

HISTORIC  
**LANDMARKS**  
OF ADVENTISM

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*Separation 'til the End*

*Revival, as it has been throughout history, will bring about  
a final separation of God's people from the world.*

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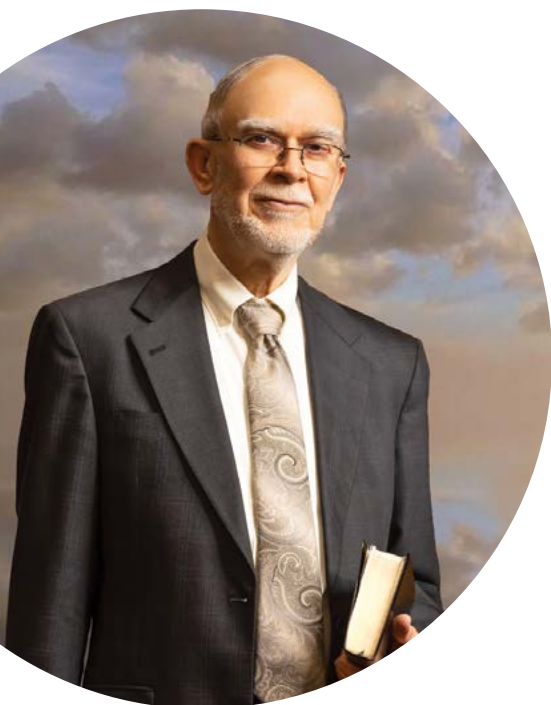
*Be  
Healed*

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*Your Grace is  
Sufficient*

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## From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

# The Big Surprise

**I**n such an hour as you think not the Son of Man will come.” Matthew 24:44

“We are now to make diligent work for eternity. Only for a very short time longer will the Lord bear with the gross wickedness that fills the world. Oh, how suddenly will the end come, surprising the world in their increasing iniquity.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 20, 65

“The solemn fact is to be kept not only before the people of the world, but before our own churches also, that the day of the Lord will come suddenly, unexpectedly.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 336

“There are those who are waiting and watching and working for our Lord’s appearing. Another class are falling into line under the generalship of the first great apostate. Few believe with heart and soul that we have a hell to shun and a heaven to win.

“The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. ... Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying, and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling one against another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure lovers are

still crowding to theaters, horse races, gambling hells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation’s hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. ...

“Solemnly there come to us down through the centuries the warning words of our Lord from the Mount of Olives: ‘Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.’ ‘Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.’” *The Desire of Ages*, 636

“Men are now passing the boundary line, and the Lord is permitting the enemy to do his will. ... God is now about to repress iniquity. He will soon, very soon, vindicate the claims of His law.” *The Review and Herald*, November 23, 1905

“Now is the time to prepare for the coming of our Lord. Readiness to meet Him cannot be attained in a moment. Preparatory to that solemn scene there must be vigilant waiting and watching, combined with earnest work.” *Ibid.*, November 12, 1914 [LM](#)

HISTORIC

## LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

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

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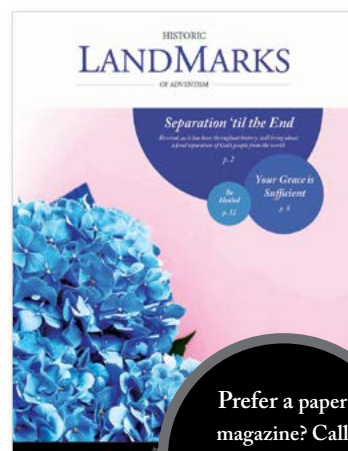
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# *Separation 'til the End*

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By John J. Grosboll

**T**he keynote of the New Testament is that the same Jesus who lived, died on the cross, rose from the grave, and ascended to heaven, is returning to this world again. Jesus said that we would not know the exact time, but He did tell us how we could know it is near. Bible prophecy tells us that it is near. We are called Adventists because we believe that the second coming of Christ is imminent.

Bible prophecy also tells us that before Jesus comes, God will bring terrible, destructive judgments upon this world. These judgments are so terrible that they are beyond the power of our minds to comprehend.

Inspiration says of God's people just prior to the coming judgments, "Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times." *The Great Controversy*, 464

Ellen White isn't talking about fanaticism. Many people are confused about the difference between primitive godliness and fanaticism.

Godliness is a longing for God, a desire to glorify Him and to please Him. "Godliness is the fruit of Christian character. ... We must have a close and intimate connection with heaven, if we bear the grace of godliness." *Peter's Counsel to Parents*, 19

"Supreme love for God and unselfish love for our neighbor—this is the foundation of true godliness." *The Signs of the Times*, May 22, 1901

Unfortunately, many people believe that godliness is just doing certain things and checking them off the list—went to church, check; paid tithe, check; gave clothes to Dorcas, check; and so on. Some believe godliness is determined according to *their* understanding of Scripture.

Fanaticism on the other hand, goes beyond what God has actually said. Strange ideas and works that are attributed to the Holy Spirit come into the church. A person may be zealous about their beliefs, but their ideas can become extreme and obsessive, and can border on a kind of madness. The fanatic displays very strict standards and little tolerance for any idea or opinion that is contrary to what they believe.

Most of the world considers those who keep all the commandments of God, including the Sabbath, to be fanatics. But Mrs. White isn't talking about godliness or fanaticism according to worldly standards. She is writing about primitive godliness, something that has not been seen since apostolic times. There is only one way that this primitive godliness can again be seen in God's people. "The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children." *The Great Controversy*, 464

Worldly churches think that when God's Spirit is poured out, everyone will join together and acceptance and tolerance, love and unity will reign. But



will that be true? No. In fact, there will be far more disunity than we see now or have ever seen. Why? Because the spirit that has fallen on these churches will not be God's Spirit. Once the Spirit and power of God is poured out upon His children, Mrs. White says, "At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word." Ibid.

The "many" will include both ministers and laity. So, those who receive the Spirit of God, His children, will separate themselves from these unsanctified churches.

"The great controversy between good and evil will increase in intensity to the very close of time. In all ages the wrath of Satan has been manifested against the church of Christ; and God has bestowed His grace and Spirit upon His people to strengthen them to stand against the power of the evil one. When the apostles of Christ were to bear His gospel to the world and to record it for all future ages, they were especially endowed with the enlightenment of the Spirit.

"But as the church approaches her final deliverance, Satan is to work with greater power. He comes down 'having great wrath, because he knoweth that he

hath but a short time' (Revelation 12:12). ... For six thousand years that master-mind that once was highest among the angels of God has been wholly bent to the work of deception and ruin. And all the depths of satanic skill and subtlety acquired, all the cruelty developed, during these struggles of the ages, will be brought to bear against God's people in the final conflict.

"And in this time of peril the followers of Christ are to bear to the world the warning of the Lord's second advent; and a people are to be prepared to stand before Him at His coming, 'without spot, and blameless' (2 Peter 3:14)." *To Be Like Jesus*, 349

How are we to have strength to meet the devil's subtle and most terrible assaults? Unless we have received the Holy Spirit, we will be unable to stand against him. While people don't really like to hear it, the truth is that separation has been the result every time, for the last 2,000 years, when God has poured out His Spirit on His people. And without His Spirit, we will not make it through what lies ahead of us.

We read in the Bible that Elijah asked Elisha what he wanted him to give to him when he, Elijah, was taken away. Elisha asked for a double portion

“  
*Supreme love for God  
and unselfish love for  
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godliness.*”

of the Spirit that guided Elijah. The Bible records this account because today, and on through the end of time, judgements are coming, and to face them, we must first have received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and ultimately the outpouring of the latter rain that will generate a revival of primitive godliness.

Most Seventh-day Adventists will miss this revival of primitive godliness. (See *Testimonies*, Vol. 1, 608, 609; *Ibid.*, Vol. 5, 136.) So, we each must ask ourselves, “How can I make certain that I will be part of this last revival, this final manifestation of God’s mercy? How can I be sure that I won’t be left out and not know what’s happening?”

“In the great final conflict, Satan will employ the same policy, manifest the same spirit, and work for the same end as in all preceding ages. That which has been, will be, except that the coming struggle will be marked with a terrible intensity such as the world has never witnessed. Satan’s deceptions will be more subtle, his assaults more determined. If it were possible, he would lead astray the elect. Mark 13:22, R.V.” *The Great Controversy*, xi (Introduction)

Everything from the past is meant to help us understand the coming events of the future. In the first century, after the Day of Pentecost, there was a separation of Christ’s followers from the Jewish establishment. The Jews clung to their belief that they were still God’s chosen people, but Inspiration says of them, “While claiming to observe rigidly the precepts of God’s law, they were transgressing all its principles.” *Ibid.*, 27. They claimed to be God’s people, but while claiming to keep the law, they transgressed every principle of it. The very people who claimed that they were rigidly, exactly, keeping all of God’s commandments crucified the Son of God. Even a child can understand that in doing so they broke the sixth commandment that says, “You shall not murder.”

“There is no union between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness, and there can be no union between their followers.” *Ibid.*, 45

We don’t like to hear that, either, because we really just want everyone to get along. But in context, this shows that there can be no union between those who follow the devil and those who follow Christ. Those who received the Spirit and power of God were called Christians because by that power and grace, they became Christlike. This brought about a separation between these true Christians and those who merely claimed the name, but did not have the Spirit.

“After a long and severe conflict, the faithful few decided to dissolve all union with the apostate church if she still refused to free herself from falsehood and idolatry. They saw that *separation was an absolute necessity* if they would obey the word of God. They dared not tolerate errors fatal to their own souls, and set an example which would imperil the faith of their children and children’s children. To secure peace and unity they were ready to make any concession consistent with fidelity to God; but they felt that even peace would be too dearly purchased at the sacrifice of principle. If unity could be secured only by the compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war.” *Ibid.*

Every true Christian is a participant in the war between good and evil, between lawfulness and lawlessness. This war encompasses the entire world. Separation of good from evil is the result of the reception of the Holy Spirit. Speaking of the Christians of old, Ellen White makes this shocking statement: “Well would it be for the church and the world if the principles that actuated those steadfast souls were revived in the hearts of God’s professed people.” *Ibid.*, 46

These early Christians that had the Spirit and power of God with their doctrines “were a terror to evildoers.” *Ibid.*

Unless the doctrines and beliefs we espouse are a terror to evildoers, then we do not have the same religion espoused by the apostles and the early Christians. This type of religion brought persecution to Christians

throughout history because evildoers cannot tolerate their teachings. But when false doctrines and teachings began to work their way into the Christian church, separation occurred. “Almost imperceptibly the customs of heathenism found their way into the Christian church.” Ibid., 49

Many years ago, I obtained a copy of a secular book on ancient history titled *Survey of the Ancient World*, by James Henry Breasted. The book described a heathen festival observed by ancient civilizations all over the world on December 25. The winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, falls on December 21 or 22. From that point on, the days start getting longer, adding a few more minutes of sunlight every day. To the different heathen cultures, December 25 was the birthday of the sun god—Tammuz, Nimrod, Nimbus—and they worshiped him at the time of the winter solstice.

So, if it is true that December 25 is simply the birthday of a pagan sun god, then why do Christians today celebrate Christmas, December 25, as Christ’s birthday? This is a deception of the devil. There came a time when Christianity and paganism were combined, and the Christians took December 25 as the birthday of Christ. But anyone who has studied ancient history knows that Christ was not born on December 25, and faithful Christians should not celebrate it as such.

This is just one example. We could look through the yearly religious calendar observed by the majority of Christianity today and clearly see that the observance of almost every special religious celebration is not from the Bible, but derived from paganism and incorporated into Christianity. “Sin was disguised in a garb of sanctity.” Ibid., 55

We have seen that there was a separation of God’s church from the Jewish nation after Jesus’ crucifixion. God’s people continued to separate from churches that accepted the mixing of paganism and Christianity. In the sixth century,



*Many people are confused about the difference between primitive godliness and fanaticism.*

another separation occurred. “Those who adhered to the ancient faith now withdrew.” Ibid., 64

They fled to the Alps in Northern Italy and to the Piedmont valleys. Because of persecution, God’s people had to separate from the rest of the Christian world and go into hiding.

“When error in one garb has been detected, Satan only masks it in a different disguise, and multitudes receive it as eagerly as at the first.” Ibid., 285

People, then and now, take evil and disguise it in a garb of sanctity, making it look righteous, when all the while it is not. “The very beginning of the great apostasy was in seeking to supplement the authority of God by that of the church.” Ibid., 289, 290

The same situation developed in the 16th century. Martin Luther began to preach the Biblical principle of justification by faith. Did this unify the Christians of his time? No. John Wesley began to preach the New Testament principle that in order to be ready for the Lord to come, Christians would need to reach a certain spiritual condition. Did that message bring unity? No. Mrs. White writes regarding the Puritans: “When first constrained [forced] to separate from the English Church, the Puritans had joined themselves togeth-

er by a solemn covenant, as the Lord’s free people, ‘to walk together in all His ways made known or to be made known to them.’ Here was the true spirit of reform, the vital principle of Protestantism.” Ibid., 291

Throughout history, when Christianity accepted worldly principle into its midst, separation was always the result.

“The union of the church with the state, be the degree ever so slight, while it may appear to bring the world nearer to the church, does in reality but bring the church nearer to the world. ...

“[T]hose ... so highly favored in receiving the blessings of the Reformation, failed to press forward in the path of reform.” Ibid., 297

The reformation stopped.

“When the Saviour pointed out to His followers the signs of His return, He foretold the state of backsliding that would exist just prior to His second advent.” Ibid., 309

Bible prophecy says that there will be backsliding and that it will continue unless we receive the Holy Spirit.

“To prepare a people to stand in the day of God, a great work of reform was to be accomplished. ...

“This warning is brought to view in Revelation 14. Here is a threefold message represented as proclaimed by

“

*Fanatics display very strict standards and little tolerance for any idea or opinion that is contrary to what they believe.*

heavenly beings and immediately followed by the coming of the Son of man to reap ‘the harvest of the earth.’” Ibid., 311

What happened at Jesus’ first coming will be repeated as He prepares to come the second time. “The Jews [God’s chosen people] were building monuments for the slain prophets of God, while by their deference to the great men of earth they were paying homage to the servants of Satan.” Ibid., 313. It was because of this, that when Jesus came, they did not know Him.

Would you be surprised to know that if the Holy Spirit was to be poured out on God’s people today, the great majority wouldn’t know it? They might know something was happening, but it would be of no benefit to them. On the Day of Pentecost, the Jews said that the disciples and those upon whom the Holy Spirit fell were simply drunk (Acts 2). Referencing this same condition when Christ came the first time, Ellen White said, “Oh, what a lesson is this wonderful story of Bethlehem! How it rebukes our unbelief, our pride, and a self-sufficiency. How it warns us to beware, lest by our criminal indifference we also fail to discern the signs of the times, and therefore know not the day of our visitation.” Ibid., 315

When the Holy Spirit is poured out, when revival comes, there is always a separation because there are two different types of people—Christians who truly have the Spirit and those claiming to be Christians, but lacking the Spirit. “Unless the church will ... accept every ray of light, performing every duty which may be revealed, religion will inevitably degenerate into the observance of forms, and the spirit of vital godliness will disappear. This truth has been repeatedly illustrated in the history of the church.” Ibid., 316

“When the professed people of God are uniting with the world, living as they live, and joining with them in forbidden pleasures; when the luxury of the world becomes

the luxury of the church; when the marriage bells are chiming, and all are looking forward to many years of worldly prosperity—then, suddenly as the lightning flashes from the heavens, will come the end of their bright visions and delusive hopes.” Ibid., 338, 339

Oh, friend, we are living in a time when an overwhelming tide of worldly conformity has come in among God’s professed people. Paganism slowly came into the church in the disciples’ time, but God poured out His Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and the result was a separation of the righteous from the unrighteous. God is waiting to pour out His Holy Spirit on us and bring about another separation today.

“Revelation 18 points to the time when, as the result of rejecting the threefold warning of Revelation 14:6–12, the church will have fully reached the condition foretold by the second angel, and the people of God still in Babylon will be called upon to separate from her communion. This message of separation is the last that will ever be given to the world.” Ibid., 390

There is no message to be given to the world that will bring unity or acceptance or help people to get along. “Conformity to worldly customs converts the church to the world; it never converts the world to Christ.” Ibid., 509

The devil is very active. “He is now preparing for his last campaign against the church. ... Though hidden from sight, he is working with all diligence to control the minds of the worshipers. Like a skillful general he lays his plans beforehand.” Ibid., 510, 518

His entire plan is to deceive you in such a way as to keep you occupied—pleasure loving, appetite [passion], presumption, love of the world—he doesn’t care how he does it. His purpose is to keep you from being ready for the future until it is too late to get ready.

Satan does all this because he hates Christ. He is the one who caused Christ to be crucified. He hates Christ and because Christ loves you and me, he hates us, too. He cares very little for us except to see us lost and to hurt Christ. Jesus’ whole desire in this world is to save. He would save

everyone if every man, woman, and child would simply choose to accept His Spirit. But Satan only wants to see you dead. God draws us to Himself by love, but Satan uses every weapon in his enormous arsenal of sin to keep us separated from God. He knows full well the infinite value God has placed upon each one of us, so he causes us as much pain, hardship, and suffering as he can, to hurt the heart of Christ.

The devil will be successful with most people. "Little by little he has prepared the way for his masterpiece of deception in the development of spiritualism. He has not yet reached the full accomplishment of his designs; but it will be reached in the last remnant of time." Ibid., 561. Today, spiritualism is everywhere. In magazines, on the television and the internet, and people don't even recognize it for what it is. Only by the Holy Spirit living in our hearts will we be able to escape this and the many other deceptions that Satan is preparing to spread across this world. This is a matter of eternal life or death. Jesus said to Nicodemus, " 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.' " John 3:5

In Paul's day, new believers were commonly asked if they had received the Holy Spirit. It might seem like an impolite question, but if I asked you that question, could you answer yes? It is important to know if you can answer positively, because if you can't, then you have no assurance of eternal life.

"As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position, and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side." *The Great Controversy*, 608



*The union of the church with the state brings the church nearer to the world.*

It is astonishing the number of times the subject of revival and the resulting separation is found in the book *The Great Controversy*. Many might wonder if the book ever talks about unity. It does, primarily in the last part of the book, but it speaks of a false unity, not the kind of unity we would want to be a part of.

"The ministration in the temple continued; sacrifices were offered upon its polluted altars, and daily the divine blessing was invoked upon a people guilty of the blood of God's dear Son, and seeking to slay His ministers and apostles. So when the irrevocable decision of the sanctuary has been pronounced and the destiny of the world has been forever fixed, the inhabitants of the earth will know it not. The forms of religion will be continued by a people from whom the Spirit of God has been finally withdrawn; and the satanic zeal with which the prince of evil will inspire them for the accomplishment of his malignant designs, will bear the semblance of zeal for God." Ibid., 615

"In the presence of the assembled inhabitants of earth and heaven the final coronation of the Son of God takes place. ...

"As soon as the books of record are opened, and the eye of Jesus looks upon the wicked, they are conscious of every

sin which they have ever committed. They see just where their feet diverged from the path of purity and holiness, just how far pride and rebellion have carried them in the violation of the law of God." Ibid., 666. It is at this point that the wicked will be able to see just where they went wrong.

People really believe that they will be different than the Jews 2,000 years ago or the church during Martin Luther's day. But sadly, they are deceiving themselves. History repeatedly proves that without the Holy Spirit, they will disregard the message of the third angel and in the end, be lost.

Do you have the Holy Spirit in your life? Are you ready for what lies ahead? Are you willing to be separate from the world, even if it is found in your own church, loved ones, or friends? Only the Holy Spirit can make you ready for what the faithful and obedient children of God will face in the *very near* future. We must pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and then be ready for a separation.

[Emphasis supplied.] LM

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# *Your Grace is Sufficient*

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By Michael C. Wells

Grace is a big subject in the Bible. A quick search shows that grace is mentioned 146 times. Yet I wonder, do we really understand grace? I think of the grace of God like I think of the love of God. It seems unsearchable, unending, and incomprehensible. We speak a lot about it, but are we sure we understand it as God would have us understand it?

When we look at the stories of the apostles, it doesn't appear that they fully understood grace. As I study the life of Paul, I have wondered why the Jerusalem church didn't extend the grace of God to Paul through their prayers and supplications. Maybe it was because grace was still a partially unknown quality in their lives. I also found that the apostles developed a better understanding of grace in their later years.



That is not a denunciation of the apostles, it just seems to be a quantifiable factor even in most Christians today. Why do we lack an understanding of grace, perhaps even lacking grace itself? Ellen White tells us that grace is imparted to those who call upon the Lord. So, could it be that we have become so self-sufficient that we do not call on the Lord to impart His grace to us? She also tells us that those who impart or extend grace to others will receive grace. “For every grace imparted, God would have given grace.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 8, 151. Had Paul been accepted by the church, do you think he would have been saved from some of the hardships he endured at the end of his life as a prisoner?

“But beneath this apparent harmony, prejudice and dissatisfaction were still smoldering. Some in the church were still striving to mold Christianity after the old customs and ceremonies that were to pass away at the death of Christ. They felt that the work of preaching the gospel must be conducted according to their opinions. If Paul would labor in accordance with these ideas, they would acknowledge and sustain his work; otherwise they would discard it.

“The elders of the church had been at fault in allowing themselves to be influenced by the enemies of the apostle. But when they heard from his own lips an account of the work he had been doing, it assumed a different aspect. They could not condemn his manner of labor; they were convinced that it bore the signet of Heaven. The liberal contributions from the new churches he had raised up, testified to the power of the truth. They saw that they had been held in bondage by the Jewish customs and traditions, and that the work of the gospel had been greatly hindered by their efforts to maintain the middle wall of partition between Jew and Gentile.

“Now was the golden opportunity for these leading men to frankly confess that God had wrought through Paul,



*Those  
who impart  
or extend grace  
to others will  
receive grace.*

and that they were wrong in permitting the reports of his enemies to create jealousy and prejudice against him. But instead of doing justice to the one whom they had injured, they still appeared to hold him responsible for the existing prejudice, as though he had given them cause for such feelings. They did not nobly stand in his defense, and endeavor to show the disaffected party their error; but they threw the burden wholly upon Paul, counseling him to pursue a course for the removal of all misapprehension.” *Sketches from the Life of Paul*, 211, 212

The elders of the Jerusalem church missed a great opportunity to put to rest questions regarding circumcision and the ceremonial laws. They could have supported Paul and delivered grace to him and the church. Instead, the church caused greater harm to their faithful brother by asking him to partake of the ceremonies in an effort to appease those in the church who were working from a wrong premise. They were not requesting and partaking in the grace of Christ, but relying on the outward forms of religion that had been fulfilled and done away with by the death and resurrection of Jesus their Saviour. This action caused Paul great harm.

Paul, the emissary of grace to the Gentiles and now to the brethren in Jerusalem, complied with their request out of the sense of need to be accepted and to join with the mother church. In any other setting, he would have rejected such a request. Paul preached that the Grace of God, Jesus Christ, was all we needed for salvation, and through that association with Him, grace would change our lives. How many times did he tell Timothy to be strong in the grace of Christ? Here are just a few. “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” ... “Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace to us in Christ Jesus before time began.” 2 Timothy 2:1 and 2 Timothy 1:8, 9

So, what is grace? Grace is defined as the unmerited favor of God. There is nothing worthy in us, no act or word spoken, that will make us righteous, so we need the grace of God. We can do nothing to deserve it, so He *gives* it to

all who will come to Him. We find grace in God even before we are obedient, yet that grace abounds as we become more

obedient. We are counseled to come as we are and receive grace. Satan wants to keep us from obtaining that which is freely given by God, but God knows us as we are and still calls us not to listen to the usurper, but humbly take the grace that God is offering. “Do not listen

to the enemy’s suggestion to stay away from Christ until you have made yourself better; until you are

good enough to come to God. If you wait until then, you will never come. When Satan points to your filthy garments, repeat the promise of Jesus, ‘Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.’ John 6:37. Tell the enemy that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin. Make the prayer of David your own, ‘Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.’ Psalm 51:7

“Arise and go to your Father. He will meet you a great way off. If you take even one step toward Him in repentance, He will hasten to enfold you in His arms of infinite love. His ear is open to the cry of the contrite soul. The very first reaching out of the heart after God is known to Him. Never a prayer is offered, however faltering, never a tear is shed, however secret, never a sincere desire after God is cherished, however feeble, but the Spirit of God goes forth to meet it. Even before the prayer is uttered or the yearning of the heart made known, grace from Christ goes forth to meet the grace that is working upon the human soul.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 205, 206

As we submit to God, His Spirit will lead us into the grace of Jesus. Paul spread the grace of Christ to all he encountered. Every letter he wrote began, “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” He saw the need for every believer to be endowed with the grace that flows from God. When he spoke, it was with grace to the hearer, impressing on his listeners that they should speak only grace and love. “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” Ephesians 4:29


Even though the elders of the Jerusalem church initially failed to understand that grace was the leading factor in the conversion of the church, later they did grasp this understanding. Yes, repentance was key to conversion, yet it was the grace of Jesus that drew them to repentance. Peter gave an accurate representation of grace and how it worked in a person’s conversion when he said, “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” Acts 3:19. Conversion comes from the drawing of the Lord through His amazing grace.

None of the men and women that the Lord drew to Himself were perfect people. All had faults. Some had led very sinful lives, but Jesus saw past the outward appearance to look at the heart that yearned for something better. All were converted through the grace of Jesus—Noah, Abraham, Moses, Daniel, Mary Magdalene, Peter, and Paul—all sinners, all unworthy, all saved by grace because they believed in Jesus Christ.

“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air [Satan], the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we



*We find grace in God even before we are obedient, yet that grace abounds as we become obedient.*



*Conversion  
comes from the  
drawing of the  
Lord through His  
amazing grace.*

were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:1–7

God’s grace is amazing to ponder. Through His kindness and love, He reaches down to lift us up from the depths of degradation. He finds us floundering in the clutches of Satan, but like a good shepherd, Jesus comes to find us, the one lost sheep. That is the grace of God toward mankind. What other kind of love would take fallen man and make him a partaker of the divine similitude? What other kind of love would take the time to mold us into the likeness of Christ, His Son? What kind of God would raise us up to sit together in heavenly places with Christ? Only a God of grace and love! There is no need to fear to come to God no matter where you are in life today. We need only remember that Jesus died for us, and His grace is sufficient in all cases.

Peter was a proud man who learned about the grace of Christ and was humbled. He said in 1 Peter 5:5, “Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’”

Peter was not perfected immediately, just as we are not. He was carried off in hypocrisy toward the Gentile converts when the Jewish disciples came to visit. He separated himself from the Gentiles to win favor with the Jews, but Paul stood up and confronted him, teaching this man who had walked with Jesus a lesson in the grace of God.

I believe this story is recorded in the Bible for a couple of reasons. One was to show how Peter was not infallible and made mistakes. But it also is a warning to us lest we believe that we are without fault. We need to humble ourselves daily to receive that grace of Christ that flows so freely. When we become rooted in our own opinions, many times we find in soul searching that we are in need of more grace. We see that we are not as clean as we suppose, that as a stone to be set in the temple of God, we are not fitted properly. We need to be shaped and polished.

If we are not searching our souls, then we are in danger of becoming so fixed in our beliefs that we will miss the guidance of Christ as He directs our lives. If we are open and ready to follow, Jesus will lead His people every moment to His grace. His grace brings peace and love. There will be no envy or strife in our lives. But if we find that there is, then we must go back to Jesus and receive more of the grace and peace that passes all understanding. Jesus asked this

question: “I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” Luke 18:8

“There is too little faith with Christians of today. They are willing to work for Christ and His cause only when they themselves can see a prospect of favorable results. Divine grace will aid the efforts of every true believer. That grace is sufficient for us under all circumstances. The Spirit of Christ will exert its renewing, perfecting power upon the character of all who will be obedient and faithful.” *Sketches from the Life of Paul*, 296

Will Jesus find faith on the earth when He comes? To partake of faith, we must first partake of grace. We are saved by grace, not of ourselves and if grace is our way to salvation, then grace is the most important component in our path to walk with Christ. As we absorb the grace of Jesus, He is then able to help us increase our faith in Him. Love and grace are the answer to faith and obedience. Without the former, the latter would not be possible. Are you partaking daily of the grace of Christ? Is He showering you with His saving power? If we rely on Him, His grace is sufficient for us, and we will find that it is totally amazing.

[Emphasis supplied.] [LM](#)

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*Michael C. Wells is the director of Anointing Oil Ministries.*

# *Be Healed*

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By Judy Rebarchek

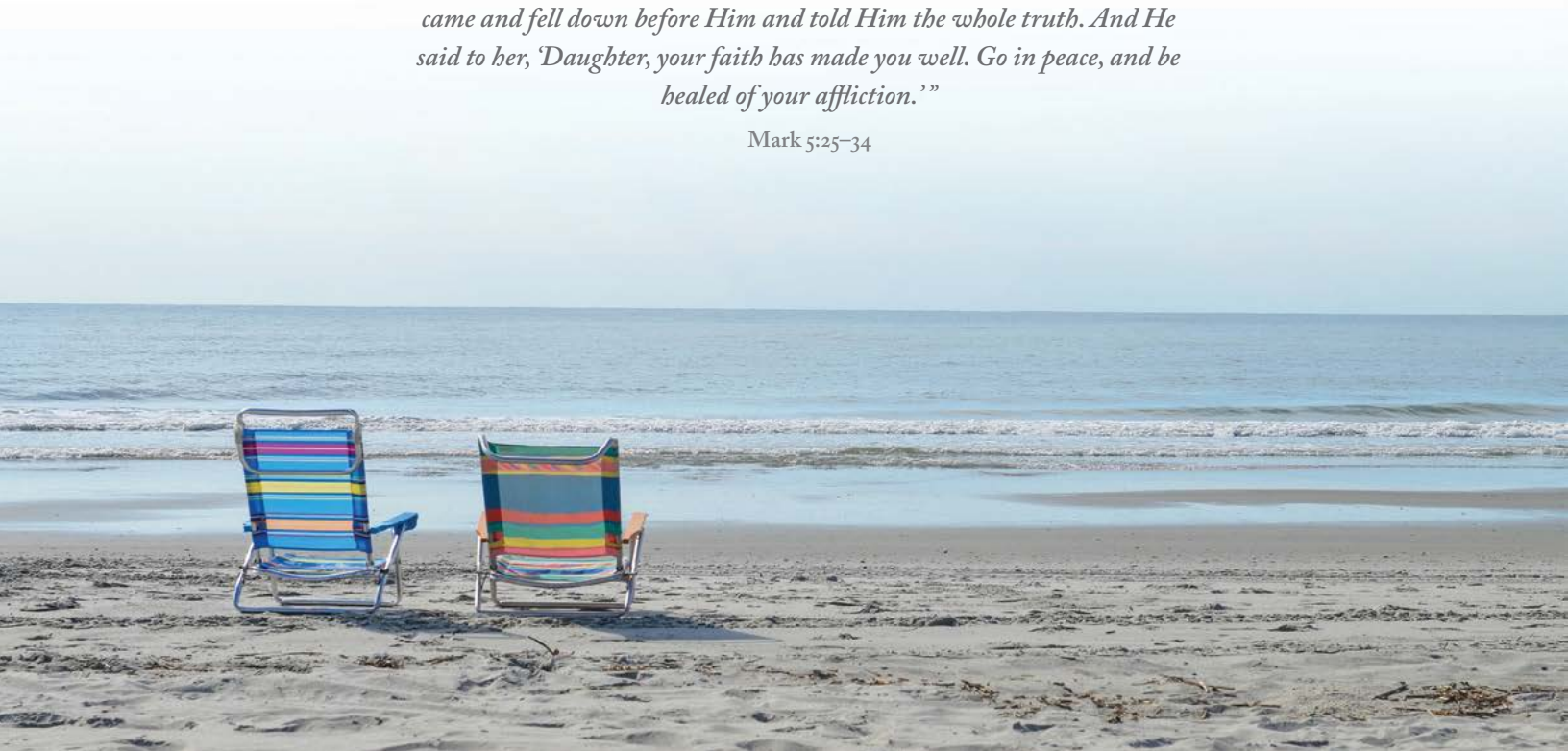
*“Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, ‘If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.’*

*“Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, ‘Who touched My clothes?’*

*“But His disciples said to Him, ‘You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, “Who touched Me?”’*

*“And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.’”*

Mark 5:25-34

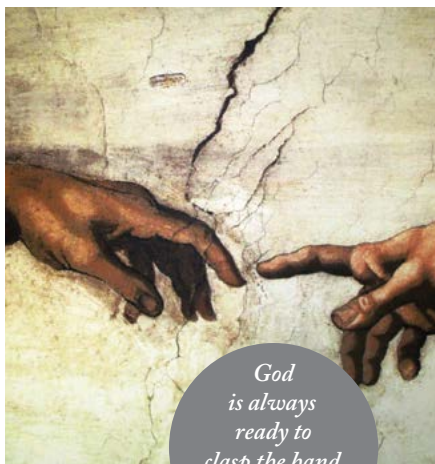


I love this story. Here is a woman who has struggled for years with a medical condition that she is unable to overcome. She has seen doctor after doctor and none of them have been able to help her. She has spent every last dime in an effort to learn of a diagnosis and treatment. But now, the disease is advancing, and she is exhausted, discouraged, and alone. Then she hears of Jesus, who has healed the sick, made the blind to see, the deaf to hear, and the crippled to walk. Is it possible that He could help her as well? She has tried everything else. She has put her faith in men who have continually failed her. Now she feels that this Master Healer is her last chance and she chooses to seek Him out.

She leaves her home determined to meet with Him, but as she nears the road where He will pass by, she finds a large multitude of people. How will she reach Him? As the crowd advances down the road, she can just see Him in its midst. She attempts to push her way through. Afraid that He will pass by before she can speak to Him, she decides that if she can just touch His garment, that surely she will be healed. She is so near now, and with a Herculean effort, she reaches through the jostling crowd and in earnest faith, barely touches the bottom of His robe. Instantly, she experiences a revitalizing of her body and at the same time she hears, "Who touched Me?"

Before we continue with this story, let's make a comparison. For years this woman has suffered with a condition over which, alone, she has no control. She is unable to cure herself, nor is she able to stop the progression of the disease. She has sought help from every direction, but has not found it.

Now let's think of ourselves in terms of sin—a condition over which, alone, we have no control. We are unable to cure ourselves of it nor can we change our selfish nature, which is the reason we sin. We have tried and tried, but have failed. Like this woman, there remains only one solution.



The root cause of her illness had to be cured so that the issue of blood could be stopped. Our nature must be changed so that our compulsion to sin can be opposed. All the medical knowledge and all the money in the world were unable to heal this woman. Nothing this world can offer, not even our own supreme effort, can change our nature.

This is a story about faith. The kind of faith that when we realize this world can do nothing for us, we have but to reach out and touch the One with the power to save.

"Remember that in every time of trouble Jesus is near you, seeking to impress His image upon you. He is trying to help you to carry the cross. He is close beside you, seeking to lead you to see how sorry He is that you make mistakes. He is always ready to clasp the hand stretched out for aid." *The Review and Herald*, June 20, 1907

But now let's look at the best part of this story. This isn't fully explained in the Bible, but the Spirit of Prophecy records this story in more detail.

"Jesus knew all about her desire, and her faith in Him, and as He was on His way to heal the ruler's daughter, He passed by the place where this poor woman was, *going out of His way* that she might have a chance to act out her faith." *Ibid.*, March 1, 1892

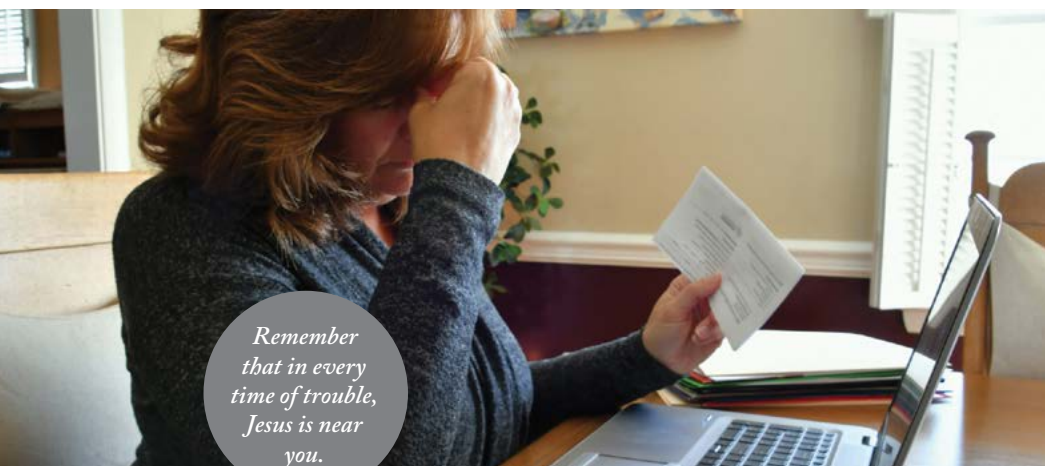
Jesus prepared the opportunity for this woman to seek Him and to find Him. When you read the story in the Bible, it seems like Jesus just happened to be passing that way and she took the opportunity to go and chance a meeting. But our loving, omnipotent God arranged to meet this woman, so that when she exercised her faith in His ability to heal her, she would be healed.

"Then Jesus turned, and said, 'Who touched me?' His disciples were astonished that He should ask such a question, and Peter spoke up in surprise, saying, 'Master, the multitude throng Thee and press Thee, and sayest Thou, Who touched Me?' And Jesus said, 'Somebody hath touched Me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of Me. And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before Him, she declared unto Him before all the people for what cause she had touched Him, and how she was healed immediately.' She told Him the whole story; and did Jesus rebuke her? Did He turn coldly from her?—No, He comforted her. He said, 'Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.'" *Ibid.*

"The touch of living faith brings virtue from Christ to the soul; but without this faith we are like the multitude that thronged the Saviour and yet felt nothing of His saving power, because they did not bring themselves in close connection with Christ.

"We must realize our need of Christ, believe in His power to supply our wants, and then come unto Him. Our love is to be quickened by the love He has given us." *The Signs of the Times*, June 8, 1891

Jesus is seeking to heal us from the spiritual disease of sin. He goes out of His way to offer opportunity for us to come to Him. Jesus is always there, waiting. No matter how long we spend looking to the world for the healing it cannot provide or relying on our own efforts and works, Jesus is still there



Remember  
that in every  
time of trouble,  
Jesus is near  
you.

waiting for us to realize that this world is, as Solomon described it, vanity.

"Vanity of vanities, all is vanity. What profit has a man from all his labor in which he toils under the sun? ... The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

"And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; ... I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind. What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be numbered. ...

"I have attained greatness, and have gained more wisdom than all who were before me in Jerusalem. My heart has understood great wisdom and knowledge.' And I set my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is grasping for the wind. For in much wisdom is much grief, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow. ...

"So I became great ... Also my wisdom remained with me. Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart rejoiced in all my labor; and this was my reward from all my labor.

"Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled; and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind."

Ecclesiastes 1:2, *last part*, 3, 8, *last part*, 13, *first part*, 14-18; 2:9-11

"Christ met one poor soul who had spent all her living in order that she might be cured of a physical malady. ... But one touch of Christ by faith took away the infirmity of long years. ...

"Christ desired to give a lesson that all present would never forget. He would show the difference between the touch of living faith and a casual touch. ...

"Why do we not come to Jesus in faith? Many give Him a casual touch, coming in contact only with His person. The woman did more than this. She put forth her hand in faith and was healed instantly." *Christ Triumphant*, 239

"So in spiritual things does the casual contact differ from the touch of faith. To believe in Christ merely as the Saviour of the world can never bring healing to the soul. The faith that is unto salvation is not a mere assent to the truth of the gospel. True faith is that which receives Christ as a personal Saviour.

"Many hold faith as an opinion. Saving faith is a transaction, by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which, through the grace of Christ, the soul becomes a conquering power." *The Ministry of Healing*, 62

Are you tired, sick of sin and the continued affect it has had on your soul? Have you turned to the Master Healer

with outstretched hand, in faith knowing that He will help you? Simply believing isn't enough. As we struggle with our selfish, sinful nature and the effect of the sins we have cultivated throughout our lives, we should not focus on the despair and ruin they have wrought, but instead turn our eyes to Jesus. It is only by embracing Him as our personal Saviour that we can ever hope to acquire the strength sufficient, by His grace, to overcome sin in our lives.

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." John 14:23

"While we trust in Christ's saving power, all the arts and wiles of the fallen host can do nothing to harm us. ... Let us believe that God means just what He says.

"There is a possibility of the believer in Christ obtaining an experience that will be wholly sufficient to place him in right relation to God. Every promise that is in God's book holds out to us the encouragement that we may be partakers of the divine nature. This is the possibility—to rely upon God, to believe His word, to work His works; and this we can do when we lay hold of the divinity of Christ.

"This possibility is worth more to us than all the riches in the world. There is nothing on earth that can compare with it. As we lay hold of the power thus placed within our reach, we receive a hope so strong that we can rely wholly upon God's promises; and laying hold of the possibilities there are in Christ, we become the sons and daughters of God."

*In Heavenly Places*, 32

"[T]he Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which is lost." Luke 19:10. Claim this promise. He is seeking to save each of us.

[Emphasis supplied.] **LM**

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## *Who Is My Brother?*

By Judy Rebarchek

Nearly 6,000 years ago, a man asked the question, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Of course, we know that Cain was answering God’s question with a question, meant to evade answering. But that single question still bears considerable consideration in this world of sin.

Do I have a responsibility for my neighbor? My family? Even strangers? The world tells us that we should just look out for number one because nobody else is going to look out for you. And, in a world of sin, the world is right. Selfish to our deepest parts, without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, it is impossible for us to love or care for anyone above ourselves.

But Christ came to this world and lived a life of love, compassion, and service. He took to Himself anyone who was willing to surrender to His love. It didn’t matter what color they were, where they were born, who their ancestors were, or what language they spoke. It didn’t

matter what they did for work, what religion they espoused, nor how sinful their lives might have been.

Christ came to save mankind, meaning the entire human race—every man, woman, and child. And the life He lived is an example to us, as Christians, those who strive to be Christlike, to assume mankind as our brother.

Then Christ went one step further and died to guarantee that anyone who would accept Him as their Saviour—would turn from their sins and surrender their hearts and lives to Him—might become just like Him.

Who is my brother? All for whom Christ died, and that doesn’t leave out anyone, for any reason.

Love and compassion for our fellow human beings is expressed in many ways. The Bible tells us to defend the weak, fatherless, and widow (Psalms 82:3; 149:9). We are to come to the aid of those in need and poverty; to protect those in danger of persecution, violence,

and suffering (Matthew 25:35–40). We are to love the stranger, because we were once strangers in a land of sin (Deuteronomy 10:19). It tells us that even our enemy is our brother (Matthew 5:43–48).

We cannot help our brother if we do not show him Jesus Christ. This world is sick to death with sin and Jesus is the only cure. Whatever we do to help others, must ultimately lead them to Him.

Our brother is everyone who has an ear to hear, who needs to know that there is a Saviour waiting for them to come to Him. By God’s grace, it is our privilege to tell and show them what He has already done for us. We are to love and respect all for whom Jesus gave His life. We are to sacrifice ourselves for them.

One day all of God’s children will stand on the sea of glass. There will be no “You will live in that part of the holy city because ...” or “I will be living over here because ...” All will be united in love to God and each other. Nothing else will matter. [LM](#)

# Jesus' Sanctuary Ministry & The Day of Atonement

*Helpful hint:* tabernacle = sanctuary = temple

## Across:

- B8 The service Moses instituted was a \_\_\_\_\_ of heavenly things .....Hebrews 8:5  
 C2 We, living in the heavenly day of atonement, must be without .....Ephesians 5:27  
 C16 Jesus did not need \_\_\_\_\_ to offer up a sacrifice .....Hebrews 7:27  
 E16 Whoever had contact with this goat (representing Satan) had to .....Leviticus 16:26  
 F4 What Jesus is "making" in the heavenly sanctuary for our sins .....Hebrews 2:17  
 G1 Jesus is ministering in the \_\_\_\_\_ tabernacle .....Hebrews 8:2  
 G18 Jesus is ministering in the tabernacle not made with .....Hebrews 9:11  
 H9 Our High Priest is \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus .....Hebrews 3:1  
 I6 This was in the holiest compartment of the earthly tabernacle .....Hebrews 9:3-5  
 I16 Jesus entered the most holy place in heaven only .....Hebrews 7:27  
 J1 The Jewish high priest entered the most holy place every .....Hebrews 9:25  
 L5 John saw the ark in the heavenly .....Revelation 11:19  
 L12 The scape goat was sent into the .....Leviticus 16:22  
 N2 Jesus ministers in a \_\_\_\_\_ tabernacle .....Hebrews 9:11  
 N18 Jesus offered His \_\_\_\_\_ blood for a sin atonement .....Hebrews 9:12  
 P2 For the heavenly Day of Atonement we must be .....2 Peter 3:14  
 P12 On the earthly Day of Atonement, the people were to \_\_\_\_\_ their souls .....Leviticus 23:27  
 R18 One represented Jesus, one Satan .....Leviticus 16:7, 8  
 S9 There can be no atonement for sin without the shedding of .....Hebrews 9:22

## Down:

- B4 The earthly tabernacle service was a \_\_\_\_\_ of the heavenly sanctuary service .....Hebrews 9:9  
 B8 The high priest entered the \_\_\_\_\_ part of the earthly tabernacle yearly .....Hebrews 9:7  
 B17 In the heavenly sanctuary, \_\_\_\_\_ will fulfill the role of the scape goat .....Revelation 20:2  
 C14 In the heavenly Day of Atonement, our bodies must be without .....Ephesians 5:27  
 E2 God's \_\_\_\_\_ is in the heavenly sanctuary .....Hebrews 8:1, 2  
 E10 As Aaron was in the earthly tabernacle, so Jesus is in the heavenly sanctuary (two words) .....Hebrews 4:14  
 E12 In the heavenly Day of Atonement, our bodies must be a \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifice .....Romans 12:1  
 E16 As the scape goat was sent to the wilderness, so Satan will be sent to the \_\_\_\_\_ .....Revelation 20:3  
 E19 Late in his life, John saw the ark of the covenant in .....Revelation 11:19  
 F6 The Jewish Day of Atonement was to \_\_\_\_\_ the earthly sanctuary and the people of sin .....Leviticus 16:16, 30  
 J3 Like Jesus, the high priest entered the most holy place .....Hebrews 9:7  
 K13 In the earthly service, Satan was represented by the \_\_\_\_\_ goat .....Leviticus 16:20, 21  
 L8 In building the tabernacle, Moses was instructed to follow the .....Exodus 25:9  
 L20 God requested His people to build an earthly \_\_\_\_\_ for Him .....Exodus 25:8  
 P3 The \_\_\_\_\_ built the heavenly tabernacle .....Hebrews 8:2  
 P5 The blood of the sin offering was sprinkled on the \_\_\_\_\_ seat .....Leviticus 16:15, 16  
 P10 On the earthly Day of Atonement, the people were to afflict their \_\_\_\_\_ .....Leviticus 23:27

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Answer Key:

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## *He That Loveth Not His Brother Abideth in Death*

**T**he completeness of Christian character is attained when the impulse to help and bless others springs constantly from within; when the sunshine of heaven fills the heart, and is expressed in the countenance. There is no such thing as a loveless Christian. It is not possible for the heart in which Christ abides to be destitute of love. The heart that is cold and stern is not catching the bright, softening beams of the Sun of Righteousness.



Hear the testimony of the apostle John: "These things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, That God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

"In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. ... We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in Him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"

Take the question to your own hearts, and answer it as if before the Judge of all the earth. A reformation must take place in every family, in every institution, in every church. "Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." "Let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. ... Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His

Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. ... If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from Him, That he who loveth God love his brother also." "If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us."

These sacred lessons, if received into the heart, will bring about the reformation essential. Many will lose heaven unless they change their selfish, unlovable, unsympathetic ways, and learn that the Spirit of Christ is not selfish and forbidding, uncourteous and loveless. Unless those who stand in responsible positions in our institutions make decided changes in heart and character, they will be condemned as lukewarm, knowing not that they are "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Unless we practice Christ's ways, and receive His Spirit, we are none of His. He desires us to reveal His love in word and action. All that we do should flow from a deep, abiding principle of love,—a principle that is after the similitude of Christ, who is love and light and peace. But how little, how very little, of Christ's character is revealed! The spirit of self-denial is becoming a rare thing.

Yet there is love in our churches. There are those who love God supremely and their neighbors as themselves. Their prayers and their alms come up before God as a memorial. The Lord does not

lose sight of them. He is watching those who are walking in the light as fast as they receive it. They are the objects of His special care.

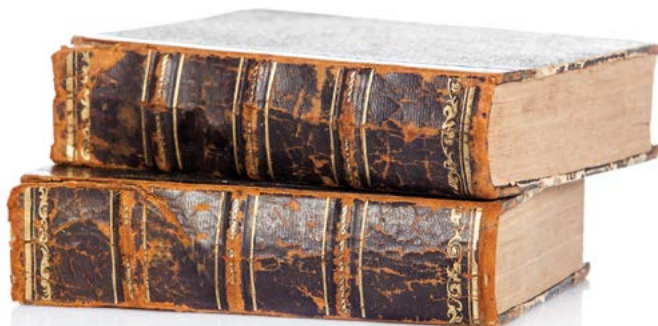
The law of Christ's kingdom is in every respect to be carried out in this world. The inspired apostle declares, "Ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God." "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself."

God desires to bind His family of workers together by common sympathy, pure affection. It is the atmosphere of Christlike love surrounding the soul of the believer that makes him a savor of life unto life, and enables God to bless his work. False philosophy alone is proud, exclusive, favoring only a few. In those who have this spirit the lowly awaken little sympathy. They possess no power nor disposition to uplift the degraded. But Christ binds men to Himself, to God, and to one another. True, sanctified philosophy makes all human elements one in Christ. It builds no walls of separation between man and his fellow men. Pure and undefiled religion makes the children of God one family, united with Christ in God. Connected as branches of the parent vine, they bear fruit to God's glory.

*The Review and Herald*, March 27, 1900 **LM**

“  
*The completeness of  
Christian character is  
attained when the impulse  
to help and bless others  
springs constantly from  
within.*”

# Mary's Two Bibles



Mary was the daughter of a missionary couple in India. She was born in India and lived there until she was six years old. When it was time for her to start school, her parents sent her back to America to live with her grandmother. Mary's grandmother was very kind to her and often told her Bible stories and did many things to make her happy.

As Mary learned to read and write, she would send letters back to her parents in India. They sent many letters to her, too, which she loved to receive. At first, her grandmother would have to read them to her. But it wasn't long before she could read them herself.

One day when she was almost seven, she received a letter from her father. In it he included some money and a note which said, "You will soon be having your seventh birthday, Mary. I have enclosed some money for you to buy yourself a new Bible as your birthday present."

"That's just what I wanted!" exclaimed Mary happily.

A few days later, on her birthday, Mary and her grandmother went to a bookstore. They looked at all the different kinds of Bibles. There were big ones and little ones, some had gold edges on the pages, and some had leather covers which cost more. It was hard to make

a decision. After looking at them for almost fifteen minutes, Mary told the saleslady how much money she had and asked if it would buy two Bibles.

"Yes, it could," replied the saleslady, "but not the nice ones you're looking at."

Mary's grandmother heard this and asked, "Mary, why do you want two Bibles?"

"Because I want one for myself and one to send to a girl in India who is my age, so that she may learn about Jesus, too," answered Mary.

So Mary bought two Bibles. They didn't have gold-edged pages or soft, leather covers. But the saleslady told Mary, "The inside is just the same!"

As soon as Mary got home, she printed her name in one of them. Her grandmother helped her carefully wrap the second Bible to be sent with a letter to her parents. She thanked them for her Bible and asked them to please give the second Bible to a seven-year-old girl in India.

Mary read her Bible every day and learned more and more of the love of Jesus. Her favorite verse was, "We love Him, because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19. She read in a letter from her father that the second Bible had been given to a seven-year-old girl, just as Mary had asked. Each day Mary prayed for her unknown friend in India, that she also

might learn to know all about the love of Jesus and how He had died on the cross for her, too.

Many years later, after Mary finished going to school, she went back to India to be with her father and mother and to help them in their missionary work. Not long after she arrived, she met a young Indian girl and learned that she was a happy Christian.


"How did you learn about the Lord Jesus?" Mary asked her one day.

"When I was seven years old, I was given this Bible," answered the girl. "I read it and learned how Jesus loved me and died for me."

Mary had found her unknown friend! This was the seven-year-old girl who had received Mary's second Bible and for whom Mary had been praying all these years.

Do you have a Bible? If you will read it, you will learn about God's love and how He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die for your sins. If you already know Him as your Saviour, why not do what Mary did—pass on God's word to others, so that they, too, can learn of God's love.

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35

Source: WholesomeWords.org from *Messages of God's Love* published by Bible Truth Publishers. 

# Who Am I?

**W**hen Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, ‘Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?’ So they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.’” Matthew 16:13–17

## *Jesus is:*

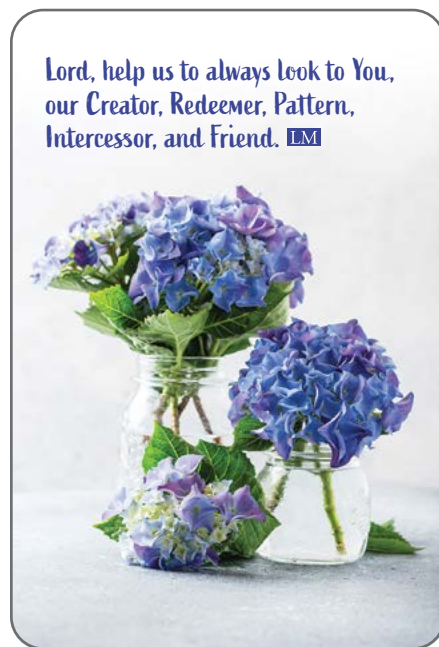
I AM (John 8:58)  
 Creator (Isaiah 40:28)  
 Son of God (1 John 4:15)  
 The First and the Last (Isaiah 44:6)  
 The Beginning and the End (Revelation 1:8)  
 The Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)  
 The Word (John 1:1, 14)  
 Immanuel (Matthew 1:23)  
 Saviour of the world (1 John 4:14)  
 Alpha and Omega (Revelation 1:8)  
 Bread of life (John 6:35)  
 Redeemer (Isaiah 48:17)  
 Messiah (John 1:41)  
 Jehovah (Isaiah 12:2 KJV)  
 Lamb of God (John 1:29)  
 The Remedy for sin (John 3:17)  
 One who is mighty to save (Zephaniah 3:17)  
 The Good Shepherd (John 10:11, 14)  
 Our Intercessor (Hebrews 7:25)  
 Advocate (1 John 2:1)  
 Sanctifier (Hebrews 2:11)  
 The Light of the world (John 9:5)  
 The Way, the Truth, the Life (John 14:6)  
 The Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:5)  
 Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning (Revelation 3:14)  
 Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)  
 My Rock, Fortress, Deliverer, Strength, my God (Psalm 18:2)  
 Cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20)  
 Teacher, Preacher, Healer (Matthew 4:23, 24)  
 Our Pattern (1 Timothy 1:16; Philippians 2:5)  
 Man of Sorrows (Isaiah 53:3)  
 King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16)  
 My Friend (John 15:15)  
 My Brother (Matthew 12:50)  
 My Salvation (Psalm 62:2)

“[T]he one great lesson the students [we] must learn is to seek with all their [our] heart, mind, and strength to know God and obey Him implicitly. The science of the salvation of the human soul is the first lesson of life. No line of literature or education in book knowledge is to become supreme. But to know God and Jesus Christ, whom He hath sent, is life eternal.” *Mind, Character, and Personality*, Vol. 1, 358

At all times and in all circumstances Jesus is just the One we need. We must ever look to Him, for it is only by keeping our focus on Him that we are able to intimately know who He is and to be like Him.

The day is coming when He will return to take us home, and on that not-far-off day, we can say with joy, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord.” Isaiah 25:9

Lord, help us to always look to You,  
 our Creator, Redeemer, Pattern,  
 Intercessor, and Friend. **LM**



"I live on the bay near Point Comfort, TX, which has a small port for oil/gas/plastics. A lady, Rhonda, comes to pick up recycled magazines from the recycle center I use. I send all the *LandMarks*, as well as other literature, for Rhonda to pick up. They are given to the merchant mariners of the ships that come into port so they can have reading material on their long voyages. Godly literature is permitted.

"Keep these sailors in prayer that the Sabbath truth and other truths will touch their hearts."

—DC, Texas

"Great thanks to the Steps to Life team for the *LandMarks* magazine. It speaks volumes to my heart of God's mercies, for I find in it heavenly treasures to help me to become a man of God. May Jesus Christ bless the work you do in His service."

—EM, Zambia

### August Sermon of the Month

## Experience of God's People at the End

By John J. Grosboll

As the end draws near, there will be two classes in the church—wheat and tares. God will bind up the wheat and Satan the tares. Who will bind you?

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

### August 2022

Dear Friend,

Please don't stop! Notice what the Lord's counsel to each of us is:

"When we are inclined to despond, as I am when I cannot work as I long to, knowing as I do that time is fast passing and that my life may go out at any time, we must take Christ at His word, and believe that 'all power' is to be given to those who need it, that this power is for you and for me. Let us not look on the dark side, but look in faith to Jesus. Let us obey the word 'Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.'"

"This is our work. Let us do it, teaching the things that Christ has commanded. The Lord will give us strength and grace. Let us trust Him. There is to be a turning and an overturning; but our work is not to stop. We are to instruct and enlighten those who have not heard the truth for this time." *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 19, 309, 310

How can we reach those who have not heard the truth for this time?

#### 1. Selling and giving away literature containing the truth will be done by Christ's servants as we approach the end:

"If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures." *Testimonies*, Vol. 4, 390

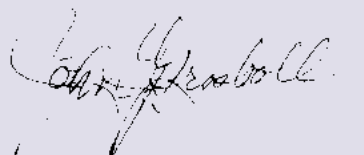
#### 2. By giving Bible readings in families:

"The Lord's methods are to be followed. By doing house-to-house work, by giving Bible readings in families, the worker may gain access to many who are seeking for truth. By opening the Scriptures, by prayer, by exercising faith, he is to teach the people the way of the Lord." *Testimonies*, Vol. 7, 38  
Steps to Life has Bible studies especially adapted for this kind of work.

#### 3. Going to large gatherings to distribute literature:

"I was given instruction that as we approach the end, there will be large gatherings in our cities, ... and that preparations must be made to present the truth at these gatherings." *Evangelism*, 35

Your brother in Christ,



John J. Grosboll

# Great is Thy Faithfulness

**T**homas Obadiah Chisholm was born July 29, 1866, in a log cabin in Franklin, Kentucky. With only an elementary education, he became a schoolteacher at the age of 16 in the same country schoolhouse he had attended.

At the age of 27, he found Christ during revival meetings held by evangelist Henry Clay Morrison and began writing sacred poems, many of which became popular hymns still sung today.

Thomas' health was unstable and he lived his life in bouts of illness.

He worked five years as the editor of the local paper in Franklin, as the business manager and office editor of the *Pentecostal Herald* in Louisville, Kentucky, and as a life insurance agent in Winona Lake and later in Vineland, New Jersey.

Thomas was ordained as a Methodist minister, and in 1903, entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, but a year later was forced to resign due to poor health.

Through all the ups and downs of his life, he discovered that God was faithful, with new blessings every morning. Lamentations 3:22, 23 became very precious to him:

"His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."

There is no dramatic story behind the writing of this beautiful hymn, just a recognition of God's faithfulness to man when we put our trust and our lives wholly in Him.

While serving the Lord in Vineland, New Jersey, Thomas sent several poems to his friend, musician William Runyan. William was so moved by this one poem that he prayed that the Lord would give him special guidance in the composition of the music. The hymn was published in 1923.

Thomas Chisholm wrote 1,200 sacred poems in all. He retired in 1953 and spent his remaining years at the Methodist Home for the Aged in Ocean Grove, New Jersey, where he died on February 29, 1960, at the age of 94.

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.*

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above;  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

*Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Sources: hymnary.org; Wikipedia [LM](#)



*from the*  
**Mission Fields**



*Bolivia is a country of a stunning, but harsh natural beauty and very resilient people.*

## *More Souls in Bolivia*

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By Pastor Domingo Nunez

**S**ister Paulina is a member of the Free Seventh-day Adventist Pillars of Faith Church in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. This is her testimony.

Paulina is a mother of four children—Juan Pablo, Hernan, Moises, and Katherine. For many years she lived in El Fuerte, a neighborhood not far from Santa Cruz. She regularly attended the Assembly Church of God of Bolivia. But one day she received a notice from her landlord telling her that she would have to move from her home.



*Sister Paulina's baptism*



*Sis. Paulina, Sis. Sahara and Pastor Jose Luis*



*Sister Paulina*

Paulina moved with her children to El Barrio Palmira, but she was worried about where she would now attend church. She had a great desire to hear the word of God and to learn more about Jesus Christ, so she searched her new home town and found an Assembly Church of God there. With great joy, she attended with the same faithfulness as when she lived in El Fuerte.

Sometime later, she began to suffer from ill health and was unable to attend church for a while. But the Lord restored her health and she was able to attend church once again, but something had changed. She began to feel uncomfortable; she felt that the brothers and sisters of the church had strange feelings toward her. After much meditation she spoke with a Christian friend who gave her words that would prove to be of great meaning to her in the future.

"Let go for now and have hope that you will find a better church where you can congregate."

Sister Paulina stopped attending the Assembly Church of God, but she did not turn away from the Lord. She won-

dered where the Lord would want her to go to church.

For some time she had been listening to the preaching of several pastors on YouTube, especially one pastor who spoke badly of the Seventh-day Adventist church. He said that the Adventist religion was a false religion because they followed a woman and kept the seventh-day Sabbath. Sister Paulina began to have doubts about what she was hearing this pastor preach, but she continued to listen.

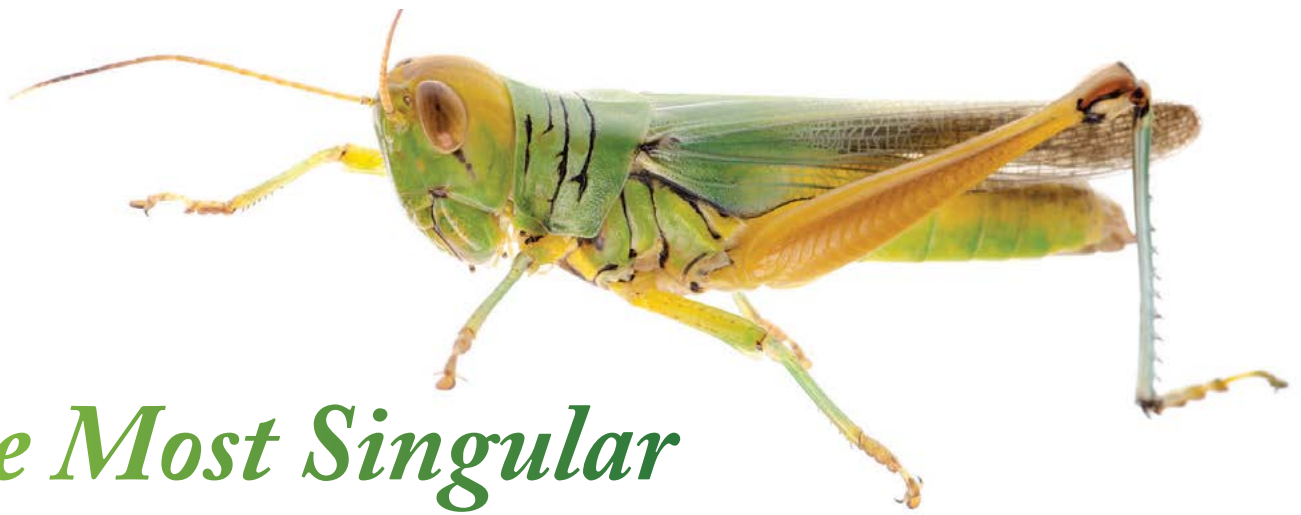
But one day, a sister invited her to study the Bible together and she gladly accepted. After studying, the sister, Sahara Challapa Gomez, told Paulina that she is a member of the Free Seventh-day Adventist Pillars of Faith Church in Santa Cruz. It was difficult for Sister Paulina since she had been listening all this time to the pastor who preached terrible things about the Adventist beliefs. She struggled within herself about what she had been hearing. What should she do if Sister Sahara asked her to continue to study or even to attend church on the Sabbath? She decided that it had been God's plan to put her in

contact with Sister Sahara. Throughout their studies she had found answers to many of her doubts, and she was filled with joy to find comfort in the word of God. She had also discovered that the Adventist beliefs weren't at all like the pastor on YouTube had described.

Most of all, she had discovered in the Bible that the seventh day was truly the Sabbath and she was determined to keep it holy. Sister Sahara invited her to attend church with her one Sabbath and she has done so ever since.

Sister Paulina loves the Lord so much because He led her to the truth, and is grateful for the rich blessings He has bestowed upon her. She now has committed her life to tell the truth about the Adventist beliefs, particularly the Sabbath, to others who might be deceived by the false preachers who regularly teach error on YouTube and others forms of communication.

May the Lord bless Sisters Sahara and Paulina and all the members of the Free Seventh-day Adventist Pillars of Faith Church in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, as they seek to spread the gospel throughout their community and all of Bolivia. [LM](#)



## *The Most Singular Orchestra on Earth*

**T**he musician drew his thigh over the teeth of a saw and began to bow a six-beat phrase. Another instrumentalist came in on a belly drum, amplifying a low tattoo into a siren-like wail. A third snapped his head against a wooden board, and a fourth, lying on his back with his feet in the air, made music by arching his spine. Most of this group can be heard around the summer world in every field and hedge, for the musicians are a grasshopper, a cicada, a death-watch beetle, and a click beetle, the conspicuous soloists of this orchestra. You can listen to a fuller ensemble on any summer night on the stage they prefer—hot grass, dry earth, and, for good measure, an August moon quivering in a sea of heat.

Familiar to almost everyone are the crickets with their fat bodies, long antennae, big heads—and their endearing habit of singing from the hearth and doorstep. Crickets sing with a distinctive “creeeak, creeeak,” produced by rubbing a scraper on the left wing against a file on the right. Cricket songs have meaning. Some are love calls, others are danger signals, and others are simply “I am here” ditties.

Grasshoppers, known in the Bible as locusts, use their thighbones as bows. A

grasshopper, standing on his “hands,” lifts his big back legs until the femurs rub against a line of small stiff pegs on the wing. This produces that dead-battery sound in the summer meadow. The grasshopper also has a flight song. As he takes off, he snaps his two big top wings against the smaller inside ones and produces that familiar crackle of grasshopper jumps.

The katydid is a handsome, brilliant-green creature, with long, graceful antennae. He makes music by lifting his wings and running the edge of one over some 70 sawlike points on the other. In the base of their wings, they possess a miniaturized amplifier, less than one eighth of an inch in size, composed of chitin, the substance from which the strong outside skeleton of the insect is made. Thinner than paper, yet stronger than a comparable thickness of steel, this tiny disk-shaped device can amplify an almost inaudible scratch into a crackling “zeep” that will carry a mile.

The loudest members of the insect orchestra are the “drummers” that literally beat one object against another. The cicadas are the classical drummers. Those with the two-year cycle are about an inch and a quarter long, chunky, often with beautiful crystal wings. The

sounds they make are courtship calls, a buzz saw high in the treetops that begins softly and rises to a frantic, earsplitting climax.

Of all the drummers, the death-watch beetle is the most astonishing, for this musician hits his head on wood to beat a tune. He does this on woodwork and old furniture. These clicking concerts can go on for years.

Then there are the “incidental musicians.” These are the flies, bees, and mosquitoes. One study of a housefly revealed that it whines the note F in the middle octave by vibrating its wings 21,120 times a minute.

Bees and wasps also use their wings to create sounds. They hum when peacefully gathering food, “pipe” when calling to mates, and “roar” when attacked.

Humming, crackling, drumming, roaring—in the soft August sun—the band plays on.

Excerpts from *Our Amazing World of Nature, Its Marvels and Mysteries*, Jean George, 36–38.

“We will sing to stringed instruments all the days of our life, at the house of the Lord.” Isaiah 38:20 RV

Who knows. Maybe God’s little orchestra will join with the saints in singing praises to our Creator. **LM**

Q:

*What is faith?*

A:

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1

“Faith is not feeling ...

“Faith claims God’s promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. ... It is not faith that claims the favor of heaven without complying with the conditions on which mercy is to be granted. Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures.

“To abide in faith is to put aside feeling and selfish desires, to walk humbly with the Lord, to appropriate His promises, and apply them to all occasions, believing that God will work out His own plans and purposes in your heart and life.” *The Faith I Live By*, 122

“Ask, and it shall be given you” (Matthew 7:7) is the promise. Our part is to rest on the Word with unwavering faith, believing that God will do according to His promise. Let faith cut its way through the shadow of the enemy. When a questioning doubt arises, go to Christ and let the soul be encouraged by communion with Him. The redemption He has purchased for us is complete. The offering He made was plenteous and without stint. Heaven has a

never-failing supply of help for all who are needy.” *Our High Calling*, 117

“God’s people are weak because they have not made Him their trust. They have not made Him their dependence, ...

“How infinitely inferior we are to the perfect Pattern that we are called upon to copy! Yet in His strength we can reach the ideal set before us. We can do ‘all things’ in His power.” *The Signs of the Times*, October 24, 1900

“By living faith, I grasp the hand of Jesus, and I am all light in the Lord. ... Faith will keep the mind above the low level of earth, and direct the soul to heaven in contemplation of the spiritual and eternal. ... Will you have faith in God, who ‘so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life?’” *Ibid.*, March 18, 1889

In his book *Satisfied*, Mark Finley defines faith as “... believing God—trusting Him. It is a settled confidence in Him. It moves at His command. It obeys at His word. It walks in His strength and lives in His power.”

“What is faith? It is simply taking God at His word; it is believing that God will do just as He has promised.” *The Signs of the Times*, September 9, 1889 **LM**





## *Health Benefits of Drinking Water*

**T**hroughout my nursing career, I have both heard this saying and said it to those entrusted to my care, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Although this advice was given by Benjamin Franklin to the fire-threatened Philadelphians in 1736, it can certainly be applied as a health principle. Preventive measures are invaluable.

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31

The body is composed of 50–70% water, depending on a person’s weight. Vital to survival, every cell, tissue, and organ in the body needs it for optimal functioning. Water aids in maintaining the balance of body fluids, carries nutrients and oxygen to cells and muscles, lubricates and cushions

joints, and regulates heartbeat, blood pressure, and temperature. It also controls calories, lowers tooth decay risks, increases perspiration, improves kidney and bowel function, and improves skin and tissue health. Consuming water may boost exercise performance, help with weight loss, and reduce allergy and asthma symptoms.

The general guideline for how much water to drink daily was eight glasses—eight ounces each or 64 ounces—but the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine recently updated it to about 15.5 cups (124 ounces) for men and about 11.5 cups (92 ounces) for women. Daily water needs are best assessed on an individual basis, and it is preferable to seek the counsel of a physician due to factors such as location, climate and altitude, activity level, metabolism, weight, and overall health. Pregnancy and breastfeeding must also be considered.

Whether young or old, drinking water can unfortunately be a low priority. “Older people don’t sense thirst as much as they did when they were younger. And that could be a problem if they’re on a medication that may cause fluid loss, such as a diuretic,” says Dr. Julian Seifter, a kidney specialist and associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.

“Even if you’re not thirsty, don’t assume you’re drinking enough water. Instead, take a peek at your urine. If it’s a pale yellow color, you’re right on track. If your urine is darker or has a strong odor, then you could probably use more fluids,” says Dr. Sukol of Cleveland Clinic. Mild to moderate dehydration may include: constipation, dizziness, low blood pressure, dry mouth, fatigue, and muscle cramps. As the severity of symptoms progress, it can become a medical emergency requiring immediate attention. Severe dehydration may include abdominal pain, confusion, and lethargy, in addition to the mild and moderate symptoms above.

Here are some tips to help encourage you to frequently drink more water:

1. Keep water available in your vehicle, at home, and at work, and while exercising.
2. Inspiration instructs that we should not drink water with our meals. But drinking pure water a little before or after a meal will help quench the thirst (*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 420).
3. Eat more fruits and vegetables like watermelon, grapefruit, tomatoes, and spinach, which have high water content.

To avoid dehydration and other risks:

1. Avoid sugary beverages that can lead to weight gain and inflammation. These can contribute to the onset of diabetes and other diseases.
2. Avoid caffeinated beverages that can cause feelings of nervousness and contribute to sleep deprivation.
3. Do not drink alcohol. It can lead to an alteration of brain function, as well as kidney and liver disease. The Bible and Spirit of Prophecy are clear that we should not consume alcoholic beverages of any kind.
4. Avoid sports drinks as they can cause fluctuation in the body’s electrolytes.
5. Avoid energy drinks which cause an increase in heart rate. These drinks, because of their caffeine content, can cause anxiety, sleeplessness, an increase in blood pressure, and heart problems. If consumed in large quantities, they can result in death.



As with the possibility of becoming dehydrated, over-hydration is also possible. Although extremely rare, the condition of hyponatremia (low blood sodium) is quite serious, even life-threatening. This occurs when drinking too much water over a short period of time; the kidneys cannot sufficiently expel the excess water. Athletes tend to be among the most notable to experience over-hydration when attempting to prevent excessive water loss during prolonged or intense exercise.

“We are nearing the judgment. Already the plagues of God are beginning to be poured out. Upon some parts of the world God is permitting the plagues to fall. If we would escape these plagues, we must be pure, virtuous, holy, ever remembering that we are God’s property. Because He has redeemed us, He wants us to cleanse the soul-temple from every trace of pollution. He wants His people to be healthy Christians, physically and spiritually.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 5, 18

Sources: Nourish by WebMD - Kathleen M. Zelman, MPH, RD, LD, Mayo Clinic - Staff, Harvard Health - Staff, and Cleveland Clinic - Staff; [healthfully.com/food sources that contain water](https://healthfully.com/food-sources-that-contain-water) [LM](#)

**Sba-Wanda Dillon**, known to us as Sunny, is part of the staff at *Steps to Life*. In Sunny’s younger years, she was an aviation electrical technician in the United States Navy. After her naval service was completed, she went back to school and became a registered nurse. She may be contacted by email at: [sunnydillon@stepstolife.org](mailto:sunnydillon@stepstolife.org)



# *The Unanswerable Question Answered*

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By John J. Grosboll

**H**ave you ever experienced something so unexplainable that you have wanted to ask, “Why?” Many people today do not believe that there is a God because if there were a God, how could He allow such terrible and unexplainable things to happen? A time is coming when we will all have the opportunity to ask, “Why?” and we will find an answer.

In the not-so-distant future, every human being will stand before God and give an account of himself or herself. God has a record of everything that has ever been said and done in this world. He even has a record of the thoughts of all of mankind. All of these things will one day, very soon, be revealed.



Jesus said, “[T]here is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.” Matthew 10:26. Everything that is unknown or hidden today will, in that last day, be revealed.

The Bible tells us that God’s judgment will take place in three phases. This should be familiar to us because in the earthly court system, judgment is also dispensed in three phases:

**Investigative** – When a person is initially brought before a judge and a jury for a trial. All the evidence that has been gathered against the accused is presented in this first phase. The evidence will either be sufficient to find a person guilty or it will fail to convince the jury and the person will be acquitted, found innocent. If acquitted, then judgment is over. But if a person is convicted, then there are two more judgment phases to face.

**Sentencing** – A sentence, based upon the severity of the crime, is determined and set.

**Executive** – The execution of the sentence a person has been given is the final phase. It might be probation, a fine and/or community service, time in prison, or if it is a capital case, a death sentence.

God’s judgment is the same. Our focus in this article will be on the executive phase of God’s judgment. “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades [the grave] delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades



were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:11–15

Here we see that this judgment is based on evidence, the things written in the records which God has been keeping since sin entered the world, and by which mankind will be judged “according to their works.” Somehow, Christians have gotten the idea that because they call themselves Christians, they won’t be judged according to what they do or don’t do. This is a terrible error because both the Old and New Testaments are clear that God will judge His people according to their works. Therefore, it is very important that we understand that our names must be found in the book of life and our works must be according to God’s law if we hope to meet God in the judgment and be found innocent of sin.

Looking again at Revelation 20, we see that this is how God will judge the people of the world, too, and that even though they may die in this life, they will be raised up again to face judgment. This judgment will be the second death. All who through sin became the enemies of God will die this second death judgment, when Satan and sin will be completely destroyed (Malachi 4:1). “Root and branch will be destroyed by the fires of the last days. Satan, the great

general of apostasy, is the root, and all his workers, who teach his lies in regard to the law of God, are the branches.”

*Manuscript 58, 1897*

“It will be seen that Satan’s rebellion against God has resulted in ruin to himself, and to all that chose to become his subjects. He has represented that great good would result from transgression; but it will be seen that ‘the wages of sin is death.’ Romans 6:23. ... An end will be made of sin, with all the woe and ruin that have resulted from it.” *The Faith I Live By*, 357

This is the execution of the judgment.

Malachi says that God will once and for all destroy sin and Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:26 that Christ will then destroy our final enemy—death. At the judgment, the book of life will be opened and anyone whose name is not found there will be cast into the lake of fire and experience the second death.

Jesus’ second coming brings about this final judgment. The second coming, mentioned hundreds of times in the New Testament, is its keynote. It is also spoken of many times in the Old Testament. The end of all things occurs at Jesus’ second coming. Revelation 19:11–16 describes the second coming of Jesus in symbolic language, “I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judg-

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*In the not-so-distant future, every human being will stand before God and give an account of himself or herself.*

es and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Notice that Jesus is coming back prepared to wage war. As we draw nearer to the end of time, the world will become increasingly wicked. We read this in Matthew 24, in both 1 and 2 Timothy, in 2 Peter chapters 2 and 3, and in Revelation. The Bible repeatedly warns that because of this wickedness, the Lord returns to wage one final battle with sin. “Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it.” Isaiah 13:9

The Old and New Testaments also state that sinners will be destroyed when the Lord returns once again to this earth. And why does this battle end this way? “[T]o give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.” 2 Thessalonians 1:7–9

Revelation describes this destruction. “Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, ‘Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh

of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.’ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.” Revelation 19:17–21

Isaiah also describes the end of all things contrary to righteousness. “The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like that of many people! A tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of the nations gathered together! The Lord of hosts musters the army for battle. They come from a far country, from the end of heaven—the Lord and His weapons of indignation, to destroy the whole land. Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.” Isaiah 13:4–6

The Lord will return to destroy sin and sinners from off the earth. All those who worshiped the beast and his image and received his mark will be killed when the Lord returns. It doesn’t matter if someone is a king or a pauper, if sin is found in their life, if their name is not written in the book of life, they will die. None will be left.

We can see clearly what will happen to the wicked at Jesus’ return. But more importantly, let’s see what will happen to those who have dedicated their lives to doing the will of God; those who have received the Holy Spirit and been transformed into the likeness of Christ—Christians in the truest sense of the word.

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught



up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep [die], but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’” 1 Corinthians 15:51–54

Paul quotes this prophecy found in Isaiah 25:6–9: “In this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all people a feast. He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken. And it will be said in that day: ‘Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.’”

Being mortal means that we are subject to death. Immortal means we will no longer be subject to death.

The righteous children of God who have died will all be raised to immortality. Those who are living will be made immortal and caught up with those who are raised from the dead to meet the Lord together in the air. Jesus told His disciples just before His arrest and crucifixion, “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” John 14:1–3

When Jesus comes, the wicked who are alive on the earth, will all be killed by the brightness of His coming. But God’s children, whether they be dead or alive, will be given immortality and be taken up together into the clouds to meet Him.

“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they

lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

“But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection.” Revelation 20:4–6, *first part*

The wicked will be dead, to be raised again to face final judgment after the millennium. Only Satan will remain alive.

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.” Revelation 20:1–3

Revelation tells us that the devil will be bound to this earth in solitary confinement for 1,000 years. There will be no one to deceive; no one to suffer from his cruelty. And during this 1,000-year period, the saints will review the books, the record that God has been keeping throughout the history of the world. The trial is commenced, the evidence is given. The saints will see that the evidence



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is overwhelmingly compelling and they must agree with God's verdict of guilty.

The New Testament is very clear that judgment will be committed to Christ's saints. "Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?" 1 Corinthians 6:1-3

The saints will judge fallen angels and sinners alike, and will then fully understand why sinners must be destroyed.

It is during this time of judgement that the many unanswered questions that we have asked, will be answered. It isn't that God cannot or refuses to answer our questions. God has a purpose for all the things that occur in this world and in our individual lives. We do not now see as God sees and therefore, we are unable to understand why things happen as they do. "Why did this happen? Why did God allow that?" They may be unanswered now, but there is no question regarding our lives on this earth that will be unanswerable. We just simply must wait for God's time to receive the answer. And here, during the

millennium, as we look over the books, we will see why things happened the way they did and be satisfied that God, in His love and mercy, did everything just right.

At the close of the millennium, Satan will be set free, the wicked will be raised from the dead, and all will be sentenced. The penalty for their sins: eternal death. No burning forever and ever ... just death.

Satan, sin, and sinners—all gone. Having been sentenced for their sins, God executes judgment and all that is sinful is destroyed forever. "God is jealous, and the Lord avenges; the Lord avenges and is furious. The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies; the Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked. ...

"Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by Him. ... He will make an utter end of it. Affliction will not rise up a second time." Nahum 1:2, 3, 6, and 9, *last part*

We will soon find out that God always does what is right and best for His children.

"Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the

elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!'

"And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: 'Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!'" Revelation 5:11-13

Jesus said He would be back to take us home with Him. For eternity, we will hear again and again the story of our redemption. Questions will be asked and answered. We will sing praises to God and Jesus, His Son.

Are we waiting and longing for His return? Soon God's children will be changed, the mortal will be given immortality and they will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. From then on, they will forever be with Him. Will you be ready to meet Him on that day? [LM](https://www.stepstolife.org)

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## The Things I Miss

An easy thing, O Power Divine,  
To thank Thee for these gifts of Thine!  
For summer's sunshine, winter's snow,  
For hearts that kindle, thoughts that glow.  
But when shall I attain to this—  
To thank Thee for the things I miss:  
For all young Fancy's early gleams,  
The dreamed-of joys that still are dreams,  
Hopes unfulfilled, and pleasures known  
Through others' fortunes, not my own,  
And blessings seen that are not given,  
And never will be this side heaven.  
Had I, too, shared the joys I see,  
Would there have been a heaven for me?  
Could I have felt Thy presence near  
Had I possessed what I held dear?  
My deepest fortune, highest bliss,  
Have grown, perchance, from things I miss.  
Sometimes there comes an hour of calm;  
Grief turns to blessing, pain to balm;  
A Power that works above my will  
Still leads me onward, upward still:  
And then my heart attains to this—  
To thank Thee for the things I miss.

By Thomas Wentworth Higginson  
*The Review and Herald*, June 12, 1900



August 28 – September 3, 2022

## Baptism

### Key Text

“Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” Mark 16:15, 16

**Study Help:** *The Desire of Ages*, 97–108, 167–177

### Introduction

“Christ has made baptism the sign of entrance to His spiritual kingdom. He has made this a positive condition with which all must comply who wish to be acknowledged as under the authority of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”

*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, 91

## Sunday

### 1 JOHN THE BAPTIST

1.a. Who performed the first baptism recorded in the New Testament, and what was the theme of his preaching? Matthew 3:1–6

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**Note:** “John proclaimed the coming of the Messiah, and called the people to repentance. As a symbol of cleansing from sin, he baptized them in the waters of the Jordan. Thus by a significant object lesson he declared that those who claimed to be the chosen people of God were defiled by sin, and that without purification of heart and life they could have no part in the Messiah’s kingdom.” *The Desire of Ages*, 104

1.b. When many Pharisees and Sadducees flocked to the wilderness to be baptized, what message did John give them? Matthew 3:7–10

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**Note:** “John himself had not directed his hearers to forsake their former duties. He bade them give evidence of their repentance by faithfulness to God in the place where He had called them.” *The Desire of Ages*, 150

## Monday

### 2 THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

2.a. Among the many who came to the wilderness to see John the Baptist, Jesus came also. Why did He do this? Matthew 3:13–15

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**Note:** “Jesus was our example in all things that pertain to life and godliness. He was baptized in Jordan, just as those who come to Him must be baptized.” *Our High Calling*, 157

“Jesus did not receive baptism as a confession of guilt on His own account. He identified Himself with sinners, taking the steps that we are to take, and doing the work that we must do. His life of suffering and patient endurance after His baptism was also an example to us.” *The Desire of Ages*, 111

2.b. When Jesus came out of the water, what happened? Matthew 3:16, 17

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**Note:** “A new and important era was opening before Him [Jesus], and He felt the solemnity and responsibilities of the new duties He was to perform, and heavier burdens which He was henceforth to bear. His baptism was the first act of His public ministry; and He here identifies Himself with sinners as their representative, in taking upon Him their sins, and numbering Himself with transgressors. In His prayer, Christ, with His human arm, encircles fallen humanity, while with His divine arm He is reaching for the throne of the Infinite. ...

“Never had angels listened to such a prayer. They were solicitous to bear to the praying Redeemer messages of assurance and love. But no; the Father Himself will minister to His Son. Direct from the throne proceeded the light of the glory of God.

The heavens were opened, and beams of light and glory proceeded therefrom and assumed the form of a dove, in appearance like burnished gold. The dove-like form was emblematical of the meekness and gentleness of Christ. ...

"The thunders rolled and the lightnings flashed from the opening heavens, and a voice came therefrom in terrible majesty, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.' The words of confirmation were given for the benefit of the witnesses at His baptism, and to assure God's dear Son that His Father accepted humanity through Him, their substitute and surety, and that God would connect man to Himself, and open heaven to the prayers of men through the intercession of His Son." *The Youth's Instructor*, March 1, 1874

## Tuesday

### 3 BORN AGAIN, OF THE WATER

3.a. In the conversation of Jesus with Nicodemus, what truth was presented which is valid for every human being? John 3:5-7

**Note:** "The figure of the new birth, which Jesus had used, was not wholly unfamiliar to Nicodemus. Converts from heathenism to the faith of Israel were often compared to children just born. Therefore he must have perceived that the words of Christ were not to be taken in a literal sense. But by virtue of his birth as an Israelite he regarded himself as sure of a place in the kingdom of God. He felt that he needed no change." *The Desire of Ages*, 171

"Nicodemus knew that Christ here referred to water baptism and the renewing of the heart by the Spirit of God." *Ibid.*, 172

"While Jesus was speaking, some gleams of truth penetrated the ruler's mind. The softening, subduing influence of the Holy Spirit impressed his heart." *Ibid.*, 173

"The power of the Holy Spirit transforms the entire man. This change constitutes the new birth." *The Signs of the Times*, November 15, 1883

3.b. What is the significance of being "born of water" and "born of the Spirit"? Romans 6:3-7; John 1:12, 13



Baptism  
is a symbol  
of cleansing  
from sin and a  
new life.

**Note:** "Baptism is a most solemn renunciation of the world. Those who are baptized in the threefold name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, at the very entrance of their Christian life declare publicly that they have forsaken the service of Satan and have become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King." *Testimonies*, Vol. 6, 91

"True repentance of sin, faith in the merits of Jesus Christ, and baptism into His death, to be raised out of the water to live a new life, are the first steps in the new birth which Christ told Nicodemus he must experience in order to be saved." *Lift Him Up*, 79

"We are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost, and these three great, infinite powers are unitedly pledged to work in our behalf if we will cooperate with them. We are buried with Christ in baptism as an emblem of His death. We are raised from the water as an emblem of His resurrection. We are to live as newborn souls, that we may be raised at the last great day." *The General Conference Bulletin*, April 4, 1901

## Wednesday

### 4 NEW CREATURES

4.a. Before we are baptized, what does the Lord require from us, and into what relationship do we then enter? 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

**Note:** “Come out from among them, and be separate, saith the Lord, and I will receive you, and ye shall be sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty. What a promise is this! It is a pledge to you that you shall become members of the royal family, heirs of the heavenly kingdom.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 2, 592

“Do you have to cut loose from friends and relatives in deciding to obey the elevated truths of God’s word? Take courage, God has made provision for you, His arms are open to receive you. Come out from among them and be separate, and touch not the unclean, and He will receive you. He promises to be a Father unto you. Oh, what a relationship is this! higher and holier than any earthly tie. If you make the sacrifice, if you have to forsake father, mother, sisters, brothers, wife, and children for Christ’s sake, you will not be friendless. God adopts you into His family; you become members of the royal household, sons and daughters of the King who rules in the heaven of heavens. Can you desire a more exalted position than is here promised? Is not this enough?” *Ibid.*, Vol. 1, 510

#### 4.b. When one is born again, how does God consider that person, and what happens in his or her life?

2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 1:22, 23; 2:1, 2

**Note:** “[P]ride is cleansed from the soul. Selfishness is uprooted. The quick, passionate temper no longer masters the man; for Jesus Christ has brought the thoughts into captivity to Himself. Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let no arrogancy come out of your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by Him actions are weighed.” *The Signs of the Times*, September 26, 1892

“The old nature, born of blood and the will of the flesh, cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The old ways, the hereditary tendencies, the former habits, must be given up; for grace is not inherited. The new birth consists in having new motives, new tastes, new tendencies. Those who are begotten unto a new life by the Holy Spirit, have become partakers of the divine nature, and in all their habits and practices they will give evidence of their relationship to Christ.” *Maranatha*, 237

## Thursday

### 5 UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE GODHEAD

- 5.a. In what name should converted souls be baptized, and what promise is given them? Matthew 28:19, 20. What privilege and responsibility rests upon them? Colossians 3:1–3

**Note:** “As Christians submit to the solemn rite of baptism, He [God] registers the vow that they make to be true to Him. ... They pledge themselves to renounce the world and to observe the laws of the kingdom of God. Henceforth they are to walk in newness of life. No longer are they to follow the traditions of men. No longer are they to follow dishonest methods. They are to obey the statutes of the kingdom of heaven. They are to seek God’s honor. If they will be true to their vow, they will be furnished with grace and power that will enable them to fulfill all righteousness.” *Evangelism*, 307, 308

“The rite of baptism is administered in the name of the Father, and of Son, and of the Holy Ghost. These three great powers of heaven pledge themselves to be the efficiency of all who submit to this ordinance, and who faithfully keep the vow they then make.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 6, 27

“You are born unto God, you stand under the sanction and the power of the three holiest beings in heaven, who are able to keep you from falling. You are to reveal that you are dead to sin; your life is hid with Christ in God.” *Ibid.*, Vol. 7, 267

- 5.b. When we are adopted as sons and daughters of God, what right and privilege belong to us? Romans 8:16, 17; Galatians 3:26–29; 4:6, 7

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What hope did John the Baptist offer to those who came to him?
- 2 Why was Jesus baptized?
- 3 What significance does Christ’s interview with Nicodemus have for us?
- 4 What is baptism to indicate in the life of a soul?
- 5 In what sense is the entire Godhead involved in the baptism of repentant sinners?

September 4 – 10, 2022

# Foot Washing

**Key Text**

“Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to be great among you, let him be your servant; and whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:26–28

**Study Help:** *The Desire of Ages*, 642–651

**Introduction**

“Christ gave His followers the ordinance of washing feet for them to practice, which would teach them lessons of humility. He connected this ordinance with the supper.” *The Signs of the Times*, March 25, 1880

## Sunday

### 1 HE LOVED THEM

1.a. What is recorded about Jesus’ love for His disciples just before His sufferings and death? John 13:1; 15:12, 13

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**Note:** “Jesus, the divine Teacher, assured His disciples of His love toward them. He assumed human nature for no other purpose than to display to men the mercy, the love, and the goodness of God in providing for the salvation and happiness of His creatures.” *Testimonies on Sabbath School Work*, 39, 40

1.b. Unlike Jesus, what spirit controlled the disciples as they came together for the Communion service? Luke 22:24

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**Note:** “Even the disciples, though outwardly they had left all for Jesus’ sake, had not in heart ceased to seek great things for themselves. It was this spirit that prompted the strife as to who should be greatest.” *The Desire of Ages*, 409

“The disciples clung to their favorite idea that Christ would assert His power, and take His position on the throne of David. And in heart each still longed for the highest place in the kingdom. They had placed their own estimate upon themselves and upon one another, and, instead of regarding their brethren as more worthy, they had placed themselves first.” *Ibid.*, 643, 644

## Monday

### 2 THE MASTER’S EXAMPLE

2.a. What act of Jesus surprised all the disciples? John 13:3–5

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**Note:** “At a feast it was customary for a servant to wash the feet of the guests, and on this occasion preparation had been made for the service. The pitcher, the basin, and the towel were there, in readiness for the feet washing; but no servant was present, and it was the disciples’ part to perform it. But each of the disciples, yielding to wounded pride, determined not to act the part of a servant. All manifested a stoical unconcern, seeming unconscious that there was anything for them to do. By their silence they refused to humble themselves.” *The Desire of Ages*, 644

“He [the Saviour], the One they [the disciples] loved, rose, and laid aside His garments, and, taking a towel, girded Himself, pouring water into the basin. It was then that the disciples were astonished and ashamed.” *The Review and Herald*, July 5, 1898

“This [Jesus’] action opened the eyes of the disciples. Bitter shame and humiliation filled their hearts. They understood the unspoken rebuke, and saw themselves in altogether a new light.” *The Desire of Ages*, 644

2.b. Relate the objection of Peter, his attitude, and Jesus’ answer to his arguments. John 13:6–9

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**Note:** “Peter shrank from bringing his soiled feet in touch with the hands of his Lord and Master; yet how often we bring our sinful, polluted souls in contact with the heart of Christ, who hates nothing but sin. O, how we grieve the pure, holy Spirit of Christ with our defiling sins! We are not prepared for the appreciation of the holy communion with Christ and with one another unless we are cleansed by His efficacy.” *The Review and Herald*, July 5, 1898

### 2.c. What is the meaning of Jesus’ words: “He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet”? John 13:10

**Note:** “Peter and his brethren had been washed in the great fountain opened for sin and uncleanness. Christ acknowledged them as His. But temptation had led them into evil, and they still needed His cleansing grace. When Jesus girded Himself with a towel to wash the dust from their feet, He desired by that very act to wash the alienation, jealousy, and pride from their hearts. This was of far more consequence than the washing of their dusty feet.” *The Desire of Ages*, 646

## Tuesday

### 3 THE DUSTY FEET

#### 3.a. How did Christ’s washing the disciples’ feet illustrate a timeless principle which all believers need to be aware? Proverbs 10:12. What reveals the positive results of Christ’s action?

**Note:** “Dissension always creates hatred, but Christ washed it away in the act of washing His disciples’ feet. A change of feeling did come; the union of heart and love for one another did exist. They became meek, teachable, and loving, and would have conceded to anyone the highest place. They were prepared to partake of the last supper with fragrant feelings of love, deep and full, for their Master and for one another.” *The Review and Herald*, July 5, 1898

“The act of Christ in washing the feet of His disciples was a sacred one; His motive in so doing was to bring about, through their remembrance of what Christ had done for them, a state of feeling where no exaltation of one above another should find place. This ordinance was to bring brother to an understanding of the feelings of his brother.” *Ibid.*, June 14, 1898

#### 3.b. What does the Lord wish to do to us as we humbly serve one another by washing the feet? Psalm 51:2, 7; Hebrews 10:22

**Note:** “It is not humiliating to the Master to allow Him to work for our purification. The truest humility is to receive with thankful heart any provision made in our behalf, and with earnestness do service for Christ.” *The Desire of Ages*, 646

“You have confessed your sins, and in heart put them away. You have resolved to give yourself to God. Now go to Him, and ask that He will wash away your sins and give you a new heart. Then believe that He does this *because He has promised*. This is the lesson which Jesus taught while He was on earth, that the gift which God promises us, we must believe we do receive, and it is ours.” *Steps to Christ*, 49, 50 [Author’s emphasis]

“Christ gave His disciples to understand that the washing of their feet did not cleanse away their sin, but that the cleansing of their heart was tested in this humble service. If the heart was cleansed, this act was all that was essential to reveal the fact. He had washed the feet of Judas; but He said, ‘Ye are not all clean.’ Judas brought a traitor’s heart to this scene, and Christ revealed to all that He knew him to be the betrayer of his Lord, and that the washing of his feet was not an ordinance to cleanse the soul from its moral defilement.” *The Faith I Live By*, 299

## Wednesday

### 4 A SERVICE OF HUMILITY

#### 4.a. What blessings are promised to those who walk humbly before God? 2 Chronicles 7:14; Isaiah 57:15; Matthew 23:12; James 4:6, 10

**Note:** “All human ambition, all boasting, is to be laid in the dust. Self, sinful self, is to be abased, not exalted.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 8, 234

“The more exalted opinion we have of ourselves, the less need shall we feel of Jesus. True goodness never exalts self; but the self-righteous are always reaching out for the honor and praise of men. They have set up a false standard, and have too high an opinion of themselves. All who fall upon the rock, and are



Washing  
tired  
guest's feet was  
customary in  
ancient times.

broken, Christ shall build up in true purity and holiness." *The Review and Herald*, August 7, 1888

"Those who meekly and humbly pursue their course of duty, not to be praised, petted, and honored of men, but to glorify God, will receive as their reward glory, honor, and eternal life." *Ibid.*, July 22, 1890

"Christ gave His followers the ordinance of washing feet for them to practice, which would teach them lessons of humility. He connected this ordinance with the supper. He designed that this should be a season of self-examination, that His people might have an opportunity to become acquainted with the true feelings of their own hearts toward God and one another. If pride existed in their hearts, how soon would it be discovered to the honestly-erring ones, as they should engage in this humble duty. If selfishness or hatred existed, it would be more readily discovered as they engaged in this humble work. This ordinance was designed to result in mutual confessions, and to increase feelings of forbearance, forgiveness of each other's errors, and true love, preparatory to engaging in the solemn ordinance of commemorating the sufferings and death of Christ." *The Signs of the Times*, March 25, 1880

4.b. What is the significance of the ceremony of washing one another's feet, and what did Jesus command us to do on this occasion? John 13:12-17

**Note:** "There is in man a disposition to esteem himself more highly than his brother, to work for self, to seek the highest place; and often this results in evil surmisings and bitterness of spirit. The ordinance preceding the Lord's Supper is to clear away these misunderstandings, to bring man out of his selfishness, down from his stilts of self-exaltation, to the humility of heart that will lead him to serve his brother." *The Desire of Ages*, 650

## Thursday

### 5 "BLESSED ARE YE"

5.a. After Jesus finished washing the disciples' feet, including the feet of Judas, what did He predict? John 13:21-26

**Note:** "The constraining power of [the] love [of Jesus] was felt by Judas. When the Saviour's hands were bathing those soiled feet, and wiping them with the towel, the heart of Judas thrilled through and through with the impulse then and there to confess his sin. But he would not humble himself. He hardened his heart against repentance; and the old impulses, for the moment put aside, again controlled him." *The Desire of Ages*, 645

5.b. What should we learn from the sad experience of Judas, and how should we approach the sacred ceremony of foot washing? Acts 1:15-20

**Note:** "The practice of the truths that Christ taught was at variance with his [Judas'] desires and purposes, and he could not bring himself to yield his ideas in order to receive wisdom from heaven. Instead of walking in the light, he chose to walk in darkness. Evil desires, covetousness, revengeful passions, dark and sullen thoughts, were cherished until Satan gained full control of him." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 558

"The performance of the ordinance of humility calls for self-examination. The noble principles of the soul are strengthened on every such occasion. Christ lives in us, and this draws heart to heart. We are led to love as brethren, to be kind, tender, courteous in daily service, having hearts that can feel another's woe." "Ellen G. White Comments," *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 5, 1139

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How was Christ's attitude in the upper room widely different from that of His disciples?
- 2 Why was Jesus' act of washing the disciples' feet such a shock to them?
- 3 How did Christ's action change the disciples' hearts?
- 4 Why is humility so essential in the Christian life?
- 5 What blessings do we reap as a result of washing one another's feet?

September 11 – 17, 2022

# The Lord's Supper

## Key Text

"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?" 1 Corinthians 10:16

**Study Help:** *The Desire of Ages*, 652–661, 151, 152

## Introduction

"As we receive the bread and wine symbolizing Christ's broken body and spilled blood, we in imagination join in the scene of Communion in the upper chamber." *The Desire of Ages*, 661

## Sunday

### 1 THE PASSOVER

1.a. What important rite was instituted at the time of Israel's liberation from Egypt? Exodus 12:2–6

**Note:** "The observance of the Passover began with the birth of the Hebrew nation. On the last night of their bondage in Egypt, when there appeared no token of deliverance, God commanded them to prepare for an immediate release. He had warned Pharaoh of the final judgment on the Egyptians, and He directed the Hebrews to gather their families within their own dwellings. Having sprinkled the doorposts with the blood of the slain lamb, they were to eat the lamb, roasted, with unleavened bread and bitter herbs." *The Desire of Ages*, 76, 77

1.b. How do we know that the Passover feast was not a party of joy? Exodus 12:7–11. Who had no right to partake of the Passover? Exodus 12:43–49

**Note:** "Many of the Egyptians had been led to acknowledge the God of the Hebrews as the only true God, and these now begged to be permitted to find shelter in the homes of Israel when the destroying angel should pass through the land. They were gladly welcomed, and they pledged themselves henceforth to serve the God of Jacob and to go forth from Egypt with His people." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 279

## Monday

### 2 THE TIME OF TRANSITION

2.a. What ceremony was instituted by Jesus when He partook of the Passover ordinance for the last time? Luke 22:19, 20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

**Note:** "When the Saviour yielded up His life on Calvary, the significance of the Passover ceased, and the ordinance of the Lord's Supper was instituted as a memorial of the same event of which the Passover had been a type." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 539

"The Passover was ordained as a commemoration of the deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage. God had directed that, year by year, as the children should ask the meaning of this ordinance, the history should be repeated. Thus the wonderful deliverance was to be kept fresh in the minds of all. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was given to commemorate the great deliverance wrought out as the result of the death of Christ." *The Desire of Ages*, 652, 653

2.b. Before one takes part in the Communion service, what responsibility rests upon him or her? 1 Corinthians 11:27–30; 2 Corinthians 13:5

**Note:** "There is a necessity for close self-examination, and to closely investigate in the light of God's word, Am I sound, or am I rotten, at heart? Am I renewed in Christ, or am I still carnal at heart, with an outside, new dress put on? Rein yourself up to the tribunal of God, and see as in the light of God if there is any secret sin, any iniquity, any idol you have not sacrificed. Pray, yes, pray as you have never prayed before, that

you may not be deluded by Satan's devices; that you may not be given up to a heedless, careless, and vain spirit, and attend religious duties to quiet your own conscience." *Messages to Young People*, 83, 84

"The holy Watcher from heaven is present at this [foot-washing] season to make it one of soul searching, of conviction of sin, and of the blessed assurance of sins forgiven. ... Blessings forgotten, mercies abused, kindnesses slighted, are called to mind. Roots of bitterness that have crowded out the precious plant of love are made manifest. Defects of character, neglect of duties, ingratitude to God, coldness toward our brethren, are called to remembrance. Sin is seen in the light in which God views it." *The Desire of Ages*, 650, 651

## Tuesday

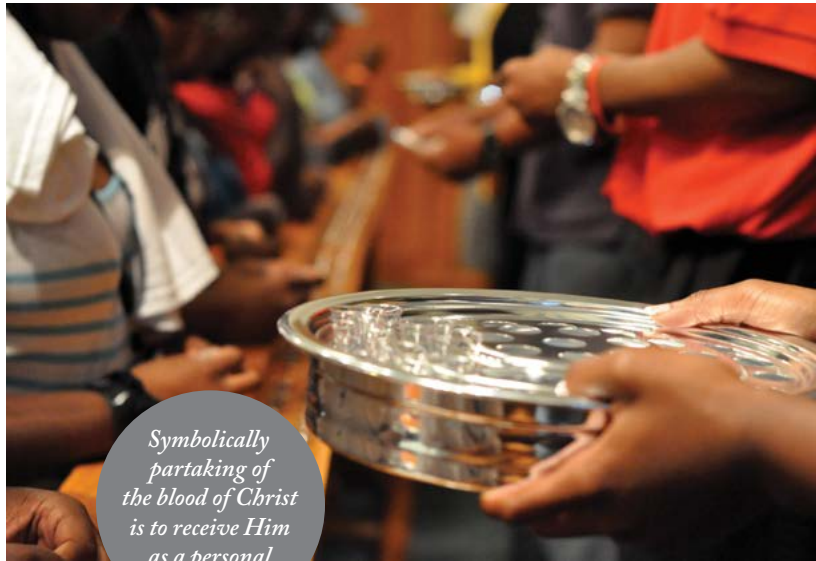
### 3 "IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME"

3.a. What is the meaning of Christ's command, "This do in remembrance of Me"? Luke 22:19, 20; 1 Corinthians 11:24, 25

**Note:** "On the fourteenth day of the first Jewish month, the very day and month on which for fifteen long centuries the Passover lamb had been slain, Christ, having eaten the Passover with His disciples, instituted that feast which was to commemorate His own death as 'the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.' That same night He was taken by wicked hands to be crucified and slain." *The Great Controversy*, 399

"In instituting the sacramental service to take the place of the Passover, Christ left for His church a memorial of His great sacrifice for man. 'This do,' He said, 'in remembrance of Me.' This was the point of transition between two economies and their two great festivals. The one was to close forever; the other, which He had just established, was to take its place, and to continue through all time as the memorial of His death." *Evangelism*, 273, 274

3.b. Until when is the Lord's Supper to be celebrated?  
1 Corinthians 11:26



**Note:** "Christ designed that this supper should be often commemorated in order to bring to our remembrance His sacrifice in giving His life for the remission of the sins of all who will believe on Him and receive Him." *God's Amazing Grace*, 152

"[T]he Lord's Supper was not to be observed only occasionally or yearly, but more frequently than the annual Passover. This solemn ordinance commemorates a far greater event than the deliverance of the children of Israel from Egypt. That deliverance was typical of the great atonement which Christ made by the sacrifice of His own life for the final deliverance of His people." *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 1, 203

"Then I was pointed back to the time that Jesus took His disciples away alone, into an upper room, and first washed their feet, and then gave them to eat of the broken bread, to represent His broken body, and juice of the vine to represent His spilled blood. ... [A]ll should move understandingly, and follow the example of Jesus in these things, and when attending to these ordinances, should be as separate from unbelievers as possible." *The Present Truth*, November 1, 1850

## Wednesday

### 4 THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

4.a. In His discussion with the Jewish leaders, what truth did Jesus make plain? John 6:32-35

**Note:** "We cannot, as individuals, maintain our bodily life unless we eat and drink for ourselves of temporal food. In order to maintain spiritual life and health, we must feed on Jesus

Christ by studying His word, and doing the things He has commanded in that word. This will constitute a close union with Christ. The branch that bears fruit must be in the vine, a part of it, receiving nourishment from the parent stalk. This is living by faith upon the Son of God." *The Review and Herald*, June 7, 1898

"To the death of Christ we owe even this earthly life. The bread we eat is the purchase of His broken body. The water we drink is bought by His spilled blood. Never one, saint or sinner, eats his daily food, but he is nourished by the body and the blood of Christ. The cross of Calvary is stamped on every loaf. It is reflected in every water spring. All this Christ has taught in appointing the emblems of His great sacrifice." *The Desire of Ages*, 660

4.b. What is the meaning of the words: "My flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed"? John 6:53-58

**Note:** "To eat the flesh and drink the blood of Christ is to receive Him as a personal Saviour, believing that He forgives our sins, and that we are complete in Him. It is by beholding His love, by dwelling upon it, by drinking it in, that we are to become partakers of His nature. What food is to the body, Christ must be to the soul. Food cannot benefit us unless we eat it, unless it becomes a part of our being. So Christ is of no value to us if we do not know Him as a personal Saviour. A theoretical knowledge will do us no good. We must feed upon Him, receive Him into the heart, so that His life becomes our life. His love, His grace, must be assimilated." *The Desire of Ages*, 389

"'He that eateth My flesh,' He says, 'and drinketh My blood, dwelleth in Me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth Me, even he shall live by Me.' John 6:54, 56, 57. To the holy Communion this scripture in a special sense applies. As faith contemplates our Lord's great sacrifice, the soul assimilates the spiritual life of Christ. That soul will receive spiritual strength from every Communion." *Ibid.*, 660, 661

## Thursday

### 5 THE GREAT SUPPER

5.a. What glorious event should encourage us to remain faithful in our Christian experience? Revelation 19:6-9

**Note:** "Jesus, the compassionate Saviour, has sent to our world the general invitation, 'Come; for all things are now ready.' Will you imitate the Jews, who refused the invitation? To us the invitation is given, and the Lord would have you fear and tremble at His word, that He may kindle in your heart hope and faith and holy trust. He commands you to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and promises that all necessary things shall be added unto you. He unfolds before you the glories of paradise, and the question is, Will you accept His invitation?" *The Review and Herald*, November 5, 1895

5.b. What gracious invitation is extended to every human being, and through whom? Isaiah 55:1-3; Revelation 22:17

**Note:** "God has called this people [of the gospel ministry] to give to the world the message of Christ's soon coming. We are to give to men the last call to the gospel feast, the last invitation to the marriage supper of the Lamb. Thousands of places that have not heard the call are yet to hear it." *Gospel Workers*, 64

"The loving and compassionate Jesus declares that there is a greater sin than that for which Sodom was overthrown. It is the sin of those who, after hearing the gospel invitation to come to the marriage supper of the Lamb, turn away, and refuse to respond to the heavenly invitation. The invitation to the gospel feast is often rejected with apologies." *The Review and Herald*, November 5, 1895

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How does the Lord's Supper relate to the ancient Passover service?
- 2 Why is self-examination so important before Communion?
- 3 Why should church members separate from unbelievers on these occasions?
- 4 What daily experience denotes "eating" and "drinking" of Christ?
- 5 What event should we encourage both ourselves and others to seek?

September 18 – 24, 2022

# The Everlasting Gospel and the Great Commission

**Key Text**

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also to the Greek.” Romans 1:16

**Study Help:** *The Acts of the Apostles*, 47–56

**Introduction**

“May the Lord open the closed eyes of His people and quicken their dulled senses, that they may realize that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to them that believe.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 7, 11, 12

**Sunday**

**1 THE GOSPEL IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

1.a. What hope was given to our first parents after their fall? Genesis 3:15

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**Note:** “This sentence, uttered in the hearing of our first parents, was to them a promise. While it foretold war between man and Satan, it declared that the power of the great adversary would finally be broken.” *The Faith I Live By*, 75

1.b. By what means did patriarchs and prophets express their faith in the good news of salvation? Genesis 8:20; 22:7, 8, 13

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**Note:** “The worship of God through sacrificial offerings was established, and those who feared God acknowledged their sins before Him, and looked forward with gratitude and holy trust to the coming of the Day Star, which should guide the fallen sons of Adam to heaven, through repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Thus the gospel was preached in every sacrifice; and the works of the believers continually revealed their faith in a coming Saviour.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 231

**Monday**

**2 JOHN THE BAPTIST’S MESSAGE**

2.a. When John began his ministry, what was the theme of his message? Matthew 3:1, 2; Luke 3:3–6

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**Note:** “The doctrine that John preached was, first, repentance for past sins; then, ‘the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ They must show repentance toward God; then they would be prepared to show faith in the One who was about to declare Himself unto them.” *The Review and Herald*, November 28, 1907

2.b. How did John deal with different types of people, and what were the results of his preaching? Luke 3:7–14

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**Note:** “To the self-righteous Pharisees, the priestly Sadducees, King Herod and his court, princes and soldiers, publicans and peasants, John had spoken with equal plainness.” *The Desire of Ages*, 218

“To those who were untaught in the oracles of God, it was enough for John to say, ‘Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ But when the Baptist saw the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he was stirred to give them a decided message. These men held themselves as a power among the people. Though they held different theories regarding some Bible subjects they were united in their desire to hear the words of the wilderness prophet. Some who came from curiosity, arrested by his words, became interested in the message he was giving, and were moved to be baptized. ... Christ was about

to appear as the revealer of the character of God. His very presence would make known to men their sin." *The Review and Herald*, November 28, 1907

"Many of the scribes and Pharisees came confessing their sins, and asking for baptism. They had exalted themselves as better than other men, and had led the people to entertain a high opinion of their piety; now the guilty secrets of their lives were unveiled. But John was impressed by the Holy Spirit that many of these men had no real conviction of sin. They were timeservers. As friends of the prophet, they hoped to find favor with the coming Prince. And by receiving baptism at the hands of this popular young teacher, they thought to strengthen their influence with the people.

"John met them with the scathing inquiry, 'O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance ...'" *The Desire of Ages*, 105

## Tuesday

### 3 THE MESSAGE OF JESUS

3.a. As Jesus began His earthly ministry, what was the topic He urged upon the people? Mark 1:14, 15

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**Note:** "[T]he gospel message, as given by the Saviour Himself, was based on the prophecies. The 'time' which He declared to be fulfilled was the period made known by the angel Gabriel to Daniel. 'Seventy weeks,' said the angel, 'are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy.' Daniel 9:24. A day in prophecy stands for a year. See Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6. The seventy weeks, or four hundred and ninety days, represent four hundred and ninety years. ... According to the prophecy, this period was to reach to the Messiah, the Anointed One. In A.D. 27, Jesus at His baptism received the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and soon afterward began His ministry. Then the message was proclaimed. 'The time is fulfilled.'" *The Desire of Ages*, 233

3.b. What was the commission then given to the followers of Jesus, which is binding to this very day? Mark 16:15, 16; Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8

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**Note:** "The power of Christ, the crucified Saviour, to give eternal life, should be presented to the people. We should show them that the Old Testament is as verily the gospel in types and shadows as the New Testament is in its unfolding power." *Testimonies*, Vol. 6, 392

"The Saviour directed His disciples to begin their work in Jerusalem, and then pass on through Judea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Only a small proportion of the people accepted the doctrine; but the messengers bore the message rapidly from place to place." *Maranatha*, 38

"God has organized His instrumentalities for drawing all men unto Him. As the worker seeks to give to others the light God has given him, the Lord imparts increased light; and doing his best, with an eye single to the glory of God, he realizes the value of souls. As he visits from house to house, opening the Scriptures to those whose understanding is darkened, angels of God will be close beside him to impress the heart of the one who is athirst for the water of life." *The Review and Herald*, October 6, 1896

## Wednesday

### 4 BELIEVE THE GOSPEL

4.a. What will be the effect of the gospel on those who by faith accept the provision made for salvation? Luke 5:32; 24:47; 2 Corinthians 7:9, 10

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**Note:** "Sinners, however wicked, abominable, and corrupt, by faith in Him [Jesus] will be purified, made clean, through the doing of His word. The truth will be a savor of life unto life to those who believe, but the same truth will be to the unbeliever a savor of death unto death. Those who reject Christ and refuse to believe the truth, will be filled with bitterness against those who accept Jesus as a personal Saviour. But those who receive Christ are melted and subdued by the manifestation of His love in His humiliation, suffering, and death in their behalf." *The Review and Herald*, July 24, 1894

"There is no salvation without repentance. No impenitent sinner can believe with his heart unto righteousness. Repentance is described by Paul as a godly sorrow for sin, that 'worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of.' 2 Corinthians 7:10. This repentance has in it nothing of the nature of merit, but it prepares the heart for the acceptance of Christ as the only Saviour, the only hope of the lost sinner." *Faith and Works*, 99



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Fruit

**Vegetables**

Legumes

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## BRAISED CELERY

### Ingredients

2 Tbsp. olive oil  
1 medium onion, chopped  
2 Tbsp. flour  
2 cups broth  
1 head of celery stalk, cut into 2" pieces  
Seasonings of your choice, such as onion powder and garlic powder

### Process

- Sauté the onion in about two tablespoons of olive oil. When done, add a couple of tablespoons of flour. When the flour has browned a bit, add the two cups of your favorite broth and seasonings.
- Meanwhile, slice up enough celery to fill a casserole dish. You can use either an 8 x 8 or 9 x 13 inches. Since you'll want to just cover the celery, you may need to adjust the amount of broth depending on the size dish you use.
- Pour the broth over the celery. Cover the dish tightly with foil and bake at 350° for about 45 minutes.
- Feel free to experiment with seasonings, adding vegan cheese on top before baking, or sprinkling with French-fried onions when done.

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