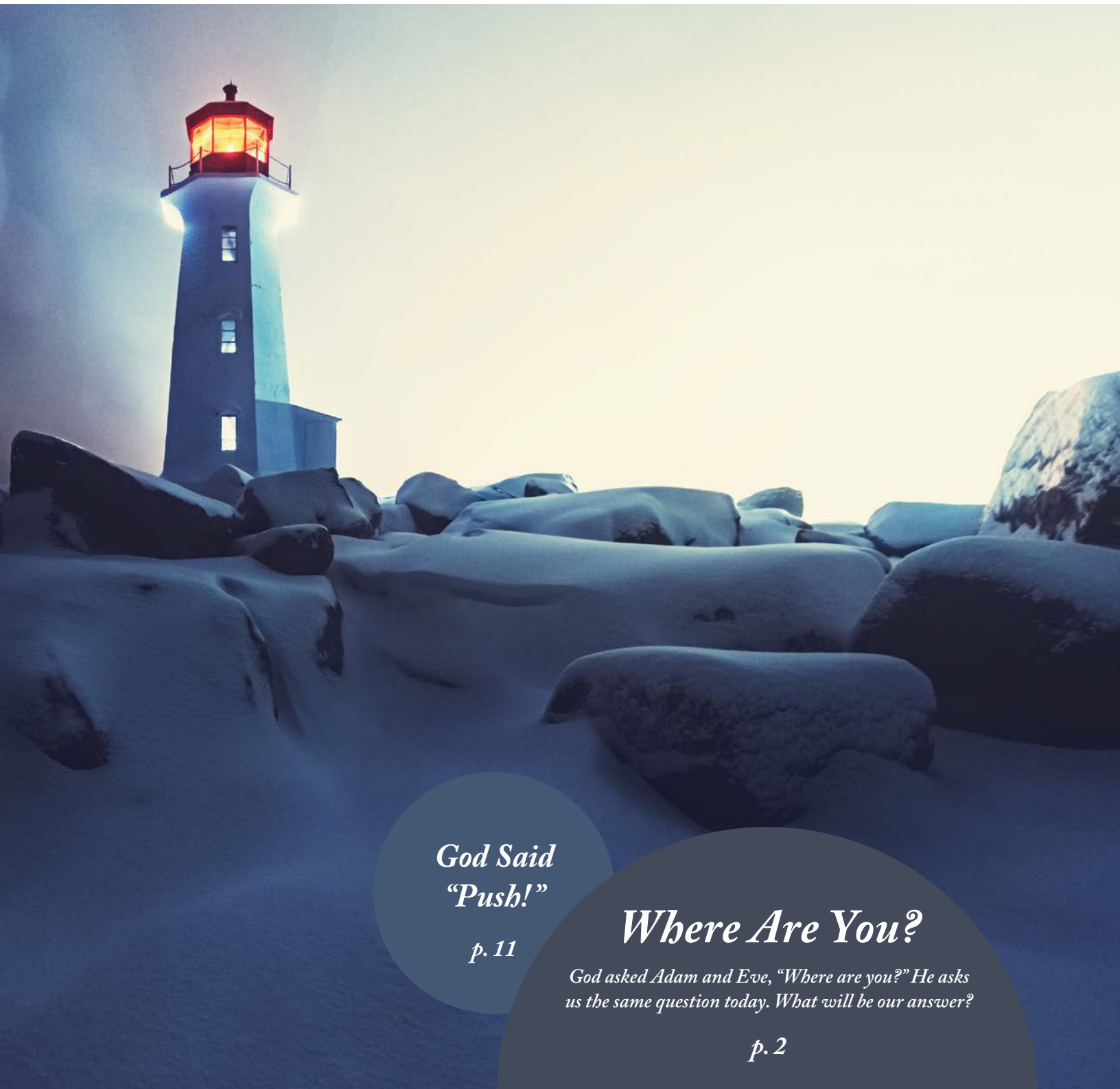


HISTORIC
LANDMARKS
OF ADVENTISM



*God Said
"Push!"*

p. 11

Where Are You?

God asked Adam and Eve, "Where are you?" He asks us the same question today. What will be our answer?

p. 2



From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

Tyranny and Tyrants

When the fathers of the United States signed the Declaration of Independence, they stated that their reason for making this declaration was that “[t]he history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these States. . . .” They then listed over thirty complaints among which were, making judges subject to his will alone, creating a police state, depriving citizens of trial by jury and sending armies of mercenaries to support his tyranny. They concluded by saying, “. . . In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.”

Notice their repeated charge was that King George was a tyrant, and they had decided to free themselves from his tyranny. All these excesses, and more, could happen again in the United States or in any nation, but what is more important is to know that the devil is the real tyrant. Human beings

become tyrants because they are under his control.

“The time of trouble is the crucible that is to bring out Christlike characters. It is designed to lead the people of God to renounce Satan and his temptations. The last conflict will reveal Satan . . . [as] a cruel tyrant, and it will do for them what nothing else could do, uproot him entirely from their affections. . . .”

“The work of the enemy is not abrupt . . . it is a secret undermining of the strongholds of principle. It commences in small things—the neglect to be true to God and to rely upon Him wholly Our only safety is in searching the Scriptures and in being much on our knees before God, entreating Him to imbue us with His Spirit, that when the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall for us lift up a standard against him.” *The Review and Herald*, August 12, 1884

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:11, 12 **LM**

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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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Where Are You?

By John J. Grosboll

What was God's first question to fallen man? It is found in Genesis 3:8, 9: "And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, 'Where are you?'"

Adam responds in verse 10, "... I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." Having sinned, the garment of light that had clothed Adam and Eve since their creation had left them. They were able to see themselves now in their newfound naked and sinful condition. Sin had created fear, shame, and loneliness in Adam and Eve, and they had hidden from God.



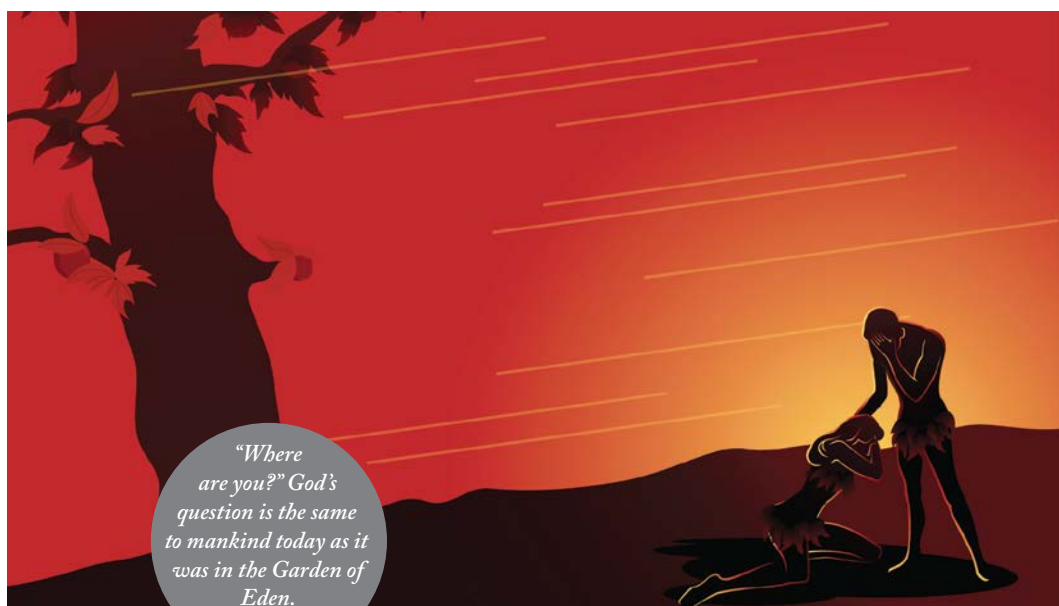
God then asked Adam how he knew he was naked, “‘Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?’” Sadly, a sinner for just a short time, Adam used the now age-old argument of blame and self-justification. “... ‘The woman whom *You* gave to be with me, *she* gave me of the tree, and I ate.’” Verses 11, 12

Eve blamed the serpent. Adam blamed Eve and then he blamed God. But it is interesting to note that even as he blamed Eve for his choice, it was because of his love for her that he chose to eat the fruit. Ellen White says, “[Adam] understood the high destiny opened to the human race should they remain faithful to God. Yet all these blessings were lost sight of in the fear of losing that one gift which in his eyes outvalued every other. Love, gratitude, loyalty to the Creator—all were overborne by love to Eve. She was a part of himself, and he could not endure the thought of separation. ... He resolved to share her fate; if she must die, he would die with her.” *Patriarch and Prophets*, 56, 57

And then came justification: “After all, he reasoned, might not the words of the wise serpent be true? Eve was before him, as beautiful and apparently as innocent as before this act of disobedience. She expressed greater love for him than before. No sign of death appeared in her, and he decided to brave the consequences. He seized the fruit and quickly ate.” *Ibid.*

Fault-finding, blame, justification, fear of being in the presence of God, all exist still today, and God still asks the question, “Where are you?” This is a very important question because many people really do not know where they are, and they need to find out.

God has a message for the people of the last days. “After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, ‘Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen



For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.’ And I heard another voice from heaven saying, ‘Come out of her, My people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.’” Revelation 18:1–4

More detailed descriptions of Babylon are found in Revelation 14, 17 and 18. Babylon is described as a harlot woman dressed in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls. She holds a golden cup in her hand filled with abominations and the uncleanness of her fornication. Babylon is a mother church, or mother of harlots, because she has daughter churches, all of whom take part in her wickedness. She has drunk of the blood of the saints and martyrs. She sits as a great, world-wide power, and all the nations of the earth have drunk of her abominations and participated in her sins.

Nations, churches, individuals all believe they know where they are, but really, they don’t. We need to understand how easily it can happen to any church, nation, or person.

Paul says, “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 virgin to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 11:2. He is jealous for the Corinthian church because he has presented the church to Christ as a virgin bride. But then he says in verses 3 and 4, “... 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—you may well put up with it!” Simply put, a church must keep Christ first in its affections.

James says, “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” James 4:4

Repeatedly the apostles and Bible prophets tell God’s people that they are to be married to Christ. “‘Return, O backsliding children,’ says the Lord; ‘for I am married to you. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family,

and I will bring you to Zion.” Jeremiah 3:14. The church is to be a spouse to one husband, Jesus Christ Himself. Speaking of Christ and the church, Paul says they are to be one flesh (Ephesians 5:31).

Claiming to be a part of God’s church but following another is adultery, as seen in Ezekiel chapters 16 and 23.

“The unfaithfulness of the church to Christ in permitting her confidence and affection to be turned from Him, and allowing the love of worldly things to

occupy the soul, is likened to the violation of the marriage vow. The sin of Israel in departing from the Lord is presented under this figure ... ‘But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown.’ ‘As a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel, saith the Lord;’ ‘as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband!’ Ezekiel 16:8, 13–15, 32; Jeremiah 3:20.”

The Great Controversy, 381, 382

The Bible tells about the development of the Antichrist power, but also the image of the Antichrist power in the last days. We need to be absolutely clear on what that is and how it comes about. “The image is made by the two-horned beast, and is an image *to* the beast. It is also called an image *of* the beast. Then to learn what the image is like and how it is to be formed, we must study the characteristics of the beast itself—the papacy.

“When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and

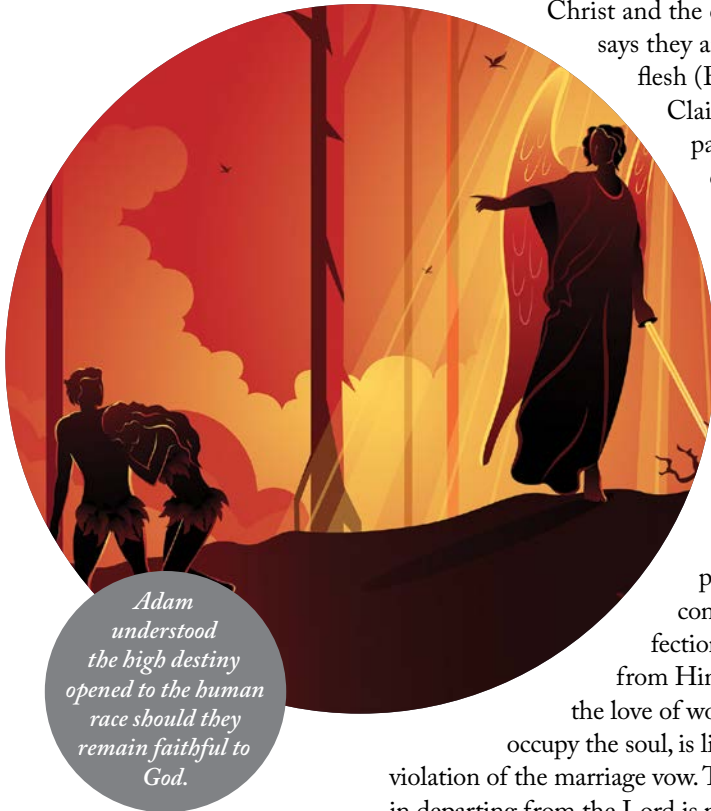
in order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the state and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of ‘heresy.’ In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends.” Ibid., 443

Ellen White clearly states that any church that has corrupted itself by seeking the support of worldly civil powers to enforce its institutions, its will, and its teachings, has become a harlot church. That church will not be permitted at the marriage supper of the Lamb, because no harlot will be allowed to enter.

We are living in a time when the image of the beast is being formed. Let me be clear, if a church is utilizing the support of secular powers by going to the courts to pass judgements in its behalf or pressuring the legislature or hiring lobbyists to influence legislators to make laws that favor its position, then that is spiritual harlotry, and that church has become a harlot church. If a church uses its tithe in support of these types of activities and if that church does not repent and forsake its spiritual harlotry, it has formed an image to the beast and will not go to the marriage feast of the Lamb. Anyone attending and supporting a church like that will not be able to attend either, unless they leave that church.

The New Testament describes Jesus over and over as our High Priest, and the church is described as His bride. But what kind of bride can the High Priest take? Leviticus 21:13, 14 describes the type of woman that the high priest officiating in the earthly temple or tabernacle can and cannot take as his wife: “And he shall take a wife in her virginity. A widow or a divorced woman or a defiled woman or a harlot—these he shall not marry; but he shall take a *virgin* of his own people as wife.” Jesus is our High Priest and He cannot take a church as His bride who is practicing harlotry.

“Where are you?” God’s question is the same to mankind today as it was in the



Adam understood the high destiny opened to the human race should they remain faithful to God.

Garden of Eden. Someone might say “I know I belong to an organization that is in open sin, but I do not participate in it, so I’m all right.”

Yes, people today believe that though they are part of an organization that is committing open sin, if they themselves do not participate in the sin, then it is all right for them to remain in that organization. Let’s look at this more closely in a couple of specific points.

“The time is fast coming when the controlling power of the labor unions will be very oppressive. ...

“Men have confederated to oppose the Lord of hosts. These confederacies will continue until Christ shall leave His place of intercession before the mercy seat, and shall put on the garments of vengeance. ... Professed saints and avowed unbelievers take their stand with these parties.

“The trades unions will be one of the agencies that will bring upon this earth the time of trouble such as has not been since the world began.

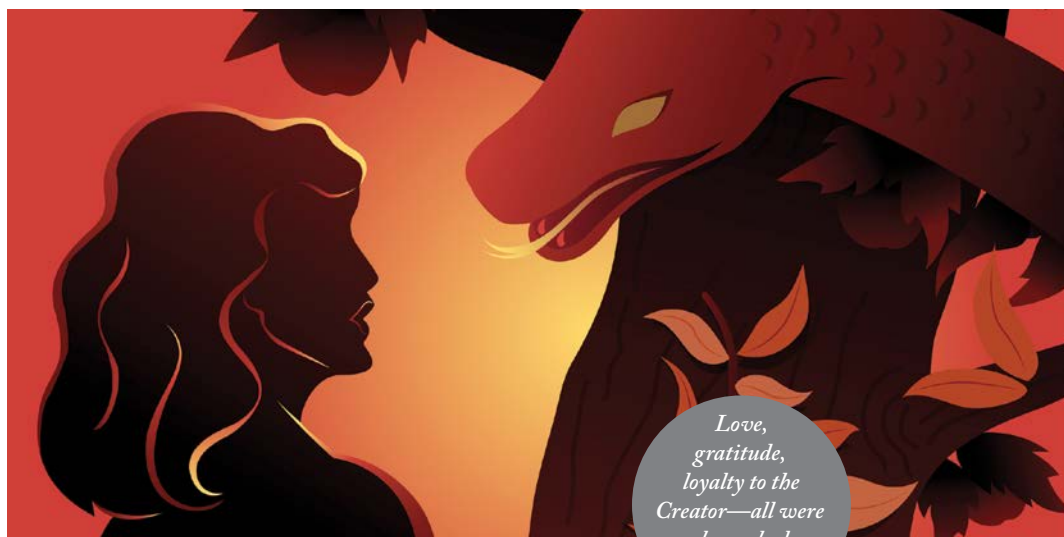
“The work of the people of God is to prepare for the events of the future, which will soon come upon them with blinding force. In the world gigantic monopolies will be formed. Men will bind themselves together in unions that will wrap them in the folds of the enemy. A few men will combine to grasp all the means to be obtained in certain lines of business. Trades unions will be formed and those who refuse to join these unions will be marked men.

“The trades unions and confederacies of the world are a snare. Keep out of them, and away from them, brethren. Have nothing to do with them. ...

“But ere long there will be such strife and confusion in the cities, that those who wish to leave them will not be able. ...

“We are not to unite with secret societies or with trades unions. ...

“These unions are one of the signs of the last days. Men are binding up in bundles ready to be burned. They may be



*Love,
gratitude,
loyalty to the
Creator—all were
overborne by love
to Eve.*

church members, but while they belong to these unions, they cannot possibly keep the commandments of God; for to belong to these unions means to disregard the entire decalogue.

“‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.’ Luke 10:27. These words sum up the whole duty of man. They mean the consecration of the whole being, body, soul, and spirit, to God’s service. How can men obey these words, and at the same time pledge themselves to support that which deprives their neighbors of freedom of action? And how can men obey these words, and form combinations that rob the poorer classes of the advantages which justly belong to them, preventing them from buying or selling, except under certain conditions?

“Those who claim to be the children of God are in no case to bind up with the labor unions that are formed or that shall be formed. This the Lord forbids. Cannot those who study the prophecies see and understand what is before us?”

Selected Messages, Book 2, 141–144

Friends, the Spirit of Prophecy says that belonging to a union means that a person will disregard the entire deca-

logue, because the organization itself disregards it. According to what we just read above, the Lord says a person who belongs to a union or a church that seeks the support and power of the civil government to enforce its doctrine is a member of a harlot church and a commandment breaker in the books of heaven and that person will not receive the seal of God.

“The Lord’s injunction, ‘Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers’ (2 Corinthians 6:14), refers not only to the marriage of Christians with the ungodly, but to all alliances in which the parties are brought into intimate association, and in which there is need of harmony in spirit and action. ...

“The only correct standard of character is the holy law of God, and it is impossible for those who make that law the rule of life to unite in confidence and cordial brotherhood with those who turn the truth of God into a lie, and regard the authority of God as a thing of nought.

“Those who fear God cannot choose the ungodly for companions, and be themselves unharmed. In these societies they are brought under the influence of worldly principles and customs, and through the power of association and

“
*Fault-finding, blame,
justification, fear of being
in the presence of God, all
exist still today, and God still
asks the question, 'Where
are you?'*”

habit the mind becomes more and more conformed to the worldling's standard. Oh, it is an easy thing, by association with the world, to catch their spirit, to be molded by their views of things, so that we do not discern the preciousness of Jesus and the truth. And just to the degree that the spirit of the world dwells in our heart, it will control our life.

“When men are not under the control of the word and the Spirit of God, they are captives of Satan, and we know not to what lengths he may lead them in sin. The patriarch Jacob beheld those who take pleasure in wickedness. He saw what would be the result of association with them, and in the Spirit he explained, ‘O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united’ (Genesis 49:6). He lifts up the danger signal, to warn every soul against such associations.

The apostle Paul echoes the warning: ‘Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness’ (Ephesians 5:11). ‘Be not deceived: Evil company doth corrupt good manners’ (1 Corinthians 15:33, R.V.).

“These societies, that are not controlled by the love and fear of God, will not be found true and upright toward man. Many of their transactions are contrary to justice and equity. He who is of too pure eyes to behold evil will not, cannot, be a party to many things that take place in these associations. ...

“Of course all this is denied by the members of these bodies. But God looks beneath the pleasant, attractive appearance, to the secret, underlying motives and the real working of the association. While some of them claim to make the word of God in a certain sense the basis of their organization, they depart far from the principles of righteousness. The vows imposed by some of these orders require the taking of human life when the secrets of the order are divulged. Members are also pledged, under certain circumstances to clear the guilty from deserved punishment. Toward

those who work against the order, they are required to pursue a course that is not at all in harmony with the law of God. ...

“Fraud runs all through these secret associations, and none can be bound up with them and be free men before God and heaven. ...

“In the revelation of His righteous judgments, God will break up all these associations; and when the judgment shall sit and the books be opened, there will be revealed the unChristlikeness of the whole confederacy. Those who choose to unite with these secret societies are paying homage to idols as senseless and as powerless to bless and save the soul as are the gods of the Hindus. ...

“These societies offer some advantages which from a human point of view appear like great blessings, but not so when judged by the Lord's measurement. Behind their apparent advantages are concealed satanic agencies. ...

“Christians must sever every tie that binds them to these secret orders that are not under the control of God. They cannot be loyal to these organizations and loyal to God.” Ibid., 121, 127–132

“Those who stand under the bloodstained banner of Prince Immanuel cannot be united with the Free Masons or with any secret organization. The seal of the living God will not be placed upon anyone who maintains such a connection after the light of truth has shone upon his pathway.” Ibid., 140

Ellen White writes repeatedly that we must break away from these churches and organizations. The Bible says to “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.” 2 Corinthians 6:17

Not all people are in Babylon or a harlot church; some are in Egypt, even some Adventists.

“I am filled with sadness when I think of our condition as a people. The Lord has not closed heaven to us, but our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God. ...

“The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader, and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 217

The Bible says to come out of Egypt. What is the land of Egypt and what does it mean to be in Egypt?

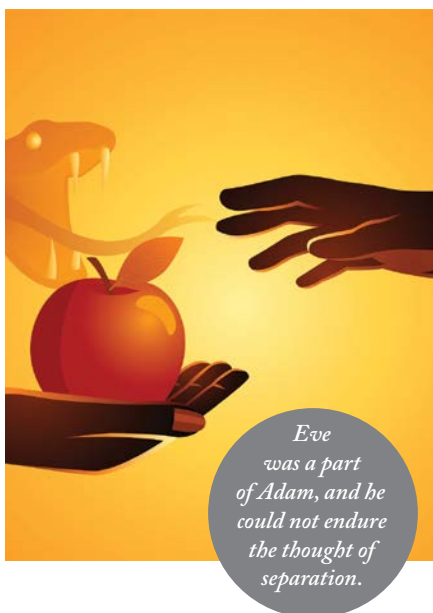
1. **Egypt is a land of bondage.** “And God spoke all these words, saying: ‘I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.’” Exodus 20:1, 2. When speaking to the Jews, Jesus said, “‘And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.’” John 8:32. The Jews said they were Abraham’s descendants and had never been in bondage. We know from the Bible that this was not true. So Jesus said, “‘Most assuredly I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.’” Verses 34–36. If your will is in bondage to sin, then you are in Egypt.

Every person, Ellen White writes, finds in himself a “bent to evil, a force which, unaided, he cannot resist.” *Education*, 29

2. **Egypt is a land of darkness.** False teachings are taught by false teachers, sin abounds, people do not love their brother, and hearts have become hard.

Most of the world today is in darkness. Jesus said, “‘And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.’” John 3:19. Paul said that Christians are to put off the works of darkness and put on the garment of light.

3. **Egypt is also a land of sensuality.** “And the children of Israel said to them, ‘Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.’” Exodus 16:3. Freed from



the bondage of Egypt and receiving the food of angels, they sat in the wilderness and cried for the flesh pots of Egypt. Ellen White adds, “We have been going back to Egypt rather than on to Canaan. Shall we not reverse the order of things?” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 319.

They also had learned many different forms of entertainment while in Egypt that went directly contrary to the law of God, entertainment that included immodesty and ultimately fornication (Exodus 32:23–25).

Egypt is a place where you eat as you like, whenever you want, and indulge in all kinds of sensual pleasures without limit.

4. **Egypt is a land of wealth and prosperity.** It is for this reason that so many in the world would prefer to live in Egypt. Remember the story of the rich young ruler? After he went away sorrowful, unable to part with his wealth, Jesus said, “‘Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.’” Matthew 19:23, 24

5. **Egypt is a land where men do not acknowledge the God of heaven.** The world may admit that God exists, but they do not acknowledge His sovereignty or right to control and direct our lives. Pharaoh said, “Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord ...” Exodus 5:2. Egypt is a land of unbelief. The world believes in worldly philosophy, and they put their trust in what man can do.

Isaiah wrote to the people of his day, “Now the Egyptians are men, and not God ...” Isaiah 31:3. And Jeremiah pronounces a curse on the one who puts his trust in the arm of flesh: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord.” Jeremiah 17:5

“Where are you?” God is asking each of us this question. He knows where we are, but do we? Are we in Babylon or a harlot church seeking support from the secular powers? Are we associated with some secret society that claims Christianity, but is violating the ten commandments? Or are we in Egypt, in bondage and darkness, participating in sensual pleasures, wealth and prosperity, denying the sovereignty of God over our life? Are we trusting man rather than God?

“‘Return, O backsliding children.’” Jeremiah 3:14. God says that He will take us out of Babylon, out of that harlot church or secret society. He says that He will deliver us from Egypt and its sensual and idolatrous influences. Do we desire deliverance? Then our answer to His question must be “Deliver us, Lord. Deliver us.” [Emphasis supplied.] **LM**

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What Are You Thinking?

By John R. Pearson

The apostle Paul had a clear understanding of how your thinking affects the success of your spiritual growth. This understanding is expressed in several of his letters to the various churches. Indeed, the fact that he mentions the significance of our thinking so often should give us an indication of the importance of controlling our thoughts.

Paul covers a wide-ranging number of topics in his second letter to the Corinthians. It will be interesting to discuss with him once we cross the Jordan what provoked some of the things he wrote. However, it should be evident on this side of the Jordan how important he felt it was to be in control of our thoughts.

Toward the end of the second letter to the Corinthians, Paul wrote, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:3–5

Clearly one of the “weapons of our warfare” that is “mighty in God” is exercising our ability to “[bring] every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

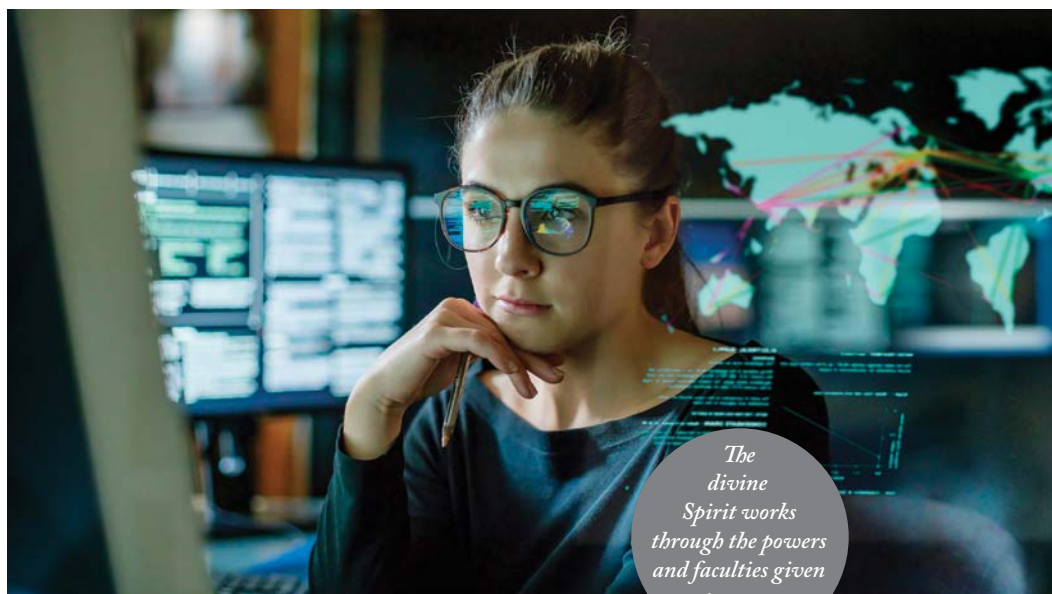
Paul also refers to this weapon in his letter to the Colossians where he wrote, “Set your mind [affections] on things above, not on things on the earth.” Colossians 3:2

Then twice in his letter to the Philippians, Paul mentions this weapon again, addressing it from two different angles. In Philippians 2:5, Paul, speaking imperatively, wrote, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.” Then in the next chapter, he speaks of “the enemies of the cross of Christ” who “set their mind on earthly things.” Philippians 3:18, 19

Inspiration addresses over and over again the importance of controlling our thinking and setting our mind on things above.

“When God’s people take their eyes off the things of this world and place them on heaven and heavenly things they will be a peculiar people, because they will see the mercy and goodness and compassion that God has shown to the children of men. His love will call forth a response from them, and their lives will show to those around them that the Spirit of God is controlling them, that they are setting their affections on things above, not on the things of the earth.” *Maranatha*, 322

“God wishes us to have the mastery over ourselves. But He cannot help us without our consent and co-operation.



The divine Spirit works through the powers and faculties given to man. Of ourselves, we are not able to bring the purposes and desires and inclinations into harmony with the will of God; but if we are ‘willing to be made willing,’ the Saviour will accomplish this for us, ‘Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.’ 2 Corinthians 10:5.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 482, 483

It is next to impossible to accomplish this essential objective without the surrender of the whole heart to the control of the Holy Spirit. Remember, this is warfare. Each of us has our own personal great controversy to deal with. It may seem counter-intuitive, but winning this war requires surrendering—not something one learns in the usual terms of worldly warfare, but “When we submit [surrender] ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon

us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 312

“Moral purity depends on right thinking and right acting. Evil thoughts destroy the soul, while a right control of the thoughts prepares the mind to labor harmoniously for the Master. Every thought should be brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” *Gospel Workers*, 126, 127

“To the heart that has become purified, all is changed. Transformation of character is the testimony to the world of an indwelling Christ. The Spirit of God produces a new life in the soul, bringing the thoughts and desires into obedience to the will of Christ; and the inward man is renewed in the image of God. Weak and erring men and women show to the world that the redeeming power of grace can cause the faulty character to develop into symmetry and abundant fruitfulness.” *Prophets and Kings*, 233

“You should keep off from Satan’s enchanted ground and not allow your minds to be swayed from allegiance to God. Through Christ you may and should be happy and should acquire

“
*When God's people
 take their eyes off the
 things of this world and
 place them on heaven and
 heavenly things they will
 be a peculiar people.*

habits of self-control. Even your thoughts must be brought into subjection to the will of God and your feelings under the control of reason and religion. Your imagination was not given you to be allowed to run riot and have its own way without any effort

at restraint or discipline. If the thoughts are wrong, the feelings will be wrong, and the thoughts and feelings combined make up the moral character.

When you decide that as Christians you are not required to restrain your thoughts and feelings you are brought under the influence of evil angels and invite their presence and their control. If you yield to your impressions and allow your thoughts to run in a channel of suspicion,

doubt, and repining you will be among the most unhappy of mortals, and your lives will prove a failure.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 310

“The religion of Christ never degrades the receiver; it never makes him coarse or rough, discourteous or self-important, passionate or hardhearted. On the contrary, it refines the taste, sanctifies the judgment, and purifies and ennoble the thoughts, bringing them into captivity to Christ. God’s ideal for His children is higher than the highest human thought can reach. He has given in His holy law a transcript of His character.” *Ibid.*, vol. 8, 63

It is this transcript that should be the guiding force in our thinking, and when this is the case, the efforts of Satan and his evil agents to inject unchristlike thoughts into our minds proves futile.

Paul provides a succinct set of criteria in his letter to the Philippians that those seeking to overcome can use as a guide for their thinking: “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.” Philippians 4:8

Perhaps understanding the challenge that the effort to restrict one’s thinking presents,

Paul provided encouragement by asserting his faith in the power of Jesus to enable us to think and thus act aright: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (verse 13). It is evident from the context that Paul is not referring to physical strength, but rather to the strength which Christ provides to enable His followers to thwart the efforts continually and incessantly exerted by the enemy of souls to enshroud his victims in spiritual darkness.

It is imperative that we do not allow our actions to be influenced by thinking on inappropriate topics, thereby giving Satan ammunition in his desire to corrupt our characters.

“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. Oh, 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.” *The Review and Herald*, May 19, 1891

Thus we see the critical connection between our thoughts, our words, and our actions. Satan is ever on the watch to “take advantage of our weak points of character.” We also must be ever watchful to ensure that we think appropriately so that improper thoughts do not result in improper words or deeds.

Although experience has perhaps revealed to us the difficulty that is inherent in controlling our thinking, remember Paul’s encouraging acknowledgment: “I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.” **LM**

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God said, “Push!”

By Judy Rebarchek

Several weeks ago I was visiting in the church I used to attend when I lived in Nebraska. The Sabbath School superintendent for that Sabbath is a loving and compassionate woman I have known for years. Like most of us, she has had spiritual struggles, and knowing this, what she presented for her superintendent's remarks that morning is much more meaningful to me. It was presented as an analogy or allegory and I'd like briefly to share it, as I remember it, with you.

There was a man who lived in a cabin in the woods; outside his home was a large rock. The Lord came to the man one day and told him that He wanted him to push against the rock with all his might. And so, every day for many years the man set his shoulder squarely against that massive, unmoving rock and pushed with all his might. But each day he returned to his cabin not having moved the rock even an inch.





Exercise the faith that can move mountains, but know that it is still God who does the moving.

Then the devil came to him filling his mind with thoughts of discouragement, reminding him of how long he had worked to move this rock and how completely unsuccessful he had been. He told the man that it probably wasn't necessary to work so hard, suggesting to him that God had given him a task that was simply impossible and giving the impression that God had set him up to fail; accusing God of something that the devil himself would do.

The man became discouraged and disheartened, and for a moment wondered if the devil might be right.

How often have we set ourselves to the task the Lord has given us to do, but to all outward appearance it seems that we are failing? What do we do?

The man, feeling so bad, went to his knees and took his concerns to the feet of Jesus. He wondered as he prayed, how he had labored so long in the Lord's service, applying all his strength to do as the Lord had asked and yet he had failed to move the rock at all. He asked the Lord to show him why he was failing.

With great compassion, the Lord reminded the man that He had asked him to *push* the rock and that he had accepted the task and he had done so with all his strength and commitment. But never once had the Lord told him to *move* the rock. The man thought he had failed, but rather than failing, he had obediently done just what the Lord had asked him to do.

The Lord went further to show the man the results of his obedience. His arms had

become strong and muscled, his back sinewy and brown, his hands callused from constant pressure, and his legs massive and hard. Through opposition he had grown much, and now he was able to do more than he had ever been able to do before. His calling was to be obedient and to push and to exercise faith in the Lord's wisdom. This he had done, and now the Lord Himself would move the rock.

At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to decide for ourselves what He wants, when actually what He wants is simple obedience and faith in Him. By all means, exercise the faith that can move mountains, but know that it is still God who does the moving.

So, I was struck by four important spiritual principles as I contemplated this analogy.

1. The man had faithfully obeyed God's direction every day, so that it did not occur to him to do otherwise, until Satan suggested that his efforts might be futile.
2. So faithful had he been, that in spite of his momentary thought to do other than obey God, he took his concern directly to God.
3. After having exercised his faith according to God's direction, pushing against this immovable rock for so long, the man's obedience and faith had increased, the same as his body had become stronger and more muscular.
4. God is a partner with us. We exercise our faith and trust in Him; God does the heavy lifting, the part that we cannot do.

If we expect to be able to daily obey, then we must exercise our faith, moment by moment, so that we will increase in spiritual strength, until our only desire will be to do the will of God. Even if in a moment of weakness we entertain the suggestions and accusations of Satan, the daily exercise of following God's direction will enable us to look to Him first. We do not have to believe the devil nor doubt God.

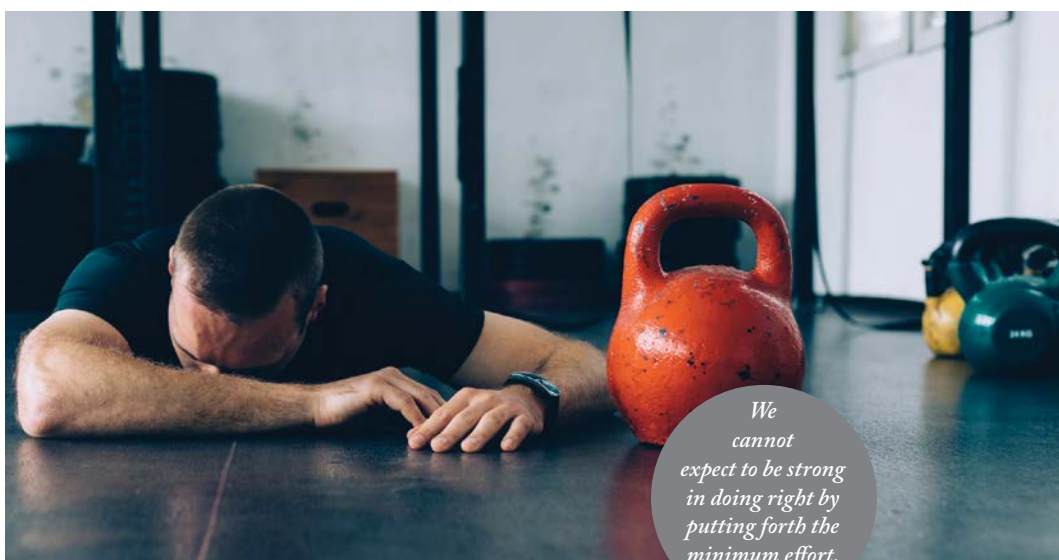
"Those who exercise but little faith now, are in the greatest danger of falling under the power of satanic delusions and the decree to compel the conscience. And

even if they endure the test they will be plunged into deeper distress and anguish in the time of trouble, because they have never made it a habit to trust in God. The lessons of faith which they have neglected they will be forced to learn under a terrible pressure of discouragement.” *Reflecting Christ*, 120

If we want to always do what is right, then we must daily exercise doing right. We cannot expect to be strong in doing right by putting forth the minimum effort or just suddenly deciding one day to do it. A weightlifter isn’t able to deadlift 450 pounds on the first day. It is a process that includes a proper diet, plenty of water, workout programs that target the quadriceps, calves, trapezius and deltoids, biceps, and shoulders. Without these daily programs, a person will never be able to lift more than an average man.

If things get tough, then we must seek the Lord in prayer. We too often make obedience and faith more difficult than they need to be. Satan misrepresented what God had told the man to do even though he had faithfully done what God had asked him to do, and this created doubt in the man’s mind by suggesting that all his efforts were for nothing because he had not moved the rock at all. But is that what God had asked the man to do? Rather than listening to Satan, he made the decision to talk to God, to find out what he had been doing wrong. And in the end, he’d done nothing wrong. He’d been doing exactly what God had told him to do. Satan did this same thing in the Garden of Eden when he misrepresented to Eve that eating of the fruit of the tree would not result in her death. And instead of returning immediately to Adam’s side and both of them going directly to God, she accepted Satan’s deception and—well, here we are today.

“Prayer ... is the source of your greatest strength. God is represented as bending from His place in heaven, watching with living interest those who labor for



Him, and waiting to impart His grace to those who supplicate His throne. ...

“Never forget that you are laborers together with God, and that it is your privilege to be constantly shielded by His grace. ... He calls upon everyone who has named His name to be converted daily, that he may work intelligently in His cause, under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. ...

“It is the purpose of God that His people shall be a sanctified, purified, holy people, communicating light to all around them. But only as they keep the standard uplifted, only as they reveal that the truth they profess to believe is able to influence them for righteousness and to sustain their spiritual life; only as they make the principles of truth a part of their daily lives, can they be a praise and honor to God in the earth. It is the privilege of every Christian to receive grace to enable him to stand firmly for the principles of righteousness in the service of God.” *This Day With God*, 53

Finally, we often look to ourselves to do more than what God has asked us to do, by attempting to take upon ourselves God’s job, something that truly is impossible for us to perform. Abraham comes to mind when I think of this. God said He would give Abraham

and Sarah a son, but because of their advanced age, they didn’t think that God could do as He had promised, so they lent a helping hand, or so they thought. Instead they created a sad situation that caused trouble in their home and ultimately in the world.

“If the human agent consents, God can and will so identify His will with all our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His word, that when obeying His will, we are only carrying out the impulses of our minds. All such will not possess an unsanctified, selfish disposition, ready to carry out their own wills, but will have a jealous, earnest, determined zeal for the glory of God. They will not want to do anything in their own strength, and will guard strictly against the danger of promoting self.” *Our Father Cares*, 268

Faith. Obedience. Prayer. Endurance. Our calling is to exercise faith, to be obedient and to trust in the wisdom of God. When we do this, our faith becomes stronger, obedience becomes a natural act and trusting in God leads to surrender. Then, He will move the rock. **LM**

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Lessons from the Life of Christ

By Ellen G. White

The kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. ...

“After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

“He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good

and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

“Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: and I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer

darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Thus Christ by definite instruction prepared His disciples for their work. He is our Master, as He was theirs, and this instruction we are to follow. We are to work earnestly and vigilantly to prepare the way for the second coming of the Lord. There is much to be done in preparation for that solemn event. Waiting, watching, praying, and working,—this is what we are to do as servants of God. Personal consecration is necessary, and we cannot have this unless heart-holiness is cultivated and cherished.

God requires us to be faithful in His service. Let there be no spiritual declension. The apostle exhorts us to be “not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.” All are to strive to increase their capabilities, that they may continually do better work for the Master. He has provided every facility, so that His servants can labor intelligently.

When invited to a dinner or a feast, Christ accepted the invitation. He was accused by the religious leaders of eating with publicans, and they cast at Him the imputation that He was like them. The respect shown to Christ at the feasts He attended was in marked contrast to the manner in which the scribes and Pharisees were treated, and this made them envious. When at a feast, Christ controlled the conversation, and gave many precious lessons. Those present listened to Him; for had He not healed their sick, comforted their sorrowing, and taken their children in His arms? Publicans and sinners were drawn to Him; and when He spoke, their attention was riveted on Him.

Christ taught His disciples how to conduct themselves when in the company of others. He instructed them in regard to the duties and regulations of true social life, which are the same as the laws of the kingdom of God. He taught the disciples, by example, that when attending any public gathering, they need not want for something to say. His conversation when at a feast differed most decidedly from that which had been listened to at feasts in the past. Every word He uttered was a savor of life unto life. He spoke with clearness and simplicity. His words were as apples of gold in pictures of silver.

Christ gave lessons adapted to the needs of His hearers. It was at a feast that He gave the parable of the great supper.

"It came to pass," the record says, "as He went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath day, that they watched Him. ... And He put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when He marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them, When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honorable man than thou be bidden of him; and he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place, and thou be-

gin with shame to take the lowest room. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

In His parables Christ held up the mirror of His Father's mind. Every insult shown by man to his fellow man only made Him more conscious of their need of His divine sympathy.

He realized the harm Satan was trying to do through the power of position and wealth. In His human nature He felt the need of the ministration of heavenly angels. He felt the need of His Father's help, as no other human being has ever felt it. He was Himself winning, as a powerful warrior, a victory in behalf of the world that He had created; and under the most trying circumstances His faith did not fail. He placed Himself in His Father's hands, and every insult He endured enabled Him better to understand man's great need. As our substitute and surety, He felt every pang of anguish that we can ever feel. He Himself suffered, being tempted.

"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of

our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

Christ's humanity made Him very tender toward humanity. The lessons He gave His disciples were in perfect harmony with His announcement of His life work. We read that after being tempted in the wilderness, Christ returned to Galilee, "and He taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all. And He came to Nazareth, where He had

been brought up: and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto Him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

In everything Christ sought first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and that which He did He commands His followers to do. This example He gave to the human race that they might in His strength render to God the obedience He requires, and in the end present themselves perfect before His throne. He was one with the Father. His life was a fulfilling of the law, a continual obedience to God's commands. *The Review and Herald*, October 2, 1900 **LM**

“
*In His parables Christ
held up the mirror of His
Father's mind.*”

Galatians

Clues – KJV

Across:

B1	Paul: Jesus gave Himself for me because He _____ me	2:20
B15	Abraham's two sons are _____ of two covenants	4:22-24
C6	No one can be _____ by keeping the works of Moses' law	3:2, 3
D2	Paul was called to the gospel ministry by God's _____	1:15
E10	The Judaizers wanted the Galatians to _____ the days, and months, and times and years of Moses' law	4:10
F5	Jesus came here to deliver us from what kind of world?	1:4
F17	Paul encourages us to not become _____ with "doing well"	6:9
G1	Paul (from Habakkuk): "The _____ shall live by faith"	3:11
G10	We, like Paul, must be aware that there are some _____ brethren	2:4
H6	In meekness, we should _____ a brother or sister overtaken in a fault	6:1
H15	The Galatians had originally received Paul as if he were an _____ from God	4:14
I1	The walk of our daily life must be in _____	5:16
J14	Paul's preaching was not to _____ men, but rather God	1:10
L4	Jesus is now looking for faith and love, rather than _____	5:6
N2	Those who indulge in sins of the flesh will not _____ eternal life with God	5:21
N10	How many years did Paul wait to see Peter in Jerusalem?	1:18
N19	What we must patiently do for the hope of righteousness by faith	5:5
P13	One of the fruits of the Spirit	5:23
Q1	If we yield to our fleshly desires, we will ultimately obtain _____	6:8
S7	One of the sins of the flesh	5:19
S16	Today, all members of spiritual Israel are children of _____	4:28

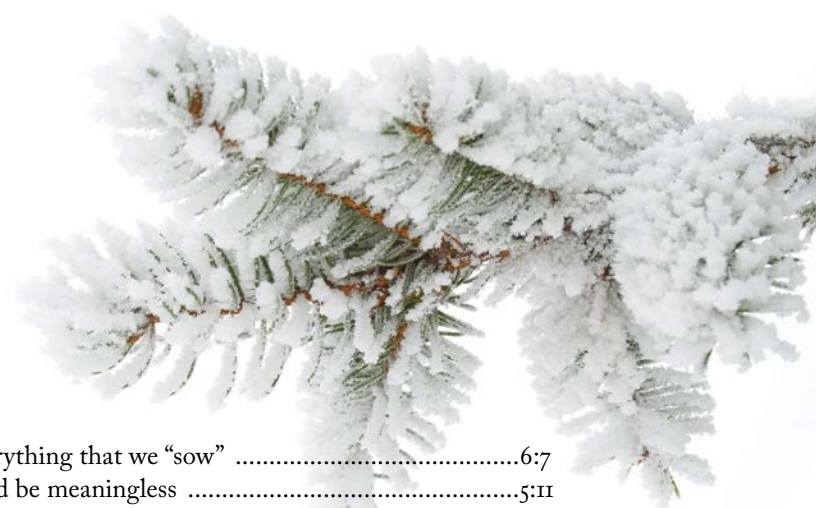
Down:

A3	If we strive for life in the Spirit, we will ultimately enjoy life _____	6:8
A8	Paul: When _____ were done, was it by works or by faith?	3:5
A12	Paul did not insist that this heathen Christian be circumcised	2:3
A18	One of the fruits of the Spirit	5:22
A20	Was sent to Earth by God in the fulness of time	4:4
B16	The _____ which Paul lived was by faith in Christ	2:20
C6	We must beware of some teachers or preachers who do this to the gospel.....	1:7
C14	Christ was made _____ for us to redeem us from _____	3:13
E11	What we should do with our fellow believers' burdens	6:2
F21	Gentiles who become Christians needn't be entangled with _____ of bondage	4:30-5:1
G10	One of the sins of the flesh	5:19
G12	We must be _____ of the Spirit	5:18
H15	No matter our social status, race or sex—in Christ we are _____ (two words)	3:28
J17	Paul: Let preachers of a false gospel be _____	1:8
K5	If we want to _____ in the Spirit we must walk in the Spirit	5:25
K8	No one can be this by doing the works of Moses' law	2:16
K13	Gentile converts to Christianity are called to _____ from Moses' law	5:13
K20	If we could be justified by keeping the works of Moses law, then Christ's death would be _____ (two words) ...	2:21
M2	Paul was called to reveal what about God to the heathen? (two words)	1:16
N4	One of the sins of the flesh	5:20

A	2		4	5	6	7		9	10	11	T	13	14	15	16	17	G	19	S	21	A
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Answer Key:

22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
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- N6 God allows us to _____ the results or consequences of everything that we “sow”6:7
P21 If Paul still preached legalism, the “offence” of _____ would be meaningless5:11
R12 As a Christian convert, what really matters is that we become this creature6:15
R18 One of the fruits of the Spirit5:22



True Worth



In His word the Lord has shown what man may become if connected with the Source of all wisdom.

The soul of everyone is precious. All heaven is interested in the plan of salvation, and its power is waiting our demand. We may choose wisely, and through Christ become more precious in the sight of God than the golden wedge of Ophir, or we may become as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal; but if we do degenerate, we shall lose heaven with all its riches.

Character cannot be bought with gold; it cannot come to us by accident. Character is attained by individual effort, aided by the grace of Christ. It is formed by hard, stern battles with self. Conflict after conflict must be urged against hereditary tendencies.

If the character is left to be molded as chance may direct, it will become deformed and unlovely. In everyone there are weak points, and Satan takes advantage of these. Temptations will thicken about the pathway; but the Lord will help those who ask Him in sincerity. Then stand fast in the strength of Jesus. Swerve not from the right to gain favor or to avoid difficulty. Christians can afford to be straightforward, and firm as a rock to principle; and all the excellence of character we attain will be gained by moving in this straight line.

Be kind and considerate of others; but at the same time be frank and sincere, for the Lord despises dissembling. The standard of the world is not the criterion for the Christian: God and the right should be his motto. Truthfulness and frankness should be cherished. He should deal honestly and righteously in this present evil world.

We can go through the world but once; we cannot come back to rectify mistakes; therefore every move should be made with godly fear and careful consideration. Honesty and policy will not harmonize; either truth and

honesty will triumph, or policy will prevail, and honesty cease to direct. The two principles cannot act together; they can never be in agreement.

These things will bear thoughtful consideration, close, critical examination. We are in the investigative judgment, and the work for the time is solemn heart-searching. The duty devolves upon everyone to consider, to watch, and to pray. You are not bidden by the Lord to examine your neighbor's heart. Let your investigative powers be put to work to discover what is in your own heart, the defects in your own character, the work to be done in your own home.

The proving time has come, and angels are watching the development of character. How many, since they have professed Christ, have changed for the better? My brother, my sister, are you becoming more and more like Jesus, who is pure, undefiled, holy? Can your associates see in you the likeness of Christ? Can they see that you maintain in your dress, in your conversation, in your daily life, the simplicity of your Master?

The ambition of every soul should be to make straight his paths, that the feet of others may not be led astray. But the anxiety with many is to shape their course to be admired of men. What value can Christians place on the praise and flattery of men who have no reverence for God nor love for His truth? The honor received from such persons is of no worth. We should not aim to receive the applause of the world, but to honor Him who is

worthy of the heart's best and holiest affections. This is a worthy ambition, and it brings the highest reward; for God has promised, "Them that honor Me I will honor."

O how much the Spirit of Christ is needed by everyone who has any interest or acts any part in the work of God. God would have everyone make the most of his talents and opportunities, putting them to a wise use, with an eye single to His glory. But self must not gain the mastery. Hide yourself in Jesus, and let Him appear as "the One altogether lovely," the chiefest among ten thousand.

It is the duty and privilege of all to use reason as far as man's finite faculties can go; but there is a limit to man's resources. There are many things that can never be reasoned out by the strongest intellect, or discerned by the most penetrating mind. Philosophy cannot determine the ways and works of God; the human mind cannot measure infinity. Jehovah is the fountain of all wisdom, of all truth, of all knowledge. There are high attainments that man can reach in this life through the wisdom that God imparts; but there is an infinity beyond that will be the study and the joy of the saints throughout eternal ages. Man can now only linger on the border of that vast expanse, and let imagination take its flight. Finite man cannot fathom the deep things of God; for spiritual things are spiritually discerned. The human mind cannot comprehend the wisdom and power of God. *The Watchman*, February 5, 1907 [LM](#)

“
Character cannot be bought with gold. Character is attained by individual effort, aided by the grace of Christ.”

Michael the Upright

More than three hundred years ago there lived in Holland a little boy named Michael. His parents wished to bring him up to some trade; but Michael's heart was set upon being a sailor and nothing else would please him. So he was allowed to have his way, and his father got a berth for him in a vessel about to sail for Morocco, in the north coast of Africa.

The ship belonged to a merchant who was in the habit of taking bales of cloth to sell to the natives of that place. During the voyage, he was able to see what kind of boy Michael was.

Not only was Michael quick at learning his duties, but he was a boy to be trusted. Whatever he had to do, he did as well as he could, whether anyone was looking at him or not. "This is just the boy I want," thought the merchant, and Michael was soon raised to a higher place.

One day the merchant fell sick, and he could not go with his vessel, which was loaded and ready to sail for Morocco. What could he do? He knew of only one person to whom he could trust his cargo, and that was Michael. So he sent for him, and told him that he must take charge of it.

Michael was young, and it was a difficult task he had to face; but it was his duty, and he did not flinch from it. The ship sailed with Michael in charge, and in due time he was arranging his cloth in the marketplace in Morocco.

Now the city was ruled by a cruel tyrant called the Bey, who could do whatever he liked without anybody daring to find fault with him. On this

very morning he came into the market, and after seeing the various pieces of cloth which Michael had for sale, he fixed on one and asked the price. Michael told him. The Bey offered half the sum he named.

"Nay," said Michael, "I ask no more than it is worth. My master expects that price, and I am only his servant. I have no power to take less." The Bey's face grew dark with anger, and the bystanders trembled, for they knew that if the lad opposed the wishes of the cruel governor, he would be put to death. "I will give you till tomorrow to think about it," cried the Bey, and he walked away.

Michael put back the cloth, and began calmly to wait on his other customers. Those around him begged him to give in to the Bey and save his life. But Michael replied, "My life is in God's hands. If my master loses one penny through me, I am not a faithful servant."

The morrow came. The Bey appeared as before; but, besides his other servants, the public executioner followed behind him. He again asked Michael the price of the cloth, and he got the


same answer. "Take my life if you will," added the brave Michael, "but I shall die as an honest man, and a true servant of my master."

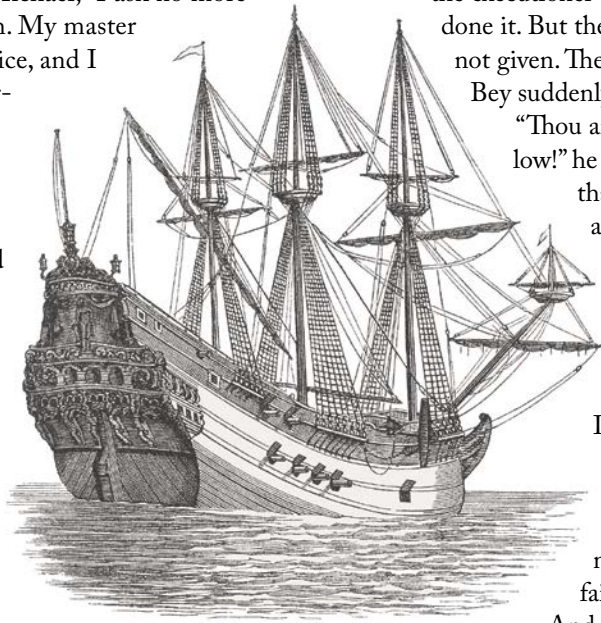
Everybody expected to hear the order, "Strike off his head!" and in a moment the executioner would have done it. But the order was not given. The face of the Bey suddenly changed.

"Thou art a noble fellow!" he cried. "Would that I had such a servant as thou art. Give me thy hand; thou shalt be my friend. I will make of the cloth a robe of honour in memory of thy faithfulness."

And the Bey threw a purse of gold upon the table, told his servants to take up the cloth, and went away.

The upright young man rose step by step till he became an admiral, and he fought the battles of his country as nobly as he sold his master's cloth. The name of Michael Ruyter is still honored in his native land. And the chief reason why his countrymen love him so much is just this: that in the very face of death he dared to do what was right.

Storytime Treasury, Harvestime Books, compiled by P.G. Temple, ©2008, 305-308. 



The Devil's Dupe

I think I would be safe in saying that most of us would not like the idea of discovering that we have been someone's victim or pawn—a dupe. Mrs. White states in *Manuscript 5*, January 20, 1904, “Unless man is given the converting grace of heaven, he will have no disposition to oppose Satan’s counsels, and will become the enemy’s willing dupe.”

Our natural condition is to do evil. You might ask the question, “But how can I resist the devil? I haven’t always done so well.” Without a determined commitment to surrender your will to the Holy Spirit, you will naturally be under the control of Satan. There are only ever two options—remain in our natural state or choose submission to the Holy Spirit.

James 4:7 says, “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

So how do you resist the devil? By drawing near to and submitting to God (James 4:8). If God is in your life, the devil won’t be. Do you want to be manipulated and controlled by the devil? Then do nothing and your human nature will take over and you will become a blind dupe of the devil.

But if you want to be saved, if you don’t want the devil to control your life, then choose to submit to the Holy

Spirit. *Manuscript 5* also says, “It is God alone who puts enmity to sin in the human heart. The Lord gives man a new mind. ... It is the Lord’s purpose that depraved human nature should, through His divine power, be provided with a renovating energy.”

Praise God! We have the ability to resist the devil. We have the ability not to yield to temptation. We do not have to sin.

“Man was created a free moral agent. Like the inhabitants of all other worlds, he must be subjected to the test of obedience; but he is never brought into such a position that yielding to evil becomes a matter of necessity. *No temptation or trial is permitted to come to him which he is unable to resist.* God made such ample provision that man need never have been defeated in the conflict with Satan.

“Satan is the great originator of sin; yet this does not excuse any man for sinning; for *he cannot force men to do evil.* He tempts them to it, and makes sin look enticing and pleasant; but he has to leave it to their own wills whether they will do it or not. ... Man is a free moral agent to accept or refuse. ...

“Every provision has been made; everything in God’s plan has been arranged so that man should not be left to his own impulses, to his own finite

powers, to carry on the warfare against the powers of darkness in his own finite strength; because he would certainly fail if he were thus left to himself.

“As a redeemed, free moral agent, ransomed by an infinite price, God calls upon you to assert your liberty, and employ your God-given powers as a free subject of the kingdom of heaven. ... You are to refuse to be in subjection to the power of evil.” *The Faith I Live By*, 82 [Emphasis supplied.]

Lord, cure our double-mindedness. Test us, purify our hearts and keep us close to You. Thank You for providing to us everything we need to resist the devil and to instead do Your will. **LM**



Your Letters

"*Landmarks* is an invaluable publication. I immediately look forward to the next issue as soon as I finish one."

—CS, Kansas

"The recipe for a good life: the main ingredients include faith in and devotion to God and service for others. Thank you for the DVDs and *LandMarks* magazine."

—LF, Florida

"I cannot imagine my devotional life without the inclusions of this powerful magazine. From Pastor Grosboll's comments and sermons forward to other inspired articles. I am truly blessed and strengthened to press forward."

—SS, Pennsylvania

February Sermon of the Month

This Generation Shall Not Pass

By John J. Grosboll

Had the children of Israel met the conditions for entering the promised land, God could have fulfilled His promise to them. Are we like the children of Israel?"

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

From the Desk of Pastor John J. Grosboll

February 2022

Dear Friend,

"Unity in diversity is God's plan. Among the followers of Christ there is to be the blending of diverse elements, one adapted to the other, and each to do its special work for God. Every individual has his place in the filling up of one great plan bearing the stamp of Christ's image. ... One is fitted to do a certain work, another has a different work for which he is adapted, another has a still different line; but each is to be the complement of the others. The Spirit of God, working in and through the diverse elements, will produce harmony of action. ... There is to be only one master spirit—the Spirit of Him who is infinite in wisdom, and in whom all the diverse elements meet in beautiful, matchless unity." *Letter 78*, 1894

Notice that "every individual has his place in the filling up of one great plan." Since this is the case, the big question that every person needs to answer is, "have I found my place in God's master plan?"

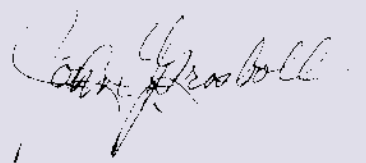
"To every nation and to every individual of today God has assigned a place in His great plan." *Education*, 178 An eternal life-insurance policy is offered to all. The securing of it rests with every individual soul." *Pacific Union Recorder*, October 7, 1909

People who work in a secular workplace may not understand that they are to fill a place in God's great plan because they think of God's plan only in terms of ministers, gospel workers, medical missionary workers and teachers.

"Harlan Page was a poor mechanic of ordinary ability and limited education; but he made it his chief business to seek to advance the cause of God, and his efforts were crowned with marked success. He labored for the salvation of his fellow men in private conversation and in earnest prayer. He established prayer meetings, organized Sunday schools, and distributed tracts and other religious reading. And on his deathbed, with the shadow of eternity resting upon his countenance, he was able to say: 'I know that it is all of God's grace, and not through any merit of anything that I have done ...'" *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 307

Have you found your place in the great plan yet?

Sincerely your brother in Christ,



John J. Grosboll

“I’ve Got It!”

By Ellen G. White

In *The Southern Review*, January 23, 1902, Mrs. White recounts an experience while speaking in Launceston, Tasmania.

At the end of the meeting a tall, fine-looking woman came to Mrs. White and threw her arms about her shoulders and wept and wept. She was unable to speak for a little while. Mrs. White’s son tried to disentangle the woman from his mother, but she would not let go.

She told Mrs. White of her son who was very sick. He had been visited by many ministers and had read many books, but he could not understand them and none of them impressed him or spoke directly to his heart. He had asked her if there was some other book in all their library that he could read. She said there was one book that canvassers had brought to them. She had not read it, but she would get it for him.

He read the book and then re-read it. And then he read it a third time. His joyous response was, “I’ve got it, I know my

Saviour and I am His child.” He was happy every moment after, as long as he lived.

But he made a request of his mother before he died: “Now, mother, promise me one thing, if ever Mrs. White shall come into our country and you see her, will you tell her that that book was the means of saving my soul? Will you lend this book to all our neighbors?”

The woman said, “I have done it and it’s about worn out and I will have to replace it. There are several that know now what faith is and what dependence upon God is.”

The book? *The Great Controversy*.

Never doubt it, “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please. And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:11 [LM](#)



Tasmania, Australia

from the
Mission Fields

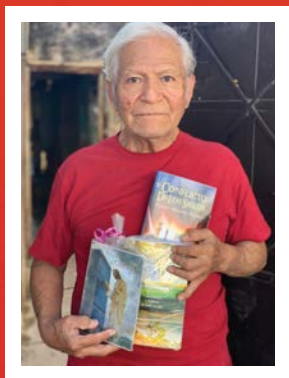


The radio Station La Verdad presente serves the Guadalajara metro area, which has about 5 million people.

La Verdad Presente

[The Present Truth]

The weekly broadcast of *La Verdad Presente* on Saturday, September 18, was a study of Romans 13:11–14, in which we discussed the critical times in which we live, and the urgency to wake up from any lethargy because our salvation is truly nearer than when we first believed. Jesus Himself said, “Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand.” Matthew 4:17. Reading directly from God’s word it was emphasized that we must now live and conduct ourselves honorably and becomingly without deceit, nor reveling, in drunkenness, nor immorality (Romans 13:13). Striking straight at the heart, we presented that God’s invitation is to live a holy life, and the grace He provides is sufficient to live it.



Rodrigo Sanchez, one of the listeners of the radio station La Verdad Presente, received a large print Bible and other books.



These types of studies, my friends, are not being broadcast over the airwaves by any other Protestant faith. The dominant religious programming in Guadalajara is bought and paid for by the church that believes tradition is more important than God's holy word. Can repeating formulated prayers and listening to the beautiful choir music of altar boys bring the hope needed for those wondering if they will be saved? What will stir souls to focus more on the word of God and the true path to salvation in a place like this where celebrating to excess leads to gluttony, drunkenness, and immorality?

As we continued with the study, sharing several Bible texts, we talked about false doctrinal teaching, reading 1 Timothy 4:1, 2 which says, "The Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some will depart from the faith by giving heed to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons." One of the listeners who responded to the free book offer, Mr. Rodrigo Sanchez, expressed his appreciation for the Bible

lesson he was listening to and his desire to learn more on how he can be sure that he is walking in and following the true light.

In the days that followed, we communicated with Rodrigo to coordinate our visit and when we met him, he told us again how much he is learning from God's word as he listens to the program each week. He is very grateful for the large print Bible. It is a great blessing as it is easier to read God's word and follow the studies presented.

Thank you very much for your continued support so that the many people like Rodrigo will have the opportunity to know the good news of salvation and to prepare for the soon return of our Lord Jesus through the ministry of *La Verdad Presente*.

If you wish to make a donation specifically to help the work in Guadalajara, mark your donation as *Missions-Guadalajara*.
Maranatha!

Jediael Aguilar LM

The Amazingly Made Caribou

It is hard to understand how the caribou can live in regions that average well below freezing temperatures for six to eight months out of the year. This extreme cold, often with high winds, makes the frigid temperatures even harder to handle. Let's see how it is possible for caribou to survive in the extreme cold and wind.

First, caribou have two coats that cover their skin to help keep them warm. The undercoat, is dense and wooly, while the other is an overcoat consisting of long, quill-like, air-filled hairs. This is the primary insulation for the caribou, helping to regulate their core body temperature, and enabling them to stay warm.


During the many months of below-freezing winter, made more dangerous by the wind, caribou often walk in snow deep enough to reach their bellies. Their body organs and brain have to be kept at a temperature of about 101 degrees or they will die. But despite their warm core temperature, their legs are only about one degree above freezing; however, they never freeze. Why? An amazing process known as *rete mirabile*, the same process that keeps birds' legs and feet from freezing and keeps the

blood from rushing to a giraffe's head when they bend down to get a drink. It works this way: the 101-degree blood coming down the artery from the heart is in close proximity to the vein with cold blood going up from the legs back to the heart. In a process called counter-current exchange, the heat is transferred from the artery to the vein, which warms the blood going back to the organs and brain. Hence the legs, which don't have a great need for warm blood, are kept just above freezing and the blood returning to the body is warmed, which helps maintain their core temperature. Only a "heating and cooling engineer" like God could design this in a living being.

The nose structure of the caribou contributes to its heat and water balance. The nose has turbinates that resemble a rolled-up newspaper. When the caribou breathe air in, which, in an 80-mile-an-hour wind could be minus 60 degrees, the massive surface area of these turbinates does two things: it pulls out the moisture, helping to maintain their water balance and warms the air before it gets to the delicate structures of the bronchial tubes and lungs. When they exhale, most animals breathe out

producing steam, but not the caribou. On exhalation, the turbinates again pull out the moisture keeping the water in the system. The moisture conservation is very important because caribou do not drink water. There are minerals in the water of lakes and streams, and drinking water would require an increased filtering workload on the kidneys increasing their water loss. The turbinates also absorb the heat from the air further heated by the lungs, thus helping to maintain their 101-degree core body temperature. All of these heat and moisture conservation mechanisms are critical to help keep them alive in their extreme environments.

None of the mechanisms worked into the bodily systems of the caribou can be the result of gradual evolutionary changes and mutations. Every minute detail was created to allow them to live in their cold and harsh surroundings. It is absolutely amazing that our Lord has thought of everything for the survival of the caribou. "O give thanks to the Lord for He is good." Psalm 136:1

Adapted from God's Living Treasures, Volume 2, *Amazing Animals of Alaska*, Hosted by Dr. Jobe Martin 



Q:

The Bible says God accepts you where you are. If that is true, then why do I have to change?

A:

Yes, God does accept you as and where you are. As sinners, we have no way to change ourselves for the better so that we can come to Him ready for heaven. But this does not mean that we should believe that God does not require a change of heart. He does not leave us where He found us.

“The religion of Christ never degrades the receiver; it ennobles and elevates. Upon certain conditions we are assured that we may become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King. ... Through faith in Christ, and obedience to the requirements of His law, we are offered a life that shall run parallel with the life of God.” *The Review and Herald*, May 5, 1891

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

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

“Our first work is with our own hearts. The true principles of reform should be practiced. The heart must be converted and sanctified else we have no connection with Christ.” *This Day With God*, 48

“When Jesus speaks of the new heart, He means the mind, the life, the whole being. To have a change of heart is to withdraw the affections from the world, and fasten them upon Christ. To have a new heart is to have a new mind, new purposes, new motives. What is the sign of a new heart?—A changed life.” *Our High Calling*, 159

“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.” Psalm 51:7, 9–11 **LM**





The Blessing of Health Reform

It was the autumn of 1978 when we arrived at Wildwood Sanitarium and Hospital to begin classes, home training, and work, and I selected the nurse's training program. I did not realize how abundantly God would bless that choice in the years to come, not only for me, but also for many others.

In our world today, health problems are rampant. In *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 139, Sister White says, "The violation of physical law, and the consequence, human suffering, have so long prevailed that men and women look upon the present state of sickness, suffering, debility, and premature death as the appointed lot of humanity. Man came from the hand of his Creator perfect and beautiful in form, and so filled with vital force that it was more than a thousand years before his corrupt appetite and passions, and general violations of physical law, were sensibly felt upon the race. More recent generations have felt the pressure of infirmity and disease still more rapidly and heavily with every generation. The vital forces have been greatly weakened by the indulgence of appetite and lustful passion."

She further states that “Sickness, suffering, and death are work of an antagonistic power. Satan is the destroyer; God is the restorer.” *Counsels on Health*, 168

“The words spoken to Israel are true today of those who recover health of body, or health of soul: ‘I am the Lord that healeth thee.’

“The desire of God for every human being is expressed in the words, ‘Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.’” 3 John 2.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 113

“The Lord desires us to obey the laws of health and life. He holds each one responsible to care properly for his body that it may be kept in health.” *Letter 123*, 1903.

Sister White also gives the following counsel regarding what is the most important subject to be taught in childhood:

“A practical knowledge of the science of life is necessary in order to glorify God in our bodies. It is therefore of the highest importance that among studies selected for childhood, physiology should occupy the first place.” *Healthful Living*, 13

Unfortunately, I think that most of us did not receive this most wonderful and practical knowledge in our childhood, but it is not too late to begin at whatever age you are, as I was already 40 when I began it at Wildwood.

Let us consider what the apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20: “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

And Sister White says, “We are God’s workmanship, and His word declares that we are ‘fearfully and wonderfully made.’ He has prepared this living habitation [our body] for the mind; it is ‘curiously wrought,’ a temple which

the Lord Himself has fitted up for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.” *Healthful Living*, 9

True Medical Missionary Work and the Great Final Test

“The truth for this time, the third angel’s message, is to be proclaimed with a loud voice [the power of the Holy Spirit] as we approach the great final test. This test

must come to the churches in connection with *true medical missionary work*. We are told that

in time of trouble ‘there will be sick ones, plenty of them, that will need help’ so because of the need, but also ‘for their own sake, they should, while they have opportunity, become intelligent in regard to disease, its causes, prevention and cure, and those who will do this will find a field of labor anywhere.’” *Pamphlet 144*, 29, 30

Oh, friend, it seems that we are now entering the time. Now is our opportunity to “become intelligent in regard to disease, its cause, prevention and cure.”

“Nature will want some assistance to bring things to their proper condition, which may be found in the simplest remedies, especially in the use of nature’s own furnished remedies—pure air, and with precious knowledge of how to breathe; pure water, with a knowledge of how to apply it; plenty of sunlight in every room of the house if possible, and with an intelligent knowledge of what advantages are to be gained by

its use. All these are powerful in their efficiency, and the patient who has obtained a knowledge of how to eat and dress healthfully may live for comfort, for peace, for health, and will not be prevailed upon to put to his lips drugs, which, in the place of helping nature, paralyzes her powers. If the sick who are suffering will do only as well as they

know in regard to living out the principles of health reform perseveringly, then they will in nine cases out of ten recover from their ailments.”

Medical Ministry, 223, 224

“The true method of healing the sick is to tell them of the herbs that grow for the benefit of man.

... They can themselves administer the simple herbs if necessary.

“To educate the human family that the doctor alone knows all the ills of infants and persons of every age is false teaching, and the sooner we as a people stand on the principles of health reform, the greater will be the blessing that will come to those who would do true medical work.” *Pamphlet 144*, 13

“[W]hen the plagues of God shall be all around you, you will then see the principles of health reform and strict temperance in all things—that temperance alone is the foundation of all the graces that come from God, the foundation of all victories to be gained.” *Temperance*, 201

The blessing of health reform will come to all who live its principles to the glory and honor of God. [Emphasis supplied.] [LM](#)





Do Unto Others

By John J. Grosboll

He who is guilty of wrong is the first person to suspect wrong in someone else. When human beings start accusing, they are not satisfied with simply pointing out the supposed defect in somebody else, but will resort to coercion to force others to comply with their ideas about what is right. This is what the Jews did in the time of Christ.

In Matthew 7:1, Jesus said, “Judge not, that you be not judged.” When men try to earn salvation by their own works, they inevitably are led to pile up human exactions as a barrier against sin. When they see that they fail to keep the law, they devise all manner of rules and regulations of their own to obey and they esteem these higher than the law or even in place of the law. All this turns the mind from God and toward self, and as a result the love of God dies out in the heart, and with it perishes love for our fellow men. This system of human intervention, with its multitudinous exactions, meant to make people good, will always lead its advocates to judge those who come short of the prescribed human standard. This develops an atmosphere of selfish and narrow criticism, stifling noble and generous emotions, and leading men to become self-centered and judgmental.

The Pharisees were of this class. Ungrateful for the great privileges that God had given them, they left their religious services without any sense of their own weaknesses. Instead, they were filled with spiritual pride, believing their thoughts, feelings, and knowledge made them better than others. Their own attainments became the standard by which they judged everyone else. Putting on a garment of self-dignity and self-righteousness, they mounted the judgment seat to criticize and condemn others. Jesus referred to the prayer of the Pharisee found in Luke 18:11, where he said, “God, I thank You that I am not like other men.” The people partook of this very same spirit. It intruded upon the conscience and they began to judge one another in matters that should have been kept between the soul and God alone.

It was in reference to this spirit and practice of judging in matters of conscience that Jesus said, “Judge not, that you be not judged.” There is no true standard or ideal except that of God’s law and standard of perfection. It is man’s distortion of God’s standard that results in man setting himself up as the standard, putting forth his opinions, view of duty, and interpretation of scripture as the criteria for everyone else in the world. Man condemns others because they do not come up to his standard of ideals. And he criticizes them, presuming to know their motives, which he cannot truly know, and passes judgment on them.

The apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 4:5, “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God.” Paul also says there is coming a time when everyone in the world will be judged: “We must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ ... to receive a reward for deeds done in the body.” 2 Corinthians 5:10



Jesus said that there is coming a time, according to God’s providence, when everything that has ever been done in this world will be known (Matthew 10). He knows the hearts of mankind, the secret motives that drive them to do what they do, and say what they say. But as human beings, we cannot read the heart. We ourselves are faulty and unqualified to sit in judgment over others because we can only judge by the outward appearance.

God knows the secret springs of action, and He will judge righteously and compassionately. Paul again brings a rebuke to those who are entering upon the judgment seat in Romans 2:1: “Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.”

Notice, those who condemn or criticize others are also guilty themselves because they do the same things. In condemning others, we pass sentence upon ourselves, and God declares that this is a just sentence, accepting our own verdict. The sin that leads to the most unhappiness is the cold, unforgiving, critical

spirit that characterized the Pharisees. When the religious experience has no love in it, the sunshine of Jesus’ presence is not there. No matter how active we may be in the service of Christ, that zeal cannot supply the lack of love.

We may have a wonderful keenness of perception to discover the defects of others, but anyone who seeks to discover these and expose them is a hypocrite. We must first cast out the log in our own eye (Matthew 7:5). When men indulge in this accusing spirit, they will not be satisfied with pointing out what they suppose is the defect in another. If milder means fail to make someone what they think he or she ought to be, they will, as far as lies in their power, force others to comply with their ideas of what is right.

This is exactly what the Jews were doing in the days of Christ and the apostles, and it is what the Christian church throughout history, whenever she has turned away from Christ to follow her own way, has done. When the church has found itself destitute of the power of love, it has relied on the

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He who is guilty of wrong is the first person to suspect wrong in someone else.

strong arm of the state to enforce its dogmas and execute its decrees. Understand that, and you will understand the secret behind all the religious laws and legislation that have ever been enacted; you also will know the secret of all persecution from the days of Abel to our own time.

Jesus Christ does not use these methods. He does not drive men to be righteous; instead He seeks to draw all men to Himself. Only by love does He compel us to do what is right. Paul says, “The love of Christ constrains us.” It is love that persuades us, causes us to act. But when the church seeks the support of a secular power, it is plainly evident that the church is devoid of the power of Christ, the constraint of divine love.

Today, in the whole world, Christianity must be constrained by the love of Christ to have His character inside. This alone drives us to do that which is right for Christ. When we take upon ourselves His yoke of obedience and service, no one will have to crack the whip over us to make us do what is right. Jesus says that if we need anything, we need only come to Him and ask for it.

In Matthew 7:7-11, Jesus says, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”

Jesus does not specify conditions. If we feel our need enough to ask, the Lord promises to hear. Are we hungry for His mercy, do we desire His counsel, long for His love? If we ask in faith and contrition, we will receive. The Lord has pledged His word and it cannot fail. When we ask for the blessings we need so that we might per-

fect a Christlike character, the Lord assures us that we are asking according to a promise that will be verified. No matter that we may be terrible sinners, we can cry out to Him asking for His mercy and compassion and He will answer.

We do not have to be holy or fulfill some condition before we can come to God because the Bible says there is no one like this. We come as we are, but we must understand that God does not intend to *leave* us as we are. If we desire Him to cleanse and purify us from our sin, recognizing the utter helplessness that makes His redeeming power a necessity, then we present our need, and our need will be fulfilled.

Job 22:21, *first part*, says, “Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace.” In 1 Chronicles 28:9, *last part*, when David was talking to Solomon just before his death, he said, “If you seek Him, He will be found by you.”

The Holy Spirit is the greatest gift that God can give us. All good things are contained in this gift. In fact, the Creator Himself cannot give us anything greater or any better. When we ask the Lord to send the Holy Spirit to dwell in our lives, we are asking Him for a gift that will bring with it every other gift we need. When we ask the Lord to pity us in our distress and to guide us by His Holy Spirit, He will never turn away our prayer.

The Bible asks the question that if a child comes to his or her parent for food, would a parent turn the child away? The question is asked with the belief that the parent would not turn them away, because in this world, there are exceptions. But it is true that some human parents know how to give love and good gifts to their children. So then we can believe that God knows how to, and will, provide the needs of His children. God will never turn away from a longing and needy heart. To people who have felt in their distress that God was not mindful of their need, the Lord has told them, “Zion said, ‘The Lord has forsaken me, and my Lord has forgotten me.’ ‘Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you. See,

I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands.’ ” Isaiah 49:14–16. When Jesus was nailed to the cross, we were inscribed on the palms of His hands. The Lord says, even though a human parent may forget, I will never forget.

Every promise in the word of God, therefore, brings us subject matter for prayer. They show us what we may pray for. It is our privilege to claim these promises through Jesus. We need only come to Him in faith, confession, and repentance, asking for our sins to be forgiven, and He has promised to forgive (1 John 1:9). We may not only acknowledge our need for forgiveness of sins, but our need for spiritual help, strength, and salvation.

We are perfectly free to come to Him with any temporal concern—financial difficulties, need for food and clothing, shelter—whatever our need is, we are invited to come and ask for it. However, we must remember that in claiming these promises, we also claim God as our Father, acknowledging that we are His children, and have given ourselves to His work. It is to these that Jesus said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness ...” that He gave the promise, “Ask, and you will receive.”

Jesus said, “... [W]hatever you desire that men should do to you, you do even so to them.” Matthew 7:12. This is known as the *Golden Rule*. In this text Jesus teaches us that we should not be concerned with what we receive, but rather with what we give. The standard of our obligation to others is found in what we ourselves would regard as their obligation to us were our situation reversed. In our association with others, we need to put ourselves in their place, to enter into their feelings, difficulties, and disappointments, their joys and sorrows—identify with them, and then treat them in the same way we would want them to treat us.

This is the true rule of honesty and courtesy, the genuine expression of the law. Jesus says in Matthew 22:39, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”



This is the substance of the teaching of the prophets, a principle of heaven, and everyone who is fitted for the holy companionship of heaven will have developed it in their life before they are allowed to go there. The truest illustration of the *Golden Rule* is seen in the life and character of Jesus Christ. When we study His life, we see not only softness and firmness, but beauty and sweetness flowing from His very presence.

This same spirit is to be seen in His children. If Jesus is dwelling in the heart, then we will be surrounded with a divine atmosphere, a fragrance of purity. No one who genuinely understands what constitutes true Christian character will fail to manifest the sympathy and tenderness of Jesus Christ. The influence of His grace softens our hard hearts and gives us a heaven-born sense of delicacy, a true sense of propriety. As with all gifts and blessings of this life, whatever we have that our fellows do not have obligates us to those that are less favored. Are there people around us who are sick, widowed, orphaned,

fatherless? Are we treating them in the same way that we would want them to treat us?

The *Golden Rule* teaches, by way of implication, the very same truth that Jesus taught in Luke 6:38, *last part*, where He said, “For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” Whatever we do to others, whether it is good or evil, will surely react upon ourselves, whether in blessing or in cursing. Whatever we give, we will receive again.

The earthly blessings that we give to others are often repaid in kind. What we give often does come back to us, even in this world. All gifts are repaid in God’s eternal time of reckoning, both good and evil. Any person who has been free to condemn or discourage or bring hardship upon others, will, sooner or later in his own experience, be brought over the same ground where he has caused others to pass. He will feel what he has caused others to feel.

The *Golden Rule* is the standard of Christianity. Any religion that leads men to place a low estimate upon those whom Jesus estimated to be of sufficient value to surrender His life on the cross is not a Christian religion. Any person who expresses a careless disregard of the needs, sufferings, and rights of his fellow man is not a Christian and is proving themselves to be a traitor to Jesus Christ. It is because men call themselves Christians while denying His character in their life, that Christianity today has so little power in the world and the name of the Lord is blasphemed.

Friends, we need to ask ourselves, especially if we call ourselves Christians: Is my religion real? If our Christianity is real, we will manifest and practice the principle of the *Golden Rule* in our lives. [All emphasis supplied.] **LM**

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The Intercessor

Father, I bring this worthless child to Thee,
To claim Thy pardon once, yet once again;
Receive him at My hands; for he is Mine.

He is a worthless child, he owns his guilt;
Look not on him: he cannot bear Thy glance;
He pleads not for himself—he dares not plead;
His cause is mine: I am his Advocate.

By that unchanged, unchanging oath of Mine,
By each pure drop of blood I lost for him,
By all the sorrows graven on My soul,
By every wound I bear, I claim it due.
He is a worthless soul, but he is Mine.

Sin hath destroyed him; sin hath died in Me:
Death hath pursued him; I have conquered death:
Satan hath bound him; Satan is My slave.

My Father, hear him not, not him, but Me;
I would not have him lost for all the world
Thou, for My glory, hast ordained and made,
Because he is a poor and contrite child,
And all—his very hope—on Me reclines.

I know My children, and I know him Mine,
By all the tears that he weeps upon My bosom,
By his full heart that beateth against Mine;
I know him by his sighing and his prayers,
By his deep, trusting love which clings to Me.

I could not bear to see him cast away,
Weak as he is, the weakest of My flock,—
The one that grieves Me most, that loves Me least—
Yea, though his sins should dim each spark of love.

I measure not My love by his returns;
And though the stripes I send to speed him home,
Drive him upon the instant from My breast,
Still he is Mine. I drew him from the world;
He has no right, no home, but in My love;
Though earth and hell against his soul conspire,
I shield him; save him; keep him; we are one.

O sinner! what an Advocate has thou!
Methinks I see Him lead the culprit in,
Poor, sorrowing, shamed, all tremulous with fear,
Prostrate behind his Lord, weak, self-condemned,
Clad with the Saviour's spotless righteousness
Himself to hide, and hear the Father's words:
My Son! His cause is Thine, and Thine is Mine;
Take up the poor lost one: he is forgiven!

The Review and Herald, April 25, 1899 **LM**



February 27 – March 5

Thyatira

Sacrifice of Contrition (A.D. 538–1798)

Key Text

“And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; ‘These things saith the Son of God, who hath His eyes like unto a flame of fire, and His feet are like fine brass.’” Revelation 2:18

Study Help: *The Great Controversy*, 61–78; *Maranatha*, 175

Introduction

“The 1260 years of papal supremacy began in A.D. 538, and would therefore terminate in 1798.” *The Great Controversy*, 266

Sunday

1 THE SON OF GOD

1.a. How did Jesus identify Himself to the church of Thyatira? Revelation 2:18

1.b. What unmistakable evidence do we have that Jesus Christ is God, and is to be worshiped? John 1:1–4, 14, 20:28; Hebrews 1:5, 6, 8; John 20:28; Matthew 28:16–20

1.c. In contrast, what was foretold in prophecy concerning the “son of perdition”? 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4

Note: “The apostle Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonians, foretold the great apostasy which would result in the establishment of the papal power. ... Even at that early date he saw, creeping into the church, errors that would prepare the way for the development of the papacy.” *The Great Controversy*, 49

“The ‘man of sin,’ which is also styled the ‘mystery of iniquity,’ ‘the son of perdition,’ and ‘that wicked,’ represents the papacy, which, as foretold in prophecy, was to maintain its supremacy for 1260 years. This period ended in 1798.” *Ibid.*, 356

Monday

2 COMMENDATION AND REBUKE

2.a. What positive characteristics of the church existed even under persecution? Revelation 2:19

Note: “Notwithstanding all the persecution of the saints, living witnesses for God’s truth were raised up on every hand. Angels of the Lord were doing the work committed to their trust. They were searching in the darkest places and selecting out of the darkness men who were honest in heart.” *Early Writings*, 222

2.b. What false worship was introduced into the Christian church? Revelation 2:20

Note: “All false worship is spiritual adultery. The second precept, which forbids false worship, is also a command to worship God, and Him only serve. The Lord is a jealous God. He will not be trifled with. He has spoken concerning the manner in which He should be worshiped. He has a hatred of idolatry; for its influence is corrupting.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, 1106

“The man of sin was to arise, and do his work of exaltation and blasphemy, before the brethren could look for the coming of Christ. That great event was to be preceded by a falling away. There would be revealed a form of antichrist, and the leaven of apostasy was to work with increasing power to the end of time.” *The Review and Herald*, July 31, 1888

2.c. What were the works of Jezebel? 1 Kings 16:31; 18:4; 21:5–14

Note: “I was carried back to the time of Ahab. God would have been with Ahab if he had walked in the counsel of heaven. But Ahab did not do this. He married a woman given to idolatry. Jezebel had more power over the king than God had. She led him into idolatry, and with him the people.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, 1033

“Jezebel then decided, as she could not make Elijah feel her murderous power, that she would be revenged by destroying the prophets of God in Israel. No one who professed to be a prophet of God should live.” *The Review and Herald*, September 23, 1873

Tuesday

3 MOTHER AND DAUGHTERS

3.a. The “woman Jezebel” is represented in chapter 17 as Babylon the great. Explain what made her drunk. Revelation 17:3–6

Note: “In the thirteenth century was established that most terrible of all the engines of the papacy—the Inquisition. The prince of darkness wrought with the leaders of the papal hierarchy. In their secret councils Satan and his angels controlled the minds of evil men, while unseen in the midst stood an angel of God, taking the fearful record of their iniquitous decrees and writing the history of deeds too horrible to appear to human eyes. ‘Babylon the great’ was ‘drunken with the blood of the saints.’ The mangled forms of millions of martyrs cried to God for vengeance upon that apostate power.” *The Great Controversy*, 59, 60



3.b. What are the characteristics of spiritual Jezebel, “Babylon the great,” and who are her daughters? Ezekiel 16:44

Note: “Babylon is said to be ‘the mother of harlots.’ By her daughters must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world. The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt. Since this message follows the warning of the judgment, it must be given in the last days; therefore it cannot refer to the Roman Church alone, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries. ... ‘Thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown’ (Ezekiel 16:14, 15).” *The Great Controversy*, 382, 383

“In Revelation 17 Babylon is represented as a woman, a figure which is used in the Scriptures as the symbol of a church. A virtuous woman represents a pure church, a vile woman an apostate church. Babylon is said to be a harlot; and the prophet beheld her drunken with the blood of saints and martyrs. The Babylon thus described represents Rome, that apostate church which has so cruelly persecuted the followers of Christ. But Babylon the harlot is the mother of daughters who follow her example of corruption.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, 233

Wednesday

4 A TIME OF TRIBULATION

- 4.a. What did Christ predict about that terrible time of persecution, and what hope was given to the believers? Matthew 24:21, 22

Note: “Amid the gloom that settled upon the earth during the long period of papal supremacy, the light of truth could not be wholly extinguished. In every age there were witnesses for God—men who cherished faith in Christ as the only mediator between God and man, who held the Bible as the only rule of life, and who hallowed the true Sabbath.” *The Great Controversy*, 61

“In the Saviour’s conversation with His disciples upon Olivet, after describing the long period of trial for the church—the 1260 years of papal persecution, concerning which He had promised that the tribulation should be shortened—He thus mentioned certain events to precede His coming, and fixed the time when the first of these should be witnessed: ‘In those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light.’ Mark 13:24. The 1260 days, or years, terminated in 1798. A quarter of a century earlier, persecution had almost wholly ceased.” *Ibid.*, 306

- 4.b. What words of the apostle Paul were fulfilled by the faithful Waldenses? 2 Timothy 2:19

Note: “But of those who resisted the encroachments of the papal power, the Waldenses stood foremost. In the very land where popery had fixed its seat, there its falsehood and corruption were most steadfastly resisted. For centuries the churches of Piedmont maintained their independence; but the time came at last when Rome insisted upon their submission. After ineffectual struggles against her tyranny, the leaders of these churches reluctantly acknowledged the supremacy of the power to which the whole world seemed to pay homage. There were some, however, who refused to yield to the authority of pope or prelate. They were determined to maintain their allegiance to God and to preserve the purity and simplicity of their faith. A separation took place. Those who adhered to the ancient faith now withdrew; some, forsaking their native Alps, raised the banner of truth in foreign lands; others retreated to the secluded glens and rocky fastnesses of the mountains, and there preserved their freedom to worship God.” *The Great Controversy*, 64

Thursday

5 THE OVERCOMERS OF THYATIRA

- 5.a. Because of the fierce persecution during the period of Thyatira, what assurance was given to the faithful? Revelation 2:24, 25

Note: “While, under the pressure of long-continued persecution, some compromised their faith, little by little yielding its distinctive principles, others held fast the truth. Through ages of darkness and apostasy there were Waldenses who denied the supremacy of Rome, who rejected image worship as idolatry, and who kept the true Sabbath. Under the fiercest tempests of opposition they maintained their faith. Though gashed by the Savoyard spear, and scorched by the Romish fagot, they stood unflinchingly for God’s word and His honor.” *The Great Controversy*, 65

- 5.b. What wonderful promise was given to the church that remained faithful in the time of the Dark Ages? Revelation 2:26–29

Note: “Except among the Waldenses, the word of God had for ages been locked up in languages known only to the learned; but the time had come for the Scriptures to be translated and given to the people of different lands in their native tongue. The world had passed its midnight. The hours of darkness were wearing away, and in many lands appeared tokens of the coming dawn.

“In the fourteenth century arose in England the ‘morning star of the Reformation.’ John Wycliffe was the herald of reform, not for England alone, but for all Christendom. The great protest against Rome which it was permitted him to utter was never to be silenced.” *The Great Controversy*, 79, 80

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Who has attempted to take the place of Christ?
- 2 What errors crept into the church of Thyatira?
- 3 Who are the daughters of Babylon?
- 4 What are the results of tribulation on the church?
- 5 What is promised to those who overcome tribulation?

March 6 – 12, 2022

Sardis

That Which Remains [a Remnant]
(A.D. 1798–1833)

Key Text

“And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.” Revelation 3:1

Study Help: *The Great Controversy*, 289–298; *Maranatha*, 238

Introduction

“In the message to the church at Sardis two parties are presented—those who have a name to live, but are dead; and those who are striving to overcome. Study this message, found in the third chapter of Revelation.” *The Review and Herald*, August 20, 1903

Sunday

1 ALIVE BUT DEAD

1.a. What words were spoken by Jesus to assure us of His tender care for His church? Revelation 3:1, *middle part*

Note: “God’s promise to His church will stand fast forever. He will make her an eternal excellence, a joy of many generations. There is no limit to His power. Our covenant-keeping Saviour unites with the omnipotence of the King of kings the tender care of a faithful shepherd. He who has chosen Christ has joined Himself to a power that no array of human wisdom or strength can overthrow.” *The Review and Herald*, October 8, 1903

1.b. What contrast exists between the profession of the church of Sardis and her real condition? Revelation 3:1, *last part*; James 2:17

Note: “Faith and works go hand in hand; they act harmoniously in the work of overcoming. Works without faith are dead, and faith without works is dead. Works will never save us; it is the merit of Christ that will avail in our behalf. Through faith in Him, Christ will make all our imperfect efforts acceptable to God.” *Faith and Works*, 48, 49

Monday

2 SEEKING FOR STRENGTH

2.a. What counsel is given in the word of God for those who are tempted to be discouraged? Revelation 3:2 *first part*; Hebrews 12:12, 13

Note: “There are times when under adversity and sorrow, the servants of God become discouraged and despondent. They brood over their circumstances, and, contrasting their condition with the prosperity of those who have no thought or care for eternal things, they feel aggrieved.” *The Signs of the Times*, February 3, 1888

“Often He met those who had drifted under Satan’s control, and who had no power to break from his snare. To such a one, discouraged, sick, tempted, fallen, Jesus would speak words of tenderest pity, words that were needed and could be understood. Others He met who were fighting a hand-to-hand battle with the adversary of souls. These He encouraged to persevere, assuring them that they would win; for angels of God were on their side, and would give them the victory.

“At the table of the publicans He sat as an honored guest, by His sympathy and social kindness showing that He recognized the dignity of humanity; and men longed to become worthy of His confidence.” *Gospel Workers*, 47

2.b. What was the charge given against the church of Sardis regarding her works? Revelation 3:2

Note: “Faith is made perfect by works. The cry will come to us from the servers of Mammon: You are too exacting; we cannot be saved by works. Was Christ exacting? He placed the salvation of man, not upon his believing, not upon his profession, but upon his faith made perfect by his works. Doing, and not saying merely, was required of the followers of Christ. Principle is always exacting. ...

“That religion which leads its subjects to enclose themselves in monastic walls, excluding themselves from their fellow men, and not doing the good they might, cannot be the light of the world. The world is no better for their living in it, because they shed no beams of light in good works. These live for themselves, and bring no glory to the Master, for they hide away from man as though ashamed of the light which they claim to have.” *The Signs of the Times*, January 15, 1880

Tuesday

3 AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

3.a. What would happen if those in Sardis would not repent and obey the truth they had heard? Revelation 3:3, *first part*

Note: “‘Hold fast.’ This does not mean, Hold fast to your sins; but, Hold fast to the comfort, the faith, the hope, that God has given you in His word. Never be discouraged. A discouraged man can do nothing. Satan is seeking to discourage you, telling you it is of no use to serve God, that it does not pay, and that it is just as well to have pleasure and enjoyment in this world.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 959

“‘Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.’ Here is the work which every son and daughter of God must do. But to adorn the doctrine of Christ our Saviour, we must have the mind that was in Christ. Our likes and dislikes, our desire to be first, to favor self to the disadvantage of others, must be overcome. The peace of God must rule in our hearts. Christ must be in us a living, working principle.” *The Review and Herald*, August 24, 1897

“Why repent? Because there have come in faults in the form of theories so subtle that by the influence of mind upon mind—through the agency of those who have departed from the faith—the wily foe will cause you imperceptibly to be imbued with the spirit that will draw you away from the faith.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 12, 126

3.b. What is the meaning of the words “I will come on thee as a thief”? Revelation 3:3, *last part*; 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 4

Note: “Let every soul be on the alert. The adversary is on your track. Be vigilant, watching diligently lest some carefully concealed and masterly snare shall take you unawares. Let the careless and indifferent beware lest the day of the Lord come upon them as a thief in the night. Many will wander from the path of humility, and, casting aside the yoke of Christ, will walk in strange paths. Blinded and bewildered, they will leave the narrow path that leads to the city of God.

“A man cannot be a happy Christian unless he is a watchful Christian. He who overcomes must watch; for, with worldly entanglements, error, and superstition, Satan strives to win Christ’s followers from Him.” *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 99, 100

Wednesday

4 WHITE RAIMENT

4.a. What does the Lord promise to those who do not defile their garments? Revelation 3:4, 5, *first part*; Zechariah 3:4, 5

Note: “Every defect in character, every point in which they fail to meet the divine standard, is an open door by which Satan can enter to tempt and destroy them. ... We are to exert every energy of the soul in the work of overcoming, and to look to Jesus for strength to do what we cannot do of ourselves. No sin can be tolerated in those who shall walk with Christ in white. The filthy garments are to be removed, and Christ’s robe of righteousness is to be placed upon us. By repentance and faith we are enabled to render obedience to all the commandments of God, and are found without blame before Him. Those who shall meet the approval of God are now afflicting their souls, confessing their sins, and earnestly pleading for pardon through Jesus their Advocate. Their attention is fixed upon Him, their hopes, their faith, are centered on Him, and when the command is given, ‘Take away the filthy garments, and clothe him with change of raiment, and set a fair miter upon his head,’

they are prepared to give Him all the glory of their salvation.”
Testimonies, vol. 5, 472

4.b. Why is it necessary to be clothed with white raiment, and what does it symbolize? Matthew 22:11–14; Revelation 19:8

Note: “We should consider the great sacrifice that was made in our behalf, to purchase for us the robe of righteousness, woven in the loom of heaven.” *The Youth’s Instructor*, January 30, 1896

“Christ’s white robe of righteousness will never cover any soul that is found in sin unrepented of and unforsaken. ‘Sin is the transgression of the law.’ Therefore those who are trampling upon the law of God, and teaching others to disregard its precepts, will not be clothed with the righteousness of Christ. Jesus came not to save people in their sins, but from their sins. ‘And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in Him.’” *The Review and Herald*, August 28, 1894

Thursday

5 CONFESSING CHRIST

5.a. What did Jesus say should be a reason for great satisfaction and rejoicing, and why? Luke 10:20; Revelation 20:15; 21:27

Note: “The names of all those who have once given themselves to God are written in the book of life, and their characters are now passing in review before Him. Angels of God are weighing moral worth. They are watching the development of character in those now living, to see if their names can be retained in the book of life. A probation is granted us in which to wash our robes of character and make them white in the blood of



the Lamb. Who is doing this work? Who is separating from himself sin and selfishness?” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 960

5.b. In what way may we confess Christ or deny Him, and what will be the ultimate result? Revelation 3:5, last part; Matthew 10:32, 33; Romans 10:9

Note: “He who would confess Christ must have Christ abiding in him. He cannot communicate that which he has not received. The disciples might speak fluently on doctrines, they might repeat the words of Christ Himself; but unless they possessed Christlike meekness and love, they were not confessing Him. A spirit contrary to the spirit of Christ would deny Him, whatever the profession. Men may deny Christ by evilspeaking, by foolish talking, by words that are untruthful or unkind. They may deny Him by shunning life’s burdens, by the pursuit of sinful pleasure.” *The Desire of Ages*, 357

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How is true faith demonstrated?
- 2 How is faith made perfect by works?
- 3 Why is repentance an important work?
- 4 What is the white raiment?
- 5 How can we confess Christ?

March 13 – 19, 2022

Philadelphia

Brotherly Love (A.D. 1833–1844)

Key Text

“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.” 1 John 3:14

Study Help: *The Great Controversy*, 317–330; *Maranatha*, 247

Introduction

“Christians are to cultivate self-restraint, love, forbearance, and unity one to another by the cords of brotherly love.” *The Review and Herald*, November 27, 1894

Sunday

1 THE KEYS OF DAVID

1.a. What was foretold in prophecy concerning the keys of David? Isaiah 22:20–22

Note: “But clearer light came with the investigation of the sanctuary question. They [the early Adventist believers] now saw that they were correct in believing that the end of the 2300 days in 1844 marked an important crisis.” *The Great Controversy*, 429

1.b. In 1844, what door was shut and what door was opened? Revelation 3:7, 8

Note: “Then I was shown that the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ relating to the shut door could

not be separated, and that the time for the commandments of God to shine out with all their importance, and for God’s people to be tried on the Sabbath truth, was when the door was opened in the most holy place in the heavenly sanctuary, where the ark is, in which are contained the ten commandments. This door was not opened until the mediation of Jesus was finished in the holy place of the sanctuary in 1844.” *Early Writings*, 42

Monday

2 WORSHIPPING AT THE SAINTS’ FEET

2.a. How is the synagogue of Satan described, and what do they say? Revelation 3:9, *first part*

Note: “Satan has a large confederacy, his church. Christ calls them the synagogue of Satan because the members are the children of sin. The members of Satan’s church have been constantly working to cast off the divine law, and confuse the distinction between good and evil. Satan is working with great power in and through the children of disobedience to exalt treason and apostasy as truth and loyalty.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 16

“Satan has a church upon the earth which outnumbered the church of Christ. Christ calls it the ‘synagogue of Satan,’ because its members are the children of sin and transgression. They have ceased to honor God, they have cast His divine law aside, they have confounded the distinction between good and evil. But the world’s Redeemer will have a church in which these essential differences will be made apparent, where the character of God will be represented.” *The General Conference Bulletin*, April 1, 1897

2.b. Who are the members of the synagogue of Satan and what will they do? Revelation 3:9, *last part*

Note: “The 144,000 were all sealed and perfectly united. On their foreheads was written, God, New Jerusalem, and a glorious star containing Jesus’ new name. At our happy, holy state the wicked were enraged, and would rush violently up to lay hands on us to thrust us into prison, when we would stretch

forth the hand in the name of the Lord, and they would fall helpless to the ground. Then it was that the synagogue of Satan knew that God had loved us who could wash one another's feet and salute the brethren with a holy kiss, and they worshiped at our feet." *Early Writings*, 15

"You think, that those who worship before the saint's feet, (Revelation 3:9), will at last be saved. Here I must differ with you; for God shew me that this class were professed Adventists, who had fallen away, and 'crucified to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame.' And in the 'hour of temptation,' which is yet to come, to show out everyone's true character, they will know that they are forever lost; and overwhelmed with anguish of spirit, they will bow at the saint's feet." *A Word to the Little Flock*, 12

Tuesday

3 THE HOUR OF TEMPTATION

3.a. What encouraging promise is given to them that trust wholly in God? 1 Corinthians 10:13

Note: "God sometimes allows Satan to tempt His children, that they may be proved and tested. If they rely on their own strength, they will fail in the trial, but if they realize their inability to help themselves, and trust wholly in God, He will provide a way of escape. There are times when it is necessary for men to be exposed to danger, and to be placed among corrupting influences, but a sense of their dependence on God will lead them to keep their hearts uplifted to Him in prayer every hour, for strength to resist and grace to overcome. The experience gained in these fierce conflicts fortifies the soul to pass unscathed through more trying ordeals." *The Signs of the Times*, March 29, 1905

"At times the masterly power of temptation seems to tax our will power to the uttermost, and to exercise faith seems utterly contrary to all the evidences of sense or emotion; but our will must be kept on God's side. We must believe that in Jesus Christ is everlasting strength and efficiency." *Our High Calling*, 124

3.b. In order to be delivered from Satan's temptations, what should we do? Revelation 3:10; James 4:7



3.c. Especially when will this experience be a reality? Psalm 91:14, 15

Note: "Do not think that you can safely drift with the current. If you do, you will surely become the helpless prey of Satan's devices. By diligent searching of the Scriptures and earnest prayer for divine help prepare the soul to resist temptation. The Lord will hear the sincere prayer of the contrite soul and will lift up a standard for you against the enemy. But you will be tried; your faith, your love, your patience, your constancy will be tested." *In Heavenly Places*, 184

"The hour of temptation is to come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth; and although we do not wish to make a time of trouble for ourselves, nor do we wish to groan over trials in the future, still we should be so closely connected with God that we shall not fall under the temptation when it does come." *The Review and Herald*, April 15, 1890.

Wednesday

4 STEADFAST TO THE END

4.a. What promise of Jesus should encourage us all along our Christian race? Revelation 3:11 *first part*; 22:12

Note: “This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.’ Precious, indeed, was this promise to those sorrowing disciples, that they should again see Jesus who was greatly beloved by them all. Precious also is this promise to every true follower of Christ. None who truly love Jesus will be sorry that He is coming again. And as they approach nearer to the coming of the Son of man, the true lovers of Jesus will look forward with joyous hope, and will seek to get all ready to behold Him whom their souls loveth, who died to redeem them.” *The Youth’s Instructor*, April 1, 1854

“We are pilgrims and strangers on the earth. Our sojourn here is as it were the Christian’s winter. But our faith and hope reach forward and upward to the better life, to the home that Christ has gone to prepare for those that love Him. ...

“There are many things to be overcome. Day by day the battle goes on. The struggle is lifelong; for Satan watches every opportunity to take advantage of us, that he may ensnare us to our ruin.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 18, 138

4.b. To whom will the crown of life be given, and when? Revelation 3:11, last part; Matthew 24:13; 2 Timothy 4:7, 8

Note: “Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.’ Here again we are admonished to faithfulness, in view of the conflict. We must not yield any point that we have already gained. ... We are seeking for a crown, a crown of glory that fadeth not away. As overcomers we are to reign with Christ in the heavenly courts; and we are to overcome through the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony.” *The Review and Herald*, July 9, 1908

“If it were possible for us to be admitted into heaven as we are, how many of us would be able to look upon God? How many of us have on the wedding garment? How many of us are without spot or wrinkle or any such thing? How many of us are worthy to receive the crown of life?” *Maranatha*, 98

Thursday

5 THE REMNANT OF PHILADELPHIA

5.a. What promise is given to the overcomers of Philadelphia, and who are they? Revelation 3:12, 13

Note: “While I was praying at the family altar, the Holy Ghost fell upon me, and I seemed to be rising higher and higher, far above the dark world. I turned to look for the Advent people in the world, but could not find them, when a voice said to me, ‘Look again, and look a little higher.’ At this I raised my eyes, and saw a straight and narrow path, cast up high above the world. On this path the Advent people were traveling to the city, which was at the farther end of the path. ... Soon we heard the voice of God like many waters, which gave us the day and hour of Jesus’ coming. The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice, while the wicked thought it was thunder and an earthquake.” *Early Writings*, 14, 15

5.b. Following the example of the Philadelphian church, what should we cultivate if we want to be overcomers? John 13:34, 35

Note: “God wants us to love one another. He says, ‘By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another,’ ‘as I have loved you; that ye also love one another.’ This is the new commandment. It was new because Christ had not, before it was spoken, given the evidence of how much He loves us.” *The General Conference Bulletin*, April 3, 1901

“They [the disciples] were to love one another as Christ had loved them. These were their credentials that Christ was formed within, the hope of glory.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, 1141

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What event would close the Philadelphian period?
- 2 Who constitutes the synagogue of Satan?
- 3 How are we to deal with temptation?
- 4 Who will receive the crown of life?
- 5 What is the promise given to Philadelphia?

March 20 – 26, 2022

Laodicea

Judgment of the People (A.D. 1844–the End)

Key Text

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.” Revelation 3:19

Study Help: *The Acts of the Apostles*, 593–602; *The Great Controversy*, 662–678

Introduction

“The message to the Laodicean church is applicable to all who have had great light and many opportunities, and yet have not appreciated them.” *The Faith I Live By*, 306

Sunday

1 JESUS SPEAKS TO THE CHURCH

1.a. How does Jesus address the angel of the Laodicean church? Revelation 3:14

Note: “Some will not receive the testimony that God has given us to bear, flattering themselves that we may be deceived and that they may be right. They think that the people of God are not in need of plain dealing and of reproof, but that God is with them. These tempted ones, whose souls have ever been at war with the faithful reproving of sin, would cry: Speak unto us smooth things. What disposition will these make of the message of the True Witness to the Laodiceans? There can be no deception here. This message must be borne to a lukewarm church by God’s servants.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 259

1.b. What startling message does Jesus give about the condition of the angel of the church? Why is this condition unacceptable? Revelation 3:15, 16

Note: “Halfhearted Christians are worse than infidels; for their deceptive words and noncommittal position lead many astray. The infidel shows his colors. The lukewarm Christian deceives both parties. He is neither a good worldling nor a good Christian. Satan uses him to do a work that no one else can do.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 963

Monday

2 DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED

2.a. What do the angel and the people of the Laodicean church think of and state about their own condition, and what is Christ’s answer? Revelation 3:17

Note: “‘And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and True Witness, the beginning of the creation of God. I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of My mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable and poor, and blind, and naked.’

“The Lord here shows us that the message to be borne to His people by ministers whom He has called to warn the people is not a peace-and-safety message. It is not merely theoretical, but practical in every particular. ...

“What greater deception can come upon human minds than a confidence that they are right when they are all wrong! The message of the True Witness finds the people of God in a sad deception, yet honest in that deception. They know not that their condition is deplorable in the sight of God. While those addressed are flattering themselves that they are in an exalted spiritual condition, the message of the True Witness breaks their security by the startling denunciation of their true condition of spiritual blindness, poverty, and wretchedness. The testimony, so cutting and severe, cannot be a mistake, for it is the True Witness who speaks, and His testimony must be correct.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 252, 253

2.b. What is it about the condition of “thou knowest not” that is the most dangerous? John 9:40, 41

Note: “The Pharisees were spiritually blind, and were leaders of the blind. The physical blindness that Jesus had healed in the man born blind, was not as dangerous as the moral blindness of those who had evidence piled upon evidence in regard to the divine character of the world’s Redeemer, and yet who closed the eyes of their understanding, and refused to see, because they were too self-exalted to be instructed by Christ. They claimed to be learned in the Scriptures, to have spiritual eyesight, yet they made the plainest specifications concerning Christ a different matter from that which the records testified. ‘The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephtholim, by way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles; the people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.’ The light of the world was shining amid the moral darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not.” *The Signs of the Times*, November 6, 1893

Tuesday

3 A GENEROUS OFFER

- 3.a. Before a complete rejection takes place, what wonderful goods does Jesus offer to Laodicea? Revelation 3:18

Note: “As I have of late looked around to find the humble followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, my mind has been much exercised. Many who profess to be looking for the speedy coming of Christ are becoming conformed to this world and seek more earnestly the applause of those around them than the approbation of God. They are cold and formal, like the nominal churches from which they but a short time since separated. The words addressed to the Laodicean church describe their present condition perfectly. They are ‘neither cold nor hot,’ but ‘lukewarm.’ And unless they heed the counsel of the ‘faithful and True Witness,’ and zealously repent and obtain ‘gold tried in the fire,’ ‘white raiment,’ and ‘eyesalve,’ He will spew them out of His mouth.” *Early Writings*, 107, 108

“The deadly lethargy of the world is paralyzing your senses. Sin no longer appears repulsive because you are blinded by Satan. The judgments of God are soon to be poured out upon the earth. ‘Escape for thy life’ is the warning from the angels of God. Other voices are heard saying: ‘Do not become excited; there is no cause for special alarm.’ Those who are at ease in Zion cry ‘Peace and safety,’ while heaven declares that swift destruction is about to come upon the transgressor.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 233

- 3.b. What heavenly virtues are represented by the “gold,” the “white raiment,” and the “eyesalve”? 1 Peter 1:7; Revelation 19:8; Revelation 3:5; 19:8

Note: “Again and again has the voice from heaven addressed you. Will you obey this voice? Will you heed the counsel of the True Witness to seek the gold tried in the fire, the white raiment, and the eyesalve? The gold is faith and love, the white raiment is the righteousness of Christ, the eyesalve is that spiritual discernment which will enable you to see the wiles of Satan and shun them, to detect sin and abhor it, to see truth and obey it.

“The deadly lethargy of the world is paralyzing your senses. Sin no longer appears repulsive because you are blinded by Satan.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 233

Wednesday

4 BE ZEALOUS AND REPENT

- 4.a. Since the destiny of the church hangs on the acceptance of the counsel of the True Witness, what strong appeal does Jesus make to the angel? Revelation 3:19

Note: “I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified.” *Early Writings*, 270

“The displeasure and judgments of God are against those who persist in walking in their own ways, loving self, loving the praise of men. They will certainly be swept into the satanic delusions of these last days, because they received not the love of the truth. Because the Lord has, in former days, blessed and honored them, they flatter themselves that they are chosen and true, and do not need warning and instruction and reproof. The True Witness says, ‘As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.’ The professed people of God

have the charge against them, 'Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.'" *The Review and Herald*, December 23, 1890

4.b. What is the proof of true and genuine repentance?
Ezekiel 33:14–16; Luke 19:8, 9

Note: "There is no evidence of genuine repentance unless it works reformation. If he restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, confess his sins, and love God and his fellow men, the sinner may be sure that he has found peace with God. Such were the effects that in former years followed seasons of religious awakening." *The Great Controversy*, 462, 463

"There are many who fail to understand the true nature of repentance. Multitudes sorrow that they have sinned and even make an outward reformation because they fear that their wrongdoing will bring suffering upon themselves. ... Balaam, terrified by the angel standing in his pathway with drawn sword, acknowledged his guilt lest he should lose his life; but there was no genuine repentance for sin, no conversion of purpose, no abhorrence of evil." *Steps to Christ*, 23

Thursday

5 STANDING AT THE DOOR AND KNOCKING

5.a. Since there was no evidence of repentance of the angel, to whom is Jesus now addressing His words?
Revelation 3:20. How does Christ knock at the door?

Note: "Christ waits at the door of the heart, saying, Open to Me; but He will not force Himself upon any one. Are we listening for His voice? Is our pride humbled and subdued by His divine compassion and pitying love? Open the door of the heart; for Christ is waiting to enter." *The Signs of the Times*, February 3, 1898

"Says the True Witness, 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock.' Every warning, reproof, and entreaty in the word of God, or through His delegated messengers, is a knock at the door of the heart; it is the voice of Jesus, asking for entrance. With every knock unheeded, your determination to open becomes weaker and weaker. If the voice of Jesus is not heeded at once, it becomes confused in the mind with a multitude of other voices, the world's care and business engross the attention, and conviction dies away. The heart becomes less impressible, and lapses into a perilous unconsciousness of the shortness of time, and of the great eternity beyond." *The Review and Herald*, November 2, 1886

5.b. What special blessing is pronounced upon the overcomer in the period of Laodicea? Revelation 3:21, 22

Note: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne.' We can overcome. Yes; fully, entirely. Jesus died to make a way of escape for us, that we might overcome every evil temper, every sin, every temptation, and sit down at last with Him." *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 144

Friday

REVIEW AND THOUGHT QUESTIONS

- 1 What work does the lukewarm Christian do?
- 2 What is the true state of Laodicea?
- 3 How can we obtain the gold, white raiment, and eyesalve?
- 4 How only can the true believer overcome?
- 5 What is granted to the Laodicean overcomer?

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Avocado

Avocados are a bright green fruit with dark, leathery skin. They are also known as an alligator pear or butter fruit and are considered a large berry containing a single, large seed (pit).

Mexico is the largest producer of avocados, but 95% of the avocados supplied to the United States are grown in Southern California. These little wonder fruits are packed full of vitamins C, E, K, B6, riboflavin, niacin, folate, pantothenic acid, magnesium, potassium, lutein, beta carotene and omega-3 fatty acids.

Research suggests that eating avocados can help lower blood pressure

and bad cholesterol levels, and enhance weight loss. They also have been proven to reduce the risk of cancer and the fiber contained in the fruit is a natural detox for your digestive tract. Avocado oil actually fights off certain bacterial infections.

If you enjoy planting seeds, try growing an avocado tree following these easy steps. After removing the seed from the avocado, wash it well and wrap it in a wet paper towel. Place the wrapped seed in an air-tight baggie. Blow the baggie up with your breath, seal it tight and place it in a window sill that gets full sunlight. Be sure the air-tight baggie stays blown up with moisture in it.

Once the seed has sprouted, plant it in a good-sized pot filled with potting soil. Keep it inside during the cold months where it can get sunlight and put it outside in the summer. It may take three years or more before you see your first avocado, but it will continue to grow.

The Lord has provided so many good foods that maintain our health. The avocado is just one example. See how many fruits and vegetables you can list using the alphabet. Here, I'll get you started: avocado, banana ...

Source: *Medical News Today*, Megan Ware, RDN, July 28, 2021, webmd.com, Wikipedia [LM](#)

Fruit

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



AVOCADO TOAST

Ingredients

- 1 ripe avocado, peeled and chopped
- 1 small tomato, chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 tsp. minced garlic
- 1 tsp. lime juice
- salt to taste

Process

Mix together and spread on your favorite toast.





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