professed Christian world be evil with the evil, unrighteous with the unrighteous? Shall we place our influence on the side of the great apostate, and shall universal scorn be heaped upon God's law, the great standard of righteousness? Shall we be swept away by the strong tide of transgression and apostasy? Or shall the righteous search the Scriptures and know for themselves the conditions upon which the salvation of their souls depend? Those who make the word of God the man of their counsel will esteem the law of God, and their appreciation of it will rise in proportion as it is set aside and despised. Loyal subjects of Christ's kingdom will re-echo the words of David and say,

'It is time for Thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void Thy law. Therefore I love Thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold' (Psalm 119:126, 127). This is the position those will occupy who love God sincerely and their neighbors as themselves. They will exalt the commandments in proportion as contempt increases." "Ellen G. White Comments," *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, 1152, 1153.

"The law is an expression of God's idea. When we receive it in Christ, it becomes our idea. It lifts us above the power of natural desires and tendencies, above temptations that lead to sin. 'Great peace have they which love Thy law; and nothing shall offend them'—cause them to stumble. There is no peace in unrighteousness; the wicked are at war with God. But he who receives the righteousness of the law in Christ is in harmony with heaven." *The Faith I Live By*, 83.

In direct contrast to the promise the faithful are given in Psalm 119:165, there is the following warning in Isaiah: "'There is no peace,' says the LORD, 'for the wicked'" (Isaiah 48:22).

There is an illustration of the lack of peace experienced by those who forsake God's law in the story of Asa, who sought to reform Israel after a long period of apostasy.

"Now the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded. And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: 'Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you. For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law; but when in their trouble they turned to the LORD God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them. And in those times there was no peace to the one who went out, nor to the one who came in, but great turmoil was on all the inhabitants of the lands. So nation was destroyed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every adversity. But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded'" (2 Chronicles 15:1-7)!

“

*A special debt of gratitude is owed to James Strong, who oversaw an exhaustive indexing of the King James Bible.*



Often the peace that the law-keeper experiences is an inner peace that comes from knowing that he or she is complying with the instructions given in God's word. Things can be tumultuous emotionally and perhaps even physically, but those who abide in

Christ—despite all of the unpleasant or distracting outside influences—can have an inner peace that others simply cannot understand—a peace that “surpasses all understanding.”

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

(Philippians 4:6, 7).

Inspiration gives the faithful further assurance of the peace that comes from obedience to God's word in the following passages:

“Obedience to God is liberty from the thralldom of sin, deliverance from human passion and impulse. But we have to meet and contend with men who employ all their power in slandering those who are loyal to God. Their wit and their God-given reason are devoted to making it appear that obedience to the commandments of God is an irksome service. But those who advocate the claims of the law of God testify, ‘Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them.’ ‘The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul’ (Psalm 19:7). The Lord presents truth in contrast with error, and presents also the sure result of accepting truth, the experience that always follows willing obedience. It is peace and rest.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 247.

“God presents to the world two classes. For the one—the wicked—He says, ‘There is no peace’ (Isaiah 48:22). Of the other, ‘Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them’ (Psalm 119:165).” *That I May Know Him*, 120.

“Christ has bought us with a dear price, but yet He will recompense our service to Him. We may feel sad and weep over our poor service to Him who has given us such unmeasured evidences of His interest in and love for us. But the recompense will not be in exact proportion to the amount of work done, but in accordance with the motive and the love which prompted the doing of the work. The recompense will be of grace. His own abundant mercy will be displayed not because we have done anything worthy, but on account of His unmeasured love. Christ will say to the faithful, sincere worker, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; ... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord’ (Matthew 25:23). And even now angels of God take cognizance of our works of love and righteousness and we shall not be forgotten *even in this life*. In keeping His commandments there is great reward. ‘Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them’ (Psalm 119:165). Christ lays no more upon His servants than He gives them strength to perform. He will not cast them off in their adversity. When heart and flesh fail He will be the strength of their heart and their portion forever.” *Sons and Daughters of God*, 233. [Emphasis added.]

The Lord promises great peace, “even in this life,” even in the “here and now” to those who rely on His mercy and grace as they face life's daily challenges. How absolutely critical it is that God's children understand the great peace that those who love the law experience “even in this life” and the recompense of abundant grace the faithful are promised.

It cannot be denied that we are near—if not already in—the time when even the elect will be deceived by the enemy of souls. If we have not developed a true, heart-felt love of “Thy law,” what hope do we have of remaining firmly on the pathway that leads to the streets of gold? What hope do we have of experiencing the peace that passes understanding, even in this life? **LM**

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## *The Prince of the Power of the Air*

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By James Edson White

**W**hen Lucifer, or Satan, as he is now called, was cast out, he realized that he had lost heaven forever. His nature was now changed completely, and his heart was filled with anger and hatred toward the entire government of God. His history shows that from that time his motto was, in the language of Milton, “Evil, be thou my good.” His change of name indicates his change of character. *Lucifer* means *light-bearer*. The word *devil* means the opposite—*darkness*. He is now the prince of darkness.

Revenge now filled that heart where once the love of God abode, and all his powers were exerted against God and His work. Every artful device of Satan and the evil angels has since been used to lead men to follow them in sin and rebellion against God.

It is well for man to know the strength of the foe he has to meet. Satan and his angels have on earth the same wisdom, and much of the power, which they had in heaven before their fall. To this is added six thousand years' experience in their terrible work.

In heaven Satan's influence was so great as to deceive and lead into rebellion a vast number of the holy angels. If his influence in the very courts of heaven was so great, can we not readily understand how it is possible for him to lead mankind astray?

With such power and influence as he has at his command, we can never overcome Satan in our own strength. If we let go our hold upon God, we step onto the enemy's ground, and he will always be there to meet us. Under such conditions we are sure to be "taken captive by him at his will" (2 Timothy 2:26).

But we need not be overcome by the enemy. Christ has twice conquered this foe—once in the battle in heaven, when Satan was cast out; and again as a man on earth when He met all his temptations, and came off victorious. Hence Satan is to Christ *a conquered foe*. If we trust our Lord fully,

He will give us strength in every hour of need, and thus we may become "more than conquerors through Him that loves us" (Romans 8:37).

Not only does Satan seek to draw man away from his allegiance to God, but he uses also the elements of the earth, sea, and sky to work his destruction.

Paul calls Satan "The prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2). The name is well applied; for it is he who causes the terrible

cyclones, the tidal waves, and other awful disasters. Only the restraining hand of God prevents him from bringing devastation to the whole world, more awful than has yet been known.

The experience of Job, as recorded in the first chapter of that book, is evidence that Satan controls, not only the hearts and actions of wicked men, but also, as far as

permitted, the very elements. When God allowed him to afflict Job, four great calamities came upon him in such quick succession that one bearer of evil tidings could not finish his report before another was waiting with his account of disaster. They were as follows:

First, a band of Sabeans fell upon the servants who were plowing, and slew them, and took away the oxen, and the asses that were feeding beside them. It was Satan who stirred up these wicked men to do this deed.

Second, fire from above burned up the sheep as they were feeding, as well as the servants who were caring for them. This storm of fire was brought down by Satan for the purpose of causing this very destruction.

The text reads, "The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them" (Job 1:16). This was the language of the messenger, giving an account of the disaster as he understood it. By a reading of the twelfth verse we can not avoid the conclusion that these calamities were not sent by God, but were the means the Lord permitted Satan to use in his effort to destroy the integrity of Job.

Third, three bands of Chaldeans fell upon the camels, and carried them away, and slew the servants who were keeping them. These Chaldeans were idolaters, hence were servants of Satan, and were led and influenced by him in this raid upon the property of Job.

Fourth, a wind from the wilderness smote the house where the sons and daughters of Job were eating and drinking and killed them all. This awful bereavement was the last of the four great calamities brought upon him at this time. In this instance the winds obeyed the will of Satan, so justifying the statement made by Paul, that Satan is "the prince of the power of the air."

Awful disasters and terrible calamities are abroad in the earth to-day. As wickedness is increasing in the land, God is removing His restraining power, and Satan is having a freer hand to do the work in which he delights.

Satan is a hard master, for he takes pleasure in bringing disaster and suffering and misery upon even his own subjects. This is in sharp contrast with the loving, tender care which God delights to manifest toward His

“  
*Satan and his angels  
have on earth the same  
wisdom, and much of the  
power, which they had  
in heaven. To this is  
added 6,000 years of  
experience.*”

people. When Israel was in bondage in Egypt, and that land was afflicted because of the hardness of the heart of the Egyptian king, God preserved His people; the plagues did not come near them, and there was peace in their homes in the land of Goshen.

As we near the close of probation, a short time before Christ comes, awful plagues will be poured out upon the inhabitants of the earth, of which the plagues upon Egypt were only a shadowy type. (See Revelation 16.) These plagues will be visited upon those who have stubbornly refused the offers of God's mercy. The prophet Daniel speaks of this as "a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time" (Daniel 12:1).

But during this time God will protect His people as He did Israel in Egypt. Daniel 12:1 reads further, "At that time Thy people shall be delivered, *every one* that shall be found written in the book." And David says of the righteous in this time, "Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. ... There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling" (Psalm 91:8, 10). God's care is ever over His people for good, for He loves them, and they are to Him as "the apple of His eye."

As we near the end, Satan will become more and more active in bringing disaster upon the world. The apostle-prophet John says of this time, "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Revelation 12:12).

As the coming of Christ draws near, the deceptions of Satan will increase in power, and become more startling and convincing. Christ said that "great signs and wonders" shall be shown; "inso-much that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matthew 24:24). It is only by being firmly and thoroughly grounded in the Word that we shall be able to detect those deceptions, and be saved from their evil consequences.



*The experience of Job is evidence that Satan controls, not only the hearts and actions of wicked men, but also, as far as permitted, the very elements.*

The "working of Satan" is to be "with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish" (2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10).

"And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven [the atmospheric heavens, which surround this earth] on the earth in the sight of men" (Revelation 13:13).

Satan brought fire from heaven, and burned the flocks of Job for the purpose of destroying his confidence in God. In the latter days he will repeat such miracles for the purpose of establishing confidence in himself.

"And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles *which he had power to do*" (Revelation 13:14). Christ pointed to His miracles as evidences of His divinity. (See John 10:38; 14:11). Satan ever seeks to counterfeit the work of God. In the last days he will support the claims of his apostate church by the evidence of miracles.

In the last days "the spirits of devils" are to "work miracles," and "go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the bat-

tle of that great day of God Almighty" (Revelation 16:14).

In Hebrews 2:14, we learn that the devil has "the power of death." This is true, because sin brought death, and Satan is the author of sin. He claims all who die as his own. *Death is not a friend, but a deadly foe.* Paul says, "The last *enemy* that shall be destroyed is death" (1 Corinthians 15:26). Death is the child of sin, and Satan is its father. Only the power of God can bring the dead from "the land of the *enemy*," at the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:22-26).

But some glad day sin and death and Satan will be destroyed together. Paul declared that Christ, by His death, opened the way by which He "might *destroy* him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Hebrews 2:14).

The Lord, speaking of Satan through the prophet Ezekiel, says, "Therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee ... and *never shall thou be any more*" (Ezekiel 28:18, 19).

[All emphasis author's.]

*Past, Present, and Future*, James Edson White, 103-109. [LM](#)



# Samson

## Clues – Based on Judges 13–16, KJV

### Across:

B18	Some Philistines hurt Samson's wife and father with this	14:15
C5	Samson: I want this Philistine wife because she _____ (three words)	14:3
D20	What kind of jawbone did Samson use?	15:15
E1	These made a home in a lion's carcase	14:8, 9
E12	What Samson's father thought they'd do because they'd seen God	13:22
F5	Samson fell in love with this Philistine woman	16:4
G1	How many thousand men of Judah gave Samson to the Philistines?	15:11
G13	Angel to Manoah: let your wife _____ all that I commanded her	13:14
I1	Samson's father	13:2
I8	The angel told Samson's mother he would begin to _____ Israel	13:5
I18	Samson lived on the top of this rock	15:8
J14	Philistine lords brought this to Delilah for betraying Samson	16:18
K3	The angel promised Samson's mother she would have a _____	13:5
K8	Samson's unusual instrument of death to Philistines	15:15
L16	Samson's father-in-law wanted him to take his wife's _____	15:2
M2	Samson's Philistine lover tried _____ to find the secret of his strength	16:16
M8	When did Samson remove the Gaza city gate doors?	16:3
O3	On what did Samson carry off the city gate doors?	16:3
O13	After killing a thousand Philistines Samson told God he might die from this	15:18
Q4	He asked Samson's father why he wanted to know his name	13:18
Q15	Samson's father wanted to know how to _____ the promised child	13:8
S2	Samson was revived after drinking this	15:19
S9	Manoah to the angel: "How shall we _____ the child?"	13:12
S16	The Philistines bound Samson in these to grind grain	16:21

### Down:

A10	Samson fell asleep on Delilah's (singular)	16:19
A21	Samson's Philistine lover's entreaties _____ him "unto death"	16:16
B3	What Samson used to burn up the Philistines' crops	15:4
B14	Samson's last prayer: "O Lord God, _____ ..." (two words)	16:28
B16	Delilah's conniving appeal to Samson: _____ the secret (two words)	16:6
B18	The cords that tied Samson became as burnt _____	15:14
C6	Delilah questioned if Samson really had this for her	16:15
E8	Where the angel appeared to Samson's mother the second time	13:9
F5	What Manoah wanted to do to the angel	13:15
F19	What Samson's wife did to soften his resolve	14:16, 17
H10	What Samson did to the Philistines more at his death than in his life	16:30
I18	Samson asked God to avenge him for these	16:28
I21	When the Philistines were this they brought Samson from the prison	16:25
K11	When the Philistines shouted at Samson these fell off his hands	15:14
K13	The Gazites laid in wait for Samson all _____	16:2
L19	With how many cords did the men of Judah bind Samson?	15:13
M6	With his bare hands Samson killed a _____ lion	14:5, 6
M8	Which two pillars did Samson pull down?	16:29

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

- M<sub>15</sub> How many Philistine men came to Samson's wedding feast?  
O<sub>4</sub> Samson finally gave in to Delilah and told her all his \_\_\_\_\_  
O<sub>10</sub> Angel: no \_\_\_\_\_ shall come on the child's head  
O<sub>17</sub> What Delilah and a cohort did to seven locks of Samson's hair  
O<sub>21</sub> Angel to Manoah: Of all I said to the woman, let her \_\_\_\_\_  
P<sub>2</sub> While a blind prisoner Samson's hair did this  
P<sub>12</sub> What Samson used to spread fire in the Philistines' crops

I<sub>4</sub>:I<sub>0</sub>–I<sub>2</sub>  
I<sub>6</sub>:I<sub>8</sub>  
I<sub>3</sub>:5  
I<sub>6</sub>:I<sub>9</sub>  
I<sub>3</sub>:I<sub>3</sub>  
I<sub>6</sub>:22  
I<sub>5</sub>:4

## Answer Key:

22	E	19	20		14	15	16	17	18	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
S	R	E	T		R	E				R	D	O										
A	R																					
Q	R																					
P																						
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# *The Kingdoms*

It was a fine day in June, many years ago. Frederick William, king of Prussia, a country in Europe, wanted to get away from the noise of the city. So he went for a walk along a quiet road throughout the country.

As he walked along, he listened to the songs of the birds. He picked some wild flowers that grew by the way. After a while he came to a little schoolhouse. The children were at play. It made him glad to see the children happy.

Soon they were called to their lessons. The king followed them into the schoolroom. At first the children were almost afraid to be in the presence of the king. But his kind face and pleasant ways soon won them. He was pleased to see how well they recited their lessons. After a time the teacher asked him to talk to the children.

"I will now ask you some questions," said the king, "and the child who gives the best answer shall have a prize."

Then the king held up an orange.

"You know that we all live in the kingdom of Prussia. But to what kingdom does this belong?" he asked.

The children were timid. They did not know just what to say. Every one sat quite still. At last a bright little boy spoke.

"It belongs to the vegetable kingdom," he said.

"How do you know?" asked the king.

"It is the fruit of a plant, and all plants belong to the vegetable kingdom," said the boy.

"That is a good answer," said the king. "You shall have the orange for your prize."

Then the king took a gold coin from his pocket. He held it up so that all the children could see it.

"To what kingdom does this coin belong?" he asked.

"It belongs to the mineral kingdom, sir," said another boy.

"Why so, my lad?" asked the king.

"Because it is a metal, and all metals belong to that kingdom," the boy answered.

The king was pleased.

"You are quite right," he answered.

"You shall have the coin for your prize."

The children were delighted. With bright eyes and smiling faces they wondered what he would say next.

"I will ask you only one more question," said the king, with a twinkle of fun in his eye. "Tell me, children, to what kingdom do I belong?"

The king thought someone would say, "To the animal kingdom."

The children looked at him, but no one spoke. They were a little afraid, because he was the king.

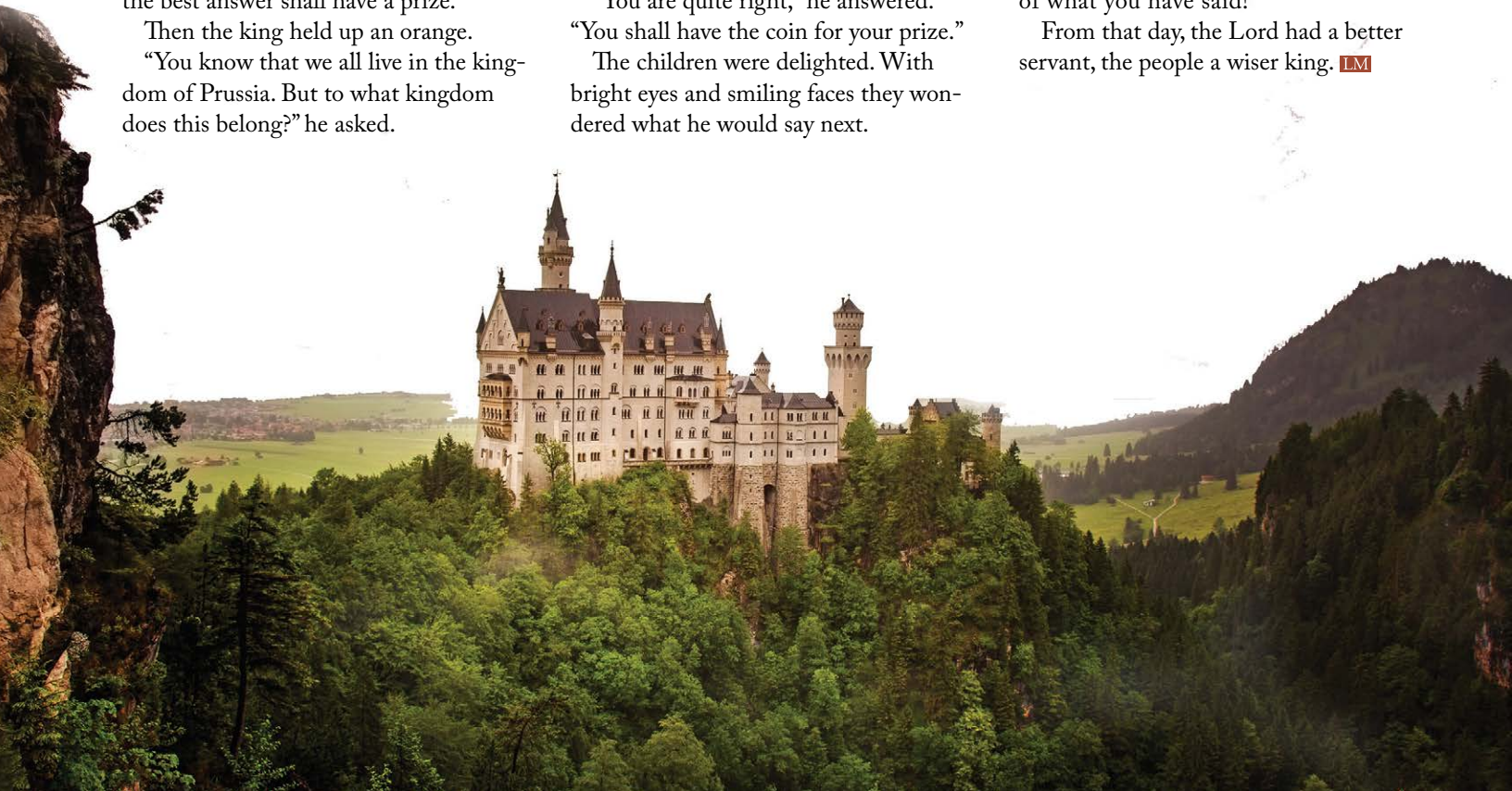
At last, Christel, a little blue-eyed girl, looked up into his kind eyes.

"I think you belong to the kingdom of heaven," she said softly.

For a moment there was a breathless silence in the room. You might have heard a leaf fall as all eyes turned to little Christel. Even the surprised king hardly knew what to say.

Then he caught the timid child in his arms and kissed her again and again. With tears in his eyes, he said, "May God help me to prove the truth of what you have said!"

From that day, the Lord had a better servant, the people a wiser king. **LM**



# *Health* *and the* *Early Church*

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By John J. Grosboll

**T**he apostle Paul taught the early church to be aware of the importance of a healthy lifestyle and how you treat your body. He goes so far as to say that the way you treat your body could even result in losing eternal life.

In the city of Corinth there occurred many different athletic events. The most ancient and highly esteemed of them all were the foot races, which were held at stated times and places with great pomp. Being patronized by kings, nobles, and statesmen, persons of rank and wealth who engaged in these exercises shrank from no effort and discipline necessary to obtain the honor of victory. These races were governed by strict regulations from which there was no appeal.

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*Continued on page 30*







## Watch & Pray

**"T**ake ye heed, watch and pray" (Mark 13:33), were the words of our Saviour spoken in reference to the time of the end, and His second coming to take His faithful children home.

First, you are to watch. Watch, lest you should speak hastily, fretfully and impatiently. Watch, lest pride should find a place in your heart. Watch, lest evil passions should overcome you, instead of your subduing them. Watch, lest a careless, indifferent spirit comes upon you, and you neglect your duty and become light and trifling, and your influence savor of death, rather than life.

Second, you are to pray. Jesus would not have enjoined this upon you, unless there was actual necessity for it. It is well known to Him that of yourself you cannot overcome the many temptations of the Enemy, and the many snares laid for your feet. He has not left you alone to do this; but has provided a way that you can obtain help. Therefore He has bidden you to pray.

To pray aright, is to ask God in faith for the very things you

need. Go to your chamber, or in some retired place, and ask your Father for Jesus' sake to help you. There is power in that prayer that is sent up from a heart convinced of its own weakness, yet earnestly longing for that strength that comes from God. The earnest, fervent prayer will be heard and answered. Go to your God who is strong, and who loves to hear children pray, and, although you may feel very weak, and find yourself at times overcome by the Enemy, because you have neglected the first command of our Saviour, to watch, yet do not give up the struggle. Make stronger efforts yourself than before. Faint not. Cast yourself at the feet of Jesus, who has been tempted, and knows how to help such as are tempted. Confess your faults, your weakness, and that you must have help to overcome, or you perish. And as you ask, you must believe that God hears you. Plead your case before God, through Jesus, until your soul can with confidence rely upon Him for strength, and you feel that you are not left to do the work of overcoming alone. God will help you. Angels will watch over you.

But before you can expect this help, you must do what you can on your part. Watch and pray. Let your prayers be fervent. Let this be the language of your heart, "I will not let Thee go unless Thou bless me." Have a set time, a special season for prayer at least three times a day. Morning, noon, and at night Daniel prayed to his God, notwithstanding the king's decree, and the fearful den of lions. He was not ashamed, or afraid to pray, but with his windows opened he prayed three times a day. Did God forget his faithful servant when he was cast into the lion's den? O, No. He was with him there all night. He closed the mouths of these hungry lions, and they could not hurt the praying man of God.

Children, you cannot live without food; you would soon feel the cravings of hunger, and your bodies would pine and die. You need spiritual food just as much, and often, as your body needs temporal food. Three times a day is none too often to draw strength from heaven, or sap and nourishment from Christ, the living vine. Read the words of our Saviour in Matthew 5:6: "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled."

*The Youth's Instructor*, October 1, 1855 **LM**

## *A Discordant Note*

I really struggled when I first became a Christian. Yes, I was raised in the Catholic school system for many years thinking that I was a Christian and that I was not going to hell because I was a member of the church. I received the shock of all shocks when I started studying the Bible with an acquaintance and found that there was no ever-burning hell and there was more to salvation than going to church on Sundays. But beyond that was the realization that I was sinful according to the Bible. What you need to understand is that I had a lot of self! I was good—I thought! I was not a sinner—I thought!

We may all “profess” to be Christians, but there are some things that will reflect in our hearts and lives that help us to understand where we

are in our Christian walk. What are some of the attributes of an unrenewed heart?

“In his sinless state, man held joyful communion with Him [God] ‘in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge’ (Colossians 2:3). But after his sin, he could no longer find joy in holiness, and he sought to hide from the presence of God. Such is still the condition of the unrenewed heart.

- It is not in harmony with God, and
- finds no joy in communion with Him.
- The sinner could not be happy in God’s presence;
- he would shrink from the companionship of holy beings.
- Could he be permitted to enter heaven, it would have no joy for him.

- The spirit of unselfish love that reigns there—every heart responding to the heart of Infinite Love—would touch no answering chord in his soul.
- His thoughts, his interests, his motives, would be alien to those that actuate the sinless dwellers there.
- He would be a discordant note in the melody of heaven.” *Steps to Christ*, 17.

I found that I really was a “discordant note” among Christians because I was so much of the world. I gave my heart to the Lord and an amazing transformation then took place. Have you searched your heart lately? Does it fit into heavenly places or is it more at home in this world? Is your heart renewed or un-renewed? Your heart is either one or the other!

Make a heart commitment right now and quell the discordant note. **LM**

*Heavenly Father: Thank You for the gift of a new heart, a renewed heart that You proffer to each one of us. I do not want to be a discordant note, or to shrink from the companionship of angels or of Christian brethren because I have not accepted that new heart. I thank You for the joy of being able to sit quietly in heavenly places here on earth and for the prospect of being admitted into heaven at Your coming. Amen.*



## LandMarks subscriptions make great gifts!

"The friends in Oregon that I asked you to send the *LandMarks* to are thoroughly enjoying the magazine and tell me every time they email. Praise God!"

—CB, Montana

"We so need to have you know that we are so very thankful for STL Ministry. For the DVD sermons—this is our Sabbath service. And *LandMarks* magazine—it's read and much "eating-up" its spiritual food. The Lord truly blesses us for we are so anxious to be ready for Jesus to come and He teaches us and walks us through with all your helps. Praise the Heavenly trio!"

—D&PF, Tennessee

### July Sermon of the Month

## Forbidden Ground

By John J. Grosboll

To set time confuses ideas, weakens the faith of the people, and causes skepticism.

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

## July 2019

Dear Friend,

God needs sociable people for Christian service for they can do much more for God than most people think. The work they can do in reaching souls for the kingdom is often more effective than preaching. Notice the following statement:

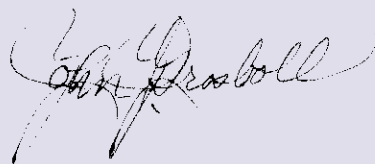
"By being social and coming close to the people, you may turn the current of their thoughts more readily than by the most able discourse. The presentation of Christ in the family, by the fireside, and in small gatherings in private houses, is often more successful in winning souls to Jesus than are sermons delivered in the open air, to the moving throng, or even in halls or churches." *Gospel Workers*, 193.

We have a life and death message which must be taken to all the world. We will never be able to do this if our lives are secluded from the multitudes. Jesus headquartered His mission activities in Capernaum because it afforded Him access to multitudes of people from all nations. We are to follow His example.

"This city [Capernaum] was well adapted to be the center of the Saviour's work. Being on the highway from Damascus to Jerusalem and Egypt, and to the Mediterranean Sea, it was a great thoroughfare of travel. People from many lands passed through the city or tarried for rest on their journeyings to and fro. Here Jesus could meet all nations and all ranks, the rich and great, as well as the poor and lowly; and His lessons would be carried to other countries and into many households." *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 121.

"We are not to renounce social communion. We should not seclude ourselves from others. In order to reach all classes, we must meet them where they are. They will seldom seek us of their own accord. Not alone from the pulpit are the hearts of men touched by divine truth. There is another field of labor, humbler, it may be, but fully as promising. It is found in the home of the lowly, and in the mansion of the great; at the hospitable board, and in gatherings for innocent social enjoyment." *The Desire of Ages*, 152.

Sincerely your fellow worker,



John J. Grosboll

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

## *Conviction of the Heart in Nigeria The Holy Spirit at Work*

By Domingo Nunez



*Pastor Domingo Nunez stands with the Pentecostal pastors who have accepted the Three Angels' Messages and the seventh day Sabbath.*

In 2015, the work of Bible worker volunteer Michael Ugorji in Nigeria began to bear fruit. As a result, he and the Pentecostal pastors he had been working with invited Pastor Domingo Nunez, the director of outreach for Steps to Life, to pay a visit to explain in greater detail the three angels' messages of Revelation 14 and present a defense of the seventh-day Sabbath—an invitation which was gladly and willingly accepted.

Following several days of meetings in which the pastors were fed the “milk” of the gospel, followed by preaching on the seventh day, Pastor Nunez left, challenging the Pentecostal pastors to study the Adventist materials he had left with them relating to the three angels' messages and the seventh day Sabbath. He knew that if they studied as the Bereans had done, their hearts would be convicted of the truth contained in God's word.

Study they did, and convicted they became. After much study and prayer, the pastors were intrigued by what they were learning and sent an invitation for a return visit, this time to study the “meat” of the gospel. This past spring, after two weeks of meetings, several members of former Pentecostal churches stood for baptism into the body of Christ.

Many former Pentecostal pastors accepted the three angels' messages and the seventh-day Sabbath and will soon become affiliated with the Inter-America and Global Evangelism organization, a branch of the General Assembly of Free Seventh Day Adventists.

To support this kind of outreach effort, please mark your offerings *Evangelism*.



*from the*  
**Mission Fields**



## *Three Angels' Messages* *Victorious in Nigeria*

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By Domingo Nunez

In the summer of 2015, Michael, the Steps to Life Bible worker and medical missionary in the city of Owerri, Nigeria, sent an invitation to meet with a group of Pentecostal pastors led and directed by Bishop Matthew in the area around Owerri.

At that first meeting with them in 2015, Bishop Matthew and the pastors expressed their appreciation for the assistance they had received from Michael with regard to medical missionary advice and treatment. He willingly worked with all the community of Pentecostals.



**Top Left:** Evangelist Chidma James expresses her joy in accepting a new life in Jesus Christ as her husband Ahanotu James assists Pastor Domingo Nunez with her baptism.

**Top Right:** Pastor Domingo preaches the Three Angels' Messages on the Sabbath to the Pentecostal church.

**Bottom:** Bishop Matthew's church, where Pastor Domingo presented the Three Angels' Messages.

Because of the effect of Michael's medical ministry outreach, Bishop Matthew and the Pentecostal pastors invited us to come and meet with their congregations and study the true gospel message. Their hearts were open to a thorough examination of doctrinal issues, questions, and uncertainties they had relating to the gospel.

Brother Michael advised the pastors to meet with Pastor Nunez, the director of outreach evangelism from Steps to Life, to assist with their questions concerning gospel doctrines and theological issues.

This prompted my visit in 2015 where we were able to introduce the pastors to the three angels' messages. At the end of the meetings we agreed to pray to the Lord for guidance in this matter and material was left with them to study and research. They were assured that any

doctrinal questions they had would be addressed by brother Michael or they could write or call me.

At the beginning of 2019, Michael was informed that the materials they had received had been studied and researched and the pastors requested more meetings before making final decisions on theological questions.

By God's grace I was able to return to Owerri, Nigeria, to meet with them. After several days of meetings, they unanimously came to the decision to accept the three angels' messages. Furthermore, they had decided to make the transition from Sunday to accept the seventh-day Sabbath.

On Sabbath after the divine service some of the leaders of the church felt convicted to be baptized.

Sister Chidma James, an evangelist sister, and her husband, Ahanotu, and

three other brothers from the area near Michael's village who have been studying with him who had come to attend the meetings were also convicted by the Holy Spirit to submit to the watery death to self and be alive to Christ through baptism.

Bishop Matthew believes there will be many people of Abas who will be convicted by the Holy Spirit to be baptized into the three angels' messages. In anticipation, they will begin construction of a baptismal facility in this church so that they can be ready for all who are convicted by the Holy Spirit to be baptized and work together, getting ready for the second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Please pray for these brethren in their new discovery of the three angels' messages and this wonderful outreach result. [LM](#)

# The Meerkat

These gregarious animals are often seen in groups, and several families may live together in a large community. Squirrel-sized meerkats are mongooses famed for their upright posture. They often stand on their rear legs and gaze alertly over the southern African plains where they live. Mothers can even nurse their young while standing.

Meerkats (also called suricates) work together in numbers. A few will typically serve as lookouts, watching the skies for birds of prey, such as hawks and eagles, that can snatch them from the ground. A sharp, shrill call is the signal for all to take cover. While a few individuals guard the group, the rest busy themselves foraging for the foods that make up their varied diet. Meerkats will eat insects, lizards, birds, and fruit. When hunting small game, they work together and communicate with purring sounds. Meerkats are good hunters and are sometimes tamed for use as rodent-catchers.

Meerkat groups utilize several different burrows and move from one to

another. Each burrow is an extensive tunnel-and-room system that remains cool even under the broiling African sun. Females give birth to two to four young each year in one of the group's burrows. Fathers and siblings help to raise meerkat young, teaching them to play and forage and alerting them to the ever present danger from above. Young meerkats are so fearful of predatory birds that even airplanes will send them diving for cover.

Sentinel meerkats keep watch while the rest of the group eats. Meerkats live in groups of as many as 40 animals and are among the most cooperative mammals on Earth. Meerkats start each day with a sunbath to soak away the night's chill. While meerkat mothers are foraging, other members of the group babysit. [www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/m/meerkat/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/m/meerkat/)

"Each is to trade on his own talents, and thus increase them. By their faith, their prayers, their earnest, devoted example, men who have but a limited education will become as truly light-bearers as are the ministers. One will supply the deficiencies of another. Endowed with different gifts, all may act some part in diffusing light, all working together to the one great end. Each contributes not merely to the strength of one branch, but to the upbuilding of all." *The Review and Herald*, December 15, 1885. **LM**





Q:

*What is the Bible  
meaning of leaven  
and meal?*

A:

**A**nother parable spake He unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened" (Matthew 13:33).

"When leaven is introduced into meal, it penetrates to every part, till an entire change takes place. So it is with the work of the Holy Spirit upon the human heart. The truth received and believed introduces new rules, new principles of action into the life. A new standard of character is set up—the life of Christ. Those who thus receive the truth depend on Christ, and they receive more and still more strength, and greater and still greater light. Daily they expel from their hearts vanity, selfishness, self-righteousness.

"As they receive the spirit of Christ, light shines from them in clear, distinct rays. They have a solemn sense of eternal realities. There is a renewal of the entire mind and heart. As the leaven introduced into the meal leavened the whole, so the leaven of truth, if introduced into the heart, will absorb to itself all the properties of soul, body, and spirit. ...

"Transformation of heart means an entire change of the entire man. 'Except

a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God,' Christ declared (John 3:3). This change of heart is unseen; for it is an inward work, and yet, it is seen, because it works outward from within.

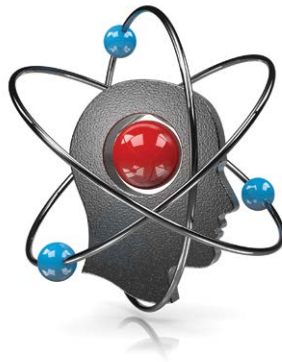
"Has the leaven of truth been at work in your heart? Has it absorbed the whole heart, the whole affections by its sanctifying power? ...

"Our first work is with our own hearts. The true principles of reform should be practiced. The heart must be converted and sanctified else we have no connection with Christ. While our hearts are divided, we shall never, never be fitted for usefulness in this life or for the future life. As intelligent beings, we need to sit down and think whether we are really seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. The very best thing we can do is to think soberly and candidly whether we desire to put forth the effort necessary to obtain the Christian hope and secure the Christian's heaven. If through the grace of Christ we decide that we do, the next question is: What is there that I must cut away from my life in order that I shall not stumble?"

*This Day With God*, 48. **LM**







## *Important Letters to Remember*

**W**e've all come to accept the notion that our brains will continue to shrink as we age. And nowhere is this decline more impactful than in the hippocampus, the brain's memory center.

Researchers measuring the size of the hippocampus using MRI scans demonstrate a clear correlation between shrinkage of the hippocampus and declining cognitive function.

Challenging the status quo notion that loss of hippocampal function is inevitable is new and exciting research showing that we have the potential to actually grow new cells in this vitally important area of the brain, expanding the hippocampus in size and enhancing memory function.

The growth of new cells in the brain, neurogenesis, is enhanced under the influence of a specific protein called BDNF. And while there is no pharmaceutical approach to increasing BDNF, animal research has long recognized that aerobic

exercise causes a robust increase in BDNF levels and as a consequence, increases both the growth of new cells in the hippocampus as well as increase in memory.

But while the animal research has long confirmed the relationship between aerobic exercise and the growth of new brain cells, this relationship has been only recently demonstrated to occur in humans.

Neuroscientist Kirk Erikson and his research team at the University of Pittsburg publishing in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* studied a group of 120 adults over a one year span.

Half the group was given a stretching program to perform 3 times each week while the other half engaged in 3 days of aerobics.

After one year, the two groups were evaluated looking at three parameters. First, using MRI scans, the change in size of the hippocampus was calculated. Second, serum measurements before and after the trial were measured. And finally, the

study actually measured memory function at the beginning and end of the trial.

The results were breathtaking. While the group doing the stretching program manifested a decline in memory, hippocampal size and BDNF levels, the aerobics group showed not only improvement in memory, but actually an increase in the size of the hippocampus accompanied by an increase in their blood levels of BDNF. The authors concluded: "These results clearly indicate that aerobic exercise is neuroprotective and that starting an exercise regimen later in life is not futile for either enhancing cognition or augmenting brain volume." Simply stated, this landmark research demonstrated that aerobic exercise increases the growth of new stem cells in the human brain, and these stem cells mature to become fully functioning neurons.

The important role of BDNF in preserving brain function was the subject of a landmark report in the prestigious *Journal of the American Medical Associa-*

tion. In the report, researchers showed that blood levels of BDNF almost perfectly predict future risk for declining brain function as long as 10 years in the future.

The results of these studies have huge implications. Multiple studies have now confirmed the fact that aerobic exercise can turn on the genetic machinery to manufacture BDNF, the brain's "growth hormone," creating new stem cells that become fully functioning neurons in the brain's memory center and actually improving memory. Despite the lack of any pharmaceutical development to enhance this process, you have direct control of your BDNF levels and thus the fate of your brain.

You can increase your BDNF levels and enhance the growth of new brain cells and memory. Here's how:

Engage in regular aerobic exercise. I recommend 20 minutes per day, 6 days each week. A good target heart rate is around 180 minus your age. Your specific target rate will depend on your level of fitness as well as medications you may be taking. That said, it's always a good idea to check with a healthcare practitioner before engaging in a new exercise program.

The omega-3, DHA (Docosahexaenoic Acid), like aerobic exercise, has been shown to activate the genes that turn on BDNF production. So take a supplement that contains DHA. DHA is available in ... algae-derived (suitable for vegetarians) products. ... My recommendation is a dosage of DHA of around 800mg daily.

Curcumin, the main active ingredient in the spice turmeric, is currently the subject of intense scientific inquiry, especially as it relates to the brain. But

curcumin isn't new to medical research as it has been used in traditional Chinese and Indian medicine for thousands of years. Curcumin is known to possess a variety of biochemical properties including antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-fungal, and anti-bacterial activities. But most exciting, as it relates to the brain, extensive research confirms that in humans, consumption of curcumin is associated with a significant rise in BDNF levels.

In a recent report in *Food and Nutrition Sciences*, researchers demonstrated how whole coffee fruit concentrate (WCFC) affected BDNF levels in humans. The study involved 20 young adults (25-35 years) who were asked to consume whole coffee fruit concentrate powder followed by blood evaluations of their BDNF levels. Remarkably, BDNF levels actually doubled in those individuals taking the whole coffee fruit concentrate in comparison to those who were given coffee or a placebo.

In another study published in the *British Journal of Nutrition*, researchers administered a single roomg dose of whole coffee fruit extract to a group of volunteers and observed a 143% increase in their blood values of BDNF. WCFC is a patented extract of whole coffee fruit from the common coffee bean, *Coffea arabica*. It contains chemicals called procyanidins which are known to protect brain cells, as well as a unique profile of polyphenols that may well relate to its ability to raise BDNF so dramatically.

“  
*Aerobic exercise  
increases the growth of  
new stem cells in the human  
brain, and these stem cells  
mature to become fully  
functioning neurons.*”

Again, BDNF is powerfully influential in determining your brain's destiny, so these new scientific reports showing the dramatic rise in BDNF with whole coffee fruit concentrate is very exciting, especially for me as a neuroscientist.

Extracts from *Extraordinary Health*, vol. 32, 2018, David Perlmutter, M.D. (America's Brain Health Expert, Board-certified Neurologist, #1 *New York Times* Best Selling Author, Fellow of the American College of Nutrition, and expert in the Human Microbiome.)

Studies have proven we can increase BDNF levels and enhance the growth of new brain cells and memory by engaging in regular aerobic exercise, incorporating omega 3s, curcumin and whole coffee fruit in the diet. But nothing will strengthen the intellect more than

the study of the Bible. "The Bible is the best book in the world for giving intellectual culture. Its study taxes the mind, strengthens the memory, and sharpens the intellect ... ." *Gospel Workers*, 100. "The mind will enlarge if it is employed in tracing out the subjects of the Bible, comparing scripture with scripture, and spiritual things with spiritual. There is nothing more calculated to strengthen the intellect than the study of the Scriptures. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible." *Christian Education*, 58. [LM](#)



*Continued from page 19*

Before the names of the candidates could be entered upon the list as competitors for the prize, they were required to undergo a severe preparatory training. Every indulgence of appetite and other gratification which could in the least affect their mental or physical vigor was strictly forbidden. As the contestants in the race made their appearance before the eager and waiting crowd, their names were heralded, and the rules of the race were expressly stated. The prize was placed in full view before the competitors. They all started together, the judges sitting near the goal line so they could award the prize to the person who was victorious, also seeing to it that no one took some unlawful advantage.

Great risks were run by the contestants in these contests. It happened sometimes that somebody overexerted themselves, just as athletes have done in our time, such that as they reached the finish line they fell over dead.

As a person reached the goal there was shout after shout of applause from the vast multitude that echoed around the surrounding hills and mountains and the judge, in full view of the spectators, would present the winner with the emblems of victory – a perishable laurel crown, and a palm branch to carry in his right hand. This crown was worn with great pride. Not only the one who won the race, but also his parents received their share of honor, and even the city where he lived was held in high esteem for having produced so great an athlete.

It is this experience that Paul presents as a striking figure of the Christian warfare. Notice what he says: “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate [exercises self-control] in all

things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.

But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I

have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified” (1 Corinthians 9:24–27).

Notice the seriousness of what the apostle Paul is saying here. The body must be disciplined and be under strict control. The words Paul used in the Greek New Testament are much stronger language than has been translated into our English Bibles. He says that we must have our body under strict subjection and have absolute self-control; if not, we will be disqualified.

“To be carnally [fleshly] minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be” (Romans 8:6, 7). Paul says here that it is the unconverted person who doesn’t have control over his body.

The Holy Spirit gives to the Christian the power to be in control of his life. By just reading certain portions of the writings of the apostle Paul some people get the wrong idea of his message. They read only the portions that have to do

with forgiveness of sin. You cannot do anything to earn forgiveness of sin. Forgiveness of sin comes as a gift of grace alone. The inheritance of eternal life is an infinite gift, and there’s no way that you can earn it. All are saved by grace by a gift of God. Salvation is an inheritance offered free to the entire human race, but it has conditions.

Those who desire to receive the gift must comply with the conditions. In the first epistle to the Corinthians, Paul gives several examples from the Old Testament that are especially applicable to people who are living in the end of time. He says concerning the children of Israel, “All our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness” (1 Corinthians 10:1–5). “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages [“world” KJV] have come” (verse 11).

What are these things that are examples for the people that live in the ends of the ages? He says, “These things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted” (verse 6). When God took the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt into the wilderness, He gave them a program that involved health reform and dietary reform. But many of them rebelled against having a change in their diet that would bring them into a more healthful condition.

Notice what happened: “Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving [lusting]; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: ‘Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the mel-

“  
*Ancient races were governed by strict regulations from which there was no appeal.*”

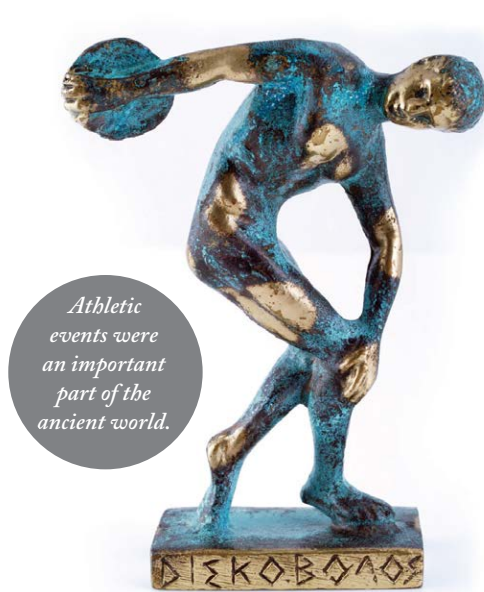
ons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes” (Numbers 11:4–6)!

Asaph, in contemplation of the wilderness wanderings, said they “ate angel’s food” (Psalm 78:25) and “were well filled” (verse 29). God did not provide for them an impoverished diet; God gave them a superior diet. Among the millions of people there was not one feeble one among all their tribes. (See Psalm 105:37.) Though they were eating angel’s food and were healthy, they wanted to go back to the kind of diet they ate in Egypt. The diet of Egypt resulted in all of the different degenerative diseases that we have today, a diet that will produce atherosclerosis, arthritis, heart disease and cancers. God prepared for them the kind of diet with which they would not suffer any of those diseases, but still they complained saying, “We want to eat flesh foods.”

Paul said this is an example for people who are living in the last days and warns against lusting after and craving evil things, things that God did not create for you to eat. In 1 Corinthians 10:7, Paul also lists something else. He says, “Do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, ‘The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.’” Here reference was made to worshipping the golden calf. (See Exodus 32.) Paul warned that many would follow the children of Israel in lusting after that which was forbidden, causing them to lose eternal life.

Sexuality was mentioned as being a special problem in the world in the last days. Paul said that just before the children of Israel were about to enter the Promised Land, thousands fell in one day due to the sin of sexual immorality. He said, “Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell” (1 Corinthians 10:8).

The experience at Baal Peor is recorded this way: “Now Israel remained



in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel. Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Take all the leaders of the people and hang the offenders before the LORD, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel.’ So Moses said to the judges of Israel, ‘Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor.’ And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel. And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand” (Numbers 25:1–9).

Being undisciplined, the children of Israel got involved in idolatry, sexual immorality, fornication and adultery and many of them lost their souls as a result. Take the warning, Paul said that what happened to them is an example for those who live in the time of the end. It is not worth forfeiting your eternal inheritance for sexual pleasure.

1 Corinthians 10:9, 10 says, “Nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor murmur, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed by the destroyer” (literal translation). The children of Israel being tempted, murmured and complained, tempting Christ. By His miraculous power, the LORD had protected them from the poisonous serpents in the desert for their whole journey, but when the LORD removed His protecting hand, the people found out that life in this world without God’s protection wasn’t nearly as safe as they had thought it was.

Friends, the whole world is under the grace of God at this present time, provided for us through the cross of Calvary. But the Bible teaches very clearly in the book of Revelation that the time is coming when God’s grace that is shielding our world is going to be removed. There is coming a time when the people of this world (that is, those who have sinned away their day of grace) are going to experience what it is like to be in a world without grace, where there is no mercy. If you accept Jesus as your Saviour, the Bible predicts that in that awful time no plague will come near your dwelling. But the way that you live, the way you treat your body, affects your eternal destiny. You can lose your eternal destiny; you can lose the gift of salvation, by treating your body in a sinful way. (See 1 Corinthians 9:24 to 27.)

Notice Numbers 21:5–9: “And the people spoke against God and against Moses: ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?



For there is no food and no water [that was a lie], and our soul loathes this worthless bread.' So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, 'We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.' So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived."

Jesus used this experience to illustrate the gospel to a leader of the Jews by the name of Nicodemus. Jesus said to him, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:14-16, literal translation).

Friend, every person in the world has been bitten by that ancient serpent the Bible calls the devil and Satan. We have been bitten by the instigator of sin; so much so, that the Bible says that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. But if you will look, if you will commit your life to the Saviour of the world, if you will choose to follow Him as your leader, surrender to Him, and choose Him as your Sovereign and obey Him,

then you can be healed from the sting of sin. Paul said point blank that if you destroy your body you yourself are going to be destroyed. You don't have to destroy your body instantly by taking a gun; you can destroy your body by taking different kinds of drugs or partaking in many other unhealthful practices. Paul was a very strict teacher of health reform.

After Paul told the church in Corinth how that it was necessary for them to be in strict control of their bodies, he knew that they would be tempted. They had been so used to living in sin.

Notice what he says to them, one of the most wonderful promises in all the

Bible: "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:12, 13).

He goes on to say, if you are a Christian, every detail of the conduct of your life should be in harmony with God's will by stating, "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (verse 31). That is the Christian's motto – the way you eat, what you eat, how you eat, the way you drink, what you drink, whatever you do, it should be to the glory of God.

To the person who does not pay attention to these requirements, Paul says, "Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you

have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:18-20). The Christian is to be sanctified, not only in his mind and in his spirit, but he is to be sanctified in his body. (See 1 Thessalonians 5:22 and 23.) God wants to sanctify not only your mind, but also your body, to bring your entire life into perfect conformity with His will. Paul says, Don't you know your body is to be the temple, the dwelling place, of the Holy Spirit. What you have is from God. You are not your own because you were bought at a price.

The price at which your body and soul were bought was the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. No one in the world belongs to himself or herself; it's just that most people don't recognize it. We have been bought with an expensive price.

Paul issues a strict and severe warning about those who do not pay attention to this counsel on how to treat your body, choosing to do as they want. He says: "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you" (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17)? Then there is a play on words that we usually translate two different ways, but the same word is used so it actually should be translated as follows: "If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are."

O, friend, there it is. Paul says that you are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you. If you defile or destroy the temple of God, God will destroy you.

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

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*Every indulgence  
of appetite and other  
gratification which could in  
the least affect the athletes'  
mental or physical vigor  
was forbidden.*”

July 28 – August 3, 2019

# The Publican and the Pharisee

## Key Text

“Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”  
(1 Corinthians 10:12).

**Study Help:** *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 150–163.

## Introduction

“There is nothing so offensive to God or so dangerous to the human soul as pride and self-sufficiency. Of all sins it is the most hopeless, the most incurable.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 154.

## Sunday

### WORSHIPING IN THE TEMPLE

- a. What was the purpose of Jesus in giving the parable of the two worshippers? Luke 18:9.

**Note:** “We must have a knowledge of ourselves, a knowledge that will result in contrition, before we can find pardon and peace. ... It is only he who knows himself to be a sinner that Christ can save. ... We must know our real condition, or we shall not feel our need of Christ’s help. We must understand our danger, or we shall not flee to the refuge. We must feel the pain of our wounds, or we should not desire healing.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 158.

- b. Describe the two men mentioned in the parable. Luke 18:10–13.

**Note:** “The Pharisee and the publican represent two great classes into which those who come to worship God are divided. Their first two representatives are found in the first two

children that were born into the world. Cain thought himself righteous, and he came to God with a thank offering only. He made no confession of sin, and acknowledged no need of mercy. But Abel came with the blood that pointed to the Lamb of God. He came as a sinner, confessing himself lost; his only hope was the unmerited love of God.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 152.

## Monday

### GOD’S VIEW OF THE SITUATION

- a. What did Jesus conclude about the two men who worshipped in the temple? Luke 18:14, *first part*.

**Note:** “In order to be justified, the sinner must have that faith that appropriates the merits of Christ to his own soul. We read that the devils ‘believe, and tremble’ (James 2:19), but their belief does not bring them justification, neither will the belief of those who give a merely intellectual assent to the truths of the Bible bring them the benefits of salvation. This belief fails of reaching the vital point, for the truth does not engage the heart or transform the character.” *Selected Messages*, Book 3, 191, 192.

- b. What did the Pharisee fail to see about himself? Romans 3:10–12; How can we make the same mistake?

**Note:** “The Pharisee goes up to the temple to worship, not because he feels that he is a sinner in need of pardon, but because he thinks himself righteous and hopes to win commendation. His worship he regards as an act of merit that will recommend him to God.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 150.

“Many are deceived concerning the condition of their hearts. They do not realize that the natural heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. They wrap themselves about with their own righteousness, and are satisfied in reaching their own human standard of character; but how fatally they fail when they do not reach the divine standard, and of themselves they cannot meet the requirements of God.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 320.

- c. What general principle does Jesus teach us from this parable? Luke 18:14, *second part*; 1 Peter 5:6; James 4:10.

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**Note:** “Humble yourselves, brethren. When you do this, it is possible for holy angels to communicate with you, and place you on vantage ground. Then your experience, instead of being faulty, will be filled with happiness.” *This Day With God*, 35.

“God grants no pardon to him whose penitence produces no humility.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 938.

## Tuesday

### HAVING THE PUBLICAN'S ATTITUDE

- a. How does God view the attitude of the publican? Psalm 51:17; 102:17.

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**Note:** “Fasting or prayer that is actuated by a self-justifying spirit is an abomination in the sight of God. The solemn assembly for worship, the round of religious ceremonies, the external humiliation, the imposing sacrifice, proclaim that the doer of these things regards himself as righteous, and as entitled to heaven; but it is all a deception. Our own works can never purchase salvation. ...

“Man must be emptied of self before he can be, in the fullest sense, a believer in Jesus. When self is renounced, then the Lord can make man a new creature.” *The Desire of Ages*, 280.

- b. What experience, like the publican, do we need in order to have pardon and peace? 1 John 1:9; Jeremiah 3:13.

**Note:** “It is not only at the beginning of the Christian life that this renunciation of self is to be made. At every advance step heavenward it is to be renewed. All our good works are dependent on a power outside of ourselves. Therefore there needs to be a continual reaching out of the heart after God, a continual, earnest, heartbreaking confession of sin and humbling of the soul before Him. Only by constant renunciation of self and dependence on Christ can we walk safely.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 159, 160.

- c. What was different about the prayer of the publican? Jeremiah 29:12, 13.

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**Note:** “There are two kinds of prayer—the prayer of form and the prayer of faith. The repetition of set, customary phrases when the heart feels no need of God, is formal prayer. ... We should be extremely careful in all our prayers to speak the wants of the heart and to say only what we mean. All the flowery words at our command are not equivalent to one holy desire. The most eloquent prayers are but vain repetitions if they do not express the true sentiments of the heart. But the prayer that comes from an earnest heart, when the simple wants of the soul are expressed just as we would ask an earthly friend for a favor, expecting that it would be granted—this is the prayer of faith.” *My Life Today*, 19.

## Wednesday

### AVOIDING THE PITFALLS OF THE PHARISEE

- a. What is the danger for those who do not acknowledge that they are sinners? Revelation 3:16, 17; Luke 5:31, 32.

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**Note:** “He who falls into some of the grosser sins may feel a sense of his shame and poverty and his need of the grace of Christ; but pride feels no need, and so it closes the heart against Christ and the infinite blessings He came to give.” *Steps to Christ*, 30.

“I am commissioned now to say to our brethren, Humble yourselves, and confess your sins, else God will humble you. The message to the Laodicean church comes home to those who do not apply it to themselves.” *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, 99.

- b. What often goes hand in hand with this type of spiritual pride? Psalm 12:3. What danger is involved here? Proverbs 26:28, *last part*; 29:5.

**Note:** “We need to shun everything that would encourage pride and self-sufficiency; therefore we should beware of giving or receiving flattery or praise. It is Satan’s work to flatter. He deals in flattery as well as in accusing and condemnation. Thus he seeks to work the ruin of the soul. Those who give praise to men are used by Satan as his agents. Let the workers for Christ direct every word of praise away from themselves. Let self be put out of sight. Christ alone is to be exalted.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 161, 162.

- c. Although he was once a proud leader in Israel, how did Paul’s experience change? Philippians 3:6–9; Romans 7:9; Galatians 6:14.

**Note:** “Judged by the letter of the law as men apply it to the outward life, he [Paul] had abstained from sin; but when he looked into the depths of its holy precepts, and saw himself as God saw him, he bowed in humiliation and confessed his guilt.” *Steps to Christ*, 29, 30.

“The nearer we come to Jesus, the more clearly we behold the purity and greatness of His character, the less we shall feel like exalting self. The contrast between our characters and His will lead to humiliation of soul and deep heart searching. The more we love Jesus, the more entirely will self be humbled and forgotten.” *The Upward Look*, 46.

## Thursday

### PRACTICING HUMILITY IN OUR LIFE

- a. How did Jesus show humility in His own life? Philippians 2:5–11.

**Note:** “The Son of man humbled Himself to become the servant of God. He submitted to abasement and self-sacrifice, even to death, to give freedom and life, and a place in His



kingdom to those who believe on Him. He gave His life as a ransom for many. This should be enough to make those who are continually seeking to be first and striving for the supremacy, ashamed of their course.” *This Day With God*, 356.

- b. What does Christ then require of us? Luke 9:23. What blessings are promised to the humble? Luke 18:14, *second part*; 1 Peter 5:6; James 4:10.

**Note:** “Those who believe in Christ and walk humbly with Him, ... who watch to see what they can do to help and bless and strengthen the souls of others, cooperate with the angels who minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation. Jesus gives them grace, and wisdom, and righteousness, making them a blessing to all with whom they are brought in contact. The more humble they are in their own estimation, the more blessings they receive from God, because receiving does not exalt them. They make a right use of their blessings, for they receive to impart.

“The ministering angels receive instruction from the throne of God to cooperate with human instrumentalities. They receive the grace of Christ, to give it to human beings.” *This Day With God*, 356.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Why can Christ only save those who know that they are sinners?
- 2 Why do you come to church?
- 3 How should we pray?
- 4 How can we overcome spiritual pride?
- 5 Why does God entrust His blessings to the humble?



August 4 – 10

# The Prodigal Son

## Key Text

“For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found” (Luke 15:24).

**Study Help:** *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 198–211.

## Introduction

“The love of the Father toward a fallen race is unfathomable, indescribable, without a parallel.” *God’s Amazing Grace*, 79.

## Sunday

### LURE OF THIS WORLD’S PLEASURES

- a. Although parables often have several applications, to what special class does the parable of the prodigal son apply? Luke 15:1, 2.

**Note:** “In the parable of the prodigal son is presented the Lord’s dealing with those who have once known the Father’s love, but who have allowed the tempter to lead them captive at his will.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 198.

- b. When tempted by the world, what request did the younger son make, and what did the father do? Luke 15:11, 12.
- c. What was the result of the younger son’s foolish ideas of freedom? Luke 15:13, 14; Jeremiah 17:5, 6. What may we learn from this story about selfishness?

**Note:** “Whatever the appearance may be, every life centered in self is squandered. Whoever attempts to live apart from God is wasting his substance. He is squandering the precious years, squandering the powers of mind and heart and soul, and working to make himself bankrupt for eternity. The man who separates from God that he may serve himself, is the slave of mammon.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 200, 201.

## Monday

### EMPTINESS OF WORLDLY PLEASURES

- a. What situation developed, and what did this once well-nurtured young man have to do? Luke 15:15, 16.

**Note:** “A great famine arises, he [the young man of the parable] begins to be in want, and he joins himself to a citizen of the country, who sends him into the field to feed swine. To a Jew this was the most menial and degrading of employments. The youth who has boasted of his liberty, now finds himself a slave. He is in the worst of bondage—‘holden with the cords of his sins’ (Proverbs 5:22.) The glitter and tinsel that enticed him have disappeared, and he feels the burden of his chain.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 200.

- b. As a result of his painful and humiliating experience, how did the prodigal son respond to the power of the Holy Spirit? Luke 15:17–19.

**Note:** “The young man turns from the swine herds and the husks, and sets his face toward home. Trembling with weakness and faint from hunger, he presses eagerly on his way. He has no covering to conceal his rags; but his misery has conquered pride, and he hurries on to beg a servant’s place where he was once a child.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 202, 203.

- c. What lessons does Solomon give us after spending most of his life chasing happiness in wealth and worldly pleasure? Ecclesiastes 2:4–12, 17, 18.

**Note:** “By his own bitter experience, Solomon learned the emptiness of a life that seeks in earthly things its highest good. He erected altars to heathen gods, only to learn how vain is their promise of rest to the soul.

“In his later years, turning wearied and thirsting from earth’s broken cisterns, Solomon returned to drink at the fountain of life. The history of his wasted years, with their lessons of warning, he by the Spirit of inspiration recorded for after generations. And thus, although the seed of his sowing was reaped by his people in harvests of evil, the lifework of Solomon was not wholly lost. For him at last the discipline of suffering accomplished its work.” *Education*, 153, 154.

## Tuesday

### THE DEMONSTRATION OF A FATHER’S LOVE

- a. As the prodigal son put his faith into action, what did he find out as he neared home? Luke 15:20, 21.

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**Note:** “In his restless youth the prodigal looked upon his father as stern and severe. How different his conception of him now!” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 204.

- b. How did the father demonstrate the love and interest that he had always felt for his erring son? Luke 15:22–24.

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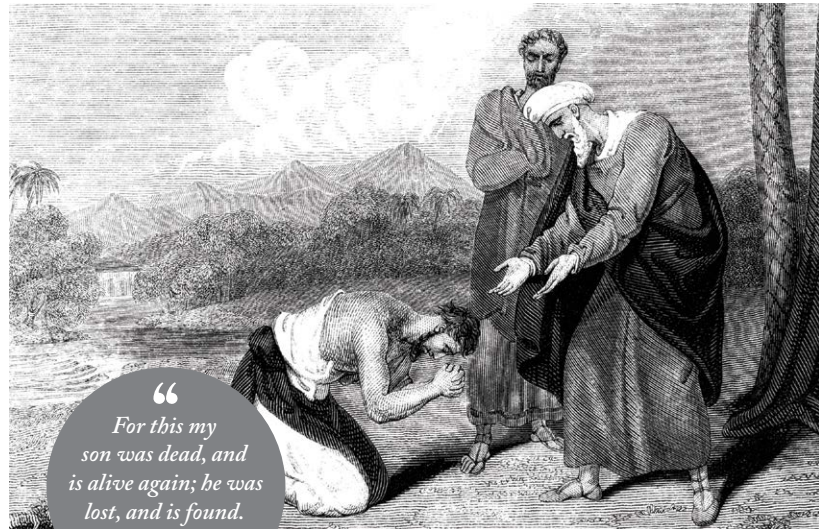


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**Note:** “The father will permit no contemptuous eye to mock at his son’s misery and tatters. He takes from his own shoulders the broad, rich mantle, and wraps it around the son’s wasted form, and the youth sobs out his repentance, saying, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son’ (Luke 15:21). The father holds him close to his side, and brings him home. No opportunity is given him to ask a servant’s place. He is a son, who shall be honored with the best the house affords, and whom the waiting men and women shall respect and serve.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 203, 204.



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For this my  
son was dead, and  
is alive again; he was  
lost, and is found.  
Luke 15:24

- c. How great is the joy of our heavenly Father when a lost soul returns to Him today? Zephaniah 3:17. What command will He give? Zechariah 3:4, 5.

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**Note:** “Through it [the plan of redemption] the sinner is forgiven his sins, and will be finally received into heaven—not as a forgiven culprit pardoned and released from captivity, yet looked upon with suspicion and not admitted to friendship and trust; but welcomed as a child, and taken back into fullest confidence. ...

“We are saved because God loves the purchase of the blood of Christ; and not only will He pardon the repentant sinner, not only will He permit him to enter heaven, but He, the Father of mercies, will wait at the very gates of heaven to welcome us, to give us an abundant entrance to the mansions of the blest.” *The Review and Herald*, September 21, 1886.

## Wednesday

### THE FATHER’S LOVE FOR THE SINNER

- a. What is the attitude of the heavenly host when a sinner returns to God? Luke 15:7.

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**Note:** “Fallen man is to learn that our Heavenly Father cannot be satisfied until His love embraces the repentant sinner, transformed through the merits of the spotless Lamb of God.” *God’s Amazing Grace*, 99.

- b. How deep is the love of God for man, and what does it lead Him to do? Jeremiah 31:3; John 3:16; 12:32.

**Note:** “While the sinner is yet far from the Father’s house, wasting his substance in a strange country, the Father’s heart is yearning over him; and every longing awakened in the soul to return to God is but the tender pleading of His Spirit, wooing, entreating, drawing the wanderer to his Father’s heart of love.

“With the rich promises of the Bible before you, can you give place to doubt? Can you believe that when the poor sinner longs to return, longs to forsake his sins, the Lord sternly withholds him from coming to His feet in repentance? Away with such thoughts! Nothing can hurt your own soul more than to entertain such a conception of our heavenly Father. He hates sin, but He loves the sinner, and He gave Himself in the person of Christ, that all who would might be saved and have eternal blessedness in the kingdom of glory.” *Steps to Christ*, 54.

- c. How does God desire us to manifest this love in our own life today? 1 John 4:20, 21.

**Note:** “When the heavenly principle of eternal love fills the heart, it will flow out to others, not merely because favors are received of them, but because love is the principle of action and modifies the character, governs the impulses, controls the passions, subdues enmity, and elevates and ennobles the affections. This love is not contracted so as merely to include ‘me and mine,’ but is as broad as the world and as high as heaven, and is in harmony with that of the angel workers. This love cherished in the soul sweetens the entire life and sheds a refining influence on all around.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 223, 224.

## Thursday

### A WARNING TO THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS

- a. What was of most concern to the self-justifying elder son? Luke 15:29, 30. What class of people does he represent?

**Note:** “By the elder son were represented the unrepenting Jews of Christ’s day, and also the Pharisees in every age, who look with contempt upon those whom they regard as publicans and sinners. Because they themselves have not gone to great excesses in vice, they are filled with self-righteousness. ... Like the elder son in the parable, they had enjoyed special privileges from God. They claimed to be sons in God’s house, but they had the spirit of the hireling. They were working, not from love, but from hope of reward.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 209.

- b. What was the father’s appeal to the elder brother? Luke 15:31, 32.

**Note:** “In the parable the father’s remonstrance with the elder son was Heaven’s tender appeal to the Pharisees. ‘All that I have is thine’ (Luke 15:31)—not as wages, but as a gift. Like the prodigal, you can receive it only as the unmerited bestowal of the Father’s love.

“Self-righteousness not only leads men to misrepresent God, but makes them coldhearted and critical toward their brethren. The elder son, in his selfishness and jealousy, stood ready to watch his brother, to criticize every action, and to accuse him for the least deficiency. He would detect every mistake, and make the most of every wrong act. Thus he would seek to justify his own unforgiving spirit. Many today are doing the same thing. While the soul is making its very first struggles against a flood of temptations, they stand by, stubborn, self-willed, complaining, accusing.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 209, 210.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What lesson is given by the parable of the prodigal son?
- 2 How is a life of sin in reality a life of bondage?
- 3 How does God receive the sinner that returns to Him?
- 4 How does the Father draw the sinner to Himself?
- 5 How can we be like the elder son in this parable?

August 11 – 17

# The Fig Tree

## Key Text

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:5).

**Study Help:** *Christ's Object Lessons*, 212–218.

## Introduction

"The Lord wills not that any man shall perish, but that all shall come to Him and be saved. But instead of His loving-kindness softening and subduing the soul, many of the objects of His love and mercy are encouraged to more obstinate resistance. O, that men would remember that there is a limit to the forbearance of God!" *The Review and Herald*, December 7, 1897.

## Sunday

### A MOTIVE FOR A PARABLE

- a. What event, that had just taken place in Jerusalem, was a motive for the presentation of the parable of the fig tree? Luke 13:1.

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**Note:** "The hearers told Jesus of an event which had just caused great excitement. Some of the measures of Pontius Pilate, the governor of Judea, had given offense to the people. There had been a popular tumult in Jerusalem, and Pilate had attempted to quell this by violence. On one occasion his soldiers had even invaded the precincts of the temple, and had cut down some Galilean pilgrims in the very act of slaying their sacrifices." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 212, 213.

- b. What shows that the Jews regarded misfortune as a punishment for sin? Luke 13:2, 4.

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**Note:** "The Jews regarded calamity as a judgment on account of the sufferer's sin, and those who told of this act of violence did so with secret satisfaction. In their view their own good fortune proved them to be much better, and therefore more favored by God, than were these Galileans." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 213.

## Monday

### A WARNING AND AN APPEAL

- a. What warning and appeal did Jesus make in connection with His answer? Luke 13:3–5.

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**Note:** "As Jesus talked with the disciples and the multitude, He looked forward with prophetic glance and saw Jerusalem besieged with armies. He heard the tramp of the aliens marching against the chosen city and saw the thousands upon thousands perishing in the siege. Many of the Jews were, like those Galileans, slain in the temple courts, in the very act of offering sacrifice. The calamities that had fallen upon individuals were warnings from God to a nation equally guilty. 'Except ye repent,' said Jesus, 'ye shall all likewise perish' (Luke 13:5). For a little time the day of probation lingered for them. There was still time for them to know the things that belonged to their peace." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 213, 214.

- b. In His teachings, what did Jesus link with the warning of judgment? Luke 9:56; John 3:17.

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**Note:** "Christ in His teaching linked with the warning of judgment the invitation of mercy." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 212.

- c. What appeal does God make to us today? Ezekiel 18:31; 33:11.

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**Note:** “Regeneration is the only path by which we can reach the holy city. It is narrow and the gate by which we enter is strait, but along it we are to lead men and women and children, teaching them that in order to be saved, they must have a new heart and a new spirit. The old hereditary traits of character are to be overcome. The natural desires of the soul must be changed. All deception, all falsifying, all evil-speaking must be put away. The new life, which makes men and women Christlike, is to be lived. We are, as it were, to swim against the current of evil.” *This Day With God*, 108.

“The Lord seeks to save, not to destroy. He delights in the rescue of sinners. ‘As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked’ (Ezekiel 33:11). By warnings and entreaties He calls the wayward to cease from their evil-doing and to turn to Him and live.” *Prophets and Kings*, 105.

## Tuesday

### A SYMBOLIC TREE

- a. To confirm His warning and appeal, what parable did Jesus tell His hearers? Luke 13:6, 7. In what sense was the unfruitful fig tree a fit representation of the Jewish nation? Hosea 10:1.

**Note:** “The people of Christ’s day made a greater show of piety than did the Jews of earlier ages, but they were even more destitute of the sweet graces of the Spirit of God. ...

“God in His Son had been seeking fruit, and had found none. Israel was a cumberer of the ground. Its very existence was a curse; for it filled the place in the vineyard that a fruitful tree might fill. It robbed the world of the blessings that God designed to give. The Israelites had misrepresented God among the nations. They were not merely useless, but a decided hindrance. To a great degree their religion was misleading, and wrought ruin instead of salvation.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 215.

- b. What shows that the blame for their failure lay at their own doors? Acts 7:51–53.

- c. How can we also be like the unfruitful fig tree? John 15:4, 5.

**Note:** “Like the pretentious fig tree, we may be covered with leaves but be destitute of fruit. While we know that the truth we hold is as firm as the everlasting hills, how many of us are ready to settle down upon the theory of that truth, without having evidence that Christ is in them, and they in Christ? How many are content to pass on from day to day without experiencing its sanctifying influence upon the heart, which leads to good works. ...

“We should not only take hold of the truth, but let it take hold of us; and thus have the truth in us and we in the truth. And if this is the case, our lives and characters will reveal the fact that the truth is accomplishing something for us; that it is sanctifying us, and is giving us a moral fitness for the society of heavenly angels in the kingdom of glory. The truth we hold is from heaven; and when that religion finds a lodgement in the heart, it commences its work of refining and purifying.” *The Signs of the Times*, May 9, 1878.

## Wednesday

### A PERIOD OF ADDED PROBATION

- a. How did the dresser of the vineyard plead with the owner? Luke 13:8.

- b. What parallel can be drawn between the days before the destruction of Jerusalem and the days before the end of human history? 2 Peter 3:9, 10.

**Note:** “O the precious longsuffering of our merciful Saviour! O that each of the dear youth would appreciate the value of the soul that has been purchased at infinite cost on Calvary! O that each one would place a proper estimate upon the capabilities that have been given him of God! Through Christ you may climb the ladder of progress, and bring every power under the control of Jesus. ... In spirit, in thought, in word, and in action, you may make manifest that you are moved by the Spirit of Christ, and your life may wield a power of influence over others.

“We are living in altogether too solemn a period of the world’s history to be careless and negligent. ... You must pray, believe, and obey. In your own strength you can do nothing; but in the grace of Jesus Christ, you can employ your powers in such a way as to bring the greatest good to your own soul, and the greatest blessing to the souls of others. Lay hold of Jesus, and you will diligently work the works of Christ, and will finally receive the eternal reward.” *Sons and Daughters of God*, 118.

- c. How did Jesus, in conclusion, show that they themselves as a nation had to decide their own fate? Luke 13:9.

**Note:** “Jesus did not in the parable tell the result of the gardener’s work. At that point His story was cut short. Its conclusion rested with the generation that heard His words. To them the solemn warning was given. ‘If not, then after that thou shalt cut it down’ (Luke 13:9). Upon them it depended whether the irrevocable words should be spoken. The day of wrath was near. In the calamities that had already befallen Israel, the owner of the vineyard was mercifully forewarning them of the destruction of the unfruitful tree.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 216.

## Thursday

### A WARNING FOR US TODAY

- a. What warning should believers in the threefold message take from this parable? What efforts is the Lord still making in our behalf? Isaiah 27:2–4; Hosea 11:8, *first part*.

**Note:** “The warning sounds down along the line to us in this generation. Are you, O careless heart, a fruitless tree in the Lord’s vineyard? Shall the words of doom ere long be spoken of you? How long have you received His gifts? How long has He watched and waited for a return of love? Planted in His vineyard, under the watchful care of the gardener, what privileges are yours! How often has the tender gospel message thrilled your heart! You have taken the name of Christ, you are outwardly a member of the church which is His body, and yet you are conscious of no living connection with the great heart of love. The tide of His life does not flow through you. The sweet graces of His character, ‘the fruits of the Spirit,’ are not seen in your life.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 216.



Like  
the pretentious  
fig tree, we may be  
covered with leaves  
but be destitute of  
fruit.

- b. What sentence must finally be passed upon those who do not respond to God’s care and labor for them? Hosea 4:17; Revelation 3:16.

**Note:** “The heart that does not respond to divine agencies becomes hardened until it is no longer susceptible to the influence of the Holy Spirit. Then it is that the word is spoken, ‘Cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?’ (Luke 13:7).” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 218.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Why did the Jews speak of calamity with secret satisfaction?
- 2 How must we change in order to be regenerated, fruitful trees in God’s garden?
- 3 When we fail to bear fruit in our life, how does this affect the world around us? What reflection does this have upon our religion?
- 4 How does the manner in which we use the powers given to us by God affect the fruit we bear in our life?
- 5 Even though we may be a member of the church, how can we be a fruitless tree in the Lord’s vineyard?

August 18 – 24

# Without a Wedding Garment

## Key Text

“And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless” (Matthew 22:12).

**Study Help:** *Christ's Object Lessons*, 307–319.

## Introduction

“The parable of the wedding garment opens before us a lesson of the highest consequence. By the marriage is represented the union of humanity with divinity; the wedding garment represents the character which all must possess who shall be accounted fit guests for the wedding.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 307.

## Sunday

### INVITED TO A ROYAL WEDDING

- a. In the parable of the wedding garment, by whose authority is the invitation sent forth? What is the response? Matthew 22:2, 3.

- b. How was the king's invitation treated the second time? Matthew 22:4–6.

**Note:** “In this parable [of the wedding garment], as in that of the great supper, are illustrated the gospel invitation, its rejection by the Jewish people, and the call of mercy to the Gentiles. But on the part of those who reject the invitation, this parable brings to view a deeper insult and a more dreadful punishment. The call to the feast is a king's invitation. It proceeds from one who is vested with power to command. It confers high honor. Yet the honor is unappreciated. The king's authority is despised.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 307.

- c. What did the king now command to be done to those who had despised his invitation? Matthew 22:7.

## Monday

### SEEKING GUESTS

- a. Who was then invited to the marriage feast? Matthew 22:8–10. What does this call tell us about those who accept the gospel invitation? Matthew 7:21; James 1:22; John 3:5.

**Note:** “The class first bidden could not afford, they thought, to sacrifice any worldly advantage for the sake of attending the king's banquet. And of those who accepted the invitation, there were some who thought only of benefiting themselves. They came to share the provisions of the feast, but had no desire to honor the king.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 309.

“We must not be overwhelmed because good and bad are gathered into the church. Judas was numbered among the disciples. He had every advantage a man could have; but although he heard the truth, and listened to the principles so plainly laid down, Christ knew that he did not receive the truth. He did not eat the truth. It did not become part of himself. His old habits constantly asserted themselves. But Christ did not take forcible means to cut Judas away from the disciples.

“There is a time coming when those who have joined the church, but have not joined Christ, will be manifest.” *The Review and Herald*, February 7, 1899.

- b. What happened when the king came in to the feast to inspect the guests? Matthew 22:11.

**Note:** “For every guest at the feast there had been provided a wedding garment. This garment was a gift from the king. By wearing it the guests showed their respect for the giver of the feast. But one man was clothed in his common citizen dress. ... The garment provided for him at great cost he disdained to wear. Thus he insulted his lord.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 309.

- c. What did the king say to the man who was without a wedding garment? Matthew 22:12–14.
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**Note:** “Many hear the invitation of mercy, are tested and proved; but few are sealed with the seal of the living God. Few will humble themselves as a little child, that they may enter the kingdom of heaven.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 50.

## Tuesday

### A WORK OF EXAMINATION

- a. What is represented by the examination of the guests? Daniel 7:9, 10.
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**Note:** “By the king’s examination of the guests at the feast is represented a work of judgment. The guests at the gospel feast are those who profess to serve God, those whose names are written in the book of life. But not all who profess to be Christians are true disciples. Before the final reward is given, it must be decided who are fitted to share the inheritance of the righteous. This decision must be made prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven; for when He comes, His reward is with Him, ‘to give every man according as his work shall be’ (Revelation 22:12). Before His coming, then, the character of every man’s work will have been determined, and to every one of Christ’s followers the reward will have been apportioned according to his deeds.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 310.

- b. As this parable clearly has reference to the ongoing investigative judgment, what is represented by the invitation of the king? Revelation 3:20, 21. What do many say by their actions? Verse 17.
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*The wedding garment represents the character which all must possess who shall be accounted fit guests for the wedding.*

**Note:** “The man who came to the feast without a wedding garment represents the condition of many in our world today. They profess to be Christians, and lay claim to the blessings and privileges of the gospel; yet they feel no need of a transformation of character. They have never felt true repentance for sin. They do not realize their need of Christ or exercise faith in Him. They have not overcome their hereditary or cultivated tendencies to wrongdoing. Yet they think that they are good enough in themselves, and they rest upon their own merits instead of trusting in Christ. Hearers of the Word, they come to the banquet, but they have not put on the robe of Christ’s righteousness.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 315.

“Every warning, reproof, and entreaty in the word of God or through His messengers is a knock at the door of the heart. It is the voice of Jesus asking for entrance. With every knock unheeded, the disposition to open becomes weaker. The impressions of the Holy Spirit if disregarded today, will not be as strong tomorrow. The heart becomes less impressible, and lapses into a perilous unconsciousness of the shortness of life, and of the great eternity beyond.” *The Desire of Ages*, 489, 490.

## Wednesday

### POSSESSING A HEAVENLY GARMENT

- a. What constitutes the wedding garment which all must have if they want to have a part in the marriage feast in heaven? Revelation 19:7, 8.
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**Note:** “By the wedding garment in the parable is represented the pure, spotless character which Christ’s true followers will possess. ... It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished character, that through faith is imparted to all who receive Him as their personal Saviour. ...

“This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 310, 311.

- b. How do we obtain a righteous character? Isaiah 55:1; Matthew 5:6.

**Note:** “When a soul receives Christ, he receives power to live the life of Christ.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 314.

“Not by painful struggles or wearisome toil, not by gift or sacrifice, is righteousness obtained; but it is freely given to every soul who hungers and thirsts to receive it.” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 18.

- c. What does righteousness involve? 1 John 3:7, 24; John 15:5.

**Note:** “Righteousness is right doing, and it is by their deeds that all will be judged. Our characters are revealed by what we do. The works show whether the faith is genuine. ...

“We may believe that the name of Jesus is the only name under heaven whereby man may be saved, and yet we may not through faith make Him our personal Saviour. It is not enough to believe the theory of truth. It is not enough to make a profession of faith in Christ and have our names registered on the church roll. ‘He that keepeth His commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us.’ ‘Hereby we do know that we know Him if we keep His commandments’ (1 John 3:24; 2:3). This is the genuine evidence of conversion. Whatever our profession, it amounts to nothing unless Christ is revealed in works of righteousness.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 312, 313.

## Thursday

### A BLESSED EXPERIENCE

- a. Describe the glorious experience of those who accept Christ’s offer as recorded in Revelation 3:18. Revelation 19:8, 9.

**Note:** “The spotless robe of Christ’s righteousness is placed upon the tried, tempted, faithful children of God. The despised remnant are clothed in glorious apparel, nevermore to be defiled by the corruptions of the world. Their names are retained in the Lamb’s book of life, enrolled among the faithful of all ages. ... These [faithful ones] are they that stand upon Mount Zion with the Lamb, having the Father’s name written in their foreheads. They sing the new song before the throne, that song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand which were redeemed from the earth.” *Prophets and Kings*, 591.

- b. What experience of Christ, while He was on this earth, is possible for us to have today? Psalm 40:8; John 15:10.

**Note:** “By His [Christ’s] perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God’s commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 312.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How can we honor our King as He invites us to unite our humanity with His divinity?
- 2 How are we sometimes like those who accepted the king’s invitation but had the wrong motive?
- 3 How does Jesus knock at the door of the heart, and what does He desire?
- 4 What is symbolized by the wedding garment, and how do we know if we are wearing it?
- 5 What does it mean to be clothed with Christ’s righteousness?

August 25 – 31

# The Rich Man and Lazarus

## Key Text

“And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead” (Luke 16:31).

**Study Help:** *Christ's Object Lessons*, 260–271.

## Introduction

“Those who are poor in this world's goods, yet who trust in God and are patient in suffering, will one day be exalted above those who now hold the highest positions the world can give but who have not surrendered their life to God.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 260.

## Sunday

### DESTINY FIXED AT DEATH

- a. What parable illustrates the truth that a person's future is fixed at death according to his or her manner of life? Explain the difference between the two men, and tell the lesson we can learn. Luke 16:19–21.

**Note:** “In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, Christ shows that in this life men decide their eternal destiny. ... If men waste their opportunities in self-pleasing, they cut themselves off from everlasting life. No after-probation will be granted them. By their own choice they have fixed an impassable gulf between them and their God.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 260.

- b. What eventually happened to both the beggar and the rich man? Luke 16:22.

**Note:** “The poor man had suffered day by day, but he had patiently and quietly endured. In the course of time he died and was buried. There was no one to mourn for him; but by his patience in suffering he had witnessed for Christ, he had endured the test of his faith, and at his death he is represented as being carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 262.

## Monday

### CORRECTING ERRONEOUS VIEWS

- a. Though erroneous, what belief held by many of His hearers did Jesus use to teach important truths? In the destiny of the rich man, what truth was Jesus teaching? Luke 16:23, 24.

**Note:** “In this parable Christ was meeting the people on their own ground. The doctrine of a conscious state of existence between death and the resurrection was held by many of those who were listening to Christ's words. The Saviour knew of their ideas, and He framed His parable so as to inculcate important truths through these preconceived opinions. He held up before His hearers a mirror wherein they might see themselves in their true relation to God. He used the prevailing opinion to convey the idea He wished to make prominent to all—that no man is valued for his possessions; for all he has belongs to him only as lent by the Lord. A misuse of these gifts will place him below the poorest and most afflicted man who loves God and trusts in Him.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 263.

- b. What does the Bible teach in regard to the state of the body and soul in death? Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6; Psalm 146:2–4; John 11:11.

**Note:** “My mind had often been disturbed by its efforts to reconcile the immediate reward or punishment of the dead with the undoubted fact of a future resurrection and judgment. If at death the soul entered upon eternal happiness or misery, where was the need of a resurrection of the poor moldering body?”

“But this new and beautiful faith taught me the reason why inspired writers had dwelt so much upon the resurrection of the body; it was because the entire being was slumbering in the grave. I could now clearly perceive the fallacy of our former position on this question.” *Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, 49, 50.

- c. What is the response of the figurative Abraham to the appeal of the rich man? Luke 16:25.

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**Note:** “What are the sufferings of this present life, compared with the final eternal weight of glory?” *The Signs of the Times*, December 10, 1885.

## Tuesday

### AN OPPORTUNITY LOST FOREVER

- a. What additional difficulty was stated by Abraham in this illustrative conversation? Luke 16:26.

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**Note:** “It is a solemn thing to die, but a far more solemn thing to live. Every thought and word and deed of our lives will meet us again. What we make of ourselves in probationary time, that we must remain to all eternity. Death brings dissolution to the body, but makes no change in the character. The coming of Christ does not change our characters; it only fixes them forever beyond all change.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 466.

- b. What concern hitherto unheeded is voiced by the rich man? Luke 16:27, 28. Has God left anything undone in providing for our salvation?

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**Note:** “When the rich man solicited additional evidence for his brothers, he was plainly told that should this evidence be given, they would not be persuaded. His request cast a reflection on God. It was as if the rich man had said, If you had more thoroughly warned me, I should not now be here. Abraham in his answer to this request is represented as saying, Your brothers have been sufficiently warned. Light has been given them, but they would not see; truth has been presented to them, but they would not hear.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 264, 265.

“When God gave Christ to our world, He gave in this one gift all the treasures of heaven. He held back nothing. He can do no more than He has done to bring men to repentance. He has no means held in reserve for their salvation.” *The Review and Herald*, September 17, 1901.

- c. As we view the condition of this world today, what sobering thoughts should we consider? James 4:14; 2 Corinthians 6:2.

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**Note:** “He [God] bears with men until the last resource for leading them to repentance is exhausted. But there are limits to His forbearance.” *The Review and Herald*, September 17, 1901.

“Come now, while mercy lingers; come with confession, come with contrition of soul, and God will abundantly pardon. Do not dare to slight another opportunity.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 353.

## Wednesday

### AMPLE WARNING NEGLECTED

- a. What testimony did the Jewish nation first refuse, and what further evidence did Jesus say they would ignore? Luke 16:29–31; John 5:46, 47.

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**Note:** “‘If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead’ (Luke 16:31). These words were proved true in the history of the Jewish nation. Christ’s last and crowning miracle was the raising of Lazarus of Bethany, after he had been dead four days. The Jews were given this wonderful evidence of the Saviour’s divinity, but they rejected it. Lazarus rose from the dead and bore his testimony before them, but they hardened their hearts against all evidence, and even sought to take his life (John 12:9–11).” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 265.

- b. What spiritual blessings were given to the Jews? Romans 9:3–5. What were many of them guilty of doing with their blessings? Luke 12:21.

**Note:** “When Christ gave the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, there were many in the Jewish nation in the pitiable condition of the rich man, using the Lord’s goods for selfish gratification, preparing themselves to hear the sentence, ‘Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting’ (Daniel 5:27). The rich man was favored with every temporal and spiritual blessing, but he refused to cooperate with God in the use of these blessings.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 267.

- c. How can we be in danger of making the same mistake? Proverbs 14:31; Zechariah 7:10.

**Note:** “If God gives us much of this world’s goods, it is not that we may selfishly hoard them, or that we may crave for more, but that we may freely impart to those not so richly blessed. Nothing so refreshes the spirit as giving gladly and willingly of the blessings God has so freely given us. The life of the soul is revived by the sight of the good thus accomplished, and by a sense that a conscientious use has been made of the Lord’s goods.” *The Review and Herald*, May 27, 1902.

“The same spirit of sacrifice which purchased salvation for us will dwell in the hearts of all who become partakers of the heavenly gift.” *Lift Him Up*, 278.

## Thursday

### ANGER IN SELF-CONFIDENCE

- a. What self-satisfied confidence was held by God’s favored people in the time of Christ? John 8:33. When did they understand His warning?

**Note:** “When calamity came upon Jerusalem, when starvation and suffering of every kind came upon the people, they remembered these words of Christ and understood the parable. They had brought their suffering upon themselves by their neglect to let their God-given light shine forth to the world.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 269.

- b. What similar deception affects the Laodiceans? Revelation 3:16, 17.



**Note:** “Today there is a class in our world who are self-righteous. They are not gluttons, they are not drunkards, they are not infidels; but they desire to live for themselves, not for God. He is not in their thoughts; therefore they are classed with unbelievers. Were it possible for them to enter the gates of the city of God, they could have no right to the tree of life, for when God’s commandments were laid before them with all their binding claims they said, No. They have not served God here; therefore they would not serve Him hereafter. They could not live in His presence, and they would feel that any place was preferable to heaven.

“To learn of Christ means to receive His grace, which is His character. But those who do not appreciate and utilize the precious opportunities and sacred influences granted them on earth, are not fitted to take part in the pure devotion of heaven.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 270, 271.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What lesson was taught in this parable about the lives of the two men?
- 2 How did the reply of Abraham reveal the rich man’s problem?
- 3 What did the request of the rich man concerning his brothers imply?
- 4 What does this parable teach about present opportunities?
- 5 Self-righteous church members are not infidels. Why then are they classed with unbelievers?

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# CAMPMEETING

with  
John Grosboll  
&  
Anthony Burns

**September 6 & 7, 2019**

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**Sabbath: 9:15 am - 8:00 pm**



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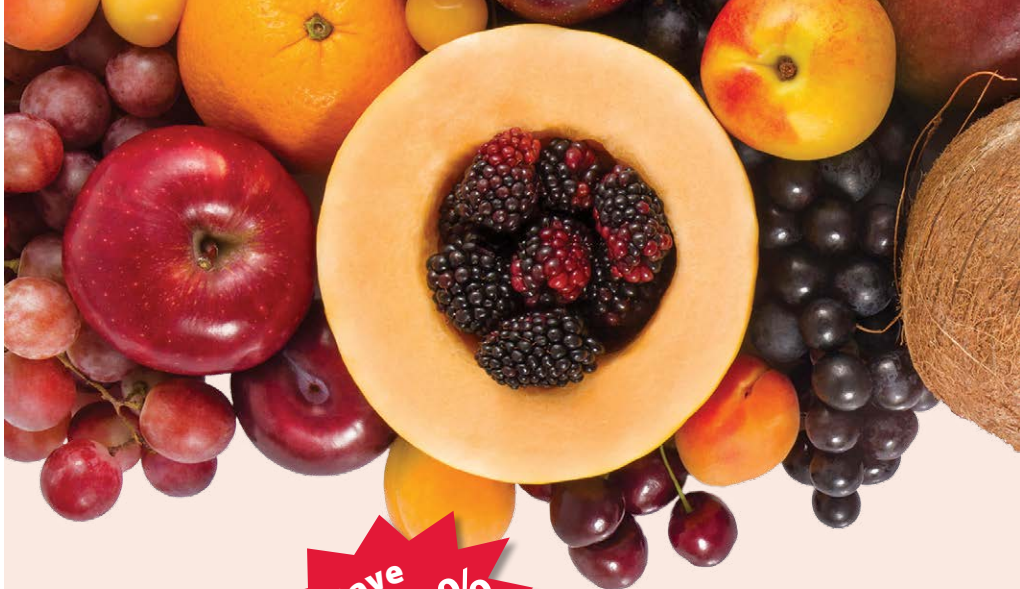
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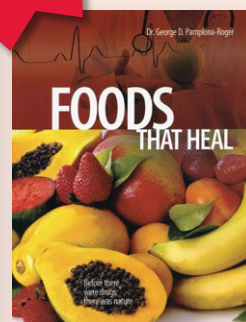
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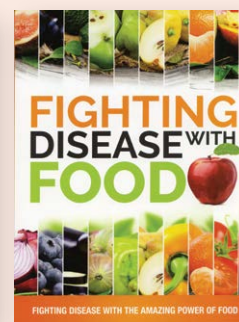
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# Peeled Apple?

I am amazed when I see people peel an apple before eating it. Some just do not like the texture or the taste of the peelings but that is where much of the nourishment is. Just remember that you are not getting all an apple has to offer by peeling off the skin. Here are some very powerful reasons to never remove the skin again.

**“The skin packs most of the fiber.** A medium apple with the skin contains 4.4 grams of fiber. Without the skin, you’re only getting 2.1 grams, not even enough to qualify it as a “good source of fiber” (the cutoff is 3 grams).

**“The skin also packs most of the vitamins.** That same medium apple with skin packs 8.4 milligrams of vitamin C and 98 international units (IU) of vitamin A. Ditch the skin and that falls to 6.4 milligrams of vitamin C and 61 IU of vitamin A.

**“Apples can ease breathing problems — but only if you eat the skin.** The compound responsible is called quercetin, and it’s found mostly in the peel. One study found that people who eat five or more apples each week have better lung function thanks to quercetin’s effects, Health.com reported.

**“Quercetin also protects your memory.** The antioxidant seems to fight off tissue damage in the brain linked to Alzheimer’s disease and other degenerative problems — at least in rats, according to a 2004 study.

**“A skin-on apple a day keeps spare pounds away.** The peel is also home to ursolic acid, an important compound in the obesity-fighting ability of apples. Ursolic acid seems to increase muscle and brown fat, which increases calorie burn, thereby lowering obesity risk, at least in mice, according to a 2012 study.” [www.huffpost.com/entry/never-peel-apple\\_n\\_4791328](http://www.huffpost.com/entry/never-peel-apple_n_4791328)

Fruit

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



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1 cup regular oats  
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### Process

Mix all together, adding water last. Stir well. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Stir in the morning and eat! Berries, bananas, or other fruit in season can be added for extra flavor before eating. Enjoy!





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else ... Apples are superior to any  
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*Ellen White*

