

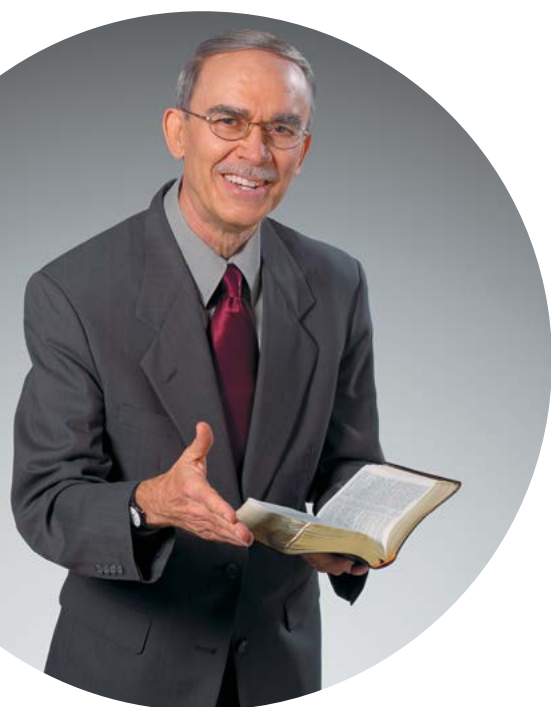
HISTORIC  
**LANDMARKS**  
OF ADVENTISM

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## From the Editor

*John J. Grosboll*

# Fishers of Men

**B**ehold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks" (Jeremiah 16:16).

Jesus told His disciples that He would make them fishers of men. To fish, you put bait on a line and then wait for a fish to bite. I have watched fishermen sitting for hours waiting for a fish to accept the bait. Evangelistic meetings and literature distribution of all kinds are the bait that is divinely ordained to reach people with the opportunity of salvation.

A hunter though follows a different approach. Instead of waiting for a fish to accept the bait, he goes to where the prey is and seeks to take it. This is like a Bible worker who aggressively visits all the people in a neighborhood or town or city.

We were instructed that "In every large city there should be a corps of organized, well-disciplined workers; not merely one or two, but scores should be set to work." *Evangelism*, 96. Also, "A great work can be done by presenting to the people the Bible just as it reads. Carry the word of God to every man's door, urge its plain statements upon

every man's conscience." *The Review and Herald*, July 10, 1883.

But today, just as in Ellen White's day, "there is a dearth of workers at a time when we so much need men who show all-around efficiency." *Spalding and Magan Collection*, 344.

Has God called you to engage full time in the finishing of His work in the earth?

"In all fields, nigh and afar off, men will be called from the plow and from the more common commercial business vocations that largely occupy the mind, and will be educated in connection with men of experience. As they learn to labor effectively, they will proclaim the truth with power." *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 96.

There is still opportunity for properly trained gospel workers to gain an abundant harvest in God's work. If God has called you but you need training or if you are already trained and looking for a full-time opportunity in gospel ministry, please contact us. We know of many opportunities both in the United States and in foreign countries. Contact Steps to Life via email with a statement of your qualifications and desires at [historic@stepstolife.org](mailto:historic@stepstolife.org), or by U.S. mail at Steps to Life Ministry, PO Box 782828, Wichita, KS 67278. [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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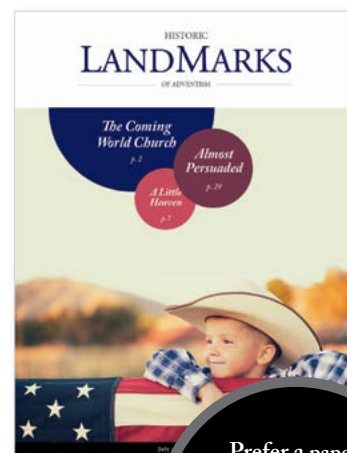
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# *Fall on the Rock*

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By John J. Grosboll

**M**any years ago, at a General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, one of the most powerful and successful evangelists gave his personal testimony. People were surprised to hear that although he was successful and looked up to as a leading minister for many years, he had become convicted that he was not converted.



This is not a rare situation. Over the years I have heard of many similar cases. It often takes a catastrophic event for a person to realize their true position with God and their need for a deeper conversion. It is easy for the heart to be divided. You may think you have a heart for the Lord, but often there is still something in this world that has a hold on you.

After a prophecy seminar in North Dakota, I was visiting the home of some of the attendees with another minister who at that time was a very successful evangelist. It was clear that these people understood the truths that had been shared and had no objection to anything, but they would not go the extra step and make a commitment to follow Jesus all the way. Something in the world had a hold on them.

I have found myself in that same scenario many times. From a very young age I had been taught that once we preached the gospel in all the world for a witness to all nations, Jesus would come and we could all go to Heaven. It seemed easy if we would all get busy. But I got a reality check from a retired missionary to South America while visiting with him one morning. He said that if it were just the information of the three angels' messages that was needed, God could give it to every single person in the world in one night in a dream. The trouble is, it takes more than information to finish God's work.

In order for God's work to be finished, those spreading the three angels' messages need a change of heart, what we call conversion. There is division amongst God's people. Some people have become upset with some Bible translations because the word *converted* in the King James Bible is translated *turned* in many modern translations. However, the Greek word used actually means *to turn around and go a different way*. It is not enough to have the information, to have an intellectual knowledge of the truth unless the truth has changed my life.



*It often takes a catastrophic event for a person to realize their need for a deeper conversion.*

Pastor David Kang was another well-known minister who experienced a deeper conversion. He was born in Korea and immigrated into the United States with his wife in 1975. After studying at Andrews University, he became a very successful Seventh-day Adventist pastor in Florida pastoring a number of Korean churches.

In 1984 as he was studying, he said the Holy Spirit convicted him of being a hypocrite. When the Holy Spirit convicts you, a choice must be made. Either you accept the conviction and the reproof, or you reject it. Pastor Kang began to spend many hours each day in serious study of the Spirit of Prophecy. Those privileged to have heard him preach know that his preaching was intensely practical. He preached about practical godliness and the blessing of really experiencing the gospel and living the life of Christ. He saw the need of reflecting to the world an image of the character of Jesus.

The theme of Pastor Kang's message came from 2 Peter 3 where the apostle Peter tells us that the day of the Lord is going to come as a great surprise. It says, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which

the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (verses 10–13).

The new earth in which righteousness dwells is what we are expecting and looking for. So Peter says, "Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless" (verse 14).

Pastor Kang would repeat to his staff the necessity of being without spot and blameless to be ready for the Lord to come. He preached so much about practical godliness that he had to resist the criticism from people all over the world that his message was too strict.

Another preacher, Elder Fordyce Detamore, one of my favorites, had another style of preaching and burden to share.

It is important to allow each preacher to share what the Lord has put on his heart. In making his appeals at camp meetings, it was not uncommon at all for him to spend 30 minutes in an appeal. To those whose hearts were warmed with his message, it seemed like just a few moments.

At the end of the meeting on one occasion while making his appeal he called for those who knew somebody in the congregation that needed to make a decision to follow the Lord all the way, to go up to them and tell them that if they would go forward, you will go forward with them. He suggested that if you encourage them to make a commitment, they will not hold it against you in the day of judgment.

It just so happened that while sitting in the back of the meeting I noticed a lady to whom I had given

Bible studies sitting probably two or three rows from the front. She believed the truths that I had shown her, but I had been unable to help her to make a decision. As Elder Detamore made his appeal I was convicted that I had nothing to lose if I encouraged her to go forward. Even if she might get mad at me, she would not hold it against me in the day of judgment. So I walked up to her and made the offer to go forward with her if she should choose. She made a decision and went forward and was baptized just a few days later.

If you are almost saved, you are still totally lost. On the day of judgment there will be many people like Felix Agrippa (Acts 26:28). He heard the gospel and he believed it but put off making a decision until a convenient time that never came. Consequently, he will be lost.

A mere intellectual knowledge of the truth will not save you. The Pharisees knew the truth better than anyone, but they refused the power necessary for that truth to change their hearts and lives.

After Pastor Kang's deeper conversion experience in 1984, he started to preach that unless our characters are without spot and

blameless, we will not be fit to go to heaven, even if we know the truth. This teaching infuriated the church leaders who accused him of fanaticism and smeared his reputation as a proponent of heresy. At his funeral, a man who had attended the seminary in Korea with him said that for many years he would not listen or read anything from Pastor Kang solely because the church had been told not to have anything to do with him. However, when he did investigate, he found that Pastor Kang did speak truth and wondered why the church was so against it.

Pastor David Kang had such a conviction, not just to get information out, but for the need to show people by example what has to happen in their heart to be ready for Jesus to come. As a result of the mission projects that he started, there are seven hundred literature evangelists working in China under very dangerous conditions. In fact, Pastor Kang came in danger and narrowly escaped being put in prison himself on a number of occasions.

Hundreds of Sunday keeping pastors from different countries in the Far East that attended Pastor Kang's sanctuary seminars found out that God has a sanctuary in heaven, and that within the veil of that Most Holy Place of the sanctuary in heaven there is an ark that contains the ten commandments. The news about the unchangeable character of God's law has been fearlessly presented in Korea, China, and other Asian countries and is spreading underground like wildfire.

It is not enough to know truth; the truth must change lives to be effective. If the knowledge of the truth you know has not yet changed your life, it is not too late for you to have a conversion experience. Maybe your conversion is just superficial, and you need a deeper experience in your life. The good news is that the door of salvation is still open, and Jesus is standing at the door of your heart knocking and longing to be invited in. Now is the time to open that door, for the time is coming when the door of salvation will be closed.

God's offer of salvation is made even to the world's most wicked, to the people that the world most despises because of their

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*It is not enough to have the information, to have an intellectual knowledge of the truth unless the truth has changed my life.*



crimes, if only they would hear and respond to God's Spirit. We can read in the writings of Ellen White that on one occasion salvation was offered to Nero. Nero was one of the most wicked men that has ever lived yet salvation was still offered to him but he did not accept it. Nero was guilty of killing his own mother as well as murdering at least one of his wives and who knows how many other people.

We wonder how someone as wicked as Nero could ever be saved, but Jesus came into the world to save sinners and if Nero had accepted the invitation and allowed the Holy Spirit to transform his life he could have been saved. But like most, he saw no value in the gift that was offered. However Saul, who later became the apostle Paul, considered himself "the chief of sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15). He had chased down the saints of God who feared him and would set out to capture them to be imprisoned or even put to death. When salvation was offered to him on the Damascus Road, he repented and was forgiven. His former companions, the Pharisees, all turned against him. Now if you really have a change of heart so that you go full out for the Lord; in other words, you are fully committed to God and His cause, you are going to have some opposition in this world. Some people that used to be your friends will not be your friends anymore. That is just the way it will happen so do not be too surprised when it does happens.

When your life is fully surrendered to Jesus you are no longer in charge of your life, because you are walking in a different way. Sins that once had an attraction and a hold on you are discarded as you walk the narrow path.

Thank God that our sins can be forgiven. We are told in Romans 3:25, 26, "Whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,



*You may think you have a heart for the Lord, but often there is still something in this world that has a hold on you.*

to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

Notice that when you come to Jesus, you are forgiven for the sins that you have previously committed, but this does not give license to go on sinning. Forgiveness is always in the past. There is no such thing as being forgiven for a sin that you are going to commit tomorrow. This is contrary to what some Roman Catholic theologians believe.

When the woman was taken in adultery and brought to Jesus in John the 8th chapter, Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more" (John 8:11). There were people in the early church who had a hard time with that story and were afraid that if everybody knew about that, it would give people a license to sin. They feared that people would be at liberty to go and sin because they knew they could be forgiven. They thought that the Lord was being too lenient with the woman. But notice that when Jesus forgave that woman of everything that she had done in the past, He said to her, "Go and sin no more." He did not say to go on a 5-day plan to stop sinning or to cut down on her sin. He said to not do it anymore.

No matter how bad a sinner you are, if you are willing to quit, the Lord can forgive you for what is in your past. Maybe you have a besetting sin that nobody knows about, not even your husband or your wife. Be sure that God knows about it and that your secret sin of which no one else knows is written down in His book. Sins that are not erased by confession and repentance will come up again in the judgment and even though you may profess Christ and go to church every week they will cause you to be lost.

The Bible contains warnings about being ready for the end of the world and for the second coming of Jesus:

"Take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare [a trap] on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:34-36).

"Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the

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*When the Holy Spirit  
 convicts you, a choice must  
 be made. Either you accept  
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 it.*

morning—lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch” (Mark 13:35–37)! Are you sleeping like the foolish virgins? Pray that the Lord will keep you alert and awake.

“When the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen” (Matthew 22:11–14). No one is allowed into the wedding feast of the Lamb without the wedding garment, a righteous Christ-like character.

“And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure” (1 John 3:3).

“The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: ‘Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?’ He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, he who despises the gain of oppressions, who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, and shuts his eyes from seeing evil: He will dwell on high; his place of defense will be the fortress of rocks; bread will be given him, his water will be sure” (Isaiah 33:14–16). There are some people who need to pay special attention to Isaiah 33:15.

Zephaniah 2 was always a very scary passage to my mother. She would talk to me about what it could mean, but I had no answer. “Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together, O undesirable nation, before the decree is issued, or the day passes like chaff, before the LORD’s fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of the LORD’s anger comes upon you! Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice, seek righteousness, seek humility, it

may be that you will be hidden in the day of the LORD’s anger” (verses 1–3).

The part of the text that was so scary to my mother is where it says, “it may be that you will be hidden in the day of the LORD’s anger” which does not sound like a guarantee.

Isaiah 4 describes a time coming when all human pride will be brought low, and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day, and everyone that is left among the living in Jerusalem will be holy. At that time when only those who are holy are alive, where will you be?

“And they shall call them The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City not Forsaken” (Isaiah 62:12).

God is preparing a holy people who are ready to meet Him, ready to meet the Lord when He comes.

A time is coming when there will be no more weeping. But right now it is the time to say, Lord, I am surrendering myself totally, completely to you. Whatever change needs to be made in my life, I am surrendering myself totally and completely to the control of Your Holy Spirit. If you are willing to make that kind of a decision, God is willing to answer your prayer and transform your life. The time will come when there will not be any more tears because the former things will be in the past and will never be repeated. It will be a time of rejoicing for those who have kept their garments white and are ready to meet the Lord in peace.

May the Lord prepare our hearts for what is going to break upon this world as an overwhelming surprise; that we might not only know truth, but that the truth will change us from the inside out by the power of His Holy Spirit.

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

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# *"A Little Heaven to Go to Heaven In"*

*What every home should be...*

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By John J. Grosboll

*"Society is composed of families and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are 'the issues of life'; and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation is the household. The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences."*

*The Adventist Home, 15*



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*Satan's ultimate goal  
is to destroy the church by  
destroying the family.*

The members of the home, through their speech and interactions with each other, will prove to be a blessing or a curse. Thus, much is at stake in the home. Now, more than ever, Satan is attempting to sabotage this critical establishment of society that God Himself instituted in Eden.

The goal of any home should be to provide “a little heaven to go to heaven in.” *The Review and Herald*, April 21, 1891.

“The family on earth should be a type of the family in heaven. The home that is beautified by love, sympathy, and tenderness is a place that angels love to visit, and where God is glorified. The influence of a carefully guarded Christian home in the years of childhood and youth is the surest safeguard against the corruptions of the world. In the atmosphere of such a home, the children will learn to love both their earthly parents and their heavenly Father.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 10, 206.

“The home in which the members are polite, courteous Christians exerts a far-reaching influence for good. Other families will mark the results attained by such a home, and will follow the example set, in their turn guarding the home against Satanic influences. The angels of God will often visit the home in which the will of God bears sway. Under the power of divine grace such a home becomes a place of refreshing to worn, weary pilgrims. By watchful guarding, self is kept from asserting itself. Correct habits are formed. There is a careful recognition of the rights of others. The faith that works by love and purifies the soul stands at the helm, presiding over the whole household. Under the hallowed influence of such a home, the principle of brotherhood laid down in the word of God is more widely recognized and obeyed.” *The Adventist Home*, 31.

The devil does not want you to have such a home. He is determined to destroy the happiness in your home. One of the principal ways he does this is by influencing the members of the family, including the

husband and the wife, to speak in an unsanctified way to each other. Here is an inspired description of this transgression. Notice that Satan's ultimate goal is to destroy the church by destroying the family.

“Well does Satan know what heaven is, and what the influence of the angels is. 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.” *The Upward Look*, 163.

Another method Satan uses to attempt to destroy the happiness of the home is by leading the husband into a misunderstanding between what it means to be the head of the house and what it means to be God. God has absolute authority. When God told Abraham to kill his son, Abraham was under moral obligation to obey. But no human being, whether husband or wife or employer or ruler, has absolute authority. All human authority is to be subservient to God's authority and under the rule of His government. The following statements clarify this subject that is widely misunderstood.

“If the husband is tyrannical, exacting, critical of the actions of his wife, he cannot hold her respect and affection, and the marriage relation will become odious to her. She will not love her husband, because he does not try to make himself loveable. The Lord Jesus has not been correctly represented in His relation to the church by many husbands in their relation to their wives, for they do not keep the way of the Lord. They declare that their wives must be subject to them in everything.

“But it was not the design of God that the husband should have control, as head of the house, when he himself does not submit to Christ. He must be under the rule of Christ that he may represent the relation of Christ to the church. If he is a coarse, rough, boisterous, egotistical, harsh, and overbearing man, let him never utter the word that the husband is the head of the wife, and that she must submit to him in everything; for he is not the Lord; he is not the husband in the true significance of the term.

“If the wife should have the same mold of character as her husband, woe be to the children; the whole family would be a blot upon the earth. Instead of being a house-band, to bind the family together into the unity that is symbolized by the unity of Christ and the church, he will break every tie of affection, and the members of the family will be scattered, filled with bitterness and hatred one toward another.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 21, 215, 216.

Not only does the husband bear a critical responsibility to represent the character of Christ in his family relationships, every member of the family is to bear a degree of responsibility as well.

“Unless we control our words and temper, we are slaves to Satan. We are in subjection to him. He leads us captive. All jangling and unpleasant, impatient, fretful words are an offering presented to his Satanic majesty. And it is a costly offering, more costly than any sacrifice we can make for God, for it destroys the peace and happiness of whole families, destroys health, and is eventually the cause of forfeiting an eternal life of happiness.” *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 310.

We need to remember always that the words that we speak will be one of the major factors that determines our eternal destiny.

If our speech is to be reformed and changed, it must happen in this world before the coming of the Lord. This cannot be done in an instant and is why Ellen White told some people that they did not have a moment to lose. She cautioned that if they did not live long enough so that their speech could be reformed, they would be excluded from heaven. This idea is very unpopular today. Most people, including probably the vast majority of clergymen, believe and teach in effect that you can live like the devil without overcoming your character defects, but if the moment before you die you say, “Lord save me,” you will be saved. Wherever this idea originated it is not in the Bible and it is not true. The



*If the husband is tyrannical, exacting, critical of the actions of his wife, he cannot hold her respect and affection.*

story of the thief on the cross does not substantiate this theory—see the description of that person who was saved at the 11th hour in *The Desire of Ages*, pages 749–751.

Notice how clearly the Spirit of Prophecy warns against the error of delay in self-reformation.

“Few have that genuine faith which works by love and purifies the soul. But all who are accounted worthy of everlasting life must obtain a moral fitness for the same. ‘Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure’ (1 John 3:2, 3). This is the work before you, and you have none too much time if you engage in the work with all your soul.

“You must experience a death to self, and must live unto God. ‘If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God’ (Colossians, 3:1). Self is not to be consulted. Pride, self-love, selfishness, avarice, covetousness, love of the world, hatred, suspicion, jealousy, evil surmisings, must all be subdued and sacrificed forever. When

Christ shall appear, it will not be to correct these evils and then give a moral fitness for His coming. This preparation must all be made before He comes. It should be a subject of thought, of study, and earnest inquiry, What shall we do to be saved? What shall be our conduct that we may show ourselves approved unto God?

“When tempted to murmur, censure, and indulge in fretfulness, wounding those around you, and in so doing wounding your own soul, oh! let the deep, earnest, anxious inquiry come from your soul, Shall I stand without fault before the throne of God? Only the faultless will be there. None will be translated to heaven while their hearts are filled with the rubbish of earth. Every defect in the moral character must first be remedied, every stain removed by the cleansing blood of Christ, and all the unlovely, unlovable traits of character overcome.

“How long a time are you designing to take to prepare to be introduced into the society of heavenly angels in glory? In the state which you and your family are in at present, all heaven would be marred should you be introduced therein. The work for you must be done here. This earth is the fitting-up place. You





*The influence of a carefully guarded Christian home in the years of childhood and youth is the surest safeguard against the corruptions of the world.*

have not one moment to lose. All is harmony, peace, and love in heaven. No discord, no strife, no censuring, no unloving words, no clouded brows, no jars there; and no one will be introduced there who possesses any of these elements so destructive to peace and happiness. Study to be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate, laying up for yourselves a good foundation against the time to come, that you may lay hold on everlasting life.

“Forever cease your murmurings in regard to this poor life, but let your soul’s burden be, how to secure the better life than this, a title to the mansions prepared for those who are true and faithful to the end. If you make a mistake here, everything is lost. If you devote your lifetime to securing earthly treasures, and lose the heavenly, you will find that you have made a terrible mistake. You cannot have both worlds. ‘What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul’ (Mark 8:36, 37)? Says the inspired Paul: ‘For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal’ (2 Corinthians 4:17, 18).” *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 705, 706.

In this world we are actually in an all or nothing warfare of which there is no escape. It is a war in which we either win everything or lose everything. Our speech in our families, to stress a point already made, will be one of the most decisive factors as to where our eternal destiny is going to be.

There is an excellent testimony written to “Brother M” in volume 2 of the *Testimonies*, pages 84–88, in which strong counsel is given that details many of the errors made within the family that prevent the home from becoming “a little heaven to go to heaven in.”

The concluding paragraph of this testimony provides food for thought that all who have a deep yearning for heaven—not just a heaven-like atmosphere in their homes, but an eternal abode—should give deep thought and make a matter of earnest prayer:

“If you lose heaven, you lose everything; if you gain heaven, you gain

everything. Do not make a mistake in this matter, I implore you. Eternal interests are here involved. Be thorough. May the God of all grace so enlighten your understanding that you may discern eternal things, that by the light of truth your own errors, which are many, may be discovered to you just as they are, that you may make the necessary effort to put them away, and in the place of this evil, bitter fruit may bring forth fruit which is precious unto eternal life.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 88.

We may not carry all of the errors that Inspiration pointed out to Brother M in this testimony, but it is true for everyone that “if you lose heaven, you lose everything.” May God, in His providence, guide us as we seek to make our homes “a little heaven to go to heaven in.”

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

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# *The Reconciliation of Man to God*

## *A Miracle of Miracles*

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By John R. Pearson

It is a rare person who at one time or another doesn't have need of reconciliation with someone whom they have offended. Opportunities for reconciliation are one of the means that Providence uses to develop character.

The Oxford dictionary defines to “*reconcile*” as to “restore friendly relations between.” A secondary definition reads to “cause to coexist in harmony; make or show to be compatible.” Strong’s *Concordance* is more direct: “Atonement; restoration to divine favor.”





*Opportunities for reconciliation are one of the means that Providence uses to develop character.*

Nothing is more in need of reconciliation, of “restoration to divine favor,” than the relationship between man and God after the Fall in the Garden of Eden. God has been working tirelessly for six thousand years to restore man to divine favor and bring about the reconciliation that must occur between God and the pinnacle of His creation before Christ returns to gather His saints. The big question is, Are we cooperating with that effort?

In one sense, reconciliation is simply another term for atonement. If we are reconciled to God, our character is once again aligned with the divine purpose of the plan of redemption—restoring the image of God in man.

Achieving that reconciliation, that atonement, requires exactly what Jesus told Nicodemus he needed during their nocturnal conversation recorded in John 3:3: “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

No other Bible writer wrote more about this need than Paul. In his second epistle to the Corinthians, he wrote in great detail regarding the need for reconciliation and about how God is working to fulfill that need: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has **reconciled** us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of **reconciliation**; that is, that God was in Christ **reconciling** the world to Himself, not imputing [attributing, assigning] their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of **reconciliation**. Now then, we are ambassadors

for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:17–21).

What an incredible statement! How clearly this passage shows the love of God for man. We are moved to cry out, “Abba, Father!” as we realize the intense longing that reigns in our Heavenly Father’s heart for the reconciliation of mankind to Himself.

In commenting on this text, Inspiration records, “‘If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new’ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Through the power of Christ, men and women have broken the chains of sinful habit. They have renounced selfishness. The profane have become reverent, the drunken sober, the profligate pure. Souls that have borne the likeness of Satan have become transformed into the image of God. This change is in itself the miracle of miracles. A change wrought by the Word, it is one of the deepest mysteries of the Word. We cannot understand it; we can only believe, as declared by the Scriptures, it is ‘Christ in you, the hope of glory’ (Colossians 1:27).” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 476.

Note the harmony between reconciliation, atonement, and the new birth experience. They are bound together by one divine purpose: the restoration of the image of God in man. Still another term for this miracle of miracles is “redemption.”

“The work of redemption involves consequences of which it is difficult for man to have any conception. ‘Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him’ (1 Corinthians 2:9). As the sinner, drawn by the power of Christ, approaches the uplifted cross, and prostrates himself before it, there is a new creation. A new heart is given him. He becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus. Holiness finds that it has nothing more to require. God Himself is ‘the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus’ (Romans 3:26). And ‘whom He justified, them He also glorified’ (Romans 8:30). Great





as is the shame and degradation through sin, even greater will be the honor and exaltation through redeeming love. To human beings striving for conformity to the divine image there is imparted an outlay of heaven's treasure, an excellency of power, that will place them higher than even the angels who have never fallen." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 162, 163.

Man, in and of himself, is completely incapable of achieving this reconciliation, this rebirth, without divine power.

"Nothing but divine power can regenerate the human heart and imbue souls with the love of Christ, which will ever manifest itself with love for those for whom He died. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. When a man is converted to God, a new moral taste is supplied, a new motive power is given, and he loves the things that God loves; for his life is bound up by the golden chain of the immutable promises to the life of Jesus. Love, joy, peace, and inexpressible gratitude will pervade the soul, and the language of him who is blessed will be, 'Thy gentleness hath made me great' (Psalm 18:35)." *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 336.

We can add yet another term to this miraculous process of reconciliation: conversion.

"Conversion is a work that most do not appreciate. It is not a small matter to transform an earthly, sin-loving mind and bring it to understand the unspeakable love of Christ, the charms of His grace, and the excellency of God, so that the soul shall be imbued with divine love and captivated with the heavenly mysteries. When he understands these things, his former life appears disgusting and hateful. He hates sin, and, breaking his heart before God, he embraces Christ as the life and joy of the soul. He renounces his former pleasures. He has a new mind, new affections, new interest, new will; his sorrows, and desires, and love are all new. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life,



*The  
fruit of the  
Spirit is love,  
joy, peace, long-  
suffering, goodness,  
faith, meekness,  
temperance.*

which have heretofore been preferred before Christ, are now turned from, and Christ is the charm of his life, the crown of his rejoicing. Heaven, which once possessed no charms, is now viewed in its riches and glory; and he contemplates it as his future home, where he shall see, love, and praise the One who hath redeemed him by His precious blood." *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 294.

A bit of meditation on this passage will reveal the incredible "broadness" and all-encompassing nature of the reconciliation process. It becomes plainly evident that reconciliation, conversion, atonement, redemption, and the new birth experience are one and the same. Man can succeed in this process only through cooperation with the divine agencies that God in His mercy has tasked with guiding man along the path of truth and righteousness.

God uses ways to achieve the new birth experience in each individual that we often do not recognize until after the fact—if at all. There are angelic hosts who intercede on our behalf in unseen ways; God moves upon those with whom we interact, often unbeknownst to them, to speak words of encouragement and edification at exactly the right time; the Holy Spirit speaks

to us in that still small voice. How many times have we suddenly experienced an epiphany, a "a sudden intuitive leap of understanding," when reading a familiar Scripture or a well-known passage in the spirit of Prophecy!

Often when we examine our lives and the daily activities—the thoughts, words, and deeds that make up a day's activities, we become lost in despair of ever being able to meet the high standard that God's law demands. That is not an unusual perplexity. It is at times like this that we must remember the Cross of Christ.

"Christ suffered in order that through faith in Him our sins might be pardoned. He became man's substitute and surety, Himself taking the punishment, though all undeserving, that we who deserved it might be free, and return to our allegiance to God through the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour. He is our only hope of salvation. Through His sacrifice we who are now on probation are prisoners of hope. We are to reveal to the universe, to the world fallen and to worlds unfallen, that there is forgiveness with God, that through the love of God we may be reconciled to God. Man repents, becomes contrite in heart, believes in Christ as His atoning sacrifice, and realizes that God is reconciled to him. ...

“The reconciliation of God to man, and man to God, is sure when certain conditions are met.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 369.

“Through Jesus, God’s mercy was manifested to men; but mercy does not set aside justice. The law reveals the attributes of God’s character, and not a jot or tittle of it could be changed to meet man in his fallen condition. God did not change His law, but He sacrificed Himself, in Christ, for man’s redemption. ‘God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself’ (2 Corinthians 5:19).” *The Desire of Ages*, 762.

What does the manifestation and subsequent sacrifice of God in Christ mean to fallen, degraded mankind?

“God was to be manifest in Christ, ‘reconciling the world unto Himself’ (2 Corinthians 5:19). Man had become so degraded by sin that it was impossible for him, in himself, to come into harmony with Him whose nature is purity and goodness. But Christ, after having redeemed man from the condemnation of the law, could impart divine power to unite with human effort. Thus by repentance toward God and faith in Christ the fallen children of Adam might once more become ‘sons of God’ (1 John 3:2).” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 64.

By meditation on the incredible and incomprehensible miracle of the Word made flesh, the mysterious blending of the human with the divine, we can begin to appreciate the holiness of God’s character as revealed through His Law and how the plan of redemption enables us to meet the standard that the Law enjoins.

“Says the apostle: ‘God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself’ (2 Corinthians 5:19). Only as we contemplate the great plan of redemption can we have a just appreciation of the character of God. The work of creation was a manifestation of His love; but the gift of God to save the guilty and ruined race alone reveals the infinite depths of divine tenderness and compassion.

‘God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life’ (John 3:16).” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 739. [Emphasis author’s.]

The worshipers in the church at Corinth were not the only ones to whom Paul explained the need of reconciliation. The converts in Ephesus were also given the benefit of Paul’s experience in the third heaven. His epistle to the Ephesians explained that through a common belief in Christ, there is reconciliation between Jew and Gentile, the “middle wall of separation” being “broken down,” so that “He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross.”

“Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity” (Ephesians 2:11–16).

That same dissolution of enmity between disparate mindsets is necessary today if the unity that Christ desires in His people is to be accomplished.

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul addresses another aspect of reconciliation. Not only is mankind in need of reconciliation with God, but Paul explained that creation itself lost the perfection that it possessed in the connection it enjoyed with the divine when the world was new. Christ’s sacrifice not only enables mankind to be reconciled to God, but it also provides a means of restoring nature to its original brilliant reflection of the holiness of God.

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*When a man is converted to God, a new moral taste is supplied, a new motive power is given.*

“For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister” (Colossians 1:19–23).

As we contemplate this aspect of the plan of redemption, we can only be amazed at the unfathomable love that God through Christ revealed—not only to humankind, but to the universe. What an incomprehensible value this epitome of selflessness places on man.

“Jesus did not yield up His life till He had accomplished the work which He came to do, and exclaimed with His departing breath: ‘It is finished’ (John 19:30). Satan was then defeated. He knew that his kingdom was lost. Angels rejoiced as the words were uttered: ‘It is finished.’ The great plan of redemption, which was dependent on the death of Christ, had been thus far carried out. And there was joy in heaven that the sons of Adam could, through a life of obedience, be finally exalted to the throne of God. Oh, what love! What amazing love! that brought the Son of God to earth to be made sin for us, that we might be reconciled to God, and elevated to a life with Him in His mansions in glory. Oh, what is man, that such a price should be paid for his redemption!” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 211, 212.

Again we cry, “Abba, Father!”

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## *The Greatest Romance*

The greatest romance in all the world  
Is to fall in love with God;  
To love and adore Him, and follow  
Where His holy feet hath trod.

To seek the Lord is the greatest adventure  
That one could ‘er undertake;  
To seek His face forevermore,  
And meet Him at the heavenly gate!

To discover the Lord is the greatest achievement,  
More precious than silver or gold.  
You’ll find Him in the Garden of Gethsemane,  
Where His suffering began to unfold.

You’ll find Him in the tears that Jesus wept,  
For the world He came to redeem.  
You’ll find Him ‘mongst the brambles and thickets,  
Searching—for that one lost sheep.

Romance is expressed with bouquets of flowers;  
The most beautiful are roses red.  
But, a crown was made from their sharp, piercing thorns,  
And placed upon His head.

His blood dripped down upon His brow;  
‘Twas shed for you and me.  
The greatest romance, adventure, and achievement  
Was the cross of Calvary!

*Jo Phelps*  
05-07-2014





# Isaiah

## Clues – Isaiah 40–50

### Across:

- B<sub>3</sub> God says you can cry to a man-made idol, but it cannot do this..... 46:6, 7  
 B<sub>11</sub> What we have done to the Lord with our sins..... 43:24  
 C<sub>18</sub> This heathen king was God's "anointed" to carry out His designs..... 45:1  
 D<sub>3</sub> God has promised to do this for us ..... 41:13  
 D<sub>8</sub> In heaven we will never \_\_\_\_\_ ..... 49:10  
 E<sub>14</sub> Isaiah predicted Cyrus would do this to nations before he was born ..... 45:1  
 G<sub>6</sub> All manmade idols bring only this, and are this ..... 41:28, 29  
 H<sub>2</sub> When all God's people sinned, He gave them to the \_\_\_\_\_ ..... 43:27, 28  
 H<sub>18</sub> We should praise the Lord and give Him this ..... 42:10–12  
 I<sub>7</sub> God refines our character in the furnace of \_\_\_\_\_ ..... 48:10  
 J<sub>1</sub> The Lord has promised to \_\_\_\_\_ our children..... 49:25  
 K<sub>8</sub> God says that He is a \_\_\_\_\_ God..... 45:21  
 K<sub>13</sub> God foretold that judgment would come upon Judah from this direction..... 41:25  
 L<sub>18</sub> Isaiah predicted Jesus would have this plucked ..... 50:6  
 M<sub>2</sub> Since God has promised to uphold and strengthen us, we need not be this..... 41:10  
 N<sub>11</sub> When Jesus returns, He will do this to His people from all over the earth..... 43:5–7  
 O<sub>1</sub> God says there is no peace for these..... 48:22  
 O<sub>17</sub> God gave His people over to Babylon because He was this ..... 47:6  
 Q<sub>1</sub> It is good to "\_\_\_\_\_ a word in season to him that is weary" ..... 50:4  
 Q<sub>14</sub> What God will do with His spirit on His people ..... 44:3  
 R<sub>19</sub> The true people of God are taken from this of the earth..... 41:9  
 S<sub>5</sub> We are called to be lights to the lost and do this to spiritually blind eyes ..... 42:6, 7  
 S<sub>11</sub> We belong to God because He created and \_\_\_\_\_ us ..... 43:1

### Down:

- A<sub>3</sub> If we submit to the Lord's leading, He will lead us in \_\_\_\_\_ we've not known ..... 42:16  
 A<sub>13</sub> The Lord says that He is the first and the \_\_\_\_\_ ..... 44:6  
 A<sub>21</sub> No one is this to our God ..... 40:25, 26  
 B<sub>8</sub> God has forgiven our sins, redeemed us, and He pleads for us to do this..... 44:22  
 B<sub>11</sub> This is of the Lord and shall stand for ever ..... 40:8  
 C<sub>18</sub> We should encourage our brothers and neighbors to be of good \_\_\_\_\_ ..... 41:6  
 D<sub>6</sub> We can have this as a river if we obey God's commandments..... 48:18  
 D<sub>16</sub> Anciently God's people were this, and today also can be this..... 48:4  
 F<sub>4</sub> God says mothers might do this, but He will not ..... 49:15  
 F<sub>13</sub> God promises us that He will do this with our enemies ..... 49:25, 26  
 G<sub>11</sub> Isaiah predicted Jesus' face would be subjected to this ..... 50:6  
 H<sub>20</sub> God gave His people over to enemies because they were not \_\_\_\_\_ to His law ..... 42:24  
 I<sub>9</sub> Isaiah said Cyrus would lay this over a hundred years before it happened ..... 44:28  
 J<sub>6</sub> When Jesus returns, He will bring this with Him ..... 40:10  
 L<sub>3</sub> Our God is so big that He commands the entire \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth ..... 40:22  
 M<sub>15</sub> It is a "light thing" for God to do this to His people..... 49:6  
 N<sub>12</sub> God has His people but \_\_\_\_\_ shall call himself by the name of the Lord ..... 44:5

A	2		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		14	15	16	17	18	19	20		A
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## Answer Key:

22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
S																					S
S	D	N																			S
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"They that wait upon the LORD shall renew  
their strength; they shall mount up with wings  
as eagles; they shall run and not be weary."

*Isaiah 40:31*

- O21 God promises to keep us and hold this ..... 42:6  
P7 God has promised to supply us with this in dry lands and in the wilderness ..... 41:18  
Q2 We are constantly on God's mind because of the scars on His \_\_\_\_\_ (singular) ..... 49:16  
Q5 The Lord wants us to \_\_\_\_\_ that there is no other true God but Him ..... 45:6



## *"I Am But a Little Child"*

**A**t the beginning of his reign, Solomon prayed, "O Lord my God, Thou hast made Thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in" (1 Kings 2:7).

Solomon had succeeded his father David to the throne of Israel. God greatly honored him, and, as we know, he became in later years the greatest, richest, and wisest king that had ever sat upon an earthly throne. Early in his reign Solomon was impressed by the Holy Spirit with the solemnity of his responsibilities, and though rich in talents and ability, he realized that without divine aid he was helpless as a little child to perform them. Solomon was never so rich or so wise or so truly great as when he confessed to the Lord, "I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in."





It was in a dream, in which the Lord appeared to him, saying, "Ask what I shall give thee" (1 Kings 3:5), that Solomon thus gave expression to his feeling of helplessness and need of divine aid. He continued: "Thy servant is in the midst of Thy people which Thou hast chosen, a great people, that can not be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give therefore Thy servant an understanding heart to judge Thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this Thy so great a people?"

"And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life: neither hast asked riches for thyself; nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart: so there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour; so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days" (verses 10–13). Now the conditions: "And if thou wilt walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days."

"And Solomon awoke: and, behold, it was a dream. And he came to Jerusalem; and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt-offerings, and offered peace-offerings, and made a feast to all his servants" (verses 14, 15).

All who occupy responsible positions need to learn the lesson that is taught in Solomon's humble prayer. They are ever to remember that position will never change the character or render man infallible. The higher the position a man occupies, the greater the responsibility he has to bear, the wider will be the



*It is well for us to feel our weakness, for then we will seek the strength and wisdom of God.*

influence he exerts, and the greater his need to feel his dependence on the wisdom and strength of God, and to cultivate the best and most holy character. Those who accept a position of responsibility in the cause of God should always remember that with the call to this work God has also called them to walk circumspectly before Him and before their fellow-men. Instead of considering it their duty to order and dictate and command, they should realize that they are to be learners themselves. When a responsible worker fails to learn this lesson, the sooner he is released from his responsibilities the better it will be for him and for the work of God. Position never will give holiness and excellence of character. He who honors God and keeps His commandments, is himself honored.

The question which each should ask himself in all humility is, Am I qualified for this position? Have I learned to keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment? The Saviour's earthly example has been given us that we should

not walk in our strength but that each should consider himself, as Solomon expressed it, "A little child."

Every truly converted soul can say, "I am but a little child: but I am God's child." It was at infinite cost that provision was made whereby the human family might be restored to sonship with God. In the beginning God made man in His own likeness. Our first parents listened to the voice of the tempter, and yielded to the power of Satan. But man was not abandoned to the results of the evil he had chosen. The promise of a Deliverer was given. "I will put enmity between thee and the woman," God said to the serpent, "and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel" (Genesis 3:15). Before they heard of the thorn and the thistle, of the sorrow and toil that must be their portion, or of the dust to which they must return, they listened to words that could not fail of giving them hope. All that had been lost by yielding to Satan could be regained through Christ.

The Son of God was given to redeem the race. At infinite suffering, the sinless for the sinful, the price was paid that was to redeem the human family from the power of the destroyer, and restore them again to the image of God. Those who accept the salvation brought to them in Christ will humble themselves before God as His little children.

God wants His children to ask for those things that will enable Him to reveal His grace through them to the world. He wants them to seek His counsel, to acknowledge His power. Christ lays loving claims on all for whom He has given His life: they are to obey His will if they would share the joys that He has prepared for all who reflect His character here. It is well for us to feel our weakness; for then we will seek the strength and wisdom that the Father delights to give His children for their daily strife against the powers of evil.

*Testimony Treasures*, vol. 3, 428–431. **LM**

# *The First* **4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY**

One day, more than two hundred years ago, five men were appointed to write a letter to the world. One of the five men was old — seventy years old. His name was Benjamin Franklin. Two of them were middle-aged. Their names were John Adams and Roger Sherman. The other two were young men, and their names were Robert Livingston and Thomas Jefferson.

Most of the letter was written by one of the young men, by the one named Thomas. He was tall and had sandy hair. His eyes were gray and often sparkled like two stars. He was strong and liked to ride horseback.

Thomas dipped his quill [feather] pen into the ink and scratched away on the paper until the letter was finished.

When the other four men read it, they liked it so well that they asked him to make only a few changes.

Soon after the letter was written a big bell began to ring and men began to throw up their hats and shout. The big bell rang and the people shouted because the letter to the world had been written and signed. It was signed by the five men who wrote it, and also by fifty-one other men who had asked them to write it.

That letter to the world is now known in every part of the world. In the United States of America, it is printed in most of the history books that boys and girls study in school. It is called the Declaration of Independence.

The young man Thomas who wrote the Declaration of Independence was

Thomas Jefferson. He was later to become the president of the United States. The Declaration was signed on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1776. That is the reason we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July every year. The big bell weighs more than a ton and it is known as the Liberty Bell. It is kept in the city where the Declaration of Independence was written and signed.

You have all heard the 4<sup>th</sup> of July called Independence Day. The Liberty Bell hangs in Independence Hall, in the city of Philadelphia. The Liberty Bell became famous on the first 4<sup>th</sup> of July in American history. A verse from the Bible is printed on the bell. It says, “Proclaim liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof” (Leviticus 25:10).

*History Stories for Children*, John W. Wayland, ©1991, 225–227. **LM**



# Spotted Garment

**A**re you bringing your offering/repentance to the door of the Most Holy Place so the spots on your garments may be removed?

“Day by day the repentant sinner brought his offering to the door of the tabernacle and,

- placing his hand upon the victim’s head, confessed his sins,
- thus in figure transferring them from himself to the innocent sacrifice.
- The animal was then slain. ‘Without shedding of blood’ (Hebrews 9:22), says the apostle [Paul], there is no remission of sin. ‘The life of the flesh is in the blood’ (Leviticus 17:11). The broken law of God demanded the life of the transgressor.
- The blood, representing the forfeited life of the sinner, whose guilt the victim bore, was carried by the priest into the holy place and sprinkled before the veil, behind which was the ark containing the law that the sinner had transgressed.
- By this ceremony the sin was, through the blood, transferred in figure to the sanctuary. In some cases the blood was not taken into the holy place; but the flesh was then to be eaten by the priest, as Moses directed the sons of Aaron, saying: ‘God hath given it you to bear the iniquity of the congregation’ (Leviticus 10:17).

Both ceremonies alike symbolized the transfer of the sin from the penitent to the sanctuary.

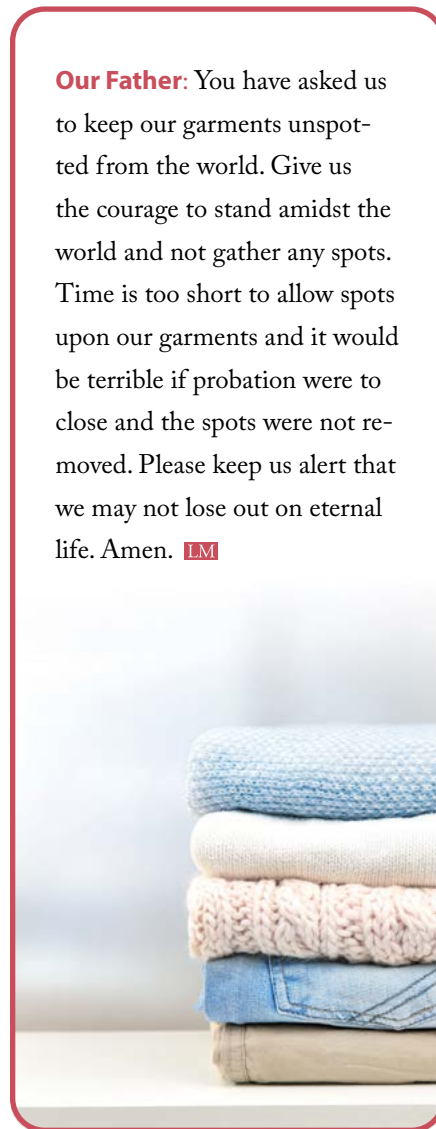
“Such was the work that went on, day by day, throughout the year.” *The Great Controversy*, 418.

When we bow down before the Lord, confessing our sins, day by day, we are giving them to Jesus, the Lamb of God. Our sins, the broken law of God, demand our life, but Jesus took our sins upon Himself and died for each one of us. We are transferring our sins to the Lamb of God as was done in the Old Testament sanctuary.

Now we go directly to Jesus in the Most Holy Place and confess our sins. But we must not continue to sin and confess, sin and confess. We must turn away from sin. We are told to “Keep your garments unspotted from the world. Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. Temptations may be all around you, but you are not compelled to enter into them. You may obtain strength from Christ to stand unsullied amid the pollutions of this corrupt age.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 50.

It is time to stand, day by day, for right and turn away from the wrong. Probation will be closing sooner than we think. It is time to “keep our garments unspotted from the world.”

**Our Father:** You have asked us to keep our garments unspotted from the world. Give us the courage to stand amidst the world and not gather any spots. Time is too short to allow spots upon our garments and it would be terrible if probation were to close and the spots were not removed. Please keep us alert that we may not lose out on eternal life. Amen. **LM**





## Your Letters

"I would like to thank all of you for your wonderful *LandMarks* magazine as well as your newsletters. I always enjoy them and read them from cover to cover and also share them with the others here. May God continue to bless all of you there at Steps to Life and use your ministry to reach many more souls with the three angels' messages."

—DH, Louisiana

"I am so thankful so many years ago that someone shared the magazine [*LandMarks*] with me and I saw the truth of a life in Jesus and the writings of Mrs. White. So, thank you that you have let Jesus lead your church to do these things. Praise God in Jesus in us."

—JH, Wisconsin

### Correction:

In the article, "A People Preparing," p. 6, May 2020 *LandMarks*, the book *Prophet of the End* was quoted as written by Rene Noorbergen. However, this book was written by Vance Ferrell. We apologize for any inconvenience.

## September Sermon of the Month

### The Cause of Trouble

By John J. Grosboll

Trouble occurs because of sin but our divine Lord is equal to any emergency.

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

## From the Desk of Pastor John J. Grosboll

### July 2020

Dear Friend,

Our mission is to take the three angels' messages to all the world. This is the most awesome responsibility and sacred trust that God has given to any generation of His children since the time of the flood. In the day of final reckoning some will be condemned not for what they did but for what they did not do. In vision this awful scene was presented to the Lord's messenger on October 23, 1879, exactly 35 years after the great disappointment.

"On the morning of October 23, 1879, about two o'clock, the Spirit of the Lord rested upon me, and I beheld scenes in the coming judgment. Language fails me in which to give an adequate description of the things which passed before me and of the effect they had upon my mind.

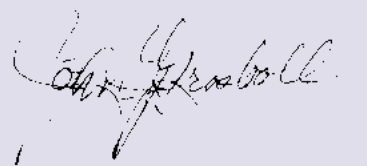
"The great day of the execution of God's judgment seemed to have come. ...

"The names of all who profess the truth were mentioned. Some were reproved for their unbelief, others for having been slothful servants. They had allowed others to do the work in the Master's vineyard, and to bear the heaviest responsibilities, while they were selfishly serving their own temporal interests. Had they cultivated the abilities God had given them, they could have been reliable burden bearers, working for the interest of the Master. Said the Judge: 'All will be justified by their faith and judged by their works.' How vividly then appeared their neglect, and how wise the arrangement of God in giving to every man a work to do to promote the cause and save his fellow men. ... But, like Meroz, the curse of God rested upon them for what they had not done. They had loved that work which would bring the greatest profit in this life; and opposite their names in the ledger devoted to good works there was a mournful blank.

"The words spoken to these were most solemn: You are weighed in the balances, and found wanting. You have neglected spiritual responsibilities because of busy activity in temporal matters." *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 384–386.

It is still not too late to bear your witness when the opportunity presents itself so that your page in the heavenly record is not a blank.

Sincerely your brother in Christ,



John J. Grosboll

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

# Sharing the Word

*Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique  
Receive Spirit of Prophecy*



*Bibles and Spirit of Prophecy books presented to the new church.*



*Joyous new convert to the church group.*

In early April, we sent out a request to our volunteers in several countries in Africa requesting input on their needs for Bibles and the Spirit of Prophecy. On the right you can read the response we received from Henry Mwesa in Zambia.

On page 25, we provide Brother Henry's report on the assistance your donations enabled him to provide to seekers in Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique after we had fulfilled his request.

Greetings in Jesus Name,

We currently are faced with the challenge of making progress with the training of workers due to lack of the primary textbooks for the Training Program for Ministers and Church Leaders.

The bulk of our students do not have access to the E. G. White Estate software, as they do not have smart phones. It has also been difficult to make progress especially with our students at the prisons. For the program to be a success, students need the complete set of the *Conflict of the Ages* series. Most just have access to *The Great Controversy*.

Currently, the *Conflict of the Ages* series is being sold in a little town of Kafue from Harvest Books. The set has 5 books (PP, PK, DA, GC, AA). The cost for a box that contains 8 sets of each, i.e., 8 sets of the entire series, is going at about \$75. Five boxes would greatly benefit all the three countries in the division, Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique. The total cost would be \$375. We would also create a library for the prison. This would alleviate the problem that has impeded the progress of the training of the workers.

God bless you,

*Henry Mwesa*, on behalf of Zambia Malawi division of Free Seventh Day Adventists.

*from the*  
**Mission Fields**

# *The Light Shines in Three Countries in Africa*

## *Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique*

**O**ne of our most active volunteers, Henry Mwesa of Zambia, sent us the following uplifting and encouraging report after receiving funds from our recent Bible/SOP appeal.



*Victoria Falls, Zambia.*





*The new congregation in Kindu in the outskirts of Lusaka, Zambia.*



*Ordination of deacon "Evangelist Derby Banda."*

Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. The second recipients of the books whose purchase you facilitated is the Kitwe church that has all members enrolled in the Training Program for Ministers and Church Leaders. This is a church composed of youthful, eager, and greatly determined young people who are enthusiastic toward defending the faith that was once delivered to the saints.

The great need for them to take time and let Christ work in their hearts and fashion them under the divine similitude cannot be overemphasized. If they let the Holy Spirit do His part in teaching them, they have potential to become a harbour and shining example of how the gospel ought to be proclaimed with power. They have a rare opportunity to stand in defense of truth and righteousness.

Their training, which is imperative, has been hampered because of a lack of books to be used as reference material. They were moving at a snail's pace and though they were determined, it was frustrating on my part to receive completed lessons from these students that had some questions not answered because they lacked the reference resources to determine the answers. This is why the dona-

tion from Steps to Life toward the Zambia-Malawi division of Free Seventh Day Adventists will go a long way. Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique churches will be beneficiaries to this kind gesture.

We believe that we are living in the end times when God's people will be required to stand and give a reason of the hope that is in them with fear and meekness. This is why the training of workers needs to be expedited under the unction of the Holy Spirit. We will continue distributing these books accordingly and will keep reporting. The presentation of the books was done by Elder Changufu.

With the funds from your donations, we bought a total of 48 sets of the *Conflict of the Ages* to benefit 48 students across the three countries, including the brothers in prison. In some cases, the churches will establish a library so that the books can be accessed on a revolving basis so as to encourage care and accountability. The same will be encouraged at prisons. I am enclosing some pictures for illustration purposes.

May God richly bless you.

By Henry Mwesa and Ernest Changufu



# Pearls in the Making

Pearls have been considered the most valuable and prized gems for thousands of years.

A pearl forms when an “irritant,” usually a parasite enters the mantle of a mollusk—an oyster or mussel. A defense mechanism commences by the production of a fluid, nacre (mother of pearl), which coats the intruder. Nacre, a composite of calcium carbonate and protein, is stronger than concrete. The parasite functions as the nucleus of the pearl and as layer upon layer of nacre continues to be produced, a beautiful pearl is formed.

God’s creation is amazing. He uses a parasite to create a gem!

The value of a natural pearl depends on its size, color, and surface quality. Currently the most expensive are the South Sea pearls which are primarily a white and gold color. The black pearl, also known as the Tahitian pearl, is produced by the black lip oyster. These pearls are gorgeous. Freshwater pearls can take between one to six years to form, and saltwater pearls from five to 20 years. The longer the pearl stays in the shell the larger it gets due to the continuous nacre coating.

The Bible talks about the costly pearl. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it” (Matthew 13:45, 46).

This parable shows that eternal life in Heaven is worth more than anything anyone could possibly have on earth. Earthly treasures are temporary, but those who believe in Jesus Christ would be wise to trade all the pleasures and riches of life on this earth for eternal life with Him in Heaven.

Revelation 21:18–21 describes the New Jerusalem, the home of the redeemed, as amazing to say the least. There are streets of gold with the twelve foundations made of precious stones all glittering and magnificent. “And the twelve gates were

twelve pearls: every several gate was one pearl” (verse 21). How can the finite mind comprehend such a large pearl?

Oh, what monetary value man puts on such small gems. When we see the rich and famous with their little bobbles on their fingers and around their necks at such exorbitant cost, we cannot help but think of Heaven, where the precious jewels are construction elements!

Friend, Jesus considers You His jewel: “And they shall be Mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him” (Malachi 3:17).

The trials you encounter in this life are nothing compared to the joys that will await you in the life to come.

One last thought: the next time someone calls you “irritating,” take heart, my friend. You could be a pearl in the making! **LM**



Q:

*What is the  
“faith of Jesus”  
in Revelation  
14:12?*

A:

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

“The third angel’s message is the proclamation of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ. The commandments of God have been proclaimed, but the faith of Jesus Christ has not been proclaimed by Seventh-day Adventists as of equal importance, the law and the gospel going hand in hand. I cannot find language to express this subject in its fullness.

“‘The faith of Jesus.’ It is talked of, but not understood. What constitutes the faith of Jesus, that belongs to the third angel’s message? Jesus becoming our sin-bearer that He might become our sin-pardoning Saviour. He was treated as we deserve to be treated. He came to our world and took our sins that we might take His righteousness. And faith in the ability of Christ to save us amply and fully and entirely is the faith of Jesus.” *Selected Messages*, vol. 3, 172.

“There are clear, decided distinctions to be restored and exemplified to the world in holding aloft the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. The beauty of holiness is to appear in its native luster in contrast with the deformity and darkness of the disloyal, those who have revolted from the law of God. Thus we acknowledge God, and recognize His law, the foundation of His government in heaven and throughout His earthly dominions. His authority should be kept distinct and plain before the world; and no laws are to be acknowledged that come in collision with the laws of Jehovah. ... The loyal and true bear the credentials of heaven, not of earthly potentates. All men shall know who are the disciples of Christ, chosen and faithful, and shall know them when crowned and glorified as those who honored God and whom He has honored, bringing them into possession of an eternal weight of glory.” *Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, 207. **LM**





## Short on Protein?

**O**n becoming a vegan, I was convinced that processed foods and meats were not the best for the body. I was challenged by family members who consistently said I would die if I did not eat meat. But, after much research and realizing that the meat industry had convinced many that a meatless diet would be devastating to health, I was quite satisfied with my decision and have been much blessed ever since.

I share the following excerpt to help those who may still have fears of not getting enough protein. This answers the question: Where do I get protein?

### Body's Protein Needs

"In sickness and in health one of the most important functions of our body is to rid itself of poisons constantly building up from the breakdown of food being digested. There are four ways the body has to get rid of these poisons: the lungs, the skin, the bowels, and the kidneys. At each of these exit stations the body uses water as the doorman. Even the lungs use water to rid the body of the gaseous waste, carbon dioxide. You can tell that it is so by breathing on your glasses or mirror and you will see the drops of water. What does water and the body's need for it have to do with protein?

"In the breakdown of protein the body produces urea, which is moved out of the blood by the kidneys. The more protein consumed the greater the need the body has for water to remove the urea produced as a result. Dr. Nathan Smith, professor of Athletic Medicine at the University of Washington in

Seattle, likes to talk school athletes out of their protein habits. Energy can be more efficiently handled when it comes from complex carbohydrates like whole grains than from protein sources found in products of animal origin.

"A number of years ago in Haiti thousands of children were suffering from a protein deficiency disease called Kwashiorkor. After being weaned, the babies were given starchy diets poor in protein and the mortality rate for children under four years of age was 50%.

To meet the crisis they initiated an instruction program of three handfuls of grain to one handful of beans. As a result the protein deficiency was halted and eradicated from the island. Thanks to the understanding of medical science, a crisis was halted and lives were saved. But now we are faced by another dangerous problem of too much protein.

"The fear of not having enough protein has led us to the opposite problem of too much protein. Even the false idea is presented that we need a certain kind of protein that can be obtained only from animal sources and that vegetable proteins are incomplete. There are populations around the world that eat 4% of their total calories as protein and these proteins are plant proteins.

"Science indicates that the 100-plus grams a day protein intake of the average non-vegetarian American puts a tax on the liver and kidneys, triggers a loss of calcium from the bones, and also leaves behind a toxic residue which before being eliminated often damages the body and thus makes it more susceptible to a variety of diseases, including cancer and arthritis.

"The question of how much protein the body needs varies from person

to person, but the recommendation from the National Research Council is 46 grams for the ladies and 56 grams or 2 ounces for the men. These figures have been inflated by 30–50% because of allowing a margin of safety.

"Adequate protein is easily available from a vegetarian diet. Here is a list of a few foods and the amount of protein they contain:

- 1 cup pinto beans – 15 grams
- 1 baked potato – 5 grams
- 1 cup asparagus – 5 grams
- 2 slices of bread – 6 grams
- 1 cup broccoli – 6 grams
- 1 cup of green peas – 8 grams"

*Country Kitchen Collection*, 44, 45, Family Health Publications, 1992.

By looking at the few items listed above, it would be very hard to have a protein deficiency. **LM**



# *Almost Persuaded*

By John J. Grosboll

**T**here are many people who have lost their lives because of religious prejudice and persecution. One of the reasons that the Puritans and Pilgrims came to America was to escape the religious persecution in Europe and other parts of the world.

After Paul had appealed to Caesar, Festus told him that he would go to Rome, but some time remained before arrangements could be made. During this intervening time, King Agrippa, the last of the Herod kings visited Festus to learn about Paul's case.

The Bible says, "After some days King Agrippa and Bernice came to Caesarea to greet Festus. When they had been there many days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying: 'There is a certain man left a prisoner by Felix, about whom the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me, when I was in Jerusalem, asking for a judgment against him. To them I answered, 'It is not the custom of the Romans to deliver any man to destruction before the accused meets the accusers face to face, and has

opportunity to answer for himself concerning the charge against him.'"

"Therefore when they had come together, without any delay, the next day I sat on the judgment seat and commanded the man to be brought in. When the accusers stood up, they brought no accusation against him of such things as I supposed, but had some questions against him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus, who had died, whom Paul affirmed to be alive. And because I was uncertain of such questions, I asked whether he was willing to go to Jerusalem and there be judged concerning these matters. But when Paul appealed to be reserved for the decision of Augustus, I commanded him to be kept till I could send him to Caesar."

"Then Agrippa said to Festus, 'I also would like to hear the man myself.' 'Tomorrow,' he said, 'you shall hear him.' So the next day, when Agrippa and Bernice had come with great pomp, and had entered the auditorium with the commanders and the prominent men of the city, at Festus' command Paul

was brought in. And Festus said: 'King Agrippa and all the men who are here present with us, you see this man about whom the whole assembly of the Jews petitioned me, both at Jerusalem and here, crying out that he was not fit to live any longer. But when I found that he had committed nothing deserving [worthy] of death, and that he himself had appealed to Augustus, I decided to send him. I have nothing certain to write to my lord concerning him. Therefore I have brought him out before you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after the examination has taken place I may have something to write. For it seems to me unreasonable to send a prisoner and not to specify the charges against him'" (Acts 25:13-27).

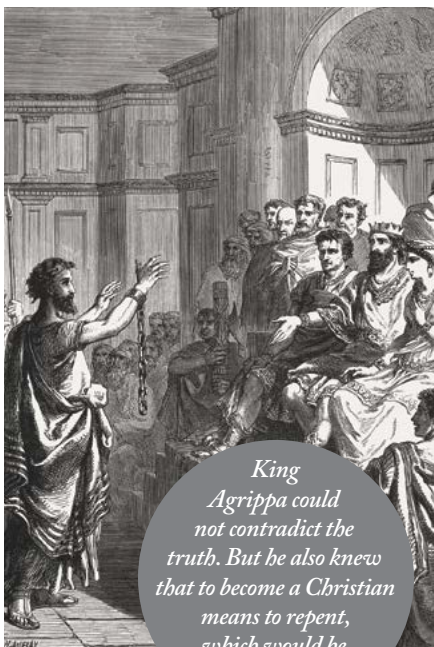
King Agrippa needed a compelling charge in order to send Paul to Rome to stand before Caesar, but he was at a loss because no crime had been committed. So, why is it that people have such hatred that they want innocent people convicted when no crime has been committed?

The Jews, denying Jesus' claim that He was "the light of the world" (John 8:12) and it was He alone who bore witness of Himself, "... said to Him, 'Where is Your Father?' Jesus answered, 'You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also'" (verse 19).

It is interesting that these were the religious leaders of God's chosen people, yet Jesus said they did not know either Him or His Father. The Jews greatly protested against this, saying, "'Abraham is our Father.' Jesus said to them, 'If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. You do the deeds of your father'" (verses 39-41, *first part*).

Though the Jews may have been physical descendants of Abraham, spiritually they were not his children. Vehemently, "Then they said to Him, 'We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God.' Jesus said to them, 'If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it'" (verses 41, *last part-44*).

Jesus said they were being influenced by their spiritual father, doing the deeds of the devil, who is the one who stirs up religious persecution and prejudice. Later in private, Jesus gave the warning to His disciples. He said, "These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And these



*King Agrippa could not contradict the truth. But he also knew that to become a Christian means to repent, which would be humiliating.*

things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me" (John 16:1-3).

Religious persecution comes from people who claim to be following God, but in fact are following an imposter—a different God. The Bible describes that imposter as the god of this world. Claiming to be followers of the Prince of Peace, they follow him who is an accuser of the brethren from the beginning.

No official could find any wrong in the conduct of the apostle Paul. In fact, as you read the account from beginning to end, you find that Lysias found nothing, Felix found nothing, Festus found nothing, and neither could Agrippa find anything in Paul's conduct worthy of imprisonment. When Paul is sent to Caesar, Caesar himself could find no reason to charge him; so finally he was set free.

Intrigued by Paul, King Agrippa wanted to hear the apostle's story. Agrippa was a transgressor of God's law, corrupt in his heart and his life, but he wanted to hear Paul's story and gave him an opportunity to speak.

You may wonder if during that time Agrippa ever thought about the history of his own family and of their fruitless efforts against the One of whom Paul preached. Did he think about his great-grandfather, Herod, and the massacre of the innocent children of Bethlehem? Did anything pass through his mind about his great uncle, Antipas, and the murder of John the Baptist? Did he think about his own father, Agrippa I, who was responsible for the martyrdom of the apostle James? Did he think of the disasters which speedily befell these kings, in evidence of God's displeasure because of their crimes against His servants? Did he think about the time when his own father, a monarch who was more powerful than he, stood in that very same city, in glittering robes, giving a speech that was such powerful oratory that the people shouted, "This is a god, not a man" (Acts 12:22)?

Had he forgotten how, before the admiring shouts had even died away, that vengeance, swift and terrible, had befallen the vain-glorious king who died a miserable death under the justice and judgment of God? Did he think of any of these things? This was Agrippa's one best chance to be saved.

The Bible says that Jesus is the true light that enlightens everyone that comes into the world. But many people ignore the opportunity that they have. "Agrippa said to Paul, 'You are permitted to speak for yourself.' So Paul stretched out his hand and answered for himself: 'I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because today I shall answer for myself before you concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews. Therefore I beg you to hear me patiently. My manner of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at Jerusalem, all the Jews know. They knew me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect





## Almost Persuaded

“Almost persuaded” now to believe;  
“Almost persuaded” Christ to receive;  
Seems now some soul to say,  
“Go, Spirit, go Thy way,  
Some more convenient day  
On Thee I’ll call.”

“Almost persuaded,” come, come today;  
“Almost persuaded,” turn not away;  
Jesus invites you here,  
Angels are ling’ring near,  
Prayers rise from hearts so dear;  
O wand’rer, come!

“Almost persuaded,” harvest is past!  
“Almost persuaded,” doom comes at last!  
“Almost” cannot avail;  
“Almost” is but to fail!  
Sad, sad, that bitter wail—  
“Almost”— but lost!

*Philip P. Bliss, 1871.*

of our religion I lived a Pharisee” (Acts 26:1–5). Agrippa knew exactly what the apostle Paul was talking about because he also had been instructed in all the laws and customs of the Jews.

Paul said, “And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers. To this promise our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God night and day, hope to attain. For this hope’s sake, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews. Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead? Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blas-

pheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign [strange] cities” (verses 6–11).

Paul had never seen Christ while He dwelt on earth as a man. He had heard about Him and did not believe that Jesus was the promised Messiah. He could not believe that the Creator of all the worlds, the One who upheld the universe, the giver of all blessings, could appear on earth as a mere man. He had looked for the Messiah to come in robes of majesty just as the rest of the Jews had hoped. He expected the Deliverer to be attended with pomp and proclaimed to be the Messiah by a host of angels.

But later he discovered that he had misread the Scriptures and that the Old Testament prophecies predicted the Messiah would come as a humble man, preaching the word of life with gentleness and humility. Jesus came to awaken the noblest impulses in the soul of man,

to satisfy man’s earnest spiritual longings, and to crown the work and warfare of life with infinite reward. Paul had looked for a Messiah to deliver the Jewish nation from the bondage of foreign kings, but he found that Christ came as a Saviour from the bondage of sin. As a Jewish Pharisee, his life had been to him a blind and baffling conflict, an unequal battle with a fever of unsatisfied desires. So it is with many people today. When he met Christ on the Damascus road his longings were satisfied, his fears were banished, and his burdens were lightened. He had found Him of whom Moses and the prophets had written. And he said to King Agrippa, “Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead” (verse 8)?

Not only has God proved that He could raise the dead, but there is the promise in Scripture that if you follow Jesus, even if you should die, at the last

day you will be raised up. Paul then gave the most lengthy and detailed description of his conversion. This is one of the most exciting stories in the Bible. He said, "While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance. For these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come—that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles" (verses 12–23).

As he spoke, Festus, who was not versed in the prophecies of the Old

Testament or the Jewish religion, had no concept of what Paul said and consequently thought Paul was insane. "Now as he ... made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, 'Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!' But Paul said, 'I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason. For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner'" (verses 24–26).

Paul then turned directly to Agrippa and asked if he believed the prophets (verse 27). For a moment the king lost his self-composure and almost involuntarily spoke the longing of his heart. He had listened to the truth and was convinced that it was so. "Then Agrippa said to Paul, 'You almost persuade me to become a Christian'" (verse 28). Many wealthy, powerful people have been in this same position and made a similar reply.

It is a scary thing to be almost persuaded. The evidence Paul presented was so powerful and overwhelming that King Agrippa could not contradict the truth. But he also knew that to become a Christian would require him to confess and repent of all of his sins and make things right with his fellow men. Like so many today, he thought that would be too humiliating. How many millions of people will be lost in the final Day of Judgment who have known the truth but turned away from it.

Felix said he would wait for a more convenient time. Agrippa was almost persuaded to become a Christian. But consider this: if you are almost persuaded, in the end you will be totally lost.

So many on the Day of Judgment will be almost saved. They almost decided to become a Christian and a disciple of Jesus Christ but not quite, because it requires confession and repentance of sins that they find too humiliating to admit.

In heaven there will be people who are guilty of murder and all manner of terrible sins, but will be saved because they were willing to repent and confess their sins and to the greatest extent possible, make things right. The Bible says, "... when I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' if he turns from his sin and does what is lawful and right, if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has stolen, and walks in the statutes of life without committing iniquity, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of his sins which he has committed shall be remembered against him; he has done what is lawful and right; he shall surely live" (Ezekiel 33:14–16).

How it is with you? The question is not what you have done wrong in the past but are you willing to repent? Repentance means heart felt sorrow for sins you have committed. Confession means you are sorry enough that you confess those sins and make right every transgression that you can. That may mean restore what you have stolen, whether you risk going to jail or whatever the consequence may be, so that you can have eternal life. Agrippa was convicted and was almost, but sadly, not quite willing to take the next step.

Paul said, "I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains" (Acts 26:29). Paul was not almost, but altogether a Christian. He had made his decision to follow the Lord all the way. The decision you make determines your destiny.

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

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July 26 – August 1, 2020

# The Great Educator

## Key Text

“And they were astonished at His doctrine: for He taught them as One that had authority, and not as the scribes” (Mark 1:22).

**Study Help:** *Education*, 73–83.

## Introduction

“He [Jesus] was a Teacher, such an educator as the world never saw or heard before. He spake as one having authority, and yet He invites the confidence of all.” *Selected Messages*, Book 3, 138.

## Sunday

### JESUS' EARLY LIFE

- a. How does the Bible describe Jesus' early life? Luke 2:40, 52.

**Note:** “He who came from heaven to be our example and teacher spent thirty years as a member of the household at Nazareth. Concerning these years the Bible record is very brief. No mighty miracles attracted the attention of the multitude. No eager throngs followed His steps or listened to His words. Yet during all these years He was fulfilling His divine mission. He lived as one of us, sharing the home life, submitting to its discipline, performing its duties, bearing its burdens.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 349.

- b. How is Jesus' humble reputation as a carpenter an example to every young person? Matthew 13:54–56.

**Note:** “It is in His home life that He [Jesus] is the pattern for all children and youth. The Saviour condescended to poverty, that He might teach how closely we in a humble lot may walk with God. He lived to please, honor, and glorify His Father in the common things of life. His work began in consecrating the lowly trade of the craftsmen who toil for their daily bread.” *The Desire of Ages*, 74.

## Monday

### THE EDUCATION OF JESUS AND JOHN THE BAPTIST

- a. What was meant in the question asked about Jesus' education? John 7:15.

**Note:** “The question asked during the Saviour's ministry, ‘How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?’ does not indicate that Jesus was unable to read, but merely that He had not received a rabbinical education (John 7:15). Since He gained knowledge as we may do, His intimate acquaintance with the Scriptures shows how diligently His early years were given to the study of God's word.” *The Desire of Ages*, 70.

“His education was gained from Heaven-appointed sources, from useful work, from the study of the Scriptures, from nature, and from the experiences of life—God's lesson books, full of instruction to all who bring to them the willing hand, the seeing eye, and the understanding heart.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 400.

- b. Why did Jesus and John the Baptist not attend the schools of their day? Matthew 15:9.

**Note:** “Our Saviour did not encourage any to attend the rabbinical schools of His day for the reason that their minds would be corrupted with the continually repeated, ‘They say,’ or, ‘It has been said.’ Why, then, should we accept the unstable words of men as exalted wisdom, when a greater, a certain wisdom is at our command?” *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 310.



“No one was regarded as qualified to be a religious teacher unless he had studied in the rabbinical schools, and both Jesus and John the Baptist had been represented as ignorant because they had not received this training.” *The Desire of Ages*, 453.

“Christ came to demonstrate the value of the divine principles by revealing their power for the regeneration of humanity. He came to teach how these principles are to be developed and applied.

“With the people of that age the value of all things was determined by outward show. As religion had declined in power, it had increased in pomp. The educators of the time sought to command respect by display and ostentation. To all this the life of Jesus presented a marked contrast. His life demonstrated the worthlessness of those things that men regarded as life’s great essentials. Born amidst surroundings the rudest, sharing a peasant’s home, a peasant’s fare, a craftsman’s occupation, living a life of obscurity, identifying Himself with the world’s unknown toilers—amidst these conditions and surroundings—Jesus followed the divine plan of education. The schools of His time, with their magnifying of things small and their belittling of things great, He did not seek. His education was gained directly from the Heaven-appointed sources; from useful work, from the study of the Scriptures and of nature, and from the experiences of life—God’s lesson books, full of instruction to all who bring to them the willing hand, the seeing eye, and the understanding heart.” *Education* 77.

**c. What example did John give in his preaching and lifestyle? Matthew 3:1–4.**

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**Note:** “It was his [John’s] choice to forgo the enjoyments and luxuries of life for the stern discipline of the wilderness. Here his surroundings were favorable to habits of simplicity and self-denial. Uninterrupted by the clamor of the world, he could here study the lessons of nature, of revelation, and of Providence.” *The Desire of Ages*, 101.

## Tuesday

### THE MASTER TEACHER

**a. What was the effect on the people of Jesus’ great Sermon on the Mount? Matthew 7:28, 29.**

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**Note:** “Jesus had nothing to do with the various subjects of dissension among the Jews. It was His work to present the truth. His words shed a flood of light upon the teachings of patriarchs and prophets, and the Scriptures came to men as a new revelation. Never before had His hearers perceived such a depth of meaning in the word of God.” *The Desire of Ages*, 253.

“Christ sought to remove that which obscured the truth. The veil that sin has cast over the face of nature, He came to draw aside, bringing to view the spiritual glory that all things were created to reflect.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 18, 19.

**b. What effect did Jesus’ method of education have on the disciples? Acts 4:13.**

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**Note:** “For three years and a half the disciples were under the instruction of the greatest Teacher the world has ever known. By personal contact and association, Christ trained them for His service. Day by day they walked and talked with Him, hearing His words of cheer to the weary and heavy-laden, and seeing the manifestation of His power in behalf of the sick and the afflicted. Sometimes He taught them, sitting among them on the mountainside; sometimes beside the sea or walking by the way, He revealed the mysteries of the kingdom of God. Wherever hearts were open to receive the divine message, He unfolded the truths of the way of salvation. He did not command the disciples to do this or that, but said, ‘Follow Me.’ On His journeys through country and cities, He took them with Him, that they might see how He taught the people. ... They saw Him in every phase of life.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 17, 18.

“When He sent forth the Twelve and afterward the Seventy, to proclaim the kingdom of God, He was teaching them their duty to impart to others what He had made known to them. In all His work He was training them for individual labor, to be extended as their numbers increased, and eventually to reach to the uttermost parts of the earth.” *Ibid.*, 32.

## Wednesday

### JESUS’ METHODS OF TEACHING

**a. In what surroundings did Jesus teach His hearers? Matthew 5:1, 2. How did He make use of familiar things?**

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**Note:** “Jesus sought an avenue to every heart. By using a variety of illustrations, He not only presented truth in its different phases, but appealed to the different hearers. Their interest was aroused by figures drawn from the surroundings of their daily life. ...

“Divine wisdom, infinite grace, were made plain by the things of God’s creation. Through nature and the experiences of life, men were taught of God.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 21, 22.

“As Jesus taught the people, He made His lessons interesting and held the attention of His hearers by frequent illustrations from the scenes of nature about them.” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 38.

“When the Lord was training Israel to be the special representatives of Himself, He gave them homes among the hills and valleys. In their home life and their religious service they were brought in constant contact with nature and with the word of God. So Christ taught His disciples by the lake, on the mountainside, in the fields and groves, where they could look upon the things of nature by which He illustrated His teachings. And as they learned of Christ, they put their knowledge to use by co-operating with Him in His work.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 24.

- b. What special teaching technique did Jesus often use? Matthew 13:34, 35.

**Note:** “In Christ’s parable teaching the same principle is seen as in His own mission to the world. That we might become acquainted with His divine character and life, Christ took our nature and dwelt among us. Divinity was revealed in humanity; the invisible glory in the visible human form. Men could learn of the unknown through the known; heavenly things were revealed through the earthly; God was made manifest in the likeness of men. So it was in Christ’s teaching: the unknown was illustrated by the known; divine truths by earthly things with which the people were most familiar. ...

“Natural things were the medium for the spiritual; the things of nature and the life-experience of His hearers were connected with the truths of the written word.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 17.

## Thursday

### JESUS’ USE OF THE SCRIPTURES

- a. How did Jesus choose to enlighten the two disciples on the road to Emmaus? Luke 24:25–27.

**Note:** “Beginning at Moses, the very Alpha of Bible history, Christ expounded in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Had He first made Himself known to them, their hearts would have been satisfied. In the fullness of their joy they would have hungered for nothing more. But it was necessary for them to understand the witness borne to Him by the types and prophecies of the Old Testament. Upon these their faith must be established. Christ performed no miracle to convince them, but it was His first work to explain the Scriptures. They had looked upon His death as the destruction of all their hopes. Now He showed from the prophets that this was the very strongest evidence for their faith.” *The Desire of Ages*, 796–799.

- b. How did Jesus constantly direct attention back to the Scriptures? John 5:39; 17:17; Luke 16:31.

**Note:** “Christ’s work as a teacher of truth was in marked contrast to that of the rabbis of His time. They dwelt upon traditions, upon human theories and speculations. Often that which man had taught and written about the word, they put in place of the word itself. Their teaching had no power to quicken the soul. The subject of Christ’s teaching and preaching was the word of God. He met questioners with a plain, ‘It is written.’ ‘What saith the Scriptures?’ ‘How readest thou?’” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 38, 39.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How did the world’s greatest Teacher spend His early life on earth?
- 2 Would Jesus or John the Baptist attend the schools of today? Explain.
- 3 How did Jesus’ teaching differ from the popular teachers of His day?
- 4 Describe some of Jesus’ methods of teaching and illustrating truth.
- 5 Why was it vital for Christ to establish the disciples’ faith in God’s Word?

August 2 – 8, 2020

# The Foundation of True Education

## Key Text

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding” (Proverbs 9:10).

**Study Help:** *Education*, 123–127.

## Introduction

“The Word of God presents the most potent means of education, as well as the most valuable source of knowledge, within the reach of man.” *The Review and Herald*, September 25, 1883.

## Sunday

### GOD’S WORD TO YOU

- a. **How does God communicate with humanity?**  
Amos 3:7; 2 Peter 1:20, 21.

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**Note:** “As an educating power the Bible is without a rival. In the word of God the mind finds subject for the deepest thought, the loftiest aspiration. ... It lights up the far-distant past, where human research seeks vainly to penetrate. ... In the reverent contemplation of the truths presented in His word the mind of the student is brought into communion with the infinite mind.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 596.

- b. **What are some qualities of Scripture?** 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 12:6, 7.

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**Note:** “God did not leave His Word to be preserved in the memories of men and handed down from generation to generation by oral transmission and traditional unfolding. Had He done this, the Word would gradually have been added to by men. ... Let us thank God for His written word.” *The Upward Look*, 52.

“The Bible is the most instructive history that men possess. It came fresh from the fountain of eternal truth, and a divine hand has preserved its purity through all the ages.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 596.

## Monday

### UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

- a. **To what is the Bible likened?** Psalm 119:105.

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**Note:** “God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority—not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain ‘Thus saith the Lord’ in its support.” *The Great Controversy*, 595.

- b. **How is the Word explained?** Isaiah 28:10; Luke 24:27; Matthew 4:4.

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**Note:** “No one with a spirit to appreciate its teaching can read a single passage from the Bible without gaining from it some helpful thought. But the most valuable teaching of the Bible is not to be gained by occasional or disconnected study. Its great system of truth is not so presented as to be discerned by the hasty or careless reader. Many of its treasures lie far beneath the surface, and can be obtained only by diligent research and continuous effort. The truths that go to make up the great whole must be searched out and gathered up, ‘here a little, and there a little’ (Isaiah 28:10).” *Education*, 123.



“Endeavoring to lay aside all preconceived opinions, and dispensing with commentaries, he [William Miller] compared scripture with scripture by the aid of the marginal references and the concordance. He pursued his study in a regular and methodical manner; beginning with Genesis, and reading verse by verse, he proceeded no faster than the meaning of the several passages so unfolded as to leave him free from all embarrassment. When he found anything obscure, it was his custom to compare it with every other text which seemed to have any reference to the matter under consideration. Every word was permitted to have its proper bearing upon the subject of the text, and if his view of it harmonized with every collateral passage, it ceased to be a difficulty. Thus whenever he met with a passage hard to be understood he found an explanation in some other portion of the Scriptures.” *The Great Controversy*, 320.

## Tuesday

### SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

- a. What should we do constantly with the Bible?  
John 5:39.

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**Note:** “In searching the Scriptures you are not to endeavor to interpret their utterances so as to agree with your preconceived ideas, but come as a learner to understand the foundation principles of the faith of Christ.” *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, 25.

- b. As workers for God, how are we to prepare ourselves to deeply understand His word? 1 Peter 3:15.

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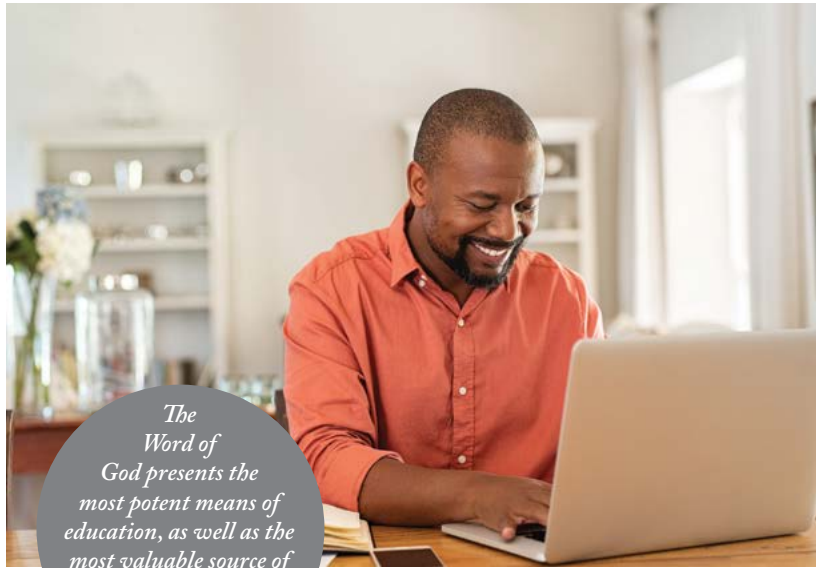


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**Note:** “Not alone in searching out truth and bringing it together does the mental value of Bible study consist. It consists also in the effort required to grasp the themes presented. The mind occupied with commonplace matters only, becomes dwarfed and enfeebled. If never tasked to comprehend grand and far-reaching truths, it after a time loses the power of growth. As a safeguard against this degeneracy, and a stimulus to development, nothing else can equal the study of God’s word. As a means of intellectual training, the Bible is more effective than any other book, or all other books combined.” *Education*, 124.



*The Word of God presents the most potent means of education, as well as the most valuable source of knowledge, within the reach of man.*

“The close application of those Hebrew students [Daniel and his companions] under the training of God was richly rewarded. While they made diligent effort to secure knowledge, the Lord gave them heavenly wisdom. The knowledge they gained was of great service to them when brought into strait places. The Lord God of heaven will not supply the deficiencies that result from mental and spiritual indolence. When the human agents shall exercise their faculties to acquire knowledge, to become deep-thinking men; when they, as the greatest witnesses for God and the truth, shall have won in the field of investigation of vital doctrines concerning the salvation of the soul, that glory may be given to the God of heaven as supreme, then even judges and kings will be brought to acknowledge, in the courts of justice, in parliaments and councils, that the God who made the heavens and the earth is the only true and living God, the author of Christianity, the author of all truth, who instituted the seventh-day Sabbath when the foundations of the world were laid, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted together for joy.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 374, 375.

## Wednesday

### ADVANCING LIGHT

- a. How does God continue to reveal new light to His people? Proverbs 4:18.

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**Note:** “Let no one come to the conclusion that there is no more truth to be revealed. ... Many gems are yet scattered that are to be gathered together to become the property of the remnant people of God.” *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, 34.

**b. What are we to do with the light we have? 1 Thessalonians 5:21.**

**Note:** “We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.” *Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, 196.

“Many know so little about their Bibles that they are unsettled in the faith. They remove the old landmarks, and fallacies and winds of doctrine blow them hither and thither.” *Evangelism*, 362.

“No line of truth that has made the Seventh-day Adventist people what they are is to be weakened. We have the old landmarks of truth, experience, and duty, and we are to stand firmly in defense of our principles, in full view of the world.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 17.

“When the power of God testifies as to what is truth, that truth is to stand forever as the truth. No after-suppositions, contrary to the light God has given are to be entertained. ... One will arise, and still another, with new light which contradicts the light that God has given under the demonstration of His Holy Spirit.” *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, 31, 32.

**c. What preparation do we need for the gospel work? Hebrews 5:11-14.**

**Note:** “We must, through fervent prayer and deep and earnest research, become established and settled, rooted and grounded in the faith, and know, each for himself, that we have the truth. If we are thus established, we shall not depart from the faith when tested and tried, as some have done.” *The Review and Herald*, September 4, 1888.

## Thursday

### STUDYING TOGETHER

**a. What kind of educational environment do we want to encourage in the Sabbath school? 2 Timothy 2:15.**

**Note:** “Our Sabbath schools are nothing less than Bible societies, and in the sacred work of teaching the truths of God’s word, they can accomplish far more than they have hitherto accomplished.” *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, 9.

“If you are called to be a teacher in any branch of the work of God, you are called also to be a learner in the school of Christ. If you take upon you the sacred responsibility of teaching others, you take upon you the duty of going to the bottom of every subject you seek to teach. If you present a subject from the word of God to your pupils in the Sabbath school, you should make the reasons for your faith so plain that your scholars shall be convinced of its truth. You should diligently search and compare the evidences of the word of God on messages that He sends to the church, that you may know what is truth, and be able to direct those who look to you into the way of righteousness.” *Ibid.*, 31.

“Those who have entered upon the work of teaching, or who have been called to any position of responsibility, should not be satisfied to take the product of the researches of other minds, but they should investigate truth for themselves. If they do not form the habit of investigating themes of truth for themselves, they will become superficial in their life and acquirements. ... You should examine the truths you have been led to believe, until you know that they are without a flaw.” *Ibid.*, 33.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Why was it so important that the Word of God be written down?
- 2 How are we to study to arrive at an understanding of Bible truth?
- 3 What mental and spiritual benefits are to be derived from deep Bible study?
- 4 How does God continue to teach His people?
- 5 How can we improve our church educational environment?

August 9 – 15, 2020

# To Be a Teacher

## Key Text

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

**Study Help:** *Education*, 275–282.

## Introduction

“Teachers are to watch over their students as the shepherd watches over the flock entrusted to his charge. They should care for souls as they that must give an account.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 65.

## Sunday

### QUALITIES OF A TEACHER

- a. To what should the teacher direct the students?  
1 Corinthians 11:1.

**Note:** “Teachers are to do more for students than to impart a knowledge of books. Their position as guide and instructor of youth is most responsible; for to them is given the work of moulding mind and character. Those who undertake this work should possess well-balanced, symmetrical characters. They should be refined in manner, neat in dress, careful in all their habits; and they should have that true Christian courtesy that wins confidence and respect. The teacher should be himself what he wishes his students to become.” *The Signs of the Times*, March 14, 1900.

- b. What spiritual experience is needed? Deuteronomy 10:12.

**Note:** “Every educator should daily receive instructions from the Great Teacher, and should labor constantly under His guidance. It is impossible for him rightly to understand or to perform his work, unless he shall be much with God in prayer. Only by divine aid, combined with earnest, self-denying effort, can he hope to fill his position wisely and well.” *The Review and Herald*, September 22, 1885.

## Monday

### BEING EQUIPPED TO TEACH

- a. What should be the attitude of a teacher toward the Word? For what purpose? 1 Peter 2:2.

- b. What should the leaders in God’s church seek from God? Psalm 145:15. What should they do with this?

**Note:** “Because they [those who are watching for the Lord] know that the Lord is at the door, their zeal is quickened to co-operate with the divine intelligences in working for the salvation of souls. These are the faithful and wise servants who give to the Lord’s household ‘their portion of meat in due season’ (Luke 12:42). They are declaring the truth that is now specially applicable.” *The Desire of Ages*, 634.

“Our standing before God depends, not upon the amount of light we have received, but upon the use we make of what we have. Thus even the heathen who choose the right as far as they can distinguish it are in a more favorable condition than are those who have had great light, and profess to serve God, but who disregard the light, and by their daily life contradict their profession.” *Ibid.*, 239.

- c. What was the example of the Bereans in searching the Scriptures? Acts 17:11.



**Note:** “Oh, that those who minister in holy things would awake, and, like the noble Bereans, search the Scriptures daily! Brethren in the ministry, I entreat of you to study the Scriptures with humble prayer for an understanding heart, that you may teach the way of life more perfectly. Your counsel, prayers, and example must be a savor of life unto life, or you are unqualified to point out the way of life to others.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 343.

“Men, women, and youth, God requires you to possess moral courage, steadiness of purpose, fortitude and perseverance, minds that cannot take the assertions of another, but which will investigate for themselves before receiving or rejecting, that will study and weigh evidence, and take it to the Lord in prayer.” *Ibid.*, 130.

## Tuesday

### MENTAL PREPARATION FOR TEACHING

- a. What should we ask God to grant us in preparation for sharing truth with others? Colossians 1:9, James 1:5.

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**Note:** “Set aside a portion of each day for a study of the Scriptures and communion with God. Thus you will obtain spiritual strength, and will grow in favor with God. He alone can give you noble aspirations; He alone can fashion the character after the divine similitude. Draw near to Him in earnest prayer, and He will fill your hearts with high and holy purposes, and with deep, earnest longings for purity and clearness of thought.” *Gospel Workers*, 100.

“Ministers who would labor effectively for the salvation of souls must be Bible students and men of prayer. It is a sin to be neglectful of the study of the Word while attempting to teach it to others. Those who feel the worth of souls realize that too much is at stake for them to dare to be careless in regard to their advancement in divine knowledge, and they flee to the stronghold of truth, whence they may obtain wisdom, knowledge, and strength to work the works of God. They will not rest without an unction from on high.” *Ibid.*, 99.

- b. What danger do those face who do not make appropriate preparation and who are spiritually unstable? 2 Peter 3:16.
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**Note:** “Some who enter the ministry do not feel the burden of the work. They have false ideas of the qualifications of a minister. They think that it requires little close study of the sciences or of the word of God in order to gain a fitness for the ministry. Some who are teaching present truth are so deficient in Bible knowledge that it is difficult for them to quote a text of Scripture correctly from memory. By blundering along in the awkward manner that they do, they sin against God. They wrest the Scriptures, and make the Bible say things that are not written therein.

“Some think that an education or a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures is of little consequence if only a man has the Spirit. But God never sends His Spirit to sanction ignorance. He may and does pity and bless those who are so situated that it is impossible for them to obtain an education; and sometimes He condescends to make His strength perfect in their weakness. But it is the duty of such to study His word.” *Gospel Workers*, 105, 106.

## Wednesday

### MEETING OPPOSITION

- a. By what symbols does Jeremiah tell us that we need to be prepared for competitive and opposing forces in our work for the Lord? Jeremiah 12:5.
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**Note:** “Those who do not love to study, are ever in great danger of becoming dwarfs in spiritual and mental growth. They consider that they have a moderate understanding of Scripture subjects, and they cease to investigate, cease to plow deep that they may obtain all the treasures of knowledge possible. Instead of cultivating studious habits, they yield to inclination, and are content to skim the surface, without going with energy to the bottom of the question under consideration. Those who have this superficial manner of study would not be prepared to meet an opponent in discussion should one oppose them. They penetrate only deep enough into a subject to meet the present emergency, and to conceal the real ignorance of their lazy minds.” *The Review and Herald*, April 6, 1886.

“The Holy Spirit’s work is to guide into all truth. When you depend on the word of the living God with heart and mind and soul, the channel of communication will be unobstructed. Deep, earnest study of the word under the guidance of the Holy Spirit will give you fresh manna, and the same Spirit will make its use effectual. ... Those who make persevering efforts in this direction, putting the mind to the task of comprehending God’s word, are prepared to be laborers together with God.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 163, 164.

- b. What spiritual lesson can we learn from David's refusal to use Saul's armor to meet Goliath?  
1 Samuel 17:39.

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**Note:** "Young men should search the Scriptures for themselves. They are not to feel that it is sufficient for those older in experience to find out the truth; that the younger ones can accept it from them as authority. ...

"No man should be relied upon to think for us. No matter who he is, or in what position he may be placed, we are not to look upon any man as a criterion for us. We are to counsel together, and to be subject one to another; but at the same time we are to exercise the ability God has given us, in order to learn what is truth. Each one of us must look to God for divine enlightenment. We must individually develop a character that will stand the test in the day of God." *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 109, 110.

## Thursday

### MAKE THEM YOUR OWN

- a. What inspiring example was left by Ezra the scribe?  
Ezra 7:10.

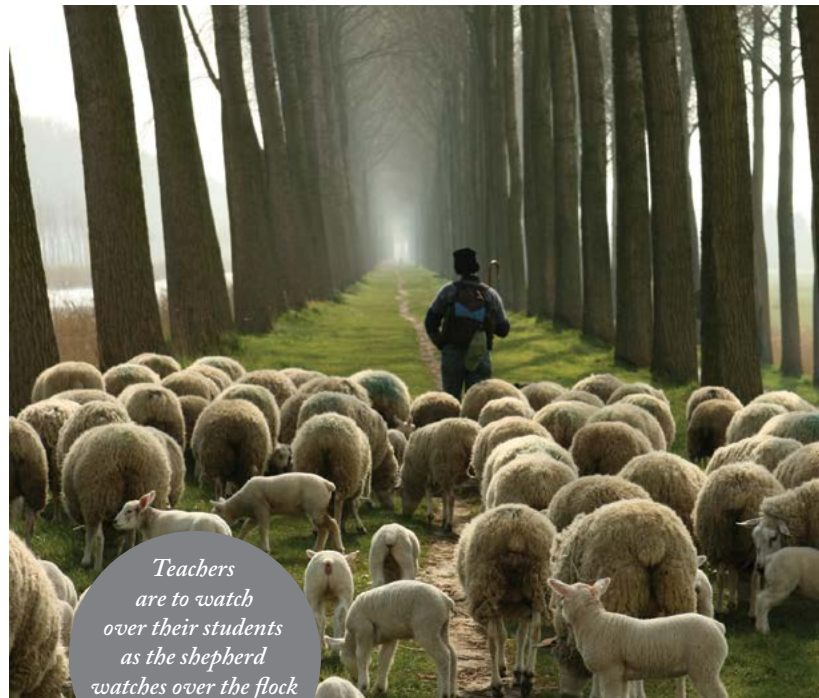
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**Note:** "In order to make full proof of their ministry, those who open the word of God to others should search the Scriptures diligently. They should not be content to use other men's thoughts, but should dig for truth as for hid treasures. While it is perfectly right to gather ideas from other minds, they should not be satisfied to take those ideas and repeat them in a poll-parrot manner. Make these ideas your own, brethren; frame the arguments yourselves, from your own study and research. Do not borrow the productions of other men's brains and pens, and recite them as a lesson; but make the most of the talents, the brain power, that God has given you." *The Review and Herald*, April 6, 1886.



*Teachers  
are to watch  
over their students  
as the shepherd  
watches over the flock  
entrusted to his  
charge.*

"By rising early and economizing their moments, ministers can find time for a close investigation of the Scriptures. They must have perseverance, and not be thwarted in their object, but persistently employ their time in a study of the word, bringing to their aid the truths which other minds, through wearing labor, have brought out for them, and with diligent, persevering effort, prepared to their hand. There are ministers who have been laboring for years, teaching the truth to others, while they themselves are not familiar with the strong points of our position. I beg of such to have done with their idleness. It is a continual curse to them. God requires them to make every moment fruitful of some good to themselves or to others. 'Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord' (Romans 2:11). 'He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster' (Proverbs 18:9)." *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 500.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What should a teacher be in order to best fill his position? How does he achieve this?
- 2 How did the Bereans find "meat in due season"? How can we?
- 3 What habits must be cultivated by those who teach others?
- 4 Why must we study deeply for ourselves in order to be able to teach?
- 5 How can we improve the quality of our teaching in every department?

August 16 – 22, 2020

# Guidance for Home Educators

## Key Text

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth” (3 John 4).

**Study Help:** *Child Guidance*, 17–25, 119–136.

## Introduction

“What the parents are, that, to a great extent, the children will be. The physical conditions of the parents, their dispositions and appetites, their mental and moral tendencies, are, to a greater or less degree, reproduced in their children.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 371.

## Sunday

### TEACHING THEM DILIGENTLY

- a. What responsibility rests on parents as the first educators of children? Deuteronomy 6:6–9.

**Note:** “As a preparation for teaching His precepts, God commands that they be hidden in the hearts of the parents. ‘These words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart,’ He says; ‘and thou shalt teach them diligently’ (Deuteronomy 6:6, 7). In order to interest our children in the Bible, we ourselves must be interested in it. To awaken in them a love for its study, we must love it.” *Education*, 187.

- b. Who was instrumental in establishing the faith of Timothy? 2 Timothy 1:5. What vital role do mothers play in every facet of education?

**Note:** “Especially does responsibility rest upon the mother. She, by whose lifeblood the child is nourished and its physical frame built up, imparts to it also mental and spiritual influences that tend to the shaping of mind and character.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 372.

## Monday

### LOCATION OF THE HOME

- a. With the examples of Abraham and Lot before us, what considerations should take precedence in the choice of a home? Genesis 13:11, 12.

**Note:** “In choosing a home, God would have us consider, first of all, the moral and religious influences that will surround us and our families. ...

“Instead of dwelling where only the works of men can be seen, where the sights and sounds frequently suggest thoughts of evil, where turmoil and confusion bring weariness and disquietude, go where you can look upon the works of God. Find rest of spirit in the beauty and quietude and peace of nature. ...

“The home of our first parents was to be a pattern for other homes as their children should go forth to occupy the earth. ... The blue heavens were its dome; the earth, with its delicate flowers and carpet of living green, was its floor; and the leafy branches of the goodly trees were its canopy. Its walls were hung with the most magnificent adornings—the handiwork of the great Master Artist. In the surroundings of the holy pair was a lesson for all time—that true happiness is found, not in the indulgence of pride and luxury, but in communion with God through His created works.” *The Adventist Home*, 131, 132.

- b. What choice of location did John the Baptist make in view of his mission? Matthew 3:1.

**Note:** “John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, received his early training from his parents. The greater portion of his life



was spent in the wilderness. ... It was John's choice to forego the enjoyments and luxuries of city life for the stern discipline of the wilderness. Here his surroundings were favorable to habits of simplicity and self-denial." *The Adventist Home*, 133.

"There is not one family in a hundred who will be improved physically, mentally, or spiritually, by residing in the city." *Country Living*, 13.

"Parents can secure small homes in the country, with land for cultivation where they can have orchards and where they can raise vegetables and small fruits. ... God will help His people to find such homes outside of the cities." *Medical Ministry*, 310.

## Tuesday

### THE CHILD'S FIRST SCHOOL

- a. Whom has God ordained to be the child's first teachers? Proverbs 1:8.

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**Note:** "Parents should be the only teachers of their children until they have reached eight or ten years of age. As fast as their minds can comprehend it, the parents should open before them God's great book of nature. The mother should have less love for the artificial in her house and in the preparation of her dress for display, and should find time to cultivate, in herself and in her children, a love for the beautiful buds and opening flowers. By calling the attention of her children to their different colors and variety of forms, she can make them acquainted with God, who made all the beautiful things which attract and delight them. She can lead their minds up to their Creator and awaken in their young hearts a love for their heavenly Father, who has manifested so great love for them. Parents can associate God with all His created works. The only schoolroom for children from eight to ten years of age should be in the open air amid the opening flowers and nature's beautiful scenery. And their only textbook should be the treasures of nature. These lessons, imprinted upon the minds of young children amid the pleasant, attractive scenes of nature, will not be soon forgotten." *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 137.

"In His wisdom the Lord has decreed that the family shall be the greatest of all educational agencies. It is in the home that the education of the child is to begin. Here is his first school." *The Adventist Home*, 182.



*What  
the parents  
are, that, to a  
great extent,  
the children will  
be.*

- b. What counsel should encourage parents to educate their own children as long as possible? Psalm 34:13, 14.

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**Note:** "Some fathers and mothers are so indifferent, so careless, that they think it makes no difference whether their children attend a church school or a public school. 'We are in the world,' they say, 'and we cannot get out of it.' But, parents, we can get a good way out of the world, if we choose to do so. We can avoid seeing many of the evils that are multiplying so fast in these last days. We can avoid hearing about much of the wickedness and crime that exist." *The Adventist Home*, 406.

"Neither the church school nor the college affords the opportunities for establishing a child's character building upon the right foundation that are afforded in the home." *Child Guidance*, 170.

## Wednesday

### LESSONS OF RESPONSIBILITY AND INDUSTRY

- a. How are parents to educate their children in order to best prepare them to be responsible adults?  
Proverbs 22:6.

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**Note:** “Children as well as parents have important duties in the home. They should be taught that they are a part of the home firm. They are fed and clothed and loved and cared for; and they should respond to these many mercies by bearing their share of the home burdens and bringing all the happiness possible into the family of which they are members.

“Let every mother teach her children that they are members of the family firm and must bear their share of the responsibilities of this firm. Every member of the family should bear these responsibilities as faithfully as church members bear the responsibilities of church relationships.

“Let the children know that they are helping father and mother by doing little errands. Give them some work to do for you, and tell them that afterward they can have a time to play.

“Children have active minds, and they need to be employed in lifting the burdens of practical life. ... They should never be left to pick up their own employment. Parents should control this matter themselves.” *The Adventist Home*, 282.

“Allow them to help you in every way they can, and show them that you appreciate their help. Let them feel that they are a part of the family firm. Teach them to use their minds as much as possible, so to plan their work that they may do it quickly and thoroughly.” *Child Guidance*, 126.

- b. What character trait is essential for usefulness?  
Proverbs 22:29.

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**Note:** “One of the surest safeguards of the young is useful occupation. Children who are trained to industrious habits, so that all their hours are usefully and pleasantly employed ... are in little danger of forming vicious habits or associations. ...

“Habits of industry and thoroughness will be an untold blessing to the youth in the larger school of life, upon which they must enter as they grow older.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 122, 123.

## Thursday

### A SACRED WORK

- a. How does the Bible describe the sacred work of heads of families? Psalm 128; Isaiah 8:18.

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**Note:** “Parents, you carry responsibilities that no one can bear for you. As long as you live, you are accountable to God to keep His way. ... Parents who make the word of God their guide, and who realize how much their children depend upon them for the characters they form, will set an example that it will be safe for their children to follow.” *The Adventist Home*, 187.

“After the minister has done all he can do for the church by faithful, affectionate admonition, patient discipline, and fervent prayer to reclaim and save the soul, yet is not successful, the fathers and mothers often blame him because their children are not converted, when it may be because of their own neglect. The burden rests with the parents; and will they take up the work that God has entrusted to them, and with fidelity perform it?” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 495.

“Do not depend upon the teachers of the Sabbath school to do your work of training your children in the way they should go. The Sabbath school is a great blessing; it may help you in your work, but it can never take your place. God has given to all fathers and mothers the responsibility of bringing their children to Jesus, teaching them how to pray and believe in the word of God.” *The Adventist Home*, 189.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Why are parents considered the primary educators of children?
- 2 How is the environment of the home related to the work of education?
- 3 What are the potential results of young children spending every day away from home?
- 4 How is the home education central to usefulness for the rest of your life?
- 5 Why are some parents tempted to blame the church for their own failures?

August 23 – 29, 2020

# The Church and Its Youth

## Key Text

“It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth” (Lamentations 3:27).

**Study Help:** *Messages to Young People*, 173–175.

## Introduction

“The Lord calls for young men and women to enter His service. The youth are receptive, fresh, ardent, hopeful. When once they have tasted the spirit of self-sacrifice, they will not be satisfied unless they are learning constantly of the great Teacher.” *Our High Calling*, 306.

## Sunday

### OUR FIRST DUTY

- a. Whom did Jesus commend as examples of humble faith? Matthew 18:1–6.

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- b. What did Jesus ask of one of His most ardent disciples? John 21:15–17.

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**Note:** “The first work that Christ entrusted to Peter on restoring him to the ministry was to feed the lambs. This was a work in which Peter had little experience. It would require great care and tenderness, much patience and perseverance. It called him to minister to those who were young in the faith, to teach the ignorant, to open the Scriptures to them, and to educate them for usefulness in Christ’s service.” *The Desire of Ages*, 812.

“Although Peter had denied his Lord, the love which Jesus bore him never faltered. Just such love should the undershepherd feel for the sheep and lambs committed to his care. Remembering his own weakness and failure, Peter was to deal with his flock as tenderly as Christ had dealt with him.” *Ibid.*, 815.

- c. What searching question will parents, educators, and church leaders of today face? Jeremiah 13:20.

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## Monday

### THE HIGHEST WORK

- a. What is the highest missionary work that can be done? Mark 10:13, 14, 16.

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**Note:** “Very much has been lost to the cause of truth by a lack of attention to the spiritual needs of the young. Ministers of the gospel should form a happy acquaintance with the youth of their congregations. ...

“Why should not labor for the youth in our borders be regarded as missionary work of the highest kind? It requires the most delicate tact, the most watchful consideration, the most earnest prayer for heavenly wisdom. The youth are the objects of Satan’s special attacks; but kindness, courtesy, and the sympathy which flows from a heart filled with love to Jesus, will gain their confidence, and save them from many a snare of the enemy.” *Gospel Workers*, 207.

“The work that lies next to our church members is to become interested in our youth; for they need kindness, patience, tenderness, line upon line, precept upon precept. Oh, where are the fathers and mothers in Israel? There ought to be a large number who would be stewards of the grace of Christ, who would feel not merely a casual but a special interest in the young. There ought to be those whose hearts are touched by the pitiable situation in which our youth are placed, and who realize that Satan is working by every conceivable device to draw them into his net.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 41, 42.

“Nothing is of greater importance than the education of our children and young people. The church should arouse and manifest a deep interest in this work; for now as never before, Satan and his host are determined to enlist the youth under the black banner that leads to ruin and death.” *Ibid.*, 165.



- b. How did Jesus show the value of children? Matthew 18:2-4.

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**Note:** “Calling a little child to Him, Jesus set him in the midst of them; then tenderly folding the little one in His arms He said, ‘Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven’ (Matthew 18:3). The simplicity, the self-forgetfulness, and the confiding love of a little child are the attributes that Heaven values. These are the characteristics of real greatness.” *The Desire of Ages*, 437.

## Tuesday

### HOW TO FEED LAMBS

- a. What should children be taught? Psalm 34:11. How should this be done?

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**Note:** “Special talent should be given to the education of the little ones. Many can put the crib high and give food to the sheep, but it is a more difficult matter to put the crib low and feed the lambs.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 205.

“Let me say here that those who have never had children of their own are not usually the best qualified to manage wisely the varied minds of children and youth. They are apt to make one law, from which there can be no appeal. Teachers must remember that they themselves were once children. They should adapt their teaching to the minds of the children, placing themselves in sympathy with them.” *Ibid.*, vol. 5, 653, 654.

- b. What spiritual experience should teachers have, and how should they then instruct the children? Deuteronomy 11:18-21.

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**Note:** “When Jesus admonished His disciples not to despise the little ones, He addressed all disciples in all ages. His own love and care for children is a precious example for His followers. If teachers in the Sabbath school felt the love which they should feel for these lambs of the flock, many more would be won to the fold of Christ. At every suitable opportunity, let the story of Jesus’ love be repeated to the children. In every sermon let a little corner be left for their benefit. The servant of Christ may have lasting friends in these little ones, and his words may be to them as apples of gold in pictures of silver.” *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, 76.

“The management and instruction of children is the noblest missionary work that any man or woman can undertake. By the proper use of objects the lessons should be made very plain, that their minds may be led from nature up to nature’s God. We must have in our schools those who possess the tact and skill to carry forward this line of work, thus sowing seeds of truth.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 205.

- c. What will be the results of faithfulness in educating? Proverbs 22:6; Joel 1:3.

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## Wednesday

### MAKING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION A PRIORITY

- a. What was the work of Christ? How is this also the work of the church? Isaiah 40:11.

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**Note:** “The youth need more than a casual notice, more than an occasional word of encouragement. They need painstaking, prayerful, careful labor. He only whose heart is filled with love and sympathy will be able to reach those youth who are apparently careless and indifferent. Not all can be helped in the same way. God deals with each according to his temperament and character, and we must cooperate with Him. Often those whom we pass by with indifference, because we judge them from outward appearance, have in them the best material for workers, and will repay all the efforts bestowed on them. There must be more study given to the problem of how to deal with the youth, more earnest prayer for the wisdom that is needing in dealing with minds.” *Gospel Workers*, 208.



- b. What should guide education for the youth? Proverbs 9:10.

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**Note:** “It is high time for Sabbathkeepers to separate their children from worldly associations and place them under the very best teachers, who will make the Bible the foundation of all study.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 109.

“Employ a Christian teacher, who, as a consecrated missionary, shall educate the children in such a way as to lead them to become missionaries.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 174.

“Many families who, for the purpose of educating their children, move to places where our large schools are established, would do better service for the Master by remaining where they are. They should encourage the church of which they are members to establish a church school where the children within their borders could receive an all-round, practical Christian education. It would be vastly better for their children, for themselves, and for the cause of God if they would remain in the smaller churches, where their help is needed, instead of going to the larger churches, where, because they are not needed, there is a constant temptation to fall into spiritual inactivity.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 198.

“The Lord would use the church school as an aid to the parents in educating and preparing their children for this time before us. Then let the church take hold of the school work in earnest and make it what the Lord desires it to be.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 167.

## Thursday

### YOUTH IN SERVICE

- a. What goal must our church schools have for each of our youth? Isaiah 54:13; 3 John 3, 4.

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**Note:** “Our church schools are ordained by God to prepare the children for this great work. Here children are to be instructed in the special truths for this time and in practical missionary work. ... By them God’s message will be made known and His saving health to all nations. Then let the church carry a burden for the lambs of the flock. Let the children be educated and trained to do service for God, for they are the Lord’s heritage.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 203.

- b. Why should we involve them in service early? Ecclesiastes 12:1; Lamentations 3:27.

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**Note:** “We need young men and women, who, having high intellectual culture, are fitted to do the best work for the Lord. We have done something toward reaching this standard, but still we are far behind that which the Lord has designed. As a church, as individuals, if we would stand clear in the judgment we must make more liberal efforts for the training of our young people, that they may be better fitted for the various branches of the great work committed to our hands. ...

“Some would be content with the thorough education of a few of the most promising of our youth; but they all need an education that they may be fitted for usefulness in this life, qualified for places of responsibility in both private and public life.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 206, 207.

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What does it mean to feed the lambs of the flock?
- 2 Why is the most important missionary work often overlooked?
- 3 How can we improve in the care of our children and youth?
- 4 What role does the church school have in the church’s work of education?
- 5 What opportunities can I help provide for training youth in my local church?

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# Cantaloupe!

**W**hat a yummy summer fruit! “Cantaloupe is truly a high-volume food. An entire large melon has only 277 calories, way less than most desserts, and more than most people can eat at one sitting. About 90 percent of the melon is water. But that water in the melon goes a long way toward filling you up. Water in foods seems to do this more than water that you drink alongside foods. Hence melons and soups do a better job of appetite control than solid food plus a glass of water. No one really knows why. “But cantaloupe is not a great food just because it’s high-volume and low-calorie. It is also a potassium and vitamin A heavyweight. One cup of

melon cubes gives you a whopping 427 mg of potassium (not to mention a little calcium and magnesium).

“Many studies show that people who eat potassium-rich foods have lower rates of heart disease and stroke. Potassium is also a key component in maintaining healthy blood pressure. ... There is vitamin A and beta-carotene, both of which are plentiful in cantaloupe. Though a lot of people know about the role of vitamin A in vision and growth and bone development, what is not as well known is how terrific it is for the immune system. I consider it one of the best immune-system boosters around.” Excerpts from *The 150 Healthiest Foods on Earth*, 103, Jonny Bowden, Ph.D., C.N.S.

**Fruit**

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



## CREAMY CANTALOUPE ICE CREAM

### Ingredients

¼ of a whole cantaloupe  
1 banana

### Process

- Cut the banana and the cantaloupe (remove the skin and seeds) in pieces and freeze overnight.
- Pulse or blend frozen banana and cantaloupe pieces until completely smooth.
- Enjoy the ice cream!





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