

HISTORIC
LANDMARKS
OF ADVENTISM

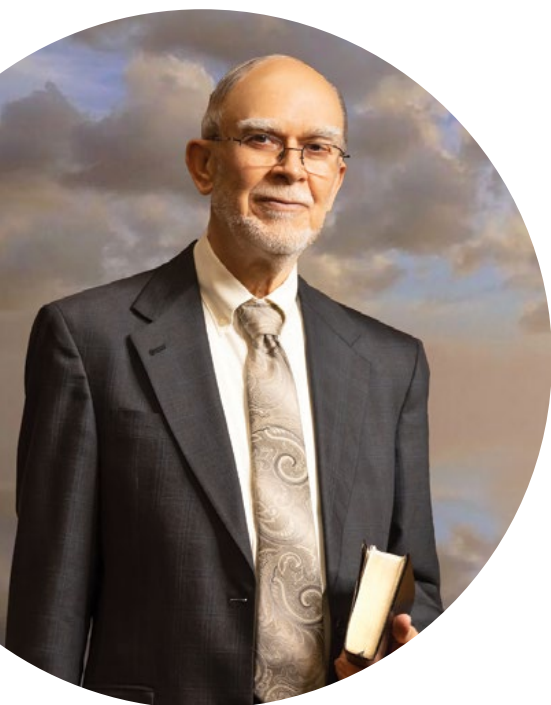
*What God Has
Joined Together*

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*Invitation
Rejected*

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From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

The Final Invitation to be Saved

When Christ entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary to perform His final work as a mediator and High Priest, to perform the closing work of the atonement, He committed to His servants the last message of mercy found in Revelation 14:6–12 to give to the world.

This message exalts Christ as the sinner's refuge (Revelation 14:6), and involves the preaching and understanding of repentance and faith (Acts 20:21). But the gospel must be presented with the law of God and the fact that we are living in the day of judgment: "Our duty to obey this law is to be the burden of this last message of mercy to the world. God's law is not a new thing. It is not holiness created, but holiness made known. It is a code of principles expressing mercy, goodness, and love. It presents to fallen humanity the character of God, and states plainly the whole duty of man." "Ellen G. White Comments," *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 1, 1104, 1105

"In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in this world

as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last message of mercy for a perishing world." *The Review and Herald*, November 23, 1905

"The Lord calls upon you, O church that has been blessed with the truth! to give a knowledge of this truth to those who know it not. From one end of the world to the other must the message of Christ's soon coming be proclaimed." *Ibid.*, November 17, 1910

"Those who think that they can please God by obeying some other law than His, and by performing works other than those which the gospel has enjoined, are mocking God. They are insulting the Holy One of Israel. Warning after warning is given . . . The worst of sinners are to hear the call. All are to be given a final test. . ."

"When the Saviour saw in the Jewish people a nation divorced from God, He saw also a professed Christian Church united to the world and the papacy. And as He stood upon Olivet, weeping over Jerusalem till the sun sank behind the western hills, so He is weeping over and pleading with sinners in these last moments of time." *Ibid.*, October 8, 1901 **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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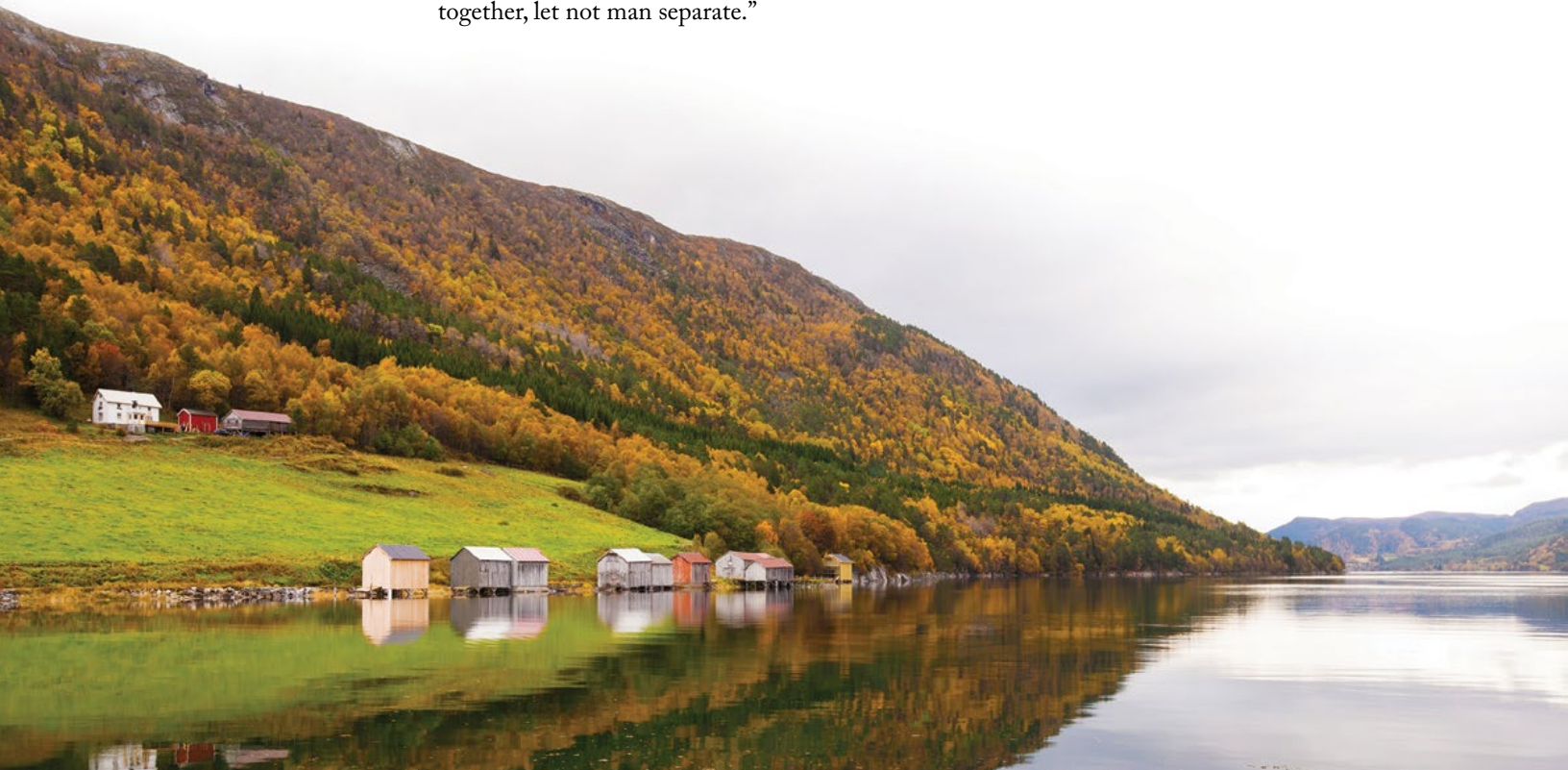
What God Has Joined Together

By W. D. Frazee

“So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no man separate.”

Matthew 19:6

What God puts together, man is not to divide. There are some things that belong together *because* God has put them together. We are in a world and generation where everything that God has put together the devil is trying to tear apart. He aims at the home, the church, anything that God has joined together. He says separate, and he has a million imps at work to segregate, fragment, decimate, and cause disunion and anarchy—that is his program. “What God has joined together, let not man separate.”



Let's look at some things that God has put together. "Lord, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob. You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin. You have taken away all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.

"Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your anger toward us to cease. Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations? Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You? Show us Your mercy, Lord, and grant us Your salvation.

"I will hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly. Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

"Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. Yes, the Lord will give what is good; and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before Him, and shall make His footsteps our pathway." Psalm 85:1-13

Notice the two great traits or attributes that are said to meet together. In a beautiful repetition of Hebrew poetry the thought is emphasized. Mercy and truth have met together. Righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Another of the translations puts it this way: "Loving kindness and truth have met together." Love and truth, in other words, are joined together in God's program. The New English Bible translates it: "Love and fidelity have come together. Justice and peace join hands." Another translation: "Love and loyalty now meet. Righteousness and peace now embrace."

But why the emphasis on the meeting of these two great attributes? Because the devil has been trying for 6,000 years to separate them. We may call them justice and mercy. We may call them truth



and love. One emphasizes a strict hew to the character of God; the other emphasizes His mercy and forgiving kindness. The devil is trying to separate them, but what God has joined together, let not man separate.

No one truly understands one side of the character of God on this matter unless he understands the other side. The two are not disassociated, they are not antagonistic. Each one is a reflection of the other. Mercy and truth meet together. Righteousness and peace have kissed and embraced each other. This was wonderfully and gloriously demonstrated at the cross. At the cross justice and mercy, love and truth met and embraced, the complete manifestation of the character of God.

A most vivid and sublime presentation of this meeting is found in *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 349: "The grace of Christ and the law of God are inseparable." Inseparable means you cannot separate them. The devil says, "I'll try, just watch me." But God says, "You cannot do it." There are many things passing for the gospel today that separate these two attributes and when you separate them, you really have neither one when you get through. "In Jesus mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other. In His life and character He not only reveals the

character of God, but the possibility of man. He was the representative of God and the exemplar of humanity. He presented to the world what humanity might become when united by faith with divinity." Ibid.

Jesus was not only a substitute, He was a demonstration of what, by the grace of God, can be wrought out in the life of man.

"The only-begotten Son of God took upon Him the nature of man, and established His cross between earth and heaven. Through the cross, man was drawn to God, and God to man." Ibid.

Here we see the sublime representation of what happened at the cross. Man was drawn to God, and God to man through the cross. Are you drawn to God through the cross? Did God love man more because of the cross? No. At the cross God saw a way, He demonstrated and revealed a way. God, representing justice upon the throne of the universe, saw a way that man could be pardoned without, in any way, weakening the structure and justice of the universe. He saw how man could be forgiven without setting the law aside. He saw how He could bend toward the repenting sinner without accepting or condoning the sin.

"Through the cross, man was drawn to God, and God to man. Justice moved

from its high and awful position, and the heavenly hosts, the armies of holiness, drew near to the cross, bowing with reverence; for at the cross justice was satisfied." Ibid.

Christ on the cross bore everything that justice required and tasted death for every man. He paid the debt. O I am so thankful for that love!

In *The Desire of Ages*, 762, these wonderful thoughts again are beautifully expressed: "God's love has been expressed in His justice no less than in His mercy." We think of the mercy of God as revealing His love. That mercy is infinite mercy. "Grace," as we sing the song, "that is greater than all our sin." An infinite love revealed in an infinite mercy. But this says that God's love has been expressed in His justice *no less* than in His mercy. Justice is just as much an expression of God's love as is His mercy. If we don't agree with that, we either need a different view of justice or we need a different view of mercy. If we correctly understand God, we will see His love in His justice as well as in His mercy, and justice is the foundation of His throne and the fruit of His love.

The world is suffering today because of a permissive attitude toward lawbreaking. Criminals are roaming throughout the world, making life unsafe in both country and city. Why? There is a small chance that a criminal will be caught, a small chance that he will ever be convicted, and an equally small chance that if he is convicted that he will suffer the penalty to the nth degree. The law of averages is all on the side of the criminal and lawbreaking. Man has become so soft, so permissive, that the criminal, high-handed rebel that he is defies the law. The justice of God recognizes that the law must be enforced, wrapping up the peace and order of the entire universe.

What shall we say then of a so-called gospel, that would present the obedience of Christ as something which is a substitute for man's obedience? It suggests that Christ

died for man's sin, and then man goes free to continue in transgression, yet he is saved because of the sacrifice of Christ. My friend, that is not the gospel.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation from sin, to everyone who believes. In the gospel of Jesus Christ, God's love is revealed "in His justice no less than in His mercy. Justice is the foundation of His throne, and the fruit of His love. It had been Satan's purpose to divorce mercy from truth and justice. He sought to prove that the righteousness of God's law is an enemy to peace. But Christ shows that in God's plan they are indissolubly joined together; the one cannot exist without the other." Ibid. There would be no real, lasting, worthwhile, effective mercy in this universe if God's justice could be set aside and destroyed. Equally so there would be no real justice if God's mercy could be destroyed. Mercy and justice cannot exist without one another.

When the bride and groom are joined in the wedding service, sometimes they not only join hands but they embrace. There's a kiss of love and this is the picture here. There is no war between justice, mercy, and the character of God. They are joined, indissolubly joined together. And what God has joined together, let not man separate.

This must be true in our experience:

Truth is knowing God's will.

Righteousness is doing God's will.

Faith is man's response, believing the truth and doing the righteousness; both are made possible through the gift of Christ. He is the truth (John 14:6). He has given man the gift of faith. Faith is one of the gifts of the Spirit. He has given man the gift of righteousness, righteousness that covers every transgression that's passed to the penitent, righteousness which not only covers him but enters his very mind and soul that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us.

"Walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Romans 8:1 KJV. This righteousness, truth, justice, and revelation of the will of God, knowing and doing it does not replace love. Love is not a substitute for righteous-

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*Mercy and truth
have met together;
righteousness and peace
have kissed.*

Psalm 85:10

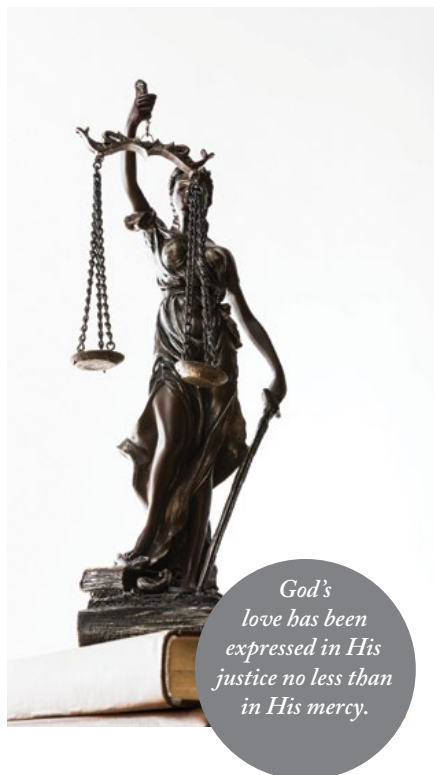
ness, neither is faith a substitute for righteousness. Faith is man's response to God's truth and love is an expression of man's response to God's love manifested in obedience.

Galatians 5:5, 6 tell us: "For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love." What avails? Faith which works through love. Faith is meant to work.

Do you know what people usually do when they purchase something, only to find that it doesn't work? Send it back. James makes a very strong stand. He says that if your works aren't the product of faith, then they are dead. Paul is right in harmony.

Working without either faith or love is legalism. The people of the world see those who strive to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus and call them legalists. But they don't really understand what legalism is. Legalism is attempting to do right without God, trying to be righteous without the forgiving and sanctifying grace of Jesus Christ. It is trying to keep the law without the indwelling Spirit and the sprinkling of the blood. Trying to obey God alone, is impossible to do, but with God, nothing is impossible. Anything God says to do can be done.

Where the word of the King is there is power. As many as received them gave He power. Peter, writing in his first epistle to the people of God scattered throughout various parts of the world, said, "[E]lect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:2. This was meant to include us, written for our admonition as well. This precious grace is unto obedience; that's the purpose of it. Paul, in Romans 1:5, reading the margin calls it "the obedience of faith." Does faith obey? Yes. If it doesn't obey,



it is not faith; it is presumption. Jesus says, "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." John 17:17

As I was meditating on these texts, I was thinking about the beautiful rainbow. What color is the rainbow? It's all colors. Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet, indigo, merging and blending. All those colors are in every ray of light. In the morning sunlight as those rays of glory stream down, every one of them has all the colors in it. You can't see it, but it is there. You get a rain shower in the right position with reference to your eye and the sun, and those millions of raindrops act like little prisms breaking up or refracting the light into its various colors. The drops of water don't add any color; they merely show you what is already there.

At the cross, as the storm and tempest of wrath against sin broke upon the head and heart of Jesus Christ, divine justice and mercy were seen as an expression of the infinite love of God. And now, around the throne forever is that rainbow, representing the union of

justice and mercy in the plan of salvation. What God has joined together, let not man separate.

I am afraid of any message attempting to emphasize one at the expense of the other, or any message which seeks to pit one against the other, any message which would hurl epithets against those who would join them together. We need both. White light includes red, blue, yellow, and all the various blends and combinations of all colors. So it is with the character of God, summed up in that one word *love*, for God is love.

As we view that character and bring it to the prism of Calvary, we see justice and mercy, life and death, glory and shame, forgiveness, justification, sanctification, and righteousness imputed and imparted. As we see all these colors, as it were, of the white light of God's character, let us not seek to run off with one of those colors and say, "This is it, I've got the whole thing." No, because you don't have the whole thing. We need every color of the rainbow to make the white light of God's perfect character.

"Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed." Psalm 85:10.

What God has joined together, let not man separate. **LM**

Pastor W. D. Frazee studied the Medical Missionary Course at the College of Medical Evangelists in Loma Linda, California. He was called to Utah as a gospel medical evangelist. During the Great Depression, when the church could not afford to hire any assistants, Pastor Frazee began inviting professionals to join him as volunteers. Thus began a faith ministry that would become the foundation for the establishment of the Wildwood Medical Missionary Institute in 1942. He believed that each person is unique, specially designed by the Lord, of infinite value, and has a special place and mission in this world which only he or she can fill. His life followed this principle and encouraged others to do the same.

Look Up, Your Redemption is Nigh!

By Michael C. Wells

*“That no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or
the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”*

Revelation 13:17

How this scripture will be fulfilled has been debated for many years. There are even some who question if it is possible at all, but Bible prophecy assures us that it will happen. It was unimaginable that these things could occur in the United States, let alone throughout the world. But recent events have shone a whole new light on how this scripture will be fulfilled.



Over recent decades, we have watched as our monetary system has gone from cash to credit. Life has become conveniently easy by the introduction of the credit and debit cards. You now can withdraw money from your account almost anywhere in the United States and in most other countries in the world. There is no need to carry cash if you have one of these cards guaranteed by Visa or Mastercard. I admit that I enjoy this convenience myself.

The problem is not having and using the cards per se, rather it is what we do not see behind the scenes. It allows the control and transfers of monies on a digital level by the Treasury Department and banking industries. This is convenient, providing ready cash when you need it. But what happens when a bank or country takes away a person's access to their own money? We now see clearly that the overreach of this system can seize and control an individual's rightful wealth.

Recently, the United States and other countries have waged a financial war on Russia because of their aggression against Ukraine. Russia has committed horrible atrocities against a fellow nation which sparked outrage throughout a large part of the world. In retaliation for this aggression, many nations have placed sanctions on Russia to keep them from being able to "buy or sell" products and using the banking system to support their war effort. Although, many wealthy oligarchs and their families have had their bank accounts seized, these sanctions are hurting the Russian people more than the Russian government that started this war.

When we read about the second beast power (Protestant America) in Revelation 13 wielding the power of the first beast power (papacy—Roman Catholic church) to enact laws and decrees and set up an image of the first beast, it is worth noting that it goes far beyond just the spiritual aspect of the "mark of the beast." The Roman church has



been involved in monetary businesses and other commerce, as well as spiritual doctrine and decrees, for millennia. We read in Revelation 18 that at her end, the merchants of the world will mourn her destruction because of this commercial sector connection they have with her.

"And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men." Revelation 18:11-13

As sanctions are laid upon Russia, it shows the power of countries or entities to subvert the livelihood of nations and peoples, to bend them to their will, and to coerce them to abide by worldwide edicts. For example, there are several nations that are still doing business with Russia. The United States has been actively "coercing" them to stop on threat of being hit with sanctions themselves. Since the banking industry is now mainly digital, whole bank accounts can

be suspended or even seized and utilized for other purposes. Using these same methods, you can see how the beast powers can leverage this power to seize our accounts in the future if we do not adhere to their doctrines.

As we see prophecies of the last days unfold, the two beast powers will work hand in hand to create policies that will not allow people to buy or sell unless they adhere to these policies or doctrines. These same doctrines are moving the world closer and closer to more authoritarian forms of government. Even in the United States, we see more authoritarianism being used through executive orders and proxy wars. The president can start a military action these days even without the authorization from Congress, which used to be illegal, but in the last 50 years it has become more of a norm than an outlier. The most interesting part is that most Americans have no idea what all this is leading to and do not comprehend the end result of all these actions! Even the truth is subject to one's own interpretation.

The truth of God's commandments has become subordinate to the events of the day. We have become wrapped up in wars, disasters, famines, and politics. Everything Satan can think of to captivate

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The people of the world are so engrossed in temporal affairs that eternal realities seem of subordinate importance to them.

our minds, he has pushed out into the news on radio, TV, social media, and newspapers. He has captured the spare time of the average person through movies, sports, and television shows. From the air waves and print, our minds and time are filled with commentaries about the policies of government and the atrocities of war, the latest movie, or the sport of the season, but Jesus is scarcely on our lips. Not to say that things happening around us should be ignored, yet applying these things to our spiritual life would be more important. As we see these events happening, it should drive us to a deep sense of urgency for those around us and those in the world who do not know the truth of the results of the policies of the two beasts.

“The people of the world are so engrossed in temporal affairs that eternal realities seem of subordinate importance to them. They cannot distinguish truth from error. In spirit and in practice they are repeating the history of the Jews, and in these last days the chosen of God who keep His commandments will be objects of contempt, both to those in high position and those in the common walks of life. ‘For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.’” *The Signs of the Times*, June 11, 1894

Eventually, we will see these policies culminate into massive persecution. “And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.” Revelation 13:14, 15.

Many people will be persecuted and killed because they will not adhere to one of the following: the mark of the beast, which is Sunday worship; the name of the beast, which is not only the Roman Catholic church, but all of secularism; or the number of his name, which not only identifies the pope of the Catholic church as the leader of the beast power, but is the number of mankind in its carnal and secular condition.

We know the mark of the beast is the great conflict between obedience to the law of God, specifically the Sabbath commandment, or disobedience, following the doctrines of Satan which state that everyone can rule his or her own life and passions. The first beast of Revelation 13 received its power from the dragon. “So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, ‘Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?’” Revelation 13:4. Those who will follow the beast and its image [likeness] will be worshiping the dragon, who is Satan (Revelation 12:9). These deceived people will believe they are following God! It is our duty to reach out and warn them of this impending danger that will be so deceptive even the people of God could be deceived if they are not watching and praying for deliverance. “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.” Matthew 24:24

Addressing the idea of being saved by grace and not under the law, Paul clearly states, “What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?” Romans 6:15, 16. And again, he reminds us that we must become slaves to God, “But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.” Verse 22. We are slaves or servants to whom we obey. It is through obedience we show our allegiance, whether to righteousness which leads to eternal life, or to unrighteousness which leads to eternal damnation.

The religious arm of the beast power will push Sunday sacredness and the idea that salvation is available to all simply by believing in Jesus. They will state that there is no way that a man can overcome sin, so they claim that just resting on the merits of Jesus is enough for salvation, and there is no need to strive for holiness. Speaking of faith and salvation, James reminds us, “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?” James 2:19, 20. As we read in Revelation 18:13, the beast and its image are involved in the “souls of men.” Revelation 17:5 states, “Babylon the great, [is] the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth.” Since the majority of the Protestant world has taken Rome’s doctrine of Sunday as a new sabbath and are deceived into believing that the dead are all either in heaven or in eternal burning hellfire, and that our dead loved ones can visit them and are watching them, they have joined with the false doctrines of Rome. They have “fornicated” with her and “drank her wine.” (See also Revelation 17:2; 18:3.)

They have been convinced of her “righteousness” through their desire to become rich with her trade goods and global economy. On the individual level, Babylon (the first beast of Revelation 13, who is the papacy) has seduced the world with her rituals and grandeur. She puts on a spectacle that bedazzles and bewitches the mind and drives the heart to believe in her lies and deception. Because the people of the world desire to have freedom from all responsibility to God, they now can live life in error and still have confidence in their false god, the church of Rome, to save them from hellfire. What a delusion! It is true when Paul wrote, “And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth



The enemy captivates our minds through the news, TV, social media.

but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”
2 Thessalonians 2:11, 12

While the religious arm of the beast power is working on men’s souls, the secular arm will be working on men’s pocketbooks. It will lay down economic policies that will entice the world to follow the beasts and their agenda. They will blend religious and secular decrees to keep men from “buying or selling” unless they adhere to the policies they lay out. This is already happening to a degree today. Recently I saw an interview with Daleep Singh, national security advisor for the Biden white house and the designer of the new sanctions that were laid out on Russia. He stated that they could virtually cripple any economy using the new digital world of banking and commerce. He said he turned to the “currency trade” where “the dollar is still the operating system.” *The Biden Official Who Pierced Putin’s “Sanction-Proof” Economy* — The New Yorker, March 25, 2022. It was quite a striking interview.

As we see the events of earth’s history come to a close, Jesus is still commanding His four angels to hold back the strife of total destruction. He is urging upon the hearts of men, women, and children to look at His goodness and what He has to offer—peace, love, satisfaction of life, happiness, and eventually

eternal life. This is in stark contrast to the life that the adversary offers—greed, selfishness, strife, and unhappiness, eventually leading to death. “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

Even though there will be strife in the world, Jesus offers us a lighter “yoke” or burden to carry. He promises that if we will give our lives to Him, obey His commandments through the power of the Holy Spirit, love one another as He loves us, that He will work a miracle in our hearts and purge all sinfulness that may abide in it. He will replace it with His laws and secure it with His Spirit that we might be ready to meet Him in the clouds on His return. His way is narrow and straight, but much easier to navigate than the ways of sin. His way brings a calmness in the midst of the storm of life. “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6, 7 [LM](#)

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



Invitation Rejected

By Judy Rebarck

“But when Felix heard these things, having more accurate knowledge of the Way, he adjourned the proceedings and said, ‘When Lysias the commander comes down, I will make a decision on your case.’ ... And after some days ... [Felix] sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, ‘Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.’”

Acts 24:22–25

“King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe. Then Agrippa said to Paul, ‘You almost persuade me to become a Christian.’”

Acts 26:27, 28

Go away, until I am ready. You almost convinced me. Truth is, repentance does not happen according to our time table or our convenience or whim. Repentance is a response to an invitation extended by the Holy Spirit. It is an offer of His power to unite with our desire to change. If the invitation is accepted, the Holy Spirit performs a miraculous work in the life, changing the desires, inclinations, thoughts and actions.

But an invitation rejected leaves a person in darkness, “tossed to and fro and carried by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.” Ephesians 4:14. Felix and Agrippa were given the invitation of the Holy Spirit, and both turned away and were forever lost.

“God now calls upon you to repent, to be zealous in the work. Your eternal happiness will be determined by the course you now pursue. Can you reject the invitations of mercy now offered? Can you choose your own way? Will you cherish pride and vanity, and lose your soul at last? The word of God plainly tells us that few will be saved, and that the greater number of those, even, who are called will prove themselves unworthy of everlasting life. They will have no part in heaven, but will have their portion with Satan, and experience the second death.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 2, 293, 294

“... ‘A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, “Come, for all things are now ready.” But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to

him, “I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.” And another said, “I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.” Still another said, “I

have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.” ’ ” Luke

14:16–20

His friends, those of position and wealth, were not interested in accepting the gracious invitation of the master to participate in the “great supper” he had prepared for them. They chose instead to tend to

their own business first. Excuse after excuse is given, until in anger, the master instructs his servant, “Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind. ... Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.” Verses 21, 23

And then he makes this terrible declaration, “For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.” Verse 24

“They had rejected the invitation, and none of them were to be invited again. In rejecting Christ, the Jews were hardening their hearts, and giving themselves into the power of Satan so that it would be impossible for them to accept His grace. So it is now. If the love of God is not appreciated and does not become an abiding principle to soften and subdue the soul, we are utterly lost. The Lord can give no greater manifestation of His love than He has given. If the love of Jesus does not subdue the heart, there are no means by which we can be reached.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 236, 237

We see the same illustration in Matthew 22:1–14 in the parable of the marriage of the king’s son. The marriage was arranged, the wedding feast prepared, the servants sent out with the invitation, but the Bible says that they were not willing to come. He extended the invitation again, but this, too, was rejected and even more, the king’s servants were beaten and killed. In his anger, he sent an army and destroyed those who had rejected this gracious invitation.

He then said, “Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding. So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, “Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?” And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, “Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” For many are called, but few are chosen.’ ” Verses 9–14

This parable shows us that the invitation was given, but rejected by those who did not feel the need to accept it. These are the characteristics of the Laodicean church as found in Revelation 3:17, “Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked”

Consequently, the invitation is given to those who recognized the need to accept. However, this parable also shows that there is necessary preparation that must be done in order to be able to attend the wedding feast. The wedding garment represents Christ’s robe of righteousness (Matthew 22:12). We must choose daily to become more and more like Christ, and in giving up our “filthy rags,” we are to accept His pure, white robe.

“
*Repentance is a
response to an invitation
extended by the Holy Spirit.
If accepted, the Holy Spirit
performs a miraculous
work in the life.*

“When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah.

“The guests at the marriage feast were inspected by the king. Only those were accepted who had obeyed his requirements and put on the wedding garment. So it is with the guests at the gospel feast. All must pass the scrutiny of the great King, and only those are received who have put on the robe of Christ’s righteousness.

“Righteousness is right doing, and it is by their deeds that all will be judged. Our characters are revealed by what we do. The works show whether the faith is genuine.

“It is not enough for us to believe that Jesus is not an impostor, and that the religion of the Bible is no cunningly devised fable. We may believe that the name of Jesus is the only name under heaven whereby man may be saved, and yet we may not through faith make Him our personal Saviour. It is not enough to believe the theory of truth. It is not enough to make a profession of faith in Christ and have our names registered on the church roll. ‘He that keepeth His commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us.’

‘Hereby we do know that we know Him if we keep His commandments.’ 1 John 3:24; 2:3. This is the genuine evidence of conversion. Whatever our profession, it amounts to nothing unless Christ is revealed in works of righteousness. ...

“He who becomes a partaker of the divine nature will be in harmony with God’s great standard of righteousness, His holy law. This is the rule by which God measures the actions of men. This will be the test of character in the judgment.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 312–314

Friend, have you received the invitation of the Holy Spirit? What has been your response?

“I’m busy today, come again later.”

“I have other plans, let me get back to You.”

“It’s just not a good time for me. There are so many things I want to do or try. I’ll be ready later.”

Perhaps the saddest and one of the most well-known rejections is the story of Judas. He was a selfish, willful, young man with the greatest opportunity. In the physical presence of the Messiah, Judas was ministered to as any other disciple. Jesus’ heart of love yearned for Judas to accept the invitation to repent, but we know that this was not the outcome in Judas’ life.

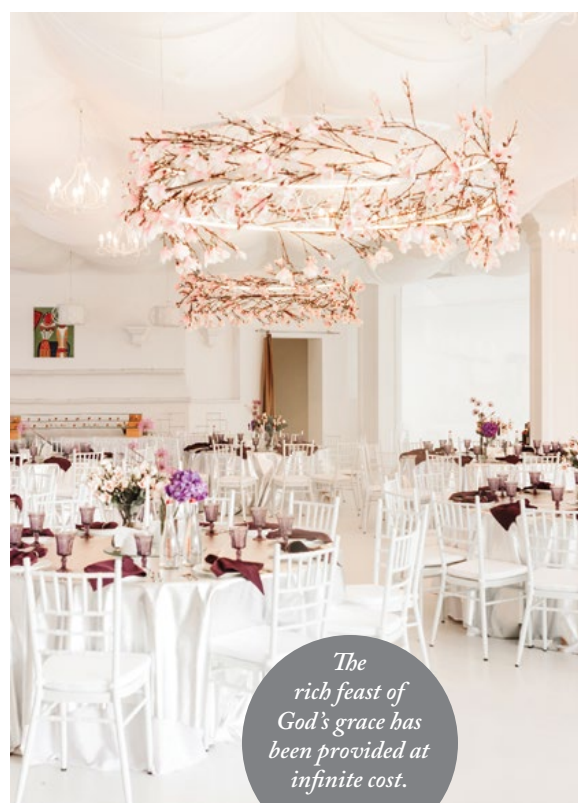
“The disciples knew nothing of the purpose of Judas. Jesus alone could read his secret. Yet He did not expose him. Jesus *hungred* for his soul. ... His heart was crying, How can I give thee up? The constraining power of that love was felt by Judas. When the Saviour’s hands were bathing those soiled 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 [Almost he accepted the invitation]. Judas was now offended at Christ’s act in washing the feet of His disciples. If Jesus could so humble Himself, he thought, He could not be Israel’s king. All hope of worldly honor in a temporal kingdom was destroyed. Judas was satisfied that there was nothing to be gained by following



For many are called, but few are chosen.



*Only
those were
accepted who had
on the wedding
garment.*



*The
rich feast of
God's grace has
been provided at
infinite cost.*

Christ. ... He was possessed by a demon, and he resolved to complete the work he had agreed to do in betraying his Lord.

"Judas the betrayer was present at the sacramental service. He received from Jesus the emblems of His broken body and His spilled blood. He heard the words, 'This do in remembrance of Me.' And sitting there in the very presence of the Lamb of God, the betrayer brooded upon his own dark purposes, and cherished his sullen, revengeful thoughts.

"At the Passover supper Jesus proved His divinity by revealing the traitor's purpose. He tenderly included Judas in the ministry to the disciples. But the last appeal of love was unheeded. Then the case of Judas was decided, and the feet that Jesus had washed went forth to the betrayer's work.

"*Until this step was taken*, Judas had not passed beyond the possibility of repentance. But when he left the presence of his Lord and his fellow disciples, the

final decision had been made. He had passed the boundary line.

"How many today are, like Judas, betraying their Lord?" *Conflict and Courage*, 319

The invitation given to Judas was rejected.

The invitations illustrated in both the parable of the wedding garment and great supper were offered first to the Jewish nation, but after repeated rejection, they were finally given to the Gentiles. These invitations are treated the same, the same excuses given to refuse the invitation in every age. I cannot follow Christ because it would interfere with my business interests or social relations. Following the commandments of God would put me out of harmony with my neighbors, friends, and relatives.

"They make light of the message, but the Master of the feast regards their flimsy excuses as contempt of His invitation of mercy. These apologies which

men offer for refusing the invitation to the heavenly supper will appear again in their true character in the day of God. The rich feast of God's grace has been provided at infinite cost, and an invitation to that feast confers special honor upon the human race. Those who accept the invitation are authorized and commissioned of God to extend it to every creature. ... Shall we not accept the invitation to the gospel feast, feed upon Christ, and thus have everlasting life?" *The Review and Herald*, March 3, 1896

Sadly, it is possible, as Christians, to believe that we have accepted God's invitation of grace, that we are doing all the right things, that we are His children, that only Jesus saves; but too often, while believing, we have failed to have the personal relationship with Him that will make us like Him in character, replacing our filthy rags with His robe of righteous eternal life.

What is your answer? Invitation accepted? [Emphasis supplied.] **LM**

Only What is Done for Christ

By Deb Massey

When I was a teenager, one of my friends would say so dramatically, “We are so desperate, and there’s so little time.” And then, she would laugh as if it was the biggest joke.

Friends, it is no joke anymore. We are so desperate for Jesus to come, and our time to prepare to meet Him is passing quickly away. Maybe we will live to see Him come, but we also could die before then. We must remain faithful if we are to reach our heavenly home. Every moment counts, complacency is not an option. We must get ready and stay ready every day.



When I was about ten years old, I remember one Sabbath after church, I looked at some of the oldest members, one man in particular who seemed older to me, and as I looked at him I wondered, “Will Jesus come before he dies?” Now I think to myself, will He come before I die? Our world is in constant upheaval and chaos—not the kind of chaos that has come and gone as in previous decades—but the kind of chaos that is now snowballing at an ever-accelerating pace. And as the Bible tells us, it will not get better as we draw closer to His return. The unmistakable signs of Jesus, soon coming, are everywhere. I have spoken to strangers about the world situation, and so many have come right out and said, “It’s because Jesus is coming.”

It is not important if we go to our graves before He comes and are resurrected later. To be ready is of the utmost importance.

“It is a solemn thing to die, but a far more solemn thing to live. Every thought and word and deed of our lives will meet us again. What we make of ourselves in [this] probationary time, that we must remain to all eternity. Death brings dissolution to the body, but makes no change in the character. The coming of Christ does not change our characters; it only fixes them forever beyond all change.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 5, 466

I recently passed an old gravesite. The verse on the headstone really spoke to me.

“Behold my friends, as you pass by. As you are now, so once was I.

As I am now, you soon may be. Prepare for death and follow me.”

What a powerful witness. This person reminds us that death may be inevitable, but if we follow Jesus, our heavenly home, where death cannot enter, awaits.

How beautiful, I thought. The headstone only had a name, as if to the writer it didn’t matter when they were born, how long they stayed, or when they died. Rather what mattered was only how they had lived; and soon they would awake in Jesus. This dear soul left to all who passed by what mattered most. How much more important to us, as we yet live, to tell everyone we meet that Jesus is coming soon. Get ready.

In these times of fear and rapidly changing world events, it is now, as never before, that people are most receptive to the gospel of Christ. Never be discouraged by those who are not interested, because for every one of those, there are thousands who long to know. Who can know how many people have passed this gravesite and been encouraged to think about their own destiny. This person died, but their testimony lives on. On that glorious morning, as they are awakened by the voice of their King, it will be as

if no time has passed. Centuries may have come and gone, but it will be like a moment in time. How wonderful! Knowing this truth—if I am ready, I cannot fear death.

I remember as a child we had a little plaque on the wall that read:

Only one life will soon be past.

Only what’s done for Christ will last.

It doesn’t matter who you may meet in daily life, tell them about the love of God and how they can be saved. Initiate a chat with someone in the grocery store, or the parking lot, or just anywhere God lays on your heart to speak to the person before you. Be bold and trust God to give you the words to speak. We may never know what can become of that experience. Plant the seed in simple words, and let God do the rest in that person’s life.

“The good seed may for a time lie unnoticed in a cold, selfish worldly heart, giving no evidence that it has taken root; but afterward, as the Spirit of God breathes on the soul, the hidden seed springs up ... In our life work we know not which shall prosper, this or that. This is not a question for us to settle. We are to do our work, and leave the results with God.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 65

I long to see every person I have witnessed to in heaven on that great day. Oh, what a day that will be—not for a moment in time, but for all eternity. **LM**



The Holy City and the New Earth

Clues – KJV

Across:

- B11 The angel will _____ the holy city with a golden reed Revelation 21:15
 C6 _____ will be missing in the new earth Revelation 21:4
 D2 In the new earth, former things are passed _____ Revelation 21:4
 D15 We will not have _____ in the new earth Isaiah 65:23
 E6 Name of the new capital of the universe Revelation 21:2, 3
 F15 It is a daily occurrence here, but no more in the new earth Revelation 21:25
 G6 _____ will be missing in the new earth Revelation 21:4
 G12 In the earth made new, God's "tabernacle" will be with _____ Revelation 21:3
 I2 Former things will not be _____ in the new earth Isaiah 65:17
 J13 In the new earth, we shall _____ hunger Isaiah 49:10
 J17 We will _____ God in the new earth Daniel 7:27
 K8 In the earth made new, former things will not _____ into our minds Isaiah 65:17
 L1 The _____ of the holy city will be built with gold Revelation 21:21
 L13 _____ has not seen what God has prepared for us in the new earth 1 Corinthians 2:9
 L17 _____ will be missing in the new earth Revelation 21:4
 N4 We will _____ God's name throughout eternity Psalms 86:9
 N12 The _____ of the tree of life are for healing Revelation 22:2
 O18 Much of the holy city will look like _____ Revelation 21:18
 P2 We will _____ God in the new earth Daniel 7:27
 P8 The light of the holy city will be as _____ Revelation 21:11
 R2 The fourth stone garnishment of the holy city's foundation Revelation 21:19
 R11 We will plant _____ in the new earth Isaiah 65:21
 S9 Nothing that defiles or causes a _____ can enter the holy city Revelation 21:27; 22:15
 S19 _____ have not heard what God has prepared for us in the new earth Isaiah 64:4

Down:

- A4 In the new earth, lions will eat _____ Isaiah 65:25
 A12 The eighth stone garnishment of the holy city's foundation Revelation 21:19, 20
 A15 Wild animals of this earth will not cause _____ in the new earth Isaiah 65:25
 A19 In the new earth, we will worship God each _____ Isaiah 66:23
 B8 _____ was in the Garden of Eden, but will not be in the new earth Matthew 22:30
 C2 The second stone garnishment of the holy city's foundation Revelation 21:19
 C21 _____ will never be heard in the new earth Isaiah 65:19
 D16 We will _____ with God throughout eternity Revelation 22:5
 E6 We will be given _____ in God's kingdom Daniel 7:22
 E13 We will possess the new earth for _____ Daniel 7:18
 G4 There will be no _____ in the holy city Revelation 21:22
 I11 God will _____ with us in the new earth Revelation 21:3
 I17 We will build _____ in the new earth Isaiah 65:21
 J15 The number of angels guarding the gates to the holy city Revelation 21:12
 K8 The wall of the holy city was measured in these units Revelation 21:17
 N2 The light of the holy city was as this precious clear stone Revelation 21:11
 N4 We will plant _____ in the new earth Amos 9:14

A	2	3		5	6	7	8	9	10	11		13	14		16	17	18		20	21	A
B																					B
C																					C
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G																					G
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1	2	3		5	6	7	8	9	10		12	13	14	15		17	18		20	21	22

Answer Key:

22	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	22
S													S
R													R
D													D
P													P
S													S
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F													F
E													E
D													D
C													C
B													B
A													A



- N20 In the new earth, the wolf will not molest the _____ Isaiah 65:25
 O18 This building material will be so pure as to be clear Revelation 21:18
 P11 When God's kingdom will be destroyed Daniel 2:44
 P14 The _____ of life will have twelve different kinds of fruit Revelation 22:2
 Q16 _____ will be missing in the new earth Revelation 21:4
 R19 This is huge on this earth, but will not be in the earth made new Revelation 21:1



Brotherly Love

By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.” The more closely we resemble our Saviour in character, the greater will be our love toward those for whom He died. Christians who manifest a spirit of unselfish love for one another are bearing a testimony for Christ which unbelievers can neither gainsay nor resist. It is impossible to estimate the power of such an example. Nothing will so successfully defeat the devices of Satan and his emissaries, nothing will so build up the Redeemer’s kingdom, as will the love of Christ manifested by the members of the church. Peace and prosperity can be enjoyed only as meekness and love are in active exercise.

In his First Epistle to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul sets forth the importance of that love which should be cherished by the followers of Christ: “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.”

No matter how high his profession, he whose heart is not imbued with love

for God and for his fellow men is not a disciple of Christ. Though he should possess great faith, and even have power to work miracles, yet without love his faith would be worthless. He might display great liberality, but should he from some other motive than genuine love bestow all his goods to feed the poor, the act would not commend him to the favor of God. In his zeal he might even meet a martyr’s death, yet if destitute of the gold of love he would be regarded by God as a deluded enthusiast or an ambitious hypocrite.

The apostle proceeds to specify the fruits of love: “Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not.” The divine love ruling in the heart exterminates pride and selfishness. “Charity

vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.” The purest joy springs from the deepest humiliation. The strongest and noblest characters rest upon the foundation of patience and love, and trusting submission to the will of God.

Charity “doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil.” The heart in which love rules will not be filled with passion or revenge, by injuries which pride and self-love would deem unbearable. Love is unsuspecting, ever placing the most favorable construction upon the motives and acts of others. Love will never needlessly expose the faults of others. It does not listen eagerly to unfavorable reports, but rather seeks to bring to mind some good qualities of the one defamed.

Love “rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth.” He whose heart is imbued with love is filled with sorrow at the errors and weaknesses of others; but when truth triumphs, when the cloud that darkened the fair fame of another is removed, or when sins are confessed and wrongs corrected, he rejoices.

“Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.” Love not only bears with others’ faults, but cheerfully submits to whatever suffering or inconvenience such forbearance makes necessary. This love “never faileth.” It can never lose its value; it is the attribute of heaven. As a precious treasure it will be carried by its possessor through the portals of the city of God.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, and peace. Discord and strife are the work of Satan and the fruit of sin. If we would as a people enjoy peace and love, we must put away our sins; we must come into harmony with God, and we shall be in harmony with one another. Let each ask himself: Do I possess the grace of love? Have I learned to suffer long and to be kind? Talents, learning, and eloquence, without this heavenly attribute, will be as meaningless as

sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. Alas that this precious treasure is so lightly valued and so little sought by many who profess the faith!

Paul writes to the Colossians: “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.”

The fact that we are under so great obligation to Christ places us under the most sacred obligation to those whom He died to redeem. We are to manifest toward them the same sympathy, the same tender compassion and unselfish love, which Christ has manifested toward us. Selfish ambition, desire for supremacy, will die when Christ takes possession of the affections. ...

God requires more of His followers than many realize. If we would not build our hopes of heaven upon a false foundation we must accept the Bible as it reads and believe that the Lord means what He says. He requires nothing of us that He will not give us grace to perform. We shall have no excuse to offer in the day of God if we fail to reach the standard set before us in His word.

We are admonished by the apostle: “Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.” Paul would

have us distinguish between the pure, unselfish love which is prompted by the spirit of Christ, and the unmeaning, deceitful pretense with which the world abounds. This base counterfeit has misled many souls. It would blot out the distinction between right and wrong, by agreeing with the transgressor instead of faithfully showing him his errors.

Such a course never springs from real friendship. The spirit by which it is prompted dwells only in the carnal heart. While the Christian will be ever kind, compassionate, and forgiving, he can feel no harmony with sin. He will abhor evil and cling to that which is good, at the sacrifice of association or friendship with the ungodly. The spirit of Christ will lead us to hate sin, while we are willing to make any sacrifice to save the sinner. ...

“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.” ...

If we are following Christ, His merits, imputed to us, come up before the Father as sweet odor. And the graces of our Saviour’s character, implanted in our hearts, will shed around us a precious fragrance. The spirit of love, meekness, and forbearance pervading our life will have power to soften and subdue hard hearts and win to Christ bitter opposers of the faith. ...

Testimonies, Vol. 5, 167–174 **LM**

“
*By this shall all men
know that ye are My
disciples, if ye have love
one to another.*
John 13:35

The New Backpack



You are going to be walking a long way," my mother had said. "I'd like my son to have a good backpack."

It was going to be my first trip to Mexico to visit the Mixtec Indians. Many of them live in far-off villages scattered through the hills of Oaxaca, Mexico. My mother was right. Just to get to the village where the Bible conference was to be held, we would have to walk for many hours over the hills.

Mother kindly bought me the best backpack she could find. It was so light that you could lift it with one finger, and it had foam padding on the straps to keep the straps from cutting into my shoulders. When it was packed with extra clothes and a few other things that I might need, I tried the new backpack on. It felt light and comfortable. I could carry that load easily enough!

A few weeks later we arrived in Mexico at the point where we would begin the hike.

"Could I carry your pack for you?" asked one of the Christian Indians.

"No thanks, I'm fine," I told him.

So we started off on the long walk. The backpack worked nicely, but the longer we walked the heavier it got. Surely those things I had packed weren't so heavy when I had tried it on at home! On we walked with the hot sun beating on our heads, up one hill and down another. Everyone had loads to carry now, so there was no one to offer to help with my backpack.

I began to be afraid that I would never make it, but after two hours someone came to meet us over the hills with a horse. This time when they offered I gladly gave up the pack, and it was tied to the horse. I was so tired that it did

not matter to me that the padded straps of my new backpack were not being used the way they were meant to be, but were dangling from the horse's saddle.


Boys and girls, the load of sin is like the load in my backpack. The longer you carry it, the heavier it gets. This world tries to make sin look attractive, but it is still a heavy load. No matter how "light" your load of sin may feel when you are young, it will get heavier as you grow older. After a while the "foam padding" of pleasure no longer eases the weight of sins.

The Lord Jesus came into the world to free you from this load of sin. He Himself carried the load of sin when He was on the cross so that you might be free of your burden forever. "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many." Hebrews 9:28

Oh, that you might today feel the weight of your sins and turn to Christ for salvation. "Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

My backpack was the best that money could buy, but it could not keep my load from being heavy when I carried it for a long time. May you accept Christ as your Saviour now while you are young, before the load of sin becomes too heavy for you to carry. "Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." James 1:15

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." Ecclesiastes 12:1

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



Why Should He Love Me So

My mother sang all of her life. When I was very young, she would be up front at church leading songs or singing in the choir or performing alone. As a young woman, she was part of an evangelistic team in the northeastern United States. In those days, evangelistic meetings might involve a big tent or auditorium and staying in the community for many months after the meetings themselves were done to follow up with those who wanted Bible studies. Mother sang duets with another lady named Cassie during the meetings and also on the radio. I always thought that if I could sing half as good as she did, that would be good enough.

I remember many Sabbaths when I sat on the front row pew of the church while she performed her responsibilities up front. Still today, many of the songs that she sang are my personal favorites: *In the Garden*, *The Old Rugged Cross* and one I heard the other day on the radio, *Why Should He Love Me So?*

This is a beautiful song from a musical perspective, but even more so when you understand the words.



Love sent my Saviour to die
in my stead,
Meekly to Calvary's cross
He was led.

Nails pierced His hands and
His feet for my sin,
He suffered sore my
salvation to win.

O how He agonized there
in my place,
Nothing withholding my
sin to efface.

Why should He love me so?
Why should my Saviour to
Calvary go?
Why should He love me so?

It reminds me of Hebrews 12:2, “looking unto Jesus ... who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross.”

“That joy was to see souls saved by His humiliation, His agony, and the shedding of His blood.” *The Sanctified Life*, 57

“Love for lost souls brought Christ to Calvary’s cross. ... The joy of seeing souls eternally saved will be the reward of all who follow in the steps of the Redeemer. ...

“It was a costly sacrifice that the Lord of heaven made. Divine benevolence was stirred to its unfathomable depths; it was impossible for God to give more.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 9, 59, 60

Lord, we know that You will never leave us, physically and spiritually sick as we are. We cannot fathom the love that it took to go to Calvary, giving Your life so that we would not perish. But we must commit our lives to following and obeying You. You, who are the Author and Finisher of our faith and the only One who can heal us from this sin sickness and restore us to Your image. Please do that today, Lord. **LM**



Your Letters

"I must say again how much I do enjoy the Bible studies in LandMarks every month. They truly are a blessing."

—KW, Virginia

"Thank you so much for the LandMarks, DVDs and CDs. It's a blessing to us each month."

—LF, Florida

"I so enjoy the LandMarks magazine and the Bible studies. The articles are all excellent."

—ML, South Dakota

From the Steps to Life Bible Correspondence School:

"I just want to thank you for sending me all these wonderful lessons. I don't want to miss all these treasures of God's word. I appreciate that you are working with and helping people like me in prison."

—NM, Texas

October Sermon of the Month

The Way to Perfection

By John J. Grosboll

It is when Christ is formed within us that we will have the hope of eternal life, and those whose characters reflect His image will make up His remnant church.

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

From the Desk of Pastor John J. Grosboll

October 2022

Dear Friend,

We are living in that time when the last rays of merciful light are to be given to the world. Soon the night is coming when it will be impossible to work for the salvation of anyone. Jesus said that the night would come when no man could work. In the little time that we have left before probation closes, what can we do? Following are a few inspired ideas about what we can do to take the last message of mercy to a fallen world:

"The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 415, 416

"We are to give food to the hungry, clothing to the naked, and shelter to the homeless. And we are called to do more than this. The wants of the soul, only the love of Christ can satisfy . . .

"God calls not only for our gifts for the needy, but for our cheerful countenance, our hopeful words, our kindly handclasp." *Ibid.*, 417, 418

"We are living in a time when the last message of mercy, the last invitation, is being given to the children of men. . . . Heavenly angels are still working, cooperating with human agencies. The Holy Spirit is presenting every inducement to compel you to come, and Jesus is watching for some sign that will betoken the removing of the bolts and the opening of the door of your heart for His entrance . . . 'I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.' The hosts of heaven are waiting ready to strike their harps, and to sing a song of rejoicing that the Good Shepherd has sought and reclaimed His own." *The Review and Herald*, September 24, 1895

Soon our opportunity to give the last message of mercy to the lost will be forever past.

May none of us be found idlers when the sun sets and the night falls.

Your brother praying for a finished work of the gospel,



Pastor John J. Grosboll

Safe in the Arms of Jesus



Fanny Crosby was born on March 24, 1820, in Putnam County, New York. She became permanently blind at the age of six weeks after being prescribed the wrong treatment for her inflamed eyes. Always positive, Fanny turned her handicap into an asset; even commenting that her blindness was actually a blessing for it removed the many distractions around her. When she was eight years old, with the same feeling as Paul when writing in Philippians 4:11–13, she wrote:

Oh, what a happy child I am,
Although I cannot see!
I am resolved that in this world
Contented I will be.


At the age of 15 she attended the New York Institution for the Blind, and in 1847 became a teacher there until 1858. She taught English grammar, rhetoric, and American history. But Fanny's true love was poetry.

Her poems have been used the world over, set to the music of the popular tunes of her day as well as tunes especially written for them, both secular and sacred. She could compose at any time. Always in possession of a book of paper just for that purpose; and her spur-of-the-moment poems often became her best hymns.

Her hymns have been the favorites of composers and evangelists like W. H. Doane, who composed the music for many of her most well-known hymns, and Ira D. Sankey, a gospel singer and composer long associated with Dwight L. Moody.

We are familiar with many of these songs: *Tell Me the Story of Jesus*; *I am Thine, O Lord*; *Sweet By and By*; *To God be the Glory*; *Take the World, but Give Me Jesus*; *All the Way My Saviour Leads Me*; *Praise Him, Praise Him*; *Blessed Assurance*; *Redeemed*; *Near the Cross*; *Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour*, and over four thousand more. Fanny's personal favorite was *Safe in the Arms of Jesus*.

"Contented I will be" remained the governing principle throughout Fanny's life. She loved her work and was happy doing it. She often reflected that had it not been for her blindness, she might not have obtained such a good education or had so great an influence. It also strengthened her memory. She committed to memory large portions of the Bible, including the first four books of the Old Testament and all four of the Gospels before she was ten years old.

*Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.
Hark! 'tis the voice of angels,
Borne in a song to me,
Over the fields of glory,
Over the jasper sea.
Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe from corroding care,
Safe from the world's temptations,
Sin cannot harm me there.
Free from the blight of sorrow,
Free from my doubts and fears;
Only a few more trials,
Only a few more tears.
Jesus, my heart's dear refuge,
Jesus has died for me;
Firm on the Rock of Ages,
Ever my trust shall be.
Here let me wait with patience,
Wait till the night is o'er;
Wait till I see the morning
Break on the golden shore.
Safe in the arms of Jesus
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest. *

from the
Mission Fields



A statue of David Livingstone in Zambia.

Zambia

By Domingo Nunez

Brief Mission History

During my most recent trip to Zambia, I was privileged to learn how the Lord brought missionaries to this region of Africa. So, before I bring you an update of our work there, let me share some of this history.

In 1855, Scottish explorer and missionary David Livingstone brought the gospel to the region of Zambia and became the first European to see the Zambezi River on the borders of Zimbabwe and Zambia, in the area now known as Living-

stone district, as well as the Victoria Falls. He was shown these natural wonders by the Subiya-Kololo Chief Sekeletu.

In 1903, William Harrison Anderson, a Seventh-day Adventist missionary, crossed the Zambezi River from Souls Mission in Zimbabwe and established the Rusangu Mission in Zambia in 1905. This Mission is located in Monze, Zambia, and was formerly called the Zambia Adventist Seminary and Zambia Adventist University.

In the early 1900s, the three angels' messages came to Zambia, but in 1910 they found their way to the town of Choma about 250 kilometers from Livingstone Town, Zambia.

Lusaka became the capital of Northern Rhodesia in 1935. The city figured prominently in the movement for independence. The Federation of African Societies founded the Northern Rhodesia Congress in 1948-1950. In 1950, Lusaka became the capital of the nation of Zambia.



Loud Cry Ministry of Free Seventh-day Adventists Church Sabbath service



The property in Lusaka West and building materials ready for the construction of Steps to life offices, which will serve several African countries.

Steps to Life Zambia

I came to Lusaka, Zambia for the first time in 2009 at the request of a faithful young man by the name of Henry Mwesa, who had completed our correspondence training program for church organization and leadership to become a lay pastor. He completed this program in 2009. In 2010, I had the privilege of ordaining Henry as a lay pastor, and encouraged him to faithfully preach the three angels' messages as did the Seventh-day Adventist pioneers before him.

Since 2009, and every year for the last 13 years, I have come to Lusaka to organize the outreach work there. We now have a ministry and church, the Loud Cry Ministry of Free Seventh-day Adventists, and a number of churches in other regions throughout Zambia.

By the grace of God, we are now working to locate the headquarters for the Steps to Life Global Evangelism of Free Seventh-day Adventist ministry in Zambia. To that end, we have joined with the work in the countries of Malawi and Mozambique and created the Zambia Malawi Mozambique Division board. This board is composed of workers from all three of the countries to provide the organizational assistance needed to build the headquarters facility in Lusaka West on a seven-acre plot of land that was purchased for this purpose.

The development plan includes two buildings—one will house the Bible workers' residence and offices and the other will be the church itself. The office building will include offices

and dormitory rooms for the Bible workers, conference rooms, a kitchen, and restrooms, as well as space for the publishing department.

We need your help to furnish both buildings with all the furniture and equipment necessary to spread the three angels' messages throughout the region of Zambia and beyond. Most of all, we need your prayers. This is a challenging project, but I know that God will see it done. If you wish to contribute to the work in Zambia, please mark your donation *Missions-Zambia*.

Sincerely, your brother in Christ,

Pastor Domingo Nunez **LM**



The Beaver

The beaver is an engineer with amazing features and knowledge. It builds its dam, up to hundreds of feet long, with such engineering skill that men study the beaver's dam to know how to build strength into a dam and how to channel water.

Building a dam means spending a lot of time in the water and the beaver has special physical equipment that enables him to do that. A protective nose and ear flaps that close when it goes under the water are part of this equipment. The flaps close so that he can freely swim in the water and open when he surfaces so he can breathe again. His eyelids are transparent and close when he is under the water. This allows for protection from debris and irritants in the water and yet allows him to see very well.

Beavers have uniquely designed, self-sharpening front incisors which continue to grow as they are worn down allowing for a continuous and sharp supply of front teeth. They use these sharp front teeth to cut young tender branches to a specific size to be stored in the mud at the bottom of the pond for their food supplies in the winter. In order to retrieve the branches, the beaver needs to chew them underwater.

They are able to do this without water entering their mouth with the aid of fur mouth flaps between their front incisors and their rear molar teeth. These flaps of fur seal off the mouth behind the front incisors.

To build a dam, the beaver chooses the location and gnaws away at trees and branches along the bank, which when properly placed cuts off the flow of water. Nearby, a lodge is built into the bank of the stream or river. These dome-shaped structures are made of sticks, grass, and moss. The lodge provides a home for a single family of beavers consisting of as many as 12. The purpose of the dam is to create a "moat" around the lodge, providing protection from predators.


Beavers love their homes and will typically remain in the same location for years, until the food supply runs out. Since the animal lives just ten years in the wild, it could spend its entire life in the same place.

The beaver's ability to swim long distances without harm is unlike other air-breathing water creatures. He can swim submerged for up to a half-mile or more. In order to do this without lack of oxygen to the brain, the beaver has large

lungs and liver to store more air and oxygenated blood. His heart also compensates by beating more slowly when he dives. Blood is also restricted to the extremities during swimming allowing the brain to receive more oxygen.

The beaver is often in cold water that has ice formed on the top. In order for the skin to keep from freezing in this frigid water, the fur of the beaver is oiled by two large oil glands that produce a rich, thick, deep yellow oily liquid, which the beaver spreads on its fur to waterproof it. He also has two layers of fur and then a layer of fat just beneath the skin which helps further protect it from its cold winter environment.

The beaver is truly another example of a wise plan developed by a caring, Creator God. Such variety of special features could not have evolved over time and by chance. All of the physical features inherent to the beaver must be present and fully functional from the beginning for it to survive.

Adapted from *Incredible Creatures That Defy Evolution*, Volume 1 and *The Evolution of a Creationist* by Jobe Martin, D.M.D. Th. M., Biblical Discipleship Publishers, Rockwall, Texas 75032; bestlifeonline.com/why-beavers-build-dams 

Q:

*How can
I be fit for
the Master's
presence?*

A:



Wherever you go, carry on the good work of searching the Scriptures, and the Lord Jesus will always be at your right hand to help you. ... There is no excuse for wavering or sinning. But in order to be upright, you must keep all these rich and full promises in memory's hall. Clear the mind of all objectionable, foolish things; retain the precious truths that you have heard here. ... What weapon did Jesus present to the enemy in his temptation in the wilderness? ... 'It is written.'

"[Y]ou are to remember what is written, and when the enemy comes, and tempts you ... just say firmly, 'No, I cannot go there.' Make up your mind, and know how to say 'No' squarely. 'When sinners entice thee, consent thou not.'"

The Bible Echo, January 15, 1893

"The law of God is the standard by which character is to be tested; if we erect a standard to suit ourselves, and

attempt to follow a criterion of our own devising, we shall utterly fail to secure heaven at last. ...

"Jesus is the perfect pattern. Instead of trying to please self and have our own way, let us seek to reflect His image. ...

"It is not enough that we merely profess the faith; something more than a nominal assent is wanted. There must be a real knowledge, a genuine experience in the principles of the truth as it is in Jesus. The Holy Spirit must work within, bringing these principles into the strong light of distinct consciousness, that we may know their power and make them a living reality. The mind must yield obedience to the royal law of liberty, the law which the Spirit of God impresses upon the heart, and makes plain to the understanding. *The expulsion of sin must be the act of the soul itself, in calling into exercise its noblest powers.* The only freedom a finite will can enjoy, consists

in coming into harmony with the will of God, complying with the conditions that make man a partaker of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." *The Review and Herald*, November 24, 1885

"It is a subject of interest to every soul of us, how we shall keep our vessels unto honor in the sight of a holy God. ... There is no safety for us when we lie down, when we rise up, when we go out, and when we come in. Satan and evil angels have conspired with evil men and evil women, and the whole energies of the powers of darkness will gather themselves together to lead astray and destroy every soul that is not garrisoned with firm principles of eternal truths. ...

"The principles of righteousness must be implanted in the soul. Faith must grasp the power of Jesus Christ, else there is no safety." *In Heavenly Places*, 199 [Emphasis supplied.] **LM**



Nature's Remedial Agencies

Exercise

“God designed that the living machinery should be in daily activity; for in this activity or motion is its preserving power.”

Healthful Living, 131

“Each organ and muscle has its work to do in the living organism. Every wheel in the machinery must be a living, active, working wheel. Nature's fine and wonderful works need to be kept in active motion in order to accomplish the object for which they were designed.”

My Life Today, 130

Daily Regimen and Determining Your Needs

The American College of Sports Medicine, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (ACSM-CDC), and the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) have updated the general guideline for how much to exercise daily:

- **Preschool-aged children** (3-5 years) — at least three hours daily of light to vigorous, active play for growth enhancement and development.
- **Youth** (6-17 years) — one hour daily of moderate to vigorous activity to increase muscle and bone strength.
- **Younger and older adults alike** (18-65 years) — at least 30 minutes of moderate, aerobic activity five days per week, vigorous activity for at least 20 minutes, three days per week, or a combination of both is favorable. Additionally, muscle-strengthening activity is recommended at least two times per week to further increase muscular strength and endurance.

Previously, it was believed that if one exercised for less than 20 minutes, it would be of no lasting value. It has been found that exercise even in 10-minute increments can be of benefit to health.

Whether your goal is weight loss, obtaining a particular goal, or maintenance, daily exercise needs are best assessed on an individual basis. Age, current inactivity level, medications, health conditions, disabilities, and pregnancy should be considered, and seeking the counsel of a physician is preferable.

Health Benefits of Exercise

“Exercise equalizes the circulation, vitalizes the blood, helps the body expel impurities, improves the body’s tone, aids digestion, relieves nervousness, prevents disease, improves the function of the kidneys and liver, keeps the lungs in good condition, and tones up the

muscles. Exercise is one of nature’s best remedies. There are very few maladies that will not respond favorably to exercise.” Jack Kendall

As we now know, even small increments of exercise can be beneficial. However, the ODPHP also encourages increasingly more frequent movement throughout the day, working toward meeting the guidelines above. Meeting the guidelines includes both immediate and long-term benefits.

Decreased anxiety and blood pressure while improving sleep quality and insulin sensitivity are immediate benefits.

Long-term benefits include improved cognition, bone health, fitness, and heart health; lower risk of anxiety and depression; reduced risk of eight types of cancer (bladder, breast, colon, endometrium, esophagus, kidney, stomach, and lung); lowered risk of dementia and Alzheimer’s disease, heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes; improved immune system; lowered risk of obesity; improved physical function, and quality of life. In older adults regular exercise can reduce the risk of falling and fall-related injuries. Exercise can also reduce the risk of postpartum depression, strengthen abdominal muscles, and improve energy and sleep during pregnancy.

In pre-existing conditions such as osteoarthritis, high blood pressure, and type 2 diabetes, exercise significantly reduces symptoms and disease progression, and improves cognition for those with dementia, multiple sclerosis, ADHD, and Parkinson’s disease.

Dangers of a Sedentary Lifestyle and a Simple Start

“Fresh air, *exercise*, pure water, and clean, sweet premises, are within the reach of all, with but little expense; but drugs are expensive, both in the outlay of means, and the effect produced upon the system.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 301

It is no surprise that a sedentary lifestyle hastens illness, disease, and death; the more sedentary, the higher the risks are. Fitness centers may not always be accessible,

affordable, or easily included in a tightly scheduled day. However,

there are several notably convenient ways to exercise that are quite interesting and enjoyable. Whether inactive or active, there are exercises that can benefit your mind and body simply with the use of a broom or mop.

Sweeping and mopping are chores that are done practically on a daily basis. Monotonous chores can easily be made more enjoyable with variety and spark more enthusiasm when realizing how simple it is to obtain health benefits from them. Sweeping and mopping burn calories, maintain a healthy weight, reduce belly fat, are therapeutic, lower stress and anger levels, and prevent infections and allergies.

There are five common exercises that can be done using the broom or a mop while engaging in your regular housekeeping duties anytime and anywhere. Be sure to alternate the end of the broom or mop, as this will balance resistance on each side of the body throughout the exercise routine. Also, adjust the speed and number of repetitions at your own convenience and remember, have fun!

“
*The glory of young men
is their strength, and the
splendor of old men is their
grey head.*

Proverbs 20:29



Overhead Wide Grip Squats

Hold the broom flat with hands gripped close to each end, keeping arms straight and above the head. Place legs in a wide stance. Lower into a deep squat. Return to a standing position. Repeat.



Forward Lunges w/ Lateral Twist

Hold the broom flat with hands gripped close to the ends, extending arms forward at shoulder level. Lunge one foot forward, bending at the knee; keep the knee aligned over top of the toes. Place the other leg behind. Twist to the left. Twist to the right. Repeat.



Overhead Shoulder Press

Hold the broom flat with hands gripped shoulder-width apart. Place feet shoulder-width apart. Begin with the broom at the shoulder level and press forward, outward, and upward. Repeat.



Crunches

Lie down on your back. Bend knees, keeping feet flat on the floor. Hold the broom flat with hands gripped at a comfortable width and over the top of the torso. Lift the head, neck, and shoulders upwards. Repeat.



Alternating Side Bend / Knee Touches

Place feet a little wider than shoulder-width apart and slightly bend knees. Rest the broom behind the neck and on top of the shoulders. Hold the broom flat with a comfortable, wide grip. Simultaneously raise the right knee and side bend downward to the right; raising the knee upward to touch the broom stick. Then the left side. Repeat.

Care and Effort

Be encouraged! Whether initiating a simple start or finding new ways to enhance a current routine, everyday items and chores can be valuable in increasing health benefits and reaching goals. Also, bring to remembrance:

“The glory of young men is their strength, and the splendor of old men is their grey head.” Proverbs 20:29

“She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms.” Proverbs 31:17 [Emphasis supplied.]

Sources: Adapted from a pamphlet and online articles - ACMS - Staff, Health.gov - Staff, STL Exercise Pamphlet - Jack Kendall, Onlymyhealth - Chanchal Sentra, CEB Fitness & Wellness, LLC - Candace Brooks; www.acsm.org/education-resources/trending-topics-resources/physical-activity-guidelines; health.gov/current-guidelines/top-10-things-to-know; onlymyhealth.com/health-benefits-of-sweeping-and-mopping-the-floor; cebfitness.wordpress.com/2013/07/15/5-exercises-you-can-do-with-a-mop-or-broom/ [LM](#)

An aerial photograph of a serene landscape. On the left, a deep blue lake with gentle ripples stretches towards the horizon. A narrow, light-colored path or shoreline runs vertically along the right side of the lake, separating it from a dense forest. The forest is in autumn, with trees displaying vibrant yellow, orange, and green foliage. In the lower right corner, a small building with a bright blue corrugated metal roof is partially visible, nestled among the trees. The overall scene is peaceful and evocative, complementing the spiritual text on the left.

"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling . . ."

Hebrews 3:1

True wisdom dawns in gradual rays,
Minute degrees observed as nil.
Beyond the books of youthful days,
It beckons thee to yonder hill.
Forbear and press in patient ways...
"Forward! Upward! Higher still!"

At times we fret with downcast soul,
Our courage wanes in blasting chill.
We've failed the earthly honor roll,
Diminished hope, dejected will.
But hark the sound, the ringing toll...
"Forward! Upward! Higher still!"

Temptations rise and pleasures call,
They barter truth for empty thrill.
Those who yield are those who fall,
Achieving not God's blessed will.
Sowing flesh shall reap but gall...
"Forward! Upward! Higher still!"

In days of brimming youthful years,
With dreams afresh to seek and fill.
A humble heart will stay more tears,
Than all of life's great wit and will.
He who wins is he who hears...
"Forward! Upward! Higher still!"

Lee Rufener



Grace or Works?

By John J. Grosboll

The Bible says that a person is saved by grace, but that they will be judged by their works. Can both of those statements be true?

The Bible states that there will be a judgment of the entire world and that God will judge both the righteous and the wicked. Moses wrote about the judgment in Deuteronomy 32, and it is found throughout the New Testament. Prophets and apostles spoke or wrote of the judgment over and over again. It is one of the most prominent teachings in the Bible.



The apostle Paul wrote a lot about the judgment. He had the opportunity to preach about it to the philosophers in Athens. There is an appointed day when God will judge the world. “Because He [God] has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” Acts 17:31

On another occasion, he presented the subject of the judgment to the Roman governor Felix. This was a once-and-only-once opportunity to speak to Felix. “After some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, ‘Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.’” Acts 24:24, 25. Unfortunately for Felix, like for so many people who procrastinate, that convenient time never came. Felix was given an opportunity that day to forsake his evil ways and to be made ready for the judgment, but he let it go by disregarded.

In this world, it is a judge’s responsibility to pass judgment based upon a set standard by which that judgment is determined. This standard is composed of the laws passed by the local, state and federal governments.

God also has a standard, a law made up of ten commandments (Exodus 20:3–17), and it is according to this law that He will judge the world on the appointed day.

This is described in James 2:10–12: “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ also said, ‘Do not murder.’ Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.”

James makes this very clear: while there are ten commandments, the Bible speaks of them as one law. So, if a person breaks just one of the ten commandments, that person is a transgressor of God’s law and will be judged according to that law.

God spoke the law with His own voice to the children of Israel, and He wrote it with His own finger on tables of stone. Those tables of stone were given to Moses and placed in the ark of the covenant, in the most holy place of the earthly sanctuary.

When God spoke His law to the children of Israel, it was not the beginning or the origin of the law. Man knew from the time sin entered the world that it was not right to kill someone. It was wrong to lie, even all the way back to Lucifer’s campaign of deception in heaven. The Sabbath was established and sanctified at the end of the Creation week and had been observed by God’s people for thousands of years before the law was written down at Mt. Sinai. The children of Israel had spent many years in captivity in Egypt, and during their captivity, they neglected to teach their children about God’s law. This made it necessary for God to remind them of the law they had once faithfully followed.

God wrote the law, the ten commandments, on tables of stone, and it is significant that He did so. Writing with His own finger in solid rock, it showed that the character of His law was permanent, enduring—it could not be done away with. To express the everlasting nature of God’s law, Jesus said, “it is easier for heaven and earth to pass” than

for a single part of a letter to pass from the law (Luke 16:17).

This presents to us a problem. We have all broken that law. “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness [transgression KJV].”

1 John 3:4. “[For] all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 3:23

So if all have sinned, if all have broken the law, and if all are to be judged by that law, then we all deserve to be judged guilty. Is it possible for us to escape the penalty of our sins?

First, let’s see what the penalty for breaking God’s law is. We find that in Romans 6:23 Paul wrote, “The wages of sin is death.” If the wages of sin were a ten-year prison sentence, then you could pay that penalty yourself. But the wages of sin is eternal, permanent death. Is there any way that we can escape this penalty?

If the penalty for sin is eternal death, then the only way of escape is if someone else pays the price. And that is exactly what Jesus Christ did. “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures ...”

1 Corinthians 15:3. Christ died and paid the penalty for our sins.

However, if we continue in sin, there is no chance that we will receive salvation. Notice what the Bible says: “Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well for those who fear God, who

“
*So speak and so do as
those who will be judged by
the law of liberty.*”

“

While there are ten commandments, they are one law. So, if a person breaks one commandment, he/she is a transgressor of God's law.

fear before Him. But it will not be well with the wicked ...” Ecclesiastes 8:11–13, *first part*

We cannot continue to live in sin and expect to be saved. Isaiah speaks to this principle, “Say to the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their doings. Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for the reward of his hands shall be given him.”

Isaiah 3:10, 11

We cannot be saved in our sin. There is only one way that we can be saved and that is to be saved from our sins.

This was proclaimed before Jesus' birth. The angel said to Joseph, “You can marry your wife, because, that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she is going to bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus because He will save His people *from* their sins.” Matthew 1:21

How exactly does God save a sinner from their sin? One of the most comprehensive explanations of how God does this is found in the book of Romans. “But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Christ Jesus, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” Romans 3:21–26

A scripture like that might cause some people to say, “That just sounds like theological talk. I don't understand how it works. I don't understand how or what to do. I can't explain or understand all that theological language. Can't you just tell it to me in simple language?”

Yes, the gospel can be stated in very simple language.

The first step is to repent—to be sorry enough for the sins we've committed that we turn away from them. “Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a Godly manner. What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.” 2 Corinthians 7:10, 11

Repentance is the first step in salvation, but what is it that makes a person sorry for what they have done? The Bible says that it is the goodness of God that leads a person to repentance (Romans 2).

Since the Bible is clear that all have sinned, then everyone in the world needs to repent. Paul further supports this in Acts 17:30. Speaking to the philosophers in Athens he says, “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.” Remember, repentance is simply being sorry enough to quit doing the sinful things they do. Genuine sorrow for sin gives no excuse for it. Unlike Adam and Eve who both tried to justify what they had done, the sin will be faced and confessed.

Once we have repented from our sins, the next step is to confess our sins. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9. Confession involves not only God, but the individual we have wronged. We must go to that person to confess and make it right. Ezekiel talks about the necessity of making things right in Ezekiel 33:15. “If the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has stolen, and walks in the statutes of life without committing iniquity, he shall surely live; he shall not die.” So confession also involves making restitution. If I have wronged someone, and if it is possible to do so, then I must make it right.

Having repented, confessed, and made restoration, one must make a commitment. Remember the story of the Philippian jailor

found in Acts 16: “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’” Verses 30, 31

The word “believe” is usually translated and used to mean faith, to believe something enough to make a commitment to it. In this case, you believe in the Lord enough to make a commitment to Him; to believe in Jesus, not only as your Saviour from sin, but as the Lord of your life.

Jesus explained this belief to the Jews in so simple a manner, that none could misunderstand. “Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and you do not do what I say?” Luke 6:46. If you make a commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ, trusting in Him as your Saviour from sin, choosing to follow Him, then your faith will be accounted for righteousness and you will receive the gift of salvation. Faith is simply trusting in God enough to make a commitment to Him as your Lord, Master, and Saviour; then you just follow Him. What does it mean to follow Jesus? Luke 9:23 tells us, “‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’” Making a commitment to accept Jesus as your Saviour and the Lord of your life, means denying self.

By denying self, we surrender to the working of the Holy Spirit in our hearts to transform our sinful nature so that we can, by the power and grace of God, become like Christ—to ultimately have a Christlike character. “He who says he abides in Him, ought himself also to walk just as He walked.” 1 John 2:6. This means that we will live the way Jesus did.

We are not to simply make a profession of faith or belief. Rather we are to repent, confess, make restitution, and then commit to actually following Jesus. A wonderful promise is given to us when we follow these steps to salvation. “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission [forgiveness] of sins; and



By writing with His own finger in solid rock, He showed that His law is permanent and unchangeable.

you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

The Bible says that by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body. Baptism by water is a symbol of being baptized by [receiving] the Holy Spirit. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:16, 17 that when we receive the Holy Spirit, we become a new creation. “Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” The Holy Spirit creates in us a new mind, a new Spirit, making everything new. Then He will enable us to follow Christ in righteous, holy living; something we could never do ourselves.

The apostle Paul explains this all in greater detail in Romans 8:1–14. “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the right-

eous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” With a new heart, a new mind, and a new Spirit, we are enabled to live a new life, one patterned after Christ’s own life.

This is why the final judgment is based on works. We are saved by grace, but we must then exhibit the corresponding works of a transformed life. Our works are an outward expression of an inward change. Without the transformation of the Holy Spirit, we will continue to live a life according to the flesh and our works will, in the judgment, condemn us, because it will be clear that we have not received the Holy Spirit.

Jesus has said that no one can be in the kingdom of heaven unless they have received the Holy Spirit. “... Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ ... ‘... Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’” John 3:3, 5. “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ... But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” Galatians 5:16, 22–25

We can only receive the Holy Spirit if we choose to follow and obey Jesus. But when we receive the Holy Spirit, when He enables us to live a new life of faith, then in the judgment, when our works are examined, they will not be found to be the works of the old unconverted man, but the works of a life transformed by the saving power of the Holy Spirit. [Emphasis supplied.] **LM**

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October 30 – November 5, 2022

The Three Angels' Messages

Key Text

"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people." Revelation 14:6

Study Help: *The Great Controversy*, 355, 356, 603–607

Introduction

"The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; but it is a part of the gospel to warn the sinner of the doom that awaits the unbelieving and unrepentant soul." *The Signs of the Times*, April 18, 1895

Sunday

1 PART OF THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL

1.a. What did Jesus say will happen when the gospel has gone to the entire world? Matthew 24:14

Note: "It [the first angel's message] is declared to be a part of the 'everlasting gospel;' and it announces the opening of the judgment. The message of salvation has been preached in all ages; but this message is a part of the gospel which could be proclaimed only in the last days, for only then would it be true that the hour of judgment *had come*." *The Great Controversy* [1888 edition], 355, 356. [Author's emphasis.]

1.b. What is the first angel's warning, and how is it to be given? Revelation 14:6, 7 (compare Revelation 22:12)

Note: "[Revelation 22:12 quoted.] It is this work of judgment, immediately preceding the second advent, that is announced in the first angel's message of Revelation 14:7." *The Great Controversy*, 352

Monday

2 THE ONLY OBJECT OF WORSHIP

2.a. Who is the only object of worship? Exodus 20:4–6? What does the second commandment forbid? Revelation 19:10; 22:8, 9

Note: "God is to be the subject of thought, the object of worship; and anything that attracts the mind from the solemn, sacred service is an offence to Him." *Testimonies*, Vol. 5, 499

"The second commandment forbids the worship of the true God by images or similitudes. Many heathen nations claimed that their images were mere figures or symbols by which the Deity was worshiped, but God has declared such worship to be sin." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 306

2.b. By keeping the seventh-day Sabbath, what are we acknowledging about true worship? Exodus 20:8–11; Revelation 14:7, *last part*

Note: "In the fourth commandment, God is revealed as the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and is thereby distinguished from all false gods. It was as a memorial of the work of creation that the seventh day was sanctified as a rest day for man. It was designed to keep the living God ever before the minds of men as the source of being and the object of reverence and worship." *The Great Controversy*, 54

"The Sabbath ... lies at the very foundation of divine worship, for it teaches this great truth in the most impressive manner, and no other institution does this. The true ground of divine worship, not of that on the seventh day merely, but of all worship, is found in the distinction between the Creator and His creatures. This great fact can never become obsolete, and must never be forgotten." (J. N. Andrews, *History of the*

Sabbath, chapter 27). It was to keep this truth ever before the minds of men, that God instituted the Sabbath in Eden; and so long as the fact that He is our Creator continues to be a reason why we should worship Him, so long the Sabbath will continue as its sign and memorial. Had the Sabbath been universally kept, man's thoughts and affections would have been led to the Creator as the object of reverence and worship, and there would never have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel. The keeping of the Sabbath is a sign of loyalty to the true God ... that the message which commands men to worship God and keep His commandments will especially call upon them to keep the fourth commandment." Ibid., 437, 438

Tuesday

3 BABYLON IS FALLEN

3.a. What does the second angel announce, and what is the meaning of his message? Revelation 14:8

Note: "The term 'Babylon' is derived from 'Babel,' and signifies confusion. It is employed in Scripture to designate the various forms of false or apostate religion. In Revelation 17 Babylon is represented as a woman—a figure which is used in the Bible as the symbol of a church, a virtuous woman representing a pure church, a vile woman an apostate church." *The Great Controversy*, 381

"Babylon is said to be 'the mother of harlots.' By her daughters must be symbolized churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world. The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt." Ibid., 382, 383. [Author's emphasis.]

3.b. When was the second angel's message proclaimed for the first time, and when will it be repeated? Revelation 18:1-5; Revelation 14:6-8



Note: "The second angel's message of Revelation 14 was first preached in the summer of 1844, and it then had a more direct application to the churches of the United States, where the warning of the judgment had been most widely proclaimed and most generally rejected, and where the declension in the churches had been most rapid. But the message of the second angel did not reach its complete fulfilment in 1844." *The Great Controversy*, 389

"God still has a people in Babylon; and before the visitation of His judgments these faithful ones must be called out. ... Hence the movement symbolized by the angel coming down from heaven. ... announcing the sins of Babylon. In connection with his message the call is heard: 'Come out of her, My people.'" Ibid., 604

"After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, 'Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!' ... And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.'" Revelation 18:1, 2, 4

"This scripture points forward to a time when the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel of Revelation 14 (verse 8), is to be repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the various organizations that constitute Babylon, since that message was first given." Ibid., 603

Wednesday

4 THE THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE

4.a. Against what specific sins does the third angel warn the inhabitants of the earth? Revelation 14:9, 10

Note: “That institution [the Sabbath] which points to God as the Creator is a sign of His rightful authority over the beings He has made. The change of the Sabbath is the sign, or mark, of the authority of the Romish Church. Those who, understanding the claims of the fourth commandment, choose to observe the false in place of the true Sabbath, are thereby paying homage to that power by which alone it is commanded. ...

“In the issue of the great contest, two distinct, opposite classes are developed. One class ‘worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark,’ and thus bring upon themselves the awful judgments threatened by the third angel. The other class, in marked contrast to the world, ‘keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.’ Revelation 14:9, 12.” *The Story of Redemption*, 383

4.b. In order to escape the wrath of God we should heed the warning of the third angel. What or who is the beast, the image of the beast, and what is the mark of the beast? Revelation 13:1–7, 14–16

Note: “‘The beast’ mentioned in this message, whose worship is enforced by the two horned beast, is the first, or leopardlike beast of Revelation 13—the papacy. The ‘image to the beast’ represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas.” *The Great Controversy*, 445

“The sign, or seal, of God is revealed in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, the Lord’s memorial of creation. ...

“The mark of the beast is the opposite of this—the observance of the first day of the week. This mark distinguishes those who acknowledge the supremacy of the papal authority from those who acknowledge the authority of God.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 8, 117

“John was called to behold a people distinct from those who worship the beast or his image by keeping the first day of the week. The observance of this day is the mark of the beast.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 133

Thursday

5 THE RESULT OF THE THIRD ANGEL’S MESSAGE

5.a. As the third angel concludes his warning, what is declared about God’s people? Revelation 14:12

Note: “The third angel’s message is the proclamation of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ. ...

“‘The faith of Jesus.’ It is talked of, but not understood.

What constitutes the faith of Jesus, that belongs to the third angel’s message? Jesus becoming our sin-bearer that He might become our sin pardoning Saviour. He was treated as we deserve to be treated. He came to our world and took our sins that we might take His righteousness. And faith in the ability of Christ to save us amply and fully and entirely is the faith of Jesus. ...

“Christ ‘was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed’ (Isaiah 53:5). ‘Saved by the blood of Jesus Christ,’ will be our only hope for time and our song throughout eternity.” *Selected Messages*, Book 3, 172, 173

5.b. Where did the apostle John see those that have overcome the beast, his image, and have not received the mark of the beast? Revelation 15:2, 3; 14:1–3

Note: “Upon the crystal sea before the throne, that sea of glass as it were mingled with fire—so resplendent is it with the glory of God—are gathered the company that have ‘gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name.’ With the Lamb upon Mount Zion, ‘having the harps of God,’ they stand, the hundred and forty and four thousand.” *The Great Controversy*, 648

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How is the everlasting gospel deeper than most people realize?
- 2 Why is the day on which we spiritually rest so important to God?
- 3 What constitutes spiritual Babylon in the last days?
- 4 Why do people need to understand the third angel’s message?
- 5 What reveals the great victory of those who accept this vital truth?

November 6 – 12, 2022

That Other Angel

Key Text

“After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.” Revelation 18:1

Study Help: *The Great Controversy*, 603–612

Introduction

“As foretold in the eighteenth of Revelation, the third angel’s message is to be proclaimed with great power by those who give the final warning against the beast and his image: [Revelation 18:1 quoted.]” *Testimonies*, Vol. 8, 118

Sunday

1 THE MESSAGE OF THE THIRD ANGEL

1.a. What is the meaning of the third angel’s message being given in a loud voice? Revelation 14:9

Note: “Satan has devised a state of things whereby the proclamation of the third angel’s message shall be bound about. ... There must be no toning down of the truth, no muffling of the message for this time. The third angel’s message must be strengthened and confirmed. ... There has been too much beating about the bush in the proclamation of the third angel’s message. The message has not been given as clearly and distinctly as it should have been.” *Evangelism*, 230

1.b. What warning is given to those who try to make changes in God’s threefold message? Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18, 19

Note: “I was shown three steps—the first, second, and third angels’ messages. Said my accompanying angel, ‘Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages. The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received.’” *Early Writings*, 258, 259

Monday

2 THE NEED OF HELP

2.a. What did John witness as he began to write chapter 18 of Revelation? Why did this angel have to come? Revelation 18:1, *first part*

Note: “The third angel’s message is to be given with power. The power of the proclamation of the first and second messages is to be intensified in the third. In the Revelation John says of the heavenly messenger who unites with the third angel: ‘I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice.’ Revelation 18:1, 2 ... We are in danger of giving the third angel’s message in so indefinite a manner that it does not impress the people. So many other interests are brought in that the very message which should be proclaimed with power becomes tame and voiceless.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 6, 60

“What is our condition in this fearful and solemn time? Alas, what pride is prevailing in the church, what hypocrisy, what deception, what love of dress, frivolity, and amusement, what desire for the supremacy!” *The Review and Herald*, March 22, 1887

2.b. What other conditions prevalent in the church required the coming of that other angel? 1 John 2:15, 16; 2 Corinthians 6:14–16

Note: “It is a solemn and terrible truth that many who have been zealous in proclaiming the third angel’s message are now becoming listless and indifferent! The line of demarcation between worldlings and many professed Christians is almost

indistinguishable. Many who once were earnest Adventists are conforming to the world—to its practices, its customs, its selfishness. Instead of leading the world to render obedience to God’s law, the church is uniting more and more closely with the world in transgression. Daily the church is becoming converted to the world.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 8, 118, 119

“Our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God. Pride, covetousness, and love of the world have lived in the heart without fear of banishment or condemnation. Grievous and presumptuous sins have dwelt among us. And yet the general opinion is that the church is flourishing and that peace and spiritual prosperity are in all her borders.

“The church has turned back from following Christ her Leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. Doubt, and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches everywhere.” *Ibid.*, Vol. 5, 217

Tuesday

3 THE TIME FOR THE ANGEL TO COME

- 3.a. What duty is imposed on those who are to diffuse darkness and shed the light of truth to the world?
Isaiah 60:1, 2

Note: “The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth.” *The Review and Herald*, November 22, 1892

“I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message. Great power and glory were imparted to the angel, and as he descended, the earth was lightened with his glory. . . . The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel’s message as it swells to a loud cry.” *Early Writings*, 277

“God meant that the watchmen should arise and with united voices send forth a decided message, giving the trumpet a certain sound, that the people might all spring to their post of duty and act their part in the great work. Then the strong, clear light of that other angel who comes down from heaven having great power, would have filled the earth with his glory. We are years behind.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 14, 111

- 3.b. What makes it clear that the work of the angel of Revelation 18 began in the past? How are we to show our willingness to receive the light of that angel?
Romans 13:11, 12; Ephesians 5:14

Note: “The question of most vital importance for this time is, ‘Who is on the Lord’s side? Who will unite with the angel in giving the message of truth to the world? Who will receive the light that is to fill the whole earth with its glory?’ Those who cherish the light that they have, will receive more.” *The Review and Herald*, November 5, 1889

“Mystic Babylon has not been sparing in the blood of the saints and shall we [not] be wide awake to catch the beams of light which have been shining from the light of the angel who is to brighten the earth with his glory.” *Selected Messages*, Book 3, 426

Wednesday

4 A TWOFOLD WORK

- 4.a. What work must the angel of Revelation 18 accomplish before the earth is enlightened with God’s glory? Revelation 3:18, 19

Note: “The testimony to the Laodiceans applies to God’s people at the present time, and the reason it has not accomplished a greater work is because of the hardness of their hearts. But God has given the message time to do its work. The heart must be purified from sins which have so long shut out Jesus. This fearful message will do its work. When it was first presented, it led to close examination of heart. Sins were confessed, and the people of God were stirred everywhere. Nearly all believed that this message would end in the loud cry of the third angel. But as they failed to see the powerful work accomplished in a short time, many lost the effect of the message. I saw that this message would not accomplish its work in a few short months. It is designed to arouse the people of God, to discover to them their backslidings, and to lead to zealous repentance, that they may be favored with the presence of Jesus, and be fitted for the loud cry of the third angel.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 1, 186

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

- 4.b. When God’s people become purified by accepting the counsel to Laodicea and receive the latter rain, what work will that other angel do? Who are represented by that other angel? Revelation 18:1, *last part*
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Note: “Another angel unites his voice with the third angel, and the earth is lighted with its glory. The light increases, and it shines out to all the nations of the earth. It is to go forth as a light that burneth. It will be attended with great power, until its golden beams have fallen upon every tongue, every people, and every nation upon the face of the whole earth. Let me ask you, What you are doing to prepare for this work? Are you building for eternity? You must remember that this angel represents the people that have this message to give to the world. Are you among that people?” *The Review and Herald*, August 18, 1885

Thursday

5 THE EARTH ENLIGHTENED

- 5.a. What does the prophet say about the glory of the Lord? Habakkuk 2:14
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Note: “The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 415

- 5b. What will take place when the whole earth is enlightened with the light, Christ Our Righteousness? Romans 9:27, 28
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Note: “Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. ...

“The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience. Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides. Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord’s side.” *The Great Controversy*, 612

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What duty comes with the knowledge of the three angels’ messages?
- 2 Why was it necessary for “that other angel” to come?
- 3 With what exhortations are we called to unite in the work of this angel?
- 4 What is the aim of this angel?
- 5 Describe the culmination of God’s final work on earth.

November 13 – 19, 2022

Signs of the End of the World

Key Text

“So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.” Luke 21:31

Study Help: *The Great Controversy*, 333, 334, 624, 625

Introduction

“We have reached the period foretold in these scriptures. The time of the end is come, the visions of the prophets are unsealed, and their solemn warnings point us to our Lord’s coming in glory as near at hand.” *The Desire of Ages*, 235

Sunday

1 WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS

1.a. What was one of the signs of the end mentioned by Jesus? Matthew 24:6, 7

Note: “The signs of the times—the wars and rumors of wars, the strikes, murders, robberies, and accidents—tell us that the end of all things is at hand. Who can doubt the truth of the prophet’s words?” *The Review and Herald*, May 13, 1902

1.b. Whose plan is carried out by the nations warring one against the other? John 8:44

Note: “Satan delights in war, for it excites the worst passions of the soul and then sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in vice and blood. It is his object to incite the nations to war

against one another, for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God.” *The Great Controversy*, 589

“In the future there will be broken thrones and great distress of nations, with perplexity. Satan will work with intense activity. The earth will be filled with the shrieks of suffering, expiring nations. There will be war, war.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 18, 92

Monday

2 SIGNS IN NATURE

2.a. What prediction of the prophet Joel, repeated by Jesus, will take place? Joel 2:31; Matthew 24:29

Note: “In the Saviour’s conversation with His disciples upon Olivet, after describing the long period of trial for the church—the 1260 years of papal persecution, concerning which He had promised that the tribulation should be shortened—He thus mentioned certain events to precede His coming, and fixed the time when the first of these should be witnessed: ‘In those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light.’ Mark 13:24. The 1260 days, or years, terminated in 1798. A quarter of a century earlier, persecution had almost wholly ceased. Following this persecution, according to the words of Christ, the sun was to be darkened. On the 19th of May, 1780, this prophecy was fulfilled.” *The Great Controversy*, 306

“At the close of the great papal persecution, Christ declared, the sun should be darkened, and the moon should not give her light. Next, the stars should fall from heaven.” *The Desire of Ages*, 632

2.b. Fifty-three years after the “dark day” what other sign of the end was fulfilled? Mark 13:25; Revelation 6:13

Note: “In 1833, two years after Miller began to present in public the evidences of Christ’s soon coming, the last of the signs appeared which were promised by the Saviour as tokens of His second advent. Said Jesus: ‘The stars shall fall from heaven.’ Matthew 24:29. ... This prophecy received a striking and impressive fulfilment in the great meteoric shower of



Wars,
murders,
robberies, and
accidents tell us that
the end of all things
is at hand.

November 13, 1833. That was the most extensive and wonderful display of falling stars which has ever been recorded.” *The Great Controversy*, 333

“Many who witnessed the falling of the stars, looked upon it as a herald of the coming judgment, ‘an awful type, a sure forerunner, a merciful sign, of that great and dreadful day.’—‘The Old Countryman,’ in *Portland Evening Advertiser*, Nov. 26, 1833. Thus the attention of the people was directed to the fulfilment of prophecy, and many were led to give heed to the warning of the second advent.” *Ibid.*, 334

Tuesday

3 MORE SIGNS IN NATURE

3.a. What signs appeared in the skies before the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70? What will appear in the last days? Luke 21:11, *last part*, 26; Joel 2:30

Note: “All the predictions given by Christ concerning the destruction of Jerusalem were fulfilled to the letter. ...

“Signs and wonders appeared, foreboding disaster and doom. In the midst of the night an unnatural light shone over the temple and the altar. Upon the clouds at sunset were pictured chariots and men of war gathering for battle.” *The Great Controversy*, 29, 30

“The coming of the Lord is to be preceded by ‘the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness.’ 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10.

And the apostle John, describing the miracle working power that will be manifested in the last days, declares: ‘He doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do.’ Revelation 13:13, 14. No mere impostures are here foretold. Men are deceived by the miracles which Satan’s agents have power to do, not which they pretend to do.” *Ibid.*, 553

3.b. What natural phenomena are to occur just before Christ’s second coming? Matthew 24, *last part*; Luke 21:11, *first part*

Note: “More and more, as the days go by, it is becoming apparent that God’s judgments are in the world. In fire and flood and earthquake He is warning the inhabitants of this earth of His near approach. The time is nearing when the great crisis in the history of the world will have come, when every movement in the government of God will be watched with intense interest and inexpressible apprehension. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another—fire and flood and earthquake, with war and bloodshed.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 9, 97

“The earth itself is convulsed, the ground heaves and swells like the waves of the sea, great fissures appear, and sometimes cities, villages, and burning mountains are swallowed up. These wonderful manifestations will be more and more frequent and terrible just before the second coming of Christ and the end of the world, as signs of its speedy destruction.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 109

Wednesday

4 SIGNS IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD

- 4.a. What other sign points to the nearness of Jesus' second coming? Matthew 24:4, 5, 23–26

Note: “The time is coming when Satan will work miracles right in your sight, claiming that he is Christ; and if your feet are not firmly established upon the truth of God, then you will be led away from your foundation.” *In Heavenly Places*, 350

“As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour’s advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. Revelation 1:13–15. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: ‘Christ has come! Christ has come!’ The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed. ...

“But the people of God will not be misled. The teachings of this false christ are not in accordance with the Scriptures.” *The Great Controversy*, 624, 625

- 4.b. What conditions are prevalent among professed Christians just before Jesus’ return? 2 Timothy 3:1–5; Luke 18:8, *last part*; Matthew 24:10–12

Note: “Popular revivals are too often carried by appeals to the imagination, by exciting the emotions, by gratifying the love for what is new and startling. Converts thus gained have little desire to listen to Bible truth, little interest in the testimony of prophets and apostles.” *The Great Controversy*, 463

Thursday

5 “THEN SHALL THE END COME”

- 5.a. What mandate given to the disciples is also applicable to us in these last days? Mark 16:15; Romans 10:15; Luke 9:59, 60

Note: “The world around us is stirred from beneath with earnest activity in evil works, but apparently dead to all that pertains to their eternal interests. But although this seems to be the condition of those around us, and there is little to encourage us to hope for the conversion of souls, God requires those to whom He has committed His truth for these last days, to present the word to the fallen children of Adam.” *The Review and Herald*, January 17, 1893

- 5.b. What is one of the last signs to be fulfilled before the end of the world? Matthew 24:14

Note: “Long has God waited for the spirit of service to take possession of the whole church so that everyone shall be working for Him according to his ability. When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfilment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 111

“He [Christ] does not say that all the world will be converted, but that ‘this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.’ By giving the gospel to the world it is in our power to hasten our Lord’s return.” *The Desire of Ages*, 633

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Why is war so appealing to the enemy of souls?
- 2 What three signs in nature marked the beginning of the end-times?
- 3 What additional signs will be seen with increasing frequency?
- 4 Why is the old saying, “Seeing is believing” not to be our criterion?
- 5 How can mere mortals hasten the time of Christ’s return?

November 20 – 26, 2022

The Sealing of the 144,000

Key Text

“Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads.” Revelation 14:1

Study Help: *Early Writings*, 64–71

Introduction

“John saw a Lamb on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 having His Father’s name written in their foreheads.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 978

Sunday

1 THE SEAL

1.a. What is the seal or sign of the living God that will be placed upon the foreheads of God’s servants? Ezekiel 20:12, 20; Revelation 7:2, 3. Are “seal” and “sign” to be understood as synonymous expressions? Romans 4:11

Note: “The sign, or seal, of God is revealed in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, the Lord’s memorial of creation.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 8, 117

“The Sabbath of the fourth commandment is the seal of the living God. It points to God as the Creator, and is the sign of His rightful authority over the beings He has made. Those who obey this law will bear the seal of God, for He has set apart this day as a sign of loyalty between Himself and His people.” *The Signs of the Times*, March 22, 1910

1.b. Why is the seventh-day Sabbath the seal of God’s law? To what event does the Sabbath point? Exodus 31:14–17

Note: “The seal of God’s law is found in the fourth commandment. This only, of all the ten, brings to view both the name and the title of the Lawgiver. It declares Him to be the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and thus shows His claim to reverence and worship above all others.” *The Great Controversy*, 452

“In the fourth commandment we have the proof that our God is the true and living God. In it is the seal of His authority.” *The Bible Echo*, October 12, 1896

Monday

2 THE FOUR WINDS

2.a. What vision was given to John the Revelator about a work that should take place in the last days? Revelation 7:1–4

Note: “Why is it that all this wickedness does not break forth in decided violence against righteousness and truth? It is because the four angels are holding the four winds, that they shall not blow upon the earth. But human passions are reaching a high pass, and the Spirit of the Lord is being withdrawn from the earth.” *In Heavenly Places*, 96

“John sees the elements of nature—earthquake, tempest, and political strife—represented as being held by four angels. These winds are under control until God gives the word to let them go. There is the safety of God’s church.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 444

“The accidents by land and by sea; the loss of life, steadily increasing, by storm, by tempest, by railroad disaster, by conflagration; the terrible floods, the earthquakes, and the winds will be the stirring up of the nations to one deadly combat, while the angels hold the four winds, forbidding the terrible power of Satan to be exercised in its fury until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads.” *My Life Today*, 308

“Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the four winds that they shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed; but when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 6, 408

2.b. How long will the angels hold back the winds? Revelation 7:2, 3

Note: “I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus’ work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues.” *Early Writings*, 36

“Satan will then plunge the inhabitants of the earth into one great, final trouble. As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old.” *The Great Controversy*, 614

Tuesday

3 THE SEALING TIME

3.a. In the early days of the great Advent Movement, what did they understand to be the “present truth”?
2 Peter 1:12; Revelation 14:6–12

Note: “Satan is now using every device in this sealing time to keep the minds of God’s people from the present truth and to cause them to waver. I saw a covering that God was drawing over His people to protect them in the time of trouble; and every soul that was decided on the truth and was pure in heart was to be covered with the covering of the Almighty.” *Early Writings*, 43

“The sealing time is very short, and will soon be over. Now is the time, while the four angels are holding the four winds, to make our calling and election sure.” *Ibid.*, 58

3.b. What has Satan been doing since 1844, when the sealing work commenced? 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:12. What should the faithful ones do? Luke 21:34, 36

Note: “Those that overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, will be the favored ones who shall receive the seal of the living God. Those whose hands are not clean, whose hearts are not pure, will not have the seal of the living God. Those who are planning sin and acting it will be passed by. Only those who, in their attitude before God, are filling the posi-

tion of those who are repenting and confessing their sins in the great antitypical day of atonement, will be recognized and marked as worthy of God’s protection.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 445

3.c. Where does Christ also have true followers who have not been reached by the “present truth”? Revelation 18:4

Note: “God has jewels in all the churches, and it is not for us to make sweeping denunciation of the professed religious world, but in humility and love, present to all the truth as it is in Jesus. Let men see piety and devotion, let them behold Christlikeness of character, and they will be drawn to the truth. He who loves God supremely and his neighbor as himself will be a light in the world. Those who have a knowledge of the truth are to communicate the same. They are to lift up Jesus, the world’s Redeemer; they are to hold forth the Word of life.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 4, 1184

Wednesday

4 THE SEALING ANGEL

4.a. Against what does the third angel of Revelation 14 warn the people, and what will be the result of his message? Revelation 14:9, 10, 12; 15:2

Note: “The third angel closes his message thus: ‘Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.’ Revelation 14:12. As he repeated these words, he pointed to the heavenly sanctuary. The minds of all who embrace this message are directed to the most holy place, where Jesus stands before the ark, making His final intercession for all those for whom mercy still lingers and for those who have ignorantly broken the law of God. This atonement is made for the righteous dead as well as for the righteous living.” *Early Writings*, 254

“In the issue of the contest all Christendom will be divided into two great classes—those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and those who worship the beast and his image and receive his mark.” *The Great Controversy*, 450

4.b. What did John see coming up from the east, what did he have in his hands, and who is he? Revelation 7:2, first part

Note: “A parchment was placed in the [third] angel’s hand, and as he descended to the earth in power and majesty, he proclaimed a fearful warning, with the most terrible threatening ever borne to man. This message was designed to put the children of God upon their guard, by showing them the hour of temptation and anguish that was before them. Said the angel, ‘They will be brought into close combat with the beast and his image. Their only hope of eternal life is to remain steadfast.’” *Early Writings*, 254

“The third angel’s message is to be regarded as of the highest importance. It is a life and death question.”

“Satan is making desperate efforts to make himself god, to speak and act like God, to appear as one who has a right to control the consciences of men.” *The Review and Herald*, April 23, 1901

“When the law of God is most derided and brought into the most contempt, then it is time for every true follower of Christ, for those whose hearts have been given to God, and who are fixed to obey God, to stand unflinchingly for the faith once delivered to the saints.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 981, 982

Thursday

5 THE NUMBER OF THE SEALED

5.a. As a result of the work of the third angel, what company did John see, and how many are they? Revelation 7:4

Note: “When Jesus leaves the [heavenly] sanctuary, then they who are holy and righteous will be holy and righteous still; for all their sins will then be blotted out, and they will be sealed with the seal of the living God.” *Early Writings*, 48

“The voice of God is heard from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Jesus’ coming.” *The Great Controversy*, 640

“The living saints, 144,000 in number, knew and understood the voice [of God].” *Early Writings*, 15

5.b. What should be our concern today in regard to the sealing work? Will any be saved having the knowledge of the third angel’s message without having the seal of the living God? Ezekiel 9:4–6; Luke 13:24

Note: “Only those who receive the seal of the living God will have the passport through the gates of the Holy City.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 970

“All self-righteousness must be given up, for we have no righteousness of ourselves. It is the gift of God; therefore we should not be exalted, or by any means pretentious, for it is an offence to God. What have we that we have not received? Man cannot rely upon himself for anything good or righteous. Christ, only Christ and His righteousness, will obtain for us a passport into heaven.” *Testimonies to Southern Africa*, 32

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What spiritual significance is involved in true Sabbathkeeping?
 - 2 How is God extending His mercy to us in this sealing time, and why?
 - 3 Describe Satan’s strategy against Sabbathkeepers in this sealing time.
 - 4 If we are serious about receiving God’s seal, what should we consider?
 - 5 What will the universe be able to see in the life of all who are sealed?
-

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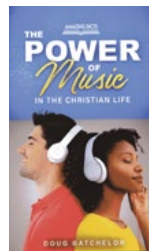


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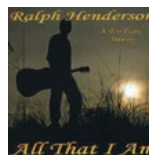


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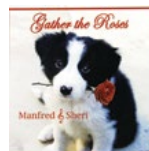


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Sunflower Seeds

While living in Nebraska, I regularly drove down to Kansas to visit my parents. Along my regular route, there was a massive field of sunflowers. When I headed south in the morning, all the sunflowers would be facing east, and when I headed north in the evening, they would all be facing west. I am reminded of the quotation from Steps to Christ, 68, “As the flower turns to the sun, that the bright beams may aid in perfecting its beauty and symmetry, so should we turn to the Sun of Righteousness, that heaven’s light may shine upon us, that our character may be developed into the likeness of Christ.”


The flower head of the sunflower plant can measure 12 inches or more in diameter. Each of these can contain as many as 2,000 seeds. These seeds are considered the fruit of the sunflower plant.

Typically, there are two types of sunflower crops—seeds for oil and seeds to eat. The seeds have a mild, nutty flavor and firm, yet tender texture. Roasting the seeds enhances the flavor.

They are high in vitamin E and selenium, which act as antioxidants and help to protect the body’s cells from free radical damage. Also, the seeds are a good source of beneficial plant compounds, including phenolic acids and flavonoids which also function as antioxidants.

Including sunflower seeds as part of a balanced diet may help lower blood pressure, decrease LDL cholesterol and blood sugar because they contain magnesium, protein, and linoleic fatty acids. They also, by way of the vitamin E, can help reduce inflammation. The seeds can lower the risk of heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

Sunflower seeds should be eaten in moderation, and you should make sure you are not allergic before consuming them.

Sources: [healthline.com/nutrition/sunflower-seeds](https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/sunflower-seeds); [healthline.com/health/food-nutrition/calories-in-sunflower-seeds](https://www.healthline.com/health/food-nutrition/calories-in-sunflower-seeds); Wikipedia 

Fruit

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



SPROUTED SUNFLOWER SEED PATÉ

Ingredients

1 cup of lemon juice
2 whole garlic cloves
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Process

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