

HISTORIC LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

The Pearl of Great Price

The possession of the pearl, which means the possession of a personal Saviour, is the symbol of true riches.

p. 2

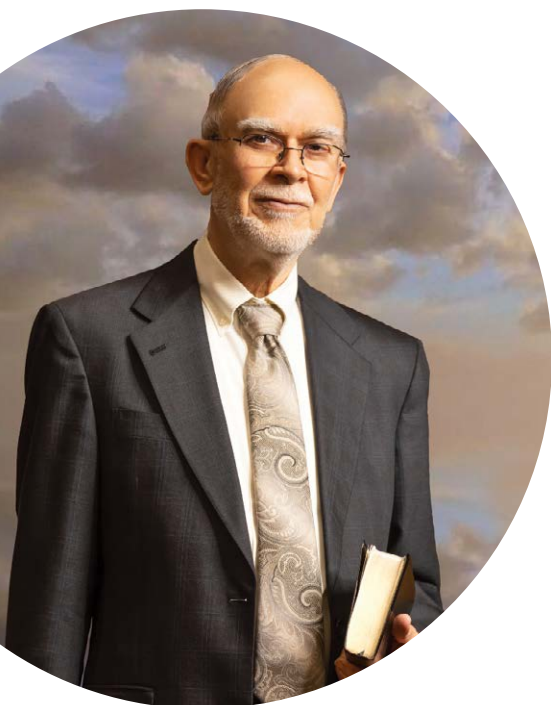
Human Reason

"There is a way that seems right to a man." Man's human reasoning has led him into many troubles.

p. 6

Eradication of Liberty

p. 10



From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

The Power that Is Promised to Us

“Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me.” John 14:30.

“We should have no misgivings in regard to the perfect sinlessness of the human nature of Christ.

“He is a brother in our infirmities, but not in possessing like passions. As the sinless One, His nature recoiled from evil. He endured struggles and torture of soul in a world of sin. His humanity made prayer a necessity and privilege.

“He could have sinned; He could have fallen, but not for one moment was there in Him an evil propensity.

“In taking upon Himself man’s nature in its fallen condition, Christ did not in the least participate in its sin. He was subject to the infirmities and weaknesses by which man is encompassed. ... He was touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and was in all points tempted like as we are. And yet He ‘knew no sin.’ He was the lamb ‘without blemish and without spot.’ Could Satan in the least particular have tempted Christ to sin, he

would have bruised the Saviour’s head. As it was, he could only touch His heel. Had the head of Christ been touched, the hope of the human race would have perished. Divine wrath would have come upon Christ as it came upon Adam. Christ and the church would have been without hope.

“Not even by a thought could Christ be brought to yield to the power of temptation. ... Christ declared of Himself, ‘The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me.’

“Jesus did not allow the enemy to pull Him into the mire of unbelief, or crowd Him into the mire of despondency and despair.” *The Faith I Live By*, 49

“Christ’s humanity was united with divinity, and in this strength He would bear all the temptations that Satan could bring against Him, and yet keep His soul untainted by sin. And **this power to overcome He would give to every son and daughter of Adam who would accept by faith the righteous attributes of His character.**” *Medical Missionary*, 48 [Emphasis supplied] LM

HISTORIC

LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

Staff

Editor: John J. Grosboll
Managing Editor: Judy Rebarckek
Graphic Design: Martin Bernar
Contributing Editor: Lynette Golia

Subscriptions

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

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

Publisher

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

facebook

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

YouTube

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.

In this Issue



2

The Pearl of Great Price

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the pearl of great price. But Inspiration also uses the pearl to represent truth as it is in God's word, the kingdom of heaven, salvation, and character.

Ellen G. White



6

Human Reason

"There is a way that seems right to a man." Man's human reasoning has gotten him into many troubles.

John R. Pearson



10

Eradication of Liberty

The Roman Church has far-reaching plans for which she employs every device to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for regaining control of the world.

Bob Trefz

More in this Issue

14 Bible Puzzle

The Third Angel's Message

16 Pen of Inspiration

The Word Made Flesh

18 Nature

The Crimson Worm

20 Story Time

The Best Fun

21 Keys to the Storehouse

The Devil Is Hardly Harmless

23 Songs We Love

I Gave My Life for Thee

24 From the Mission Fields

Pastoral Training in India

26 Health Nugget

Healthy Feet, Happy Walkers

28 Free SDA Series

Who and What Constitutes the Church

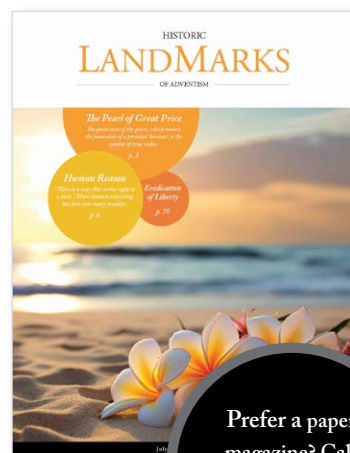
33 Bible Study Guide

The Third Angel's Message

49 Recipe

Pine Nuts

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



Prefer a paper magazine? Call 1-316-788-5559 for subscription.



The Pearl of Great Price

Ellen G. White

"**A**gain, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: who, when he hath found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."

Truth is represented as a pearl of great price. It is to be enthroned in the heart; for it alone can convince of, and reclaim from sin. By comparing the kingdom of heaven to a pearl, Christ desired to lead every soul to appreciate that pearl, above all else. The possession of the pearl, which means the possession of a personal Saviour, is the symbol of true riches. It is a treasure above every earthly treasure.

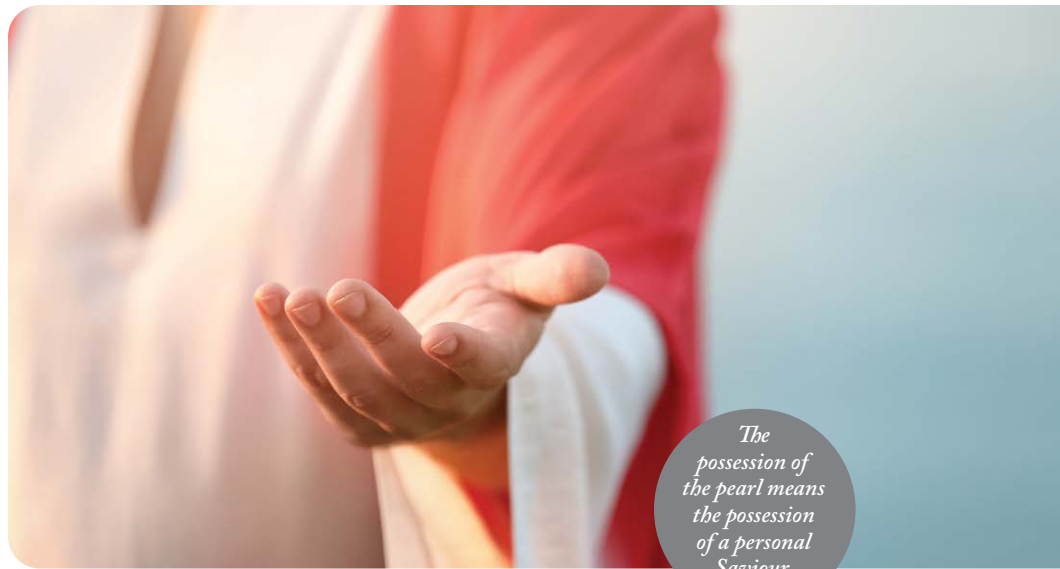
Christ is ready to receive all who come to Him in sincerity. He is our only hope, our Alpha and Omega. He is our sun and shield, our wisdom, our sanctification, our righteousness. Only by His power can our hearts be kept in the love of God. He longs to give us His peace and rest. But He will not tolerate one particle of pretense or hypocrisy. There are those who say and do not, who profess to know the truth, but whose lives are a denial of it. The Lord knows these.

On one occasion Christ warned His disciples to beware how they cast their pearls before those who had no discernment to appreciate their value. They were to be careful how they applied their time and taxed their strength. "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs," He said, "neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you."

There are those who will be rescued from the very depths of pollution. Isaiah speaks of this class: "Wash you, make you clean," he says; "put away the evil of your doings from before Mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

The evils are to be cut away from the life. Sins are to be repented of. Though they are as scarlet, they may be made as white as snow. Just as great a transformation as possible is to take place in the character. But if, after test and trial, after being brought into connection with those who work faithfully in their behalf, men and women do not give evidence that they have been purified from wrong habits and practices, they show that they do not appreciate the pearl of great price. If they are dishonest in any transaction, temporal or spiritual, if they are not straightforward, they show that they regard the rich mercies of God as a common thing. They cannot see the value of the pearl of great price. "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land," God declares; "but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." ...

Those represented in these words have mingled the sacred with the common. They profess to believe the truth, but they cannot carry dishonest practices in the narrow road and through the strait



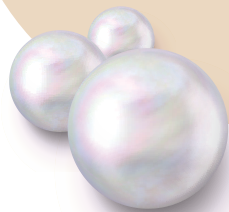
gate. By their actions they show that they have chosen the road in which the world travels. "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the Master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and He shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in Thy presence, and Thou hast taught in our streets. But He shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from Me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last."

We shall meet those who have so perverted the conscience that they are unable to discern the precious truth of God's word. Then let all be careful with whom they connect. When men show themselves unimpressionable, unable to appreciate the pearl of great price; when they deal dishonestly with God and with their fellow men; when they show that the fruit they bear is the fruit of the forbidden tree, beware lest, by connecting with them, you lose your connection with God. They give evidence that God is not working with them, and the knowledge gained by a connection with them is misleading. You cannot be a savor of life unto them; for they will not appreciate the word of God. "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine."

"We shall see in the future, as we have seen in the past, all kinds of characters develop. We shall witness the apostasy of men in whom we have had confidence, in whom we trusted, who we supposed were as true as steel to principle. Something comes to test them, and they are overthrown. If such men fall, some say, Whom can we trust? This is a temptation Satan brings to destroy the faith of those who are striving to walk in the narrow road. Those

“

By comparing the kingdom of heaven to a pearl, Christ desired to lead every soul to appreciate that pearl, above all else.



who fall have evidently corrupted their way before the Lord. They are beacons of warning, teaching those who profess to believe the truth that the word of God alone can reclaim men from guilt, and keep them steadfast in the way of holiness.

The word of God is the pearl of great price. It is unchangeable, eternal. Truth as it is in Jesus sets men right, and keeps them so. The truth is an anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast. But the truth is no truth to him who does not obey it. When men drift away from the principles of truth, they always betray sacred trust. Let every soul, whatever may be his sphere of action, make sure that the truth is implanted in the heart by the power of the Spirit of God. Unless this is made certain, those who preach the word will betray holy trusts. Physicians will make shipwreck of the faith. Lawyers, judges, senators, will become corrupted, and yielding to bribery, will allow themselves to be bought and sold. Those who do not walk in the light as Christ is in the light, are blind leaders of the blind. “Clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots.”

While God warns us to beware how we waste truths of the highest value upon those who do not appreciate them, He also presents to us such cases as that of Cornelius and the centurion, “a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.” An angel came to this man, saying, “Cornelius.” When he saw the angel, “he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter. He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the seaside: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.”

There are many today who are in the same position as Cornelius. They are living

up to the light they have received, and God speaks to them, as He spoke to Cornelius, and brings them by His appointed agencies to the place where they will receive the truth into good and honest hearts. God reveals Himself to those who are striving to form characters that He can approve. The prayers of those who fear Him, who recognize their obligations to Him, are heard and answered. The Lord takes special notice of those who walk in the light that He has given them, who testify by their deeds that they are trying to honor God. Through a Peter He will present the pearl of great price, and through a Cornelius and his family many souls will be brought to the light.

God declares, “Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white: for they are worthy.” “Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.” In every place, God has His witnesses, who testify to the power of His rich grace. In all their ways they acknowledge God, and He directs their path. They testify to the transforming power of the grace of God; for they stand under the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel.

God desires us to realize the value He sets on His believing people. “They that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord harkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name. And they shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.” “The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”

Christ has revealed the value of His word. He declares that we must eat and drink His flesh and blood, if we would be partakers of

the divine nature. “Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst. ... This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. ... Whoso eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is meat indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He that eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, dwelleth in Me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father: so, he that eateth Me, even he shall live by Me. ... It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”

No work of man can improve the great and precious truths of God’s word. They are not a mixture of truth and error. They are without a flaw.

“God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The righteousness of Christ, as a pure white pearl, has no defect, no stain, no guilt. This righteousness may be ours. Salvation, with its blood-bought, inestimable treasures, is the pearl of great price. It may be searched for and found. But all who really find it will sell all they have to buy it. They give evidence that they are one with Christ, as He is one with the Father. In the parable, the merchant man is represented as selling all that he had to gain possession of one pearl of great price. This is a beautiful representation of those who appreciate the truth so highly that they give up all they have to come into possession of it. They lay hold by faith of the salvation provided for them at the sacrifice of the only begotten Son of God.



*Lawyers,
judges,
senators, will
become corrupted,
and yielding to
bribery.*

There are some who are seeking, always seeking, for the goodly pearl. But they do not make an entire surrender of their wrong habits. They do not die to self that Christ may live in them. Therefore, they do not find the precious pearl. They have not overcome unholy ambition and their love for worldly attractions. They do not lift the cross, and follow Christ in the path of self-denial and self-sacrifice. They never know what it is to have peace and harmony in the soul; for without entire surrender there is no rest, no joy. Almost Christians, yet not fully Christians, they seem near the kingdom of heaven, but they do not enter therein. Almost but not wholly saved means to be not almost but wholly lost.

A daily consecration to God brings peace and rest. The merchant sold all that he had to possess the pearl. When those who are seeking for salvation refuse to fail or be discouraged, they will find peace and rest in the Lord. Christ will clothe them with His righteousness. He will provide them with a clean heart and a renewed mind. These blessings

cost the life of the Son of God, and are freely offered to those for whom the sacrifice was made. But how do many treat the proffered gift?—They turn away, choosing rather the pleasures of this life. Christ says of them, “Ye will not come to Me, that ye might have life.”

Sinners are under a fearful deception. They despise and reject the Saviour. They do not realize the value of the pearl offered to them, and cast it away, rendering to their Redeemer only insult and mockery. Many a woman decks herself with rings and bracelets, thinking to gain admiration, but she refuses to accept the pearl of great price, which would secure for her sanctification, honor, and eternal riches. What an infatuation is upon the minds of many! They are more charmed with earthly baubles, which glitter and shine, than with the crown of immortal life, God’s reward for loyalty. “Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet My people have forgotten Me days without number.”

The Review and Herald, August 1 and 8, 1899 LM



Human Reason

John R. Pearson

"There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death."
Proverbs 14:12

The use of human reason has been a problem since man was first created and given free will.

It was human reason that led Eve to take the first bite of forbidden fruit and Adam to choose to eat it; reasoning that maybe the serpent was telling the truth.

It was human reason that led Moses to kill the Egyptian, Saul to consult the witch of Endor, and Solomon to erect idolatrous shrines.

It was human reason that caused Judas to betray Jesus hoping He would defend Himself and establish a physical kingdom on earth, and Pilate to deliver Him up to be crucified by yielding to the demands of the mob, rather than risk losing his position.

You can imagine that Inspiration has much to say about the folly of using human reason that contradicts the specific commandments of our Creator, sometimes when commenting on the decisions I just referred to and sometimes in counsel to specific individuals in her day.

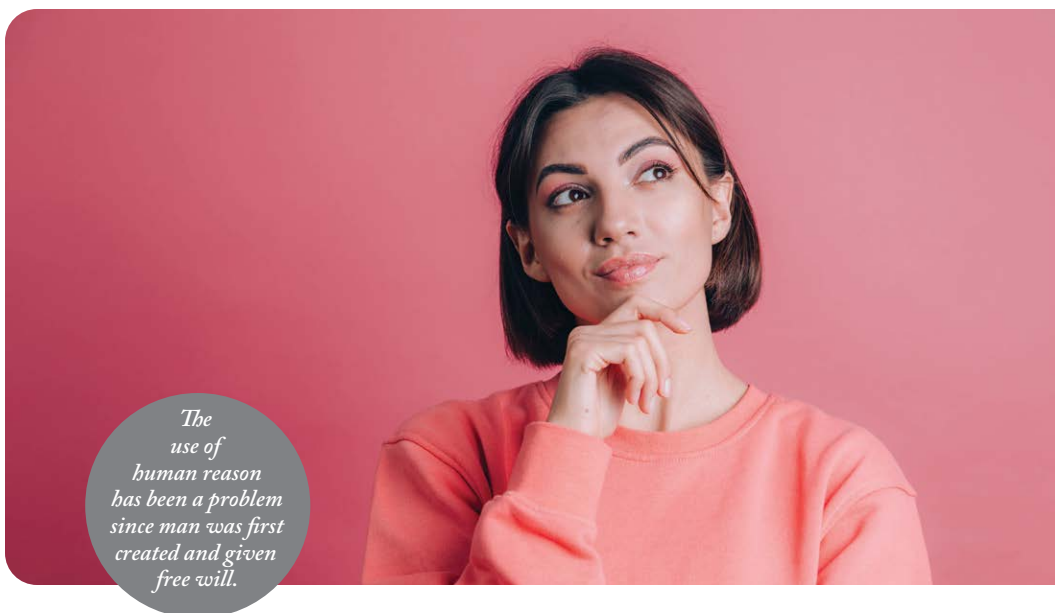
Regarding the first recorded exercise of human reason, Inspiration says the following:

“Eve really believed the words of Satan, but her belief did not save her from the penalty of sin. She disbelieved the words of God, and this was what led to her fall. In the judgment, men will not be condemned because they conscientiously believed a lie, but because they did not believe the truth, because they neglected the opportunity of learning what is truth. Notwithstanding the sophistry of Satan to the contrary, it is always disastrous to disobey God. We must set our hearts to know what is truth. All the lessons which God has caused to be placed on record in His word are for our warning and instruction. They are given to save us from deception. Their neglect will result in ruin to ourselves. Whatever contradicts God’s word, we may be sure proceeds from Satan.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 55

“Having herself transgressed, she [Eve] became the agent of Satan working the ruin of her husband. In a state of strange, unnatural excitement, with her hands filled with the forbidden fruit, she sought his presence, and related all that had occurred.

“An expression of sadness came over the face of Adam. He appeared astonished and alarmed. To the words of Eve he replied that this must be the foe against whom they had been warned; and by the divine sentence she must die. In answer she urged him to eat, repeating the words of the serpent, that they should not surely die. She reasoned that this must be true, for she felt no evidence of God’s displeasure, but on the contrary realized a delicious, exhilarating influence, thrilling every faculty with new life, such, she imagined, as inspired the heavenly messengers.

“Adam understood that his companion had transgressed the command of God, disregarded the only prohibition laid upon them as a test of their fidelity and love. There was a terrible struggle in his mind. He mourned that he had permitted Eve to wander from his side. But now the deed was done; he must be



separated from her whose society had been his joy. ... He resolved to share her fate; if she must die, he would die with her. After all, he reasoned, might not the words of the wise serpent be true?” *Conflict and Courage*, 16

Although Moses reasoned that he was doing what was best to free his people from Egyptian bondage when he killed the Egyptian, it took 40 years of tending sheep for him to learn to ignore human reason and rely solely on divine counsel.

“It was implicit faith in God that made Moses what he was. According to all that the Lord commanded him, so he did. All the learning of the wise men could not make Moses a channel through which the Lord could work, until he lost his self-confidence, realized his own helplessness, and put his trust in God; until he was willing to obey God’s commands, whether they seemed to his human reason to be right or not ...” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 408

Are we willing to do the same? Are we willing to obey God’s commands and the inspired counsel He has so lovingly provided us, whether they seem to our human reason to be right or not?

We’re familiar with the roller coaster obedience of Solomon. His apostasy is recorded this way:

“On the southern eminence of the Mount of Olives, opposite Mount Moriah, where stood the beautiful temple of Jehovah, Solomon erected an imposing pile of buildings to be used as idolatrous shrines. To please his wives, he placed huge idols, unshapely images of wood and stone, amidst the groves of myrtle and olive. There, before the altars of heathen deities, ‘Chemosh, the abomination of Moab,’ and ‘Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon,’ were practiced the most degrading rites of heathenism. 1 Kings 11:7

“Solomon’s course brought its sure penalty. His separation from God through communication with idolaters was his ruin. As he cast off his allegiance to God, he lost the mastery of himself. His moral efficiency was gone. His fine sensibilities became blunted, his conscience seared. He who in his early reign had displayed so much wisdom and sympathy in restoring a helpless babe to its unfortunate mother (see 1 Kings 3:16–28) fell so low as to consent to the erection of an idol to whom living children were offered as sacrifices. He who in his youth was endowed with discretion and understanding, and who in his strong manhood had been inspired to write, ‘There is a way which seemeth



It was human reason that led Eve to take the first bite of forbidden fruit.

right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death' (Proverbs 14:12), in later years departed so far from purity as to countenance licentious, revolting rites connected with the worship of Chemosh and Ashtoreth. He who at the dedication of the temple had said to his people, 'Let your heart therefore be perfect with the Lord our God' (1 Kings 8:61), became himself an offender, in heart and life denying his own words. He mistook license for liberty. He tried—but at what cost—to unite light with darkness, good with evil, purity with impurity, Christ with Belial." *Prophets and Kings*, 57, 58

Yet another failure of human reason is recorded in the downfall of Saul. It was human reason that led him to consult the witch of Endor. After he had acted contrary to the instruction of Samuel, God stopped giving him instruction in his efforts to overcome the enemies of God's people. Saul reasoned that since God no longer gave him guidance, he would seek out another source of help, even though it was expressly forbidden by God. As a consequence, Saul was rejected as the leader of God's people.

It was human reason that led Pilate to consent to Jesus' crucifixion by yielding to the enraged mob, rather than face the possibility of demotion.

"Pilate yielded to the demands of the mob. Rather than risk losing his position, he delivered Jesus up to be crucified. But in spite of his precautions, the very thing he dreaded afterward came upon him. His honors were stripped from him, he was

cast down from his high office, and, stung by remorse and wounded pride, not long after the crucifixion he ended his own life. So, all who compromise with sin will gain only sorrow and ruin. 'There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.'" *The Desire of Ages*, 738

The fifth chapter of Isaiah gives us a record of the results of following human reason that is contrary to the word of God. Inspiration comments on a portion of that chapter.

"God has pronounced a curse upon those who depart from His commandments, and put no difference between common and holy things. He declares by the prophet: 'Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness! ... Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! ... which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! ... They have cast away the law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.' Isaiah 5:20–24. Let no one deceive himself with the belief that a part of God's commandments are nonessential, or that He will accept a substitute for that which He has required. Said the prophet Jeremiah, 'Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?' Lamentations 3:37. God has placed in His word no command which men may obey or disobey at will and not suffer the consequences. If [through the use of human reason] men choose any other path than that of strict obedience, they will find that 'the end thereof are the ways of death.' Proverbs 14:12." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 360, 361

In deciding upon any course of action, we are not to reason whether or not harm will result from it, but whether it is in keeping with the will of God.

In a letter written to a young man who was acting contrary to the word of God, Mrs. White gave him this advice, "Your will and your way seem right to you. But unless you see the defects in your character and wash your robe and make it white in the blood of the Lamb, you will surely fail of everlasting

life.” *Mind, Character, and Personality*, Vol. 2, 381

That same counsel is still valid. Although we can reason that our actions are right, unless we weigh those actions against the word of God to determine their compliance with it, we are in danger of acting contrary to God’s will.

One of the most common errors in the use of human reason lies in surrendering reason which should be guided by God’s word to those we may deem worthy of consideration.

“Notwithstanding the Bible is full of warnings against false teachers, many are ready thus to commit the keeping of their souls to the clergy. There are today thousands of professors of religion who can give no other reason for points of faith which they hold than that they were so instructed by their religious leaders. They pass by the Saviour’s teachings almost unnoticed, and place implicit confidence in the words of the ministers. But are ministers infallible? How can we trust our souls to their guidance unless we know from God’s word that they are light bearers? A lack of moral courage to step aside from the beaten track of the world [or to put it another way, to leave the broad road and walk the narrow way] leads many to follow in the steps of learned men; and by their reluctance to investigate for themselves, they are becoming hopelessly fastened in the chains of error. They see that the truth for this time is plainly brought to view in the Bible; and they feel the power of the Holy Spirit attending its proclamation; yet they allow the opposition of the clergy to turn them from the light. Though reason and conscience are convinced, these deluded souls dare not think differently from the minister; and their individual judgment, their eternal interests, are sacrificed to the unbelief, the pride and prejudice, of another.” *The Great Controversy*, 596, 597

In discussing the apostasy of the followers of Nimrod and their experience in attempting to build the famed



Tower of Babel, Inspiration states the following:

“The schemes of the Babel builders ended in shame and defeat. The monument to their pride became the memorial of their folly. Yet men are continually pursuing the same course—depending upon self, and rejecting God’s law. It is the principle that Satan tried to carry out in heaven; the same that governed Cain in presenting his offering.

“There are tower builders in our time. Infidels construct their theories from the supposed deductions of sciences, and reject the revealed word of God. They presume to pass sentence upon God’s moral government; they despise His law and boast of the sufficiency of human reason.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 123

Inspiration provides another word of caution against using human reason unguided by the word of God.

“The apostasy prevailing today is similar to that which in the prophet’s day overspread Israel. In the exaltation of the human above the divine, in the praise of popular leaders, in the worship of mam-

mon, and in the placing of the teachings of science above the truths of revelation, multitudes today are following after Baal. Doubt and unbelief are exercising their baleful influence over mind and heart, and many are substituting for the oracles of God the theories of men. It is publicly taught that we have reached a time when human reason should be exalted above the teachings of the word.”

Prophets and Kings, 170

Although the use of human reason does not always lead to failure, when we surrender our reason to the majesty of divine revelation, we can be assured that our actions will meet with divine approval.

“The Bible unfolds truth with a simplicity and a perfect adaptation to the needs and longings of the human heart that has astonished and charmed the most highly cultivated minds, while it enables the humblest and uncultured to discern the way of salvation. And yet these simply stated truths lay hold upon subjects so elevated, so far-reaching, so infinitely beyond the power of human comprehension, that we can accept them only because God has declared them. Thus, the plan of redemption is laid open to us, so that every soul may see the steps he is to take in repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, in order to be saved in God’s appointed way; yet beneath these truths, so easily understood, lie mysteries that are the hiding of His glory—mysteries that overpower the mind in its research, yet inspire the sincere seeker for truth with reverence and faith. The more he searches the Bible, the deeper is his conviction that it is the Word of the living God, and human reason bows before the majesty of divine revelation.”

Steps to Christ, 107, 108

May such be the case with each of us. **LM**

John R. Pearson is the office manager and a *Steps to Life* board member. He can be reached by email at johnpearson@stepstolife.org or by phone at 316-788-5559.



Eradication of Liberty

Bob Trefz

"Romanism as a system is no more in harmony with the gospel of Christ now than at any former period in her history. The Protestant churches are in great darkness, or they would discern the signs of the times. The Roman Church is far-reaching in her plans and modes of operation. She is employing every device to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for a fierce and determined conflict to regain control of the world, to re-establish persecution, and to undo all that Protestantism has done. Catholicism is gaining ground upon every side." *The Great Controversy*, 565, 566

Rome has a great history behind her—1,500 years of exercising supremacy and control over the nations of the world. At this moment, she is moving in Eastern Europe, in Russia, and in Mexico. She is moving in the United States. In one month, our President goes to meet with the pope at the Vatican. This

President* is Jesuit-trained; and from all indications, he is forming his policy, at home and abroad, in accordance with the general features of liberal Jesuitism that have developed since Vatican II. Rome is moving very swiftly. Through His inspired word, Christ enables us to cut through the propaganda of the media of our day to get to the bottom of what is happening.

A Roman Catholic conservative author has written that the United States Civil War was a religious war. In her astounding book, *The Star-Spangled Heresy, Americanism*, 110, Solange Hertz writes, "One aspect of the Civil War which has been studiously ignored by establishment historians is its character as a war of religion. Protestants found themselves pitted against Catholics and Anglo-Catholics in a death struggle over two incompatible ways of life." There is no getting around the fact that the only foreign power to recognize the

Confederacy and receive its envoys was the Vatican from whose vantage point in the already-threatened papal states the issues could be distinguished with excessive clarity. According to an official report, when the U.S. authorities remonstrated with the Vatican's Secretary of State Cardinal Antonelli for providing asylum to Confederates, the Cardinal replied that he intended to take such rebels under his special protection. Mary Surratt's son, John, who was sought for complicity in Lincoln's assassination, was even admitted into the papal states.

A physician friend recently sent me an article entitled *The Vatican and Russia*, by Deacon Herman Ivanov Treenadzaty, of the St. Nicholas Parish in Lyon, France. It is a most significant document that opens to us a view of Rome's activity with reference to Russia for hundreds of years. You see, ever since the split with Eastern Orthodoxy in AD 1054, Rome has been the implacable enemy of Greek

and Russian Orthodoxy. This man, obviously a Russian Orthodox cleric living in Lyon, France, delivered the lecture in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia, at the 24th Russian Youth Congress in the Jubilee Year of the Millennium of the Baptism of Rus'. He states, "It appears to us that Roman Catholicism is a great danger, threatening both present and future Russia; more dangerous than communism which is already on the decline." And I would submit that it would not be so much on the decline as might be thought. It is assuming a new form because Rome has, in its encyclical, indicated that she is not in favor of the Stalinistic type of communistic or the laissez faire capitalism, but wants a middle path between the two. Quoting the Russian writer Dostoyevsky, "Roman Catholicism is more dangerous than atheism since it presents to us a profane and desecrated Christ, usurping the earthly throne. The pope took the sword and added lies, intrigue, deception, fanaticism and villainy." Ivanov then comments that Catholicism is dangerous precisely because it offers a counterfeit Christ.

Ivanov reviewed hundreds of years of Russian history—political, psychological, and diplomatic efforts that the Vatican has made to try to overthrow Orthodoxy in Russia. He found that the Vatican has tried to rewrite the history of the introduction of Christianity to Russia. He reveals how propaganda was introduced through the media in Russia to try to destabilize the situation and pave the way for the Vatican to increase its power there. And he points out that even the pope, today, is part of this picture. Soon after the overthrow of Czar Nicholas II in 1917, the Fatima visions which have indicated that if certain conditions were fulfilled, Russia would be converted to the papacy. It is now believed that those conditions have been met and that Perestroika is the conversion of Russia to the papacy.

All this sheds light on the gigantic struggle between Orthodoxy and the



*Romanism
as a system is no
more in harmony
with the gospel of
Christ now than at
any former period
in her history.*

papacy. It reveals that though historians believed that the Crimean War was largely a human, political, and inter-governmental war, the archbishop of Paris, at the start of the Crimean War, declared that "it is a sacred deed, a God-pleasing deed, to ward off the Orthodox heresy, subjugate, and destroy it with a new crusade. This is the clear goal of today's crusade. Such was the goal of all the crusades, even if all their participants were not fully aware of it. The war which France is now preparing to wage against Russia is not a political war, but a holy war. It is not a war between two governments or between two peoples, but it is precisely a religious war and other reasons presented are only pretext." And then he comments that the case could not be more clearly stated.

He pointed out that the Vatican found the destruction of the czar, who had been the protector of Orthodoxy, and the Bolshevik Revolution a great opportunity to gain control in Russia and how disappointed they were when things did not work out the way that they had expected. And yet, they felt that somehow communism could alter the whole picture in Russia so that ultimately the Vatican could move in and take advantage of the devastation wrought by communism.

Why is this so significant? By the early 1980s, more than half of the Orthodox priests in Eastern Europe were prepared to accept the primacy of the pope; and Rome realized that the time had come to strike. Using the Solidarity Labor Union, which had been largely developed and fostered by the papacy, she began a chain of evolution in Eastern Europe that toppled one government after another with breath-taking speed.

Rome wants to radicalize nations, driving them into left wing and right wing, and then, out of the insecurity that develops because of the contending factions, she feels that she can take advantage of the situation to impose a new order. This is exactly what took place in pre-war Germany. The communists were fighting the Free Corps which ultimately became the Nazi Wehrmacht. Both national socialism in Germany and international socialism in Russia had the same common basis. Friederick A. Hayek, an Austrian-born author who was a co-winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1974, wrote several volumes exposing how the very principles that led to Nazism's triumph in Germany and Stalinist communism's triumph in Germany and Russia are at work in the Western countries through

socialism. We are now, in our nation, taking an enormous plunge into socialism based upon the thinking that has been developed in the Institute of Policy Studies. The social security card which was to be kept inviolately secret when it was introduced, never to be known publicly, has now essentially become our national ID card.

Now, when through a healthcare program you have to fill out forms in order to get any medical assistance, delineating every aspect of your life, and the government can begin to control people from birth to death, all your privacy is gone.

Under the USSR, the Russian constitution made provision for religious liberty; but it also stated that if the security of the state was at risk, then those liberties could be suspended in the name of protecting the state. The very same thing happened in America during World War II when tens of thousands of Japanese were interned under the Preamble of the Constitution that it was for the common good. Socialism has, at its basis, the basic Jesuit principle that the end justifies the means.

The European Community is headed by Jacques Delors* who is a devout Roman Catholic. When he took control about ten or eleven years ago, he took the European Community from a state of shambles and made it into a very dynamic force. Now we have the North American Free Trade Agreement* which is similar in nature.

For decades, we have had the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C. This organization now exerts enormous influence in America. In his book, *Secret*, F. Stephen Powell docu-

ments how the Institute, started by a communist, founded hundreds of front organizations that influence American policy. It revealed that some of the top advisors to Bill and Hillary Clinton were some of the chief figures in this organization which worked closely with the KGB for years.

Speaking of the treaty-making power of the United States, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "I say the same as to the opinions of those who consider the grant of the treaty-making power as boundless. If it is, then we have no Constitution."

On April 11, 1952, Secretary of State John Foster

Dulles said, "Treaties make international law and also they make domestic law. Under our Constitution, treaties become the supreme law of the land. Treaty law can override the Constitution. Treaties, for example can cut across the rights given the people by their constitutional Bill of Rights." What better way to repudiate the Constitution than to bring in a whole new framework of law. How acquainted are you with the North American Free Trade Agreement? It was written in such ambiguous language that there is a ninety-man commission that will be required to interpret it.

Do you remember what happened to the Bohemians? When Rome wanted to subjugate Bohemia, she brought against them the greatest forces in Europe. She marshaled virtually all of the nations of Europe against little Bohemia. She gave the promises of paradise to thieves and murderers and brigands if they would only join and fight against Bohemia and subjugate it for the papacy. But as long as the Bohemians were faithful to the

Lord, they could not be overcome, even by the most mighty armies. However, the day came when Bohemia decided to enter into a treaty with Rome. Rome granted all kinds of liberties, but they reserved the right to interpret this treaty. Bohemia was thrown into civil war, and it was a great catastrophe.

Now think of a ninety-man commission, with thirty from Mexico, thirty from Canada, and thirty from the United States. What is the religion of Mexico? There is a large portion of Canada which is French Canadian, which is what religion? Much of the rest of Canada is Anglican which is a step-sister; in fact, Solange Hertz calls them Anglo-Catholics. And then there is the United States. What is the premier school that produces foreign service personnel, the experts on international law? Georgetown University, the premier Jesuit university from which Bill Clinton graduated. The administration at the time chose to keep secret the names of the people on the commission from the United States. They were going to release them, but then they decided to keep them secret.

Meanwhile, the April 17, 1994 Washington Post stated, "Clinton Policy Allows Public Housing To Be Searched Without a Warrant." As you know, this has become a growing issue. "The Clinton administration yesterday introduced a new policy to permit police without warrants to raid and search apartments in gang-ridden public housing, but said the plan will not violate the constitutional rights of tenants."*

Harry Martin, the editor of the Napa Sentinel and involved in at least six different defense intelligence magazines, released the contents of a secret memo from the White House regarding the plans of the Administration* to completely exterminate private weapons ownership and even camouflage clothing, anything that would enable the citizenry to resist a tyrannical government. This is the very reason,

“
Rome has a great history behind her—1,500 years of exercising supremacy and control over the nations of the world.”

according to our founding fathers, why the Second Amendment was included in the Bill of Rights.

John F. Kennedy conceived of the plan for all of the armies of the world's nations to be downscaled gradually, while an international force, such as the UN, would be continually building up and increasing in power. Now, as our nation's military is scaled back, there are reports of foreign vehicles, foreign military aircraft, and other troops pouring in.

At the same time, we see the UN decide to invade Somalia without being asked to come, setting a precedent for UN intervention. We see environmental laws blanketing the globe and a call for an environmental police force to internationally enforce them.

We know that ultimately there will be a grand unity of the nations. "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful." Revelation 17:12-14

Commenting on this passage, the Spirit of Prophecy tells us, that, "These have one mind." There will be a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan's forces. 'And shall give their power and strength unto the beast.' Thus, is manifested the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty—freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience—as was manifested by the papacy, when in the past it persecuted those who dared to refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanism.

"In the warfare to be waged in the last days, there will be united, in opposition to God's people, all the corrupt powers that have apostatized from allegiance to



the law of Jehovah." *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 983

The law of Jehovah is the foundational question. The law of God is the expression of His character. It is the foundation of His government, and rebellion against His law is rebellion against God. "In this warfare the Sabbath of the fourth commandment will be the great point at issue; for in the Sabbath commandment the great Lawgiver identifies Himself as the Creator of the heavens and the earth." Ibid.

So, we have been warned that there is going to be a grand confederacy at the end of time. There will be a grand union, a grand harmony of all of the forces opposed to God's law; and it will ultimately come down to the testing of spiritual loyalty to God and to His law or else unity with these forces that have confederated themselves against the government of God.

"Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph! For the Lord Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth. He will subdue the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet. He will choose our inheritance for us, the excellence of Jacob whom He loves. Selah." Psalm 47:1-4. He is awesome in His power, glory, and majesty. He will

arise one day and vindicate the honor of His law which has been violated by puny man. These little specks of dust down here think to enter into rebellion against the great King of the universe.

God calls upon us to have spiritual loyalty in these last days, to know our King, and to act upon His principles. For the gospel of Jesus Christ provides a solution for every human contingency that we may be called upon to face in these last days so that we may emerge as overcomers—more than overcomers—triumphant in Christ.

* For context, this article is reprinted from the June, 1994 *LandMarks*. It is interesting to note, however, that, other than the specific individuals referenced, not much has changed in the last 30+ years.

"That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which it may be said, 'See, this is new'? It has already been in ancient times before us." Ecclesiastes 1:9, 10

"And let it be remembered, it is the boast of Rome that she never changes." *The Great Controversy*, 581 LM

Third Angel's Message

Clues – NKJV

Across

- B14 Everyone who has this hope in Him _____ himself. 1 John 3:3
C2 One of the seven _____ who had the bowls came and talked to me. Revelation 17:1
D8 If they do not speak to the law and _____, there is no light in them. Isaiah 8:20
D18 These prophets prophesy _____ in My name, I have not sent them. Jeremiah 14:14
F9 He _____ them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? Acts 16:30
F21 Take up the whole _____ of God and be able to stand. Ephesians 6:13
H4 The beast with seven heads and on his heads a _____ name. Revelation 13:1
H19 There was a _____ mighty wind that filled the house. Acts 2:2
J13 False teachers will _____ bring in destructive heresies. 2 Peter 2:1
M7 To one the gift of different tongues, to another _____. 1 Corinthians 12:10
N21 Four great _____, different from each other, came up from the sea. Daniel 7:3
O2 We know God if we keep His _____. 1 John 2:3
P17 God said, My _____ will go with you and I will give you rest. Exodus 33:14
R2 Living according to the _____, they set their minds on fleshly things. Romans 8:5
R9 Let everyone be _____ in the name of Jesus Christ. Acts 2:38
T18 The Lord will make _____ clouds and showers of rain. Zechariah 10:1
U4 He exercises all the _____ of the first beast in his presence. Revelation 13:12
V15 Let no man _____ you by any means. 2 Thessalonians 2:3
W10 The beast coming out of the earth had two _____ like a lamb. Revelation 13:11
W22 No one may buy or sell except he has the _____ of the beast. Revelation 13:17
X4 Beloved, do not _____ every spirit. 1 John 4:1
Y10 Be _____ of the word and not hearers only. James 1:22
Y19 On the Day of Pentecost, they were with one _____ in one place. Acts 2:1

Down

- A5 The fourth beast was _____ and terrible, extremely strong. Daniel 7:7
A19 Jesus is the author and _____ of our faith. Hebrews 12:2
B2 The little horn grew toward the glorious _____. Daniel 8:9
B14 Many will say in that day, have we not _____ in Your name? Matthew 7:22
D10 Simon practiced _____ and astonished the people of Samaria. Acts 8:9
E24 Telling those on earth to make an image to the beast who was _____. Revelation 13:14
F7 Do not be deceived by the children of _____. Ephesians 5:6
F17 He will speak pompous words and _____ the saints of the Most High. Daniel 7:25
J2 Ahaziah fell through the _____ of his upper room. 2 Kings 1:2
K4 The disciples were _____ together. Acts 1:4
L15 You _____ and uncircumcised in heart. Acts 7:51 (two words)
L22 _____ your hands you sinners. James 4:8
O10 His going forth is _____ as the morning. Hosea 6:3
O13 _____ food belongs to those who are full age. Hebrews 5:14
O19 We who believed do enter that _____. Hebrews 4:3
R2 Rejoice for God has given you the _____ rain. Joel 2:23
S24 Jesus _____ the cross and sat down at the right hand of God. Hebrews 12:2
T5 Even if you _____ for righteousness sake, you are blessed. 1 Peter 3:14
T18 The wicked _____ when no one pursues. Proverbs 28:1

[illegible]



The Word Made Flesh

The union of the divine with the human nature is one of the most precious and most mysterious truths of the plan of redemption. It is this of which Paul speaks when he says: “Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh.”

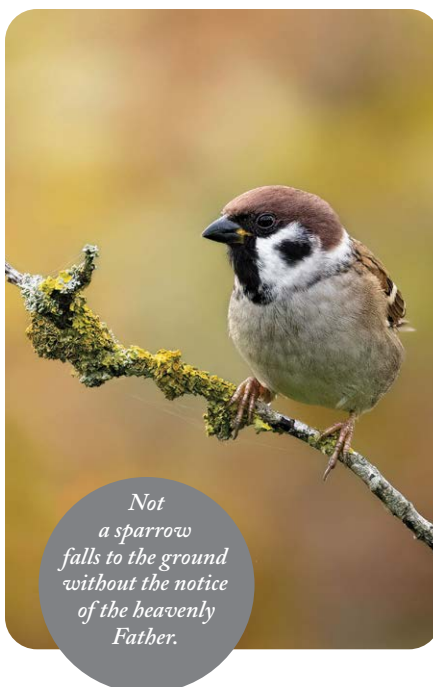
This truth has been to many a cause of doubt and unbelief. When Christ came into the world—the Son of God and the Son of man—He was not understood by the people of His time. Christ stooped to take upon Himself human nature, that He might reach the fallen race and lift them up. But the minds of men had become darkened by sin, their faculties were benumbed and their perceptions dulled, so that they could not discern His divine character beneath the garb of humanity. This lack of appreciation on their part was an obstacle to the work which He desired to accomplish for them; and in order to give force to His teaching He was often under the necessity of defining and defending His position. By referring to His mysterious and divine character, He sought to lead their minds into a train of thought which would be favorable to the transforming power of truth.

Again, He used the things of nature with which they were familiar, to illustrate divine truth. The soil of the heart was thus prepared to receive the good seed. He made His hearers feel that His interests were identified with theirs, that His heart beat in sympathy with them in their joys and griefs. At the same time they saw in Him the manifestation of power and excellence far above that possessed by their most-honored rabbis. The teachings of Christ were marked with a simplicity, dignity, and power heretofore unknown to them, and their involuntary exclamation was: "Never man spake like this Man." The people listened to Him gladly; but the priests and rulers—themselves false to their trust as guardians of the truth—hated Christ for the very grace revealed, which had drawn the multitudes away from them to follow the Light of life. Through their influence the Jewish nation, failing to discern His divine character, rejected the Redeemer.

Union of the Divine and the Human

The union of the divine and the human, manifest in Christ, exists also in the Bible. The truths revealed are all "given by inspiration of God;" yet they are expressed in the words of men and are adapted to human needs. Thus, it may be said of the Book of God, as it was of Christ, that "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." John 1:14 And this fact, so far from being an argument against the Bible, should strengthen faith in it as the word of God. Those who pronounce upon the inspiration of the Scriptures, accepting some portions as divine while they reject other parts as human, overlook the fact that Christ, the divine, partook of our human nature, that He might reach humanity. In the work of God for man's redemption, divinity and humanity are combined.

There are many passages of Scripture which skeptical critics have declared to be uninspired, but which, in their tender adaptation to the needs of men, are



God's own messages of comfort to His trusting children. A beautiful illustration of this occurs in the history of the apostle Peter. Peter was in prison, expecting to be brought forth next day to death; he was sleeping at night "between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands." Acts 12:6, 7. Peter, suddenly awaking, was amazed at the brightness that flooded his dungeon, and the celestial beauty of the heavenly messenger. He understood not the scene, but he knew that he was free, and in his bewilderment and joy he would have gone forth from the prison unprotected from the cold night air. The angel of God, noting all the circumstances, said, with tender care for the apostle's need: "Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals." Verse 8. Peter mechanically obeyed; but so entranced was he with the revelation of the glory of heaven that he did not think to take his cloak. Then the angel bade him: "Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. And he went

out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of its own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him." Verses 8–10. The apostle found himself in the streets of Jerusalem alone. "And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety,"—it was not a dream or a vision, but an actual occurrence—"that the Lord hath sent His angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews." Verse 11

Skeptics may sneer at the thought that a glorious angel from heaven should give attention to a matter so commonplace as caring for these simple human needs, and may question the inspiration of the narrative. But in the wisdom of God these things are recorded in sacred history for the benefit, not of angels, but of men, that as they should be brought into trying positions they might find comfort in the thought that heaven knows it all.

Jesus declared to His disciples that not a sparrow falls to the ground without the notice of the heavenly Father, and that if God can keep in mind the wants of all the little birds of the air, He will much more care for those who may become the subjects of His kingdom and through faith in Him may be the heirs of immortality. Oh, if the human mind were only to comprehend—in such measure as the plan of redemption can be comprehended by finite minds—the work of Jesus in taking upon Himself human nature, and what is to be accomplished for us by this marvelous condescension, the hearts of men would be melted with gratitude for God's great love, and in humility they would adore the divine wisdom that devised the mystery of grace! *Testimony Treasures*, Vol. 2, 344–347 **LM**

The Crimson Worm

The crimson worm is specifically adapted to living in the Middle East, particularly in Israel. Scientifically, the crimson worm is an insect rather than a worm. It has a hard shell with six legs, is roughly the size of the eraser on the head of a pencil (0.3 inches), and looks like a grub worm. But the most unusual thing about the crimson worm is its unique life cycle. Keep reading and you will understand why.

In ancient times, the dried bodies of the crimson worm were ground up and used to make scarlet dye. The dye was used to color clothing, particularly the robes of the high priest and the coverings of the tabernacle. The dye was vivid and permanent, making it highly valuable in Biblical times.

The female reproduces only once. When she is ready to lay her eggs, she climbs a tree, usually an oak, and permanently attaches herself to it. Her body then forms a hard, crimson shell that will protect her eggs.

Once the larvae hatch inside this protective shell, they feed on their mother's body for three days. During these three days, the mother secretes a crimson fluid that covers her body and the eggs, leaving a permanent stain on the tree. On the fourth day, the remainder of the mother's body transforms into a white, heart-shaped wax, which then flakes off.

The red fluid produced by the worm and the transformation of the mother's body to white wax are often linked to the Bible imagery of our scarlet sins made white as snow, emphasizing purification and redemption. The Hebrew word *tola'ath* used in the Scriptures, specifically refers to the crimson worm.

Often cited as a symbol of sacrifice, it was accepted as a foreshadow of Christ's death on the cross. As the mother worm gives up her life to protect and nourish her babies, so Jesus offered Himself on the cross to protect and preserve mankind.

"'Come now, and let us reason together,' says the Lord, 'though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.'" Isaiah 1:18

Sources: christianityhouse.com/2024/07/07/the-crimson-worm-psalm-22;
nazarenesoftwareworld.infor/crimson-scarlet-worm; reasonsforhopejesus.com/psalm-22-crimson-scarlet-worm **LM**



Strength in Weakness

It is no dream, Great Comforter,
But very truth to me.
That all earth's strengthless, fainting ones
May be made strong in Thee.

The years have taught me many things,
But none so sure as this,
That shelter, solace, joy, and strength
Are always where God is.

God is my refuge and my strength—
I will not be afraid;
And though the night be wild and dark,
I meet it undismayed.

The strength to bear, or work, or wait,
Is Thine, O God, to give;
And who shall weak and strengthless be
That learns in Thee to live?

Marianne Farningham
The Review and Herald, August 1, 1899



The Best Fun

"Now, boys, I'll tell you how we can have some fun," said Fred Blake to his companions, who had assembled on a beautiful, moonlight evening for sliding, snowballing, and fun generally.

"How?" "Where?" "What is it?" asked several eager voices together.

"I heard Widow More tell a man a little while ago," replied Fred, "that she would go to sit up with a sick child tonight. She said she would be there about eight o'clock. Now, as soon as she is gone, let's make a big snowman on her doorstep so that when she comes home, she cannot get in without first knocking him down."

"Capital!" shouted several of the boys.

"See here," said Charlie Neal, "I'll tell you the best fun."

"What is it?" again inquired several at once.

"Wait awhile," said Charlie. "Who has a wood saw?"

"I have," "So have I," answered three of the boys. "But what in the world do you want a wood saw for?"

"You shall see," replied Charlie. "It's almost eight o'clock now, so go and get your saws. You three each get an axe, and I will get a shovel. Let us all be back here in fifteen minutes, and then I'll show you the fun."

The boys separated to go on their several errands, each wondering what the fun could be, and what possible use could be made of wood saws and axes, in their play. But Charlie was not only a great favorite with them all, but also an acknowledged leader, and they fully believed in him and his promise.

Anxious to know what the "fun" was which Charlie had for them, they made

haste, and were soon on hand, with their saws, axes, and shovels.

"Now," said Charlie, "Mrs. More is gone, for I met her when I was coming back; so, let's be off at once."

"But what are you going to do?" inquired several impatient members of the party.

"You shall see directly," replied the leader, as they approached the humble home of Mrs. More.

"Now, boys," said Charlie, "you see that pile of wood; a man hauled it here this afternoon, and I heard Mrs. More tell him that unless she got someone to saw it tonight, she would have nothing to make a fire with in the morning. Now, we can saw and split that pile of wood just about as easily as we could build a great snowman, and when Mrs. More comes home from her watching, she will be fully as much surprised to find her wood sawed, as she would to find a snowman at her doorstep, and a great deal more pleasantly, too. What say you—will you do it?"

One or two of the boys demurred at first, but the majority were in favor of Charlie's project; so all finally joined in, and went to work with a will.

"I'll go round to the back of the shed," said Charlie, "and crawl through the window and unfasten the door. Then we'll take turns in sawing, splitting, and carrying in the wood; and I want to pile it up nicely, and to shovel all the snow away from the door; and make a good wide path, too, from the door to

the street: What fun it will be when she comes home and sees it!"

The boys began to appreciate the fun, for they felt that they were doing a good deed, and experienced the satisfaction which always results from well-doing.

It was not a long, wearisome job, for seven robust and healthy boys to saw, split, and pile up the poor widow's half-cord of wood, and to shovel a good path.

When it was done, so great was their pleasure, that one of the boys, who objected to the work at first, proposed that they should go to a neighboring carpenter's shop, where plenty of shavings could be had for the carrying away, and each bring an armful of kindling wood. This they did, and afterward hurried home, all of them more than satisfied with the "fun" of the winter evening.

The next morning, when Mrs. More came home, weary from watching by the sick bed, and saw what was done, she was very much surprised. When she was told who had done it, by a neighbor, who had witnessed the kindly deed, her fervent prayer, "God bless the boys!" was, of itself, an abundant reward for their labors.

Boys and girls, the best fun is always found in doing something that is kind and useful. If you doubt it in the least, just try it for yourselves, and you will be convinced.

"What is desired in a man [youth] is kindness." Proverbs 19:22

Hope for You, January 2025, 24, 25 



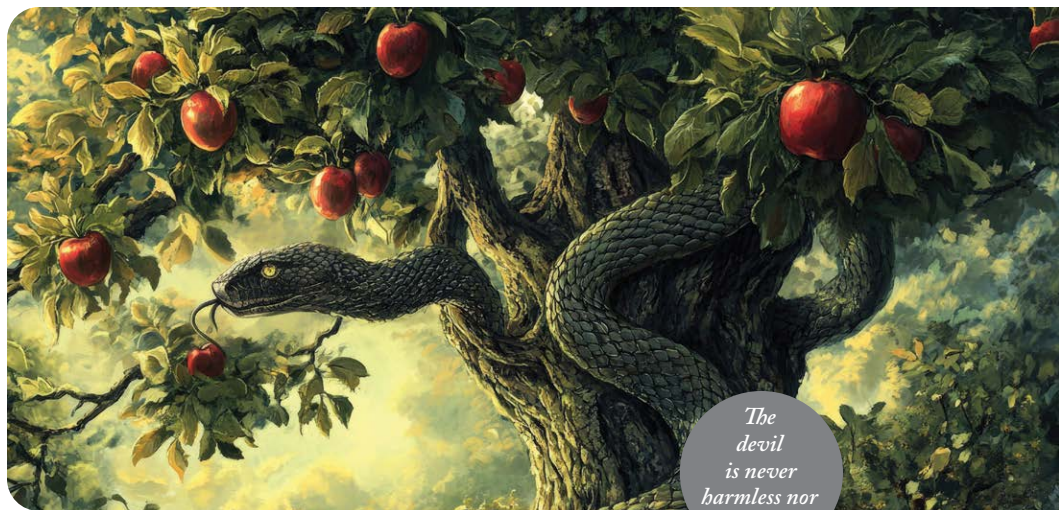
The Devil Is Hardly Harmless

Recently, in staff worship, we read this passage:
 “The history of the past shows an active, working devil. He can no more be idle than harmless.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, 504

Who could imagine for a single moment that the devil could be harmless? Or idle?

Most people are happy that life goes along smoothly with no real trouble or hardship. But I think that’s the time we should take the closest look at our spiritual condition. The devil is satisfied when we go along through life thinking that we are in pretty good shape spiritually when, in reality, we do not see ourselves for who and what we are—sinful, selfish, in desperate need of saving.

“Satan was found in only one tree to endanger the safety of Adam and Eve. He planned to attract the holy pair to that one tree, that they might do the very thing God had said they should not do—eat of the tree of knowledge. There was no danger to them in approaching any other tree. How plausible his speech! He laid hold of the very arguments which he uses today—flattery, envy, distrust, questioning, and unbelief. If Satan was so cunning at first, what must he be now after gaining an experience of many thousands of years? Yet God and holy angels, and all those who abide in obedience to all the Lord’s expressed will, are wiser than he. The subtlety of Satan will not decrease, but the wisdom



The devil is never harmless nor idle.

given to men through a living connection with the Source of all light and divine knowledge will be proportionate to his arts and wiles.” Ibid., 504

Knowledge. Knowing is a good thing most of the time. But I think we can all agree that the knowledge Eve achieved that day in the garden, standing under that tree, listening to that lilting voice filled with feigned concern and insidious persuasion, is a knowledge none of us needed; certainly not the knowledge God had intended for us.

“If men would stand the test which Adam failed to endure, and would, in the strength of Jesus, obey all the requirements of God, because they are righteousness, then they would never become acquainted with the objectionable knowledge. God never designed that men should have this knowledge which

comes of disobedience, and which, carried into practice, ends in eternal death. When men almost invariably choose the knowledge that Satan presents; when their taste is so perverted that it craves that knowledge as though it were a fountain of supreme wisdom, then they give evidence that they are separated from God and are in rebellion against Christ.” Ibid., 504, 505

Is it any wonder that our God, His Son, the Holy Spirit, and the angels of heaven never sleep?

“Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper . . . The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.” Psalm 121:4, 5, *first part*, 7, 8 **LM**

Book Offer



**MELCHIZEDEK—KING OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS, KING OF PEACE**
This brand-new volume explains in a clear Bible-based
manner the identification of who Melchizedek was/
is, and settles forever the question of whether the Holy
Spirit is the Mighty Third Person of the Godhead, or
simply an emanation of God and Christ's power.

PB: Paperback 92 pgs \$9.95

To order, call:

1-316-788-5559

stepstolife.org/shop

Shipping and handling will be added
to all orders.

July Sermon of the Month

Micah: Prophet to the Remnant

John J. Grosboll

For centuries, Israel was God's depository of truth. As such, He preserved them and they prospered, until they chose to follow the world.

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

July 2026

Dear Friend,

Concerning friends, the wise man said:

"Ointment and perfume delight the heart, and the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel.

"Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, nor go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; better is a neighbor nearby than a brother far away." Proverbs 27:9, 10

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." Proverbs 17:17

"A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." Proverbs 18:24

If we are to win souls to the cause of Jesus Christ, we need to learn how to follow the same methods that He used. Christ's method was first to develop friendships.

1. Christ mingled with people as one who desired their good. You cannot successfully witness unless you mingle with people, getting to know them, and developing friendships with them.
2. He showed sympathy for them. He showed that He was affected by their problems and trials in this life.
3. As He learned their needs and wants, He ministered to them, offering and giving them help in their daily struggles and trials.
4. As a result, He won their confidence.
5. Then He said to them, "Follow Me."

"The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice.

"By beholding Him, they will be changed into His likeness. We are to encourage the sick and suffering to look to Jesus and live." *The Ministry of Healing*, 143
We must follow His example.

Your brother in Christ,

John J. Grosboll

I Gave My Life for Thee



Frances Ridley Havergal
1836-1879

She sat across from a painting of Christ hanging on the cross. The words “This have I done for thee; what hast thou done for Me?” were printed just above the wreath of thorns on Jesus’ head. Inspired by the scene before her and this simple question, she jotted down a few lines of poetry.

Later that evening, as she sat before the fire, she pondered the words she had written and decided they just weren’t right;

crumpling the paper, she tossed it into the flames. However, Providence had other plans for this young woman’s half-be-gun poem. A gust of wind came down through the chimney and blew the crumpled poem out of the fire unharmed.

She showed the verses to her father, a hymn writer and composer himself, and he encouraged her to add additional stanzas. She did so, and thus began one of the most brilliant careers in hymnology.

Francis Ridley Havergal wrote hundreds of hymns and an entire volume of poems. Her scholastic achievements were extensive. She spoke French, Greek, German, Hebrew, and Latin. She memorized the entire New Testament, Psalms, and Isaiah. She was a vocalist, pianist, and the composer of several hymn tunes. She died at the age of 43, but in her short lifetime, she wrote some of the most memorable and well-loved hymns; hymns still just as popular and loved today as they were when she first wrote them. *I Gave My Life for Thee*, *Take My Life and Let It Be, Like a River Glorious*, and *Live Out Thy Life Within Me*, are found in the 1985 *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal* (hymns 281, 330, 74, and 316, respectively).

Frances’ entire life and all her strength were consecrated to God and her poems “were permeated with the fragrance of her passionate love for Jesus.” (Rev. James Davidson, B.A.)

The song inspired by a painting, a question, and saved from the fire was *I Gave My Life for Thee*.

I gave My life for thee,
My precious blood I shed,
That thou might ransomed be,
And quickened from the dead.

I gave, I gave My life for thee,
What hast thou given for me?
I gave, I gave My life for thee,
What hast thou given for Me.

My Father’s house of light,
My glory-circled throne,
I left, for earthly night,
for wand’ rings sad and lone;

I left, I left it all for thee
Hast thou left aught for Me?
I left, I left it all for thee,
Hast thou left aught for Me?

I suffered much for thee,
More than thy tongue can tell,
Of bitterest agony,
To rescue thee from hell.

I’ve borne, I’ve borne it all for thee,
What hast thou borne for Me?
I’ve borne, I’ve borne it all for thee,
What has thou borne for Me?

Source: *A Hymn is Born* by Clint Bonner; hymnary.org/person/Havergal_Frances 

from the
Mission Fields



India is the world's most populous country (1.48 billion) steeped in tradition.

Pastoral Training in



Pastor Domingo Nunez

At the beginning of 2026, I traveled to Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune, India. I went to make an appeal to all the church leaders to come together in unity, to work together preaching and teaching the three angels' messages.



Left: Meeting at Pune led by Brother Thompson

Bottom Left: Potential leaders in the India gospel work

Bottom Right: Outdoor meeting at the same event at Pune



I met with the brethren in Vijayawada, about a four-to-five hour drive from Hyderabad. I wanted to assess the knowledge, both spiritual and academic, of Seventh-day Adventist doctrines and the three angels' messages that these leaders possessed so that I could properly assist them in becoming instruments used by God to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am very happy that they all demonstrated the serious desire to participate in the pastoral training and church organization for church leadership programs. The last four months have

shown the wonderful progress in India, as, through these training programs, the leaders in India are growing in knowledge and understanding of God's work.

As the training and unified work in India continues, I ask that you will pray for the work and India's workers as they present God's present truth to the communities around them. Pray that the Lord will guide me and the Steps to Life ministry with wisdom and patience as we help His people to work according to His plan for the people of India.

We are now working to establish the various delegates to work together

and to select others as the representatives from among their congregations needed to continue the work. Through emails, phone calls, and online meetings, we will continue to encourage the good progress being made among these independent church congregations, and the development of strong leadership to lead them. India is a country with many challenges for God's work, but with confident, well-trained, and committed workers, these challenges can be overcome by God's power, and many souls can be secured in the kingdom of heaven. **LM**



Healthy Feet, Happy Walkers

When I think about sports such as soccer or football, I am reminded of how rough those hits on the lower extremities can be and wonder how intense the pain must be for two players when they smack into each other. Beyond the excitement the match brings, I feel sorry for those who play on a regular basis.

But yes, whether you play rough sports or just like to enjoy a brisk morning walk, among those parts of the body that suffer the most are, without a doubt, the feet.

Perhaps our feet are the part of our body that receives the least care, even though they are very important for our mobility.

Not only sports, but wearing high heels, using synthetic fiber socks, insufficient hydration, lack of exfoliation, shoes that are too tight and worn for many hours, and sweaty feet are some of the factors that can cause problems, and if the feet don't receive proper attention, signs of damage and neglect begin to appear.

Calluses form in various areas on the feet, but especially on the heels, the sides of the big or little toes, on top of the toes, or on the soles. At first, they are bothersome, and then, if they don't receive proper care, they become increasingly painful. If you've had calluses, then you know just how unbearable and uncomfortable they can be all day long.

Conversely, if you haven't developed calluses yet, then it's important to prevent them. Use moisturizing foot cream every time you get out of the bath. Once a week, massage your feet with a few drops of olive oil, fully-refined petroleum jelly, or mashed bananas. Also, make sure your shoes are comfortable enough—not too tight, not too loose, with good padding. If your shoes are new, put a bandage on any areas where you know blisters or calluses might form and don't wear the shoes for extended periods. When you get home, it's important to take off your shoes and socks and soak your feet in a basin of warm water with herbs to help them relax.

If you already have calluses, you can use a pumice stone every time you get out of the shower, as your skin will be softer and more pliable. However, you must use it very carefully to avoid injury. You can also use a foot file to remove roughness from your heels, soles, and toes, but don't do this for more than three minutes at a time, and always apply a moisturizing cream afterward.

Always wear comfortable shoes and pay attention to any discomfort or pain that may arise.

Here are some home remedy suggestions for calluses on the feet.

Calluses Home Remedies

1 Onion

Onions are healing and anti-inflammatory. Cut an onion in half and gently rub it on the affected area. Repeat this every night before bed. There's no need to rinse your foot; just try to let the onion juices penetrate your skin. Sleep with socks on.

2 Garlic and Olive Oil

Crush a clove of garlic and mix it with olive oil. Cover the callus with the paste, cover with gauze or a cloth, and leave it on overnight. Remove it in the morning without rinsing. Repeat every day until the callus disappears.

3 Nettle and Water

Take a handful of nettle stems and flowers, blend them with a tablespoon of water, and apply the paste directly to the callus. Cover the area with gauze or a cloth and leave it on for at least three hours before removing it.

4 Calendula and Water

The procedure is the same as for nettle. Apply it every night before going to bed.

5 Fig

This fruit has anti-inflammatory properties, and it also provides a cooling and soothing effect. Cut a fig in half, remove the pulp and apply it to the callus before going to bed. Cover the area with a bandage and put on socks to avoid making a mess. Leave it on overnight and soak your feet in warm water in the morning. Then, gently file the callus with a pumice stone and apply a moisturizing cream.

6 Baking Soda and Water

Mix 2 tablespoons of baking soda with 1 tablespoon of water. Apply the paste to the callus using circular motions, as if you were exfoliating. Leave it on for 20 to 30 minutes and remove it with warm water. Gently file or use a pumice stone over the area and moisturize with cream.

7 Chamomile and Water

Make an infusion with 4 tablespoons of dried chamomile herb and 1 quart of boiling water. Cover and let it steep for a few minutes, and then soak your feet in the water. This will soften your calluses, allowing you to use the pumice stone without any problems. Always finish these treatments with moisturizing cream. **LM**



Who and What Constitutes the Church

John J. Grosboll

To be a Free Seventh-day Adventist, you must first be a Seventh-day Adventist.
To be a Seventh-day Adventist, you must first be an Adventist.

As God's work for this world is in its final stages, having a clear conscience becomes more and more important. To have a clear conscience, we must be where God wants us to be, doing what He wants us to do. Whatever the work may be: building a house, repairing an automobile, working on a farm, growing plants, working in an industry, a factory, or a business.

Free Seventh-day Adventists around the world are interested in and trying to restore and practice the New Testament church organization. We must study the New Testament church of the first century—when it was founded, organized, and how it functioned—to understand this type of organization.

To Help the Sincere

The book of Daniel was written so that sincere heathen and idolatrous peoples could learn the truth about the God of heaven and choose to follow Him.

In Daniel 3, we find the account of the three Hebrew young men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. The whole world at that time knew of their religion and how they were thrown into the fiery furnace because, regardless of the cost to themselves, they would bow down and serve only the God of heaven. They were taken from the fiery furnace and examined by representatives from all over the then world. There was no evidence that the

fire had affected them at all—no smell of smoke, no damage to their clothes or person. This report went to the whole world as evidence that there is a God in heaven and He could deliver even from the fiery furnace.

We see in the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar had made a symbol of an established religion. This religion did not teach that one should love and serve the God of heaven, but rather, Nebuchadnezzar put himself as God before the people.

In Daniel 2, Daniel interprets a dream for Nebuchadnezzar.

“There is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in

the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these . . . In the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.” Daniel 2:28, 44

In Daniel 4, we find that the heathen king had another dream and he called upon Daniel to give him the interpretation of it. A year after hearing the interpretation, Nebuchadnezzar declared:

“Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?” Verse 30

We are told that while the words were still in his mouth, a voice from heaven said, “King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.” Verses 31, 32

“Then he [Nebuchadnezzar] was driven from the sons of men, his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. They fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till he knew that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses. ‘But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this. And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His

hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.’” Daniel 5:21–23

At the end of his seven-year period of insanity, Nebuchadnezzar said, “At the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’” Verses 34, 35

“Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall endure to the end.” Daniel 6:25, 26

Written for a Different Purpose

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John.” Revelation 1:1

Revelation is a special message from Jesus Christ written especially to His church. Jesus said “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches.” Revelation 22:16, *first part*

By the time Revelation was written, Jerusalem had been destroyed and was no longer the center of Christianity in the world. Chapters 2 and 3 document messages to seven different churches throughout history. The first is the church at Ephesus.

If we look at the writings of the apostles Peter in 1 Peter 2 or Paul in Ephesians 2, we will clearly see that both taught that Jesus Christ was the chief Cornerstone of the church. He was the Rock on which the church was built.

How Is the Sinner Bound or Let Loose?

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Matthew 16:19

What are the keys to the kingdom of heaven? The words of Jesus Christ. We have those words today because of Jesus’ apostles. Jesus gave them the keys, and they wrote down the words that He spoke; and we call them the gospel.

When the gospel is presented, we have but two choices—acceptance or rejection. Jesus said we cannot sit on the fence. We are His or we are not. And those who are not with Jesus are against Him. So when you hear the gospel, you are forced to make a decision. If you accept the gospel, committing your life to Jesus Christ, your name is written in the Lamb’s book of life, and you are bound for glory. If you reject the gospel, you are set free from salvation, ultimately however, you will pay the price for your sins.

“

What are the keys to the kingdom of heaven? The words of Jesus Christ. We have those words today because the apostles wrote them down. We call them the gospel.

“
*The word church
 comes from the Greek
 word ekklesia. It is a group
 or assembly of people who
 have been called out from
 the world.*

The Churches

The word *church* comes from the Greek word *ekklesia*. It is a group or assembly of people who have been called out from the world. Prior to the organization of the Christian church, human society tended to be bound together by a common religious loyalty. Society was held together by a common religion to which all members of that society were expected to be committed. The Old Testament talks about the Egyptians, Amorites, and Canaanites, each nation having its own gods. But when Jesus came, He said He would call out a people from all nations to serve and follow Him; society would no longer be homogeneous.

Paul uses *church* to describe the church universal (the world-wide church). For example, we find it used this way in the book of Ephesians. “And He [the Father] put all things under His [the Son’s] feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” Ephesians 1:22, 23

A. T. Jones used this verse to prove that the church was the biggest thing in the universe. He talks about the church again specifically in Ephesians 5:24, 25, and 32.

“And He [Christ] is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.” Colossians 1:17, 18. Jesus must have first place in our hearts and lives.

“He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter [*petros*], and on this rock [*Petra*] I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.’” Matthew 16:15–18

We find many texts in the New Testament that talk about the church universal, but the vast majority of New Testament texts are about the local church.

“Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ.” Romans 16:5

The churches mentioned in the Scriptures were all organized.

“So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.” Acts 14:23

Every church was organized with elders and eventually deacons as well. The New Testament church was not organized as a hierarchy. The Jewish church in Christ’s day was organized as a hierarchy. A hierarchy is a ruling body of clergy organized into orders or ranks, each subordinate to the one above it; and a hierarchical church organization is one of the marks of Babylon.

Read that carefully, I did not say that every church with an established hierarchical system is part of Babylon. However, it is still true that a hierarchical system is one of the identifying marks of Babylon.

Where Is the Catholic Church?

Contrary to what many people think, the Roman Catholic church was not yet in existence when Christ was here. How do we know?

1. There were no Christian churches anywhere when Christ was here.
2. Roman Catholic theology believes that Peter was head of the church. However, Acts 15 shows us that James was the presiding elder at the church council, not Peter.
3. Paul wrote the book of Romans to the church in Rome, well after Christ’s crucifixion and ascension to heaven.
4. It is thought by millions of Christians that Peter was the first bishop of the church of Rome, but there is no proof of that. In Romans 16:3–23, Paul sends greetings to many different people in the Roman church. If Peter was the bishop of the church of Rome, wouldn’t Paul have

sent greetings to Peter, too? In fact, Peter is never mentioned in the book of Romans.

5. The book of Romans teaches that the law will be fulfilled in the life of a Christian. "But now having been set free from sin [set free from breaking the law and you're not in bondage anymore], and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life."

Romans 6:22

"As many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law." Romans 2:12. The Bible is saying that sin is transgression of the law and the penalty for transgression is death. "For not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified." Verse 13. "That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." Romans 8:4

6. The book of Romans teaches that the righteousness of the law must be fulfilled in your life, making you a doer of the law. That's the strongest proof that I know that the Roman Catholic church did not yet exist when the book of Romans was written. One of the central doctrines of Roman Catholicism is that Sunday is the Lord's day. In keeping Sunday, people break the fourth commandment. There were no Sunday-keeping churches when Romans was written.
7. While visiting Budapest a number of years ago, I entered a large Roman Catholic church. While admiring the beautiful stained-glass windows and paintings, I noticed in a corner a life-sized crucifix and a young woman kneeling in front of it. As I left the church, I saw that she was still kneeling there. She was breaking the second commandment. Luke says, "As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet



and worshiped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, 'Stand up; I myself am also a man.'" Acts 10:25, 26. It is wrong to kneel down and worship a man, a statue, an image, a relic. It is wrong to bow down in worship of the created instead of the Creator.

Ephesus

At the inception of the Christian [apostolic] church, Jesus ordained 12 apostles. Then in counsel with the church, these 12 apostles ordained seven deacons (Acts 6). In Acts 15, there arose a theological difference among the church members, so a church council was convened to study and pray about the issue. It is evident, with careful study, that at the time of Christ, the world headquarters of the church was in Jerusalem. However, after the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, it appears that the world headquarters of the apostolic church was moved to Ephesus.

The best evidence we have that Ephesus became the center of the Christian church is seen after the apostle John was delivered from the Isle of Patmos. Domitian (*Caesar Domitianus Augustus*), who exiled the apostle to the Isle of Patmos, had died. Nerva (*Nerva Caesar Augustus*) reversed Domitian's decisions

and set the apostle John free. Upon his release, John returned to Ephesus.

Second Timothy, Paul's letter to Timothy, written while Paul was in prison, instructs Timothy to come to visit him in prison before he is martyred, and tells him that he is sending Tychicus to watch over things in Ephesus while Timothy is away visiting Paul. This tells us that the church in Ephesus was organized. Timothy was its bishop. There was a church membership list.

There are people in Adventism today who engage in theological speculation that there are two true churches. These two churches are known as the visible and invisible churches. Material—tapes, letters, mimeograph materials, videos, and all sorts of things—have been sent all over the world teaching that there are two true churches. These people do acknowledge that the invisible church has no human leadership, no planned mission, no system of discipline, no church membership. However, there is no invisible church, and the Bible clearly states that there is only one true church.

The Visible True Church

- A. T. Jones taught that there was an invisible church, but if you look at the context of his teaching, you will understand that he meant you could never literally see all the members of the church at the same time.
- All the churches spoken of in the New Testament are visible, organized, and with human leaders called elders and deacons.
- The true church has a membership list. This church has many times had to go underground, and during those times, its membership list was kept secret.
- It has a system of church discipline. "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars." Revelation 2:2

- It has a mission to take the gospel to the world.

Society Divided

“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; and ‘a man’s foes will be those of his own household.’ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.” Matthew 10:34–39

Society is to be divided—those who accept Christ and those who will not.

Jesus Taught Respect and Obedience

We are to respect worldly government in its proper sphere. Regarding paying taxes He said, “‘Whose image and inscription is this?’ They said to Him, ‘Caesar’s.’ And He said to them, ‘Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’” Matthew 22:20, 21

The government (federal or state) has a right to know that its citizens are married or not. (Romans 13). It has the right to enforce the last six commandments of the law—you do not steal from or murder your neighbor. Although it is no longer enforced anymore, you are not to commit adultery

with or covet anything your neighbor has. You are not to lie to the government or lie about your neighbor. And if you do these things, it has a right to put you in prison or punish you in some other way. But there are things that belong only to God.

(See Romans 13 and 14.) In other words, we are to respect and obey our government and our leaders, but only as they do not interfere with our obedience to God and His law.

An example of this is worship. The government has no authority or right to force its citizenry to worship God in a certain way or on a certain day. That is God’s business, between you and Him. Caesar has no seat at the table.

In the World, but Not of It

The early Christians knew that it was the Master’s will that they be the salt of the earth, partakers of an anointing, a transaction where they would live in contrast to, being separate from, the world around them. They were to be holy and seek peace with all men.

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.” Hebrews 12:14

Early Christianity learned that Jesus had come to create a people from within a people. It realized that it is by an act of faith that men become the sons of God, that this sonship to God is not simply continuous with being in a certain area of the country or belonging to a certain country. Primitive Christianity knew that although God is a Saviour of all men, He is especially the Saviour of those who believe.

However, a split occurred in Christianity. Constantine took things back to the Old Testament idea that if you belonged in a certain country, you were part of the Christian church. In this way, he established the Roman Empire as part of Christianity; he made Rome Christian and then everyone who lived in Rome automatically became a Christian.

Secular and Sacred Blended

The Donatists were a group of people who believed that a true church could not exist if secular rule and the Christian church were blended. Both the government and the church viewed them as deadly enemies and eventually destroyed them. Why were the Catholic church and the Roman Empire so against the Donatists? Augustine understood why. He said, “The issue between us and the Donatists is about the question of where this body is to be located, that is, what and where is the church.” Both the Donatists and the Catholics had their own definition of who and what the church is.

Down through history, one group after another has said we need to go back to New Testament church organization where the church is comprised of people who are called out from the world. That was the issue with the Waldenses, the Huguenots, the Albigenses, and the Anabaptists, and it will be the issue at the end of time.

Have you been called out? You cannot be a Christian if you are still part of the world. Christ’s true church is made up of people who have been called out from the world and who, having completely left the world and the things of the world behind, have fully surrendered themselves to Christ. **LM**

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

“
*It is wrong to kneel down
and worship a man, a
statue, an image, a relic.*”

July 26 – August 1, 2026

The Beast of Revelation 13

Key Text

“And out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great ... he cast down the truth to the ground. He did all this and prospered.” Daniel 8:9, 12

Study Help: *The Great Controversy*, 434–439; *Selected Messages*, Book 2, 367–375

Introduction

“Romanism as a system is no more in harmony with the gospel of Christ now than at any former period in her history.” *The Great Controversy*, 565

Sunday

1 SYMBOLS USED FOR KINGDOMS

I.a. What symbols are used in the Bible to represent earthly powers? Give examples. Daniel 7:3, 17, 23

Note: “To Daniel was given a vision of fierce beasts, representing the powers of the earth.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 4, 1171

“The Holy Spirit represents worldly kingdoms under the symbol of fierce beasts of prey.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 77

I.b. What symbols represent the Roman Empire in its divided state? Daniel 7:7; Revelation 12:3

Note: “The dragon is said to be Satan (Revelation 12:9); he it was that moved upon Herod to put the Saviour to death. But the chief agent of Satan in making war upon Christ and His people during the first centuries of the Christian Era was the Roman Empire, in which paganism was the prevailing religion. Thus, while the dragon, primarily, represents Satan, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of pagan Rome.” *The Great Controversy*, 438

Monday

2 PAPAL ROME

2.a. What symbols stand for papal Rome? Daniel 7:8, 24; Revelation 13:1, 2

Note: “In [Revelation] chapter 13 (verses 1–10) is described another beast, ‘like unto a leopard,’ to which the dragon gave ‘his power, and his seat, and great authority.’ This symbol, as most Protestants have believed, represents the papacy, which succeeded to the power and seat and authority once held by the ancient Roman empire. Of the leopardlike beast it is declared: ‘There was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies. ... And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.’ This prophecy, which is nearly identical with the description of the little horn of Daniel 7, unquestionably points to the papacy.” *The Great Controversy*, 439

2.b. What was the predicted duration of the supremacy of papal Rome as a persecuting power? Daniel 7:25, *last part*; Revelation 13:5, 7

Note: “Power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.’ And, says the prophet, ‘I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death.’ And again: ‘He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword.’ The forty and two months are

the same as the ‘time and times and the dividing of time,’ three years and a half, or 1260 days, of Daniel 7—the time during which the papal power was to oppress God’s people. This period, as stated in preceding chapters, began with the supremacy of the papacy, AD 538, and terminated in 1798.” *The Great Controversy*, 439

Tuesday

3 MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

3.a. In what sense is Rome accused of uttering “great words”? Daniel 7:25, *first part*; Revelation 13:5, *first part*; 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, 7

Note: “The accession of the Roman Church to power marked the beginning of the Dark Ages. As her power increased, the darkness deepened. Faith was transferred from Christ, the true foundation, to the pope of Rome. Instead of trusting in the Son of God for forgiveness of sins and for eternal salvation, the people looked to the pope, and to the priests and prelates to whom he delegated authority. They were taught that the pope was their earthly mediator and that none could approach God except through him; and, further, that he stood in the place of God to them and was therefore to be implicitly obeyed. A deviation from his requirements was sufficient cause for the severest punishment to be visited upon the bodies and souls of the offenders. Thus, the minds of the people were turned away from God to fallible, erring, and cruel men, nay, more, to the prince of darkness himself, who exercised his power through them. Sin was disguised in a garb of sanctity. When the Scriptures are suppressed, and man comes to regard himself as supreme, we need look only for fraud, deception, and debasing iniquity.” *The Great Controversy*, 55

3.b. According to prophecy, what would Rome do with the law of God and with the truth in general? Daniel 7:25, *middle part*; 8:12

Note: “The papacy has attempted to change the law of God. The second commandment, forbidding image worship, has been dropped from the law, and the fourth commandment has been so changed as to authorize the observance of the first instead of the seventh day as the Sabbath. But papists urge, as a reason for omitting the second commandment, that it is unnecessary, being included in the first, and that they are giving the law exactly as God designed it to be understood. This cannot be the change foretold by the prophet. An intentional, deliberate change is presented: ‘He shall *think* to change the times and the law.’ The change in the fourth commandment exactly fulfills the prophecy. For this the only authority claimed is that of the church. Here the papal power openly sets itself above God.” *The Great Controversy*, 446 [Author’s emphasis.]

Wednesday

4 THE DEADLY WOUND IS HEALED

4.a. What is meant by the wounding of the head of the symbolic beast? Revelation 13:3, *first part*

Note: “At that time [1798], the pope was made captive by the French army, the papal power received its deadly wound, and the prediction was fulfilled, ‘He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity.’” *The Great Controversy*, 439

4.b. What is meant by the healing of the wound? Revelation 13:3, *middle part*. How should this affect us personally?

Note: “The Scriptures teach that popery is to regain its lost supremacy, and that the fires of persecution will be rekindled through the time-serving concessions of the so-called Protestant world. In this time of peril, we can stand only as we have the truth and the power of God. Men can know the truth only by being themselves partakers of the divine nature. We have need now for more than human wisdom in reading and searching the Scriptures; and if we come to God’s Word with humble hearts, He will raise up a standard for us against the lawless element.” *Selected Messages*, Book 2, 367, 368

Thursday

5 THE BASIC AIM OF THE VATICAN

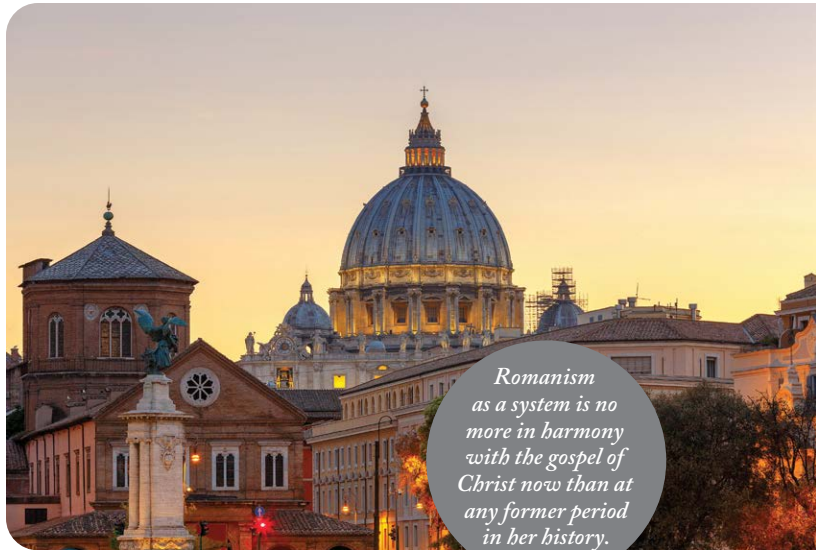
5.a. As the political influence of the papacy is steadily increasing, what position will Rome reach before the whole world? Revelation 13:3, *last part*, 8

Note: “The influence of Rome in the countries that once acknowledged her dominion is still far from being destroyed. And prophecy foretells a restoration of her power. ‘I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.’ Verse 3). The infliction of the deadly wound points to the downfall of the papacy in 1798. After this, says the prophet, ‘his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.’ Paul states plainly that the ‘man of sin’ will continue until the second advent. 2 Thessalonians 2:3–8. To the very close of time he will carry forward the work of deception. And the revelator declares, also referring to the papacy: ‘All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life.’ Revelation 13:8. In both the Old and the New World, the papacy will receive homage in the honor paid to the Sunday institution, that rests solely upon the authority of the Roman Church. ...

“Marvelous in her shrewdness and cunning is the Roman Church. She can read what is to be. She bides her time, seeing that the Protestant churches are paying her homage in their acceptance of the false sabbath and that they are preparing to enforce it by the very means which she herself employed in bygone days. Those who reject the light of truth will yet seek the aid of this self-styled infallible power to exalt an institution that originated with her.” *The Great Controversy*, 579, 580

5.b. Under what other symbol is the growing power of the Roman Catholic Church also represented? Revelation 17:1, 15, 9, 18

Note: “Protestants little know what they are doing when they propose to accept the aid of Rome in the work of Sunday exaltation. While they are bent upon the accomplishment of their



purpose, Rome is aiming to reestablish her power, to recover her lost supremacy. Let the principle once be established in the United States that the church may employ or control the power of the state; that religious observances may be enforced by secular laws; in short, that the authority of church and state is to dominate the conscience, and the triumph of Rome in this country is assured.

“God’s word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare. She is silently growing into power. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in the churches, and in the hearts of men. She is piling up her lofty and massive structures in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated. Stealthily and unsuspectingly she is strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is already being given her. We shall soon see and shall feel what the purpose of the Roman element is. Whoever shall believe and obey the word of God will thereby incur reproach and persecution.” *The Great Controversy*, 581

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What role did pagan Rome have in prophecy and history?
2. What do prophecy and history teach us about papal Rome?
3. Why is it necessary to point out warnings about the papal power?
4. What evidence do we have of the “healing” of the “deadly wound”?
5. How is the Protestant world now cooperating with Rome’s agenda?

August 2 – 8, 2026

The Lamblike Beast

Key Text

“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.” Revelation 13:11

Study Help: *The Great Controversy*, 440–450; *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 975–977

Introduction

“Prophecy represents Protestantism as having lamblike horns, but speaking like a dragon. Already we are beginning to hear the voice of the dragon.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 975

Sunday

1 A NEW POWER

1.a. Besides the power represented by the first beast of Revelation 13, what other power did John see on the stage of history? Revelation 13:11, *first part*

Note: “But the beast with lamblike horns was seen ‘coming up out of the earth.’ Instead of overthrowing other powers to establish itself, the nation thus represented must arise in territory previously unoccupied and grow up gradually and peacefully. It could not, then, arise among the crowded and struggling nationalities of the Old World—that turbulent sea of ‘peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.’ Revelation 17:15. It must be sought in the Western Continent.

“What nation of the New World was in 1798 rising into power, giving promise of strength and greatness, and attracting the attention of the world? The application of the symbol admits of no question. One nation, and only one, meets the specifications of this prophecy; it points unmistakably to the United States of America.” *The Great Controversy*, 440

1.b. What did the prophet record as the first notable feature of that second beast? Revelation 13:11, *middle part*

Note: “The lamblike horns indicate youth, innocence, and gentleness, fitly representing the character of the United States when presented to the prophet as ‘coming up’ in 1798. Among the Christian exiles who first fled to America and sought an asylum from royal oppression and priestly intolerance were many who determined to establish a government upon the broad foundation of civil and religious liberty. Their views found place in the Declaration of Independence, which sets forth the great truth that ‘all men are created equal’ and endowed with the inalienable right to ‘life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.’ And the Constitution guarantees to the people the right of self-government, providing that representatives elected by the popular vote shall enact and administer the laws. Freedom of religious faith was also granted, every man being permitted to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience. Republicanism and Protestantism became the fundamental principles of the nation. These principles are the secret of its power and prosperity.” *The Great Controversy*, 441

Monday

2 A SHOCKING CHARACTERISTIC

2.a. Since the second beast had shown lamblike innocence, what surprised John the Revelator? Revelation 13:11, *last part*

Note: “The lamblike horns and dragon voice of the symbol point to a striking contradiction between the professions and the practice of the nation thus represented. The ‘speaking’ of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities. By such action it will give the lie to those liberal and peaceful principles which it has put forth as the foundation of its policy.” *The Great Controversy*, 442

2.b. In what sense will the second beast imitate the first beast? Revelation 13:1, *first part*

Note: “The prediction that it will speak ‘as a dragon’ and exercise ‘all the power of the first beast’ plainly foretells a development of the spirit of intolerance and persecution that was manifested by the nations represented by the dragon and the leopardlike beast.” *The Great Controversy*, 442

Tuesday

3 AN “IMAGE” OF ROME

3.a. What will the United States of America do to enforce homage to Rome? Revelation 13:12, *last part*

Note: “The statement that the beast with two horns ‘causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast’ indicates that the authority of this nation is to be exercised in enforcing some observance which shall be an act of homage to the papacy.” *The Great Controversy*, 442

3.b. How will America not only imitate Rome but induce other nations to do the same? Describe the meaning of “making an image to the beast.” Revelation 13:14, *last part*

Note: “As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, 18



“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.”

“When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result.” *The Great Controversy*, 445

Wednesday

4 THE MARK OF THE BEAST

4.a. Largely with the support of Protestant America, in what area will the encroachment of Rome upon human conscience become prominent? Revelation 13:16

Note: “After the warning against the worship of the beast and his image the prophecy declares: ‘Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.’ Since those who keep God’s commandments are thus placed in contrast with those that worship the beast and his image and receive his mark, it follows that the keeping of God’s law, on the one hand, and its violation, on the other, will make the distinction between the worshipers of God and the worshipers of the beast.”

The Great Controversy, 445, 446

“When Sunday observance shall be enforced by law, and the world shall be enlightened concerning the obligation of the true Sabbath, then whoever shall transgress the command of God, to obey a precept which has no higher authority than that of Rome, will thereby honor popery above God. He is paying homage to Rome and to the power which enforces the institution ordained by Rome. He is worshipping the beast and his image. As men then reject the institution which God has declared to be the sign of His authority, and honor in its stead that which Rome has chosen as the token of her supremacy, they will thereby accept the sign of allegiance to Rome—‘the mark of the beast.’ And it is not until the issue is thus plainly set before the people, and they are brought to choose between the commandments of God and the commandments of men, that those who continue in transgression will receive ‘the mark of the beast.’” *Ibid.*, 449

4.b. What will be imposed on those who refuse to accept the mark of the beast? Revelation 13:17

Note: “In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off. Because they refuse to break His law in obedience to earthly powers, they will be forbidden to buy or sell.” *The Desire of Ages*, 121, 122

“The Lord has clearly defined the road to the city of God; but the great apostate has changed the signpost, setting up a false one—a spurious sabbath. He says: ‘I will work at cross-purposes with God. I will empower my delegate, the man of sin, to take down God’s memorial, the seventh-day Sabbath. ... Human laws shall be made so stringent that men and women will not dare to observe the seventh-day Sabbath. For fear of wanting food and clothing, they will join with the world in transgressing God’s law.’” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 4, 1171, 1172

Thursday

5 THE DEATH DECREE

5.a. In what way will Protestant America (the second beast) also imitate the most cruel aspects of the character of papal Rome (the first beast)? Revelation 13:15

Note: “Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that ‘all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond’ (Revelation 13:16), shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false sabbath. All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death. On the other hand, the law of God enjoining the Creator’s rest day demands obedience and threatens wrath against all who transgress its precepts.” *The Great Controversy*, 604

5.b. What advice should we take to heart in view of the time of trouble just before us? 1 Peter 3:14–17

Note: “What course shall the advocates of truth pursue? They have the unchangeable, eternal word of God, and they should reveal the fact that they have the truth as it is in Jesus. Their words must not be rugged and sharp. In their presentation of truth, they must manifest the love and meekness and gentleness of Christ. Let the truth do the cutting; the word of God is as a sharp, two-edged sword, and will cut its way to the heart. Those who know that they have the truth should not, by the use of harsh and severe expressions, give Satan one chance to misinterpret their spirit.” *Evangelism*, 236

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What does the second beast represent, and how do we know this?
2. By what means does this lamblike beast adopt dragon-like traits?
3. How does the second beast begin to relate to the first beast?
4. What is the mark of the beast and why, ultimately, is it imposed?
5. In light of the approaching crisis, what should we bear in mind?

August 9 – 15, 2026

False Prophets and False Revivals

Key Text

“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.” Ephesians 5:6

Study Help: *The Great Controversy*, 471–478; *Selected Messages*, Book 2, 56–60

Introduction

“Delusions and deceptions will come in among us, and will multiply as we near the end.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 952

Sunday

1 BEWARE!

1.a. Why must we examine the spirit of professed religious teachers rather than blindly accept or reject evidences? 1 John 4:1; Acts 7:51

Note: “In these days of peril we are not to accept everything that men bring to us as truth. As professed teachers from God come to us declaring that they have a message from God, it is proper to inquire carefully, How do we know that this is truth? Jesus has told us that ‘false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many.’ But we need not be deceived; for the word of God gives us a test whereby we may know what is truth. The prophet says, ‘To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.’” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 951

1.b. What danger has always surrounded the people of God? Jeremiah 14:14; 23:21; 2 Peter 2:1

Note: “Christ foretold that the going forth of deceivers would be accompanied with more danger to His disciples than would persecution. ... The effort of seducers has been to undermine confidence in the truth of God and to make it impossible to distinguish truth from error. Wonderfully pleasing, fanciful, scientific problems are introduced and urged upon the attention of the unwary; and unless believers are on their guard, the enemy, disguised as an angel of light, will lead them into false paths.” *Evangelism*, 359

Monday

2 MIRACULOUS HEALING

2.a. Through what means will Satan deceive many souls who have no background in the truth? 2 Kings 1:2; Acts 8:9–11

Note: “The apostles of nearly all forms of spiritism claim to have power to heal. They attribute this power to electricity, magnetism, the so-called ‘sympathetic remedies,’ or to latent forces within the mind of man. And there are not a few, even in this Christian age, who go to these healers, instead of trusting in the power of the living God and the skill of well qualified physicians. The mother, watching by the sickbed of her child, exclaims, ‘I can do no more. Is there no physician who has power to restore my child?’ She is told of the wonderful cures performed by some clairvoyant or magnetic healer, and she trusts her dear one to his charge, placing it as verily in the hand of Satan as if he were standing by her side. In many instances the future life of the child is controlled by a satanic power which it seems impossible to break.” *Prophets and Kings*, 211

2.b. What danger lies before those who are not anchored in Christ? 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10. What standard of righteousness is ignored by false prophets? Romans 8:4, 7

Note: “Many make great pretensions to holiness, and boast of the wonders they perform in healing the sick, when they do not regard this great standard of righteousness. But through whose power are these cures wrought? Are the eyes of either party opened to their transgressions of the law? and do they take their stand as humble, obedient children, ready to obey all of God’s requirements?” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 5, 1099

Tuesday

3 DISCERNING BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG

- 3.a. Before the Holy Spirit is poured out in fullness, how will Satan try to counterfeit the work of God?
Matthew 7:22
-
-

Note: “Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord’s second coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that God’s special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit.” *The Great Controversy*, 464

- 3.b. What discernment do we need when faced by the confusion introduced by the enemy of souls? Hebrews 5:14. How does this relate to our health message and medical missionary work?
-
-
-

Note: “The way in which Christ worked was to preach the Word, and to relieve suffering by miraculous works of healing. But I am instructed that we cannot now work in this way, for Satan will exercise his power by working miracles. God’s servants today could not work by means of miracles, because spurious works of healing, claiming to be divine, will be wrought.

“For this reason, the Lord has marked out a way in which His people are to carry forward a work of physical healing, combined with the teaching of the word. Sanitariums are to be established, and with these institutions are to be connected workers who will carry forward genuine medical missionary work. Thus, a guarding influence is thrown around those who come to the sanitariums for treatment.” *Selected Messages*, Book 2, 54

Wednesday

4 “BY THEIR FRUITS”

- 4.a. Why will God’s remnant people not be deceived by modern revivals and spurious miracles?
1 Corinthians 12:10; Ephesians 1:17, 18
-
-
-

Note: “In many of the revivals which have occurred during the last half century, the same influences have been at work, to a greater or less degree, that will be manifest in the more extensive movements of the future. There is an emotional excitement, a mingling of the true with the false, that is well adapted to mislead. Yet none need be deceived. In the light of God’s word, it is not difficult to determine the nature of these movements. Wherever men neglect the testimony of the Bible, turning away from those plain, soul-testing truths which require self-denial and renunciation of the world, there we may be sure that God’s blessing is not bestowed.” *The Great Controversy*, 464

- 4.b. While we should avoid a judgmental spirit (Matthew 7:1, 2), what enables us to face Satan’s subtleties? Matthew 24:4; 1 John 2:3–5
-
-
-



Note: “In these days of delusion, everyone who is established in the truth will have to contend for the faith once delivered to the saints. Every variety of error will be brought out in the mysterious working of Satan, which would, if it were possible, deceive the very elect, and turn them from the truth. There will be human wisdom to meet—the wisdom of learned men, who, as were the Pharisees, are teachers of the law of God, but do not obey the law themselves. There will be human ignorance and folly to meet in disconnected theories arrayed in new and fantastic dress—theories that it will be all the more difficult to meet because there is no reason in them.

“There will be false dreams and false visions, which have some truth, but lead away from the original faith. The Lord has given men a rule by which to detect them: ‘To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.’ (Isaiah 8:20) If they belittle the law of God, if they pay no heed to His will as revealed in the testimonies of His Spirit, they are deceivers. They are controlled by impulse and impressions, which they believe to be from the Holy Spirit, and consider more reliable than the Inspired Word. They claim that every thought and feeling is an impression of the Spirit; and when they are reasoned with out of the Scriptures, they declare that they have something more reliable. But while they think that they are led by the Spirit of God, they are in reality following an imagination wrought upon by Satan.” *Selected Messages*, Book 2, 98, 99

Thursday

5 THE GREATEST COUNTERFEIT

5.a. What will be the climax in Satan’s deceptions?
Matthew 24:23

Note: “The conflict is not yet ended; and as we draw near the close of time, the battle waxes more intense. As the second appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ draws near, satanic agencies are moved from beneath. Satan will not only appear as a

human being, but he will personate Jesus Christ; and the world that has rejected the truth will receive him as the Lord of lords and King of kings. He will exercise his power, and work upon the human imagination.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 5, 1105, 1106

5.b. In the final crisis, on what basis must we test every miracle, every claim, and every doctrine?
James 1:22–25; Isaiah 8:20

Note: “At every revival of God’s work the prince of evil is aroused to more intense activity; he is now putting forth his utmost efforts for a final struggle against Christ and His followers. The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested.” *The Great Controversy*, 593

Friday

REVIEW AND THOUGHT QUESTIONS

1. Why are we called to be on guard in these last days?
2. Explain the dangers of spiritistic and “New Age” health practitioners.
3. Describe the strategy which the enemy of souls is soon to unleash.
4. How can we discern between the miracles of God and those of Satan?
5. What is our only safeguard against Satan’s greatest delusion?

August 16 – 22, 2026

Preparing for the Crisis

Key Text

“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”
Ephesians 6:13

Study Help: *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, 199–202; *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 516–520

Introduction

“Search the Scriptures for yourselves, that you may understand the fearful solemnity of the present hour.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, 216

Sunday

1 OUR GREATEST CONCERN

- 1.a. What should be our greatest concern while the door of probation is still open? Acts 16:30; Matthew 16:26 (compare Revelation 7:13–17).

Note: “Are our people reviewing the past and the present and the future, as it is unfolding before the world? Are they heeding the messages of warning given them? Is it our greatest concern today that our lives shall be refined and purified, and that we shall reflect the similitude of the divine? This must be the experience of all who join that company who are washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 56

- 1.b. What is the secret to gaining spiritual victory?
Hebrews 12:2

Note: “Many make a serious mistake in their religious life by keeping the attention fixed upon their feelings and thus judging of their advancement or decline. Feelings are not a safe criterion. We are not to look within for evidence of our acceptance with God. We shall find there nothing but that which will discourage us. Our only hope is in ‘looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith.’ There is everything in Him to inspire with hope, with faith, and with courage. He is our righteousness, our consolation and rejoicing.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, 199, 200

“We must look to Christ for strength and grace, and we shall gain the victory as surely as Jesus died for us.” *The Sanctified Life*, 93

Monday

2 THE NEEDED ASSURANCE

- 2.a. What assurance should we seek every morning?
Exodus 33:14, 15

Note: “Morning by morning, as the heralds of the gospel kneel before the Lord and renew their vows of consecration to Him, He will grant them the presence of His Spirit, with its reviving, sanctifying power. As they go forth to the day’s duties, they have the assurance that the unseen agency of the Holy Spirit enables them to be ‘laborers together with God.’” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 56

- 2.b. How can we obtain this assurance? Luke 18:7, 8.
Under what conditions are we in danger of forfeiting God’s presence?

Note: “It is not necessary for us deliberately to choose the service of the kingdom of darkness in order to come under its dominion. We have only to neglect to ally ourselves with the kingdom of light. If we do not cooperate with the heavenly agencies, Satan will take possession of the heart, and will make it his abiding place. The only defense against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness.

Unless we become vitally connected with God, we can never resist the unhallowed effects of self-love, self-indulgence, and temptation to sin. We may leave off many bad habits, for the time we may part company with Satan; but without a vital connection with God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment by moment, we shall be overcome. Without a personal acquaintance with Christ, and a continual communion, we are at the mercy of the enemy, and shall do his bidding in the end.” *The Desire of Ages*, 324

“It is now that we are to learn [the] lesson of prevailing prayer, of unyielding faith. The greatest victories to the church of Christ or to the individual Christian are not those that are gained by talent or education, by wealth or the favor of men. They are those victories that are gained in the audience chamber with God, when earnest, agonizing faith lays hold upon the mighty arm of power.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 203

Tuesday

3 HOW WE ARE ENABLED TO STAND

- 3.a. What would we see and do without delay if our eyes could be opened? Ephesians 6:12–18. Who only will be able to stand in the last great conflict?

Note: “If our eyes could be opened to see the good and evil agencies at work, there would be no trifling, no vanity, no jesting or joking. If all would put on the whole armor of God and fight manfully the battles of the Lord, victories would be gained that would cause the kingdom of darkness to tremble.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, 41

“None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict.” *The Great Controversy*, 593, 594

- 3.b. As we bear the whole armor of God, what position and action will make us victorious in the spiritual battle? James 4:7, 8



Search
the Scriptures
for yourselves, that
you may understand
the fearful solemnity
of the present
hour.

Note: “The soul that loves God, loves to draw strength from Him by constant communion with Him. When it becomes the habit of the soul to converse with God, the power of the evil one is broken; for Satan cannot abide near the soul that draws nigh unto God.

“‘Draw nigh to God.’ What is the result of this? We cannot draw nigh to God and behold His loveliness and compassion without realizing our defects and being filled with a desire to rise higher. ‘And He will draw nigh to you.’ The Lord will draw nigh to him who confesses to his brethren the wrongs he has done them, and then comes to God in humility and contrition.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 937

“The forces of the enemy of all righteousness are strongly entrenched; only by the power of God can the victory be gained. The conflict before us calls for the exercise of a spirit of self-denial, for distrust of self and for dependence on God alone, for the wise use of every opportunity for the saving of souls. The Lord’s blessing will attend His church as they advance unitedly, revealing to a world lying in the darkness of error the beauty of holiness as manifested in a Christlike spirit of self-sacrifice, in an exaltation of the divine rather than the human, and in loving and untiring service for those so much in need of the blessings of the gospel.” *Prophets and Kings*, 74

Wednesday

4 SALVATION, A JOINT OPERATION

- 4.a. In cooperation with divine strength, what is absolutely necessary if we would be victors? Philippians 2:12, 13; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 John 3:3

Note: “No one of us will gain the victory without persevering, untiring effort, proportionate to the value of the object which we seek, even eternal life.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 511

“God cannot save man against his will from the power of Satan’s artifices. Man must work with his human power, aided by the divine power of Christ, to resist and to conquer at any cost to himself. In short, man must overcome as Christ overcame. And then, through the victory that it is his privilege to gain by the all-powerful name of Jesus, he may become an heir of God and joint heir with Jesus Christ. This could not be the case if Christ alone did all the overcoming. Man must do *his* part; he must be victor on his own account, through the strength and grace that Christ gives him. Man must be a coworker with Christ in the labor of overcoming, and then he will be partaker with Christ of His glory.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, 33 [Author’s italics.]

4.b. How does the apostle Paul describe his efforts in the interest of his own salvation? 1 Corinthians 9:25–27; 15:31, *last part*; 2 Timothy 4:7, 8

Note: “Paul attained to the full moral stature of a man in Christ Jesus. By what a process was his soul developed! His life was a continual scene of hardship, conflict, and toil.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 903

Thursday

5 VICTORY WITHIN OUR REACH

5.a. How does the apostle summarize the essentials of a victorious Christian life? Colossians 1:23, 27; Galatians 2:20; Titus 2:11–14. Why must we examine ourselves daily? 2 Corinthians 13:5

Note: “Who is it that is ruling the world today, and who is it that have chosen to stand under the banner of the prince of darkness? Why, it is nearly the whole world at large. All the world that have not accepted Jesus Christ have chosen for their leader the prince of darkness; and just as soon as they stand under his banner, they have connection with evil angels. Either the evil angels or the angels of God are controlling the minds of men. Our minds are given to the control of God, or to the control of the powers of darkness; and it will be well for us to inquire where we are standing today—whether under the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel, or under the black banner of the powers of darkness.

“We must make every preparation in our power in order to resist the enemy of souls. Every provision has been made; everything in God’s plan has been arranged so that man should not be left to his own impulses, to his own finite powers, to carry on the warfare against the powers of darkness in his own finite strength; because he would certainly fail if he were thus left to himself.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 6, 1120

5.b. What work is to be done by the Holy Spirit, through us, in behalf of the world? John 16:8

Note: “The Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to exalt the Lord alone, and guided the pens of the sacred historians, that the record of the words and works of Christ might be given to the world. Today this Spirit is constantly at work, seeking to draw the attention of men to the great sacrifice made upon the cross of Calvary, to unfold to the world the love of God to man, and to open to the convicted soul the promises of the Scriptures.” *Gospel Workers*, 286

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is our greatest need today and how can it be fulfilled?
2. Why is an active prayer life essential?
3. How are we to draw nigh unto God—and what will be the results?
4. What should we learn from the daily life of the apostle Paul?
5. How only can the world be warned today?

August 23 – 29, 2026

The Former Rain and the Latter Rain

Key Verse

“Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain to the earth.” Hosea 6:3

Study Help: *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, 19–23; *The Acts of the Apostles*, 47–56

Introduction

“The latter rain, ripening earth’s harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 506

Sunday

1 THE PROMISE

- 1.a. What promise did Christ give to the disciples immediately before His ascension? Acts 1:4, 5, 8. Describe their spiritual condition when this promise was fulfilled. Acts 2:1

Note: “Christ’s visible presence was about to be withdrawn from the disciples, but a new endowment of power was to be theirs. The Holy Spirit was to be given them in its fullness, sealing them for their work.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 30

“Notice that it was after the disciples had come into perfect unity, when they were no longer striving for the highest place, that the Spirit was poured out. They were of one accord. All differences had been put away. And the testimony borne of them after the Spirit had been given is the same. Mark the word: ‘The multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul.’ Acts 4:32. The Spirit of Him who died that sinners might live animated the entire congregation of believers.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, 20, 21

- 1.b. Why was a special endowment of the Holy Spirit indispensable in those days? Acts 2:38–40, 43

Note: “The Saviour knew that no argument, however logical, would melt hard hearts or break through the crust of worldliness and selfishness. He knew that His disciples must receive the heavenly endowment; that the gospel would be effective only as it was proclaimed by hearts made warm and lips made eloquent by a living knowledge of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. The work committed to the disciples would require great efficiency; for the tide of evil ran deep and strong against them. A vigilant, determined leader was in command of the forces of darkness, and the followers of Christ could battle for the right only through the help that God, by His Spirit, would give them.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 31

“God does not ask us to do in our own strength the work before us. He has provided divine assistance for all the emergencies to which our human resources are unequal. He gives the Holy Spirit to help in every strait, to strengthen our hope and assurance, to illuminate our minds and purify our hearts.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, 19

Monday

2 THE “FORMER RAIN”

- 2.a. How does Scripture describe the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the early disciples? What specific gift is often misunderstood today? Acts 2:1–18

Note: “During the dispersion the Jews had been scattered to almost every part of the inhabited world, and in their exile, they had learned to speak various languages. Many of these Jews were on this occasion in Jerusalem, attending the religious festivals then in progress. Every known tongue was represented by those assembled. This diversity of languages would have been a great hindrance to the proclamation of the gospel; God therefore in a miraculous manner supplied the deficiency of the apostles. The Holy Spirit did for them that which they could not have accomplished for themselves in a lifetime. They could

now proclaim the truths of the gospel abroad, speaking with accuracy the languages of those for whom they were laboring. This miraculous gift was a strong evidence to the world that their commission bore the signet of Heaven. From this time forth the language of the disciples was pure, simple, and accurate, whether they spoke in their native tongue or in a foreign language.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 39, 40

- 2.b. What resulted from the remarkable manifestation of God’s power under the former rain? Acts 2:41, 46, 47. How can this relate to us?

Note: “The disciples did not ask for a blessing for themselves. They were weighted with the burden of souls. The gospel was to be carried to the ends of the earth, and they claimed the endowment of power that Christ had promised. Then it was that the Holy Spirit was poured out, and thousands were converted in a day.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, 21

“To us today, as verily as to the first disciples, the promise of the Spirit belongs. God will today endow men and women with power from above, as He endowed those who on the Day of Pentecost heard the word of salvation. At this very hour His Spirit and His grace are for all who need them and will take Him at His word.” *Ibid.*, 20

Tuesday

3 THE “LATTER RAIN”

- 3.a. How is the prophecy of Joel to have a second application in our days? Joel 2:23, 28, 29

Note: “As the ‘former rain’ was given, in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the opening of the gospel, to cause the upspringing of the precious seed, so the ‘latter rain’ will be given at its close for the ripening of the harvest. ...

“The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in

the latter rain at its close. Here are ‘the times of refreshing’ to which the apostle Peter looked forward. ...

“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. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers.” *The Great Controversy*, 611, 612

- 3.b. On what condition is the Lord willing to bestow His Spirit upon us in fullness? Zechariah 10:1; Acts 1:14

Note: “Let Christians put away all dissension and give themselves to God for the saving of the lost. Let them ask in faith for the promised blessing, and it will come.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, 21

Wednesday

4 A SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION

- 4.a. How did God illustrate the Holy Spirit’s role in the revival of the house of Israel? Ezekiel 37:1–5, 9–12, 21, 22. What application does the parable of Ezekiel 37 have for our days? Hosea 6:1–3; Ezekiel 36:25–28

Note: “Not only does this simile of the dry bones apply to the world, but also to those who have been blessed with great light; for they also are like the skeletons of the valley. They have the form of men, the framework of the body; but they have not spiritual life. But the parable does not leave the dry bones merely knit together into the forms of men; for it is not enough that there is symmetry of limb and feature. The breath of life must vivify the bodies, that they may stand upright, and spring into activity. These bones represent the house of Israel, the church of God, and the hope of the church is the vivifying influence of the Holy Spirit. The Lord must breathe upon the dry bones, that they may live.” *Seventh day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 4, 1165, 1166



Thursday

5 THE MOVEMENT OF REVELATION

- 5.a. How will the power of God be manifested through the movement symbolized by the angel of Revelation 18:1—in the final stage of his work—when he shall be giving the last warning of the third angel’s message? Revelation 18:1

Note: “The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of world-wide extent and unwonted power is here brought to view. The Advent movement of 1840–44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God; the first message was carried to every missionary station in the world, and in this country, there was the greatest religious interest which has been witnessed in any land since the Reformation of the sixteenth century; but these are to be far exceeded by the mighty movement under the loud cry of the third message.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 4, 429

- 5.b. What constitutes the last warning and how is it to be accomplished? Revelation 18:4

Note: “God still has a people in Babylon; and before the visitation of His judgments these faithful ones must be called out, that they partake not of her sins and ‘receive not of her plagues.’ Hence the movement symbolized by the angel coming down from heaven, lightening the earth with his glory and crying mightily with a strong voice, announcing the sins of Babylon. In connection with his message the call is heard: ‘Come out of her, My people.’ These announcements, uniting with the third angel’s message, constitute the final warning to be given to the inhabitants of the earth.” *The Great Controversy*, 604

“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.” *Ibid.*, 612

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What are the reasons and conditions for the Holy Spirit to be sent in fullness?
2. What is the gift of tongues, and why was it bestowed?
3. How is the latter rain prophesied and described?
4. How does the vision of Ezekiel 37 relate to us?
5. Why is the work of the angel of Revelation 18 so important?

©1998, Reformation Herald Publishing Association, 5240 Hollins Road, Roanoke, Virginia 24019-5048, U.S.A.

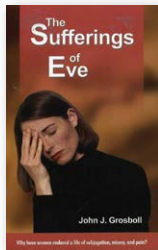
For an informed journey...

Information, assistance, and encouragement



Over the course of his many years in the Lord's service, Pastor Grosboll has recognized specific needs among God's people in several areas. As a result, he has made available counsel on these particular areas for those seeking to walk the narrow way. He has either written or compiled, from inspired writings, books dealing with spiritual growth, understanding prophecy, and financial management.

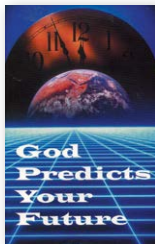
To aid God's people in their spiritual growth, four books are available:



THE SUFFERINGS OF EVE

Divided into 50 short chapters, this book explains the consequences of Eve's transgression and the ultimate return of Eve and her "daughters" to paradise, when the whole universe will be cleansed. Noting that a woman in the Bible is a symbol for a church, Pastor Grosboll traces the effects of Eve's fall and its effect on the church through the ages.

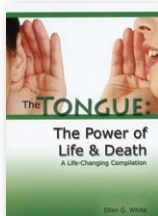
PB 120 pages \$3.99



GOD PREDICTS YOUR FUTURE

In this book, Pastor Grosboll provides a clear understanding of the prophecies of Daniel and aids in understanding Bible prophecy. It contains a thorough explanation of the prophecies of Daniel 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12.

PB 289 pages \$5.95



THE TONGUE: THE POWER OF LIFE & DEATH

In this compilation from the writings of Sister White, Pastor Grosboll shows the evils of backbiting, gossip, evil surmising, and other spoken transgressions. There is also an enlightening chapter on confession.

PB 124 pages \$9.95



MONEY MANAGEMENT FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Containing valuable information regarding how to gain control over your personal finances, this book is greatly needed today.

PB 92 pages \$7.95

PB: Paperback

To order, call:

1-316-788-5559

Shipping and handling will be added to all orders.

Sales ends September 30, 2026

Pine Nuts

Pine nuts are not nuts, but the edible seeds of the pine family known as *Pinaceae*. Pine nuts form within the scales of a pine cone. Each cone contains one or two nuts tucked under each of the cones' spiny, hard-shelled scales. They possess a thin, hard, multi-colored, seamless shell, with amber and chocolate hues, which, when peeled away, exposes the ivory-toned "nut."

Pine nuts, typically about the size of a black-eyed pea, have a smooth surface and exhibit a firm but slightly-soft, almost rubbery texture. They have a mild, sweet, and nutty aroma with a hint of resinous pine, especially when fresh. They emit a warm, toasted, rich, but-

tery fragrance when roasted. Their taste is sweet and complex, with hazelnut, maple, and fig notes. When roasted, pine nuts unveil a soft, buttery taste comparable to cashews and macadamia nuts.

Pine nuts offer notable health benefits, such as boosting energy with their protein, iron, and magnesium content. They may also stabilize blood sugar and aid diabetes management by balancing fats and fiber, promoting heart health. Additionally, high in vitamins K and E, pine nuts are beneficial for bone strength, skin health, and immune function. In traditional Chinese medicine, pine nuts are used to alleviate coughs and respiratory ailments by eliminating phlegm.

Sources: foodprint.org/realfood/pine-nuts; specialtyproduce.com/produce/Foraged_Pine_Nuts_9429

Did You Know?

- Native Americans in the Southwest have revered the pinyon or piñon tree, a pine-nut-bearing variety of pine, and its sacred ability to sustain the population of indigenous peoples for thousands of years.
- The pinyon jay is a bird that collects and stores up to 30,000 pine nuts for its winter eating.
- Mongolians eat toasted, unshelled pine nuts like peanuts, cracking them open with their teeth and snacking through bags at a time.
- Native Americans store the nuts by roasting them and burying them to preserve them.
- The Navajo also crack open pine nuts using their teeth.

Fruit

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



MOCK HALIBUT SALAD

Ingredients

1 cup shelled pine nuts, soaked in water 4–6 hours
1 cup macadamia nuts, soaked in water 4–6 hours
1 cup yellow onion, chopped
1/2 cup purple onion, chopped
1 cup celery, chopped
1/2 cup fresh parsley, chopped
2 Tbs. dulse flakes (edible seaweed)
Sea salt, to taste

Process

Drain the soaked nuts and place in a food processor. Process until nuts become pasty. Empty into another dish. Cut the vegetables into workable pieces, add the dulse flakes and salt, and process until the vegetable pieces are small. Mix the processed vegetables with the nut mixture by hand and chill for an hour. Wrap in lettuce or collard leaves.





PO Box 782828
Wichita, KS 67278

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wichita, Kansas
Permit # 1590

Electronic Service Requested

Pine nuts are rich in:

- *Magnesium*
- *Iron*
- *Antioxidants*
- *Zinc*
- *Protein*

Pine nuts help in management of:

- *Diabetes*
- *Heart health*
- *Brain health*

[www.webmd.com/diet/
health-benefits-pine-nuts](http://www.webmd.com/diet/health-benefits-pine-nuts)

