

HISTORIC LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

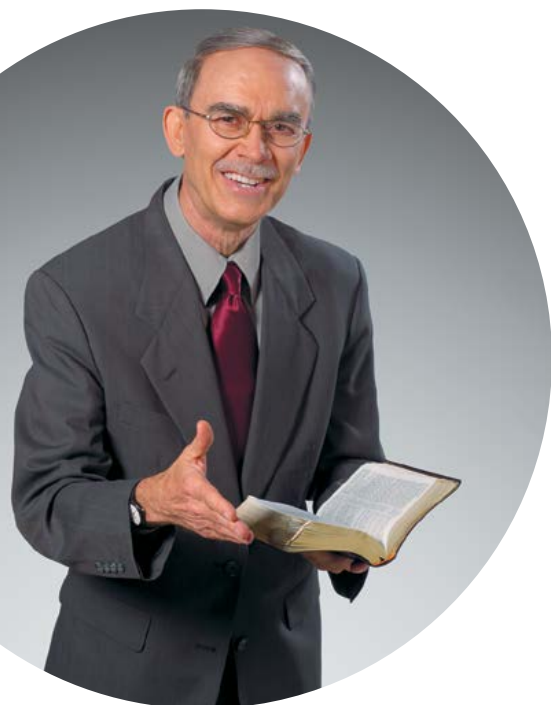
To Deceive the Whole World

*Prophecy tells us that the last
days will be the most deceptive
time in earth's history. Are
you ready?*

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The Two Great Disappointments

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From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

Why the Law Cannot Be Changed

The kingdom of heaven is of a higher order than any earthly kingdom. Whether we shall have a higher position or a lower position, will not be determined by our rank, wealth, or education, but by the character of the obedience rendered to the word of God. Those who have been actuated by selfishness and human ambition, who have been striving to be greatest, who have been self-important, who have felt above confessing mistakes and errors, will have no place in the kingdom of God. Whether men will be honored as members of the royal family of God, will be determined by the manner in which they bear the test and proving of God that is brought to bear upon them in this life. ... The laws of Christ's kingdom are unalterable; for they have their foundation in His own unchangeable righteous character. Not one of His precepts will be weakened or altered in the slightest degree. Heaven and earth will pass away rather than one tittle of His law shall fail." *The Review and Herald*, March 26, 1895

"Abraham recognized the fact that Jehovah had a law, and he determined that he would keep that law as the apple of

His eye. He recognized the fact that he was amenable to the Lawgiver, and he would not be turned aside from his duty. God rules by the combined influence of authority and affection, and blessings follow in the track of those who obey His law. The Holy One has given us rules by which we are to be guided to the courts of heaven, and these rules form the standard, from which there can be no turning aside. The first principles of holiness are yet to be learned when God's voice is not heard and obeyed as the supreme authority." *The Signs of the Times*, November 14, 1895

"If you are careful, prompt, and conscientious in your homelife; if in your prayers you claim the Lord's promises, and expect an answer; if you discharge your duties faithfully, you will not be left to stumble on in darkness. The Lord of heaven will be present with you; by His Holy Spirit He will guide you. Everyone who is to receive the overcomer's reward must first overcome every sin; and not until he overcomes through divine grace, can he entertain hope of entering the haven of eternal bliss." *Testimonies to the Church Regarding Individual Responsibility and Christian Unity*, 13 **LM**

HISTORIC

LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

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Subscriptions

United States: 1 year, \$35.00
Other countries: Cost of postage only

If you are unable to purchase a subscription, please request a gift subscription.

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LANDMARKS is a magazine of Steps to Life, a ministry established in 1988 by Seventh-day Adventists. It is dedicated to the publication of the historic doctrines held by God's true people in all ages. Its special emphasis is to present truth (2 Peter 1:12)—those historic doctrines espoused by Seventh-day Adventist pioneers in the nineteenth century. Its purpose is to help all of God's remnant people to press together in unity, holding high the banner on which is inscribed the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This magazine is designed to help believers to defend the faith and to expose the flood of false doctrine by which the truth is being assailed in these last days. It is the goal of **LANDMARKS'** editors to present articles based on truth from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Viewpoints of writers and/or contributors expressed outside of articles printed in this publication are not necessarily the views of this magazine's editors and are not endorsed by Steps to Life Ministries.

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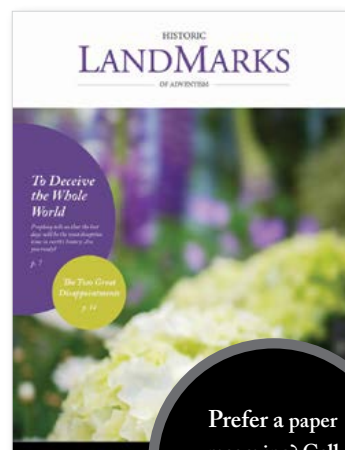
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All Bible texts, unless appearing in quoted references or otherwise identified, are from the New King James Version.



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Why the Inside Comes First

By John J. Grosboll

Being ready for Jesus to come involves both inward and outward preparation, but what happens in the heart is the most important, and therefore must occur first.

In Psalm 24:3–5 we read: “Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”

Notice, there are two parts to the preparation for heaven. One is the need to have clean hands. This represents the outside of your body—what you say and do, what other people can see. It is important that your hands be clean, that you have done or said nothing that is contrary to the law of God, but that is not enough. You also must have a pure heart, because how we are on the inside eventually will be manifested on the outside.



Jesus was very particular in Matthew 23:25 about the need to be clean first on the inside, and then on the outside, too. “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence.” They realized that they needed to be cleaned up, but Jesus said their problem was that they were only interested in what could be seen, how good they looked on the outside, while inside they were full of wickedness. Then Jesus said in verse 26: “Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.” Jesus was telling them that if the inside is cleaned first, then the outside will also be clean.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that those who were clean on the inside would see God. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” Matthew 5:8. A heart cleansed from all defilement is a pure heart.

What defiles the heart? Jesus has made this very clear: “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.” Matthew 15:19, 20. The heart must be cleansed of all that defiles. There are two parts to this inner cleansing process. The first part is what God does. The second part is what we do. We will look at the second part first.

The Bible clearly states that you and I have something to do so that our hearts will be cleansed and purified. John strongly expressed this when he said: “Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.” 1 John 3:3.

James 4:7–10 outline several things that we are to do: “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your



hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

Drawing near to God and resisting the devil are two complementary actions. You cannot resist the devil without drawing near to God first because you cannot resist the devil by yourself. But if you hang onto the things that defile the heart and stay close to the devil, then you will not draw near to God.

Then James says that we are not to be doubled minded. A double-minded person is trying to serve God and the devil at the same time. This is not possible. Remember Matthew 6:24, “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

Finally, we see that we are to be sorry and to mourn because of our defiled condition, and then humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord.

The wise man Solomon said in Proverbs 23:7: “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.” As you think, so you are.

Peter said: “Therefore gird up the loins [the waist, as in putting on a girdle to control] of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 1:13. Paul said, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:1, 2. So if we are to be purified, then our thoughts must be controlled.

Our words can affect our thoughts, so we also must be careful how we express ourselves. “[T]hat you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, putting away lying, ‘Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,’ for we are members of one another.

“

How we are on the inside eventually will be manifested on the outside.

‘Be angry, and do not sin’: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.” Ephesians 4:22–27. We all have the blessings of the great mercy and love of God, and expressing our joy and thankfulness for those blessings will have an effect on our thoughts. *The Ministry of Healing*, 253 says, “No tongue can express, no finite mind can conceive, the blessing that results from appreciating the goodness and love of God.

Even on earth we may have joy as a wellspring, never failing, because fed by the streams that flow from the throne of God.”

We must understand that our thoughts and feelings are not only encouraged, but strengthened by what we say. And since our hearts are defiled by evil thoughts, if we want to gain control of our thoughts, we should be expressing thankfulness and rejoicing to the Lord for His blessings and this will change our thoughts from evil to good.

A Christian life is revealed by Christian thoughts, words, and deportment. If we consecrate ourselves to the Lord every day, choosing to obey His law, then our choice will purify our thoughts. *The Signs of the Times*, September 1, 1890, tells us, “If your thoughts, your plans, your purposes, are all directed towards the accumulation of things of earth, your anxiety, your study, your interests, will all be centered upon the world. The heavenly attractions will lose their beauty. ... Your heart will be with your treasure, ... You will have no time to devote to the study of the Scriptures and to earnest prayer that you may escape the snares of Satan” If your only purpose is to gain money, property, position, power, fame, or success in this world, the Lord may give you all of those things, but you will become so overburdened with trying to achieve success in the world that you will have no time to devote to the study of the Scriptures and to earnest prayer. And as a consequence, you will not escape the snares of Satan.

Many have allowed their minds to dwell upon earthly things for a long time, and now they realize that if the current of their thoughts is not changed, they will be conformed to this world; there will be no transformation to ready the mind for Jesus to come. “When the mind has been long permitted to dwell only on earthly things, it is a difficult matter to change the habits of thought.” *Lift Him Up*, 144. Dwelling most of one’s life on earthly things will make it difficult to exclude the things of the world and think only of divine things.

It too frequently occurs that Christians gather together on Sabbath and talk about anything but spiritual things, because their minds have so long dwelt upon the things of this earth—how to make a living, a business, a job, investments, property, and other things having to do with the world. Mrs. White tells us that as long as we are in this world we will have to conduct worldly business, so these things are not evil in and of themselves. But if that is all you are thinking about and talking about, then your mind is being conformed to this world and you will not be ready for Jesus to come.

“That which the eye sees and the ear hears too often attracts the attention and absorbs the interest. But if we would enter the city of God, and look upon Jesus in His glory, we must become accustomed to beholding Him with the eye of faith here.” Ibid.

Are we filling our minds and hearts with Jesus? Are we allowing the things of this world to preoccupy our minds and thoughts so that we will not be ready to go to heaven? Are we conformed to this world?

“If we would enter the city of God,” here is how we are to do it: “The words and the character of Christ should be often the subject of our thoughts and of our conversation; and each day some time should be especially devoted to prayerful meditation upon these sacred themes.” Ibid.

If our minds are to be transformed, then we must daily spend time in meditation upon the words and character of Jesus Christ, or we will be caught up with the evil thoughts that will defile the heart and mind.

Do we spend as much time, or more, thinking and talking about Jesus Christ as we do in thinking and talking about worldly things? When a person loves someone, that someone is all they can talk about. They tell everyone about this wonderful person that they love. But here is the biggest problem for most people: though they say they love Jesus, they do not spend time in His word, nor meditate upon His character, nor talk about Him to their family and friends.

Many professed Christians are troubled because they have struggled for a long time with low and debasing thoughts. But friend, this is something you can talk about with Jesus. If you don't want to be a victim of worldly, evil thoughts, if you want to be cleansed on the inside and be made pure, then Jesus is the only One to talk to. Only He, through the power of the Holy Spirit in the life, can change a heart so that the thoughts will reflect the purity of the soul. But Satan doesn't want you to know this.

"... Satan has his evil angels around us; and though they cannot read men's thoughts, they closely watch their words and actions. Satan takes advantage of the weakness and defects of character that are thus revealed, and presses his temptations where there is least power of resistance. He makes evil suggestions, and inspires worldly thoughts, knowing that he can thus bring the soul into condemnation and bondage. To those who are selfish, worldly, avaricious, proud, fault-finding, or given to detraction—to all who are cherishing errors and defects of character—Satan presents the indulgence of self, and leads the soul off upon a track that the Bible condemns, but which he makes appear attractive.

"For every class of temptations there is a remedy." *Gospel Workers*, 417, 418. Praise God, there is a remedy for every temptation. "We are not left to ourselves to fight the battle against self and our sinful natures in our own finite strength. Jesus is a mighty helper, a never-failing support." *Ibid.*, 418.



Are you in trouble because of your thoughts and helpless to do anything about it? You need only to go to Jesus in prayer. When tempted, take your struggles to Him, for He is a mighty helper.

"The mind must be restrained, and not allowed to wander." *Ibid.*

The mind is not an empty void. It must be occupied. Saying that we will no longer think about something is not the way to gain the victory in the struggle for pure and holy thoughts. The devil and his angels cannot read our minds, but they can put thoughts into our imagination. Concentrating on what we should not think about will not help us to have pure thoughts.

"The mind ... should be trained to dwell upon the Scriptures, and upon noble, elevating themes." *Our High Calling*, 88.

"Portions of Scripture, even whole chapters, may be committed to memory, to be repeated when Satan comes in with his temptations. ...

"When Satan would lead the mind to dwell upon earthly and sensual things, he is most effectually resisted with 'It is written.'" *Ibid.*

We must fight the battle to discipline our thoughts, to keep our minds restrained, preventing the imagination from wandering.

If our thoughts are disciplined, our words will be right. "Either make the

tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things." Matthew 12:33–35

"Many thoughts make up the unwritten history of a single day; and these thoughts have much to do with the formation of character. Our thoughts are to be strictly guarded; for one impure thought makes a deep impression on the soul. An evil thought leaves an evil impress on the mind. If the thoughts are pure and holy, the man is better for having cherished them. By them the spiritual pulse is quickened, and the power for doing good is increased. And as one drop of rain prepares the way for another in moistening the earth, so one good thought prepares the way for another." *The Faith I Live By*, 222

What we look at and what we listen to all have an effect on our thoughts. These are the channels by which the mind is fed. The Bible is full of instruction on this point. "I will set nothing wicked before my eyes." Psalm 101:3, *first part*. David understood this all too well. Keeping before ourselves violence, immoral sexuality, swearing, and

drinking is evil, and what is evil is sin, and sin is breaking God's law. It doesn't matter how you come into contact with evil, if you are participating in evil, you are sinning. The law of the mind is that by beholding we become changed, and the more we behold evil, regardless of its form, that is what we will be like. And in the end, we will not be ready for heaven, but rather hellfire. "In that day they will roar against them like the roaring of the sea. And if one looks to the land, behold, darkness and sorrow; and the light is darkened by the clouds." Isaiah 5:30. "Then they will look to the earth, and see trouble and darkness, gloom of anguish; and they will be driven into darkness." Isaiah 8:22.

We are free moral agents with a responsibility over what our eyes see, what our ears hear, over everything we subject ourselves and our senses to. Satan is trying to paralyze our senses so that we will be insensitive to the warnings and reproofs sent from God. He does not want us to heed them, lest they are received in the heart and reform the life.

"My brethren, God calls upon you as His followers to walk in the light. You need to be alarmed. Sin is among us, and it is not seen to be exceedingly sinful. The senses of many are benumbed by the indulgence of appetite and by familiarity with sin." *The Adventist Home*, 401

"Sin means dishonor and disaster to every soul that indulges in it; but it is blinding and deceiving in its nature ... [W]e should close every avenue by which the tempter may find access to us." *Ibid.*, 402, 403.

We are living in a cesspool, a morally-defiled world filled with wickedness, and our only safety is to be shielded by the grace of God every moment. We must cooperate with the heavenly agencies and not be presumptuous, walking right into temptation.

We must continually be on guard, watching every avenue of the soul by which Satan may gain access. We need to avoid reading, seeing, or hearing

anything that would lead to impure thoughts. We need to place ourselves and our families where we cannot watch the evil and iniquity practiced all over the world. We must guard what we look at and listen to so that the terrible things going on around us do not become the subjects of our meditation and cause us to be defiled.

Radio, television, movies, music, social media, there are hundreds of avenues by which we today can become defiled. "The lust of the eye and corrupt passions are aroused by beholding and by reading. The heart is corrupted through the imagination." *Ibid.*, 408. How is it with your soul? Are you being conformed to this world by the music of this world, the sights and the sounds of this world, or are you being transformed by the renewing of your mind, by beholding Christ through His word?

Clean hands and a pure heart, the two requirements to be ready for heaven. We need to be memorizing the Scriptures and studying and meditating upon the character of Christ and His words every day. We must be in control of what we look at and listen to. This is what we must do. But everything that we do will be absolutely hopeless and useless unless God does something. "In describing to His disciples the office work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus sought to inspire them with the joy and hope that inspired His own heart. He rejoiced because of the abundant help He had provided for His church. The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with

no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure." *The Desire of Ages*, 671

The heart is made pure by the inworking of the Holy Spirit. Unless you receive the Holy Spirit into your life, you will be unable to resist sin and overcome it. So we must be praying day by day that we might receive the Holy Spirit. Without this, the sacrifice of Jesus upon the cross of Calvary would be of no avail. "Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church." *Ibid.*

Human power is not enough, so Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church.

Friend, it is important that we cooperate with the divine agencies, but what God does is vital. We can never be made pure, we can never be made ready for heaven unless the Holy Spirit works a miraculous work of re-creation in our hearts. He does not modify our old life. Instead, He makes a completely new creature. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17.

It doesn't matter what your past has been. If you are willing to fall on your knees before the Lord and say, Lord, I want to be born again, I want this change, help me to cooperate with the agencies of heaven, this miracle will happen in your heart and soul. **LM**

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To Deceive the Whole World

By John J. Grosboll

There are many places in the Bible where it is predicted that the last days, in which we are now living, will be the most deceptive time in world history; a time in which the whole world will be deceived. Many people question these prophecies. With all of our knowledge and technology, how is it possible that everyone could be deceived? The Bible tells us:

1. Who started the deception
2. How it started
3. How to recognize it

Second Peter 2:4 says, in part, “[G]od did not spare the angels who sinned” Notice, human beings in this world are not the only intelligences that have sinned. This scripture says that there was a group of angels who also sinned. Who led these angels into sin? Jesus Himself tells us in Matthew 25:41: “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire

prepared for the *devil and his angels*.” The fire spoken of in this scripture was prepared for the devil and his angels.

The devil is known by a number of different names throughout the Bible. Revelation 12 calls him “the great dragon” and “that old serpent” because he spoke to Eve through a snake in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3). He is called Lucifer in Isaiah 14. He is most commonly referred to by his Hebrew name Satan. The word *Satan* simply means the *adversary*. Many have asked why God would create such a being. Satan wasn’t always Satan. God didn’t create Satan, but He did create a covering cherub. We find a description of him in Ezekiel 28:13–15, “You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.” This angel was perfect, a high and exalted angel, until iniquity was found in him.

If Satan was a perfect creation, a high and exalted angel in heaven, then how did he fall? Isaiah 14 holds the answer, beginning with verses 12–14: “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’” Ezekiel 28:17 says further, “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor” So we see that Satan was proud and as a result, he desired to be like God Himself.

“
*Satan pursued the
 other angels in heaven
 in an effort to cause them
 to rebel against God’s
 government as well.*”

Solomon tells us in Proverbs 16:18, “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” The Bible describes this conflict in Revelation 12:7, 8: “And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.”

So Satan, the great dragon, that serpent of old, the devil, was cast to the earth, and a third of the angels of heaven were cast out with him (Revelation 12:9). This verse also tells us that Satan and his angels will deceive the whole world. Someone might say, that just isn’t possible today, but we will see as we continue just how possible it is.

We find that Satan’s pride caused him to sin in heaven. To justify his sin, he pursued the other angels in heaven in an effort to cause them to rebel against God’s government as well. He succeeded with a large group of the angels, but sin cannot exist where God is and so there was war in heaven. Satan and the angels who followed him in his rebellion were cast out from heaven to this earth.

After Satan was cast out of heaven, he tempted Adam and Eve to sin; they were overcome by him, yielding to his temptation, disobeying God, and becoming the world’s first sinners. Second Peter 2:19 tells us, “By whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.” Paul says the same in Romans 6:16: “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?” When God created Adam, He made him the steward over all of creation. When Adam and Eve sinned, as a consequence, Satan declared himself the ruler of this world. He had usurped man’s dominion over the earth and now considers this world as his kingdom, and he is referred to in this manner in many places in the Scriptures. Notice what he says

of himself to Jesus “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.” Luke 4:6

We find in the book of Job a microcosmic example of what the devil has been doing in this world for millennia. “Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.” Job 2:1. Satan has appeared before God along with the representatives of the other worlds, as the representative of this world. “And the Lord said to Satan, ‘From where do you come?’ So Satan answered the Lord and said, ‘From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.’” Verse 2. Throughout the book of Job, we find that Satan tempted and tortured Job beyond imagination in an effort to cause him to sin. But we also find that Job did not sin, no matter what Satan did to or took from him. “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.” Job 13:15, *first part*

In this same way, Satan has tempted and tortured all of mankind throughout the history of the world. But the Bible says that this will one day be over. When Satan instigated and achieved, through the children of Israel and the Roman government, the crucifixion of Jesus, he was no longer the representative of this world. Jesus had ransomed the world. This was Satan’s second fall, alluded to by Jesus when He said, “Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler [prince] of this world will be cast out.” John 12:31. Satan’s final fall and destruction are yet future.

To understand how Satan has deceived the people of the world for so long, let us look at his character, for those who believe and follow Satan will be and are like him. First John 3:8 says, “He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” Satan sinned from the beginning and all of his works are sin. Jesus described Satan in this way: “You are of your father the devil, and the desires [the lusts] of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no

truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” John 8:44. He is the father of lies and a murderer from the beginning. He lied about God to the angels in heaven, he lied to Eve (Genesis 3:4, 5), and he continues lying to mankind today. This is just one of the methods he uses to lead men and women to sin. And the Bible tells us that the wages of sin is death; so by deceiving and leading people to sin, Satan is a murderer. Lying and murder are the two most hateful sins in the eyes of the God of truth. In fact, they are so horrible that we are told three times in the last two chapters of Revelation that no liar will be with God’s children in eternity.

The floodgates of evil have been opened upon this world and the Bible predicts in both the Old and New Testament that evil will reach a level never reached before. Second Thessalonians 2:9–12 describe it this way: “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” People are going to believe a strong delusion and will be deceived by miraculous workings by Satan and his demons.

Friends, we are living in a time when this is happening, and yet there are many people who do not even believe that the devil exists. The fact of the matter is that no one is in greater danger from the influence of evil spirits than those who, notwithstanding all the evidence and testimony of the Scriptures, deny the existence and agency of the devil, his angels, and evil spirits. As long as we are ignorant of their wiles, they have an almost inconceivable advan-



tage. Oftentimes, people give heed to their suggestions thinking that they are just following the dictates of their own reason or their own mind. This is why Satan will work with greater power than ever before in this world to deceive and to destroy mankind. It is his determined purpose that the world should not believe that he exists or that they be aware of his devices. He endeavors to make people believe he isn’t real or that he is a figment of the imagination or that he is some mythical creature.

It is only by the study of the word of God and the Spirit of Prophecy, and being in regular prayer that we can avoid the deception that has taken the world unawares and will only become more deadly as we draw nearer to the coming of Jesus. “All who do not earnestly search the Scriptures and submit every desire and purpose of life to that unerring test, all who do not seek God in prayer for a knowledge of His will, will surely wander from the right path and fall under the deception of Satan.” *Prayer*, 25

“He who carefully studies the word of God and brings its holy principles into his daily life, making every thought, word, and deed subject to its control will be a man of discernment; he has spiritu-

al eyesight; he is not ignorant of Satan’s devices. The love of God is in his heart, and he loves his fellow men.” *The Present Truth*, January 26, 1893

If we love God and our fellow man, then we must study and share the gospel as we never have before, because in order to see Satan’s deceptions for what they are, they, and we ourselves, must first know what the truth is. We cannot fully recognize evil, neither that which is in the world nor that which is inside us, until we truly know what goodness looks like. This comes by beholding Jesus.

“Those who labor in word and doctrine have a great work before them to tear from the minds of those for whom they labor the fatal deceptions of Satan, and to impress them with the importance of aiming to reach God’s great standard of righteousness. They should pray earnestly for divine enlightenment, and for wisdom to present the truth as it is in Jesus.”

Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists, 122 **LM**

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Choices

By Judy Rebarcek

Scripture tells us that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God. “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38, 39



Other scriptures tell us how much He loves us:

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you ...” John 15:16

“... God from the beginning chose you for salvation ...” 2 Thessalonians 2:13

“[J]ust as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world ...”

Ephesians 1:4

“We love Him because He first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” 1 John 4:10

While nothing can separate us from the *love* of God, we can be separated from God. “When Christ took human nature upon Him, He bound humanity to Himself by a tie of love that can never be broken *by any power save the choice of man himself.*” *Steps to Christ*, 72

Satan will have us believe that there is no God or that if He does exist, He is a capricious, uncaring, vengeful being who is so apathetic about us that He watches from a distance, delights in our pain and misfortune, and that He even causes the difficulties that we face, sitting back to see how we will do on our own. But the Bible says that this is not true. The Bible says that *God is in heaven and He loves you* and that *nothing* can separate you from that love.

“In the work of redemption there is no compulsion. No external force is employed. Under the influence of the Spirit of God, man is left free to choose whom he will serve.” *The Desire of Ages*, 466

“God does not control our minds without our consent; but if we desire to know and to do His will, His promises are ours: ‘Ye shall know the truth, and

the truth shall make you free.’ If any man willeth to do His will, he shall know of the teaching.” John 8:32; 7:17, R.V. Through faith in these promises, every man may be delivered from the snares of error and the control

of sin. ... Every man is free to choose what power he will have to rule over him.” Ibid., 258

“The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God’s government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is

love awakened.” Ibid., 22

“Though created innocent and holy, our first parents were not placed beyond the possibility of wrong-doing. ... He [God] gave them the power of choice—the power to yield or to withhold obedience.” *Education*, 23

“The will is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or choice. Every human being possessed of reason has power to choose the right.” Ibid., 289

“It is not God’s purpose to coerce the will. 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.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 331, 332

Again and again, the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy tell us that God loves us and wants us to love Him. He

has given us the ability to either freely choose to love Him and keep His law or not. God created this world and mankind, but He knew that we could choose to give our love and service to another and in so doing, we would forfeit our lives because transgression of His law brings death (Romans 6:23). If man was to be saved from death, there had to be a plan, and so He made one.

“The plan of salvation had been laid before the creation of the earth; for Christ is ‘the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.’ (Revelation 13:8) ...” Ibid., 63

“Before sin created the need, God had provided the remedy.” *Education*, 113

“That which in the councils of heaven the Father and the Son deemed essential for the salvation of man, was defined from eternity ...” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 408

“Everything that God could do has been done in behalf of man. Every want has been anticipated; every difficulty, every emergency, has been provided for.” Ibid., 251

“The plan for our redemption was not an afterthought, a plan formulated after the fall of Adam. It was a revelation of ‘the mystery which hath been kept in silence through times eternal.’ Romans 16:25, R. V. It was an unfolding of the principles that from eternal ages have been the foundation of God’s throne. From the beginning, God and Christ knew of the apostasy of Satan, and of the fall of man through the deceptive power of the apostate. God did not ordain that sin should exist, but He foresaw its existence, and made provision to meet the terrible emergency. So great was His love for the world, that He covenanted to give His only-begotten Son, ‘that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’” *The Desire of Ages*, 22.

God’s plan is perfectly expressed in the beloved scripture, “For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son

“
*The exercise of force is
contrary to the principles
of God’s government; He
desires only the service of
love; and love cannot be
commanded.*”

that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

John 3:16, 17.

So it was always in God’s mind that His creation—man—would be with Him. He created him in His own image, after His own likeness (Genesis 1:26, 27). He intended that man should

always be perfect, but if man made another choice,

God had made a way so that he could be restored again to the perfect relationship that he held in the beginning with the Father. This is the plan of redemption. This is God’s choice. God reconciling, saving the world unto Himself.

“The plan of redemption contemplates *our complete recovery* from the power of Satan. Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin. He came to destroy the works of the devil, and He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, to keep him from sinning.” *The Desire of Ages*, 311

“In the beginning God created man in His own likeness. He endowed him with noble qualities. His mind was well balanced, and all the powers of his being were harmonious. But the Fall and its effects have perverted these gifts. Sin has marred and well-nigh obliterated the image of God in man. It was to restore this that the plan of salvation was devised, and a life of probation was granted to man. To bring him back to the perfection in which he was first created is the great object of life—the object

that underlies every other. . . .” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 595.

It is God’s only purpose in this world to see that each and every man, woman, and child who will choose to be saved is saved. But while God is seeking man’s good, Satan is seeking his ruin. (See *Education*, 23.) Simply put, Satan wants you dead. He does not want you to choose to be in a relationship with God. He seeks only to destroy (John 10:10). He seeks to devour (1 Peter 5:8). He is a murderer (John 8:44).

God is seeking to save and Satan seeks to destroy. What is the result? War! Not the type of war fought with tanks, planes, guns, drones, bombs, and ships, but a war nonetheless, a great controversy for souls: yours and mine.

“The very first effort of Satan to overthrow God’s law—undertaken among the sinless inhabitants of heaven—seemed for a time to be crowned with success. A vast number of the angels were seduced; but Satan’s apparent triumph resulted in defeat and loss, separation from God, and banishment from heaven.

“When the conflict was renewed upon the earth, Satan again won a seeming advantage. By transgression, man became his captive, and man’s kingdom also was betrayed into the hands of the archrebel. Now the way seemed open for Satan to establish an independent kingdom, and to defy the authority of God and His Son. But the plan of salvation made it possible for man again to be brought into harmony with God, and to render obedience to His law, and for both man and the earth to be finally redeemed from the power of the wicked one.” *Ibid.*, 331

Salvation is a free gift, created and administered by God, freely given to all who would accept it and apply it to their lives. As with any gift, it serves no purpose if it is not accepted or if it is accepted, but not opened. The following allegory may provide a good example to more clearly explain this point:

A young man is preparing to go off to college for the first time. With not-so-great subtlety, he suggests to his parents how much easier taking notes in class would be



No temptation or trial is permitted to come to him which he is unable to resist.

if he had a laptop. The big day comes and they load all of the young man's things into the car and drive him to college. They spend the morning moving him into his dorm room and exploring the campus, but the time comes for the parents to head home. During their goodbyes, the father tells his son that they left on his desk a gift that they hope he will find useful for his studies. When the young man returns to his room, he sees the gift, wrapped in pretty paper and a bow, but he doesn't open it, moving it instead to a shelf in the bookcase and goes on.

A couple months later during a conversation with his parents, the young man is bemoaning how difficult classes are, especially since he has to take notes by hand. The father brings up the gift (which was the requested laptop) since the son had never mentioned it. The young man admits that he found the gift, but he had never opened it. It was still on the bookcase shelf. How much easier his early college experience would have been had he opened the gift and used it.

And so it is with the plan of redemption. Unless we accept the gift and allow it to have a transforming effect in our lives, it is of no more value than the laptop on a shelf in a bookcase still wrapped in pretty paper and a pretty bow.

"Every soul has a heaven to win, and a hell to shun. ... All the help Christ received, every man may receive in the great trial. The cross stands as a pledge that not one need be lost, that abundant help is provided for every soul. We can conquer the satanic agencies, or we can join ourselves with the powers that seek to counterwork the work of God in our world." *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 96

[Emphasis supplied.] [LM](#)

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Betake Thyself to Pray

When bitter winds of trouble blow,
And thou art tossing to and fro,
When waves are rolling mountain high,
And clouds obscure the steadfast sky,
Fear not, my soul, thy Lord is there;
Betake thyself, my soul, to prayer.
When in the dull routine of life
Thou yearnest half for pain and strife,
So weary of the commonplace,
Of days that wear the selfsame face,
Think softly, soul, thy Lord is there,
And then betake thyself to prayer.
When brims thy cup with sparkling joy,
When happy tasks the hours employ,
When men with praise and sweet acclaim
Upon the highways speak thy name,
Then, soul, I bid thee have a care,
Seek oft thy Lord in fervent prayer.
If standing where two pathways meet,
Each beckoning thy pilgrim feet,
Thou art in doubt which road to take,
Look up, and say, "For Thy dear sake—
O Master! Show Thy footprints fair—
I'd follow Thee." Christ answers prayers.
The tempter oft, with wily toil,
Seeks thee, my soul, as precious spoil;
His weapons never lose their edge,
But thou art heaven's peculiar pledge.
Though Satan rage, thy Lord is there—
Dear soul, betake thyself to prayer.

Margaret E. Sangster

Taken from *The Review and Herald*, February 6, 1900

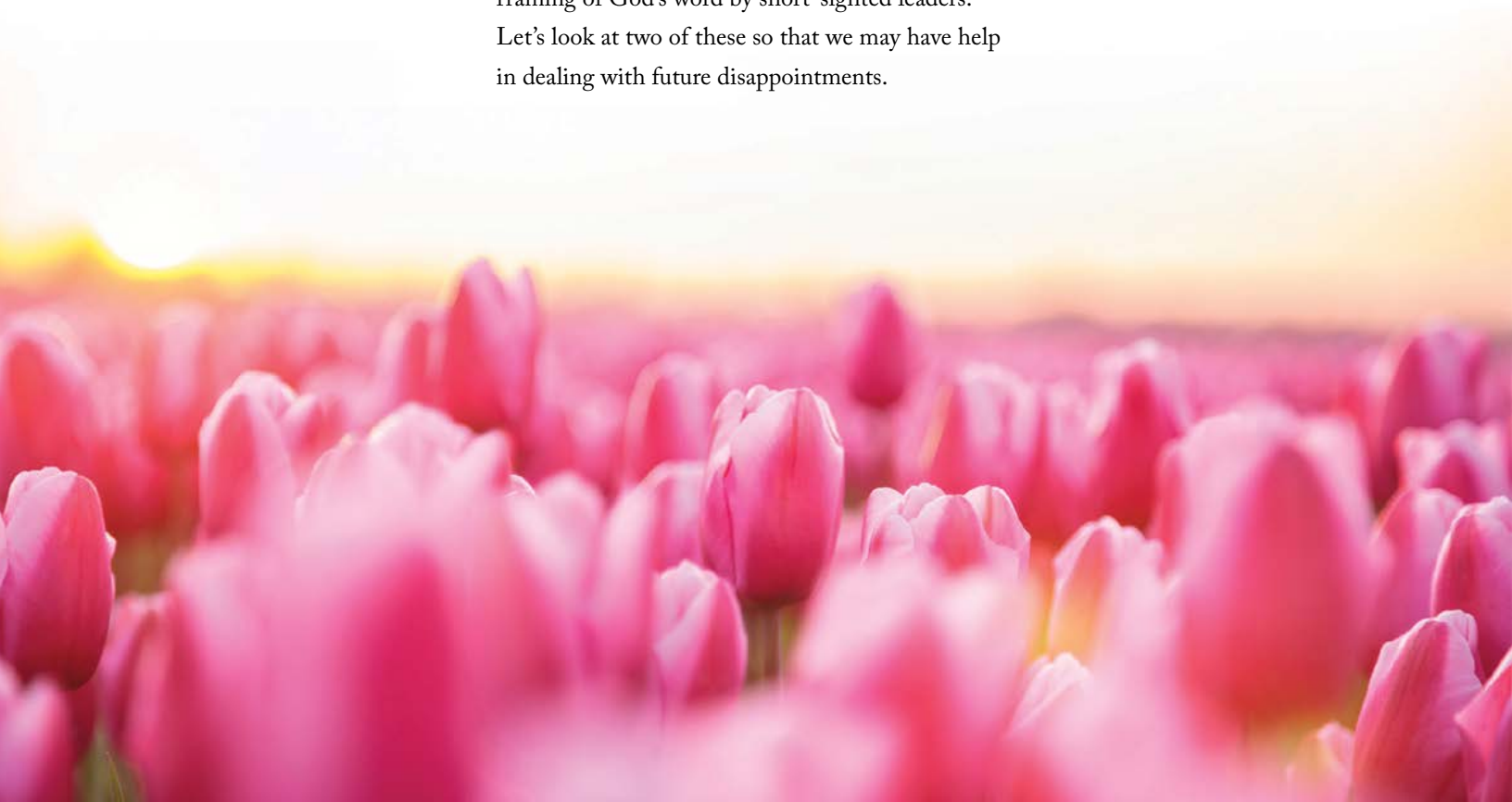


The Two Great Disappointments

Will There be a Third?

By Michael C. Wells

Twice in the experiences of God's people, great disappointment struck. The reason? The study of the Scriptures was not foremost in their experience. They chose instead to rely on the framing of God's word by short-sighted leaders. Let's look at two of these so that we may have help in dealing with future disappointments.



The disciples of Christ were brought up and indoctrinated with a certain view of the Messiah and His mission. For several generations, God's people were taught to expect a conquering deliverer. The Christ they envisioned would wrestle the reins of power from their conquerors and restore the majesty and supremacy of the Jewish nation. So much was this the case, that the disciples of Jesus believed, even after nearly three years with the Master, that He would one day set Himself up as king of Israel.

At the first meeting with Jesus, Nathanael said to Jesus, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" John 1:49. Although this was factual in the larger sense, it shows a pattern of thought from the very beginning of their walk with Jesus. Later, pride and arrogance took root in their hearts as they argued among themselves who should be greatest. "Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest." Luke 22:24. "At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?'" Matthew 18:1

Even John, the "disciple who loved Jesus," and his brother vied for supremacy over their brethren. "Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, 'Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.' And He said to them, 'What do you want Me to do for you?' They said to Him, 'Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.'" Mark 10:35-37. These unconverted men still had to learn that love for God means *total* submission to His will. As you can imagine, all of this did not set well with the rest of the disciples. Satan uses our basest emotions and desires to lead us away from God into his realm of supremacy. Contention and adversity are his tools. He successfully used them in the day of Jesus, and he employs them even more successfully today.

This mindset concerning superiority helped set the scene for the disappointment that the disciples would feel when



Jesus was crucified. Their eyes were fixed on the greatness of Israel as the ears failed to listen to the reproofs of Jesus and the clear instruction that He must lay down His life for mankind's salvation. They loved Jesus so much that their minds could not bear the thought of His death. However, if they had listened closely to the Master, they would have heard the words, "They will scourge Him and kill Him. *And the third day He will rise again.*" Luke 18:33

Many times, we bring trouble on ourselves because of preconceived ideas or because of a heart that is not fully bent to the will of God. God allows us to be disappointed and He chastises those He loves to bring them into conformity with His will. We let outside events affect the way we think or react instead of realizing that these are all distractions brought on by Satan to divert our attention from what is truly important. For the disciples, it took the death of their Master and His resurrection to bring into focus what the teachings of Jesus were all about. These men finally were subdued under the power of the Holy Spirit and their hearts were converted.

Over 1800 years later, God's people were again brought under trial. They had again been indoctrinated with the

false doctrine of Satan and their minds were dulled by conformity to the world. False teachings that the earth was the sanctuary of God blinded their eyes from seeing what was clearly written in Hebrews. "Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man." Hebrews 8:1-2

The Sabbath had been lost sight of under the influence of the churches of the world. Clear scripture was overlooked as if God did not really mean what He said when He proclaimed His law. In remembering the law of man, they forgot to remember the law of God. Again, clearly written in His holy law was "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

Continued on page 34

2 Timothy

Clues – KJV

Across:

- B7 We would never be _____ of our Christian experience 1:8
B15 Teachers of false doctrines can overthrow _____ of some people 2:17, 18
D1 As we near the end of time, evil people will become worse and _____ 3:13
D7 In the last days, many people will be _____ 3:1, 2
E17 We should, like Paul, have _____ night and day (singular) 1:3
F4 All _____ is inspired by God 3:16
G13 In the last days, many people will not have _____ affection? 3:1-3
I1 The plan for the salvation of mankind was made before the world _____ 1:9
I11 In the last days, many people will prefer fables over _____ 4:4
J8 In the last days, many people will be _____ accusers 3:1-3
J16 Studying the scriptures will make us _____ 3:15
K2 Paul was confident that he and many others would receive a _____ in heaven 4:8
L6 In the last days, many people will be _____ 3:1-4
L15 Timothy's mother 1:5
N5 As a soldier for Jesus Christ, what must we endure sometimes? 2:3
N14 As Christians we have the _____ of eternal life 1:1
P1 Paul was confident that he had _____ the faith through to the end of his life 4:7
P11 An acceptable use of the Scriptures is for _____ 3:16
P19 We, like Paul, can have confidence that God will deliver us from these works 4:18
Q4 We should, like Timothy, have this kind of faith 1:5
R15 Paul knew that Jesus was _____ to keep that which he had committed to Him 1:12
S1 If we deny Christ, He will also _____ us 2:12
S11 We must meekly instruct those who have been ensnared by the _____ 2:25, 26

Down:

- A7 We must avoid profane or vain _____ 2:16
A21 As a mature Christian, we will know in whom we have _____ 1:12
B2 In the last days, many people will be _____ 3:1, 2
B4 We must be aware that some with corrupt minds will _____ the truth 3:8
B9 Our relationship with God and others must be motivated by a pure _____ 2:22
B13 Although Paul preached only the truth, he suffered as if he were a _____ of evil 2:9
B17 All Scripture is given to us from God by _____ 3:16
D11 In the last days, many people will be disobedient to their _____ 3:1, 2
G14 As servants of Christ, we must be _____ to teach others the truth 2:24
G19 When our trust is in God, we will have this spirit 1:7
H2 Paul desired _____ for Onesiphorus because he had ministered unto him 1:18
I4 What we must do with foolish and unlearned questions 2:23
I9 As servants of Christ, we must be _____ towards all others 2:24
I12 Onesiphorus had often _____ Paul when he was imprisoned and in chains 1:16
J6 In the last days, many people will be _____ 3:1, 2
K15 When we trust in God, we will not have this spirit 1:7
K20 In the last days, more and more people will be _____ 3:13

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Answer Key:

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- N14 We should, like Paul, serve God with a _____ conscienceI:3
O2 We should seek for _____ with our fellow believers2:22
O4 We must rightly divide the Scriptures as we _____ them2:15
P8 If a Christian dies for Christ's sake, he knows he will also _____ with Him2:11
P11 As a prisoner in Rome, Paul was willing and _____ to die for Christ4:6
P17 When some resist the truth, their _____ will eventually be exposed3:8, 9
R15 How many that live Godly shall suffer persecution?3:12

Living in a Lighthouse

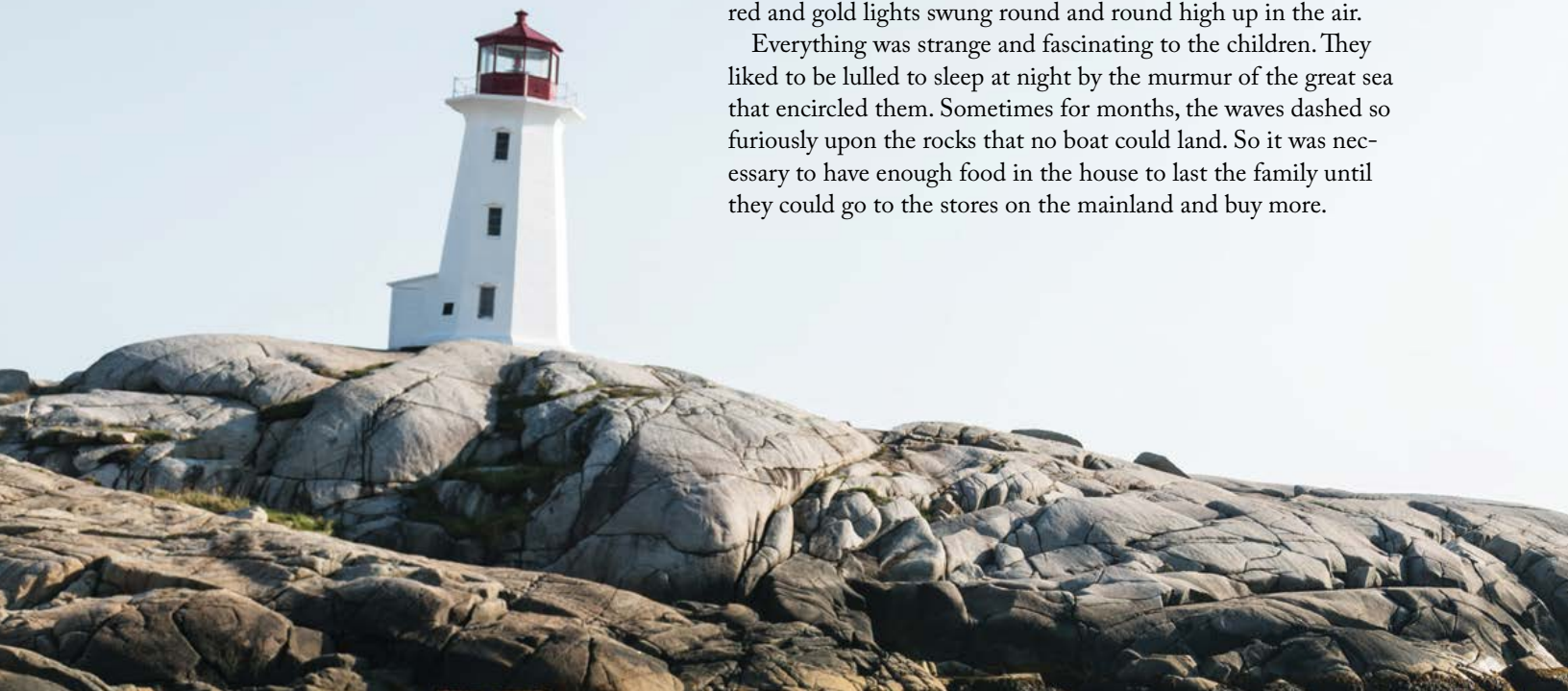
How would you like to live in a lighthouse on a rocky island several miles out in the ocean? The island is so rocky, and the wind sweeps over it so fiercely, that not even a tree can find a place to grow. Wild storms dash the waves up on the rocks until they have worn great chasms in the cliffs.

No one lives on the island except the one family who keeps the lighthouse. You would have no children to play with except your own brothers and sisters. There is no schoolhouse, no store, no church—not another house but the one in which you live with your father and mother. Would it be a lonely place?

Yet, when Celia Thaxter was a little girl, she lived in just such a place as this. Her home was on one of the Isles of Shoals, a few miles off the coast of New Hampshire, one of the New England states. The lighthouse towered ninety feet above the waterline. Celia with her two younger brothers came to live here when she was five years old, and this was her home until she grew to womanhood.

But these children were not unhappy. To them the lighthouse seemed like some tall black-capped giant. They were filled with wonder when the lamps in the great tower were lighted and the red and gold lights swung round and round high up in the air.

Everything was strange and fascinating to the children. They liked to be lulled to sleep at night by the murmur of the great sea that encircled them. Sometimes for months, the waves dashed so furiously upon the rocks that no boat could land. So it was necessary to have enough food in the house to last the family until they could go to the stores on the mainland and buy more.



As there was no school on the island, Celia and her little brothers were taught by their father, who was a fine scholar. Often in the long winter evenings, he read to them from the best literature, and in this way Celia learned to love good poetry.

On warm spring days, the children played on the beach and gathered shells and wildflowers. Celia soon learned to know the name of every flower that bloomed on the island. They were her dearest friends. There was just one fern on the island, and this she tended with loving care.

Not many birds built their nests on the island, because there were no trees. But the little sandpipers built their nests on the ground. They were Celia's playmates. They looked upon her as a friend. In one of her poems she tells about one of these birds that ran back and forth on the beach with her as she gathered driftwood for a fire (see on this page).

Celia spent many happy hours in watching the sailing vessels. The fascination of their wondrous grace and their mystery never lost its thrill for her. She seemed to absorb the beauty of her surroundings—the ever-changing colors of the sea; the soft skies overhead; the pools that were like bits of fallen rainbow; the wealth of the sea; filled with wonderful treasures—starfish, sea anemones, fairy shells, and all the interesting sea life.

Once after a storm the sun suddenly broke forth, and a rainbow seemed to stretch right out of heaven into the sea. Celia's heart swelled almost to bursting with the glory of it, and she hid her face from the wonder. It was more than she could bear. She longed to speak the things which made life so sweet—to speak of the wind, the clouds, the birds' flight, the sea's murmur. The wish grew, and so it was that she became a poet, expressing all these things in word pictures so beautiful that they are like the work of an artist's brush.

The Sandpiper

Across the lonely beach we flit,
One little sandpiper and I;
And fast I gather, bit by bit,
The scattered driftwood, bleached and dry.
The wild waves reach their hands for it;
The wild wind raves, the tide runs high,
And up and down the beach we flit—
One little sandpiper and I.

I watch him as he skims along
Uttering his sweet and mournful cry;
He starts not at my fitful song
Nor flash of fluttering drapery.
He has no thought of any wrong;
He scans me with a fearless eye;
Stanch friends are we, well tried and strong.
The little sandpiper and I.


Comrade, where wilt thou be tonight
When the loosed storm breaks furiously?
My driftwood fire will burn so bright!
To what warm shelter canst thou fly?
I do not fear for thee, though wroth
The tempest rushes through the sky;
For are we not God's children both,
Thou, little sandpiper, and I.

Celia Thaxter

Celia married a man who was a missionary to the fishermen. Then, after a wonderful year of travel in Europe, she went to live on Appledore, another of the Shoal Islands. Here she had the most wonderful garden. Artists came to paint it, and she wrote a book about it called "My Island Garden." Once, a great army of bugs and slugs descended upon her garden and began to eat it up. She wrote to some children who were her friends, to catch some toads for her. One day, a big box arrived, and when she opened it, there sat one toad in a box of dirt! She thought there must be a scarcity of toads on the mainland, or

else it was a joke. But she carried the box out to her garden and put it down. In a few minutes little bright eyes began to poke up out of the dirt. There were ninety toads in the box! And they ate up all the bugs.

Celia Thaxter sleeps now on lonely Appledore, with the music of the waves always sounding over her grave. But the music of her poems about the sandpipers and the sea still lives to charm us with their beauty. As we read them, let us think of the little girl who lived in the lighthouse long ago.

Goals, True Education Series, Book 5,
©1933, 34–37 





A Time of Trial Before Us

A season of great trial is before us. It becomes us now to use all our capabilities and gifts in advancing the work of God. The powers the Lord has given us are to be used to build up, not to tear down. Those who are ignorantly deceived are not to remain in this condition. The Lord says to His messengers: Go to them and declare unto them what I have said, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear.

The time is right upon us when persecution will come to those who proclaim the truth. The outlook is not flattering; but, notwithstanding this, let us not give up our efforts to save those ready to perish, for whose ransom the Prince of heaven offered up His precious life. When one means fails, try another. Our efforts must not be dead and lifeless. As long as life is spared, let us work for God. In all ages of the church God's appointed messengers have exposed themselves to reproach and persecution for the truth's sake. But wherever God's people may be forced to go, even though, like the beloved disciple, they are banished to desert islands, Christ will know where they are and will strengthen and bless them, filling them with peace and joy.

Soon there is to be trouble all over the world. It becomes everyone to seek to know God. We have no time to delay.

With earnestness and fervor the message must be given: "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." Isaiah 55:1. "Thus saith the Lord, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for My salvation is near to come, and My righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil." Isaiah 56:1, 2

God's love for His church is infinite. His care over His heritage is unceasing. He suffers no affliction to come upon the church but such as is essential for her purification, her present and eternal good. He will purify His church even as He purified the temple at the beginning and close of His ministry on earth. All that He brings upon the church in test and trial comes that His people may gain deeper piety and more strength to carry the triumphs of the cross to all parts of the world. He has a work for all to do. There must be constant enlargement and progress. The work must extend from city to city, from country to country, and from nation to nation, moving continually onward and upward, established, strengthened, and settled.

Testimonies, Vol. 9, 227, 228 **LM**



God So Loved the World

John 3:16 is a scripture known throughout the Christian world and likely well beyond it.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Whoever believes in Jesus does not have to die, because He sacrificed Himself so that all who could accept the gift of everlasting life might have it.

It is also true that Jesus accepts us as we are, with no expectation, but the idea that “as we are” stops there is not supported by Scripture.

I’m often frustrated by the fact that we pay so little attention to verse 17, particularly given the amount of conversation regarding acceptance and tolerance in terms of how the world uses “what would Jesus do” as a defense to continue living in sin.

“God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

Jesus accepts us, but He doesn’t leave us the way He found us. He doesn’t save the world *in* its sin; He would save every human being out of the world *from* their sins. This is accomplished once a person realizes that he or she is a sinner in need of a Saviour. They repent from their sins and accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Forgiveness is given

and the life is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit enabling them, moment by moment, to choose not to sin anymore. (See Acts 3:19; 2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 9:13; Ezekiel 18:32.)

Jesus accepted sinners, but He never tolerated sin. Example after example is given in the Bible of this principle. The Samaritan woman. Mary Magdalene. David. Peter. Saul who became Paul. Judas.

“... Looking upon men in their suffering and degradation, Christ perceived ground for hope where appeared only despair and ruin. Wherever there existed a sense of need, there He saw opportunity for uplifting. Souls tempted, defeated, feeling themselves lost, ready to perish, He met, not with denunciation, but with blessing.

“... He declared that those were blessed who, however great their need, would receive His light and love. To the poor in spirit, the sorrowing, the persecuted, He stretched out His arms, saying, ‘Come unto Me, ... and I will give you rest.’ Matthew 11:28.

“In every human being He discerned infinite possibilities. He saw men as they might be, transfigured by His grace Looking upon them with hope, He inspired hope. Meeting them with confidence, He inspired trust. Revealing in Himself man’s true ideal, He awak-

ened, for its attainment, both desire and faith. In His presence souls despised and fallen realized that they still were men, and they longed to prove themselves worthy of His regard. In many a heart that seemed dead to all things holy, were awakened new impulses. To many a despairing one there opened the possibility of a new life.” *Education*, 79, 80

This is how Jesus saves. No one will be able to retain their sinfulness and then somehow miraculously be changed at the last moment to make them worthy of heaven.

Our dear Saviour, help us to believe that You do accept us as we are, but that You will raise us out of our despair and ruin, and that through Your grace You will give us a new life, free from sin, changed into Your likeness. L&M



Your Letters

"Our prayers are for your health and wisdom as you send out *LandMarks* to encourage many that like to read God's messages written simply."

—GR, Saskatchewan, Canada

"I love the *LandMarks* magazine. I can't do without it."

—JN, Tennessee

"I copy the Bible puzzle each month and complete it on the copy so that when I pass the magazine on to someone else, they get a clean copy. I want to continue my subscription to this wonderful magazine until the Lord comes!"

—MB, Georgia

"I just want to thank you for the *LandMarks* magazine. I really like the Bible Study Guides on the book of Revelation."

—LK, Tennessee

April Sermon of the Month

The Church that has Everything but Jesus

By John J. Grosboll

The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed and disregarded.

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

April 2022

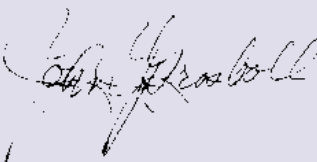
Dear Friend,

You and I are not here to please ourselves—we have a divinely-appointed mission to accomplish and if we do not accomplish it there will be an eternal loss. The following paragraphs are a vivid reminder to me of this mission and the wonderful future that is in store for us if we succeed.

"The Lord invites His people to become workers together with Him in rebuilding and reshaping character according to the true standard of moral rectitude. Through faith in Christ we are to be recreated in His image. Jesus says, Behold, I create a new thing in the earth. Apostate man is to be recovered; fallen humanity is to be elevated; sin is to be pardoned; and sinners are to be saved, that God may be eternally glorified. The treasures of wisdom which have been hidden for ages are to be brought forth for the enriching of the lost. ... Every divine resource is placed at the disposal of man, in order that he may become a colaborer with God. Nothing has been withheld. When God gave His only begotten Son to our world, He gave all the treasures of heaven. ... With this power at our command, I would ask in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth why it is that God's people do not awake to their duty? Why is it that every individual does not become an example in doing the work that the time demands?" *The Review and Herald*, December 3, 1895

"That precious city you may gain; but not one of you will go there loaded down with self and the guilt of the transgression of God's law. You cannot take with you into the city of God the pleasures of this life, neither the riches of the world. All who enter that city will enter it as conquerors. If you will sing the song of triumph and victory as overcomers, you must first learn here the art of conquering self and sin. ... You should keep heaven before your eyes, and not allow the glitter and tinsel of this earth to eclipse its glory. The most beautiful places upon earth will soon be shaken down, the richest houses will fall, the gold and silver be cast to the moles and to the bats, but heavenly things will endure forever." *The Signs of the Times*, September 15, 1887

Your brother praying for finished work,



Pastor John J. Grosboll



Let's Hunt for Books, Not Eggs



This month is when most of the world celebrates Easter and many church denominations associate the holiday with the resurrection of Christ. However, Easter comes from a pagan festival celebrating—depending on where in the world you were—Eostre, Astarte, Ashtoreth, Ishtar and others, all pagan goddesses of spring and fertility. The world celebrates Easter with bunnies, eggs and candy, but what do they have to do with the resurrection of Jesus? In pagan mythology, rabbits and eggs have been symbols of abundance, new life, or fertility for millennia. But Jesus was not reborn after His crucifixion, He was resurrected. The two cannot be celebrated together. (Taken from *Easter is Not Christian*, The True World Mission Society Church of God, March 26, 2016.)

As Seventh-day Adventists, we should praise God for the sacrifice of His Son and that His resurrection gives us the hope of our own resurrection, should we die in this life, at His second coming, but we should not celebrate Easter. So instead of searching for Easter eggs, let's search for some books of the Bible in the paragraph on the right. Good hunting!

There are 28 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fundraising event, which featured this puzzle the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, *The Chronicle*, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 28 books of the bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God bless. [LM](#)



Medical Missionary Outreach in Nigeria

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters!

I am so excited to share with you the opportunity we had while conducting a free medical missionary outreach initiative at a UNHCR camp surrounded by the Cameroon Mountains for Cameroonian refugees in Ikyogen near the Cameroon border. All our Bible workers and medical missionary trainees came together each day in the market square where various health challenges were addressed, and health counsels and rational remedies were given to the more than 135 people who came. Final warning pamphlets in the local language were given to any person who received medical attention and those waiting in line were preached to by evangelist David and the team of medical missionary trainees as may be seen in the included photographs.

In the evening, we conducted a prophecy seminar using PowerPoint presentations regarding health and prophecy. A sizeable number of people attended these seminars, some from distant areas. But most importantly, the lessons presented inspired more response as attendees asked questions after the presentations.

The climax of the Sabbath worship came from the testimony of two women who told of healing mercies for their children and themselves. The people were filled with gratitude and many brought food items to us in appreciation, while others made inquiries about the church. Many of the people who attended on Sabbath were worshipping on Sabbath for the very first time. The number attending this outreach was so overwhelming that we ran out of materials. Praise God!

We want to build on the effort started in Ikyogen and expand it to the Mbaper refugee settlement. It was our plan to do so at a later meeting, but the lack of funds prohibited us from doing so at that time. It is our prayer that we will be able to do so during a future camp meeting in our ministry and health building.

Please continue to uplift us in your prayers. Your donations are greatly appreciated and will make it possible for us to continue our outreach work in these areas. Please mark the donation as *Missions-Central Nigeria*.

Your brother in Christ,

Daniel Teryila



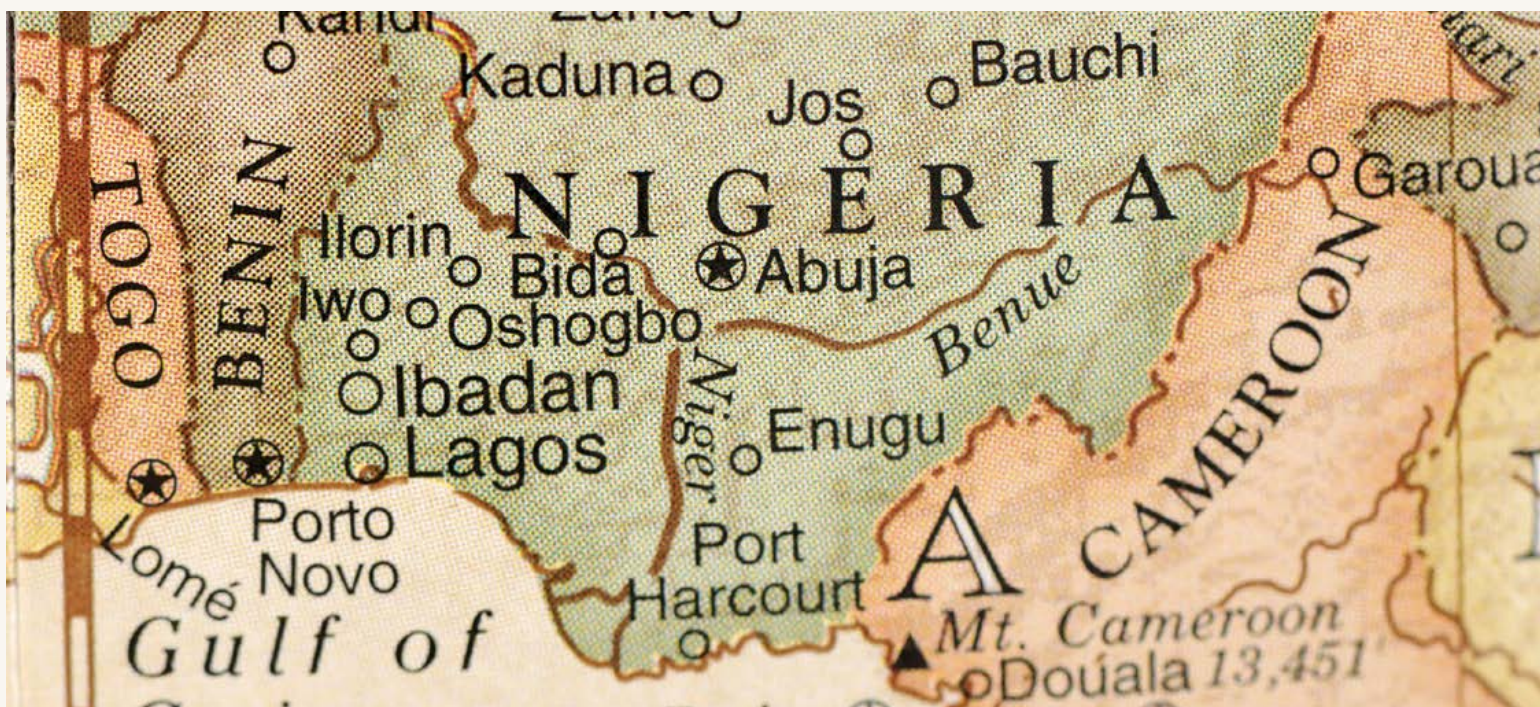
Opposite page: UNHCR camp for Cameroonian refugees in Ikyogen.

Top left: Bible workers and medical missionary trainees in the market square.

Top right: Attendees at the nightly presentations.

Bottom left: Bible workers and medical missionary trainees in the market square.

Bottom right: Attendees at the nightly presentations.





The Donkey

The donkey is a member of the horse family, although they are often stockier, stronger, and have much different personalities. Their surefootedness and strength make them the ideal beast of burden. They can carry up to twice their own body weight and are still used for transporting goods and as a mode of transportation all around the world. Evidence that these hard workers have been hauling goods can be found as far back as the fourth millennium BC in Egypt.

They are not as easily startled as horses, but when they are, they tend to take a moment to assess the situation, the result of a much stronger sense of self-preservation than horses. This is why they are often considered to be stubborn, refusing to do something they consider to be dangerous. Studies of their behavior are limited, but donkeys appear to be quite intelligent, cautious, friendly, playful, and eager to learn.

Working donkeys can live 12–15 years in poorer countries, but in more prosperous countries their lifespan can be 30–50 years.

Donkeys have a very loud voice. Their bray lasts for several seconds and can be

heard a very long way away. They also have large ears. Donkeys can be as tall as 63 inches at the withers (shoulder) and can weigh over 1,000 pounds. They have a line of darker hair that starts at the top of the head and runs to the end of the tail. This is then crossed at the withers with another darker line of hair, forming a cross.

Donkeys are called by different names including burro and ass. Burro is a Spanish term for the common working donkey in Spain and Mexico. The word entered the English language when Spaniards brought them to America in the 1500s. Ass comes from the Latin phrase *asinus* and is found most often in some versions of the Bible, in particular the King James Version (KJV). For example, “If thou meet thine enemy’s ox or his ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again.” Exodus 23:4


One of the most well-known events in the Bible involved a donkey—Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. This event can be found in all four gospels (Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19 and John 12).

“Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the

Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, ‘Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, “The Lord hath need of them,” and immediately he will send them.’

“All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying ‘Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, ...’ So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them.

“Then the multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying, ‘Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!’” Matthew 21:1–9

Sources: Wikipedia, howstuffworks.com and readamyelizabeth.com 

Q:

*How do
you set your
affections on
heaven?*

A:

Put yourself under discipline to Christ. Be led by His word. Heed His instruction, “Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls’ (Matthew 11:29).” *This Day With God*, 290

“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 ... 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

“There is within the worldly man a craving for something that he does not have. He has, from force of habit, bent every thought, every purpose, in the direction of making provision for the future, and as he grows older, he becomes more eager than ever to acquire all that it is possible to gain. ...

“All this energy, this perseverance, this determination, this industry after earthly power, is the result of the perversion of his [man’s] powers to a wrong object. ... Their object is for earthly gain, and to this end they direct all their energies. O that this zeal would characterize the toiler for heavenly riches!” *The Faith I Live By*, 170

“When temporal matters absorb the mind and engage the attention, the whole strength of the being is engaged in the service of man, and men look upon the worship due to God as a trifling matter. Religious interests are made subservient to the world. But Jesus ... requires that men shall subordinate temporal interests to the heavenly interests. He would have them cease to indulge in hoarding up earthly treasures, in spending money upon luxuries, and in surrounding themselves with all those things which they do not need. He would not have them destroy spiritual power, but directs their attention to heavenly things. ...” *Lift Him Up*, 128 **LM**



*Be
led by
His word.*



The Necessity of Health Reform

All who are expectantly watching and waiting for the final events that will soon transpire on this earth have need of a great work to fit them for the coming of the Lord. In *Maranatha*, 119, Sister White says, “God’s elect must stand untainted amid the corruptions teeming around them in these last days. Their bodies must be made holy, their spirits pure. If this work is to be accomplished, it must be undertaken at once, earnestly and understandingly. The Spirit of God should have perfect control, influencing every action.

“The health reform is one branch of the great work which is to fit a people for the coming of the Lord.”

How, then, are the bodies of God’s elect to be made holy, their spirits pure? “In the words of the apostle Paul there is a depth of meaning: ‘I beseech ye therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reason-

able service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God' (Romans 12:1, 2). No one

can bring honor to God if he pursues a course of action that will bring blemish upon the body or the soul. Our sacrifice is to be holy and without blame. This is the reasonable service of everyone." *In Heavenly Places*, 192

Solomon speaks about the renewed heart in Proverbs 4:23, "Keep your heart [mind] with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."

"Diligent heart-keeping is essential to a healthy growth in grace. The heart in its natural state is a habitation of unholy thoughts and sinful passions. When brought into subjection to Christ, it must be cleansed by the Spirit from all defilement. This cannot be done without the consent of the individual." *The Youth's Instructor*, March 5, 1903

The ultimate blessing of diligent heart-keeping is explained in *The Desire of Ages*, 181: "We can receive of heaven's light only as we are willing to be emptied of self. We cannot discern the character of God, or accept Christ by faith, unless we consent to the bringing into captivity of every thought to the obedience of Christ. To all who do this, the Holy Spirit is given without measure."

Health Reform and the Third Angel's Message

"The health reform is closely connected with the work of the third message, yet it is not the message. ... Its

place is among those subjects which set forth the preparatory work to meet the events brought to view by the message; among these it is prominent." *Testimonies*, Vol. 1, 559

"Again and again I have been instructed that the medical missionary work is to bear the same relation to the work of the third angel's message that the arm and hand bear to the body. Under the direction of the divine Head they are to work unitedly in preparing the way for the coming of Christ." *Ibid.*,

Vol. 6, 288

God's Purpose for the Health Reform

"The work of health reform is the Lord's means for lessening suffering in our world and for purifying His church. Teach the people that they can act as God's helping hand by cooperating with the Master Worker in restoring physical and spiritual health. This work bears the signature of heaven, and will open doors for the entrance of other precious truths. There is room for all to labor who will take hold of this work intelligently." *Testimonies*, Vol. 9, 112, 113

"He who cherishes the light which God has given him upon health reform, has an important aid in the work of becoming sanctified through the truth, and fitted for immortality." *Maranatha*, 119

Dear friend, may God richly bless us as we live out the principles of health reform, and help others to understand the importance of them, as we prepare for the final events of this world and the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



O for a heart to praise my God,
A heart from sin set free,
A heart that always feels Thy blood
So freely shed for me.

A heart resigned, submissive, meek,
My dear Redeemer's throne,
Where only Christ is heard to speak,
Where Jesus reigns alone.

A humble, lowly, contrite, heart,
Believing, true and clean,
Which neither life nor death can part
From Christ who dwells within.

A heart in every thought renewed,
And full of love divine;
Perfect and right and pure and good,
A copy, Lord, of Thine.

Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart,
Come quickly from above;
Write Thy new name upon my heart,
Thy new best name of Love.

A hymn by Charles Wesley **LM**



What Can We Depend On?

By John J. Grosboll

Is there a dependable way to tell the difference between truth and falsehood? You certainly cannot trust what people say or what they profess to be. What is the one thing, the only thing that you can depend on more than your senses?

Today there is a belief that everyone in the world eventually will be saved, but nowhere do we find such an assurance in the Bible. In fact, Jesus Christ Himself taught just the opposite. In the Sermon on the Mount, He said, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many that go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” Matthew 7:13, 14. Jesus said that the way that leads to eternal life is narrow and few will go that way, but He is also saying that the majority of people in the world will go down the broad road, which leads to destruction.

Luke 13:24 says, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.” The reason is because they cannot take their sinful desires, pleasures, and ambitions with them.



People are in danger of being deceived by teachers of falsehood who are telling them that they don't need to take such a narrow road, that the broad way will still end up all right. Jesus knew that these deceivers would rise up and seek to draw people away from the narrow path, telling them that they could take the broad road and still have eternal life, so He immediately gave the warning that there are people in this world who intend to deceive: "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them." Matthew 7:15–20

Notice how we can tell the difference between truth and error: "We are not bidden to prove them [false teachers] by their fair speeches or their exalted professions. They are to be judged by the word of God." *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings*, 145. When we read the context of this verse, we find that it is a strict warning against listening to spiritualist manifestations or supernatural apparitions, or people claiming to speak for the dead or being spirits of the dead. But look what Isaiah 8:20 says, "To the law and to the testimony! *If they do not speak according to this word*, it is because there is no light in them."

So what is the one and only thing we can depend on more than our senses? It is the word of God.

The wise man Solomon said in Proverbs 19:27, "Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge." What message are we listening to? Is it a message that leads us to fear and reverence God, to love Him, and obey His commandments? If we do not feel the weight of



*Not
all who
call themselves
Christians are
actually Christ's
people.*

the moral law, if we make light of any of God's precepts, if we break one of the least of His commandments, we will have no place in heaven, and our claims to be religious teachers will be without foundation, because the teachings that encourage disregard and disobedience of God's law originate with the prince of darkness, the enemy of God.

So, not all who call themselves Christians are actually Christ's people. "[S]uch are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works." 2 Corinthians 11:13–15. Paul is saying here that there are false apostles who pretend to be teachers of righteousness and apostles of Christ, but they actually are serving another master. Jesus says the same thing in Matthew 7:21–23. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done

many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

Note, these people call Jesus, "Lord" and themselves His children. These are not people who just come and sit in the pew at church; they are Christian workers. They have "prophesied" in His name and believe they have the Holy Spirit and the gift of prophecy. They have "cast out demons" and worked many miracles in Jesus' name, and yet He says, "I never knew you." How can that be?

God's word, the Bible, tells us that there is a great spiritual battle going on in this world between two supernatural forces. Christ is one of these supernatural forces, but there is another. This force is Satan, and while his methods sadly have met with much success over the millennia, he still has lost battle after battle in this spiritual warfare. Now he has decided to join the winning side and present himself as Christ.

The Biblical word *antichrist* simply means *someone that stands in the place of Christ*. Satan is coming to stand in the place of Christ, and anyone serving the antichrist will believe that they are serving Christ. The apostle Paul is very clear on this point, "I fear, lest somehow, as the

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As we build on God's word, our characters will be made after the similitude of the character of Christ.

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!” 2 Corinthians 11:3, 4

Paul fears that teachers will come teaching a different Jesus than he and others have taught, and as a result, the people would receive a different spirit, all the while believing they were receiving the Holy Spirit. Paul says they will preach a different gospel and they will bring to you a spirit that we did not bring to them. So what is this different gospel?

The gospel as taught by Jesus will set a person free from the power of sin in their life. He that “... commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not remain in the house forever, but the Son remains forever. If therefore the Son shall make you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:34–36, *literal translation*. The apostles preached this gospel.

We find that Paul preached this gospel in chapters 6 and 8 of Romans. John preached it in 1 John 2:3, 4: “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” John, considered so loveable and so soft-spoken, did not mince words when speaking to those who claim to be a Christian, but choose to live in violation of the law of God. James is just as clear, “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble [offend] in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ also said, ‘Do not murder.’ Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.” James 2:10–12

The people of God in the last days are those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus (Revelation

14:12), but friends, there are many who are in great danger today of thinking that they are Christians while living in sin, and we must be vigilant lest we become like them.

In this world, we are accustomed to doing things mostly right or just right enough to get by, but that is not God's way. Remember what we found in James 2? “Whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.” A person cannot be a New Testament Christian unless they follow Jesus all the way. Jesus says in Luke 14:33, “[W]hoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.” We cannot take any of the riches or material things of this world into the kingdom of heaven. Only one thing can be taken from this life to the next and that is our character. Everything else we possess here will be burned up. God will create a new world for His children to live in.

New Testament Christianity gives a person victory over their besetting sins and the power to live a new life. So, a person who claims to be a Christian, but is living a life of sin, is in reality a lawbreaker. These are the people who believe they are Christians and are following Jesus, and yet believe they can break God's law. They will expectantly come to Jesus believing that they are saved, waiting to hear the words “Well done,” but instead they will hear, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” Matthew 7:23, *last part*

They believe they are serving Christ and have the Holy Spirit, and that they are following the gospel, but imagine what a terrible shock it then will be to hear Jesus say He doesn't know them, because they have instead been serving another Jesus, following a different gospel, being led by some other spirit. There are many people today, as there were when Jesus first spoke these words, who want eternal life, but to them, the price seems too great. Obeying Jesus in everything will cause them to suffer some kind of a loss in this world. We find this described in the story of the rich, young ruler (Mark 10:17–22).

As Jesus closed the Sermon on the Mount, He gave a forceful illustration describing the future destiny of all. “Therefore whoever

hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." Matthew 7:24-27

Do you see the difference? Does your life conform to what Jesus has said or not? Seven hundred years before Jesus came to this world, Isaiah said "The word of our God shall stand forever." Isaiah 40:8. And many years after the Sermon on the Mount was preached, Peter quotes these words from Isaiah: "But the word of the Lord endures forever. This is the word which by the gospel was preached to you." 1 Peter 1:25

When you receive the gospel, you are building on the sure foundation that will last forever, the one and only thing you can depend on, the word of God. This is what the world needs. Whoever builds on it is building upon Christ, and in receiving His word, we receive Christ, the only steadfast and sure foundation. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." Matthew 24:35. The great principles of the law of God, the very nature of God Himself, are enshrouded in the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 3:11, "No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." And Peter said in Acts 4:12, "[T]here is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." This is the *only* foundation upon which we can securely build. Building on Christ is obeying His word. He says that if we obey Him, we will be like the man who built his house on the rock, and when the storm came the house did not fall. But if we hear what He says to



do, and do not obey, then we will be like the man who built his house on the sand and when the storm came, his house was utterly destroyed.

Holiness is the result of surrendering all to God and doing His will. Jesus places the salvation of man, not upon profession merely, but upon faith that is made manifest by works of righteousness. Doing, not merely saying, is required and expected of the followers of Christ. It is through action that character is built (James 1:22-25).

There are many people today who want to be followers of Jesus Christ, but they don't know how to start. They know very little about the Bible. There is darkness all around them, and they do not know how to find the light. No matter how little a person may understand about God's word, it is necessary only to ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance. We must choose to obey and follow Him. We must set our hearts to obey Jesus Christ and acknowledge Him as the Lord of our lives. The more we follow Him, even if we only know a little, the more light will come. As we build on God's word, our characters will be made after the similitude of the character of Christ. The path of the righteous, the path of the just, is like a shining light that shines more and more unto the perfect day.

Jesus is the living Stone, the sure Foundation. His life is imparted to all who build upon Him and do His words. Peter said, "[Y]ou also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house" 1 Peter 2:5. And Paul said, "[I]n whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord." Ephesians 2:21. The living stones become one with the Foundation because a common life dwells in all. That building cannot be overthrown. Every other building built on any other foundation will fall. If we build our characters on human ideas, opinions, forms, and ceremonies, then our building will be destroyed by the fierce tempests of temptation.

But right now, today, before the tempest comes that will end this world's history, the Lord says, "As I live, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn, from your evil ways! For why will you die?" Ezekiel 33:11.

Do you desire to be a follower of Jesus? The Lord wants to save us and He will save us if we are willing to turn to Him and follow Him with all our heart.

[Emphasis supplied.] **LM**

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and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”

Exodus 20:8–11

Diligent Bible study had not been performed by God’s professed people to know His truth and will. Again, they relied on their leaders to guide them and assumed that they would know better than anyone what the truth was. And why not? Were they not the ministers of God? Should they not have known the truth to present it correctly to the people? How deceived we allow ourselves to become by not being like the Bereans and search the Scriptures to see if these things were true (see Acts 17:10, 11).

When the prophecies of Daniel were explained in detail and God’s people saw that a timely event was about to happen, they were then immediately interested. Many flocked to hear the words of the Bible and to listen to the prophecies of the return of Jesus. If they had known that this prophecy was *not* about His return, would the interest have been so high?

In the time of the disciples, the excitement of Jesus’ coming into Jerusalem and the exultation of the people thinking He would crown Himself king was similar to the fervor of activity that occurred in 1844. People flocked to the churches, selling off all that they had in expectation of the soon return of Jesus. Yet they did not look deeply into their hearts to see if they were in conformity with the Scriptures.

As with any religious movement, some are stirred by deep love for Jesus, but if we look at the result after the disappointment, the majority fell by the wayside and lost all hope. The results of false expectations are evident in both the experiences of the Jewish people and of the Advent movement. The Jews in Jesus’ day continued with their now worthless rituals and sacrifices and denounced Jesus as a false prophet.

When the time prophecy was completed in 1844 and Jesus did not come to gather His people, great despair swept over the people who were claiming to be Christ’s followers. Many forsook their convictions and either gave up totally on their Christian faith, or went back to their false religious teachers. They found comfort in their false hopes, as many do today. Similarly, during the great disappointment, people went back to their old ways of life and spoke against the prophecies of Daniel.

After the great disappointment, the word was preached with the power of the Holy Spirit, just as it had been following Jesus’ resurrection. Those who remained faithful and believed in the accuracy of the time prophecy gathered together to search the Scriptures to see where they had erred. In fervent prayer, they humbled themselves before God and asked for His guidance to understand their mistake. When they become teachable, then God sent His Holy Spirit to open for them the deep truths of God’s word. These individuals realized that they needed divine guidance and poured out their hearts in much prayer and with much study until God opened their eyes to the truths that were plainly written.

How often we want God’s help but do not apply the effort through study and prayer. Even today we still have our preconceived ideas of the return of Jesus.

In the 1980s and 1990s, there was a revival and reformation movement within Adventism that went around the world. Elder Ron Spear and others traveled worldwide preaching revival and reformation and showing from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy what needed to happen in our lives if we were going to be ready for Jesus to come. Every revival and reformation is either growing or declining—revival and reformation cannot be stagnant.

The revival and reformation movement in Adventism reached a high point in about 1990 and then entered a period of decline. Shortly after 2000, it had totally collapsed in the United States. Why did this happen? There are several reasons, but one is for the same reason that the second advent movement collapsed in 1844. There were those

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The washing of our character will transform us to be fit for the kingdom of God.



who expected that certain final events leading up to the second coming or possibly the second coming itself would occur before the year 2000. Various dates such as 1987, 1988, 1991, 1994, 1996 or 1997 were proclaimed far and wide by both Adventist preachers and laymen as significant dates for Christ's return (based on jubilee cycles and other Biblical dates). But when these dates passed with no significant event or Christ's coming, the revival and reformation movement collapsed.

What will be the result if, as in ages past, we miss the last great event that is to happen on earth because we did not study His holy word? Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. ... This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die." John 6:48, 50. By *eating* this bread, which is the word of God, we make it part of ourselves and only then can God bring it back to memory in our times of trouble. If we do not know God's truth for ourselves, when the great trial comes upon all mankind we will be deceived and end up in ruin.

Jesus said in Matthew 24:24, "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect." Many of God's people today believe they will not be deceived. They have studied the prophecies in the past and are satisfied that they know the events that will happen before Christ's return. They find no need to look at it again, and like the Jews of old, they are set in a belief that their leaders will not lead them astray. Yet, this is the very thing that Peter warns us about in his epistles. "But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction." 2 Peter 2:1

Some may say "our leaders do not deny Jesus, but teach His goodness." Paul gave a warning to the Galatians when he said, "I marvel that you are



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turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ." Galatians 1:6, 7. I have had the opportunity to visit churches in America and the Philippines. What I have seen over the years has astounded me. These are God's professed people, yet their services are whittled down to traditions and religious forms, none of which glorify the Lord. Yes, they speak of Jesus, and yes they use scriptures and excerpts from the Spirit of Prophecy, but the content left me dry and unfed.

My wife and I have often gone home after some Sabbath sermons and spent time reading or listening to the Bible because we felt we had just been starved in the service. We have witnessed evangelical services, catholic-style preaching, and sermons on how to stay safe from Covid or some other disease. Little was mentioned of Jesus, nor were our hearts convicted of sin. The Holy Spirit was absent from the service. How do I know that? Because Jesus plainly said, "And when He [the Holy Spirit] has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16:8

Will there be a third great disappointment? The answer is yes. The difference

is that then there will be no chance to repent and claim the grace of Jesus. Probation on this earth will be closed and those who are found wanting will lose the most precious gift God ever gave mankind.

For over 6,000 years God has poured out His love to us. He has sent holy angels to guide us into His truth. In the sacrifice of His Son, God gave us heaven's most precious gift and He promised His Holy Spirit to all who would submit to His will.

We talk a lot about freedoms in America and other countries, yet the one freedom that will give us eternal life is the one that is rejected. In the end, civil freedoms that can be given or taken away will not matter. They are the distractions of Satan to divert our minds from what is truly important—the cleansing of our souls through the regeneration of the Holy Spirit. This will be an everlasting freedom; this washing of our character will transform us to be fit for the kingdom of God. That is the only kingdom I care to pursue.

Prepare now so that you will not be involved in a third great disappointment. **LM**

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May 1 – 7, 2022

Marriage—a Divine Institution

Key Text

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

Genesis 2:24

Study Help: *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 63–65

Introduction

“As the Creator joined the hands of the holy pair in wedlock, saying, A man shall ‘leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one’ (Genesis 2:24), He enunciated the law of marriage for all the children of Adam to the close of time.” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 63, 64

Sunday

1 GOD INSTITUTED MARRIAGE

1.a. After Adam named every animal, what event took place? Genesis 2:18, 21, 22. How does God regard marriage? Hebrews 13:4

Note: “God celebrated the first marriage. Thus the institution has for its originator the Creator of the universe. ... When the divine principles are recognized and obeyed in this relation, marriage is a blessing; it guards the purity and happiness of the race, it provides for man’s social needs, it elevates the physical, the intellectual, and the moral nature.”

“Eve was created from a rib taken from the side of Adam, signifying that she was not to control him as the head, nor to be trampled under his feet as an inferior, but to stand by his side as an equal, to be loved and protected by him. A part of man, bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh, she was his second self, showing the close union and the affectionate attachment that should exist in this relation.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 46

Monday

2 A JOYOUS OCCASION

2.a. What event shows that the Lord approved the marriage institution? John 2:1, 2

Note: “Christ came to our world to cause heavenly light to shine amid the moral darkness. He came to make men and women understand that the marriage institution is sacred. His presence at Cana gave high endorsement to this ordinance.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 10, 188

“Christ came not to destroy this [sacred and holy] institution, but to restore it to its original sanctity and elevation. He came to restore the moral image of God in man, and He began His work by sanctioning the marriage relation. He who made the first holy pair, and who created for them a paradise, has put His seal upon the marriage institution, first celebrated in Eden.” *Ibid.*, 203

“In both the Old and the New Testament the marriage relation is employed to represent the tender and sacred union that exists between Christ and His people, the redeemed ones whom He has purchased at the cost of Calvary.” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 64

2.b. What do the Scriptures say about a happy home? Psalm 128

Note: “The Scriptures state that both Jesus and His disciples were called to the marriage feast [at Cana]. Christ has given Christians no sanction for saying, when invited to a marriage, We ought not to be present on so joyous an occasion. By attending this feast Christ taught us that He would have us rejoice with those who rejoice in the observance of His statutes. He never discouraged the festivities of mankind when they were carried on in accordance with the laws of heaven. A gathering that Christ honored by His presence, it is right that His followers should attend. After attending this feast, Christ attended many others, sanctifying them by His presence and instruction.” *The Signs of the Times*, August 30, 1899

“If our happiness consists in making others happy, we are happy indeed. The true disciple will not live to gratify beloved self, but for Christ, and for the good of His little ones. He is to sacrifice his ease, his pleasure, his comfort, his convenience, his will, and his own selfish wishes for Christ’s cause, or never reign with Him on His throne.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 1, 85, 86

“Marriage, a union for life, is a symbol of the union between Christ and His church. The spirit that Christ manifests toward the church is the spirit that husband and wife are to manifest toward each other.” *Ibid.*, Vol. 7, 46

Tuesday

3 THE ROLES OF MARRIAGE

- 3.a. The Bible specifies joint obligations on husband and wife. Sometimes husbands cite the wives' obligations forgetting that there are mutual obligations, and one spouse cannot be held hostage to fulfill their obligations if the other spouse is not fulfilling theirs. What are these joint obligations? Ephesians 5:22–31; Colossians 3:19

Note: “The Lord has constituted the husband the head of the wife to be her protector; he is the house-band of the family, binding the members together. ... Christ’s authority is exercised in wisdom, in all kindness and gentleness; so let the husband exercise his power and imitate the great Head of the church.” *The Faith I Live By*, 259

- 3.b. Specify the right attitudes in contrast to the wrong ones in a husband and father. Genesis 18:18, 19; Ephesians 6:4; Hebrews 12:7–9

Note: “The father should enforce in his family the sterner virtues—energy, integrity, honesty, patience, courage, diligence, and practical usefulness. And what he requires of his children he himself should practice, illustrating these virtues in his own manly bearing.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 391

“It is no evidence of manliness in the husband for him to dwell constantly upon his position as head of the family. It does not increase respect for him to hear him quoting scripture to sustain his claims to authority. It will not make him more manly to require his wife, the mother of his children, to act upon his plans as if they were infallible.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 13, 82

“Many husbands do not sufficiently understand and appreciate the cares and perplexities which their wives endure, generally confined all day to an unceasing round of household duties. They frequently come to their homes with clouded brows, bringing no sunshine to the family circle. If the meals are not on time, the tired wife, who is frequently housekeeper, nurse, cook, and housemaid, all in one, is greeted with faultfinding. The exacting husband may condescend to take the worrying child from the weary arms of its mother that her arrangements for the family meal may be hastened; but if the child is restless and frets in the arms of its father, he will seldom feel it his duty to act the nurse and seek to quiet and soothe it. He does not pause to consider how many hours the mother has endured the little one’s fretfulness, but calls out impatiently, ‘Here, Mother, take your child.’ Is it not *his* child as well as hers? Is he not un-

der a natural obligation to patiently bear his part of the burden of rearing his children?” *The Adventist Home*, 224, 225 [Emphasis author’s.]

Wednesday

4 THE QUEEN OF THE HOME

- 4.a. How does the Bible describe a true, virtuous, Christian wife? Proverbs 18:22; 19:14; 31:10, 11, 30

Note: “The husband is the head of the family, as Christ is the head of the church; and any course which the wife may pursue to lessen his influence and lead him to come down from that dignified, responsible position is displeasing to God. It is the duty of the wife to yield her wishes and will to her husband. Both should be yielding, but the word of God gives preference to the judgment of the husband. And it will not detract from the dignity of the wife to yield to him whom she has chosen to be her counselor, adviser, and protector.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 1, 307, 308

“Many husbands stop at the words, ‘Wives, submit yourselves,’ but we will read the conclusion of the same injunction, which is, ‘As it is fit in the Lord.’” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 13, 74

- 4.b. What injunction does the Lord direct to the queen of the home? 1 Peter 3:1, 2; Philippians 2:14

Note: “While the mistress of the household may perform her outward duties with exactitude, she may be continually crying out against the slavery to which she is doomed, and exaggerate her responsibilities and restrictions by comparing her lot with what she styles the higher life of woman, and cherishing unsanctified longings for an easier position, free from the petty cares and exactions that vex her spirit. She little dreams that in that widely different sphere of action to which she aspires trials full as vexations, though perhaps of a different sort, would certainly beset her. While she is fruitlessly yearning for a different life she is nourishing a sinful discontent and making her home very unpleasant for her husband and children.

“The true wife and mother will pursue an entirely opposite course from this. She will perform her duties with dignity and cheerfulness, not considering that it is degrading to do with her own hands whatever is necessary for her to do in a well-ordered household. If she looks to God for her strength and comfort, and in His wisdom and fear seeks to do her daily duty, she will bind her husband to her heart, and see her children coming to maturity, honorable men and women, having moral stamina to follow the example of their mother.” *The Health Reformer*, August 1, 1877

Thursday

5 A LIFELONG BOND

- 5.a. In harmony with the word of God, how long does the marriage vow bind husband and wife? Mark 10:6–12; Romans 7:1–3; 1 Corinthians 7:39

Note: “This [marriage] vow links the destinies of the two individuals with bonds which nought but the hand of death should sever.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 4, 507

“What of the marriage relation today? Is it not perverted and defiled, made even as it was in Noah’s day? Divorce after divorce is recorded in the daily papers. This is the marriage of which Christ speaks when He says that before the Flood they were ‘marrying and giving in marriage’ (Matthew 24:38).” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 7, 56

- 5.b. If there is separation between husband and wife and no adultery has been committed, what are the two alternatives? Malachi 2:13–16; 1 Corinthians 7:10–14

Note: “Jesus came to our world to rectify his [man’s] mistakes and to restore the moral image of God in man. Wrong sentiments in regard to marriage had found a place in the minds of the teachers of Israel. They were making of none effect the sacred institution of marriage. Man was becoming so hard-hearted that he would for the most trivial excuse separate from his wife. ...

“Christ came to correct these evils, and His first miracle was wrought on the occasion of the marriage. Thus He announced to the world that marriage, when kept pure and undefiled, is a sacred institution.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 10, 198

- 5.c. Because of various kinds of sin, some marriages must be dissolved. What does the Bible say about remarriage in such an instance? Matthew 19:3–9

Note: “Dear Brother D: I hoped the change which seemed to take place in your wife at the meeting in Chicago would be lasting, and was so grateful to our heavenly Father when I heard her confession, for I thought that a most severe task was lifted from my shoulders; but the ... dangers and difficulties which she will create if her whims are gratified, are almost incredible to those who do not understand the spirit which actuates her. ...

“However earnestly her husband may endeavor to pursue a straightforward course to serve God, she will be his evil angel, seeking to lead him away from righteousness. In her own estimation she is the idol he must worship; in fact, she is Satan’s agent, seeking to occupy the place where God should be. She has followed the impulses of her own unconsecrated heart until Satan has almost complete control of her. ...

“Unless there is a change, a time will come soon when this lower nature in the wife, controlled by a will as strong as steel, will bring down the strong will of the husband to her own low level. ... In this case it is not the woman whom Brother D is dealing with, but a desperate, satanic spirit. The Lord has a work for Brother D to do; but if he is overcome by these outbursts on the part of his wife, he is a lost man, and she is not saved by the sacrifice. ...

“His best course with this child-wife, so overbearing, so unyielding, and so uncontrollable, is to take her home, and leave her with the mother who has made her what she is. Though it must be painful, this is the only thing for him to do, if he would not be ruined spiritually, sacrificed to the demon of hysterics and satanic imaginings. Satan takes entire control of her temper and will, and uses them like desolating hail to beat down every obstruction. Her husband can do her no good, but is doing himself incalculable harm, and robbing God of the talents and influence He has given.

“Sister D is determined to rule or ruin. I was shown that she has so thoroughly yielded herself into Satan’s hands that her husband fears for her reason, but he will make one of the gravest mistakes of his life if he permits himself to be controlled by Satan through the device of his wife. I tell you plainly, she is controlled by demons, and if these evil spirits have their way, your liberty, Brother D, your manhood, is gone; you are a slave to her caprices. ... She is just as much possessed by a demon as was the man who tore and cut himself when Jesus cast out the devils. ... Brother D must let Satan rage, and not allow himself to be cut off from religious privileges because his wife desires it.” *Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce*, 76–78. (See *Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce*, 76–78 for Mrs. White’s complete counsel to Brother D.)

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How does the Bible describe the creation of the woman?
- 2 When only can a wedding be a truly joyous occasion, and why?
- 3 How can a husband improve his relationship with his wife?
- 4 How can a wife improve her relationship with her husband?
- 5 What is the evidence that God in His wisdom designed marriage to be a lifelong vow?

May 8 – 14, 2022

The Christian Family

Key Text

“That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth;
that our daughters may be as pillars, sculptured in palace style.”
Psalm 144:12

Study Help: *Child Guidance*, 318–325, 434–443

Introduction

“The greatest evidence of the power of Christianity that can be presented to the world is a well-ordered, well-disciplined family. This will recommend the truth as nothing else can; for it is a living witness of its practical power upon the heart.”
Testimonies, Vol. 4, 304

Sunday

1 A LITTLE HEAVEN ON EARTH

1.a. In order to have a happy home, what does God’s word enjoin upon both husbands and wives? 1 Corinthians 7:3, 4; Ephesians 5:33

Note: “Do not try to compel each other to do as you wish. You cannot do this and retain each other’s love. Manifestations of self will destroy the peace and happiness of the home. Let not your married life be one of contention. If you do, you will both be unhappy. Be kind in speech and gentle in action, giving up your own wishes. Watch well your words, for they have a powerful influence for good or for ill. Allow no sharpness to come into your voices. Bring into your united life the fragrance of Christlikeness.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 7, 47

1.b. How does Inspiration describe a true Christian home? Psalm 128; Isaiah 61:9. How can the home be a blessing or a curse?

Note: “We must let Christ into our hearts and homes if we would walk in the light. Home should be made all that the word implies. It should be a little heaven upon earth, a place where the affections are cultivated instead of being studiously repressed. Our happiness depends upon this cultivation of love, sympathy, and true courtesy to one another.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 3, 539

Monday

2 PARENTS AND CHILDREN

2.a. What do the Scriptures say about the children of God-fearing parents? Psalm 127:3; Proverbs 17:6; Isaiah 54:13

Note: “Let it be remembered that children are not to be treated as though they were our own personal property. Children are the heritage of the Lord, and the plan of redemption includes their salvation as well as ours. They have been entrusted to parents in order that they might be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, that they might be qualified to do their work in time and eternity.” *The Adventist Home*, 280

“Children are the heritage of the Lord, and unless parents give them such a training as will enable them to keep the way of the Lord, they neglect solemn duty. It is not the will or purpose of God that children shall become coarse, rough, uncourteous, disobedient, unthankful, unholy, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. The Scriptures state that this condition of society shall be a sign of the last days.” *Child Guidance*, 229

“They [children] are to be guided in the path of obedience, not indulged in appetite or vanity.” *The Adventist Home*, 279

2.b. What command does the Lord give to all parents who wish to see their children saved? Deuteronomy 6:4–7; 11:18, 19; Proverbs 22:6

Note: “Throughout the week let parents remember that their home is to be a school in which their children shall be prepared for the courts above. Let their words be right words. No words which their children should not hear are to escape their lips.

Let the spirit be kept free from irritation. Parents, during the week live as in the sight of a holy God, who has given you children to train for Him. Train for Him the little church in your home, that on the Sabbath all may be prepared to worship in the Lord's sanctuary. Each morning and evening present your children to God as His blood-bought heritage. Teach them that it is their highest duty and privilege to love and serve God.

"Parents should be particular to make the worship of God an object lesson for their children. Passages of scripture should be more often on their lips, especially those passages that prepare the heart for religious service. The precious words might well be often repeated: 'My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him' (Psalm 62:5)." *Testimonies*, Vol. 6, 354

Tuesday

3 THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

3.a. What are children required to do regarding their parents? Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-3

Note: "There is no period in life when children are excused from honoring their parents. This solemn obligation is binding upon every son and daughter and is one of the conditions to their prolonging their lives upon the land which the Lord will give the faithful. This is not a subject unworthy of notice, but a matter of vital importance. The promise is upon condition of obedience. If you obey, you shall live long in the land which the Lord your God gives you. If you disobey, you shall not prolong your life in that land." *The Adventist Home*, 292, 293

"Children, do you desire eternal life? Then respect and honor your parents. Do not wound and grieve their hearts, and cause them to spend sleepless nights in anxiety and distress over your case. If you have sinned in not rendering love and obedience to them, begin now to redeem the past. You cannot afford to take any other course; for it means to you the loss of eternal life. The Heart-searcher knows what is your attitude toward your parents; for He is weighing moral character in the golden scales of the heavenly sanctuary. O, confess your neglect of your parents, confess your indifference toward them, and your contempt of God's holy commandment." *The Youth's Instructor*, June 22, 1893

3.b. What is one of the signs of the soon coming of our Lord Jesus Christ? Romans 1:30; 2 Timothy 3:2

Note: "The sin which exists in this generation among children is that they are 'disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God' (2 Timothy 3:2, 4). And this state of things exists to such an extent that it is made a subject of prophecy as one of the signs that we are living in the last days of time." *Letters to Young Lovers*, 53

"The word of God abounds in precepts and counsels enjoining respect for parents. It impresses upon the young the sacred duty of loving and cherishing those who have guided them through infancy, childhood, and youth, up to manhood and womanhood, and who are now in great degree dependent upon them for peace and happiness. The Bible gives no uncertain sound on this subject; nevertheless, its teachings have been greatly disregarded." *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 101

Wednesday

4 A THREEFOLD POWER

4.a. What family-related prophecy will be fulfilled in these last days? Malachi 4:5, 6; Luke 1:17

Note: "The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home. The work of parents underlies every other. Society is composed of families, and is what the heads of families make it. Out of the heart are 'the issues of life' (Proverbs 4:23); and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation is the household. The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences." *The Ministry of Healing*, 349

"Those who bear the last message of mercy to the world should feel it their duty to instruct parents in regard to home religion. Their great reformatory movement must begin in presenting to fathers and mothers and children the principles of the law of God. As the claims of the law are presented, and men and women are convicted of their duty to render obedience, show them the responsibility of their decision, not only for themselves but for their children." *Child Guidance*, 556

4.b. When fathers, mothers, and children are united in one happy family, what will be the result? Psalm 144:12

Note: “More than human wisdom is needed by parents at every step, that they may understand how best to educate their children for a useful, happy life here, and for higher service and greater joy hereafter. Fathers and mothers, ever remember that to you is committed a sacred trust. The power of example is very great. If you fail to select proper society for your children and allow them to associate with persons of questionable morals, you place them or permit them to place themselves, in a school where lessons of depravity will be taught and practiced.”

The Review and Herald, September 13, 1881

“Parents, you have a solemn responsibility resting upon you. It is your duty to cooperate with Christ in aiding your children to form right characters. Jesus can do nothing without your co-operation. It is not mercy or kindness to permit a child to have its own way, to submit to its rule, and to neglect to correct it on the ground that you love it too well to punish it. What kind of love is it that permits your child to develop traits of character that will make him and everyone else miserable? Away with such love! True love will look out for the present and eternal good of the soul.” Ibid., July 16, 1895

Thursday

5 FAITHFUL WORK REWARDED

5.a. In eternity—when the saved are secure in God’s kingdom—what will be the parents’ testimony?
Isaiah 8:18

Note: “When the judgment shall sit, and the books shall be opened; when the ‘well done’ of the great Judge is pronounced, and the crown of immortal glory is placed upon the brow of the victor, many will raise their crowns in sight of the assembled universe and, pointing to their mother, say, ‘She made me all I am through the grace of God. Her instruction, her prayers, have been blessed to my eternal salvation.’” *Messages to Young People*, 330

“Mothers, remember that in your work the Creator of the universe will give you help. In His strength, and through His name, you can lead your children to be overcomers. Teach them to look to God for strength. Tell them that He hears their prayers. Teach them to overcome evil with good. Teach them to exert an influence that is elevating and ennobling. Lead them to unite with God, and then they will have strength to resist the strongest temptation. They will then receive the reward of the overcomer.” *Child Guidance*, 172, 173



5.b. What will be the reward of the Christian family when they enter God’s kingdom? Psalm 132:12

Note: “He [Jesus] tells you to be a partaker of His joy, and what is that? It is the joy of seeing of the travail of your soul, fathers. It is the joy of seeing that your efforts, mothers, are rewarded. Here are your children; the crown of life is upon their heads, and the angels of God immortalize the names of the mothers whose efforts have won their children to Jesus Christ.” *Child Guidance*, 567, 568

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What characterizes a true Christian family?
- 2 Name some successful key elements in rearing God-fearing children.
- 3 What special challenge do parents face in these last days?
- 4 Why will truly Christian homes become rare in the end of time?
- 5 What is needed in order to see our children in the kingdom of God?

May 15 – 21, 2022

True Education

Key Text

“[A]nd that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” 2 Timothy 3:15

Study Help: *Education*, 13–27

Introduction

“To many, education means a knowledge of books; but ‘the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom’ (Psalm 111:10). The true object of education is to restore the image of God in the soul.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 5, 322

Sunday

1 IN EDEN

1.a. What is an initial step to having knowledge and, more importantly, understanding and wisdom? Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 9:10

Note: “True education is the preparation of the mental, moral, and physical powers for the performance of every duty, pleasant or otherwise, the training of every habit and practice, of heart, mind, and soul for divine service.” *Selected Messages*, Book 3, 228

“The true object of education is to restore the image of God in the soul.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 595

1.b. What type of environment were Adam and Eve given for their education? Genesis 2:8, 15

Note: “The system of education instituted at the beginning of the world was to be a model for man throughout all aftertime.” *Child Guidance*, 294

“When in counsel with the Father before the world was, it was designed that the Lord God should plant a garden for Adam and Eve in Eden and give them the task of caring for the fruit trees and cultivating and training the vegetation. Useful labor was to be their safeguard, and it was to be perpetuated through all generations to the close of earth’s history. To have a whole-sided education, it is necessary to combine science with practical labor.” *The Signs of the Times*, August 13, 1896

Monday

2 THE SCHOOLS OF THE PROPHETS

2.a. To restore a more godly plan of education, what was provided for the sons of the prophets in Israel? 1 Samuel 7:15, 16; 2 Kings 2:2–5, 15

Note: “Three of these schools [of the prophets], one at Gilgal, one at Bethel, and one at Jericho, are mentioned in the record. Just before Elijah was taken to heaven, he and Elisha visited these centers of training.” *Prophets and Kings*, 224, 225

“In these ‘schools of the prophets’ young men were educated by those who were not only well versed in divine truth, but who themselves maintained close communion with God and had received the special endowment of His Spirit.” *The Signs of the Times*, July 20, 1882

2.b. What was the focus of education in the schools of the prophets? Psalm 86:11; John 17:3

Note: “The chief subjects of study in these schools [of the prophets] were the law of God, with the instructions given to Moses, sacred history, sacred music, and poetry. In those schools of the olden time it was the grand object of all study to learn the will of God, and man’s duty toward Him. In the records of sacred history were traced the footsteps of Jehovah.” *Christian Education*, 62

“Do you think [those in the school of the prophets] took the study books that were in the common schools? No, No! What were they taught? To have a knowledge of Jesus Christ.” *Spalding and Magan Collection*, 357

“In both the school and the home much of the teaching was oral; but the youth also learned to read the Hebrew writings, and the parchment rolls of the Old Testament Scriptures were open to their study. ... The great truths set forth by the types in the service of the sanctuary were brought to view, and faith grasped the central object of all that system—the Lamb of God, that was to take away the sin of the world. A spirit of devotion was cherished. Not only were the students taught the duty of prayer, but they were taught how to pray, how to approach their Creator, how to exercise faith in Him, and how to understand and obey the teachings of His Spirit. Sanctified intellect brought forth from the treasure house of God things new and old, and the Spirit of God was manifested in prophecy and sacred song.” *Education*, 47

Tuesday

3 USEFUL TRADES

3.a. Where did Jesus obtain His education? Matthew 13:54–56

Note: “The child Jesus did not receive instruction in the synagogue schools. His mother was His first human teacher. From her lips and from the scrolls of the prophets, He learned of heavenly things. The very words which He Himself had spoken to Moses for Israel He was now taught at His mother’s knee. As He advanced from childhood to youth, He did not seek the schools of the rabbis. He needed not the education to be obtained from such sources; for God was His instructor. ...” *The Desire of Ages*, 70

“Throughout His life on earth, Jesus was an earnest and constant worker. He expected much; therefore He attempted much. After He had entered on His ministry, He said, ‘I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work’ (John 9:4). Jesus did not shirk care and responsibility, as do many who profess to be His followers. It is because they seek to evade this discipline that so many are weak and inefficient.” *Ibid.*, 73



The true object of education is to restore the image of God in the soul.

3.b. Where do we find appropriate material for true education apart from the Bible? 2 Thessalonians 3:8–10

Note: “Manual training is deserving of far more attention than it has received. Schools should be established that, in addition to the highest mental and moral culture, shall provide the best possible facilities for physical development and industrial training. Instruction should be given in agriculture, manufactures—covering as many as possible of the most useful trades—also in household economy, healthful cookery, sewing, hygienic dressmaking, the treatment of the sick, and kindred lines. Gardens, workshops, and treatment rooms should be provided, and the work in every line should be under the direction of skilled instructors.

“The work should have a definite aim and should be thorough. While every person needs some knowledge of different handicrafts, it is indispensable that he become proficient in at least one. Every youth, on leaving school, should have acquired a knowledge of some trade or occupation by which, if need be, he may earn a livelihood.” *Education*, 218

Wednesday

4 THE BIBLE IN EDUCATION

4.a. What is the diligent study of the Bible able to do for us? Psalm 119:98–101; Proverbs 2:1–5

Note: “Above all other books, the word of God must be our study, the great textbook, the basis of all education; and our children are to be educated in the truths found therein, irrespective of previous habits and customs.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 6, 131, 132

“The Bible teaches the whole will of God concerning the sons and daughters of Adam. The Bible is the rule of life, teaching us of the character we must form for the future, immortal life.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 390, 391

4.b. As we give ourselves to study and be educated, what should be our priorities? Isaiah 55:2, 3; Psalm 25:4, 5

Note: “Today young men and women spend years and years in acquiring an education which is but wood and stubble, to be consumed in the last great conflagration. Many spend years of their life in the study of books, obtaining an education that will die with them. Upon such an education God places no value. This supposed wisdom gained from the study of different authors, has excluded and lessened the brightness and value of the word of God. Many students have left school unable to receive the word of God with the reverence and respect that they gave it before they entered, their faith eclipsed in the effort to excel in the various studies. The Bible has not been made a standard matter in their education, but books mixed with infidelity and propagating unsound theories have been placed before them.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 446, 447

“Men need not the dim light of tradition and custom to make the Scriptures comprehensible. It is just as sensible to suppose that the sun, shining in the heavens at noonday, needs the glimmerings of the torchlight of earth to increase its glory.” *Ibid.*, 391

“The Bible should not be brought into our schools to be sandwiched in between infidelity. The Bible must be made the groundwork and subject matter of education. It is true that we know much more of the word of the living God than we knew in the past, but there is still much more to be learned. It should be used as the word of the living God, and esteemed as first, and last, and best in everything. Then will be seen true spiritual growth.” *Ibid.*, 474

Thursday

5 EDUCATION FOR ETERNITY

5.a. What does Inspiration say about the Scriptures? 2 Timothy 3:15, 16

Note: “Through all eternity the Scriptures will be shining forth brighter and brighter, like precious gems; but we do not half understand these truths. The precious Bible truth that we have accepted must do a great work for us, and the more we understand these things, the better will we understand how to make an impression upon other minds.” *The Review and Herald*, April 10, 1888

5.b. What will be the subjects of study in the kingdom of God, and who will teach the redeemed? Matthew 23:10; 1 Corinthians 2:9

Note: “There [in the New Jerusalem], immortal minds will contemplate with never-failing delight the wonders of creative power, the mysteries of redeeming love. There will be no cruel, deceiving foe to tempt to forgetfulness of God. Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased. The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies. There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body.” *The Great Controversy*, 677

“The theme of redemption is one that the angels desire to look into; it will be the science and the song of the ransomed throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. Is it not worthy of careful thought and study now? Should we not praise God with heart and soul and voice ‘for His wonderful works to the children of men?’ (Psalm 107:8).” *Testimonies*, Vol. 5, 318

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What vital aspect of Christian education is often overlooked today?
- 2 Why were the schools of the prophets successful in their mission?
- 3 How can we come closer to the way Jesus was educated?
- 4 What role does education have in eternity?

May 22 – 28, 2022

God's Day of Rest

Key Text

"Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made." Genesis 2:3

Study Help: *Education*, 250–252

Introduction

"In the time of the end every divine institution is to be re-stored. The breach made in the law at the time the Sabbath was changed by man, is to be repaired." *Prophets and Kings*, 678

Sunday

1 A DAY OF DELIGHT

1. Which day of the week is set aside for rest and holy convocation, and how can we treasure it? Leviticus 23:3; Isaiah 58:13, 14

Note: "Far more sacredness is attached to the Sabbath than is given it by many professed Sabbathkeepers. The Lord has been greatly dishonored by those who have not kept the Sabbath according to the commandment, either in the letter or in the spirit. He calls for a reform in the observance of the Sabbath." *Testimonies*, Vol. 6, 353

"We can sit with them [our children] in the groves and in the bright sunshine, and give their restless minds something to feed upon by conversing with them upon the works of God, and can inspire them with love and reverence by calling their attention to the beautiful objects in nature.

"The Sabbath should be made so interesting to our families that its weekly return will be hailed with joy." *Ibid.*, Vol. 2, 584, 585

"The Sabbath is not intended to be a period of useless inactivity. The law forbids secular labor on the rest day of the Lord; the toil that gains a livelihood must cease; no labor for worldly pleasure or profit is lawful upon that day; but as God ceased His labor of creating, and rested upon the Sabbath and blessed it, so man is to leave the occupations of his daily life, and devote those sacred hours to healthful rest, to worship, and to holy deeds." *The Desire of Ages*, 207

Monday

2 THE SABBATH WAS KEPT IN ANCIENT TIMES

- 2.a. What is written about the Sabbath before Israel reached Sinai? Exodus 16:23–28. Who are mentioned as Sabbathkeepers in the patriarchal era?

Note: "There was something to be done in preparing even the heaven-sent bread for the children of Israel. This was a test for them. God desired to see whether or not they would keep the Sabbath holy. The Lord told the children of Israel that this work must be done on the preparation day, Friday. On that day they were to bake that which they would bake, and seethe that which they would seethe." *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 13, 292

"The Sabbath was embodied in the law given from Sinai; but it was not then first made known as a day of rest. The people of Israel had a knowledge of it before they came to Sinai. On the way thither the Sabbath was kept." *The Desire of Ages*, 283

"Hallowed by the Creator's rest and blessing, the Sabbath was kept by Adam in his innocence in holy Eden; by Adam, fallen yet repentant, when he was driven from his happy estate. It was kept by all the patriarchs, from Abel to righteous Noah, to Abraham, to Jacob." *The Great Controversy*, 453

- 2.b. When did the Sabbath originate, and what does God require from us regarding the seventh day? Genesis 2:1–3; Exodus 20:8–11

Note: "The Sabbath is not Jewish in its origin. It was instituted in Eden before there were such a people known as the Jews. The Sabbath was made for all mankind, and was instituted in Eden before the fall of man. The Creator called it 'My holy day.' Christ announced Himself as 'the Lord of the Sabbath.' Beginning with creation, it is as old as the human race, and having been made for man it will exist as long as man shall exist." *The Signs of the Times*, November 12, 1894

"The institution of the Sabbath was made when the foundation of the earth was laid, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy. Like the other nine precepts of the law, it is of imperishable obligation. It is the memorial of God's creative power, the reminder of His exalted work. The fourth commandment occupies a sacred position in the law and bears the same hallowed nature as do the other great moral precepts of God." *Ibid.*, January 8, 1894

Tuesday

3 AN ATTEMPTED CHANGE

- 3.a. In Bible prophecy, what is written about the attempt to change God's law? Daniel 7:25. Which commandment was Satan's target to destroy?

Note: "The laws of God are the only laws which men are prohibited from changing, for secular powers may change as they see fit the laws of secular governments. In the prophecy it is plainly shown that [the] papal power would with deliberate intention change the law of God." *The Signs of the Times*, November 19, 1894

"The papal power has thought to change the law of God by instituting a sabbath for the world and the Christian church; and this spurious sabbath is exalted and revered, while the Sabbath of Jehovah is trampled beneath unholy feet. But will the Lord degrade His law to meet the standard of men? Will He accept a man-made institution in place of the Sabbath which He has sanctified and blessed? No; the convenience or profit of men is not to supersede the claims of God; for He is a jealous God." *The Review and Herald*, March 18, 1884

"The Creator of the heavens and the earth commanded, 'The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work' (Exodus 20:10). This command was enforced by the example of its Author, proclaimed with His own voice, and placed in the very bosom of the decalogue. But the papal power has removed this divine ordinance, and substituted a day which God has not sanctified, and upon which He did not rest, the festival so long adored by heathens as the 'venerable day of the sun.'" *The Signs of the Times*, September 14, 1882

- 3.b. What prophecy will be fulfilled in the last days of this world's history? Isaiah 56:2–7; 58:12–14

Note: "All who love God will show that they bear His sign by keeping His commandments. They are the restorers of paths to dwell in." *Testimonies*, Vol. 6, 265

"In the time of the end every divine institution is to be restored. The breach made in the law at the time the Sabbath

was changed by man is to be repaired. God's remnant people, standing before the world as reformers, are to show that the law of God is the foundation of all enduring reform and that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is to stand as a memorial of creation." *Prophets and Kings*, 678

Wednesday

4 THE SABBATH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- 4.a. What was Jesus' custom to do on Sabbath days, and what did He say about the Sabbath? Luke 4:16, 31; Mark 2:27, 28

Note: "The Sabbath commandment is placed in the very bosom of the decalogue, amid the unchangeable precepts of Jehovah. And yet from many pulpits of our land a contemptuous cry is raised against the Sabbath instituted by the Lord God of heaven, and it is stigmatized as 'the old Jewish Sabbath.' Let all who are seeking for truth remember that the Sabbath was instituted in Eden before there was a Jew in existence, and that the Saviour said, 'The Sabbath was made for man' (Mark 2:27). The fourth commandment was spoken with the other nine of God's moral precepts, amid the thunders and grandeur of Mount Sinai, and in the holy of holies in the heavenly sanctuary above is the ark of God. It is called the 'ark of the testament,' and under its cover—the mercy seat—are the ten commandments that were written with the finger of God." *The Signs of the Times*, January 8, 1894

"Jesus had come to 'magnify the law, and make it honorable' (Isaiah 42:21). He was not to lessen its dignity, but to exalt it. ... He had come to free the Sabbath from those burdensome requirements that had made it a curse instead of a blessing." *The Desire of Ages*, 206

"By sweeping away the senseless restrictions of the Jews, Christ honored the Sabbath, while those who complained of Him were dishonoring God's holy day." *Ibid.*, 287

- 4.b. What was the attitude of the disciples, the apostles, and the early Christians regarding the seventh-day Sabbath? Luke 23:54–56; Acts 13:42, 44; 16:13; 17:2; 18:4



We
can sit with
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Note: “The New Testament has not changed the law of God. The sacredness of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is as firmly established as the throne of Jehovah. John writes: ‘Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth (transgresseth the law) hath not seen Him, neither known Him’ (1 John 3:4–6).” *The Sanctified Life*, 68

“Christ gave the law to His chosen people, and in seeking to make void the law of God on the ground that Christ abolished it, they [men and women] do insult to both the Father and the Son.” *The Signs of the Times*, October 2, 1893

Thursday

5 THE SABBATH IN THE NEW EARTH

5.a. What assurance does the Lord give through the prophet Isaiah about the Sabbath on the earth made new? Isaiah 66:22, 23

Note: “In the ark of God in heaven are the tables of stone upon which are written the precepts that are the foundation of His government. And the Sabbath, which God declares to be the sign of the loyalty of His people, is placed in the bosom of the decalogue. Its sanctity reaches into eternity; for God declares that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, His subjects shall come up to worship before Him in the earth made new.” *The Signs of the Times*, April 7, 1898

“So long as the heavens and the earth endure, the Sabbath will continue as a sign of the Creator’s power. And when Eden

shall bloom on earth again, God’s holy rest day will be honored by all beneath the sun.” *The Desire of Ages*, 283

5.b. What will be the theme of the redeemed as they come to worship the Lord? Revelation 5:11–13; 15:2–4

Note: “The theme of redemption is one that the angels desire to look into; it will be the science and the song of the ransomed throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. Is it not worthy of careful thought and study now? Should we not praise God with heart and soul and voice ‘for His wonderful works to the children of men’ (Psalm 107:8)?” *Testimonies*, Vol. 5, 318

“The cross of Christ will be the science and the song of the redeemed through all eternity.” *The Great Controversy*, 651

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How can we make the Sabbath a delight?
- 2 Of what is the Sabbath a memorial, and why is this not “Jewish”?
- 3 Why is the Sabbath to be brought to a focus at the end of earth’s history?
- 4 What examples of Sabbathkeeping are there in the New Testament?
- 5 When will the Sabbath be restored among all true children of God?

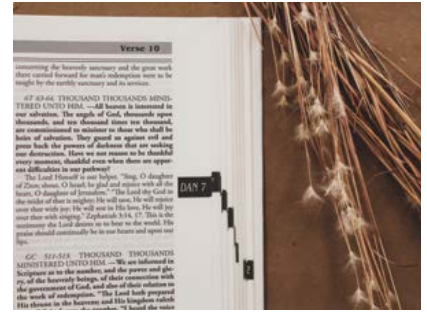
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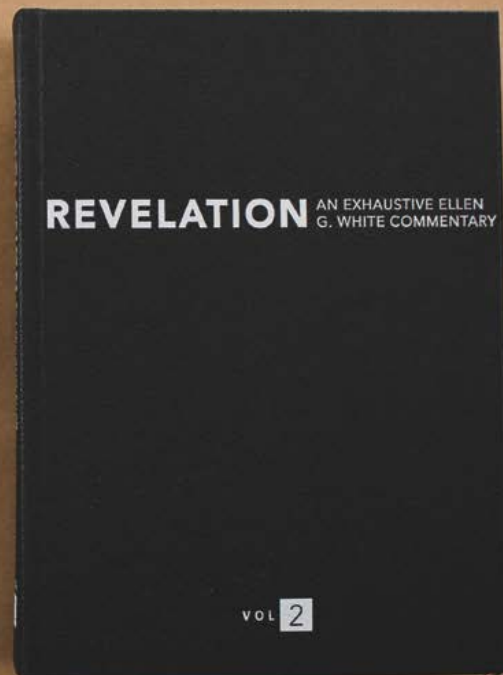
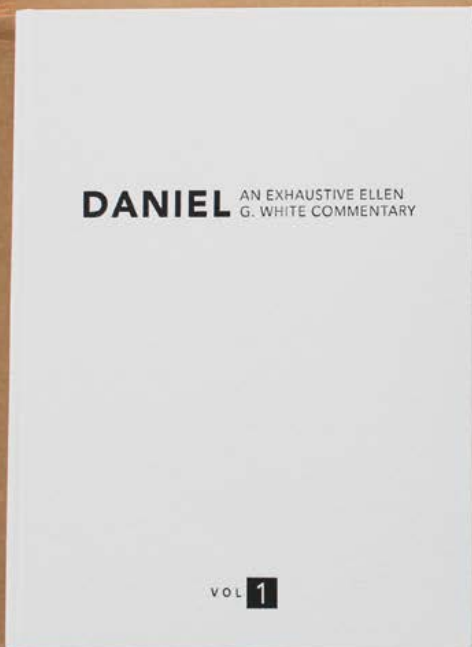
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While in South Africa, I found a very nice cookie recipe which is healthy and follows the counsel we have in *Testimonies*, Vol. 2, 352, “Grains and fruits prepared free from grease, and in as natural a condition as possible, should be the food for the tables of all who claim to be preparing for translation to heaven.” **LM**

Fruit

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



FRONTIER COOKIES

Ingredients

1+ cups of water
1 cup of sunflower seeds
1 cup of raisins
1 cup of fine coconut
2 Tbsp. of honey
Juice of one lemon
2 cups of quick oats

Process

Place all ingredients, except the quick oats, into a blender and blend until smooth. Add a little more water if needed. Pour the liquid ingredients into a bowl and add the oats. Mix well. Use a heaping tablespoon of dough and flatten slightly with a fork. Bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes or until golden brown. Baking time can vary according to the size of the cookies. Makes approximately three dozen cookies.

This is a good basic recipe to garnish. Add carob chips or place a dried cherry in the center top of each cookie.





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