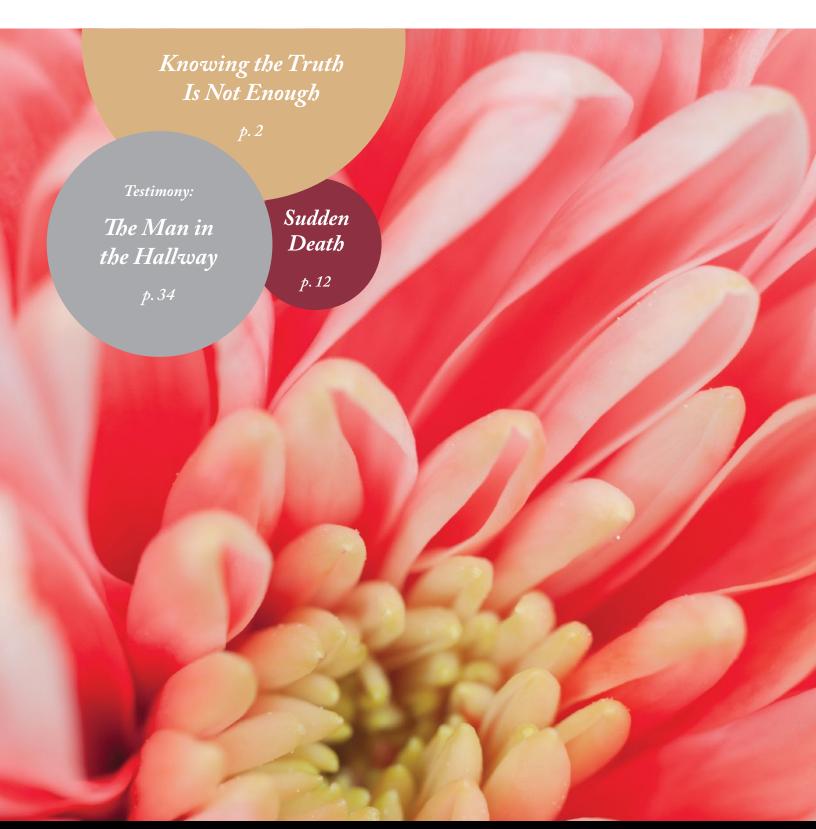
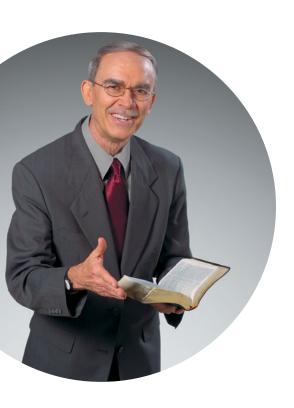
HISTORIC

LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM





From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

You Also Be Ready

hat is involved in being ready for the second coming of Jesus? There are many inspired statements that tell us exactly what we are to do and the condition that we are to be in to be ready for the second coming of Jesus. Following are a few of the specifications for being ready:

- 1. Psalm 15 lists eleven
- 2. Psalm 24 lists four
- 3. Isaiah 33:15 lists six
- 4. Matthew 5:3-10 lists eight
- 5. Titus 2:11–14 lists nine
- 6. 2 Peter 1:3-7 lists nine
- 7. Revelation 14:12 lists two

Here are a few more:

"Only those who receive the seal of the living God will have the passport through the gates of the Holy City. But there are many who take upon themselves responsibilities in connection with the work of God who are not wholehearted believers, and while they remain thus cannot receive the seal of the living God. They trust in their own righteousness, which the Lord accounts as foolishness." "Ellen G. White Comments," *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 970.

"Those who would have the seal of God in their foreheads must keep the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. This is what distinguishes them from the disloyal, who have accepted a manmade institution in the place of the true Sabbath. The observance of God's rest day is the mark of distinction between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not." Ibid.

"The seal of the living God will be placed upon those only who bear a likeness to Christ in character." *The Faith I Live By*, 287.

"There is not one inactive in heaven, and no one will enter the mansions of bliss who has failed to show love for Christ, who has put forth no efforts for the salvation of others." *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 207.

"Put away all discontent, all murmuring, all disagreeable words. We do not honor Christ when we dispute and quarrel one with another. No one will enter heaven with a spirit of fault-finding, and we desire to have a foretaste of the principles of heaven manifested here below." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 7, 49.

"Christ's rule of life by which every one of us must stand or fall in the judgment is, 'Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them' (Matthew 7:12)." The Ministry of Healing, 104.

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Staff

Editor: John J. Grosboll Managing Editor: Sandra Mulchin Graphic Design: Martin Bernar Contributing Editor: Lynette Golia

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Steps to Life, Inc. P. O. Box 782828 Wicthita, KS 67278

facebook

Ph: 316-788-5559 historic@stepstolife.org www.stepstolife.org

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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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A Traditions



Knowing the Truth is Not Enough

By John J. Grosboll

heology is the study of who God is. It's very important for us to have correct teachings and correct theology. Second Timothy 3:5, 7 tell us there will be a people in the last days who "have a form of godliness but deny its power. And from such people turn away! ... always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." First Timothy 2:4 says, "Who [God] desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." Solomon said in Proverbs 23:23, "Buy the truth, and do not sell it." When the angel spoke to Daniel in vision he said, "Now I've come to tell you the truth" (Daniel II:2). It's very important to know the truth and to have a correct theology, but we are going to see that having true theology is not enough.

If we really want to know the truth about any subject, we must follow the Bible rule found in Isaiah 28 which is precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little. Here God teaches us that as we study Scripture it should be done by looking at all the scriptures found regarding a subject. If there is confusion regarding a subject, it is essential that we must study all the statements found in Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy.

In 2 Peter 1, Peter tells us that the apostles preached the truth. He also tells us how he knew it was the truth: "For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.' And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain" (verses 16-18). He could say that we know what we are telling you is the truth because we saw it ourselves. We witnessed His majesty and heard the voice from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

But Peter also says there is evidence even more powerful than their personal witness. "We have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophesy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (verses 19–21).

So Peter says that we told you the truth; we know it is the truth; we witnessed His majesty ourselves, but we have evidence even more powerful than what we witnessed on the mount of transfiguration. That evidence, more powerful and more certain, is the word



of prophecy. Would that all people could comprehend the certainty of prophecy. Those today who have the truth, study and understand Bible prophecy, especially those relating to the last days.

The book of Daniel was the first inspired book given especially for the last days. Other prophets spoke for their own time, but their prophesies also applied to the end of time. It is good to study the prophesies as they were applied historically, but we especially need to study them as they apply to the last days. In addition to the inspired writings in the book of Daniel, the apostle John wrote the book of Revelation where he documented what he was shown regarding the very last days of earth's history.

The truth involves judgment. Romans 2:2 says, "We know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things [those things mentioned in Romans 1]." Verse 8: "To those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath." Notice, the truth involves judgment. Romans 3:4: "Let God be true but every man

a liar." Revelation 19:11: "I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war."

Over 20 years ago Pastor Ron Spear shared the following Spirit of Prophecy statement with me and I am still awed by it today: "We want to understand the time in which we live. We do not half understand it. We do not half take it in. My heart trembles in me when I think of what a foe we have to meet, and how poorly we are prepared to meet him. The trials of the children of Israel, and their attitude just before the first coming of Christ, have been presented before me again and again to illustrate the position of the people of God in their experience before the second coming of Christhow the enemy sought every occasion to take control of the minds of the Jews, and today he is seeking to blind the minds of God's servants, that they may not be able to discern the precious truth." Selected Messages, vol. 1, 406.

"We don't understand" she says. We don't know what's going on. Consider

this: When a person is deceived, do they know that they are deceived? No. If they knew, then they wouldn't be deceived. "Satan's snares are laid for us as verily as they were laid for the children of Israel just prior to their entrance into the land of Canaan. We are repeating the history of that people." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 160.

Why is it not enough to have the truth? We read in Romans 1:18, "For the wrath of God is revealed from

heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness." These are people who have the truth, but who don't live the truth. It is not enough to just know the truth.

This was the problem with the Jewish people in the time of Christ. Jesus addressed this problem in Matthew 23:2: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat." Most people in Jesus' time went to the synagogue where the Scriptures were

During the middle ages, Christian churches might have scriptoriums. A person at the front of the room would read a verse to 30 or more people who would then write what they heard. In this way copies of the Bible were produced. However, with 30 different people in the room all writing what was being read, the possibility that someone might misspell a word or say "that" instead of "which" resulted in variations from one transcript to another. In fact, that is why there are approximately 200,000 variations of the New Testament today. The making of books before the printing press was laborious, time consuming, and very expensive, but you can depend on what you read in your Bible as being the truth.

read to them during the worship services.

But when Jesus was talking to the people in Matthew 23, information primarily was received by listening to what was said in the church. When Jesus said, "They sit in Moses' seat," He meant they were being taught the law and about the prophets. Notice what He

says in verse 3, *first part*: "Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do" because they're telling you what Moses and the prophets said. "But do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do" (verse 3, *last part*). Did they have the truth? Yes, they possessed the truth, but their lives and their church were not in harmony with that truth.

The apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians II:2-4, "For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste [pure] virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted."

There is a great deception depicted in these texts. The person is preaching Jesus, but it is another Jesus. There is more than one Jesus being preached in the world today. There are millions of Christians praying every day asking the Lord to pour out His Holy Spirit upon them, but if a person is living in sin and asks to receive the Holy Spirit they have placed themselves in a very dangerous position, because they could receive a spirit and could believe that they have been filled with the Holy Spirit, but it is the wrong spirit.

Jesus warned us that this would happen in the last days. We read in Matthew 7:21, 22: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders [that is, powerful works or miracles] in Your name?" How were they able to prophesy, cast out demons and work miracles? Because they had a spirit that they believed was the Holy Spirit, but Jesus says to them, "Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness [iniquity]" (verse 23)!

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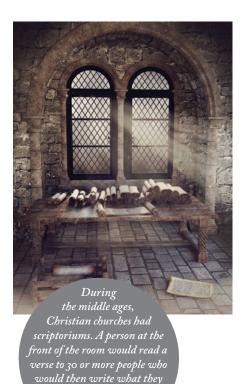
It is good to study the prophesies as they were applied historically, but we especially need to study them as they apply to the last days.

These people believe they have received the Holy Spirit and they prove it by doing these marvelous things, but it is the wrong spirit. When Jesus comes, He will say, "You are not loyal subjects of My kingdom. You have not kept the laws of My kingdom. I do not know you." No matter how many times I repeat these verses in Matthew 7, my mind still cannot take it in. You really believe that you are filled with the Holy Spirit, but when Jesus comes and you say, "Lord, I know that I'm saved," He says, "I do not know you." Probation is closed. It's too late to be saved. Think of the shock for these people, but according to Jesus, this will happen to many people.

Let's consider the Jews as we continue to study the concept of it not being enough just to have true theology. The Jews thought of themselves as the only chosen of God and they had a few beliefs that supported this idea:

- Their church organization was inspired
- 2. They idolized their church organization
- Their organizational policies were inspired
- 4. Their church organization would never fall

The Jews considered their church organization to be inspired because the Sanhedrin was made up of 70 people and they believed this could be proven based on Numbers 11:16, 17. These scriptures say: "So the LORD said to Moses: 'Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.' "Continuing in verses 24 and 25 the



Bible says, "So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD, and he gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tabernacle. Then the LORD came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again." Some manuscripts read,

heard. In this way copies

of the Bible were

produced.

If the Spirit of God came down upon these 70 leaders in Israel, was it inspired? Yes, it was. Hundreds of years before Christ's time, they had appointed 70 men to lead their nation and called them the Sanhedrin. This was done because the Lord said this was how His church was to be organized. So they believed their church organization was inspired. But it is not enough to just know the truth; it must be practiced.

"They prophesied and did not cease."

Concerning this problem Stephen said, you "have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it" (Acts 7:53). Truth without practice is worthless. First Peter 1:22 says, "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart." Ellen White quotes this text over and over throughout her writings.

Next, they made a god of their church organization. Their church organization was centered in the temple, and the temple became an idol more important to them than the God of the temple. One of the main reasons they sought to crucify Jesus had to do with His attitude toward the temple. In Mark 14:58 the false witness accused Jesus of saying, "'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands." They felt the same way about the apostle Paul and wanted to kill him, too. They said of him, "Crying out, 'Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, the law, and this place [the temple]; and furthermore He also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place" (Acts 21:28).

When you make a god of something, whatever it is, it has to be removed if you are going to be saved. Because they had made a god of their church organization, it would have to be destroyed. Matthew 23:38 says, "See! Your house is left to you desolate." In The Adventist Apocalypse, Ellen White made the statement that all of Matthew 24 will have a fulfillment in the last days. Notice what it says in Matthew 24:1, 2: "Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, 'Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

Third, because they believed their church organization was inspired and that the Sanhedrin was inspired, it was very logical for them to believe their policies also were divinely inspired. The Jews established many arbitrary policies and these policies were said to be divinely inspired. This, how-

ever, was very deceptive. While they could read right out of the Old

Testament that the policy was inspired, they added words to inspiration, and the average person could not figure out where inspiration ended and the words of their arbitrary policies began.

The Desire of Ages, 398, tells us, "The substitution of the precepts of men for the commandments of God has not ceased. Even among Christians are found institutions and usages

that have no better foundation than the traditions of the fathers. Such institutions, resting upon mere human authority, have supplanted those of divine appointment. Men cling to their traditions, revere their customs, and cherish hatred against those who seek to show them their error. ...

"In place of the authority of the so-called fathers of the church, God bids us accept the word of the eternal Father, the Lord of heaven and earth. Here alone is truth unmixed with error. ... Let all who accept human authority, the customs of the church, or the traditions of the fathers, take heed to the warning conveyed in the words of Christ, 'In vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men' (Matthew 15:9)."

Finally, believing their church organization and their policies were inspired and that they were the true church chosen by God, the Jews came to believe their church organization would never fall. Ellen White says in *Christ's Object Lessons*, 294, "The Jewish people cherished the idea that they were the favorites of heaven, and that they were always to be exalted as the church of God. They were the children of Abraham, they declared, and so firm did the foundation of their

prosperity seem to them that they defied earth and heaven to dispossess them[selves] of their rights. But by lives of unfaithfulness they were preparing for the condemnation of heaven and for separation from God."

Today we have an identical problem. People are writing books that say, "Our church organization will never fall. I can prove it from Letter 55, 1886." There's a sentence in that Letter that says, "The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place."

The problem is that most people don't read the entire letter. Let me share a couple of sentences from Letter 55 that you never hear ministers quote: "All the policy in the world cannot save us from a terrible sifting, and all the efforts made with high authorities will not lift from us the scourging of God, just because sin is cherished. If as a people [that is, as a church] we do not keep ourselves in the faith and not only advocate with pen and voice the commandments of God, but keep them every one, not violating a single precept knowingly, then weakness and ruin will come upon us."

There are several problems with the prediction that church organization will never fall. The most important one is that few people have studied out the difference between the true church and the professed church. The true church has never fallen and will never fall. Not in the time of Enoch or Noah, Elijah or during the Babylonian captivity. Not during the days of John the Baptist, Nero, Diocletian, Constantine, Theodosius or Pope Innocent III or in the days of William Miller; yet the professed church was almost totally destroyed at each of these times in history.

Another problem has to do with the message to the church of Philadelphia. This message must be carefully studied because this is the only church of the seven churches of Revelation that is promised divine protection during the time of trouble (Revelation 3:10).

A third problem is that people don't seem to realize that God doesn't need the

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The substitution of the precepts of men for the commandments of God has not ceased.



Seventh-day Adventist Church organization to finish His work. In fact, He doesn't even need the Free Seventh-day Adventists, the Historic Adventists, the Reform Seventh-day Adventists or any other Adventist groups. For instance, Ellen White says in Notebook Leaflets vol. 1, 62, "If His people [that is, God's people] will not follow in His way, the Lord will employ heathen princes to do His will." God is able to finish His work just fine without any of us if He must. We must never feel that God has to use us; that is what the Jews thought. They believed that their church organization and policies were divinely inspired and that made them His true people who would go through to the end. Thus they expected all Christians to work with them and follow their policies. And because Jesus did not do that, they rejected and crucified Him. We must be careful in our day not to become like the Jews.

Remember what we read at the beginning. Ellen White said that God had shown her over and over that the attitude and problems that existed just before Jesus' first coming would also

exist just before the second coming. They rejected the Messiah because He was not in harmony with their church organization and policies. The word Jesus used in the New Testament to refer to what the Jews believed were divinely inspired policies was the word *tradition*. Ellen White calls them arbitrary rules. Another word is *customs*.

We all have customs that we follow: the time Sabbath School begins, the order for church service, how communion is conducted, how long the preacher can preach. We have so many customs that we've observed for so long that we don't even consider them customs anymore.

The Jews said that because their church organization and policies were inspired, all Christians had to work with them and if they didn't, they weren't following the Lord. We see this same attitude in the Adventist Church today. Interestingly, around 1303 A.D. the Pope made a pronouncement that if you were going to be in the kingdom of heaven you needed to be connected with their church organization, otherwise you wouldn't be in heaven. Many Adventists also believe that way.

Pastor Rafael Perez was in South America preaching, holding revival meetings. A Seventh-day Adventist lady came to him with tears rolling down her cheeks. When he asked her what was the matter, her reply was that she wanted to attend the revival meetings, but she had been told that if she did, she would be disfellowshipped. And if she was disfellowshipped, how could she go to the kingdom of heaven?

I have found people today who will not take part in any kind of evangelism or other soul-winning work unless it is connected to the church organization. Let me ask you, has God ordained self-supporting work or any work done by individuals if it is not connected to the church organization? It's something to investigate: precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little.

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

Latter Rain Expectations

By De Witt S. Osgood

s probation's hour closes, Satan will level his sharpest thrusts against those who follow the guidelines laid down by the pen of inspiration. He will carry the contest to every soul. As in the Armageddon of Revelation 16, devils will go forth to deceive the very elect. With demonic cunning, they will inspire the susceptible to make void God's law and nullify the testimonies of His Spirit—the means ordained of God to expose his deceptions, countermand his policies, and blunt his power.

At this time, as never before, the Church will need its unifying influence, its divine guidance, and its staying power. It dares not yield its faith. Some, alas, through willful ignorance and sinful neglect, have made their doubts regarding the inspiration of Mrs. White an excuse for leaving the Church. By making personal interests more important than the testimonies of God's Spirit, some dishonor Jesus and quench His Spirit. But the faithful know Satan's devices. They accept and act on this alert: "He [Satan] seeks by *all* the means in his power to shake the confidence of God's people in the voice of warning and reproof through which God designs to purify the church and *prosper His cause*." *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 211.

As God's prophetic clock ticks off the last seconds of probationary time, thousands, feeling the impact of His now-ornever appeals, will fearlessly step out and, heedless of consequences, align them-

selves with God's commandment-keeping people. Hearing their witness, sensing their courage, and feeling their love and true concern for their salvation, they cast caution aside and obey the promptings of the Spirit within the conscience.

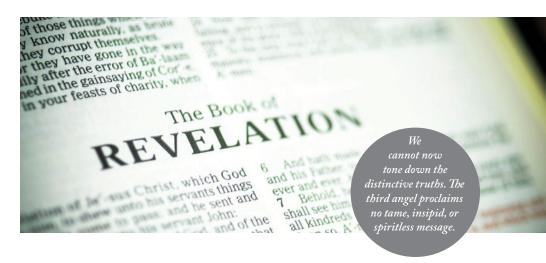
"As the end approaches, the testimonies of God's servants will become more decided and more powerful, flashing the light of truth upon the systems of error and oppression that have so long held the supremacy." An Appeal to Our Ministers and Conference Committees, 18. We cannot now tone down the distinctive truths. The third angel proclaims no tame, insipid, or spiritless message. The world today and tomorrow needs messengers with flaming torches and flaming tongues who will set ablaze the whole creation.

The gifts of the Spirit, as well as the fruit of the Spirit, will confirm the truth. "A compelling power moved the honest. ... Mighty miracles were wrought, the sick were healed, and signs and wonders followed the believers." Early Writings, 278. The gift of tongues which enables those of different languages to understand the message will reappear: "Then, as at the Pentecostal season, the people will hear the truth spoken to them, every man in his own tongue." The Review and Herald, July 20, 1886. In a special sense, Jesus offers His followers today more than discipleship. He would make them apostles! "All that the apostles did, every church member today is to do." Testimonies, vol. 7, 33.

Ours is a reaping message. The apostles, as seed sowers, went everywhere with the gospel's glad tidings. So God's harvest-hour witnesses, empowered by the Spirit, will gather fruit for Jesus out of all lands. Staggering as it may seem, every heart susceptible to the Spirit's appeal around the world will respond. "Every truly honest soul will come to the light of truth." *The Great Controversy*, 522.

According to God's messenger to the remnant, some who had stood as leaders and guardians of the people will betray sacred trust. They will take the position that we need not look for miracles and the manifestation of divine power seen in former times. (See *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 211.) Under the latter rain "Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers." *The Great Controversy*, 612.

But alas, some who were once in the church who felt no special burden for their own spirituality and little for others, together with the many who have heard the message and did not respond, will not share the latter-rain refreshing. Their probation actually closes before the latter rain falls. "The time of God's destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who have had no opportunity to learn what is truth. Tenderly



will the Lord look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched; His hand is still stretched out to save, while *the door is closed* to those who would not enter." *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 97. Solemn thought!

Have you, dear reader, noticed a spiritual progression leading to the Christian maturity that all must experience in order to receive the latter rain? Are you becoming more and more sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit? God would have you "realize every moment that you must have the presence of the Holy Spirit" (Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, 310), that "unless you receive the Holy Spirit, you cannot have the love of God in the soul" (The Review and Herald, September 27, 1892), and that "no one is prepared to educate and strengthen the church unless he has received the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Ibid., March 29, 1892). Is your preparation adequate?

God wants us to understand that every church and individual will receive the Spirit when prepared: "The Holy Spirit is waiting for channels through whom to work. ... Satan will not always triumph. The Spirit of God will be poured out upon the church just as soon as the vessels are *prepared* to receive it." *That I May Know Him*, 330.

Why haven't we received the fullness promised? Ellen White observes, "Happy will be the one of whom it can then be said, 'The Spirit never stirred this

man's soul in vain. ... Each step upward on the ladder of progress prepared him to climb still higher.'...

"This experience every one who is saved must have. ... He who has not sufficient faith in Christ to believe that He can keep him from sinning, has not the faith that will give him an entrance into the kingdom of God." *The Review and Herald*, March 10, 1904.

Too many have had an outer-court relation to God, but God wants us to come into the holy of holies and know Him intimately. He offers us an inner-circle relationship so special and inconceivably glorious that even the born-again can only stand in awe and marvel. "It is essential that he [the believer] hold as vital a relation with God as does the Son to the Father." "Ellen G. White Comments," *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 943.

Baptized anew in Christ's love and surrounded with the divine influence of His grace, God's last-day messengers will herald the distinctive truths that gather out the honest-hearted. "During the loud cry ... light will be communicated to every city and town. ... The light of present truth will be flashing everywhere." *Evangelism*, 694. In addition, present truth will penetrate strongholds of apostasy and heathenism: "In heathen Africa, in the Catholic lands of Europe and of South America, in China, in India, in the islands of the sea, and in all

the dark corners of the earth, God has in reserve a firmament of chosen ones that will yet shine forth amidst the darkness." *Prophets and Kings*, 188, 189.

During the latter rain, organizational machinery will at times give place to let Spirit-filled men speak with telling power. (See *The General Conference Bulletin*, February 15, 1895.) The Holy Spirit will then give us arguments to meet all opposition. (See *The Review and Herald*, January 28, 1902.) As at Pentecost converts will flock to the church from all directions, and the Holy Spirit will reconvert backsliders. (See *The Acts of the Apostles*, 48.)

Ellen White looked forward to the time when fallen man, "renewed, restored, raised to a holy rivalry with the angels" (The Signs of the Times, August 7, 1901), would speak the word with power. She said, "Nothing was too great to be expected from the coming of the divine Spirit." Ibid. The cause would not suffer from lack of funds, for when the poor have done what they could, the Lord would bring in men of means. (See Gospel Workers (1892), 298.) Not just a few but "many a rich man" (Testimonies, vol. 6, 258) and "some who are numbered among merchants and princes will take their position to obey the truth." "Ellen G. White Comments," The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 6, 1060.

God will not restrict His Spirit. He will infuse every dedicated soul with power. He will pour out His Spirit upon every person who yields to His promptings. He will use our boys and girls as He did in the 1844 movement: "The Spirit of God will come upon the children, and they will do a work ... which the older workers cannot do." *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 203. Indeed "God can use every person just in proportion as He can put His Spirit into the soul-temple." Ibid., vol. 7, 144.

Concerning the fruitage of the latter rain, we read, "By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. ...



"The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. ... The publications ... have exerted their influence. ... Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. ... A large number take their stand upon the Lord's side." *The Great Controversy*, 612.

And God will especially remember the Jew. "In the closing proclamation of the gospel, when special work is to be done for classes of people hitherto neglected, God expects His messengers to take particular interest in the Jewish people." "Many will accept Christ as the Messiah." "An explanation of Jehovah's eternal purpose ... will be to many ... as the dawn of a new creation."

"Among the Jews are some who, like Saul of Tarsus, are mighty in the Scriptures, and these will proclaim with wonderful power the immutability of the law of God." The Acts of the Apostles, 380, 381. Furthermore, "converted Jews are to have an important part to act in the great preparations to be made in the future to receive Christ, our Prince. A nation shall be born in a day. How? By men whom God has appointed being converted to the truth. There will be seen 'first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear' (Mark 4:28). The predictions of prophecy will be fulfilled." Evangelism, 579.

Prominent men, men of intellect and influence, will step out to join the movement. "The greatest men of the earth are not beyond the power of a wonder-working God. If those who are workers together with Him will be men of opportunity, doing their duty bravely and faithfully, God will convert men who occupy responsible places, men of intellect and influence." Testimonies, vol. 6, 82. God's Spirit working mightily among all classes, will draw from "among the leading men of the nation" some who "will stand with the people of God through the time of trouble." The Great Controversy, 610, 611. And some authors and lawmakers will come out boldly for God's law. (See The Review and Herald, December 24, 1889.)

Luke, the New Testament historian, tells us that as a result of Stephen's witness "a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith" (Acts 6:7). And in The Great Controversy, 464, we read that many, ministers and people, will gladly accept the message of the hour. The message will not lose its momentum. Rather, as God's people share their faith, the Holy Spirit will constantly replenish their power until God's glory covers the earth. (See My Life Today, 63.) Moreover, memorials for the third angel's message will spring up in every city and village. (See Testimonies, vol. 9, 28, 29.) Thus Christ will be glorified in the time of the latter rain. (See The Review and Herald, November 29, 1892.)

In writing about the love of God, Ellen White goes beyond eloquence. She tells us that the true preparation for the Pentecostal anointing of the Spirit came with the knowledge of their Saviour's matchless love. (See *The Review and Herald*, July 21, 1903.) Can we know the glory that shines in Christ's face? She views it as the glory of self-sacrificing love. (See *The Desire of Ages*, 20.) She tells us moreover that "Christ's love is deep and earnest, flowing like an irrepressible stream." "Ellen G. White

Comments," *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, 1140. "It is the greatest and most fatal deception to suppose that a man can have faith unto life eternal, without possessing Christlike love for his brethren. ... There is no such thing as a loveless Christian." Ibid., 1141. In speaking of God's great love, she explains, "So strong is His love that it controls all His powers, and employs the vast resources of heaven in doing His people good." *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 519.

As a people we have exercised too little concern for the lost. We place too low an estimate upon the souls around us and those in other lands, but God's Spirit can rectify this. "God's message to each of us is, 'My son, give Me thine heart' (Proverbs 23:26). ... Then open the heart to the Divine Spirit and you will appreciate the value of the human soul." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 2, 41. Love not *felt* by us will avail nothing. "Unless we can *feel* brotherly love for those around us, the Holy Spirit cannot work upon our hearts and minds." Ibid., 27, 28.

God's Spirit becomes our spirit, and by the Spirit, divine love, transplanted into our hearts, flourishes. "You are to be imbued with such love for Christ that you will yield to Him your whole affections. ... Imbued with the love of Christ, you are to be constrained to perform acts of unselfish service. ... In such a life there is continual fruit bearing." Counsels on Health, 633. Imbued by the Spirit with the kind of love Jesus revealed throughout His entire life and in His death constitutes the grand purpose of the plan of salvation. "The Lord is glorified when the great end of His law is attained. It is the work of the Holy Spirit from age to age to impart love to human hearts, for love is the living principle of brotherhood." Testimonies, vol. 8, 139.

What grand climax does God have in store to give the world in His final message? "Those who wait for the Bridegroom's coming are to say to the people, 'Behold your God.'The *last* rays of



merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of *His character of love*. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 415, 416. "The indwelling of the Spirit will be shown by the outflowing of heavenly love." Ibid., 419.

For those who turn away from God's last love appeal, hope becomes non-existent. Earth's two harvests call for reapers: (1) Christ with the sickle gathers the grain for the heavenly garner, and (2) the fifth angel of Revelation 14, who also has a sickle, gathers the vine of the earth for the great winepress of God's wrath. Earth's inhabitants divide themselves into the two classes: those filled with the Holy Spirit and those filled with an unholy spirit. No problem of identity exists, for the loyal bear the seal of the living God, while the rebellious bear the mark of the beast.

The investigative judgment has considered the case of each individual who has ever professed Christ—the names are listed in the heavenly docket called the Lamb's book of life. While the universe has watched, God has reviewed each case one by one. He has retained the faithful; the unfaithful He has blotted out. Rewards now will go to the righteous, and punishments to the wicked. A hushed universe awaits the

verdict. The awful fiat goes forth, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still" (Revelation 22:11). Court now adjourns for good. Destinies are fixed forever. No higher court exists. Every part of God's last message to the world has reflected the infinite love of Iesus. "The contemplation of the love of God manifested in His Son will stir the heart and arouse the powers of the soul as nothing else can." The Desire of Ages, 478. When the soul ceases to listen to the whispers of Christ's love, the Spirit can do nothing more.

"He that loveth not knoweth not God," but "every one that loveth ... knoweth God." The heart, in contemplation of Christ's love as revealed on the cross and nourished by the "spirit ... of love" (I John 4:8, 7; 2 Timothy I:7), will rejoice in righteousness throughout eternity. Let us tell the world about it now!

Scripture from the King James Version. [All Emphasis supplied.]

Preparing for the Latter Rain, ©1973, 192–199.

(As shared by daughter, Charlotte Osgood Rollenhagen: her father, **De Witt S. Osgood**, was a pastor, evangelist, church builder, administrator, writer. "He committed his whole life completely to the Lord.")

∜Dead Earth

"Concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, Peace and safety! then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober."

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Sudden Death

By Marshall J. Grosboll

Suppose a sudden disaster occurred on planet earth, and all life came to an end except for one – you. The whole planet, verywhere you look, the cities and the great works of mankind are broken down and burned, utterly destroyed; only their charred remains, like broken skeletons, are left. There is no electricity, so there are no telephones, televisions, radios, no newspapers or magazines, no stores or food, no cars, buses, trains or planes. Who won the presidential election or the Super Bowl or the World Series, your promotion and all your fancy possessions, all your relationships are totally meaningless. Everywhere you look are the bodies of people, animals, birds scattered over the face of the earth. Many of them unrecognizable, many remaining just as they fell. The whole world is deafeningly silent and dark. Suddenly all of man's proud accomplishments are now a thing of the past. And only you are left to survey it.

This will one day happen on planet earth. We find it spoken of in Jeremiah 25:31-33: "'A noise will come to the ends of the earth—for the Lord has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His case with all flesh. He will give those who are wicked to the sword,' says the LORD. Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Behold, disaster shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the farthest parts of the earth. And at that day the slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground."

Isaiah describes it further in chapter 26, verse 21, "For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain." All the dead, human, animal, and fowl, will be left lying on the ground, not to decompose, but to remain, preserved as they died, for all the years of the millennium.

We also see in Jeremiah 4 that there will be no light. The sun will not shine, and it will begin to be very cold. There will be no rainfall or snow. In this way the earth will become like a frost-free freezer, preserving the bodies of the dead. Jeremiah says, "I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; and the heavens, they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, and all the hills moved back and forth [this is Jesus' second coming (Revelation 6)]. I beheld, and indeed there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled. I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness. and all its cities were broken down at the presence of the LORD, by His fierce anger" (verses 23-26).

This is a description of when Jesus has come and taken the righteous with Him to heaven. God blots out the light of the sun for a thousand years and earth becomes a deep freeze, a place of



perpetual preservation for those souls who died from the brightness of His coming. "Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine. 'I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible'" (Isaiah 13:9–11).

But one soul, Satan, is left behind to live on this planet amid all the destruction during this thousand year period. Revelation 20 calls this earth "the bottomless pit," and verses 1–3 tell us that an angel comes down from heaven "with the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand." The angel binds Satan to this devastated earth, this bottomless pit, for a thousand years. He has nowhere to go. With no one to deceive, he is left to wander this earth in darkness, to stumble among the fallen bodies of the dead and the remains of the broken cities.

At the end of the thousand years, Revelation 20:3, *last part*, says, "But after these things he must be released for a little while." Jesus returns to the earth for the last time. He brings back

with Him the light of the sun and all the wicked who had no part in the first resurrection will be raised to receive their judgments.

Let's look back to the time before these unbelievable catastrophic events happen and see how God prepares us for them.

God is not willing that any should perish. He would love to save every soul who has ever been born. He wants to wake up the inhabitants of the earth. Sadly, only a very few respond. For most, in spite of all that God will do, they will not be awakened. In the days of Noah, only eight out of the whole world were saved, but God will still put forth every effort, His heart of love using any means to save every soul who will choose to be saved.

God uses prophecy to leave signs that we can recognize as we draw closer to the end. Seeing these signs, we can realize the end is near and prepare our lives. Prophecy warns us of judgments, but also extends the invitation to be saved from the wrath of God. The disciples asked Jesus when they should expect the last days and His coming. His response is found in Luke 21:9, first part: "But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately." [Emphasis supplied].

Jesus says there will be wars. When World War I and World War II were fought, many people thought the end might be near. Had they read their Bibles, they would have read that there would be wars, but Jesus says that even after these things happened, "the end will not come immediately" (Luke 21:9, last part).

He continues in verse II: "And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven." God now withdraws His sustaining hand from a sin-filled world as it sinks lower and lower day by day. He has shielded the world for thousands of years, but no longer. The world will begin to experience calamity upon calamity.

There have been disasters in the world throughout its history, and many have made the history books, but the difference between these past disasters and those we experience today is the rapidity with which the disasters come and their worldwide prevalence. Life just doesn't exist for very long without a disaster somewhere in the world. It is an undeniable fact that today, disasters are rapidly increasing as we have never seen before. People don't know what to expect next. The Bible says this would be so.

Revelation 17 and 18 describe for us the judgments that God has brought and will bring against the inhabitants of the earth, throughout history and through to the end of time. In Revelation 18:4-7, the angel says, "Come out of her, My people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow." The Bible says the first will be last and the last first



(Mark 10:31). And those who have been the richest will become the poorest and those who have been the most glorified will become the most dejected. Those who have been the most blessed will be left the most ravaged. "Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire for strong is the Lord God who judges her" (verse 8). The Bible says it will come quickly, suddenly. She'll be sitting as a beautiful queen and suddenly there will come disaster upon disaster.

This method of judgment is coupled with the message of the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. Revelation 14:6 and 7 reveal the second method used by God to wake up the people of the world: "Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give glory to Him, for

the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

Jesus tells more about these disasters to come upon the earth in Matthew 24. After talking about famines, pestilences and earthquakes in various places, it says that these are the beginnings of sorrows (verses 7, 8). Verse 9, first part: "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you." It is when the disasters go forth that God's message is also going to go forth to the world. The desire is that people will be moved to accept Christ, but instead, their anger is aroused and their conscience is pricked and instead of accepting the message, they turn against the messengers. "... and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another" (verses 9, last part, 10).

Yes, by and large, the world's response to the invitation to accept the Lord will be no. While God is trying to wake people up, Satan is working to keep them asleep; and he has more success because most of the inhabitants of the earth are already his children. The Lord is using His two methods of judgment and the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, but the devil has many ways of keeping people asleep. Jesus speaks of these in Luke 21:34-36. He says, "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 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." Satan keeps people so occupied with the things of this world, the cares of this life, that many are barely surviving and they don't think they have the time to prepare for what God is telling them to expect.

Matthew 24:37–39 gives us the example of how it was in the days of Noah,

"... For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (verse 38). For 120 years Noah preached the message of sudden destruction and for all that time the majority of the people just went about their daily lives. They heard that the flood would come, but the devil was so successful at keeping them consumed with the things of this life that "the flood came and took them all away."

The devil succeeded so well then that he is doing it again. But there is more. As he keeps us focused on the things of the world, the environment, society, politics, he surrounds us with the sights and sounds of evil until our hearts grow hard and we become insensitive to the sinfulness around us. "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold" (verse 12).

Another effective method used by the devil is opposition from our family and friends. "You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will send some of you to your death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake" (Luke 21:16, 17). Matthew 10 also speaks of this in verse 21: "Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death." But the devil isn't finished.

While he keeps us occupied with the things of the world so that we don't have the time to prepare our lives, while evil is all around us and our hearts grow hard and careless and while we are receiving opposition from those we love and care for the most, there comes a great revival, one that will deceive almost everyone. "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect" (Matthew 24:24). Now we see in 2 Corinthians II:13, 14 that Satan becomes directly



involved: "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light." He tells the people of the world that it is time to get ready for Jesus to come. We've seen the signs and now it is time to get ready. Where past revivals have been opposed, rejected, this revival will be accepted by all, almost.

There is a difference between Satan's revival and God's revival. God's revival leads to sacrifice of self, obedience to God's law, a change in life and character. Satan's revival is based on emotion and excitement. The elements of a revival will be seen, but these things are not the result of the working of the Holy Spirit. "The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs and lying wonders" (2 Thessalonians 2:9). There will be power, plenty of power, signs and many disasters, all meant to help bring about this revival.

A call to come to the altar and accept the Lord, to be saved and accept His miracle working power and the Holy Spirit will go out and people will come; but it will not be the Holy Spirit that they will receive. It's a deception we find in verse 10: "And with all unrighteous

deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved." They have a love of religion, a love for preaching, a love for miracles performed, and a love for what they believe to be the Holy Spirit, but they do not have a love of the truth. "And for this reason God will send them a strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (verses 11, 12). The devil will deceive them to believe that they are saved, that everything will be okay. They will be given a false confidence in their own experience rather than confidence in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Many religions today that have created teachings of their own based on another spirit that is not according to the Bible and the Bible only, have many sincere believers who believe that they have a love for the truth, but what truth? The Bible teaches that the purification and perfecting of our characters and lives are the necessary preparation for what is soon to come upon the earth. But the beliefs of these religions, for instance the Mormon Church, the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Catholic Church, are based on teachings not

God would love to save

every soul who has ever

been born.

found in the Bible. They are taught that it is okay to do many things that are contrary to the Bible including that the Sabbath should be Sunday and preparation for the end does not include character perfection.

The Bible tells us that the spirit of anti-christ claims the power to change

God's law. Thus we must assume that these religions are being

influenced by the devil or one of his agents.

If nothing else works, the devil has one final tactic to keep us in a lost condition. We read about this in Hebrews 12:2, 3: "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the

throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls." Have you ever been discouraged? The devil will work to bring discouragement in your life, but the Bible says when this happens to look to Jesus, and you will find courage and strength.

Luke 13:25 says that the time will come when the Master of the house will shut the door. Looking again at Noah's day, the Lord shut the door then, too. What did that mean? Those who were not inside the ark were shut out. We find this applicable today in Matthew 7:21. It says, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." There are many who listened to preaching week after week and heard the Holy Spirit speaking to them. They have prophesied and done many wonders in the name of God, but they find themselves now hearing the words from Jesus, "'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness'"(verse 23).

Why would Jesus say this to them? Because the preparation they had made for the end was not the necessary preparation. It is needful to have a love of the truth, to surrender our lives to the in-working of the Holy Spirit, and to seek to do the will of God and obey His law.

An incalculable number of people have died over the course of this world's history. Many will be raised to life at Jesus' coming. But the 144,000, those still living when Jesus comes, will be found with God's character, His name written in their minds. Every person can develop God's character. Not one sinner has fallen so low that God cannot make them over again, give them a new life, a new heart, a new mind and a new character. There's not one person who cannot stand before the throne of God faultless. and pure and holy, clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Imagine being sick and only having a month to live. If I were facing only a month of life, I think I would be very serious about what I did during that month. Would you? I'd want my heart pure and cleansed. I'd want to spend time in the Bible and on my knees asking the Lord to give me a heart like His.

The 144,000 are those who have looked only to Jesus as their perfect example. Those who are alive on the earth when Jesus is revealed are going to be like Him. They will be permitted to sit with Him on His throne because they will have had His experience. Revelation 3:21 says, "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame." "Those who place themselves under God's control, to be led and guided by Him, will catch the steady tread of the events ordained by Him to take place." Testimonies, vol. 7, 14.

The devil works determinedly to keep our focus on ourselves and the things of this world that are important to us. He will even use our families, our jobs, and other necessary aspects of this life to keep us too busy to have time for what is spiritually needful. This statement found in The Great Controversy, 625, has always meant a great deal to me. It describes the need for watchfulness, prayer and Bible study in spite of how much the devil is trying to keep us otherwise occupied: "Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the



powerful delusion that takes the world captive. By the Bible testimony these will detect the deceiver in his disguise. To all the testing time will come. By the sifting of temptation the genuine Christian will be revealed. Are the people of God now so firmly established upon His word that they would not yield to the evidence of their senses? Would they, in such a crisis, cling to the Bible and the Bible only?" Maranatha, 160. "Satan will, if possible, prevent them from obtaining a preparation to stand in that day. He will so arrange affairs as to hedge up their way. ..." Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 4, 443.

Everyone will be tested. Everyone will have to decide - Christ or Satan.

"Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise, and this preparation they should make by diligently studying the word of God and striving to conform their lives to its precepts. The tremendous issues of eternity demand of us something besides an imaginary religion, a religion of words and forms, where truth is kept in the outer court." Conflict and Courage, 260.

We cannot imagine the disasters that will yet take place on this earth. But we are given hope in Psalm 91: "'He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him will I trust.' ... A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. ... Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling. ... He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him" (verses 2, 7, 9, 10, 15).

Pastor Marshall Grosboll, with his wife Lillian, founded Steps to Life. In July 1991, Pastor Marshall and his family met with tragedy as they were returning home from a camp meeting in Washington state, when the airplane he was piloting went down, killing all on board.



The Promise of Final Triumph

he work that lies before us is one that will put to the stretch every power of the human being. It will call for the exercise of strong faith and constant vigilance. At times the difficulties that we shall meet will be most disheartening. The very greatness of the task will appall us. And yet, with God's help, His servants will finally triumph. "Wherefore," My brethren, "I desire that ye faint not" (Ephesians 3:13), because of the trying experiences that are before you. Jesus will be with you; He will go before you by His Holy Spirit, preparing the way; and He will be your helper in every emergency.

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and

earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen (Ephesians 3:14-21)." Testimony Treasures, vol. 3, 440, 441.

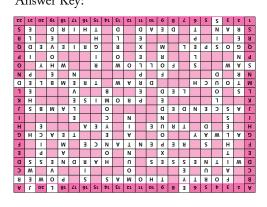
Jesus' Last 40 Days on Earth

Clues – KJV

Acros	S	
В3	Number of days Jesus was seen alive after death	Acts 1:3
В9	This disciple had to see and touch Jesus after death	John 20:24, 25
B18	Jesus promised the Holy Ghost would bring this	Acts 1:8
D_2	Jesus said the disciples were this	
D14	Jesus rebuked the disciples for their of heart	Mark 16:14
F ₇	Jesus said this should be preached everywhere	Luke 24:47
G ₂	Jesus promised to be with us this often	Matthew 28:2
G17	Jesus said to all nations	Matthew 28:1
H_7	John affirms that his testimony is this	John 21:24
H14	Peter's answer to Jesus' question	John 21:15
J_2	Jesus told Mary He had not yet done this	John 20:17
J17	Jesus wanted Peter to "feed" these	John 21:15
K11	Jesus told the disciples to wait for this	Acts 1:4
L_7	Jesus the disciples to Bethany to leave Earth	Luke 24:50
M_2	Jesus told Mary to not do this to Him	John 20:17
Мю	So many fish they could not the net	John 21:6
M15	The women after talking to an angel about Jesus	Mark 16:8
Oı	John believed at the empty tomb when he	John 20:8
O8	Jesus invited Peter to do this	John 21:19
O18	Angel to disciples: " stand ye gazing up into heaven?"	Acts 1:11
Q_2	This was to go to all the world	Mark 16:15
Q_{15}	Peter was this at Jesus' repeated question	John 21:17
S_2	Peter and John did this together	John 20:4
S8	An angel told the women that Jesus was no longer this	
S15	Jesus had said He would rise on this day	Luke 24:6, 7
Down	1	
A_7	These were not opened to recognize Jesus	Luke 24:16
A19	Peter to Jesus: "Thou knowest that I Thee"	John 21:17
A21	Disciples met behind closed doors for fear of the	John 20:19
B_3	Jesus wanted Thomas to not be this	
B_5	Thee women were so excited they did with the news	Matt. 28:8
B12	Where Jesus went to leave Earth	Matt. 28:16
B16	How Mary addressed Jesus	John 20:15
D_9	Jesus did this with the scriptures	
D_{14}	Jesus ate some of this with the disciples	
D_{18}	We can have life through Jesus'	
D_{20}	The women brought these for Jesus' body (singular)	
F_5	Jesus asked why two disciples were this	
I17	How many disciples saw Jesus leave Earth?	
J4	This took Jesus away	
J21	Jesus invited Peter to feed these	-
K11	The women were this at the stone rolled away	
L_2	Cleonas thought Jesus was this	Luke 24:18

Α	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		20		Α
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Answer Key:



М19	Prophecy: It Christ to suffer and rise again	Luke 24:46
N ₉	Jesus appeared in another	Mark 16:12
O6	The Jews wanted the soldiers to say they had	Matt. 28:13
O13	Jesus: Go to all the	Mark 16:15
O15	Jesus said to cast the net on this side of ship	John 21:6
P ₂ I	Disciples thought the women told tales	Luke 24:11
Q_4	Jesus said the disciples could remit	Luke 24:47

Joshua

oshua was a tall black man, a Zulu, in Africa. He wore a long, white robe, and always carried a Bible in his hand or under his arm. But Joshua was in prison.

One day, a few years ago, a Christian man visited the prison. He asked to have a talk with Joshua. The jailer brought the prisoner into the reception room. Joshua squatted down on the floor in front of the gentleman, as is the custom of the natives of Africa.

"Why are you in this prison?" the man asked.

"I was working in a coal mine," said Joshua, "and there a voice came to me, saying, 'Joshua, you must go out and preach to your people.' But I said to this voice, 'I cannot read well, I am not able to write, I have no clothes to wear.' For three years after that I was unable to speak aloud. Then the same voice came to me again. 'Yes, I will go,' I said. Then my voice was partly restored."

"But what brought you *here*?" the gentleman asked.

"I was preaching in the north of Zululand, near the coast," he replied, "and there I told the people that times of trouble were before us, and there would be war and bloodshed. Some of my enemies told the white government that I was stirring up sedition. The country had just had a Zulu rebellion, so the officers took me and put me in prison."

"Joshua, what gospel do you teach? Where do you get your message?" the man asked.



Joshua opened his Bible to the fourteenth chapter of Revelation, and read from the sixth to the twelfth verses. "This," he said, "is the message the voice told me to preach."

The gentleman knew that this was God's message for these last days. He was astonished to find a Zulu in this prison who had no education, but who was preaching this truth to his own people whenever he had opportunity.

"How do you preach that gospel?" the gentleman asked.

"I now speak with a whisper,"
Joshua answered. "But when I was

in Zululand, the Spirit of God came down upon me, and God gave me a strong voice to speak to thousands of natives. No white people live in that neighborhood."

"Did any of your people believe your message?" the man asked.

"There were hundreds who changed their habits and were leading different lives," Joshua answered. "Where my knees rest on the ground when I pray no grass grows."

"What kind of man is Joshua?" the gentleman asked the jailer, as he was leaving the prison.

"He is the best man we have had in prison," the jailer replied. "We had a lunatic here who would not permit us to bring his food into the cell. We put Joshua in with him. Joshua would sit in his cell reading the Bible. The lunatic would rush at him as if about to tear him in pieces, but Joshua would not lift his eyes from the Bible. He would keep on reading. The second or third day this lunatic said to him, 'Do you enjoy that Book?' Then Joshua began to explain to him what is in the Bible, and that lunatic was converted there in prison, and to-day he is a changed man."

So far as we know, Joshua is still preaching this truth. Does not this experience show how God can carry His truth to every dark corner of this world?

True Education Reader, Fifth Grade, ©1933, 239–241.



Will your anchor hold in the storm of life? Shining gates of pearl our harbor bright. We shall anchor fast to the heavenly shore, With the storms all past forevermore. We have an anchor that keeps the soul, Steadfast and sure while the billows roll. Fastened to the Rock which cannot move, Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love. "Will Your Anchor Hold?"

Priscilla J. Owens, 1882.

The Secure Anchor

s Adventists, we have sung the above song many times, but how many of us have really considered the meaning of the words? Where are we anchored and to what should our anchor be fastened?

The world is fast becoming a very scary place. On the one hand, praise God, for we have the second coming of Christ looming on the near horizon, closer than it has ever been. And on the other, as this event draws nearer and nearer, the sustaining hand of God is being withdrawn more and more and Satan is all too willing to step in and fill the void. Evil multiplies and it seems daily, even hourly, we read or hear of some terrible occurrence. We see the increase in alcoholism, drug addiction, suicide, murder, theft, abuse of every kind, abortion, child trafficking, blame and accusations, perversion, adultery, anger, violence, cruelty and hatred.

We read in *Evangelism*, 362, "The fallacies of Satan are now being multiplied, and those who swerve from the path of truth will lose their bearings. Having nothing to which to anchor,

they will drift from one delusion to another, blown about by the winds of strange doctrines."

As we evaluate our own lives, the things we read, watch, listen to, wear, pursue, what we say, how we use our means, how we spend our time - in prayer, in study – are we able to clearly see where we are anchored? Is it on this earth or in heaven?

"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. ... and [they] divorce themselves from God, while still claiming to be His children." The Review and Herald, December 29, 1896.

Continuing in Evangelism 362, Mrs. White says, "I entreat everyone to be clear and firm regarding the certain truths that we have heard and received and advocated. The statements of God's word are plain. Plant your feet firmly on the platform of eternal truth. Reject every phase of error, even though it be covered with a semblance of reality." [Emphasis supplied.]

Lord, help us to be solidly anchored in Your word, fastened to the Rock which cannot move and grounded firm and deep in Your love. May we be fully clothed in the whole armor of God, ready with an "It is written," when confronted by the devil or those who serve him. Make us strong to turn from this world and to look to You, seeking only to do Your will. Keep us faithful until You come, is our prayer today and every day.





September 10&11, 2021

Friday: 7:00 pm Sabbath: 9:15 am - 8:00 pm (Communion Sabbath afternoon)



Cumberland Mountain State Park

Recreation Center (next to swimming pool) 24 Office Dr, Crossville, TN 38555 Phone for Park: (931) 484-6138

CAMPING & CABINS:

Cumberland Mountain State Park: (931) 484-4727 (5 miles south of meetings)

MOTELS:

EXIT 322 (most have a continental breakfast and refrigerator):

Holiday Inn Express: (877) 859-5095 Hampton Inn: (931) 707-7170 Comfort Inn & Suites: (855) 849-1513 Super 8: (800) 536-1211

Call two weeks in advance for discount pricing!

Provide your own breakfast. Bring food to share in a vegan fellowship meal on Sabbath following the church service. Bring extra for those coming from long distances! A light evening meal will be provided.

CHILDREN:

Children will be provided for during meetings.

CAMPMEETING HOSTS:

Danny & Paula Frisby (931) 863-8071 - home (865) 202-6079 - cell

> Great Central Location! 1 hr. 50 min. from Nashville 1 hr. 30 min. from Chattanooga 1 hr. 10 min. from Knoxville

From the Desk of Pastor John J. Grosboll

August 2021

Dear Friend,

The mission of the Second Advent Movement is to take the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6–12 to the entire world—a formidable assignment, but the exact assignment that God has committed to His remnant people in the world.

God could finish His work in the world without any assistance from us, but that is not His plan. "It is an honor bestowed upon man that God should entrust to his keeping the riches of earth, and it is done that he may co-operate with God by using these precious gifts in advancing the Lord's work in the earth. None of us can do without the blessing of God, but God could do His work without the aid of man, if He should so choose. But this is not His plan; He has given to every man his work, and He trusts men as His stewards with treasures of wealth and of intellect. Whatever you render to God is, through His mercy and generosity, placed to your account as a faithful steward. But ever bear in mind, 'Of Thine own have we given Thee' (1 Chronicles 29:14)." The Review and Herald, August 24, 1905.

Jesus said in Mark 13:34 that every man has been given his work. Unfortunately some people have not yet discovered the work that God has appointed and assigned them to do. If you are in that category you will never find the greatest happiness and joy and fulfillment in life until you find the work that God wants you to do in fulfilling His great plan for the recovery of a lost world. "To every one of His appointed agencies the Lord sends the message: 'Take your position at your post of duty, and then stand firm for the right.' To all I am instructed to say: 'Find your place. Receive not the fanciful sentiments of men who are not taught by God. Christ is waiting to give you insight into heavenly things, waiting to quicken your spiritual pulse to renewed activity. No longer subordinate the claims of future, eternal interests to the common affairs of this life. "Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24). Wake up, brethren, wake up." Testimonies, vol. 8, 203.

"To everyone who becomes a partaker of His grace the Lord appoints a work for others. Individually we are to stand in our lot and place, saying, 'Here am I; send me' (Isaiah 6:8). Upon the minister of the word, the missionary nurse, the Christian physician, the individual Christian, whether he be merchant or farmer, professional man or mechanic—the responsibility rests upon all. It is our work to reveal to men the gospel of their salvation. Every enterprise in which we engage should be a means to this end." The Ministry of Healing, 148.

Your brother praying for a finished work,

John J. Gresboll

August Sermon of the Month

The Atonement

By John J. Grosboll

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

God made man upright. After sin, man's fundamental nature was changed, and love was exchanged for selfishness. Only by the atonement offered by Christ can man be brought back to his original condition.

13th Sabbath Offering

La Verdad Presente

[The Present Truth]

Radio Station - Guadalajara, Mexico



n a recent broadcast of "La Verdad Presente" after listening to our study on *The Great Controversy*, Chapter 41, "God's People Delivered," Mrs. Mireya Ramos Sanchez called to request a copy of the book. She said she was fascinated and deeply impressed as we read that those who uphold God's holy law will be persecuted and will soon lose the religious freedoms we now take for granted.

In the study, we read concerning the hatred of the whole world toward the "sect" they deem must be eliminated for the good of the people, and that the Saviour's chosen in all ages have been educated and disciplined in the school of trial. Yet how many for Jesus' sake have endured opposition and followed Him through many conflicts.

When we delivered *The Great Contro*versy to Mrs. Sanchez she was delighted to meet us and told us the words from the study were still buzzing in her head, especially the scenes describing the glory of the Lord's return. While she does not hold to any religious affiliation, she does believe in God and works closely through the local Catholic parish to minister to the poor. She wants to learn more through our studies and to share the books she receives through her outreach efforts.

Thank you Steps to Life for your continued support of "La Verdad Presente" broadcasts. Only the Lord knows how many souls will be saved for His kingdom.

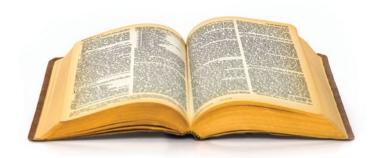
With grateful hearts,

"La Verdad Presente"

Jediael Aguilar LM



from the Mission Fields



Two Weekends of Spiritual "Solid Food"

By John R. Pearson

ecause of the continuing uncertainty of the travel, masking, and social distancing requirements that prevailed during the planning process, Steps to Life decided to cancel its traditional camp meeting for the second year in a row.

Instead of attempting a virtual meeting such as we held last year, it was decided to hold two consecutive weekends of special spiritual emphasis. Of course, both pastors from Prairie Meadows Church, Pr. John Grosboll and Pr. Domingo Nunez, were speakers both weekends. In addition, Pr. Ivan Plummer from the Emanuel 7th Day Church in The Bronx, New York, spoke both weekends as well. Brother Mamon Wilson of Centurion Bible School of Health in Savannah, Tennessee, joined the other speakers for the second weekend.

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he explained how he had had to feed them with milk rather than solid food, as, for various reasons, they were not yet ready to comprehend the full gospel message. He brought up the same subject in his letter to the Hebrews, where he wrote, "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:12–14).









Top left:
Mamon Wilson

Top right:
Pr. John Grosboll

Bottom left:
Pr. Domingo Nunez

Bottom right:
Pr. Ivan Plummer

It was evident from the presentations over these two weekends that the speakers were determined to feed the flock "solid food." During these packed weekends, there were 21 presentations, making every minute valuable.

Pr. Grosboll spoke on the "game of life" that everyone must play with the devil, whether they want to or not. He noted that it is Satan's determined effort to win the game, thereby causing your loss, and the harder you try to win, the more determined he is to cause you trouble in hopes of making you slip from the faithful path.

Pr. Plummer addressed issues with today's public education system, explaining how it is responsible for the chaos that exists in society today, calling the existing system "a most evil and godless religion." He also expanded on inspired statements that warn that most Seventh-day Adventists will be lost by their desire to remain connected to the world and revealed how to avoid that fate.

Pr. Nunez spoke on the role the Holy Spirit must play, not only in the development of our individual character-"reaching the mark of perfection," but how reaching that mark will bring about unity among God's people. He testified how in his travels to various countries in Africa and South America he is implementing procedures and protocols to organize the work in different countries on those two continents. He provided details on how the work is progressing as the workers from different areas are joining forces to train workers and spread the three angels' messages. He also noted that the unity meetings that were held by various independent ministries in the late 1990s failed to accomplish their goal because the participants were determined to defend their own views rather than unify under the purity of the gospel message.

Brother Mamon Wilson spoke encouragingly on the "miracle of the ages," how adherence to the health laws enable us to stay healthy and avoid the pestilences of these last days. He also gave his personal testimony, a fascinating story of personal victory.

Although the format for these weekends varied from that of a typical camp meeting, the Holy Spirit made the messages powerful and edifying to all who attended whether in person or viewing live-stream through our website.

DVDs and CDs of the presentations should be available by the end of the summer. Why so long? It takes much effort and labor to edit individually the 21 presentations, remove the coughs, sneezes and other distractions, insert slides of the Bible verses and Spirit of Prophecy quotes, review for any over-looked flaws, and reproduce. A notice will be placed in our bimonthly newsletter, *In His Steps*, when they are available.



"Oh that I had wings like a dove! then I would fly away, and be at rest." Psalm 55:6

generies.
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and sparrow, physiology and aerial prowess are synonymous. A bird is simply a masterpiece of engineering – the perfect flying machine – supremely crafted by God and endowed with the attributes for a life in the skies. Its breast muscles, which operate its wings, are enormous, in some birds, comprising 33% of their total body weight. At the same time a bird's skeletal system is incredibly light. The bones of a pelican, with a wingspan of nearly six feet, weigh only about five ounces, yet they are strong and flexible enough to withstand the constant stress of maneuverable flight.

Add to this package highly efficient digestive and respiratory systems, a large and powerful heart, and feathers that streamline, insulate, and provide the necessary lift for wings and tail, and it is easy to understand how Solomon could describe a bird in the air as a

sight "too wonderful for me" (Proverbs 30:18, 19).

The methods and techniques of flight

generally fall into a few basic categories. Flapping or power flight involves a strong downward stroke that results in rapid lift and forward thrust. Generally, the larger the bird the slower it flaps its wings. In contrast, the hummingbird will beat its wings up to 80 times a second while performing what has been called the most versatile display of aerial skill in all of God's creation. The tiny bird can hover or fly in all directions - forward, backward, or to the side, depending upon its needs. Its rigid wings move in a unique figure 8 motion, powered by exceptionally strong muscles and a flexible swivel joint at its shoulder. The tail works as a rudder controlling the direction of movement. Not surprisingly, the hummingbird expends tremendous amounts of energy and to survive, must consume twice its body weight in food every day.

Gliding and soaring are far less demanding forms of flight, yet once again, the elements of aeronautical design are clearly seen. Fulmars slope soar, riding on air deflected upward from cliffs as its wings work in harmony with the surrounding wind currents, while a heron spreads its enormous wings in a slow ap-

proach to its nest. Large primary feathers at the end of each wing offer precise control of both speed and direction. A similar design enables a condor to ride for hours on spirals of warm air. Again, a huge wing surface allows for effortless gliding as the bird of prey searches the valley floor for food.

But for all the soaring wonder and power that so abundantly fills the skies, perhaps the supreme testimony to the Creator's gifts of flight and life itself is written on the tissue-thin wings of the Monarch butterfly. Its wings are driven by powerful muscles designed into the insect's upper body, the thorax, essential for migration. Advancing steadily, they ride on rising columns of warm air that can elevate them thousands of feet. These expert gliders can travel more than 50 miles a day flying upwards of 3,000 miles to reach their winter home.

God reveals Himself to man through the things He has made. Each day in the wonders of land, sky, and sea, He presents us with a vivid picture of His existence and character. It is a continuing revelation, as exciting and diverse as the creatures He has brought into being. In the majestic grace of a bird or butterfly in flight, an eternal truth shines clear – the God of all creation is real and alive, His power and wisdom are without limit and He cares and provides abundantly for the life that He has made.

Wonders of God's Creation, Animal Kingdom: Great Are Thy Works, ©2004. ■



hat is it to be a Christian? It is to be Christlike; it is to do the works of Christ." Lift Him Up, 341.

"The question you need to put to yourselves is, 'Am I a Christian?' To be a Christian is to be far more than many understand. It means more than simply having your name upon the church records. It means to be joined to Christ ...

"As sons and daughters of God, Christians should strive to reach the high ideal set before them in the gospel. They should be content with nothing less than perfection." The Faith I Live By, 130.

"Everyone who claims to be a Christian is to bear the responsibility of keeping himself in harmony with the guidance of the word of God. God holds each soul accountable for following, for himself, the pattern given in the life of Christ and for having a character that is cleansed and sanctified." Evangelism, 343.

"When you took the name of Christian you promised in this life to prepare for the higher life in the kingdom of God. To be a Christian means to be Christlike. Not a satanic feature is to remain on mind or body, which are to reveal comeliness, purity, integrity, and

dignity. Take the Christlife as your pattern." In Heavenly Places, 286.

"To be a Christian is not merely to take the name of Christ, but to have the mind of Christ, to submit to the will of God in all things." That I May Know Him, 174.

"We bear the name of Christian. Let us be true to this name ... In the life of the true Christian there is nothing of self-self is dead." Our Father Cares, 236.

"Not only did Christ die as our sacrifice, but He lived as our example. In His human nature He stands, complete, perfect, spotless. To be a Christian is to be Christlike. Our entire being—soul, body, and spirit—must be purified, ennobled, sanctified, until we shall reflect His image and imitate His example." That IMay Know Him, 311.

"Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, faith and charity are the elements of the Christian character ... They are the Christian's crown and shield ...

"As you receive the Spirit of Christ ... you will grow and bring forth fruit. The graces of the Spirit will ripen in your character.

"This fruit can never perish, but will produce after its kind a harvest unto eternal life." Sons and Daughters of God, 32. IM





What's in Your Mouth?

hink about this: From the 1930s to 1950s doctors heavily promoted cigarettes as a healthy activity, a treatment to relax and even a useful mechanism with which to open our lungs for improved breathing.

Today we know this "good health" advice is ridiculous. In years to come, we will likely look back and say the same thing about doctors promoting animal-based foods. Unfortunately, most doctors do not have expertise in the healing properties of food.

This is not always our doctors' fault. There is very little focus on preventive care throughout medical school and training. As cardiologist Joel Kahn, MD, relates, "During the 1980s when I completed medical school and cardiology fellowship, there was no discussion about nutrition and health in the halls of academic medical centers."

Though the medical world has mostly focused on diagnosing disease and treating with technology and drugs, some doctors have devoted careers to understanding the relationship between health and food. Their conclusions: our "evolution" to an omnivore diet coincides with our rise in disease.

"The greatest medical discovery of the last 20 years is the understanding that our Western diseases are largely lifestyle-related," Denis Burkitt, MD, said in 1992. But what's exciting? "They must be preventable and potentially reversible." And there's good evidence he is right.

Famed doctor and author Dean Ornish, MD, convincingly proved that a plant-based whole food diet coupled with exercise and stress management could reverse the atherosclerotic plaques and indolent prostate cancer.

And renowned doctor Neal Bernard, MD, has demonstrated that a diet devoid of animal products is very effective in reversing diabetes. Of his diabetic patients, 71 percent were off their oral medications within four weeks and with normal sugar levels.

Ornish and Bernard are in good company. As the following doctors attest, the answers to our leading health woes are not at the bottom of a pill bottle, but at the end of our fork.

Reversing Heart Disease with Plant-based Foods

"We were born with clean, flexible arteries, and they should stay that way throughout our lives. The arteries of most Americans, however, are clogged with cholesterol, fats and calcium. The cause of coronary artery heart disease is no longer a mystery. We know that cultures whether by heritage or tradition that consume plant-based nutrition have virtually no cardiovascular disease. Atherosclerosis only became more apparent in Japan and China with the import of the rich Western diet laced with meat, eggs and dairy products.

"Atherosclerosis-related diseases are not a 'natural' way to go, and individuals with established coronary artery

disease who completely transition to plant-based foods can halt and reverse their diseases."—Caldwell B. Esselstyn, Jr., MD.

Where Disease and Eating Habits Intersect

"The statistics are convincing. Cardiovascular disease and cancers of the breast, prostate, colon, and lungs are now claiming every third and fourth American life, respectively. In the early 1900s fewer than ten percent of deaths in the United States were attributed to cardiovascular disease. Now it is the number one killer. And consider this: In spite of newer and refined forms of insulin and bioengineered medications, diabetes has gone up 700 percent since World War II.

"What can help explain these changes? In the 1900s, Americans got 70 percent of their protein from plant foods. Today, they get 70 percent of their protein from animal products that are high in saturated fat, cholesterol, trans fat and devoid of fiber."—Dr. Hans Diehl.

Diet Has the Power to Address the Root Cause of Illness

"Because I suffered from hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, and pre-diabetes (I have a long family history of Type-2 diabetes and coronary heart disease), I decided to try this lifestyle approach and became a vegetarian. Although I was told being vegan would be most effective, I decided to try being vegetarian first and my experiment worked. Within a few months my blood pressure and glucose levels were well within the normal range. I no longer required my diuretic for hypertension and my dose of Lipitor had been cut by more than half. Excited by my success, I decided to take the full plunge and see what would happen to my numbers if I became a complete vegan. On a vegan diet I was able to get off all medication, including Lipitor!"—Dexter Shurney, MD, MBA, MPH

Physician, Heal Thyself, Eliminate Animal Products from Your Diet

"I did not know that my diet high in animal products deprived my body of antioxidants, vitamins, anti-cancer and anti-inflammatory phytochemicals, enzymes, minerals, essential fatty acids, fiber and many other important ingredients that are only found in plants. My animal-based diet was inflammatory and acid forming—deteriorating my body, causing rapid aging and an array of diseases. I started to gain weight and feel tired and fatigued. My mood started to change. My brain was foggy and my body felt heavier and heavier. More importantly, I didn't even know it was not normal to feel that way. After getting bigger and sicker every day for two to three years, I finally decided this was not how I wanted to treat my body and my mind.

"As I changed my diet, my weight started to normalize, my energy increased, my fatigue and depressed mood improved, and my heartburn and stomach problems disappeared. I felt much lighter and better physically and emotionally after I changed to a plant-based diet. Thousands of scientific studies prove that the best and the most health-promoting diet is plant-based and devoid of animal products.

"The majority of the diseases afflicting human societies today can be cured by a shift to a plant-based diet. As a gastroenterologist whose first line of theory for her patients is a plant-based diet, I experience and observe this transformation every single day. Illnesses can potentially completely heal or improve significantly with a change of diet.

The power of our own healing is in our hands."—Zarin Azar, MD, Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist

Plantbased Diets Deter Atherosclerosis

"Many patients with atherosclerosis are surprised at the bulk of their plaque, which can be seen and felt without magnification. When enough arteries are blocked, ulcers and gangrene occur in the toes and feet and are the leading cause of leg amputation. Complications of arterial disease are the most common reasons for the estimated 65,000 leg amputations performed in the U.S. each year. Studies have evidenced that a plant-based diet is associated with lower rates of atherosclerotic disease.

"Plant-based diets demonstrate lower serum cholesterol and triglyceride levels, decreased incidence of cardiovascular events, and even reversal of arterial atherosclerosis. In general, vegetarians have lower incidence of atherosclerosis, cardiac events and all-cause mortality.

"A cross-cultural large trial, the Cornell China Study, showed how rural Chinese had a fraction of the death rate from heart disease compared to Americans. American men had almost 17 times the death rate from atherosclerotic heart disease and American women had 5.5 times higher mortality from the same cause. The average Chinese dietary fat intake was less than half as a proportion

of diet, fiber intake was three times as high and animal protein intake was comparatively very low at less than 10 per cent of that in the U.S. diet,

> and vegetable intake was much higher. The rates of atherosclerotic

> > disease were positively associated with meat intake and sodium intake, but decreased in relation to consumption of green vegetables and plasma levels of monounsaturated fatty acids.

project did not set out to study vegans or plant-based diets, the conclusion was that a plant-based diet is the most preferable way to avoid atherosclerosis."—Kristofer M. Charlton-Ouw, MD, FACS, Vascular Surgeon

Convinced Yet? What's on Your Plate

"Doctors are trained that it is a waste of time to talk about nutrition, but I can assure you that it is not a waste of time. The only time I have ever been able to decrease insulin dosages in diabetics or stop blood pressure pills in patients with high blood pressure, it has been because the patient has modified his or her diet to be plant-based."—Mary Went, MD

Thrive, Health and Wellness, Shushana Castle, vol. 26, 14–16.

"Meat consumption has conclusively been linked to heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and a host of other chronic and deadly diseases. God's people should dispense with flesh foods. Those who are seeking to become pure and holy cannot continue to use as food anything that has so harmful an effect on soul and body." *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 386.



Mathematical The Serion on the Mount Series



Blessed Are the Pure

By John J. Grosboll

robably anyone who has studied microbiology and hygiene understands the value of cleanliness to prevent sickness, but physical cleanliness is not the only kind of cleanliness. Spiritual cleanliness is even more important. Without it, no one can receive the gift of eternal life, but the question is, "How can an impure mind become pure?"

Jesus introduced the sixth step of the spiritual ladder that will lead a person into the kingdom of God in Matthew 5:8: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Purity of heart and life is developed as a result of living the spiritual experience of the first five beatitudes. The person who first of all recognizes his spiritual poverty and mourns over his sinful condition until God makes him humble or meek, and who has thirsted for a righteousness that he cannot generate and becomes merciful will then be purified from pride, malice, deceit, and other heart-defiling sins. There is no other road to purity of heart than the beatitude road, and the steps need to be taken in that order. This beatitude, like the others, is not introducing something new. It actually is a restatement of a truth that is as old as the plan of salvation.

In Psalm 15, David asks the question Who is going to be saved? "Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill" (verse 1)? He answers: "He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart" (verse 2). Upright walking, righteous working and truthful speaking from the heart are the outworking of a pure heart. The person who does these things will be saved.

After David had fallen into sin, he recognized that a divine miracle was needed in his life. Notice what he said in Psalm 51: "Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom" (verse 6). Thinking of all the awful things he had done and how he had sinned, David said in verse 5: "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me." He understood that he had been conceived and born in sin and because of this understanding, he continues in verse 10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." David was afraid that because of his grievous sins, he had committed the unpardonable sin against the Holy Spirit and that he was lost. He pleads, "Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me" (verse 11). I know that my heart is wicked, lustful and impure, but Lord, I want a different heart. I want You to recreate my heart. The Lord heard his prayer and gave him a new heart and a new spirit.

Receiving a new heart and spirit is so important that Jesus said that unless it happens, there is no chance for any of us being saved. Speaking to Nicodemus Jesus said, "'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God'" (John 3:3). Notice, a birth represents a new creation, like a new being is coming into the world when a baby is born. And here Jesus is saying that if you haven't been born again, you won't be in the kingdom of God. Nicodemus responded in



verse 4, "'How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?'"

"Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God'" (verse 5). Unless you have been born, not just of water, but of the Holy Spirit, you cannot enter the kingdom of God. You see, our hearts are impure, wicked, and unholy. The only way we can have a pure heart is by God's creative power; He makes us a new creature. The apostle Paul talked about this in 2 Corinthians 5:17 when he said, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

If you and I are ever to have a pure heart, we must be a new creation. The Lord must create within us a clean heart. a new mind, and a new spirit. That is what being born again is all about. It is through the Holy Spirit that the heart is made pure. Many people are confused today about the work of the Holy Spirit. They think that the work of the Holy Spirit is the ability to do some kind of magic or miracles, or speaking in tongues, or doing some scientific wonder that unconverted people can't explain. But the work of the Holy Spirit, as Jesus pointed out to Nicodemus, is to give you a new heart and a new spirit and to

cause you to be born again. Unless that happens, Jesus said there's no chance for you to be in the kingdom of heaven.

Only he who becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus can have a new heart, a new spirit, new thoughts, new feelings, new motives, all created by the Holy Spirit in that person's mind. The wise man Solomon said in Proverbs 22:11, "He who loves purity of heart and has grace on his lips, the king will be his friend." The heart is the emotional center of a person, the fountain of life. The character and conduct are determined by the spiritual condition of a person's heart.

The Bible says in Proverbs 23:7, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he." What a person is in his heart determines the kind of a character he will have. It is for this reason that the wise man counsels us to guard our hearts. Notice what it says in Proverbs 4:23: "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life." Another version of the Scriptures translates it this way: "Keep your heart above all that thou guardest." The heart is a fortress, a citadel that is to be guarded against the attacks of the enemy. The chambers of the heart should be most diligently and heavily guarded. Why? Because out of the fountain of the heart flows the stream of character and conduct. Our words and our actions are simply the result of what is in our hearts.

Out of the abundance of

the heart the mouth speaks.

Matthew 12:34

Jesus said in Matthew 12:34, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

All the evil in our world has its source in an evil heart. The evil nature of the human heart is a part of our inheritance from Adam and Eve, our first parents.

When the Lord spoke to Noah after.

When the Lord spoke to Noah after the flood He said, "And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the

LORD said in His heart, I will never again curse the ground

for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done' " (Genesis 8:21). Notice, the Lord said the imagination of a man is evil from his youth. How evil is our imagination? How evil is our heart? Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful

above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" During His life on earth, Jesus made it very clear that the heart is the source of all evil. In Mark 7:21–23, Jesus said, "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness [licentiousness], an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile the man."

That was the cause of the terrible wickedness that came on the world in Noah's time, before the flood, and brought the judgment of a world-wide deluge. The Bible says in Genesis 6:5, "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." And continuing in verse II, "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence."

Jesus stated very clearly that this same condition of wickedness would occur in the world before His second coming (Matthew 24). Prophecy explains, to a large extent, the cause of the present tidal wave of crime and iniquity, hatred and lawlessness that is sweeping over all the earth today. The source

of it all is the corrupt and unregenerate hearts of mankind.

The patriarch Job asked, "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one" (Job 14:4)! No human being can bring a clean heart out of an unclean heart. No one is able to cleanse the heart. The purpose of the gospel is to tell the world that there is one power in the universe that can give you a new heart and spirit and make you a new creation. Jesus is the great purifier and cleanser from sin and that is the genius of the Christian religion. The core of the Christian religion is that when you accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord of your life, the Holy Spirit will recreate your heart and your mind.

All forms of false religion tend toward corruption. Purity of heart does not find any prominent place in the teachings of Socrates or Aristotle, or other heathen philosophers. The wisest and the greatest of them were impure and they knew it. They were corrupt in their teachings and in their practice. But the gospel will produce purity and holiness, not just on the outside, but in the heart. It brings the heart and the life into conformity with the divine law which is the standard of righteousness.

During His life on this earth, Jesus Christ was the very incarnation of purity. He said in John 8:46, "Which of you convicts Me of sin?" They had no response. The Bible says that if we accept Him and hope to meet Him, we will be made pure as He is pure (I John 3:3).

Only the pure in heart will see God. This purifying process cleanses our motives. When right principles are enthroned in the heart, then we will do what is right because it is right. The pure in heart aren't controlled by sinful nature, only doing right because of policy or expediency, or to escape punishment, or for hope of reward.

Here is a question that many Christians should ask themselves, and many likely would be shocked by what they discover. Why do I obey God's law? Is my obedience for the purpose of avoiding punishment, or because of an inborn love of what is good and right? This beatitude says that the pure in heart will see God. If my heart is full of

sin, then my vision is beclouded and I cannot see or understand God. The disease of sin produces spiritual blindness and the Bible talks about that in many places (see 2 Peter 1; Revelation 3:17). Sadly, this spiritual blindness leaves you ignorant of your true spiritual condition.

Spiritual blindness is the reason that the majority of the Jews failed to recognize Jesus. Their spiritual blindness prevented them from seeing anything in Him that would lead them to desire Him and this is true with the mass of mankind today. It explains the reason why there are so many modern thinkers or philosophers who see Jesus only as a man. Oh, they may believe He was a very good man, but still only a man. To them, the beauty of His matchless character is no evidence that He is the Son of God. To them, Jesus is just the same as they are. You see, sin dims our vision of God. But when we have a vision of God, sin is revealed and we are given a vision of ourselves and our condition. The Bible says that without holiness, no one will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). When Job saw the Lord, He said, "I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6). A vision of the Lord's glory had the very same effect upon other Bible writers: Isaiah (Isaiah 6), Daniel (Daniel 10), Peter (Luke 6), Paul (Acts 26) and the apostle John (Revelation 1).

We can never know the blackness of our sin until we see the purity of the character of Christ. And once we really see that, the contrast awakens us to the realization that we need a complete change in character. We will say with Isaiah, "Lord, I'm all undone." In response, the Lord says, "I will purge your iniquity and give you a new heart and a new mind."

Jacob was a crooked dealer, a cunning trickster, a person that you would not want to do any kind of business with. His very name meant *deceiver* or *supplanter*, and he lived up to that



name. But his character was completely changed one night when he wrestled with the Lord Himself (Genesis 32). He was a spiritually bankrupt man, but he was changed into a prince of God. What was the secret of the wonderful transformation that he experienced?

The apostle Paul had that same experience. It was the vision of the crucified One on the road to Damascus that transformed him into a different person and changed the whole course of his life. From that day forward, he sought only to behold Jesus and to be changed into His image.

Paul tells us that by beholding we will become changed (2 Corinthians 3:18). Jacob said, "I have seen God face to face ..." (Genesis 32:30). This is the secret of the wonderful transformation that must be accomplished in our lives.

Have you beheld the purity of Christ? The spiritual vision of God must eventually involve seeing Him face to face. We must see Him now with the eye of faith and then we will see Him in the kingdom of glory, because He has promised to His people, "Your eyes will see the King in His beauty" (Isaiah 33:17).

But when Jesus comes, only those who are pure in heart and have seen the beauty of His character in the present life will see Him face to face. They have seen God with the eye of faith in this life and they will be blessed with a vision of His immaculate loveliness when He returns and they will have fellowship with Him in the future immortal life. Everyone else will be calling for the rocks and mountains to fall on them (Revelation 6:16) so that they will not have to see Him. They will be destroyed by the brightness and glory of His person.

Friend, are you reading your Bible and studying to understand not just the words, but to see the character of Jesus Christ? How else will you know His character? You must become like Him if you are going to be with Him. The apostle Paul says, "Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known" (I Corinthians 13:12, last part). He says, "Now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face" (verse 12, first part, KJV). Those who are pure in heart, in whom the Holy Spirit has created a new heart and a new spirit, only these will see Him face to face.

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

ETestimony



By Judy Rebarchek

ow many times have you wished you could meet your guardian angel? It's certainly something to look forward to when Jesus comes. Well, I've met mine. I suppose that's a bit of an exaggeration. It wasn't like we talked or sat and visited, but I did see him. And he saved my life.

I was 15 years old, a latch-key kid. My parents would leave early in the morning to go to work and I would get up later, get myself ready and head off to school. School was a short three-block walk from our house and I made that walk every day, rain or shine, clear or snowy, but not uphill either way.

There are a lot of details to this story, but I'll do my best to keep it short.

We had lived in our neighborhood since I was six. I'd been a latch-key kid since I was nine. I had friends in the neighborhood, my next-door neighbor, a couple of older boys down the street, my best friend a block over and the son of our school principal.

I don't recall what day of the week it was, but I do remember it was December and cold. My parents had already left for work and I was preparing my breakfast when I heard a noise in the utility room off the kitchen. Seemed odd to me, so I went to investigate. When I opened the door, I found the door from the utility room into the garage was open and just glimpsed something go back out into the garage. We had a stray cat in the neighborhood that would often spend the night in our garage and I figured it had gotten stuck in the garage when Mom and Dad left for work. Somehow the door into the utility room had gotten blown open and it had come in to investigate.

But when I went to the door to the garage to close it, I saw that it wasn't the cat at all. The garage door was up about two feet and standing next to it was a man. I can still him in my mind's eye standing there all dressed in black, wearing gloves and a ski mask, the kind through which you can only see the eyes and mouth.

We stared at each other for a heartbeat and then the thought came to me that he would try to come back in and I needed to close the door. At the same second, he seemed to realize that if he was going to get in, he would have to hurry because I was going to close the



door. I swung the door as hard as I could and he ran as quickly as he could toward me. The door slammed tightly shut right in his face. I leaned all my weight against it and so did he. This door had glass, so this man and I were straining against both sides of the door, staring directly at each other. He had blue eyes. I saw his hand in its glove splayed on the glasses and that's when I realized that if he got in once, he would get in again, and I would not be strong enough to stop him.

I ran back into the kitchen and out into the living room. To my left was the hallway and the telephone. I took one look at the phone and stepped toward the hallway, then looked up and there in the hallway was a man. I can't remember his face. I can remember that he was dressed in a business suit and I remember that I wasn't afraid. He shook his head no and pointed to the front door.

I turned on my heel and ran for the front door. As I started to go out, I remembered something I'd seen on a television program just a couple nights before where a young girl had run out the front door and right into the arms of the person who wanted to do her harm. Probably the only time all the television I watched over my life did me any real good. I opened the front door and paused, watching the kitchen door and then there he was. He had gotten back in the house and I ran out the front door and to the neighbor's house.

They called my Mom and Dad. The police came. They searched the house and here is a strange thing, they were able to take fingerprints. Remember, I told you he was wearing gloves, but he left a perfect set of fingerprints. In fact, that's how he was found.

While I was waiting for my parents to get home, I was in the house with a police officer. He asked me if he could use the phone. I said yes. I saw him pick up the receiver (this was an old circular dial phone), press the buttons a couple times to get a dial tone. He put the receiver down and went outside. I learned later, that the man had cut the phone line. Had I tried to use the phone, I would have been trapped in the hallway, but for the man in the business suit.

It turned out that the man who broke into our house was one of the two boys I knew from down the street. The police knew that because of the fingerprints and he had a record. The next day, my dad stayed home with me and we watched this boy, along with another boy walk across our front yard. The police had staked out the house and they arrested him at the end of the block.

They found rope in his pocket, along with the credit card he used to break into the house. He admitted that it had been his intent to break into the house and ultimately kill me, except, for the man in the hallway. My guardian angel.

I am looking forward to seeing him again.

August 29 - September 4, 2021

Behavior and Underlying Motives

Key Text

"[Charity] doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own" (I Corinthians 13:5).

Study Help: Testimonies, vol. 2, 50-60.

Introduction

"The road to paradise is not one of self-exaltation but of repentance, confession, humiliation, of faith and obedience." *The Review and Herald*, December 23, 1890.

Sunday

1 WATCHING OUR BEHAVIOR

1.a. Name one characteristic of charity, as far as general behavior is concerned. 1 Corinthians 13:5, first part.	
1.b. What examples of unseemly behavior should we take as a warning? Galatians 2:11–13; James 2:1–4, 8, 9.	Note: "He [Christ] was wrongfully accused, yet He opened not His mouth to justify Himself. How many now, when accused of that of which they are not guilty, feel that there is a time when forbearance ceases to be a virtue, and losing their temper speak words which grieve the Holy Spirit." "Ellen G. White Comments," <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary</i> , vol. 4, 1148. "If pride and selfishness were laid aside, five minutes would remove most difficulties. Angels have been grieved and God displeased by the hours which have been spent in justifying self." <i>Early Writings</i> , 119.
	2.b. How does the faithful steward display charitable prudence? Acts 9:36–39.
i.c. How is the faithful steward warned against other types of unseemly behavior? Proverbs 14:29; 18:23, last part.	

Note: "One class have come up without self-control; they have not bridled the temper or the tongue; and some of these claim to be Christ's followers, but they are not. Jesus has set them no such example. When they have the meekness and lowliness of the Saviour, they will not act out the promptings of the natural

heart, for this is of Satan. Some are nervous, and if they begin to lose self-control in word or spirit under provocation, they are

as much intoxicated with wrath as the inebriate is with liquor. They are unreasonable and not easily persuaded or convinced. They are not sane; Satan for the time has full control. Every one of these exhibitions of wrath weakens the nervous system

and the moral powers, and makes it difficult to restrain anger or

another provocation. With this class there is only one reme-

dy-positive self-control under all circumstances." The Youth's

2.a. How are we exhorted to develop a Christlike de-

unjustly? James 1:19-21; Proverbs 15:1; 19:11.

meanor, especially toward those who may provoke us

Instructor, November 10, 1886.

2 CHARITABLE PRUDENCE

Monday

Note: "At Joppa, which was near Lydda, there lived a woman named Dorcas, whose good deeds had made her greatly beloved. She was a worthy disciple of Jesus, and her life was filled with acts of kindness. She knew who needed comfortable clothing and who needed sympathy, and she freely ministered to the poor and the sorrowful. Her skillful fingers were more active than her tongue." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 131.

"Preaching is a small part of the work to be done for the salvation of souls. God's Spirit convicts sinners of the truth, and He places them in the arms of the church. The ministers may do their part, but they can never perform the work that the church should do. God requires His church to nurse those who are young in faith and experience, to go to them, not for the purpose of gossiping with them, but to pray, to speak unto them words that are 'like apples of gold in pictures of silver' (Proverbs 25:11)....

"It is the duty of God's children to be missionaries for Him, to become acquainted with those who need help. If one is staggering under temptation, his case should be taken up carefully and managed wisely; for his eternal interest is at stake, and the words and acts of those laboring for him may be a savor of life unto life, or of death unto death." *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 69.

Tuesday3 WHOM DO YOU REALLY LOVE?

3.a. When does true love for others become rare—and how is this problem to be overcome? Matthew 24:12; Revelation 2:2–4; Hebrews 12:2–4.

Note: "The love of God has been waning in the church, and as a result, the love of self has sprung up into new activity. With the loss of love for God there has come the loss of love for the brethren." *The Review and Herald*, March 20, 1894.

"Let this life, so stormy with conflicts and worries, be brought into connection with Christ, and then self will no longer clamor for the supremacy." "Ellen G. White Comments," The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 3, 1161.

"Pride and self-worship cannot flourish in the soul that keeps fresh in memory the scenes of Calvary." *The Desire of Ages*, 661.

3.b. What is a great reason that makes the faithful steward shine in this world? I Corinthians 10:24.



Note: "Unselfishness, the principle of God's kingdom, is the principle that Satan hates; its very existence he denies. From the beginning of the great controversy he has endeavored to prove God's principles of action to be selfish, and he deals in the same way with all who serve God. To disprove Satan's claim is the work of Christ and of all who bear His name.

"It was to give in His own life an illustration of unselfishness that Jesus came in the form of humanity. And all who accept this principle are to be workers together with Him in demonstrating it in practical life. To choose the right because it is right; to stand for truth at the cost of suffering and sacrifice—'this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of Me, saith the Lord' (Isaiah 54:17)." Education, 154, 155.

"In heaven none will think of self, nor seek their own pleasure; but all, from pure, genuine love, will seek the happiness of the heavenly beings around them. If we wish to enjoy heavenly society in the earth made new, we must be governed by heavenly principles here." *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 132, 133.

Wednesday 4 WORDS OF CAUTION

4.a. What should the faithful steward consider in choosing priorities? I John 2:15-17.

Note: "If all the money that is used extravagantly, for needless things, were placed in the treasury of God, we should see men and women and youth giving themselves to Jesus, and doing their part to co-operate with Christ and angels. The richest blessing of God would come into our churches, and many souls would be converted to the truth." *The Review and Herald*, December 23, 1890.

"When the cases of all come in review before God, the question, What did they profess? will not be asked, but, What have they done? Have they been doers of the word? Have they lived for themselves, or have they been exercised in works of benevolence, in deeds of kindness and love, preferring others before themselves, and denying themselves that they might bless others? ... Christ has been grieved and wounded by your marked selfish love and your indifference to the woes and needs of others." *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 525.

4.b. What unfortunate attitude can affect all of us who are entrusted with great light—and to obtain victory, what must we realize? Isaiah 58:2–4, 10–12.

Note: "In our work we shall find a high profession of piety and much outward exactness bound up with great inward wickedness. The people represented in Isaiah 58 complain that the Lord allows their services to go unnoticed. This complaint is the expression of hearts unsubdued by grace, rebellious against the truth." "Ellen G. White Comments," *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, 1148, 1149.

"Many receive applause for virtues which they do not possess. The Searcher of hearts weighs the motives, and often deeds highly applauded by men are recorded by Him as springing from selfishness and base hypocrisy. Every act of our lives, whether excellent and praiseworthy, or deserving of censure, is judged by the Searcher of hearts according to the motives which prompted it." *Gospel Workers*, 275.

Thursday5 FOLLOWING CHRIST IN SELF-DENIAL

5.a.	vv nat principle is basic to genuine Unristian service?
	Acts 20:35.

Note: "There is a work to be done in our cities—work to be done in every place. God will take men from the plow, from the sheepfold, from the vineyard, and will put them in the place of those who think that they must have the highest wages. Those who grasp for high wages will find in the money they get all the reward they will ever receive. Such ones cannot be expected to feel a burden for the salvation of perishing souls. The Lord cannot use such ones in His work. Until they banish selfishness from their hearts, their efforts are worthless." *The Review and Herald*, December 15, 1904.

"The heavenly intelligences can cooperate with him who is seeking, not to exalt self, but to save souls." *The Desire of Ages*, 436.

5.b. What should inspire the faithful steward with pure, fresh motivation for service? 2 Corinthians 8:8, 9.		

Note: "Jesus left His home in glory, clothed His divinity with humanity, and came to a world marred and polluted by the curse of sin. He might have remained in His heavenly home, and received the adoration of angels; but He came to earth to seek and save the lost, the perishing. 'For your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich' (2 Corinthians 8:9). He, the Majesty of heaven, who was one with the Father, denied Himself, made every possible sacrifice, in order that man might not perish, but have everlasting life. Christ lived not to please Himself. If He had pleased Himself, where would we be today?" *The Review and Herald*, December 23, 1890.

Friday PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. How might we be guilty of behaving unseemly?
- 2. What can we learn about charity from Christ and His followers?
- 3. How is a vibrant love for Christ to be manifested in us?
- 4. Why must we always examine our own priorities and motives?
- 5. What should we do to more fervently promote God's work?

September 5 - 11, 2021

Thoughts and Moods

Key Text

"The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all His thoughts" (Psalm 10:4).

Study Help: Testimonies, vol. 2, 707-709.

Introduction

"Let your spirit be cleansed from all earthliness, all unholy, uncharitable thoughts. Let your words be clean, sanctified, vivifying and refreshing all with whom you associate. Be not easily provoked." *Our High Calling*, 174.

Sunday

1 DEVELOPING NOBLE QUALITIES

ı.a.	What should characterize our attitude toward everyone—and what can help us consistently maintain such an attitude? I Thessalonians 5:14, 15, 23; I Corinthians 9:25.
1.b.	How is advancement seen in the life of the faithful steward, and by what means is this gained? Colossians 3:8–10, 13; James 3:17, 18.

Note: "When you have little difficulties to bear which seem hard, think of Jesus the dear Saviour, how He suffered and endured to save sinful mortals." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 3, 124.

"You will be misunderstood. Leave with God the wrongs which you think exist. Be easily entreated, and be not easily provoked. Do not speak angry words because of something you have heard. This hurts your influence. May the grace of God help you to have patience." Ibid., vol. 19, 149.

"We must cherish love, not that which is falsely called charity, which would lead us to love sin and cherish sinners, but Bible charity and Bible wisdom, that is first pure, then peaceable, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits." *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 558.

Monday

2 HOME AND COMMUNITY STEWARDS

2.a.	What principles of Go	od's government should i	be re-
	membered by parents	training children? Psalm	1 85:10.

Note: "Disobedience and rebellion must be punished; but remember that the punishment is to be given in the spirit of Christ. Require obedience, never with a storm of angry words, but firmly and kindly. And when called upon to discipline your child, remember your own relation to your heavenly Father. Have you walked perfectly before Him? Are you not wayward and disobedient? Do you not grieve Him continually? But does He deal with you in anger? Remember, too, that it is from you that your children have received their tendencies to wrong. Remember how often you act like grown-up children. In spite of your years of Christian experience, in spite of your many opportunities for self-discipline, how easily you are provoked to anger. Deal gently, then, with your children, remembering that they have not had the opportunities you have had to gain self-control." *The Review and Herald*, July 8, 1902.

2.b. What way of acting gives credibility and life to our missionary efforts in the community? Luke 6:28–30.

Note: "In all our associations with unbelievers, be careful to give them no occasion to misjudge your faith, or to reproach the cause of truth which you advocate. Many hedge up the way by their own course of action. There is some indiscretion on their part. They are easily provoked. Little difficulties arise in trade or in some other temporal matter, which lead them to think themselves misjudged or wronged by their neighbors. These things are allowed to create coldness or ill feeling, and thus to close the door of access to those who might be reached by the truth. We should never allow matters of temporal interest to quench our love for souls. Brethren, be kind and cour-

teous on all occasions. Never be sharp, critical, or exacting in your deal. If there is any advantage to be gained, give it to your neighbor, whom you are required to love as you love yourself. With the patience and love of Jesus, watch for opportunities to do him a kindness. Let him see that the religion which we profess does not close up nor freeze over the avenues of the soul, making us unsympathizing and exacting." *The Review and Herald*, May 22, 1888.

3.a. How does bitterness toward our brethren or sisters

Tuesday3 EXERCISING CHARITY

affect our relationships with others? Hebrews 12:15.
Note: "'A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another: as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another' (John 13:34, 35). These words are not the words of man, but the words of our Redeemer; and how important it is that we fulfill the instruction that He has given! There is nothing that can so weaken the influence of the church, as the lack of love. Christ says, 'Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves' (Matthew 10:16). If we are to meet opposition from our enemies, who are represented as wolves, let us be careful that we do not manifest the same spirit among ourselves. The enemy well knows that if we do not have love one for another, he can gain his object, and wound and weaken the church, by causing differences among brethren. He can lead
them to surmise evil, to speak evil, to accuse, condemn, and hate one another. In this way the cause of God is brought into dishonor, the name of Christ is reproached, and untold harm is
done to the souls of men." <i>The Review and Herald</i> , June 5, 1888. 3.b. What is the result of daily cultivating charity? Matthew 12:35, <i>first part</i> ; Colossians 3:12–15.

Note: "If you have love in your heart, you will seek to establish and build up your brother in the most holy faith. If a word is dropped that is detrimental to the character of your friend or brother, do not encourage this evil speaking. It is the work of the enemy. Kindly remind the speaker that the word of God forbids that kind of conversation. We are to empty the heart of everything that defiles the soul temple, that Christ may dwell within. Our Redeemer has told us how we may reveal Him to the world. If we cherish His Spirit, if we manifest His love to others, if we guard one another's interests, if we are kind, patient, forbearing, the world will have an evidence by the fruits we bear, that we are the children of God. It is the unity in the church that enables it to exert a conscious influence upon unbelievers and worldlings." *The Review and Herald*, June 5, 1888.

Wednesday

4 A TYPICAL PROBLEM

4.a. Name one evil commonly found in the church. Leviticus 19:16, *first part*; Proverbs 16:17–20; Jeremiah 20:10.

Note: "Floating rumors are frequently the destroyers of unity among brethren. There are some who watch with open mind and ears to catch flying scandal. They gather up little incidents which may be trifling in themselves, but which are repeated and exaggerated until a man is made an offender for a word. Their motto seems to be, 'Report, and we will report it.' These tale-bearers are doing the devil's work with surprising fidelity, little knowing how offensive their course is to God. If they would spend half the energy and zeal that is given to this unholy work in examining their own hearts, they would find so much to do to cleanse their souls from impurity that they would have no time or disposition to criticize their brethren, and they would not fall under the power of this temptation. The door of the mind should be closed against 'they say' or 'I have heard.'Why should we not, instead of allowing jealousy or evil-surmising to come into our hearts, go to our brethren, and, after frankly but kindly setting before them the things we have heard detrimental to their character and influence, pray with and for them?" The Review and Herald, June 3, 1884.

4.b. How can we overcome this problem? Proverbs 14:15; 25:9, 10.



4.c. If we find that a brother or a sister is indeed guilty of some wrong, what is our personal duty? Galatians 6:1; James 5:19, 20.

Note: "When we see errors in others, let us remember that we have faults graver, perhaps, in the sight of God, than the fault we condemn in our brother. Instead of publishing his defects, ask God to bless him, and to help him to overcome his error. Christ will approve of this spirit and action, and will open the way for you to speak a word of wisdom that will impart strength and help to him who is weak in the faith." *The Review and Herald*, June 5, 1888.

Thursday 5 LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

5.a. What changes are seen when we are not easily provoked and think no evil (1 Corinthians 13:5)? Ephesians 4:23-25; 5:9-12.

Note: "The person who cultivates the precious plant of love will be self-denying in spirit and will not yield self-control even under provocation. He will not impute wrong motives and evil intentions to others, but will feel deeply over sin when discovered in any of the disciples of Christ." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 123.

"Love is unsuspecting, ever placing the most favorable construction upon the motives and acts of others. Love will never needlessly expose the faults of others. It does not listen eagerly to unfavorable reports, but rather seeks to bring to mind some good qualities of the one defamed." Ibid., 169.

5.b. How can the world see in our life a daily growth in

Christ? Titus 2:7, 8, 11-14.

-		

Note: "Let each ask himself: Do I possess the grace of love? Have I learned to suffer long and to be kind? Talents, learning, and eloquence, without this heavenly attribute, will be as meaningless as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 169.

"While we cannot love and fellowship those who are the bitter enemies of Christ, we should cultivate that spirit of meekness and love that characterized our Master—a love that thinketh no evil and is not easily provoked." *The Review and Herald*, June 3, 1884.

Friday PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- Describe the reformation cited in Colossians 3:8–10, 13.
- 2. How can we better represent Christ in temporal matters?
- 3. How can we overcome the common problem plaguing many churches?
- 4. What is wrong with "they say" and "I have heard"?
- Describe some ways by which the stewardship of God's love can be manifested on behalf of others.

September 12 - 18, 2021

An Unfailing Virtue

Key Text

"Charity never faileth" (1 Corinthians 13:8).

Study Help: Testimonies, vol. 2, 133–136.

Introduction

"Never should we pass by one suffering soul without seeking to impart to him of the comfort wherewith we are comforted of God." *The Desire of Ages*, 505.

Sunday

1 A POWERFUL MOTIVATION

ı.a.	What can the faithful steward learn from the apostle Paul's motivation? I Corinthians 9:16–19; 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15.
1.b.	What exhortations are given to motivate us in turn? I Peter I:22, 23.

Note: "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them' (Matthew 7:12). Blessed results would appear as the fruit of such a course. 'With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again' (verse 2). Here are strong motives which should constrain us to love one another with a pure heart, fervently. Christ is our example. He went about doing good. He lived to bless others. Love beautified and ennobled all His actions. We are not commanded to do to ourselves what we wish others to do unto us; we are to do unto others what we wish them to do to us under like circumstances. The measure we mete is always measured to us again. Pure love is simple in

its operations and is distinct from any other principle of action. The love of influence and the desire for the esteem of others may produce a well-ordered life and frequently a blameless conversation. Self-respect may lead us to avoid the appearance of evil. A selfish heart may perform generous actions, acknowledge the present truth, and express humility and affection in an outward manner, yet the motives may be deceptive and impure; the actions that flow from such a heart may be destitute of the savor of life and the fruits of true holiness, being destitute of the principles of pure love. Love should be cherished and cultivated, for its influence is divine." *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 136. [Emphasis author's.]

Monday

2 THE FRUIT OF CHARITY

2.a.	How did Paul's unselfish love bear fruit under the
	most forbidding circumstances? Philippians 1:12-14;
	2:15-17.

Note: "Not by Paul's sermons, but by his bonds, was the attention of the court attracted to Christianity. It was as a captive that he broke from so many souls the bonds that held them in the slavery of sin. Nor was this all. He declared: 'Many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear' (Philippians 1:14).

"Paul's patience and cheerfulness during his long and unjust imprisonment, his courage and faith, were a continual sermon. His spirit, so unlike the spirit of the world, bore witness that a power higher than that of earth was abiding with him. And by his example, Christians were impelled to greater energy as advocates of the cause from the public labors of which Paul had been withdrawn. In these ways were the apostle's bonds influential, so that when his power and usefulness seemed cut off, and to all appearance he could do the least, then it was that he gathered sheaves for Christ in fields from which he seemed wholly excluded." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 464.

2.b. How can the faithful steward be inspired by Paul's experiences? 2 Corinthians 4:5–10; 11:24–28.

Note: "Patience as well as courage has its victories. By meekness under trial, no less than by boldness in enterprise, souls may be won to Christ. The Christian who manifests patience and cheerfulness under bereavement and suffering, who meets even death itself with the peace and calmness of an unwavering faith, may accomplish for the gospel more than he could have effected by a long life of faithful labor. Often when the servant of God is withdrawn from active duty, the mysterious providence which our shortsighted vision would lament is designed by God to accomplish a work that otherwise would never have been done.

"Let not the follower of Christ think, when he is no longer able to labor openly and actively for God and His truth, that he has no service to render, no reward to secure. Christ's true witnesses are never laid aside. In health and sickness, in life and death, God uses them still." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 465.

Tuesday3 VICTORIOUS CHARITY

3.a. How can the faithful steward gain the victory over wrong words and attitudes? James 3:2, 10–12; Ezekiel 36:25, 26.
Note: "The most careful cultivation of the outward proprieties and courtesies of life has not sufficient power to shut out all fretfulness, harsh judgment, and unbecoming speech. The spirit of genuine benevolence must dwell in the heart. Love imparts to its possessor grace, propriety, and comeliness of deportment. Love illuminates the countenance and subdues the voice; it refines and elevates the entire man. It brings him into harmony with God, for it is a heavenly attribute." <i>Testimonies</i> , vol. 4, 559, 560.
3.b. Through what experiences may the faithful steward learn the unfailing power of love? 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 1 John 5:1-4.

Note: "The opposition we meet may prove a benefit to us in many ways. If it is well borne, it will develop virtues which would never have appeared if the Christian had nothing to endure. And faith, patience, forbearance, heavenly mindedness, trust in Providence, and genuine sympathy with the erring, are the results of trial well borne. These are the graces of the Spirit, which bud, blossom, and bear fruit amid trials and adversity. Meekness, humility, and love always grow on the Christian tree. If the word is received into good and honest hearts, the obdurate soul will be subdued, and faith, grasping the promises, and relying upon Jesus, will prove triumphant. 'This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith' (1 John 5:4)." The Review and Herald, June 28, 1892.

"Unexpected disappointments will come. Jesus was often grieved at the hardness of heart of the people, and you will have a similar experience. Your prayers, your tears, your entreaties, may fail to awaken a response. Hearts are dead in trespasses and sins. There seems to be no penitence, but only indifference and opposition, and from some even contempt, when you looked for certain victory. But you are not to relax your efforts. If one refuses, turn to another. Have faith that the Comforter will do the work which it is impossible for you to do. Have faith in all the blessed promises which Christ has given you. Work with charity and invincible courage, for you must do this if you would succeed. 'Let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not' (Galatians 6:9)." The Signs of the Times, November 30, 1891.

Wednesday 4 ENDURING LOVE

4.8	. What is unique about the plant of charity? I Corinthians 13:8, <i>first part</i> .
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Note: "We are to see in our fellow-man the purchase of the blood of Christ. If we have this love one for another, we shall be growing in love for God and the truth. We have been pained at heart to see how little love is cherished in our midst. Love is a plant of heavenly origin, and if we would have it flourish in our hearts, we must cultivate it daily. Mildness, gentleness, long suffering, not being easily provoked, bearing all things, enduring all things—these are the fruits upon the precious tree of love." *The Review and Herald*, June 5, 1888.

"In the light from Calvary it will be seen that the law of self-renouncing love is the law of life for earth and heaven; that the love which 'seeketh not her own' (I Corinthians 13:5) has its source in the heart of God; and that in the meek and lowly One is manifested the character of Him who dwelleth in the light which no man can approach unto." *The Desire of Ages*, 20.

4.b. What should encourage the faithful steward in laboring for souls purchased by the blood of Christ? Galatians 5:1.

Note: "There [in the school of the hereafter] all who have wrought with unselfish spirit will behold the fruit of their labors. The outworking of every right principle and noble deed will be seen. Something of this we see here. But how little of the result of the world's noblest work is in this life manifest to the doer! How many toil unselfishly and unweariedly for those who pass beyond their reach and knowledge! ... So gifts are bestowed, burdens are borne, labor is done. Men sow the seed from which, above their graves, others reap blessed harvests. They plant trees, that others may eat the fruit. They are content here to know that they have set in motion agencies for good. In the hereafter the action and reaction of all these will be seen.

"Of every gift that God has bestowed, leading men to unselfish effort, a record is kept in heaven. To trace this in its wide-spreading lines, to look upon those who by our efforts have been uplifted and ennobled, to behold in their history the outworking of true principles—this will be one of the studies and rewards of the heavenly school." *Education*, 305, 306.

Thursday5 THE BOND OF PERFECTION

5.a	5.a. Why is charity necessary to perfect the Christian character? Colossians 3:14; 1 John 4:7–12.		

Note: "In our life here, earthly, sin-restricted though it is, the greatest joy and the highest education are in service. And in the future state, untrammeled by the limitations of sinful humanity, it is in service that our greatest joy and our highest education will be found—witnessing, and ever as we witness learning anew 'the riches of the glory of this mystery;' which is Christ in you, the hope of glory' (Colossians 1:27)." *Education*, 309.

5.b. What is the greatest illustration of unfailing charity that will shine on throughout eternity? Zechariah 13:6			

Note: "Our Redeemer will ever bear the marks of His crucifixion. Upon His wounded head, upon His side, His hands and feet, are the only traces of the cruel work that sin has wrought. Says the prophet, beholding Christ in His glory: 'He had bright beams coming out of His side: and there was the hiding of His power' (Habakkuk 3:4, margin). That pierced side whence flowed the crimson stream that reconciled man to God—there is the Saviour's glory, there 'the hiding of His power.' 'Mighty to save' (Isaiah 63:1), through the sacrifice of redemption, He was therefore strong to execute justice upon them that despised God's mercy. And the tokens of His humiliation are His highest honor; through the eternal ages the wounds of Calvary will show forth His praise and declare His power." The Great Controversy, 674.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. How should the faithful steward understand Matthew 7:12?
- 2. What results can charity achieve, even amidst difficulties?
- 3. How can the faithful steward benefit from trials?
- 4. Why is loving service never lost?
- 5. Where is life's greatest joy and highest education found?

September 19 - 25, 2021

A Cause for Rejoicing!

Key Text

"[Charity] rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:6).

Study Help: Counsels on Stewardship, 339–350.

Introduction

"Charity loves the sinner but hates the sin, and will warn him faithfully of his danger, pointing him to the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world. Sin is not to be cloaked, but to be taken away." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, 217.

Sunday

1 SELF-EXAMINATION

ı.a.	what must the faithful steward realize? Proverbs 28:14.		
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Note: "Bible charity is not sentimentalism, but love in active exercise. To heal the hurt of the daughter of My people, slightly, saying, 'Peace, peace; when there is no peace' (Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11), is called charity. To confederate together, to call sin holiness and truth, is called charity; but it is the counterfeit article. The false and the spurious are in the world, and we should closely examine our hearts that we may know whether or not we possess the genuine charity. Genuine charity will not create distrust, and evil work. It will not blunt the sword of the spirit so that it does no execution. Those who would cover evil under false charity, say to the sinner, 'It shall be well with thee.'Thank God there is a charity that will not be corrupted; there is a wisdom that cometh from above, that is (mark it) first pure, then peaceable, and without hypocrisy, and the fruits of righteousness is sown of them that make peace. This is a description of heaven-born, heaven-bred charity." Manuscript Releases, vol. 1, 217.

ı.b	o. What should characterize the daily expe	rience o	f the
	faithful steward? Psalm 139:23, 24.		

Note: "If we would be overcomers, we must search our hearts to be sure that we are not cherishing anything that is offensive to God." *Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists*, 138.

Monday 2 IMPROPER REJOICING (I)

2.a.	How is the faithful steward to respond to iniquity?
	1 Corinthians 13:6, first part.

Note: "Satan's work is directly opposed to the work of God. The enemy of all good, he stands as the general of the forces drawn up to hurt the souls of men. He looks on with fiendish triumph as he sees the professed followers of Christ biting and devouring one another. He stands ever ready to mar the lives of those who are trying to serve God. Heavenly angels marvel that men should aid Satanic agencies in their work, discouraging hearts, making God's people weak, strengthless, faithless." *Spalding and Magan Collection*, 345, 346.

2.b. How does the 1 Peter 5:8, 9.	taithful stev	vard avoid re	goicing in evil:

Note: "When we talk discouragement and gloom, Satan listens with fiendish joy; for it pleases him to know that he has brought you into his bondage. Satan cannot read our thoughts, but he can see our actions, hear our words; and from his long knowledge of the human family, he can shape his temptations

to take advantage of our weak points of character. And how often do we let him into the secret of how he may obtain the victory over us. O that we might control our words and actions! How strong we would become if our words were of such an order that we would not be ashamed to meet the record of them in the day of judgment. How different will they appear in the day of God from what they seem when we utter them." <i>The Review and Herald</i> , May 19, 1891.	3.b. Why should Christians refrain from rejoicing in iniquity? Proverbs 24:17, 18.
2.c. What admonitions are to strengthen us against the temptations mentioned above? Psalm 141:3; Ephesians 4:29, 30.	Note: "Instead of finding fault with others, let us be critical with ourselves. The question with each one of us should be, Is my heart right before God? Will this course of action glorify my Father which is in heaven? If you have cherished a wrong spirit, let it be banished from the soul. It is your duty to eradicate from your heart everything that is of a defiling nature; every root of bitterness should be plucked up, lest others be
Note: "When you are associated together, be guarded in your words. Let your conversation be of such a nature that you will have no need of repentance." <i>The Review and Herald</i> , June 5, 1888. Tuesday 3 IMPROPER REJOICING (II)	contaminated by its baleful influence. Do not allow one poisonous plant to remain in the soil of your heart. Root it out this very hour, and plant in its stead the plant of love. Let Jesus be enshrined in the soul. "Christ is our example. He went about doing good. He lived to bless others. Love beautified and ennobled all His actions, and we are commanded to follow in His steps. Let us remember that God sent His only begotten Son to this world of sorrow, to 'redeem us from all iniquity, and to purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works' (Titus 2:14). Let us seek to comply with the requirement of God, and fulfill His law. 'Love is the fulfilling of the law' (Romans 13:10), and He who died that we might live, has given us this commandment,
3.a. Why is the Christian warned against speaking of the sins and frailty of others? Ephesians 5:11, 12.	that we should love one another as He has loved us; and the world will know that we are His disciples, if we have this love one for another." <i>The Review and Herald</i> , June 5, 1888.
	Wednesday
	4 WITH OUR BRETHREN AND SISTERS
	4.a. What teaching and experience of the early disciples is to be ours? James 5:16; Philippians 2:1, 2.
Note: "While many are neglecting their own souls, they eagerly watch for an opportunity to criticize and condemn others. All have defects of character, and it is not hard to find something that jealousy can interpret to their injury. 'Now,' say these	Note: "They [the disciples] were not assembled to relate tidbits

Note: "They [the disciples] were not assembled to relate tidbits of scandal. They were not seeking to expose every stain they could find on a brother's character. They felt their spiritual need, and cried to the Lord for the holy unction to help them in overcoming their own infirmities, and to fit them for the work of saving others. They prayed with intense earnestness that the love

self-constituted judges, 'we have *facts*. We will fasten upon them an accusation from which they can not clear themselves.'

They wait for a fitting opportunity and then produce their

bundle of gossip and bring forth their tidbits." Testimonies, vol.

5, 95. [Emphasis author's.]

of Christ might be shed abroad in their hearts. This is our great need today in every church in our land. For '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). That which was objectionable in the character is purified from the soul by the love of Jesus. All selfishness is expelled, all envy, all evil-speaking, is rooted out, and a radical transformation is wrought in the heart." *The Review and Herald*, July 22, 1890.

4.b. What factors must all faithful stewards bear in mind in their interaction with those whom they profess to love? Romans 14:19; I Thessalonians 5:11.

Note: "There is a sympathy for sin and sinners that is dangerous to the prosperity of the church at the present day. You must have charity is the cry. But that sentiment that would excuse wrong and shield the guilty, is not the charity of the Bible. The friendship of the wicked is more dangerous than their enmity; for none can prevail against the servants of the living God, except by tempting them to disobedience." *The Signs of the Times*, January 6, 1881.

"Let not the common, cheap, earthly things engross the mind that the presence of Jesus shall be withdrawn. The life of the church is communicated from Christ, and we help the church when we work in harmony with the life-giving power, losing sight of ourselves, and seeking to build one another up in the most holy faith." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 11, 265.

Thursday 5 PROPER REJOICING

5.a. How does the faithful steward reveal true charity? 1 Corinthians 13:6, *last part*; Psalm 119:140–144, 172.

Note: "You must have charity,' is the cry heard everywhere, especially from those who profess sanctification. But true charity is too pure to cover an unconfessed sin. While we are to love the souls for whom Christ died, we are to make no compromise with evil. We are not to unite with the rebellious and call this charity." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 554, 555.



5.b. What is the ultimate goal of the faithful steward?

I Corinthians 2:2.

Note: "And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase. The more men learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character. As Jesus opens before them the riches of redemption and the amazing achievements in the great controversy with Satan, the hearts of the ransomed thrill with more fervent devotion, and with more rapturous joy they sweep the harps of gold; and ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of voices unite to swell the mighty chorus of praise." *The Great Controversy*, 678.

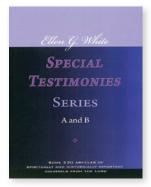
Friday PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- I. Why is self-examination a key in developing faithful stewardship?
- 2. When would the faithful steward be liable to please the enemy instead of pleasing Christ?
- 3. How may the faithful steward be in danger of secretly rejoicing in iniquity?
- 4. What are the symptoms of false charity?
- 5. How can the faithful steward manifest true charity?

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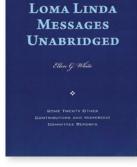


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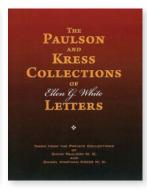
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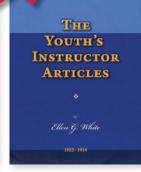
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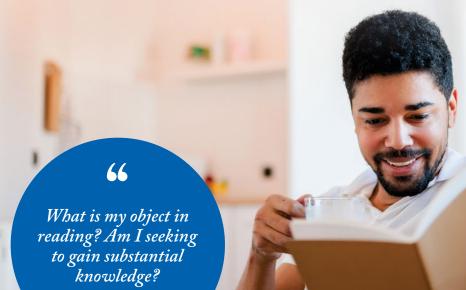
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Cardiovascular Health	The fiber and cucurbitacins found in the cucumber skin may also help prevent atherosclerosis and high blood pressure
Diabetes	May play a role in controlling/preventing diabetes by lowering blood sugar or stop blood glucose from rising too high
Inflammation	May have anti-inflammatory benefits that aid the immune system fight against cardiovascular disease, diabetes, autoimmune conditions, depression and cancer
Skin Care	Contains nutrients that can help cool and soothe skin, reducing swelling and irritation and alleviate sunburn; placed on the eyes it can help decrease puffiness and a face pack of cucumber juice and yogurt can reduce dry skin and blackheads

Vegetables



CUCUMBER SALAD

Ingredients

½ cup chopped onions

2 cups chopped tomatoes

3 ½ cups chopped cucumbers

¼ tsp. celery seed

34 tsp. dill weed

¼ tsp. salt

¼ tsp. garlic powder

1 cup soy sour cream

Process

Combine all ingredients into bowl and gently mix together. Serve immediately or chill first. Yields 5 cups.





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