

HISTORIC LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

Heavenward

p. 2

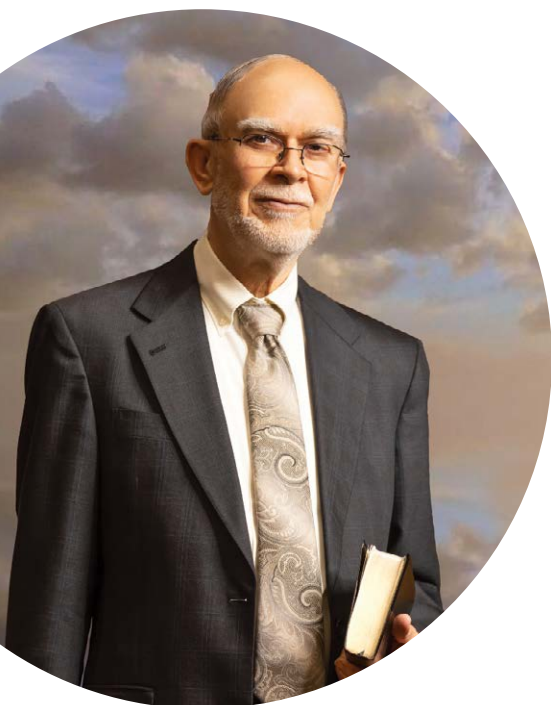
On the Road

An interview with Laura Williams. Called by God to share the vocal talent, she shares how she is working with one of God's lost sheep.

p. 5

The Love of God Is

p. 9



From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

The Night Is Coming

"The Lord is soon to come. We must work while the day lasts; for the night is coming, in which no man can work." John 9:4

"If we had more of the simplicity of godliness, we should see very many more souls converted to the truth. In this day of preparation, we cannot afford to be idle. The Scriptures have pointed out what is to take place in our world. The night is soon coming in which no man can work. Let us take hold in earnest, to make the necessary reformations, that we may be prepared for what is before us." *The Review and Herald*, December 16, 1909

"To the indolent, those who are doing nothing for God, comes the inquiry: Why stand ye here all the day idle? Is there nothing to be done in My vineyard? Are there no souls for you to help? Have you forgotten that the judgment is coming? Work while it is called today; the night cometh, in which no man can work." *The Youth's Instructor*, June 12, 1902

"We are to be diligent workers. An idle man is one of the most miserable of God's creatures. And to be idle in the great work which Christ gave His life to accomplish, is the worst kind of idleness. Our spiritual faculties will die without exercise." *Special Testimony for Our Min-*

isters, 34 – *An Appeal to Our Ministers and Conference Committees* (1892)

"Many who set out well in the Christian life are losing spiritual strength, and placing themselves in the enemy's power By their irreligious course they bar the way of souls that might have come to Christ. Let these careless triflers remember that every word and act is photographed in the books of heaven. No human hand can erase one disgraceful blot." *Our High Calling*, 305

"As we are daily brought in contact with those who have not a knowledge of Christ and the truth, shall we talk only of our farms, our merchandise, our gains and losses; or shall we speak of those things which concern our future life? Shall we seek to win souls to Jesus? Oh, what shameful neglect of duty stands registered against the professed followers of Christ! Let us earnestly examine ourselves by the light of God's word, seeking to discover every defect of character, that we may wash our robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb." Ibid.

"The world needs missionaries, consecrated home missionaries, and no one will be registered in the books of heaven as a Christian, who has not a missionary spirit." *The Review and Herald*, August 23, 1892 **LM**

HISTORIC

LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

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



In this Issue



Heavenward

We must set our minds on Jesus and the wonderful blessings, both in this life and the life to come, that He has for us, including the ability to live like Him in this world of sin.

John R. Pearson



On the Road

An interview with Laura Williams. Called by God to share her vocal talent, Laura talks about how the Lord has given her and her husband the privilege of working directly with one of His lost sheep.

Judy Rebarchek



The Love of God Is

A fireman runs into a fire to save a soul from certain death without thought of the cost to himself. Jesus did the same for us.

Judy Rebarchek



Glance at the Past

God is working to separate a people from the world, to purify, and make them ready for the coming of our Lord.

James White

More in this Issue

12 Health Nugget

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

14 Pen of Inspiration

Faith and Prayer

18 Bible Puzzle

That Other Angel

20 Story Time

The Little Printer Missionary

21 Keys to the Storehouse

Get Back Up

23 Nature

The Canada Goose

24 From the Mission Fields

Prison Officials Thank Our Missionaries

26 Incarnation of Christ Series

Reasons for the Incarnation

36 Bible Study Guide

That Other Angel

49 Recipe

Quinoa



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



Heavenward

John R. Pearson

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

Colossians 3:1, 2

This scripture has recently become one of my favorite go-to texts during the course of a typical day's activities.

This habit began one day when I was driving along and got cut off by a careless and unobservant driver. The first thought of my natural heart was not a kind one, to say the least. But then out of the blue, the thought came to me, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

Suddenly it became crystal clear to me what Paul meant when he wrote this in his letter to the Colossians, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

We can't know for sure exactly what issues the Colossians were dealing with, but it seems apparent that they were more concerned with temporal earthly matters than with eternal realities.

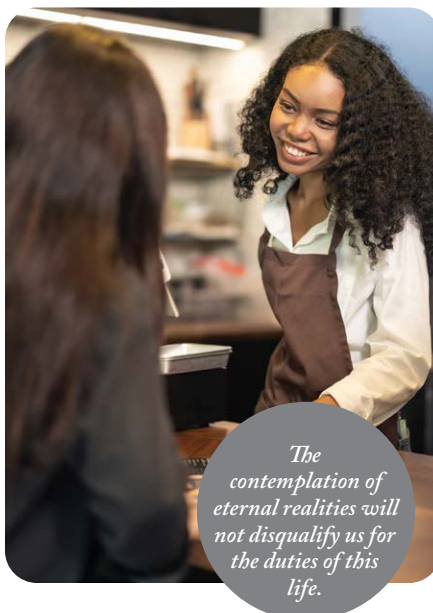


As I have continued to rely on this text when facing life's daily challenges, I have found that it applies in a wide variety of situations—not only when faced with a particularly vexing momentary situation, but also when dealing with longer-term, more permanent issues. Our concern should be about overcoming our many character flaws, rather than what is happening in the world around us.

Another situation in which Paul's wise counsel applies is addressed in this passage from Sister White:

"We may have high anticipations in regard to the things of this life, [that is, things on this earth] but we shall meet with disappointment. We shall find that they fade away. But here [referring to Colossians 3:1, 2] is 'an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you' (1 Peter 1:4). We want our thoughts to be fixed on the things that will abide [in other words, eternal realities], not upon those that pass away [or earthly things with the using]. ...

"When Christ came into this world, He saw that men had left the future, eternal life out of their reckoning. [In other words, they were not thinking about "things above."] He came to present that life [eternal realities] before us, that by beholding it we might be led to change our relation to the things of this life, that our affections might be placed upon the things above, and not upon the things of the earth, so soon to pass away. The shadow that Satan has caused to intervene between our souls and God Christ seeks to roll back, [so] that the view of God and eternity may become clear. While He does not despise this world, He places it in its proper position of subordination. And then He places the things of eternity in their relative importance before us, that we may fix the eye of faith upon the unseen [or eternal realities]. [Although] the things of temporal interest have power to engross the thoughts and affections, it is



important that we should be constantly educating and training our minds to dwell upon things of eternal interest. Will this make us unhappy? Will it cause us to have a hard time here [on the earth]? No, indeed. ... The more of the Spirit of God, the more of His grace, [that] is brought into our daily experience, the less friction there will be, the more happiness we shall have, and the more we shall impart to others.

"God does not design that eternity shall overwhelm us and unfit us for the duties of this life, and it will never do this if we accustom our minds to dwell upon the themes of eternity and mingle them with our life duties. The contemplation of eternal realities will not disqualify us for the duties of this life. All the useful pursuits and activities of life are to stand revealed to us as encircled with the hallowed rainbow of promise." *In Heavenly Places*, 307

So, as I learn to be more heavenly minded and less earthly minded, I find that it becomes easier to overlook or bypass situations that might have previously caused me to react harshly or become agitated or angry.

As I try to inculcate this philosophy, this life view, into my daily walk, I see more and more instances in which I

need to keep my thoughts heavenward and not earthward. For example, I have realized more clearly that I tend to become agitated when others don't comprehend a particular situation the way that I do. This agitation sometimes degrades into visible emotional discordance, or as Webster puts it, "a state of disagreement, conflict, or lack of harmony between people, ideas, or things."

When a situation like this occurs, I find that if I consciously and deliberately make myself shift my perspective from the momentary circumstance to a consideration of heavenly things, such as Christ's intercession in heaven on my behalf, or the amazing opportunities for spiritual growth and the infinite learning opportunities that the saints will experience in heaven, I can more effectively identify the beam in my own eye rather than the mote in someone else's. Being more deliberately mindful of a heavenly perspective can result in a very positive degree of success over life's daily challenges.

"The grand judgment is taking place, and has been going on for some time. Now the Lord says, Measure the temple and the worshipers thereof. Remember when you are walking the streets about your business, God is measuring you; when you are attending your household duties, when you engage in conversation, God is measuring you." *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 972

With this perspective and realization in mind, it is easy to understand the importance of keeping our thoughts and actions focused on eternal consequences and not on momentary and soon-passing circumstances.

The following passage provides excellent counsel on this issue.

"Our minds take the level of the things on which our thoughts dwell, and if we think upon earthly things, we shall fail to take the impress of that which is heavenly. We would be greatly benefited by contemplating the mercy, goodness, and love of God; but we sustain great

loss by dwelling upon those things which are earthly and temporal. We allow sorrow and care and perplexity to attract our minds to earth, and we magnify a molehill into a mountain. ...

“Temporal things are not to engage our whole attention, or engross our minds until our thoughts are entirely of the earth and the earthly. We are to train, discipline, and educate the mind so that we may think in a heavenly channel, that we may dwell on things unseen and eternal, which will be discerned by spiritual vision. It is by seeing Him who is invisible that we may obtain strength of mind and vigor of spirit.” *The Signs of the Times*, January 9, 1893

Adhering to this counsel—keeping in mind that our thoughts should not be constantly engaged on temporal things, things that are of the earth and the earthly—will enable us to use the daily strength that is promised us to overcome the efforts of the enemy to turn our thoughts earthward by unpleasant or unsettling intrusions that so often occur in our daily activities.

So, what are some of the typical opportunities that life gives me to turn my thoughts heavenward? These are some of the times, which are probably familiar to many.

It has been a somewhat surprising and enlightening experience for me to discover how often life gives me the opportunity and challenge to turn my thoughts heavenward when going about my daily activities. This has been especially true since my initial realization of what I believe Paul was encouraging the Colossians to be mindful of. And since we know that the Bible is the inspired word of God, we can be assured that this counsel is also intended—and indeed helpful—for all who are seeking to reside in the mansions Christ is preparing for His people—one of the many “things above,” by the way, that we should be mindful of.

Dealing with the frustrations of obtaining technical support as you “press one for English,” or trying to get an AI bot to under-

stand why you are calling are prime times to remember heavenly things. Remaining calm when you finally work your way through the number-pressing game and reach a human—if you ever do—is another opportunity to set your mind on things above.

An opportunity that I experience more often than I like occurs when checking out at the grocery store. It amazes me that people don’t prepare to pay for their purchases while they are being tallied by the clerk. Why do they wait until the clerk gives them the total before they search for their cash or credit card? When they begin the checkout process, they certainly know they are going to have to pay. I have finally learned each time this happens to think to myself, “Set my mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

When I consciously make myself do this, I am reminded of another piece of counsel Paul wrote to the Philippians:

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6, 7

I like to paraphrase these texts to more neatly fit my mindset this way:

Don’t worry about anything. Be thankful and prayerful regardless of the situation and the incomprehensible peace of God will guard me against Satan’s efforts to unsettle me.

When I turn my thoughts heavenward in a situation that might otherwise be exasperating, that peace which surpasses all understanding becomes a safe haven against the enemy’s efforts to instill un-Christlike thoughts and feelings in me and I am comforted in the knowledge that God’s promise to give me strength for the day is a reality—strength and presence of mind to set my mind on things above and not on things on the earth.

May it be so with each of us when we are faced with life’s daily challenges. **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.

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Our concern should be about overcoming our many character flaws, rather than what is happening in the world around us.





Interview

— with —

Laura Williams

On the Road

Judy Rebarchek

We were very blessed this last May to have Laura Williams and her team provide the music for our 2026 camp meeting. I thought it would be interesting to share a little more about Laura—how the Lord led her into music ministry, some of her most notable experiences on the road, and what the future holds for her and Ernie, as well as Fabian, the newest member of their team, who has quite an amazing story of transformation to tell.

“
Being on the road
is an adventure—fun,
exciting, exhausting,
challenging, fulfilling,
faith building, character
building, and very
unpredictable.”

Q: So, Laura, thank you so much for being a part of our camp meeting again this year. Tell me, how and when did you know that this was the ministry God intended for you?

Laura: From the time I was about 14, I knew I wanted to be a singer. Even before attending Fountainview Academy in 2007, I was already recording albums and singing for events here and there. I was not sure if this was something I would continue doing, but before I graduated I was approached about singing for an evangelistic series immediately after graduating. And now, almost 15 years later, I still haven't stopped. God really made all the pieces fall together for me to do this kind of work. My mom is a pianist who was able to help me create accompaniments. Eventually, I married Ernie, an audio engineer, and there just always seemed to be clear leading to continue in music ministry.

Q: What's it like being “on the road” for ten months out of the year?

Laura: It is an adventure—fun, exciting, exhausting, challenging, fulfilling, faith building, character building, and very unpredictable. As the years have gone by, we have learned ways to lessen factors that create more exhaustion on the road. We are now much better at pacing ourselves. Being on the road so long is a continuous lesson in trusting God with everything and we find each experience makes every challenge worthwhile.

Q: During your years of touring, do you have one experience that overwhelmingly showed you how God was using your voice to reach others?

Laura: During my junior year at Fountainview Academy, I was given a solo to open the program of the Academy's upcoming concert tour. Until this time, I did not think much about relying on God while singing. On opening night of the tour, ten minutes before

starting, I was so excited and feeling very confident that I knew what I was doing. Suddenly, my voice completely disappeared. I could not talk or sing. This had never happened before. I panicked and tried to get someone to fill in for me, but no one was ready. Before I knew it, I was standing on the stage and the orchestra was playing the intro to my song. I thought I would pass out on the spot. The thought came to my mind to pray for help. I did and immediately, as I opened my mouth, my voice came back. The next night, the same thing happened and it continued to happen every night for the next 2½ weeks.

Each night, I began to understand a little more what was happening and God began to impress my mind with a lesson I have never forgotten—my voice and ability to sing come from God and I was learning how to rely on Him more and more.

Q: You brought a new member of your ministry team to camp meeting, Fabian Garcia. I know his story takes a little time to tell and our readers can find his story in fuller detail on your website, but please give us a thumbnail version of how you met Fabian and about the miraculous transformation God has made in his life so far.

Laura: I met Fabian in 2018 while he was working in a San Bernardino hair salon as a master stylist. A friend recommended I see him for a much-needed haircut. But, he warned me not to mention to Fabian that I am a Christian because Fabian absolutely hated Christians.

Fabian grew up in a church that told him God is cruel, harsh, and unjust. He was verbally and physically abused as a child for showing signs of homosexuality. He was told that God hated him. You can imagine that as soon as he could, he put as much distance between himself and church as possible.

When I first met Fabian, alcoholism was a central part of his life. That day, after receiving the best haircut of my life and I was about to leave the salon, I clearly heard God speak three things to me. He said, “do not forget Fabian. Start praying for him” and, “it will take a long

time for these prayers to be answered, so do not stop.” For the next seven years, I found myself praying every day for someone who was basically a complete stranger, but from time to time, I would go back for haircuts and slowly we developed a friendship.

When Covid-19 began, the salons shut down and Fabian found himself stuck at home with no work and nothing to do but drink. This became his whole life. Morning, noon and night. By the time Covid-19 ended he could no longer function without alcohol and he was spending almost as much time in the hospital as out. In December of 2024, Ernie and I asked Fabian to consider a detox program to try and break this addiction before it was too late. We had no idea what we would do if he actually agreed, because we had no money to actually pull it off. Well, he agreed.

What followed was a series of miracles where God opened doors that seemed impossible to open. He provided funds for Fabian’s travel and at the close of his three-week detox program, all the funds to pay for it were also provided. At the close of the program, we let him know that three weeks would not be enough to completely break the addiction. If he returned home to his old environment, a relapse was inevitable. And, that is exactly what happened. So, we asked him to join us on tour and travel with us for at least a month. He was hesitant because he wanted nothing to do with Christians and God, but he finally agreed. Our first stop was a three-week evangelistic series with David Machado. As much as he hated it, Fabian had to attend the meetings each night because we could not leave him at home alone with all the liquor stores on every corner. Immediately after this series, we moved on to yet another series a couple of states over. By the time we arrived, Fabian was discouraged by the truth of what it would mean to remain sober. This is when God worked another miracle.



laurawilliamsmusic.com

One week into our second series, God sent a woman named Kelly to the church. Kelly ran a wellness center just 30 minutes away. This center focused specifically on mental health and helping newly-sober people learn the keys to remaining sober and how to function in everyday life. Kelly did not regularly attend this church, but one morning, God told her that she needed to visit this particular church because someone there needed her. Can you guess who? Kelly put Fabian through another two-week program that turned out to be exactly what he needed. He left the center with a renewed determination to do what it would take to remain sober. It was also here that he began to slightly open up to the idea of a loving God. Over the next three months, we traveled all over the United States and did two more evangelistic series. During this time, God worked miracle after miracle in Fabian’s life.

In every place we went, we always met someone who was able to help him reach the next step in his journey. Eventually, he realized that this journey was about much more than just sobriety. It was about physical, mental, emotional, and then spiritual health. God pursued Fabian so persistently, drawing him with patience and lovingkindness. After nine months, he finally let go and gave his heart over to God. Immediately, God

took him through yet another journey. A journey that led to forgiveness, learning to heal, what sexuality means in God’s eyes and that He truly can lift the weight of guilt and give peace. Fabian’s journey is not over and he continues to move forward every day. He joined our team and has been with us for over a year and a half, helping us in this work as well as sharing his testimony everywhere we go. He will soon be returning home to start a new life and reconnect with his family. Please keep him in prayer as he begins another journey, that his faith will continue to grow every day. God truly is a God of miracles!

Q: I also saw in your *Music Ministry on the Road* brochure that Ernie and Fabian conduct weekend seminars – *A New Creation*. Please give us a short description of the purpose of the seminar and what is presented. Feel free to enlist Ernie and/or Fabian for this one.

Laura: We have not yet started presenting this seminar. We are still finishing up the last details of it and hope to begin presenting it on our next tour. We have all learned so much in the past year and a half about addiction, mental health, and the power of God to bring freedom as we have participated in Fabian’s journey. Ernie also has a history of addiction, so, we felt that perhaps we

could take our experiences and the knowledge we have gained and develop a new seminar that hopefully will bring understanding and encouragement to many others who are struggling and for their families, who themselves are struggling as they watch their loved one fight against addiction.

“

The thought came to my mind to pray for help. I did and immediately, as I opened my mouth, my voice came back.

Q: What are your plans for the future? You told me you were working on a new program for your upcoming tour season. Please tell us about that.

Laura: To date, we have recorded 10 albums. It's getting difficult to carry that many albums with us. So, we are working on a "favorites" album which will take the top favorite songs from our four older albums, and create a new album. It's an exciting endeavor because we have the opportunity to completely remake the songs with cinematic scores and orchestra arrangements.

We are also working to produce a two-disc album that tells the story of the great controversy. From the fall of Lucifer to the new earth, we will trace the story of God's plan of redemption through the ages. With song and narration, we will explore the central issues of this controversy and the importance of standing for truth even when the whole world is against it. All this will culminate with the joy that awaits God's faithful people and the glories of the home He is preparing for them! Our goal is to bring the highest quality that we can to every aspect of this project. We will be hiring a professional narrator, choirs, instrumentalists, and a composer/arranger to create cinematic orchestra arrangements and scores for each song as well as scoring for each narration. This album will include over 20 songs.

Please keep these projects in prayer. The Great Controversy album especially we want to release as quickly as possible given the state of things in the world. Pray that we can have the time, energy, and resources to move forward at a steady and quick pace. Thank you!



I want to thank Laura for taking the time for this short interview. As you can tell, she and her team are very involved in the work God has given them. You can find out more about Laura and her ministry, sign up to receive her newsletter, buy CDs and DVDs of her music, book her for your special event, or donate to help support the team as they travel, glorifying God in voice and song, at her website laurawilliamsmusic.com.

"Music is of heavenly origin. There is great power in music. ... It is in music that our praises rise to Him who is the embodiment of purity and harmony. It is with music and songs of victory that the redeemed shall finally enter upon the immortal reward.

"There is something peculiarly sacred in the human voice. Its harmony and its subdued and heaven-inspired pathos exceeds every musical instrument. Vocal music is one of God's gifts to men, an instrument that cannot be surpassed or equaled when God's love abounds in the soul." *Selected Messages*, Book 3, 334, 335

"The human voice that sings the music of God from a heart filled with gratitude and thanksgiving is far more pleasing to Him than the melody of all the musical instruments ever invented by human hands." *Evangelism*, 407 **LM**

Interview was conducted by Judy Rebarcheck, the managing editor of LandMarks magazine. She can be reached at judyrebarcheck@stepstolife.org or by phone at 316-788-5559.

The Love of God Is

Judy Rebarchek

The closest our sin-feeble minds can come to understanding what Jesus did when He voluntarily took our human nature and paid the penalty of sin on our behalf is to look to the fireman. A fireman wakes every morning with the knowledge that there is a real possibility that he might have to sacrifice his life for some soul trapped with no way out. He stands before a raging inferno, he hears the cry for help, and he doesn't wait until the fire has been knocked down and the greater part of the danger has passed. No, he runs into the fire, every portion of his being focused solely on saving a life. This is what Jesus did.

"In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." 1 John 4:9, 10

"Christ came to this world to reveal the Father's love for fallen man. In the heavens above and in the earth beneath, in everything that is beautiful and lovely, in the lofty tree, the opening bud, the blossoming flower, we see an expression of the love of God. There is no measurement by which the love of God can be computed.

"Standing before the cross of Calvary, we can gain some idea of the love of the heavenly Father. Behold Christ, the Son of the infinite God, dying on the cross for sinners. He clothed His divinity with humanity, that human beings might become partakers of the divine nature. In Christ we have a manifestation of the Father."

Manuscript Releases, Vol. 18, 344

“How is it possible to set forth the love of God in giving His only begotten Son to die for sinners? The imagination cannot comprehend it. Men of the brightest intellects cannot, by mere speculative knowledge, form any conception of this love. Without a personal knowledge of God, men of the most brilliant intellects are unable to set forth divine things. They do not look through nature up to nature’s God, and see the expression of His love to man in the flowers of the field, which adorn the world with speaking beauty and loveliness. They know little of the length and breadth, the height and depth, of the love of God as revealed in giving His Son to our world, and they trace the expression of His love in nature with sleepy, benumbed senses. God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has not yet shined into their hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

“God has declared His love; Jesus Christ is the expression of that love. ‘In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.’ O what love, what infinite love! ‘While we were yet sinners,’ the Father pitied and loved us. And yet when we are pressed with trials, how weak is our faith.

“The soul that keeps far off does not have communion with Heaven, though the Holy Spirit is promised to all who ask it. Jesus has brought this precious lesson within the comprehension of all: ‘If ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?’

“The love of God is so deep, so full, that it could only be expressed in giving for our sakes His own beloved Son to poverty, to shame, to humiliation, to mockery, and to death. He was the most

The love of God is

Unselfish
Unchangeable
Softening
Self-sacrificing
Unexplainable
Measureless
Incomputable
Subduing
Fragrant
Healing
Sanctifying
Covering
Transforming
Elevating
Enlivening
Enrapturing
Purifying
Ennobling
Refining
Humbling
Perfect
Diligent
Broad
Deep
Abiding
Flowing
Forgiving
Uplifting
Strengthening

costly and precious offering that could be given to the world, and in Him all heaven was given. ...

“Herein is the mystery of redemption, that the innocent, pure, and holy Son of the infinite God was permitted to bear the punishment of a thankless race of rebels against the divine government; that through the manifestation of His matchless love, these rebels might be inspired with faith in, and love for God, and might stand before Him repentant, forgiven, guiltless, as if they had never sinned. Angels in heaven marveled that the wrath of God should be laid on His well-beloved Son; that a life of infinite value in the

heavenly courts should be given for the worthless life of a race degraded by sin.”
The Bible Echo, November 25, 1895

“‘God is love.’ His matchless love for fallen man, expressed in the gift of His beloved Son ... Christ was the heir of all things, by whom also the worlds were made. He was the brightness of the Father’s glory, and the ‘express image of His person.’ He upheld ‘all things by the word of His power.’ In Himself He possessed divine excellence and greatness; for it pleased the Father that in Him all fullness should dwell. And Christ ‘thought it not robbery to be equal with God.’ Yet He ‘made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.’

“The Son of God volunteered to die in the sinner’s stead, thus making it possible for man, by a life of obedience, to escape the penalty of the divine law, which he had transgressed.” *Bible Echo and Signs of the Times*, January 1, 1887

“In becoming man’s substitute, and bearing the curse which should have fallen upon him, Christ pledged Himself in behalf of the race to maintain the sacred claims and the exalted honor of His Father’s law. The Father has given the world into the hands of His Son, that through His mediatorial work He may completely vindicate the holiness and the binding claims of every precept of the divine law. This is the work of Christ, to convince men of sin, which is the transgression of the law, and through His mediation to bring them back to the path of obedience. ...

“Christ is the center of the great plan of redemption, a plan which is a unit, and covers all dispensations. He is the ‘Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.’ He is the Redeemer of the fallen sons and daughters of Adam in all the ages of human probation. ‘Neither is there salvation in any other; for



there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.' ...

"In order to fully realize the value of redemption, it is necessary to understand what it cost." Ibid.

"God's gift to this earth was beyond all computation; nothing was withheld. The love demonstrated in the life of Christ, from the manger to the cross, the mystery of His divinity veiled in humanity, the bright beams of righteousness manifested to the world in His words and works. ...

"Yield yourself entirely into His keeping; for His love is everlasting and unchangeable." *The Signs of the Times*, November 19, 1896

"The love of God is a golden chain, binding finite human beings to Himself. This love passes our knowledge. Human science cannot explain it. Human wisdom cannot fathom it. ... Tongue cannot utter it; pen cannot portray it. You may meditate upon it every day of your life; you may search the Scriptures diligently in an effort to understand it; you may summon every power and capability that God has given you; and yet there is an infinity beyond. You may study that love for ages, and yet you can never fully comprehend the length and breadth and depth and height of the love of God." Ibid., July 13, 1904

Fredrick Martin Lehman immigrated to America along with his family when he was four years old. They settled in Iowa, where he spent most of his childhood. He gave his heart to Jesus when he was 11.

He studied for the ministry at Northwestern College in Naperville, Illinois, was a pastor at Audubon, Iowa; New London, Indiana; and Kansas City, Missouri. He spent most of his life writing and publishing sacred songs beginning in 1898. He compiled five song books and, in 1911, he moved to Kansas City, Missouri, and helped found the Nazarene Publishing House. This is one of his most well-known hymns.



Frederick Lehman
(1868-1953)

The Love of God

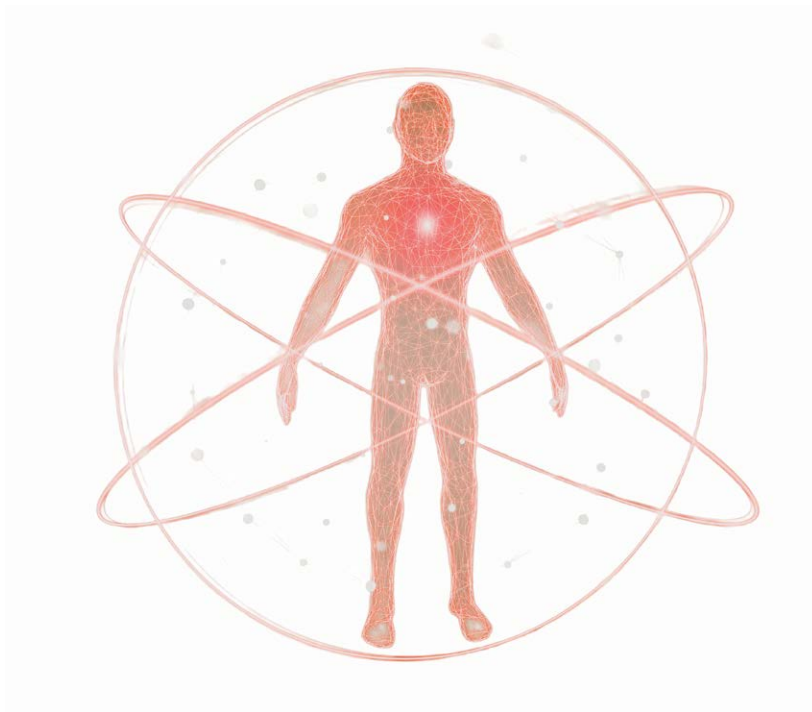
"The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.

"When years of time shall pass away and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
When men who here refuse to pray, on rocks and hills and mountains call,
God's love so pure shall still endure, all measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race—the saints' and angels' song.

"Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment made,
Were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill and ev'ry man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, tho' stretched from sky to sky.

"O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure;
The saints' and angels' song."

hymnary.org/text/the_love_of_god_is_greater_far 



Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Many times, I've wondered how it was that David could exclaim,
"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the
moon and the stars, which You have ordained; What is man, that
You are mindful of him, and the son of man, that You visit him?"

Psalm 8:3, 4

"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.
I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are
Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden
from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest
parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And
in Your book, they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet
there were none of them. How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O
God! How great is the sum of them!" Psalm 139:13-17

And later Solomon wrote,

"A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the
bones." Proverbs 17:22

Ezekiel also said,

“So, I prophesied as I was commanded, and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. Also, He said to me, ‘Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, “Thus says the Lord God: ‘Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.’”’” Ezekiel 37:7–9

In the quest for an elixir of life, we have yet to find any scientific data dating from those ancient times. So how could David, Solomon, and Ezekiel be so humbled by findings we are just now getting to know? I can surely say that the Holy Spirit’s revelation is enough to humble my heart as well.

Body Chemistry

In one of her talk shows, Dr. Tara Swart, a very famous neuroscientist, award-winning author and medical doctor mentioned the following:

“Oxytocins are hormones that play an important role in our bodies, specifically in our behavior. Oxytocins are closely related to our social connection, our feelings of love, reproduction, giving birth, and even postpartum processes are all due to this hormone.”

Eye to Eye

Recent studies show that looking into a person’s left eye with your right eye produces a bonding connection and trust effect, stimulating affection between two people. In this physical and physiological connection, bonding between a mother and her baby begins.

In the Brain

Memory is stored in the cerebral cortex, and our emotions are centered in the limbic system. A connecting brain function between these two areas is revealed when we talk about intuition.



Intuition itself is the ability to understand things instantly, without the need for deeper thinking and reasoning.

But in order to reach this point, we have learned that intuition is the result of learning from life experiences. Everything that takes place in our lives, leave its effect imprinted on the neurons. We could say that intuition is an acquired quality of neurological wisdom thanks to neuronal memory.

These amazing qualities exposed in the brain’s functionality, extend through the nervous system to the neurons present in the digestive organs.

The colloquial expression “I know it in my gut” can be an assertion that truly reveals that intuition is stored even in the neurons of the intestines. For example, all of us know that something very hot doesn’t leave a pleasant impression. We probably learned that as children when we wanted to touch a candle flame or hot stove with our fingers.

Resilience

The ability to overcome critical moments and to adapt after experiencing an unusual and unexpected situation is called resilience. *Resilience* is derived from the Latin verb *resilio*, *resilire*, which means “to jump back, to rebound, a return to normalcy.” It is an aptitude adopted by some individuals who are characterized by their attitude toward overcoming adversity and high stress, in order to envision a better future. Some

synonyms that can be used to describe resilience are strength, invulnerability, and resistance.

Resilience in Psychology

In psychology, resilience is understood as the capacity a person has to cope with their own problems, overcome obstacles, and not succumb to pressure, regardless of the situation. It is the ability of an individual to overcome periods of emotional pain and trauma. It corresponds, approximately, to the term *fortitude*.

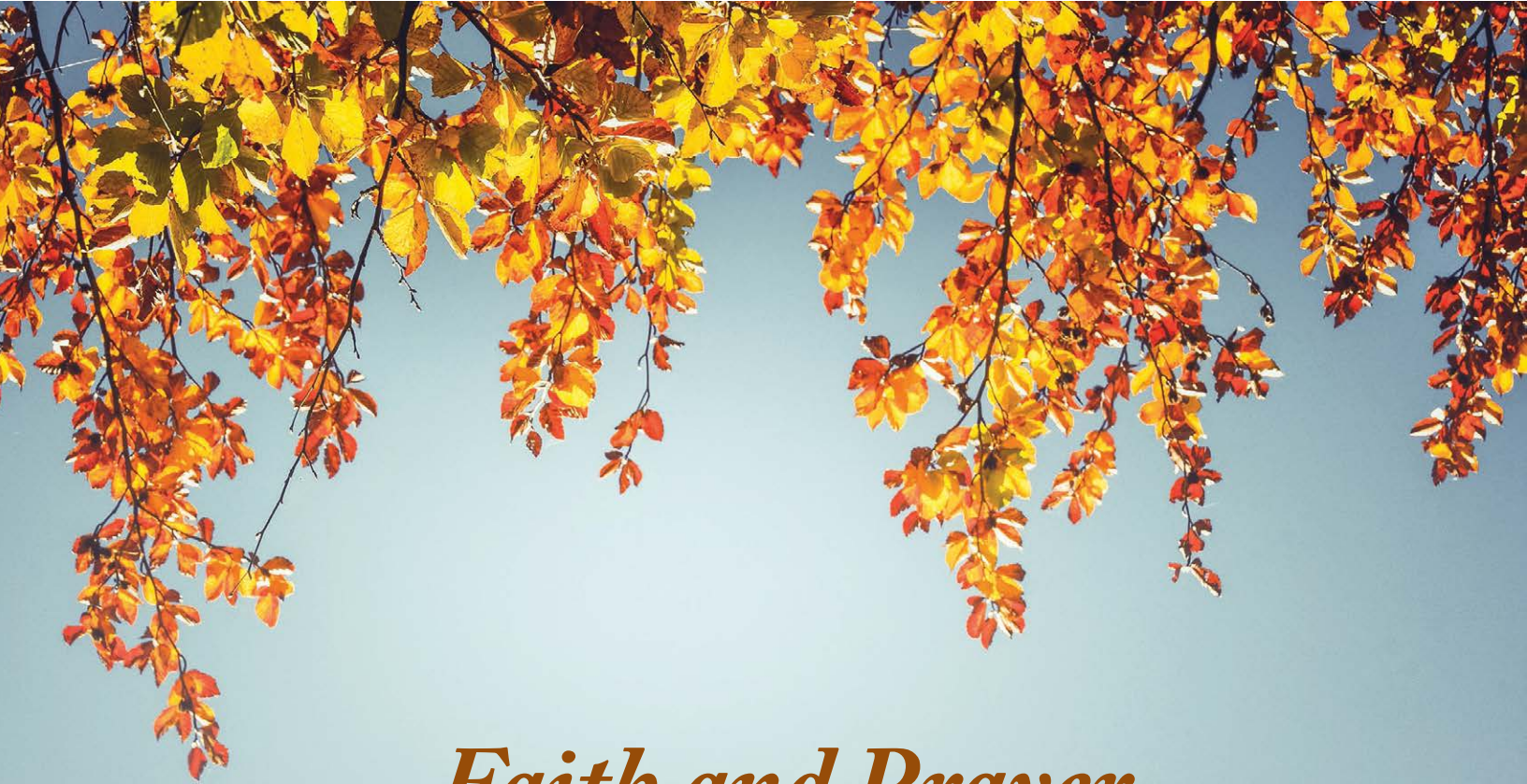
As the apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, we can be sure that even if we have to endure difficult situations in life, we are not left alone because we can go to Jesus; we can receive His resilience and power of mind.

“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” 2 Timothy 2:3

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7

The promise “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me,” Philippians 4:13, is an assurance that if we put our trust in Christ and we keep the eight laws of health, He will see that our own brain functions perfectly! Amen for that! **LM**

Esteban Salazar is a preventive medicine and lifestyle coach with more than 25 years of experience. His work has expanded as an international speaker and featured guest in many TV and radio shows.



Faith and Prayer

Faith is trusting God—believing that He loves us and knows best what is for our good. Thus, instead of our own, it leads us to choose His way. In place of our ignorance, it accepts His wisdom; in place of our weakness, His strength; in place of our sinfulness, His righteousness. Our lives, ourselves, are already His; faith acknowledges His ownership and accepts its blessing. Truth, uprightness, purity, have been pointed out as secrets of life's success. It is faith that puts us in possession of these principles.



Every good impulse or aspiration is the gift of God; faith receives from God the life that alone can produce true growth and efficiency.

How to exercise faith should be made very plain. To every promise of God there are conditions. If we are willing to do His will, all His strength is ours. Whatever gift He promises, is in the promise itself. "The seed is the word of God." Luke 8:11. As surely as the oak is in the acorn, so surely is the gift of God in His promise. If we receive the promise, we have the gift.

Faith that enables us to receive God's gifts is itself a gift, of which some measure is imparted to every human being. It grows as exercised in appropriating the word of God. In order to strengthen faith, we must often bring it in contact with the word.

In the study of the Bible, the student should be led to see the power of God's word. In the creation, "He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast." He "callesh those things which be not as though they were" (Psalm 33:9; Romans 4:17); for when He calls them, they are.

How often those who trusted the word of God, though in themselves utterly helpless, have withstood the power of the whole world—Enoch, pure in heart, holy in life, holding fast his faith in the triumph of righteousness against a corrupt and scoffing generation; Noah and his household against the men of his time, men of the greatest physical and mental strength and the most debased in morals; the children of Israel at the Red Sea, a helpless, terrified multitude of slaves, against the mightiest army of the mightiest nation on the globe; David, a shepherd lad, having God's promise of the throne, against Saul, the established monarch, bent on holding fast his power; Shadrach and his companions in the fire, and Nebuchadnezzar on the throne; Daniel among the lions, his enemies in the high places of the kingdom; Jesus on the cross, and the Jewish priests and

rulers forcing even the Roman governor to work their will; Paul in chains led to a criminal's death, Nero the despot of a world empire.

Such examples are not found in the Bible only. They abound in every record of human progress. The Vaudois and the Huguenots, Wycliffe and Huss, Jerome and Luther, Tyndale and Knox, Zinzendorf and Wesley, with multitudes of others, have witnessed to the power of God's word against human power and policy in support of evil. These are the world's true nobility. This is its royal line. In this line, the youth of today are called to take their places.

Faith is needed in the smaller no less than in the greater affairs of life. In all our daily interests and occupations, the sustaining strength of God becomes real to us through an abiding trust.

Viewed from its human side, life is to all an untried path. It is a path in which, as regards our deeper experiences, we each walk alone. Into our inner life no other human being can fully enter. As the little child sets forth on that journey in which, sooner or later, he must choose his own course, himself deciding life's issues for eternity, how earnest should be the effort to direct his trust to the sure Guide and Helper!

As a shield from temptation and an inspiration to purity and truth, no other influence can equal the sense of God's presence. "All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." He is "of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity." Hebrews 4:13; Habakkuk 1:13. This thought was Joseph's

shield amidst the corruptions of Egypt. To the allurements of temptation his answer was steadfast: "How ... can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" Genesis 39:9. Such a shield, faith, if cherished, will bring to every soul.

Only the sense of God's presence can banish the fear that, for the timid child, would make life a burden.

Let him fix in his memory the promise, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them." Psalm

34:7. Let him read that wonderful story of Elisha in the mountain city, and, between him

and the hosts of armed foemen, a mighty encircling band of heavenly angels. Let him read how to Peter, in prison and condemned to death, God's angel appeared; how, past the armed guards, the massive doors and great iron gateway with their bolts and bars, the angel led God's servant forth in safety. Let him read of that scene on the sea, when the tempest-tossed soldiers and seamen, worn with labor and watching and long fasting, Paul the prisoner, on his way to trial and execution, spoke those grand words of courage and hope: "Be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you. ... For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee." In the faith of this promise, Paul assured his companions, "There shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you." So, it came to pass. Because there was in that ship one man through whom God could work, the whole

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*Truth, uprightness,
purity, have been pointed
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It is faith that puts us
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principles.*”

shipload of heathen soldiers and sailors was preserved. "They escaped all safe to land."
Acts 27:22–24, 34, 44

These things were not written merely that we might read and wonder, but that the same faith which wrought in God's servants of old might work in us. In no less marked a manner than He wrought then will He work now wherever there are hearts of faith to be channels of His power.

Let the self-distrustful, whose lack of self-reliance leads them to shrink from care and responsibility, be taught reliance upon God. Thus, many a one who otherwise would be but a cipher in the world, perhaps only a helpless burden, will be able to say with the apostle Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13

For the child also who is quick to resent injuries, faith has precious lessons. The disposition to resist evil or to avenge wrong is often prompted by a keen sense of justice and an active, energetic spirit. Let such a child be taught that God is the eternal guardian of right. He has a tender care for the beings whom He has so loved as to give His dearest Beloved to save. He will deal with every wrongdoer.

"For he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of His eye." Zechariah 2:8

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass. ... He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday."
Psalm 37:5, 6

"The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And they that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee: for Thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek Thee." Psalm 9:9, 10

The compassion that God manifests toward us, He bids us manifest toward others. Let the impulsive, the self-sufficient, the revengeful, behold the meek and lowly One, led as a lamb to the slaughter, unretaliating as a sheep dumb before her

shearers. Let them look upon Him whom our sins have pierced and our sorrows burdened, and they will learn to endure, to forbear, and to forgive.

Through faith in Christ, every deficiency of character may be supplied, every defilement cleansed, every fault corrected, every excellence developed.

"Ye are complete in Him." Colossians 2:10

Prayer and faith are closely allied, and they need to be studied together. In the prayer of faith there is a divine science; it is a science that everyone who would make his lifework a success must understand. Christ says, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24. He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's will; we must ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive must be used in doing His will. The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal.

For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received.

We need look for no outward evidence of the blessing. The gift is in the promise, and we may go about our work assured that what God has promised He is able to perform, and that the gift, which we already possess, will be realized when we need it most.

To live thus by the word of God means the surrender to Him of the whole life. There will be felt a continual sense of need and dependence, a drawing out of the heart after God. Prayer is a necessity; for it is the life of the soul. Family prayer, public prayer, have their place; but it is secret communion with God that sustains the soul life.

It was in the mount with God that Moses beheld the pattern of that wonderful building which was to be the abiding place of His glory. It is in the mount with God—in the secret place of communion—that we are to contemplate His glorious ideal for humanity. Thus, we shall be enabled so to fashion our character building that to us may be fulfilled His promise, "I will dwell

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*Life is a path in which,
as regards our deeper
experiences, we each walk
alone.*



in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” 2 Corinthians 6:16

It was in hours of solitary prayer that Jesus in His earth life received wisdom and power. Let the youth follow His example in finding at dawn and twilight a quiet season for communion with their Father in heaven. And throughout the day let them lift up their hearts to God. At every step of our way He says, “I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, ... Fear not; I will help thee.” Isaiah 41:13. Could our children learn these lessons in the morning of their years, what freshness and power, what joy and sweetness, would be brought into their lives!

These are lessons that only he who himself has learned can teach. It is because so many parents and teachers profess to believe the word of God while their lives deny its power, that the teaching of Scripture has no greater effect upon the youth. At times the youth are brought to feel the power of the word. They see the preciousness of the love of Christ. They see the beauty of His character, the possibilities of a life given to His service. But in contrast they see the life of those who profess to revere God’s precepts. Of how many are the words true that were spoken to the prophet Ezekiel:

Thy people “speak one to another, everyone to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the Lord. And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as My people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not.” Ezekiel 33:30–32

It is one thing to treat the Bible as a book of good moral instruction, to be

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As the apple tree among the trees of the wood,
So is my Beloved among the sons.
I sat down under His shadow with great delight,
And His fruit was sweet to my taste.
He brought me to the banqueting house,
And His banner over me was love.

Song of Solomon 2:3, 4

heeded so far as is consistent with the spirit of the times and our position in the world; it is another thing to regard it as it really is—the word of the living God, the word that is our life, the word that is to mold our actions, our words, and our thoughts. To hold God’s word as anything less than this is to reject it. And this rejection by those who profess to believe it, is foremost among the causes of skepticism and infidelity in the youth.

An intensity such as never before was seen is taking possession of the world. In amusement, in moneymaking, in the contest for power, in the very struggle for existence, there is a terrible force that engrosses body and mind and soul. In the midst of this maddening rush, God is speaking. He bids us come apart and commune with Him. “Be still, and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10

Many, even in their seasons of devotion, fail of receiving the blessing of real communion with God. They are in too great haste. With hurried steps they press through the circle of Christ’s lov-

ing presence, pausing perhaps a moment within the sacred precincts, but not waiting for counsel. They have no time to remain with the divine Teacher. With their burdens they return to their work.

These workers can never attain the highest success until they learn the secret of strength. They must give themselves time to think, to pray, to wait upon God for a renewal of physical, mental, and spiritual power. They need the uplifting influence of His Spirit. Receiving this, they will be quickened by fresh life. The wearied frame and tired brain will be refreshed, the burdened heart will be lightened.

Not a pause for a moment in His presence, but personal contact with Christ, to sit down in companionship with Him—this is our need. Happy will it be for the children of our homes and the students of our schools when parents and teachers shall learn in their own lives the precious experience pictured in these words from the Song of Songs (see above). *Education*, 253–261 **LM**

The Other Angel

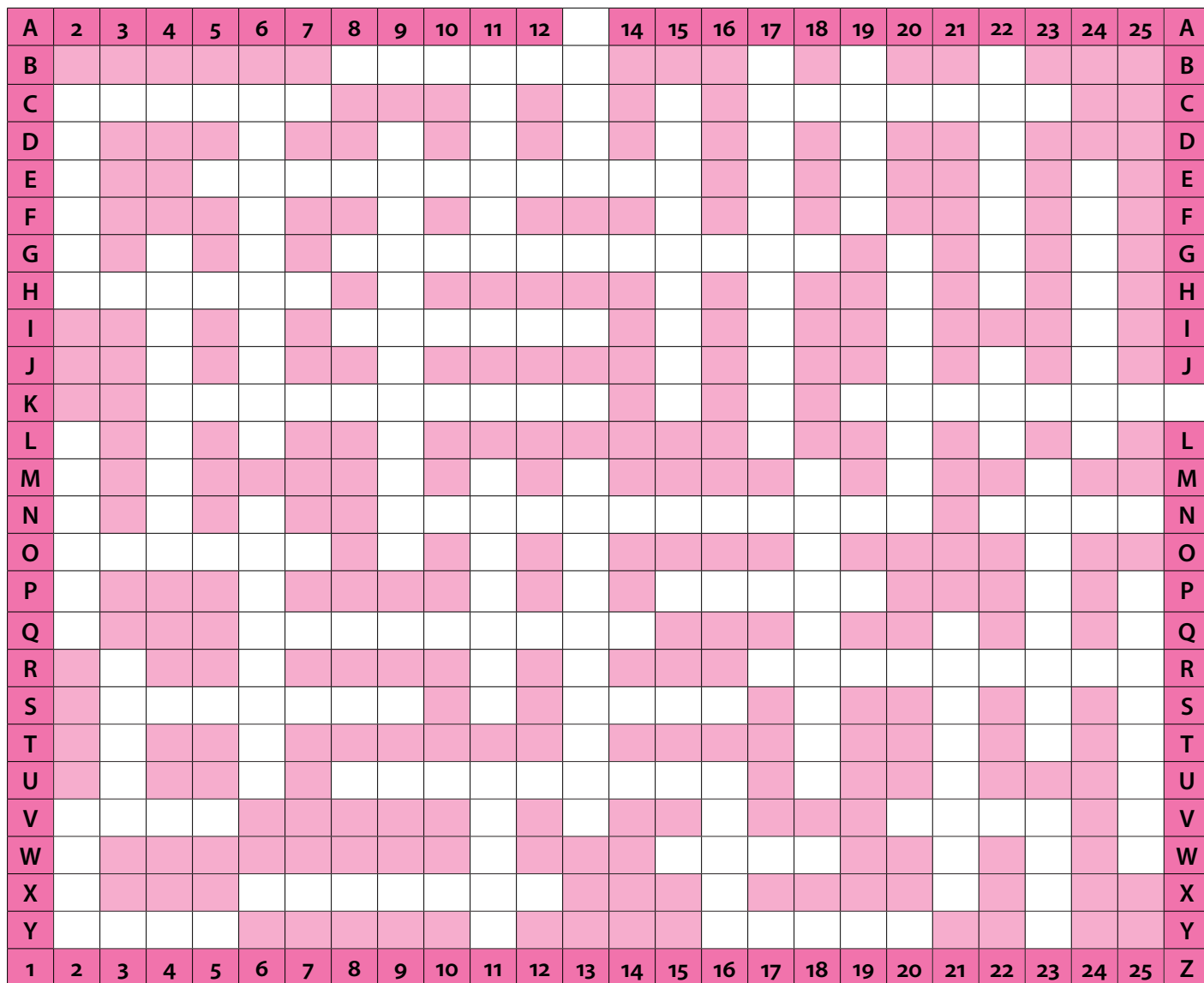
Clues – NKJV

Across

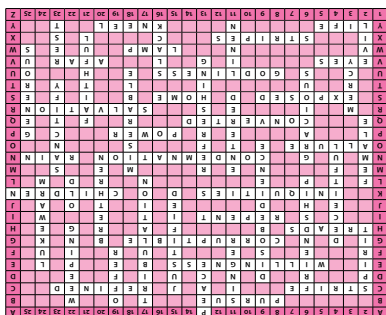
- B8 Let us _____ the knowledge of the Lord. Hosea 6:3
 C2 Some preach Christ even from envy and _____. Philippians 1:15
 C17 Buy gold, _____ in the fire, that you may be rich. Revelation 3:18
 E5 I know your _____ about which I boast. 2 Corinthians 9:2
 G8 You were not redeemed by _____ things. 1 Peter 1:18
 H2 Do not muzzle an ox while it _____ out the grain. 1 Corinthians 9:9
 I8 Unless you _____, you will all likewise perish. Luke 13:5
 K4 Our _____, like the wind, have taken us away. Isaiah 64:6
 K19 Unless you become as little _____, you will in no means enter heaven. Matthew 18:3
 N9 This is the _____, men loved darkness rather than light. John 3:19
 N22 God sends _____ on the just and on the unjust. Matthew 5:45
 O2 Do not lust after her beauty, nor let her _____ you with her eyelids. Proverbs 6:25
 P15 You shall receive _____ when the Holy Spirit has come. Acts 1:8
 Q6 Repent and be _____ that your sins may be blotted out. Acts 3:19
 R17 Work out your own _____ with fear and trembling. Philippians 2:12
 S3 Everyone practicing evil hates light lest his evil deeds are _____. John 3:20
 S13 Let children show piety at _____ and to repay their parents. 1 Timothy 5:4
 U8 Turn away from those with a form of _____ but deny its power. 2 Timothy 3:5
 V2 The Son of God has _____ like a flame of fire, and feet like fine brass. Revelation 2:18
 V20 Many died in faith ... seeing the promise _____ off. Hebrews 11:13
 W15 Your word is _____ to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105
 X6 By Jesus' _____ we were healed. 1 Peter 2:24
 Y2 You will show me the path of _____. Psalm 16:11
 Y16 Let us _____ before the Lord our Maker. Psalm 95:6

Down

- A13 Mercy, _____ and love be multiplied to you. Jude 1:2
 B11 Heman, the _____ was the son of Joel, the son of Samuel. 1 Chronicles 6:33
 B17 These are the ones who came out of great _____. Revelation 7:14
 B19 Another angel with much incense to _____ it with the saints' prayers. Revelation 8:3
 B22 Turn to Me with your whole heart with fasting, _____, and mourning. Joel 2:12
 C6 Do you not know that _____ with the world is enmity with God. James 4:4
 C15 Not hearers but doers of the law will be _____. Romans 2:13
 D9 The wrath of God comes upon the sons of _____. Ephesians 5:6
 E24 Because you are _____ I will vomit you out of My mouth. Revelation 3:16
 G4 The heart is _____ above all things and desperately wicked. Jeremiah 17:9
 G20 Finally _____, whatever things are true, meditate on this. Philippians 4:8
 J22 The great dragon was cast out, that serpent of _____. Revelation 12:9
 L2 There is neither Jew or Greek, male or _____, all are one in Jesus Christ. Galatians 3:28
 M11 Through one man, sin _____ the world. Romans 5:12
 M13 Repent and be converted so the times of _____ may come. Acts 3:19
 M18 You do not know you are _____, poor, blind and naked. Revelation 3:17
 M23 _____ them by Your truth. Your word is truth. John 17:17
 N6 The Lord is merciful and _____, slow to anger and abounding in mercy. Psalm 103:8
 P25 Uphold me by Your _____ Spirit. Psalm 51:12



Answer Key:



- Q21 These things say the _____ and true witness. Revelation 3:14
 R3 Observe _____ and justice, and wait on your God continually. Hosea 12:6
 U11 It was granted to be clothed in white _____, clean and bright. Revelation 19:8
 U16 The Lord is not _____ concerning His promise. 2 Peter 3:9
 V2 To do _____ is like sport to a fool. Proverbs 10:23
 V23 My heart is glad, my flesh will also _____ in hope. Psalm 16:9



The Little Printer Missionary

A ragged printer's boy, who lived in Constantinople, was in the habit of carrying the proof-sheets to the English editor during the noon lunchtime. The editor was a busy man, and exchanged no words, except such as were necessary, with him.

The boy was faithful, doing all that he was bidden, promptly and to the best of his ability, but he was ragged, and so dirty as to be positively repulsive. This annoyed the editor; but, as he was no worse in this respect than most of the boys in his class, the busy man did not urge him to improve his personal appearance, much as he would have enjoyed the change.

But one morning the boy came in with clean face, hands, and garments. Not a trace of the old filth was to be seen about his person; and so great was the change that his master did not recognize him.

"Why, you are a new boy entirely!" he said, when convinced of the lad's identity.

"I am going away, back to my own home," said the boy, quickly, "and I came to ask a favor of you. Will you pray for me after I am gone?"

"Pray for you!" exclaimed the editor.

"Yes," returned the boy. "You think I am a heathen, but I am not. I have been attending chapel and Sabbath school in the Bible house. I have learned to read and to write, and, best of all, I have learned to love Jesus, and am trying to be His boy. But I cannot stay here while my father, mother, brothers, and sisters do not know about Him. So, I go back to my own village to tell friends and neighbors about Him. I don't know much yet, and I want you to pray that I may be helped when I try to tell my own people what He is to me."

"And it is because you are going away that you have washed and fixed yourself up so well?" asked the editor, thinking what a fine boy clothes and cleanliness had made of him.

"It is because I am Christ's boy now," was the answer. "I want to be clean and to have my clothes whole in honor of the Master I am trying to serve."

"I hope your friends will receive as much from Christ's love as you have," said the man.

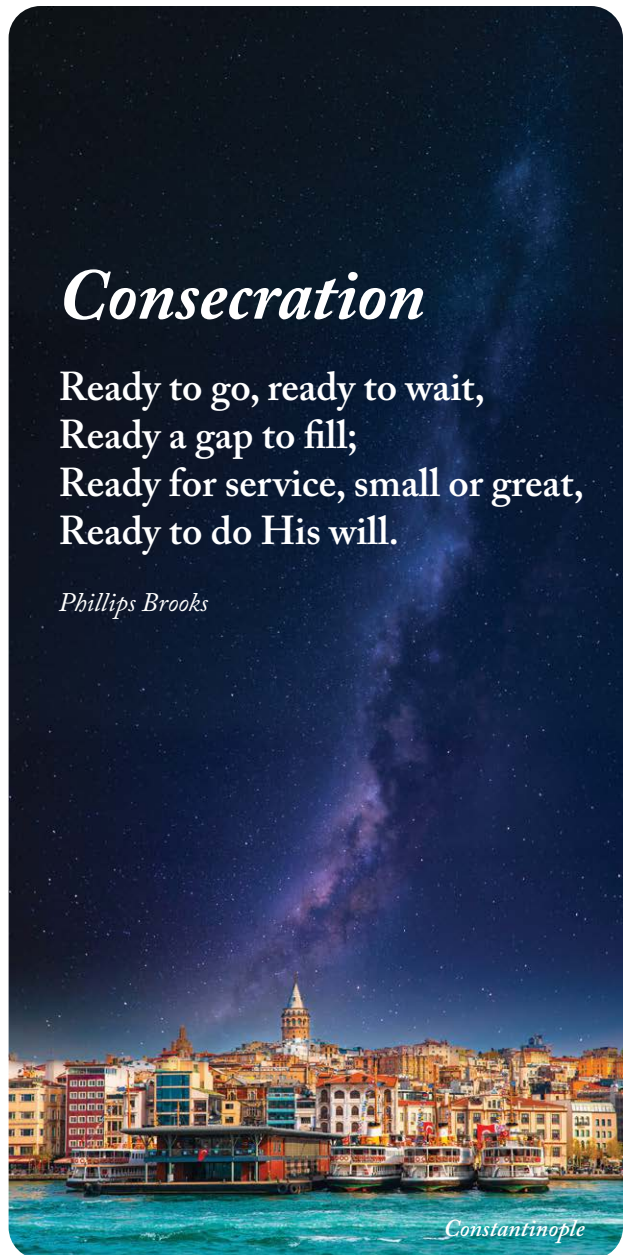
"And you will pray for them and for me?" urged the boy.

The man promised; and, full of hope, the lad started on his long walk homeward, to tell the story of the cross to the dear ones there, in his own wretched home first, and afterward to the neighbors among whom he had spent his childhood days.

Consecration

Ready to go, ready to wait,
Ready a gap to fill;
Ready for service, small or great,
Ready to do His will.

Phillips Brooks



Constantinople

Stories Worth Re-reading, RHPA, ©1913, 168, 169 

Get Back Up

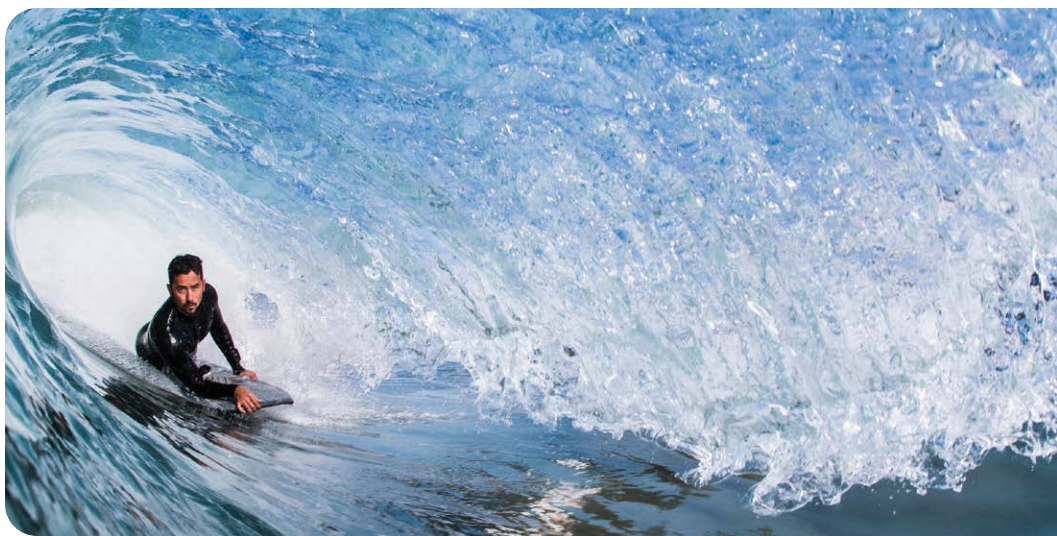
I was struck while listening to a sermon by Pastor John during a recent church service with the idea of failing, but continuing to try; the idea of repeatedly falling, but continuing to get up again until one no longer falls. That brought to my mind surfing. Now, I don't surf, don't claim to know anything about the ins and outs of surfing, but what I do know, just from observation, is that the best surfers take on the biggest and most dangerous waves and rarely fall down. I'm pretty sure that they did not develop that skill in a day or in one fall. So, let's look at what it takes to be an accomplished surfer.

The surfer runs into the surf with his board, and lying on the board, paddles out, away from the beach, into the oncoming waves. When he is out far enough, he turns his board to face the shore and waits for that perfect wave, a small one at first. As the wave approaches, he begins to paddle with the wave and at the right moment, he stands, balancing himself on the board, riding the wave. Sound easy? Not so much. Learning to surf, like any other learning experience, takes time, and sometimes it will seem impossible to ever stay up on that board for more than a few seconds.

"The first few attempts were humiliating—waves knocking me sideways, the board slipping out from under me, saltwater burning my throat. Each fall felt like the ocean laughing at me, and I started to wonder if I'd made a mistake.

"But then came the moment.

"A small, clean wave rolled toward me . . . I paddled hard, feeling the swell lift me. My arms burned, my breath caught, and then—miraculously—I was standing.



The board sliced forward, the wind rushed past my ears, and the world narrowed to the shimmer of water beneath me. I wasn't thinking about balance or fear or how ridiculous I must have looked. I was just there, moving with the ocean instead of against it.

"It lasted maybe ten seconds before I tumbled into the foam . . ."

And then came the wipeout, another, and another . . .

Five of the most challenging and dangerous places to surf are: Nazare, Portugal; Pipeline, Hawaii; Mavericks, California; Shipsterns, Australia, and Teahupoo, Tahiti. At each one you find shallow reefs and the most powerful and highest waves, some from 25–80 feet high crashing with deadly force, all of which require a high level of skill and experience, determination and resilience to ride these waves. These surfing spots are not for the faint of heart and are the surfing pinnacle that all serious surfers seek to surpass.

There is an interesting feature to the surfboard. The board has a leash that is tethered to the surfer's ankle. It is essential for safety and keeping the surfboard, during a wipeout, from getting lost or injuring other, nearby surfers. It also can enhance the stability of the board's performance while riding the wave.

The Holy Spirit stays tethered to us as we ride the waves of sins, to help us reach the pinnacle of the sinner's journey—overcoming. No matter how many times we fail, He is there to help us get back up. I am reminded of Mary Magdalene. She sinned and sinned again, and Jesus forgave her seven times. There was no eighth time for she had at last overcome.

Friends, don't be afraid if you fall. With the help of the Holy Spirit, just get back up, again and again, conquering each wave.

Sources: outdoorgus.com/top-10-hardest-places-to-surf-in-the-world/; greenwhite.org/my-first-time-surfing-a-short-story 

Tennessee Camp Meeting

with Pastor John Grosboll

November 13 & 14, 2026

Friday: 7:00 pm

Sabbath: 9:15 am - 8:30 pm

CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

24 Office Dr, Crossville, TN 38555
On Highway 127 South of Crossville
at the Recreation Center next to the
swimming pool.

MEALS:

Provide your own breakfast. Bring food
to share in a vegan fellowship meal on
Sabbath after the church service. Bring
extra for those coming from long distanc-
es! A light evening meal will be provided.

A children's program is planned.

CAMPING, CABINS, MOTELS:

See your *In His Steps* newsletter for
more information, or call the camp
meeting hosts:

Danny & Paula Frisby
(931) 863-8071 - home
(931) 210-7587 - cell

Camping and cabins at the Park:
(931) 484-4726

October Sermon of the Month

New Testament Sabbath

John J. Grosboll

It is the spiritual significance of the
Sabbath that sets us apart from the
rest of 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

October

Dear Friend,

God knows how to make His work go forward and has given instructions regarding what we are to do to further His work faster. Here are a few of His instructions:

"The night of trial is nearly spent. Satan is bringing in his masterly power because he knoweth that his time is short. The chastisement of God is upon the world, to call all who know the truth to hide in the cleft of the Rock, and view the glory of God. The truth must not be muffled now. Plain statements must be made. Unvarnished truth must be spoken, in leaflets and pamphlets, and these must be scattered like the leaves of autumn." *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 9, 231

"This is a work that should be done. The end is near. Already much time has been lost, when these books should have been in circulation. Sell them far and near. Scatter them like the leaves of autumn. This work is to continue without the forbiddings of anyone. Souls are perishing out of Christ. Let them be warned of His soon appearing in the clouds of heaven." *The Review and Herald*, August 13, 1908

"The lost sheep of God's fold are scattered in every place, and the work that should be done for them is being neglected. From the light given me, I know that where there is one canvasser in the field, there should be one hundred." *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, 315 (1900)

"There should be more earnest efforts made to enlighten the people upon the great subject of health reform. Tracts of four, eight, twelve, sixteen, and more pages, containing pointed, well-written articles on this great question, should be scattered like the leaves of autumn." *Counsels on Health*, 466

"Let all be fully prepared to disseminate the light by word and by pamphlet. There should be hundreds of little tracts scattered as the leaves of autumn." *The Publishing Ministry*, 227

Your brother in God's closing work for this world,



Pastor John J. Grosboll



The Canada Goose

The *Branta Canadensis*, is known more commonly as the Canada or Canadian goose. Canada goose is used the most and dates back to the 18th century after Carl Linnaeus first described the species.

In 1758, the Canada goose was included in the 10th edition of Carl Linnaeus' book *Systema Naturae*, which classified animals, plants, and minerals. However, since Linnaeus was writing in Latin, he didn't use Canada goose. Instead, he classified the bird as *Anas Canadensis*, an early version of *Branta Canadensis* or "black goose of Canada."

The Canada goose has a long black neck with white cheeks and a black face. Its body is brown and its wings are brown with black tips. The tail end of the body is white tipped in black. It makes its home in the arctic and milder regions of North America, but has been introduced to several European countries, Nordic countries, New Zealand, Japan, Chile, Argentina, and the Falkland Islands.

It is primarily an herbivore, eating grains, succulents, grasses, pondweeds, and lawns in urban areas. A large waterfowl, it can weigh up to 20 pounds. Each goose has 20,000 to 25,000 feathers including flight feathers and down feathers which helps with insulation and water resistance. They sleep with one eye open, shutting down one side of the brain at a time.

The goose is highly intelligent and social. They can live for decades in the wild, and mate for life, staying with a partner for up to 25 years. They nest close to lakes, rivers, ponds, and wetlands, with dense vegetation. The nest is made of grass, moss, and reeds lined with down feathers the mother plucks herself from her breast. This insulates the eggs and maintains a stable tem-

perature in the nest. Nesting occurs between late March to May.

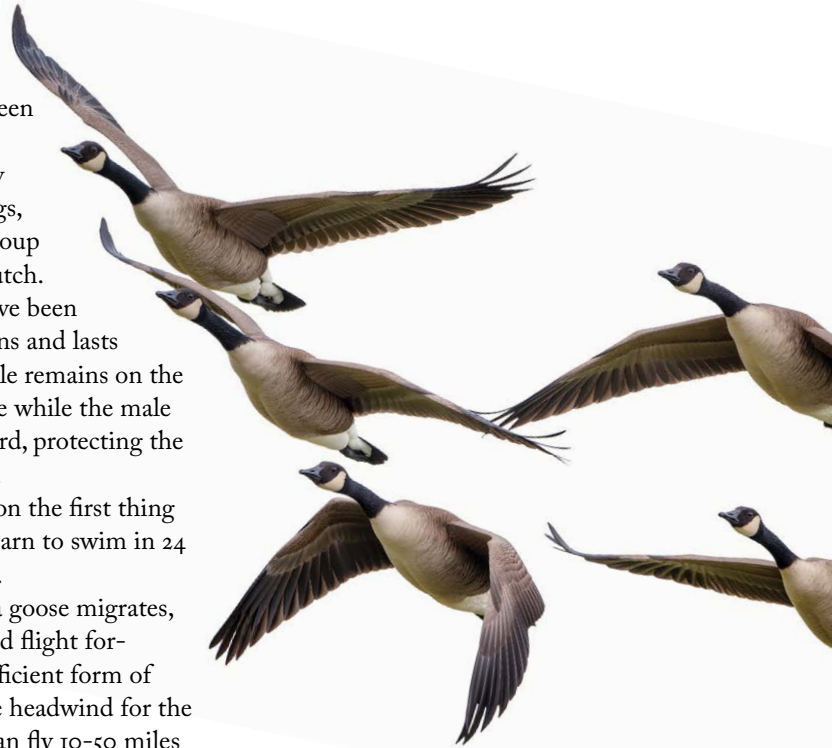
The female will lay 4-7 creamy white eggs, one each day. This group of eggs is called a clutch. Once all the eggs have been laid, incubation begins and lasts 25-30 days. The female remains on the nest most of the time while the male stays nearby as a guard, protecting the nest and its territory.

Goslings imprint on the first thing they see move and learn to swim in 24 hours after hatching.

When the Canada goose migrates, they fly in a V-shaped flight formation, an energy efficient form of flight that breaks the headwind for the birds behind. They can fly 10-50 miles per hour, but can fly as much as 70 miles per hour with a strong tailwind. They typically fly 40 miles per hour during migration. They fly in groups of 30-100 birds, traveling 2,000-3,000 miles during the winter. They can, weather permitting, fly 1,500 miles per day. In the spring, they return to their birthplace. They have adapted to urban and suburban areas and often stay year-round in parks, golf courses, and farmland. In the early 1900s, the Canada goose was decimated due to hunting and habitat loss, but has bounced back with a current population of over five million.

Geese are known for their aggressive behavior, but the Canada goose is largely harmless, bluffing rather than confronting against predators and humans.

Sources: grammarphobia.com/blog/2015/04/Canada-geese/; birdfact.com/articles/Canada-geese-nesting; in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/hunting-and-trapping/Canada-geese-management/behavior-and-biology 



Did You Know?

The oldest recorded wild Canada Goose was at least 33 years old.





Prison Officials Thank Our Missionaries

in Nigeria

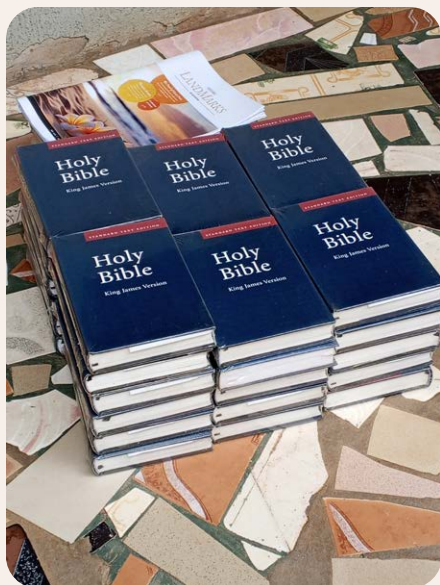
Daniel Torrence

Otukpo

In June, four evangelists visited a second correctional facility in Otukpo, a city located about 100km along the Makurdi Enugu Highway. The facility houses about 93 inmates. The officer in charge was willing to meet with us, and received us warmly. We were given a large hall where we could address the inmates.

We delivered clothing, six cartons of cracker biscuits, washing and bathing soap items, shaving materials, detergent, and food items. We also distributed literature, 40 copies of *Steps to Christ*, and 30 copies of other Spirit of Prophecy books, ten paperback Bibles, and large quantities of prophecy and health leaflets in both English and local languages for staff and inmates. They did not allow us to take photos inside, but on our next visit we will make a request for pictures. We have also provided four cooling fans for the hall at this facility.

The authorities of the correctional facility called the next day to express appreciation and pledged to send a letter officially from the government expressing appreciation, and requested that we continue to visit.



Bibles for inmates at Otukpo



Books for distribution at Otukpo



School classrooms being built at Apir

Makurdi

At the Makurdi Custodial Center, 30 inmates have completed their *Know Your Bible* lessons. Other inmates have been enrolled and are at various stages of completion.

We obtained permission from the prison authorities and held our first Sabbath worship service on August 29 with the inmates and anyone interested within the facility. They provided a hall and seats, and approved the distribution of Bibles and other end-time warning literature to all who came. After August 29, we were given permission to continue worshiping at the facility twice monthly. We have distributed the *LandMarks* magazines to the inmates enrolled in the Bible lessons, some of whom are Muslim, to use the Bible Study Guides included there on the Sabbaths when we cannot have the Sabbath service at the

prison. The Lord has been very good in these efforts. And we have settled the fines/compensation for about 11 inmates.

We continue to follow up with former inmates who completed the first round of Bible studies and have been released from prison. We now have the ability to move on to the next round of Bible studies in person.

The show of appreciation by the staff and inmates at the Makurdi facility, by words and written notes, cannot be overemphasized. So far, more than 200 inmates and staff have completed or are currently working through the *Know Your Bible* lessons, and have received countless numbers of books, paperback Bibles, literature, clothing, food items, and other assistance. We praise God for that.

On August 8, the Makurdi church held a women's program and many women from the internally displaced

people's (IDP) camp attended. The participants were given gift items.

Apir

At the Apir Settlement, health and prophecy seminars were conducted in September. A three-day youth and children's outreach was held on August 19 by the local church.

Our evangelist-in-training Bundemo has been doing outreach work in Koti Apera where we held our last prophecy and health seminar. He is working to extend his knowledge in Laboratory Analysis. After completion, he will run out laboratory center at our sanitarium. This will generate funds for our medical missionary outreach.

To help our prison ministries to expand and assist with other outreach projects, please mark your donations as *Mission Outreach*. **LM**



Reasons for the Incarnation

John J. Grosboll

I want to tell you a story about a man. I don't know where he lives today because he is being hunted and is in hiding. He has committed no crime. However, to the men who are searching for him, he has committed the crime of belonging to the wrong religion, and they are searching for him with the purpose of taking his life. His story illustrates in a very practical way the importance of the subject we will study here.

A believer in the Islamic religion, his belief was so powerful and fervent that he named one of his sons after Osama Bin Laden. He'd grown up in the Middle East in a radical Islamic family, but he had a scholarly aptitude and this led him to become a lawyer. He also became a Mosque leader and teacher known as a Mullah. Eventually he was a government educator responsible for the training of all Mullahs in his region, and serving as a professor at an Islamic university.

He led many pilgrimages to Mecca, wrote many scholarly articles and books—including a work on Islam that is still studied in some Saudi Arabian schools today—training young men and encouraging them to join the self-proclaimed Islamic state, ISIS. This is what he said, “Because of my job I couldn't reveal that. I was doing it under the table. In my private sessions and meetings, I always would embrace and encourage people to join ISIS.”



As part of his educational background, he had studied comparative religions and this included studying Christianity. He read the Old Testament and then he read the New Testament, and soon his mind began to trouble him. He said, "I started seeing there were better things there than what we had. I found that there were clear mistakes in the Koran." For example, he was bothered by the fact that the Koran said that a Samaritan led the worship of the golden calf, rather than Aaron. The problem was Samaria didn't exist at that time in Earth's history so there were no Samaritans.

He noticed that in the Koran, the story of Haman is set in Egypt rather than Persia and he could see that some things just didn't fit. In addition, he found that there were linguistic hurdles required to explain the Arabic in the Koran. The more inconsistencies he found, the more troubled he became. His faith, his trust in the religion he had served fervently his whole life was shaken. He said later, "Even during my many pilgrimages to Mecca, I was troubled with doubt. Why are we going around the Kaaba?" he asked himself about the tradition of circling the stone in the center of Mecca's great mosque. "I tried to justify that it was Allah's command for us to worship him, not to worship the Kaaba, but I was not satisfied. I felt like I was actually an idol worshiper anyway."

Two things brought his career as a teacher in the Islamic university to an abrupt end.

- He was asked to give two lectures. The first lecture was about how Islam honored women in front of an audience of about 100 women. But he said, I knew that wasn't true. Islamic religion dishonors woman, demeans women." So, rather than give the lecture, he said, "I apologize, I cannot give this lecture." That was just the beginning of his trouble.
- The second lecture was to be about the early military advances of Islam.



*When
a leader in
God's government
rebels and persuades
others to rebel, God must
react to maintain His
righteousness.*

Many Islamic people refer to this as the "Error of Openings." He knew all about the history, but he could no longer present it in a positive light. He said, "I realized that the early wars were actually criminal," involving criminal events that resulted in the death of thousands of people. And as he criticized these early conquests, several students sprang up and ran to tell the dean. The dean came immediately and told him to step aside. He said, no, you just sit here and listen.

He finished his lecture, explaining that these early Islamic wars were not providential leadings of God, but the work of the devil, and he criticized them as criminal intent and actions. He was immediately fired.

By this time, he was so agitated in mind over what was happening to his religion, he decided he would study comparative religions full time and figure out the answer for himself.

Not Christianity

He was a strict Muslim who believed all Christians were infidels because they worshiped three gods and he only worshiped one god, Allah. So, he wouldn't

be studying Christianity. Instead, he would study monotheistic religions like Asceticism and Judaism. His actions shocked his two wives and his first wife said to him, "Are you crazy? What are you doing to us?" He said, "I can no longer accept the teachings of Islam as the truth." She immediately requested and obtained a divorce. His second wife said, "I am patient, I'll stay and see what happens."

She needed patience because he had only begun a long search for the truth. His whole life was now shattered because everything he had devoted his life to he didn't believe was true anymore. He felt that his life had been wasted believing and teaching a religion that wasn't true.

He was determined to find the truth, and after much study, he made the decision to become a Jew. He had studied the Old Testament and felt it made sense. He traveled to Israel and studied with a Jewish rabbi and began the process of converting to Judaism. However, when he returned home, he continued to study and compare other religions.

During this time, something very interesting happened. He stumbled across a film about the crucifixion of Jesus. As

“
*Clouds and
darkness surround Him;
righteousness and justice
are the foundation of His
throne.*

Psalm 97:2

he watched the crucifixion, he became emotional. He said, “As a human being, I always felt so sorry for the way this Person was treated. I felt sorry for the Christians.”

He turned the television off and cried out to God, “Father, why has it taken me all these years to find You? Why were You hiding from me? Why did You let me do all these things? Why are millions of people being lost because they don’t know You? God, reveal Yourself to me even if it means my death.”

“Suddenly, a response came into my mind. I don’t know what happened, but I felt the presence of God; a strange, comforting power I could feel but I could not see. My mind became filled with ideas that I never thought of before. It was like Someone was talking to me, but they were talking directly to my mind. Questions would come into my mind and immediately the answers would come.”

Suddenly, a new question came to his mind: Is it really strange for God to decide to appear in human flesh? If God is as great as we say, was it impossible for Him to come to this world in human flesh, to live in this world as a man? that God could come to this world as a man. For the first time in his life, he was open to an idea that he had never thought of before and had always been taught was heresy. He began to accept the idea was possible.

“I decided that I needed to find someone who could explain the Christian religion to me.” So, he searched and found a Christian pastor. When he entered the church, the receptionist was a woman. He had been for so many years such a strict Muslim, he was unable to even look her in the face. When he was introduced to the pastor, he said he wanted to learn about the Christian religion and they began studying the Bible together. Soon he became a Christian.

While taking discipleship training from this pastor, he began inviting Muslims into his home, telling them about the new

religion he had found. With his extensive knowledge of Islamic religions and now, his understanding of Christianity as well, he knew well how to reach the Islamic mind, and he became an effective evangelist to the Muslim people. As a result of these discussions in his home, many Muslims accepted Christianity along with his wife, and presently, over 20 of his extended family have become Christians.

Trouble Can Always Find You

He and his wife lived across the street from a Mosque. The police found out that someone had put out a contract on his life and warned him to immediately flee. Because of the people who are looking to kill him, he and his family are living in hiding to this day.

While in hiding, he has written a book exposing the fallacies of Islam while supporting the Christian faith. He and his wife are working to witness to others, explaining what God had done in their lives and what He could do for anyone who asked. He pointed out all that Jesus could give them in contrast to their former religion. They are requesting that Christian believers all over the world to please pray for them and their children while they continue to live in secret.

As I read this man’s story, I saw very clearly what it was that led him to forsake being a Muslim or a Jew, converting, instead, to Christianity. What was it? When he understood that the God of heaven came to this world as a man. The apostle Paul said, concerning Jesus, “In Him exists all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” He was God in the flesh. His name is called Immanuel meaning “God with us.” The incarnation of the second person of the Godhead, Jesus Christ, is an essential foundational part of the Christian religion.

The Reasons For The Incarnation

1 Our God is not an arbitrary God. Everything that God does has a purpose. What were the reasons for the incarnation?

The incarnation was the solution to a universal crisis. Our God is a God of absolute righteousness.



“Clouds and darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.” Psalm 97:2. The foundation of God’s throne are righteousness and justice.

“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face. Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound!” Psalm 89:14, 15. Have you heard that joyful sound?

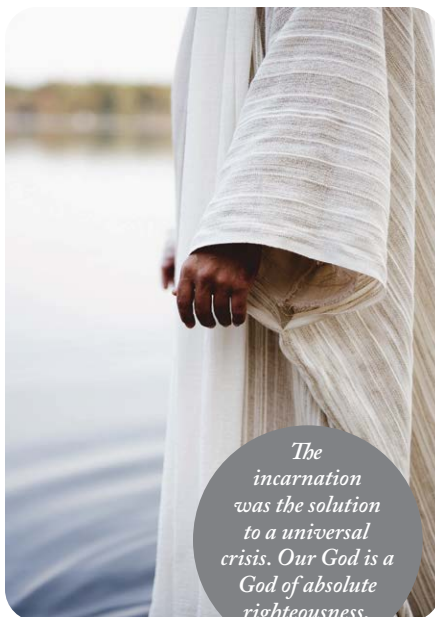
When a leader in God’s government rebels and persuades millions of other leaders in God’s government to rebel and practice unrighteousness, He must react against this rebellion if He is to maintain His righteousness and the righteousness of His government.

As a moral being, God must respond to the sinfulness, injustice, and unrighteousness of those who rebel against His government. This stability is not because God is superior in force and through force He would compel His subjects to obey His will. That is the devil’s way. The stability of God’s government is based on the mutual love and trust between God and the creatures He has made.

The law defines the only safe way to live, it does not force the will into obedience. The people in other worlds throughout the universe understand God’s government and His law, but millions of people in this world are still under the delusion that you can live contrary to God’s law and not die. That’s the first lie that the devil told to mankind and it is still being told and believed by every new generation of people on this earth. All of God’s creatures who believe and obey His law will live in freedom.

“And the commandment, which was to bring life . . .” Romans 7:10, *first part*

The purpose of the commandment is to bring life. The inhabitants of the unfallen worlds have always kept



The incarnation was the solution to a universal crisis. Our God is a God of absolute righteousness.

the law and have a clear knowledge of God’s character, which is His law, and they live forever.

2 The incarnation of Christ was to reveal to both the unfallen worlds and to this world the character of God the Father. This was necessary because when Lucifer rebelled against God and His government (Revelation 12), he lied about God. He said that God was selfish and sought self-exaltation. His claims made it appear that God was breaking His own law, going against His own character. Sadly, unfallen angels were deceived, believed these lies, and fell into sin, and ultimately, joined Lucifer in rebellion against their Creator. Lucifer attributed to God his own sinful characteristics and continues to tell these horrific lies today, and millions will die eternally because they believe the devil.

“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.” John 1:18

Jesus came as a man to live the law so that Satan’s charges against God

could be proved to be the lies they were and to show mankind how to be like Christ.

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’

“‘If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.’

“Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’

“Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.’” John 14:6–10

Jesus talked about this in the gospel of Matthew.

“At that time Jesus answered and said, ‘I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.’” Matthew 11:25–27

Nobody knows the Father if he doesn’t know the Son. If a person has a wrong conception of the nature of Christ, he will have a wrong conception of the Father. Not only that, he will have a wrong conception of sin.

If you want to have the eternal destiny that Jesus made possible for you, you must go through Bethlehem.

“The story of Bethlehem is an exhaustless theme. In it is hidden ‘the depth of the riches both of the wisdom

and knowledge of God.' Romans 11:33. We marvel at the Saviour's sacrifice in exchanging the throne of heaven for the manger, and the companionship of adoring angels for the beasts of the stall. Human pride and self-sufficiency stand rebuked in His presence. Yet this was but the beginning of His wonderful condescension. It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man's nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin." *The Desire of Ages*, 48, 49



As a moral being, God must respond to sinfulness, injustice, and unrighteousness.

The Key Word

"But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin. Like every child of Adam, He accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity." *Ibid.*, 49

Weakened. That is the key word here. A human being has a physical nature, none exactly the same as another, but none of us has a physical nature like Adam had when he was created. Adam was clothed with a garment of light that covered him all the time, until he sinned. But when Jesus came to our world, He did not come with a physical nature covered with a garment of light. He had to wear clothes like you and me. That's why the apostle Paul says in Romans 8, that He came in the likeness of sinful flesh, and that His physical nature was weakened as a result of 4,000 years of sin.

A human being has not only a physical nature but a mental nature as well. Our mental nature is different from each other; we inherit different powers of the mind. Some can read something just once and are then able to quote it verbatim. Others can work out difficult math problems and algebraic equations in their head. Poets look at a flower and describe it in lyrical prose. Artists can look at a scene in nature and paint it on canvas, perfectly reflecting its colors, nuances, and details. Or a sculptor can look at a block of wood or stone and see in it a beautiful woman or heroic man.

But when Jesus came to this world, He came with the mental power of people of that generation after 4,000 years of corruption.

Except in Sin

Human beings have not only a physical nature and a mental nature but they also have a moral or spiritual nature. Christ inherited from Adam a physical and mental nature weakened by 4,000 years of sin, but His moral or spiritual power was not like that of Adam's progeny. He accepted the results of the working of the law of heredity, but it is very important to understand the truth on this point.

"He [Christ] for our sakes laid aside His royal robe, stepped down from the throne in heaven, and condescended to clothe His divinity with humanity, and became like one of us except in sin." *The Youth's Instructor*, October 20, 1886

Did you catch it? He became like us except in what? Except in sin.

"His spiritual nature was free from every taint of sin." *The Signs of the Times*, December 9, 1897. That cannot be said of any other human being, including Enoch and Elijah, who were translated.

"Jesus was sinless and had no dread of the consequences of sin. With this exception His condition was like yours." *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 4, 235

"Never in any way, leave the slightest impression upon human minds that a taint of, or inclination to corruption rested upon Christ." *Ibid.*, Vol. 13, 19

That's not true of us. We are in constant danger from inward corruption as well as outward temptation.

A Common Cause

By Christ's birth in Bethlehem, God Himself came to defend and advocate for us against Satan and his confederacy. By Christ coming to this world as a man, God moved to win the universe back to Himself and by the incarnation, God has changed the course of the world forever, binding the entire universe to Himself. Since Jesus was tempted in all points like as we are yet without sin, the incarnation of Christ guarantees an eternal triumphant conclusion to the great controversy between Christ and Satan. In order for God the Father to remain as sovereign Lord of His universe, all sin must be conquered.

How do you respond to the incarnation of Christ? The incarnation of Christ is a call by the God of heaven to forsake all self-seeking and self-exaltation, selfishness and service of self. Remember the time when a Person who sat on the throne in heaven arose, laid aside His robe, took off His crown, laid aside His scepter, and came to this world in human flesh, exchanging the adoration of unfallen angels for the company of the beasts in a stall; who lived the life of a poor man so that, as the apostle Paul says, through His poverty we might be made rich (2 Corinthians 8:9). The incarnation of Christ reveals what is in the heart of every man, woman, and child. What's in your heart? The incarnation of Christ is an invitation. Will you accept His invitation?

Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Matthew 16:24 **LM**

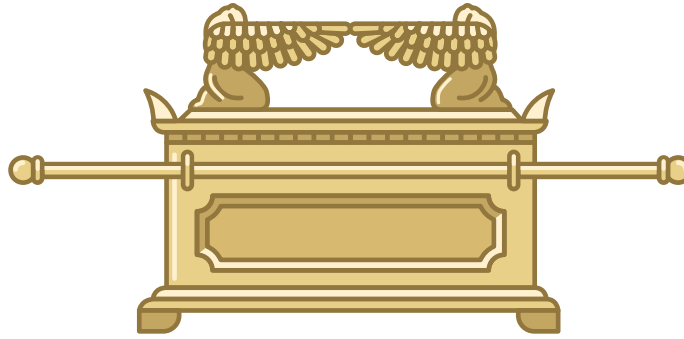
Pastor John J. Grosboll is the Director of *Steps to Life* and pastors the *Prairie Meadows Church* in Wichita, Kansas. He may be reached by email at historic@stepstolife.org or by telephone at 316-788-5559.

Wondrous Love

When in the wilderness of sin
The Saviour found me dying;
With hope all gone, no peace within,
My soul to Him was crying,
He came and spake sweet peace to me,
And said, "I've borne it all for thee
Upon the cross of Calvary."
O wondrous love!
'Twas nothing good that I had done,
To merit such a Saviour,
That caused the Son of man to come,
And grant me peace and favor.
Then do you ask what can it be
That caused Him thus to die for me,
And set my shackled spirit free?—
'Twas wondrous love!
O wondrous love, O grace divine,
Come fill me to o'erflowing;
Let Thy sweet Spirit in me shine,
Establish all my going,
That I may tell to sinners round
What a dear Saviour I have found,
And shout to earth's remotest bound,
'Tis wondrous love!

Henry De Fluiter
The Review and Herald,
April 29, 1902





Glance at the Past

James White

As we look back upon the great Advent movement, with its joyful expectations and bitter disappointments, its prosperity and adversity, its triumphant victories and its trials, it appears just like the work of God in separating a people from the world, to purify, make white, and try, and thus make them ready for the coming of their Lord. Have Adventists been disappointed? So were the Israelites, in not immediately entering Canaan, and the disciples, as Jesus died upon the cross. Have the faith and patience of Adventists been tried? So were the faith and patience of the Israelites tried in their term of forty years' wandering in the wilderness. And that of the disciples was severely tested in the unexpected death of their beloved Teacher. Have but comparatively few of the once happy expectants of the King of glory held fast their faith and hope? And have many cast away their confidence in this work and drawn back to perdition? Caleb and Joshua alone, of the six hundred thousand male adults that left Egypt, entered the goodly land. And what of the chosen twelve in the hour of our Lord's apprehension? "Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled." Matthew 26:56, *last part*

God has never been able to make anything very great or very good of man. It has been His plan to prove His people in every age, to test their faith and patience. This has been for the good of man and the glory of His name. It was necessary that such noble characters as Noah, Abraham, Job, and Daniel, should suffer the severest tests. And how unlike the work of God in all past time, had the many thousands of Adventists triumphantly entered the kingdom at the point of expectation, with hardly a single trial. "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life." James 1:12. This is God's unfading glory. As I "call to remembrance the former days," touching the Advent movement, and see its adaptation to the wants of the people, and God's great plan of saving men, my soul says, "He hath done all things well."

It was necessary, in order that the first message should arouse the people and separate those who should receive it from the spirit of the world, that it should not only relate to the fearful realities of the Judgment, but also to the period when it might be expected. "Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His Judgment is come." The proclamation of the time was a part of God's plan. This brought the coming of the Lord very near. This was right. This was necessary to move the people. And when the time passed, instead of calling the attention of believers to some period in the future to which they might look for the coming of the Lord, the Spirit of God sweetly and powerfully applied to their consecrated minds and hearts, such passages as, "Cast not away, therefore, your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry."

How long this little while would be, no one knew. It was not best that anyone should know when it would terminate.



*In
figure,
people found
pardon for their
sins through the
offerings made.*

And more, it was God's plan that this should not be known; but that they should move along through the period of the patience of the saints, Revelation 14:12, up to the coming of the Lord, ever keeping that event just before them. Those who have taught the three messages the past twenty years, have all the way presented the coming of Christ at hand. This has been as God designed. And those who would murmur at God's ministers for this, murmur against the providence of God.

It is painful to hear those who have their faces set toward Egypt, complain that the message was not properly preached to them. The coming of the Lord was presented too near. And that if they had understood the matter, they should have laid their plans for the future differently, and now their property might be double its present value. These murmur against the direct providences of God. The coming of the Lord was brought very near in 1844, to rid men of the love of this world, that they might share the love of the Father, and seek a preparation for the coming

of His Son. They cannot have both. "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:15. And it was designed that the coming of Christ should be viewed near by believers, every step of the way from the disappointment in 1844 to the gates of the golden city, to keep them free from the love of this world.

An energetic Advent minister, on visiting the believers at Roxbury, Massachusetts, being asked, "What is your message now, Bro. B.?" [He] answered, "Come out of her my people." Soon after the passing of the time he visited that people again, and in reply to the inquiry, "What is your message now, Bro. B.?" [he] made the apt and appropriate reply, "Stay out of her my people." So, heaven designed that the coming of Christ should be brought very near to tear from men the love of this world, and that in their faith they should ever hold His coming just before them all the way till faith should be lost in the blazing glories of the coming of the Son of Man. If we keep the coming of Jesus ever near, and live consistently with such a faith,

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*Caleb and Joshua alone,
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keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, we may be saved. But remove the coming of the Lord to the distant future, become imbued with the love and spirit of this world, and remain in such a state, and perdition is certain. Let the painful history of the past relative to those who have said in their hearts, “My Lord delayeth

His coming,” have apostatized and have been scattered to the world and to Satan, be a warning to all to be ever “looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God.”

When the warning voice of the first angel was first heard, it found the nominal churches asleep upon the subject of the second advent, dreaming of the world’s conversion. But the truth was clear, and, in the hands of devoted men, was powerful. Everywhere the message was proclaimed it produced general conviction. The Scriptures were searched as never before; a great revolution in religious belief took place in a few short years; and at least fifty thousand in America alone, became decided believers. The prophetic times in connection with that message served their purpose, and terminated with that message. The first angel’s message was a time message. The second and third are not time messages. That aroused men in view of the fast approaching Judgment. These tell them what they must do to be saved. And it has been Satan’s grand object to institute numerous time movements among certain Adventists since 1844, to contravene this work of preparation. The passing of each time has weakened the faith of believers, and has caused unbelievers to look upon Adventists with increasing disgust. And confusion and irreligion have resulted from these spurious time movements everywhere they have reached.

The title page of this work calls attention to the great Advent movement as illustrated by the three angels of Revelation 14. The truth and work of God in this movement, commencing with the labors of William

Miller, and reaching to the close of probation, is illustrated by these three angels. The first was a time message, and related to the Judgment. The second described the condition of corrupted Christianity. The third is a solemn warning relative to what men may not do, and what they must do, in order to be saved at the coming of Christ. These angels illustrate the three great divisions of the genuine movement. They do not illustrate the numerous time movements which have appeared since 1844; therefore, to say the very least, these movements were not from Heaven.

Seventh-day Adventists hold fast the great Advent movement, hence have use for the messages. They explain them in their sermons, treat upon them in their books, and give them a place with the other prophetic symbols upon their charts. They cannot spare these links in the golden chain of truth, that connect the past with the present and future, and show a beautiful harmony in the great whole.

Timeists, and in fact all Adventists who do not acknowledge the special providence of God in the work of William Miller and his associates, in 1843 and 1844, have no use for the three angel’s messages. They do not introduce them into their sermons and printed expositions of prophecy, unless it be to oppose us. They find no place for them among the other prophetic symbols upon their charts. Indeed, they treat them with all that neglect that would be justifiable, were they a wicked interpolation by men who sought to corrupt the sacred Scriptures. And no reason can be given why these men should pursue their fanatical course in relation to definite time, and other fancies not symbolized by the three angels, and therefore no part of the great movement, and resist the truth of God for this time, unless it be that in consequence of not receiving and retaining the love of the truth of the fulfillment of the prophecy in the Advent movement, God has given them over to strong delusions. I repeat it. The three messages symbolize the three parts of the genuine movement. That which has appeared not symbolized by the three angels, though it be branded “Adventism,” is spurious.



Again, the sanctuary was the heart of the typical system. It was the repository of the ark of God, in which His law was deposited. By this law the people had the knowledge of sin. It was also the place where they, in figure, found pardon for their sins through the offerings there made. This entire system, with its great center, the sanctuary, was but the shadow of the realities of the present system of salvation. The shadow was on earth; the realities in heaven. The facts are stated by the apostle in few words: "We have such an High Priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." Hebrews 8:1, 2. The sanctuary of the new covenant, which is in heaven, is the great heart of the plan of redemption. There Christ offers His blood for the sins of men. In the real tabernacle there are two holies, if there were two in the shadow. In the holiest is the ark of God, containing the ten precepts of His law, if they were in the holiest of the shadow. Here is a theme worthy the attention of all Christians. And it is one in which they should feel the deepest interest, as each has a case of eternal consequence pending there.

The work of cleansing this sanctuary, at the close of the 2300 days, is a subject which should materially interest all Adventists. It pertains to the confession, pardon, and blotting out of sins. A correct and intelligent faith sees the adorable Redeemer in the most holy of the true tabernacle, offering His blood before the mercy seat for the sins of those who have broken the law of God beneath it in the ark. True faith reaches within the second veil, where Jesus and the ark of God are seen. There, by the law we have the knowledge of sin, and through the blood of Jesus we may find pardon, and share eternal redemption. The subject of the cleansing of this sanctuary, then, is one of most thrilling interest, especially to all Adventists. It is



The shadow was on earth, the realities in heaven.

the key to the great Advent movement, making all plain. Without it the movement is inexplicable.

Seventh-day Adventists dwell upon this subject with great delight. It opens to them the ark of God, in which is seen the ten precepts of His law. They keep them. It presents Jesus before the mercy-seat, ready to plead the cause of sinners, who in the spirit of penitence and confession, go to Him for help. They love and seek to obey Him, so that it is said of them, "Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." They treat upon the subject of the sanctuary in their sermons and books, and find a place for it among the symbols of prophecy upon their charts. Seventh-day Adventists cannot spare the subject of the sanctuary, as it is the great center around which all revealed truth relative to salvation clusters, and contributes more toward defining their present position, than any other.

But nominal Adventists treat the subject as one of no interest or importance

to them. Having in their own hearts abolished the ten commandments, they have no use for the ark of God, and cast it aside as an antiquated and unfashionable piece of furniture. Their sermons, and their printed essays and expositions, do not refer to the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary, unless it be to oppose the views of Seventh-day Adventists, and ridicule them, and ignorantly and contemptuously talk of heaven being dirty, and needing cleansing. And as in the case of the three angels, you do not find the sanctuary represented upon their prophetic charts.

But these we value above all earthly good, and make them prominent in all our religious teachings, because the truth of God for this time, or present truth, is in them. And for this reason, those who "call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter," cast this subject from them, as unworthy of their notice, unless it be to oppose, denounce and ridicule.

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November 1 – 7, 2026

1888 and the Message to Laodicea

Key Text

“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.” Revelation 3:15

Study Help: *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 3, 252–260; Ibid., Vol. 5, 98–105

Introduction

“A profession of faith and the possession of truth in the soul are two different things. The mere knowledge of truth is not enough.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 97

Sunday

1 A LIFE-OR-DEATH ISSUE

1.a. What condition did Jones and Waggoner point out in their 1888 message to those living in the Laodicean period? Revelation 3:14, 15

Note: “The message of the True Witness reveals the fact that a terrible deception is upon our people, which makes it necessary to come to them with warnings, to break their spiritual slumber, and arouse them to decided action.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 3, 254

“The message given us by A. T. Jones, and E. J. Waggoner is the message of God to the Laodicean church, and woe be unto anyone who professes to believe the truth and yet does not reflect to others the God-given rays.” *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, 1052

“Take this message in all its phases and sound it forth to the people wherever Providence opens the way. Justification by faith and the righteousness of Christ are the themes to be presented to a perishing world.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 964

1.b. Define one of the main problems which those in the Laodicean period have had to face, in spite of the promised help that came through the message of 1888. James 4:4

Note: “The message to the church of the Laodiceans applies especially to the people of God today [1903]. It is a message to professing Christians who have become so much like the world that no difference can be seen.” *The Review and Herald*, August 20, 1903

Monday

2 WHAT IS “HOT”/WHAT IS “COLD”?

2.a. How does Paul describe a congregation full of zeal? 2 Corinthians 7:11; 9:2. What is the great need of lukewarm believers?

Note: “The fervor of the love of God is wanting in their hearts, but it is this very fervor of love that makes God’s people the light of the world.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 961

“Brethren and sisters, I entreat you to ‘examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.’ To maintain the warmth and purity of Christian love requires a constant supply of the grace of Christ. Have you employed every means that your ‘love may abound yet more and more,’ ‘that ye may approve things that are excellent,’ and be filled with the fruits of righteousness ‘which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God?’” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, 103, 104

2.b. How may the most common form of “coldness” creep into the church? 1 Timothy 5:12

Note: “The atmosphere of the church is so frigid, its spirit is of such an order, that men and women cannot sustain or endure the example of primitive and heaven-born piety. The warmth of their first love is frozen up, and unless they are watered over by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, their candlestick will be removed out of its place, except they repent and do their first works. The first works of the church were seen when the believers sought out friends, relatives, and acquaintances, and with hearts overflowing with love told the story of what Jesus was to them and what they were to Jesus. Oh, that the Lord would awaken those who are in responsible positions, lest they undertake to do work, relying upon their own smartness. The work that comes forth from their hands will lack the mold and superscription of Christ.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 167, 168

Tuesday

3 A LUKEWARM MAJORITY

- 3.a. Why is there more hope for those who are “cold” than for those who are “lukewarm”? Give an example. Luke 18:10–14

Note: “To those who do not practice it, the word of God is a dead letter. Christ says of such, ‘I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.’ He cannot present their case to the Father. If they realized that they were sinners, He could plead in their behalf, and the Lord would arouse them by His Holy Spirit. But they are worse than dead in trespasses and sins. They hear the Word, but make no application of it to themselves; instead, they apply the Word spoken to their neighbors.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 963

- 3.b. Why is it even more dangerous to be “lukewarm” than to be “cold”? Matthew 13:13–15; Romans 2:24

Note: “It would be more pleasing to the Lord if lukewarm professors of religion had never named His name. They are a continual weight to those who would be faithful followers of

Jesus. They are a stumbling block to unbelievers, and evil angels exult over them, and taunt the angels of God with their crooked course. Such are a curse to the cause at home or abroad. They draw nigh to God with their lips, while their heart is far from Him.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, 188

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

“What greater delusion can deceive the human mind than that in which individuals flatter themselves that they have the truth, that they are on the only sure foundation, and that God accepts their works because they are actively engaged in some work in the cause of God, when they are sinning against Him by walking contrary to the expressed will of God?” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 451

Wednesday

4 SELF-DECEPTION POINTED OUT

- 4.a. What do the deceived, professed believers in Laodicea say through their actions? Revelation 3:17, *first part*

Note: “The people to whom God has entrusted the sacred, solemn, testing truths for this time are sleeping at their post. They say by their actions: We have the truth; we are ‘rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;’ while the True Witness declares: Thou ‘knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.’”

“With what fidelity do these words portray the present condition of the church: ‘Knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.’” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, 101 (1882)

- 4.b. How may the attitude of believers in the Laodicean period parallel the position of the Jews in Christ’s day? Matthew 11:20–24; 13:15; Revelation 3:17, *last part*

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*I know your works, that
you are neither cold nor
hot. I could wish you
were cold or hot.*

Revelation 3:15

Note: “Of those who boast of their light, and yet fail to walk in it, Christ says, ‘But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum [Seventh-day Adventists, who have had great light], which art exalted unto heaven [in point of privilege], shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.’” *The Review and Herald*, August 1, 1893 [E. G. White’s bracketed comments].

“It will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for those who have been privileged with the clear light, and have had a vast amount of labor, but have not profited by it. They have neglected the great salvation which God in mercy was willing to bestow. They were so blinded by the devil that they verily thought themselves rich and in the favor of God, when the True Witness declares them to be wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 2, 488, 489

Thursday

5 TWO DIFFERENT SITUATIONS

5.a. What was the condition of the church militant even in her best days? Revelation 2:1–4

Note: “The church was defective and in need of stern reproof and chastisement, and John was inspired to record messages of warning and reproof.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 587

“There have ever been two classes among those who profess to be followers of Christ. While one class study the Saviour’s life and earnestly seek to correct their defects and conform

to the Pattern, the other class shun the plain, practical truths which expose their errors. Even in her best estate the church was not composed wholly of the true, pure, and sincere.” *The Great Controversy*, 43

“The church of Christ on earth will be imperfect, but God does not destroy His church because of its imperfection.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 46

5.b. How does the Spirit of Prophecy teach that a lukewarm state is different from a state of imperfection? What must happen if we, as Seventh-day Adventists, remain in the Laodicean condition? Revelation 3:16

Note: “The church is composed of imperfect, erring men and women, who call for the continual exercise of charity and forbearance. But there has been a long period of general lukewarmness; a worldly spirit coming into the church has been followed by alienation, faultfinding, malice, strife, and iniquity.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, 104

“‘Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of My mouth.’ Revelation 3:16. The figure of spewing out of His mouth means that He cannot offer up your prayers or your expressions of love to God. He cannot endorse your teaching of His word or your spiritual work in anywise. He cannot present your religious exercises with the request that grace be given you.” *Ibid.*, Vol. 6, 408

“We are coworkers with Christ, or coworkers with the enemy. We either gather with Christ or scatter abroad. We are decided, wholehearted Christians, or none at all. ‘Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of My mouth.’” *Ibid.*, Vol. 1, 126

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How is the message of 1888 applicable to us in 1999?
- 2 What is indicated by the spiritual “temperature check” that we should perform individually on ourselves, and why must we do this?
- 3 Name some ways in which lukewarmness manifests itself.
- 4 What was the Jewish attitude in Christ’s day that we must carefully avoid?
- 5 Why does Christ “spew out” the majority, and what does this mean?



November 8 – 14, 2026

The Purpose of the Laodicean Message

Key Text

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” Acts 3:19

Study Help: *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 3, 260–272;
The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, 352–381

Introduction

“The refreshing or power of God comes only on those who have prepared themselves for it by doing the work which God bids them, namely, cleansing themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”
Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, 619

Sunday

1 THE DISEASE AND THE REMEDY

1.a. Explain what is meant by the Laodicean poverty, wretchedness, and nakedness. Revelation 3:17 (compare Lamentations 1:8; Isaiah 64:6)

Note: “What is the shame of this nakedness and poverty? It is the shame of clothing ourselves with self-righteousness, and of separating ourselves from God, when He has made ample provision for all to receive His blessing.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 965

“What is it that constitutes the wretchedness, the nakedness of those who feel rich and increased with goods?—It is the want of the righteousness of Christ. In their own righteousness they are represented as clothed with filthy rags, and yet in this condition they flatter themselves that they are clothed upon with Christ’s righteousness. Could deception be greater?” *The Review and Herald*, August 7, 1894

1.b. What does Christ offer us in order to heal our spiritual disease and restore our relationship with God? Revelation 3:18

Note: “The gold that Jesus would have us buy of Him is gold tried in the fire; it is the gold of faith and love, that has no defiling substance mingled with it. The white raiment is the righteousness of Christ, the wedding garment which Christ alone can give. The eye salve is the true spiritual discernment that is so wanting among us, for spiritual things must be spiritually discerned.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 965

Monday

2 THE NEGATIVE REACTION

2.a. How was the message of Christ’s righteousness received in 1888? What example of unwillingness was repeated? John 7:48; 2 Timothy 3:5, 7

Note: “An unwillingness to yield up preconceived opinions, and to accept this truth, lay at the foundation of a large share of the opposition manifested at Minneapolis against the Lord’s message through Brethren [E. J.] Waggoner and [A. T.] Jones. By exciting that opposition Satan succeeded in shutting away from our people, in a great measure, the special power of the Holy Spirit that God longed to impart to them. The enemy prevented them from obtaining that efficiency which might have been theirs in carrying the truth to the world, as the apostles proclaimed it after the day of Pentecost. The light that is to lighten the whole earth with its glory was resisted, and by the action of our own brethren has been in a great degree kept away from the world.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 234, 235

“I wish to plead with our brethren who shall assemble at the General Conference to heed the message given to the Laodiceans. What a condition of blindness is theirs! This subject has been brought to your notice again and again, but your dissatisfaction with your spiritual condition has not been deep and painful enough to work reform. ‘Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.’



The guilt of self-deception is upon our churches. The religious life of many is a lie.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 16, 108 (1892)

2.b. Why is the counsel of the True Witness often rejected by believers in the threefold message?
Jeremiah 17:9; John 3:19, 20

Note: “Very many feel impatient and jealous because they are frequently disturbed with warnings and reproofs which keep their sins before them. Says the True Witness: ‘I know thy works.’ The motives, the purposes, the unbelief, the suspicions and jealousies may be hid from men, but not from Christ.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 3, 256

“The people slumber on in their sins. They continue to declare themselves rich and having need of nothing. Many inquire: Why are all these reproofs given? Why do the *Testimonies* continually charge us with backsliding and with grievous sins? We love the truth; we are prospering; we are in no need of these testimonies of warning and reproof. But let these murmurers see their hearts and compare their lives with the practical teachings of the Bible, let them humble their souls before God, let the grace of God illuminate the darkness, and the scales will fall from their eyes, and they will realize their true spiritual poverty and wretchedness.” *Ibid.*, 254

Tuesday

3 THE POSITIVE REACTION

3.a. What is the Laodicean message designed to accomplish among those who accept it? Acts 3:19

Note: “It is designed to arouse the people of God, to discover to them their backslidings, and to lead to zealous repentance, that they may be favored with the presence of Jesus, and be fitted for the loud cry of the third angel.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, 186

“Here are ‘the times of refreshing’ to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said, ‘Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out [in the investigative

judgment], when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus.’” *The Great Controversy*, 611 (1888 edition)

3.b. How does God lead, step by step, those who accept the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans? Revelation 3:20

Note: “God leads His people on, step by step. He brings them up to different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart. Some endure at one point, but fall off at the next. At every advanced point the heart is tested and tried a little closer. If the professed people of God find their hearts opposed to this straight work, it should convince them that they have a work to do to overcome, if they would not be spewed out of the mouth of the Lord. Said the angel: ‘God will bring His work closer and closer to test and prove every one of His people.’ Some are willing to receive one point; but when God brings them to another testing point, they shrink from it and stand back, because they find that it strikes directly at some cherished idol. Here they have opportunity to see what is in their hearts that shuts out Jesus. ... If any will not be purified through obeying the truth, and overcome their selfishness, their pride, and evil passions, the angels of God have the charge: ‘They are joined to their idols, let them alone,’ and they pass on to their work, leaving these with their sinful traits unsubdued, to the control of evil angels. Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, 187

Wednesday

4 REPENTANCE AND CONFESSION

4.a. What is our most urgent need? Hosea 12:6; Revelation 3:19; Psalm 51:10–13. What is repentance and what is conversion? What is the work of the Holy Spirit?



Note: “Confession will not be acceptable to God without sincere repentance and reformation. There must be decided changes in the life; everything offensive to God must be put away. This will be the result of genuine sorrow for sin.” *Steps to Christ*, 39

“When a man is filled with the Spirit, the more severely he is tested and tried, the more clearly he proves that he is a representative of Christ. The peace that dwells in the soul is seen on the countenance. The words and actions express the love of the Saviour. There is no striving for the highest place. Self is renounced. The name of Jesus is written on all that is said and done.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 6, 1117

4.b. How does Christ teach that, without repentance and conversion, there is no hope for us? Luke 13:5; Matthew 18:3; John 3:3. What is the difference between revival and reformation?

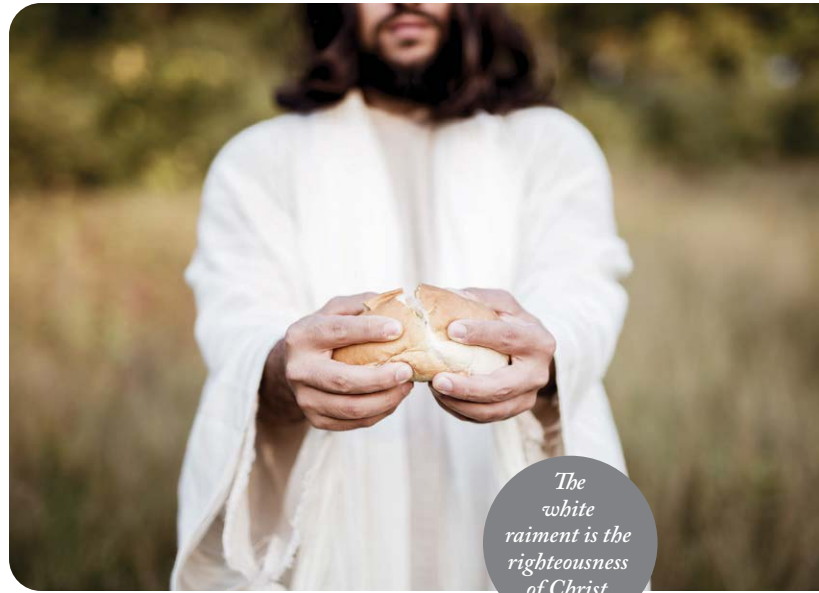
Note: “A revival and a reformation must take place, under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 128

Thursday

5 PREPARATION FOR THE LATTER RAIN

5.a. What work should be seen among us before the latter rain is poured out and before the judgments of God (the seven last plagues) begin to fall upon the earth? Joel 2:12, 13, 15–17

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.” *The Great Controversy*, 464

5.b. What will be the evidence that our repentance and conversion are accepted? Joel 2:28

Note: “Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, 214

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Why does Revelation 3:17, 18 apply to two classes of Laodicean believers?
- 2 What must we realize before the 1888 message may bring a reformation?
- 3 What step-by-step process takes place in the converted soul?
- 4 Explain what is meant by revival and by reformation.
- 5 What is necessary for us to receive the latter rain?

November 15 – 21, 2026

The White Raiment

Key Text

“And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”
Revelation 19:8

Study Help: *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 377–388; *The Sanctified Life*, 7–17

Introduction

“The white raiment is the righteousness of Christ, the wedding garment which Christ alone can give.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, 965

Sunday

1 THE GARMENT OF CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

1.a. What is Christ's righteousness and how can we obtain it? Revelation 3:18

Note: “The righteousness of Christ is not a cloak to cover unconfessed and unforsaken sin; it is a principle of life that transforms the character and controls the conduct ... [through] the entire surrender of heart and life to the indwelling of the principles of heaven.” *The Desire of Ages*, 555, 556

“Only the covering which Christ Himself has provided can make us meet to appear in God's presence. This covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Christ will put upon every repenting, believing soul.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 311

1.b. Where, when, and how did Christ prepare the white raiment for His followers? Hebrews 2:14–18

Note: “This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us. ... By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God's commandments.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 311, 312

Monday

2 THE PRICE PAID FOR THE GARMENT

2.a. What did Christ in His human nature make available to us, and how? Romans 5:19; 1 Peter 2:24

Note: “Christ took upon Himself humanity for us. He clothed His divinity, and divinity and humanity were combined. He showed that that law which Satan declared could not be kept, could be kept. Christ took humanity to stand here in our world, to show that Satan had lied. He took humanity upon Himself to demonstrate that with divinity and humanity combined, man could keep the law of Jehovah.” *Faith and Works*, 71

2 b. How can we show our gratitude to Christ for the white raiment? 1 Peter 1:18–23; Revelation 7:14

Note: “Notwithstanding our unworthiness, we are to remember that there is One who can take away sin, and who is willing and anxious to save the sinner. With His own blood He paid the penalty for all wrongdoers. Every sin acknowledged before God with a contrite heart, He will remove.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 970



Tuesday

3 JUSTIFICATION: RIGHTEOUSNESS IMPUTED

3.a. How can the sinner obtain the white raiment through justification? Romans 5:16–18; Zechariah 3:3, 4

Note: “Satan had represented the chosen and loyal people of God as being full of defilement and sin. He could depict the particular sins of which they had been guilty. Had he not set the whole confederacy of evil at work to lead them, through his seductive arts, into these very sins? But they had repented, they had accepted the righteousness of Christ. They were therefore standing before God clothed with the garments of Christ’s righteousness. . . . Every sin of which they had been guilty was forgiven, and they stood before God as chosen and true, as innocent, as perfect, as though they had never sinned.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 40

“Knowing himself to be a sinner, a transgressor of the holy law of God, he looks to the perfect obedience of Christ, to His death upon Calvary for the sins of the world; and he has the assurance that he is justified by faith in the merit and sacrifice of Christ. He realizes that the law was obeyed in his behalf by the Son of God, and that the penalty of transgression cannot fall upon the believing sinner. The active obedience of Christ clothes the believing sinner with the righteousness that meets the demands of the law.” *Sons and Daughters of God*, 240

3.b. On what condition can we be justified? Romans 5:1; 6:6–8; 1 John 1:9. What is the relationship between faith and obedience? Romans 3:31; 2:13; Galatians 5:6. Compare 1 John 5:3

Note: “In order to obtain the righteousness of Christ, it is necessary for the sinner to know what that repentance is which works a radical change of mind and spirit and action.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 393

“Christ imputes His perfection and righteousness to the believing sinner when he does not continue in sin, but turns from transgression to obedience of the commandments.” *The Review and Herald*, May 23, 1899

“But while God can be just, and yet justify the sinner through the merits of Christ, no man can cover his soul with the garments of Christ’s righteousness while practicing known sins, or neglecting known duties. God requires the entire surrender of the heart, before justification can take place; and in order for man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience, through active, living faith that works by love and purifies the soul.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 366

Wednesday

4 SANCTIFICATION: RIGHTEOUSNESS IMPARTED

4.a. How do justification and sanctification work together, and what is the result? John 17:17; Philippians 2:12–15

Note: “Justification means pardon. It means that the heart, purged from dead works, is prepared to receive the blessing of sanctification. God has told us what we must do to receive this blessing. ‘Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.’ ‘Do all things without murmurings and disputings; that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.’” *The Signs of the Times*, December 17, 1902

“To the church it is given ‘that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white,’ ‘not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing’ (Revelation 19:8; Ephesians 5:27). The fine linen, says the Scripture, ‘is the righteousness of saints’ (Revelation 19:8). It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished character, that through faith is imparted to all who receive Him as their personal Saviour.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 310

“The white raiment is purity of character, the righteousness of Christ imparted to the sinner. This is indeed a garment of heavenly texture, that can be bought only of Christ for a life of willing obedience.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, 88

- 4.b. Explain the work of sanctification and prove that it is a necessary step on our way to the kingdom of God.
2 Corinthians 7:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 12:14

Note: “Sanctification means habitual communion with God.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 908

“True sanctification will be evidenced by a conscientious regard for all the commandments of God, by a careful improvement of every talent, by a circumspect conversation, by revealing in every act the meekness of Christ.” Ibid.

“Obedience to the law of God is sanctification. There are many who have erroneous ideas in regard to this work in the soul, but Jesus prayed that His disciples might be sanctified through the truth, and added, ‘Thy word is truth’ (John 17:17). Sanctification is not an instantaneous but a progressive work, as obedience is continuous. Just as long as Satan urges his temptations upon us, the battle for self-conquest will have to be fought over and over again; but by obedience, the truth will sanctify the soul. Those who are loyal to the truth will, through the merits of Christ, overcome all weakness of character that has led them to be molded by every varying circumstance of life.” *Faith and Works*, 85

Thursday

5 TWO POSSIBILITIES BEFORE EVERY BELIEVER

- 5.a. How is the righteousness of Christ implanted into our character? Galatians 2:20; Romans 5:10; Colossians 1:26–29. What will happen when the character of Christ is perfectly reproduced in His people?

Note: “When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 312

“Whatever our profession, it amounts to nothing unless Christ is revealed in works of righteousness. The truth is to be planted in the heart. It is to control the mind and regulate the affections. The whole character must be stamped with the divine utterances. Every jot and tittle of the word of God is to be brought into the daily practice.

“He who becomes a partaker of the divine nature will be in harmony with God’s great standard of righteousness, His holy law. This is the rule by which God measures the actions of men. This will be the test of character in the judgment.” Ibid., 313, 314

“When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.” Ibid., 69

- 5.b. What will be the fate of those who neglect to obtain the garment of Christ’s righteousness? Matthew 7:23

Note: “Only those who are clothed in the garments of His righteousness will be able to endure the glory of His presence when He shall appear with ‘power and great glory.’” *The Review and Herald*, July 9, 1908

“O, that we would remember that it is court week with us, and that our cases are pending! Now is the time to watch and pray, to put away all self-indulgence, all pride, all selfishness. The precious moments that are now by many worse than wasted should be spent in meditation and prayer. Many of those who profess to be keeping the commandments of God are following inclination instead of duty. As they are now, they are unworthy of eternal life. ...

“On Christ’s coronation day He will not acknowledge as His any who bear spot or wrinkle or any such thing. But to His faithful ones He will give crowns of immortal glory.” Ibid., November 24, 1904

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What is the “white raiment” that Christ offers to His people?
- 2 Why is Christ’s life as important to us as His death?
- 3 How would you explain justification to someone who has never understood it?
- 4 Why is sanctification so essential to our salvation?
- 5 Describe the choice that is before each one of us.



November 22 – 28, 2026

Preparing for the Latter Rain

Key Text

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Study Help: *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, 14–23; *The Review and Herald*, March 22 and 29, 1892

Introduction

“It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 507

Sunday

1 WHY SUCH A DELAY?

1.a. Why did Israel have to wander forty years in the wilderness on their way to Canaan? Hebrews 3:12–19. How are believers in the threefold message delaying the coming of Christ?

Note: “It is the unbelief, the worldliness, unconsecration, and strife among the Lord’s professed people that have kept us in this world of sin and sorrow so many years.” *Evangelism*, 696

“If the people of God had preserved a living connection with Him, if they had obeyed His Word, they would today be in the heavenly Canaan.” *Ibid.*, 694

“Had the purpose of God been carried out by His people in giving to the world the message of mercy, Christ would, ere this, have come to the earth, and the saints would have received their welcome into the city of God.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, 450

1.b. In what sense has there been a delay also on the part of the Lord? 2 Peter 3:9

Note: “God’s unwillingness to have His people perish has been the reason for so long delay.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 2, 194

“God is long-suffering, not willing that any should perish; but His forbearance has a limit, and when the boundary is past, there is no second probation. His wrath will go forth and He will destroy without remedy.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 946

Monday

2 A LESSON FROM THE EARLY DISCIPLES

2.a. What work did the disciples have to do before receiving the early rain? Acts 1:13, 14. What work was their great burden? Mark 16:20

Note: “The first disciples went forth preaching the word. They revealed Christ in their lives. And the Lord worked with them, ‘confirming the word with signs following.’ Mark 16:20. These disciples prepared themselves for their work. Before the Day of Pentecost, they met together, and put away all differences. They were of one accord. They believed Christ’s promise that the blessing would be given, and they prayed in faith. They did not ask for a blessing for themselves merely; they were weighted with the burden for the salvation of souls. The gospel was to be carried to the uttermost parts 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.” *The Desire of Ages*, 827

2.b. How will their experience be repeated in our days? Acts 1:4, 8

Note: “The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third angel’s message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of worldwide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. The advent movement of 1840–44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God; the first angel’s message was carried to every missionary station in the world, and in some countries, 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 exceeded by the mighty movement under the last warning of the third angel.

“The work will be similar to that of the Day of Pentecost. 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 Controversy*, 611

“Let Christians put away their dissensions, and give themselves to God for the saving of the lost. Let them in faith ask for the blessing, and it will come.” *The Desire of Ages*, 827

Tuesday

3 WALKING IN THE LIGHT

3.a. What promise is very precious to those who accept the light of Revelation 18? Psalm 97:11; Ephesians 5:14. How is the third angel’s message strengthened by the coming of that other angel?

Note: “The work of this angel comes in at the right time to join in the last great work of the third angel’s message as it swells to a loud cry. And the people of God are thus prepared to stand in the hour of temptation, which they are soon to meet.” *Early Writings*, 277

“It is now that we must keep ourselves and our children unspotted from the world. It is now that we must wash our robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. It is now that we must overcome pride, passion, and spiritual slothfulness. It is now that we must awake and make determined effort for symmetry of character. ‘Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts.’” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, 215, 216 (1882)

3.b. How will the message carried by the faithful remnant swell into a loud cry? Zechariah 10:1; Isaiah 60:1–3

Note: “Only a few will receive the testimony of truth, for every influence that Satan can bring to bear against the reception of the truth of God will be employed. ...

“The question of most vital importance for this time is, ‘Who is on the Lord’s side? Who will unite with the angel in giving the message of truth to the world? Who will receive the light that is to fill the whole earth with its glory?’ Those who cherish the light that they have, will receive more. Increasing light will shine about the souls who yield to the softening, subduing grace of Christ; and those who love the light, will be saved from the delusions of Satan.” *The Review and Herald*, November 5, 1889

“Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost, and many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the great Shepherd. The people of God will draw together and present to the enemy a united front. In view of the common peril, strife for supremacy will cease; there will be no disputing as to who shall be accounted greatest. ...

“Thus, will the truth be brought into practical life, and thus will be answered the prayer of Christ, uttered just before His humiliation and death: ‘That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.’ John 17:21. The love of Christ, the love of our brethren, will testify to the world that we have been with Jesus and learned of Him. Then will the message of the third angel swell to a loud cry.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, 401

Wednesday

4 CLEARING THE WAY

4.a. How can believers in the threefold message hasten the latter rain and also the coming of the Lord? 2 Peter 3:11, 12, 14

Note: “The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to as in the future; but it is the privilege of the church to have it now. Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it. We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to bestow it.” *Evangelism*, 701



"It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain." *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, 22

4.b. What should be the initial steps to clear the way for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit? Hosea 6:1-3

Note: "When we bring our hearts into unity with Christ, and our lives into harmony with His work, the Spirit that fell on the disciples on the day of Pentecost will fall on us." *Evangelism*, 697, 698

Thursday

5 OUR PRESENT DUTY

5.a. What could have happened already in 1892 if the message of Revelation 18 had been accepted? What is our present duty? Romans 13:11-14

Note: "The third angel's message is swelling into a loud cry, and you must not feel at liberty to neglect the present duty, and still entertain the idea that at some future time you will be the recipients of great blessing, when without any effort on your part a wonderful revival will take place. ... Today you are to have your vessel purified, that it may be ready for the heavenly dew, ready for the showers of the latter rain; for the latter rain will come, and the blessing of God will fill every soul that is purified from every defilement." *Evangelism*, 701, 702 (1892)

5.b. How are we to cooperate with the Holy Spirit? James 4:7-10; John 12:35



Note: "It is our work today to yield our souls to Christ, that we may be fitted for the time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord—fitted for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. ...

"Instead of living in expectation of some special season of excitement, we are wisely to improve present opportunities, doing that which must be done in order that souls may be saved. Instead of exhausting the powers of our mind in speculations in regard to the times and seasons which the Lord has placed in His own power, and withheld from men, we are to yield ourselves to the control of the Holy Spirit, to do present duties, to give the bread of life, unadulterated with human opinions, to souls who are perishing for the truth." *Evangelism*, 702

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Explain the reasons for the delaying of Christ's second coming.
- 2 How should the disciples' preparation for the early rain inspire our readiness for the latter rain?
- 3 What characteristics qualify the faithful remnant to receive the latter rain?
- 4 How can we either hasten or delay the coming of Christ?
- 5 Whereupon should our efforts be centered in this time of preparation?

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Quinoa

Quinoa is a small, round edible seed that comes in various colors, including black, red, yellow, and white. Quinoa has only recently become popular in the United States, but it has been cultivated by native peoples in the Andes Mountains of South America for over 5,000 years.

Higher in protein than any other grain, quinoa is so nutritious that NASA has used it to feed astronauts on long-term space missions.

Unlike most plant-based foods, quinoa is a complete protein, which means it contains all of the essential amino acids. Amino acids are the building blocks of the proteins that make up your muscles, bones, skin, and blood. The nine classified as “essential” must be obtained

from food daily—your body cannot produce or store them—and quinoa provides all nine.

The USDA recommends that at least half of the grains you eat be whole grains like quinoa. Refined grains have been stripped of most of the fiber, iron, and vitamins present in the whole grain. Including whole grains in your diet can help lower your risk of diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.

Quinoa has a mild, slightly nutty taste that pairs well with both savory and sweet dishes, making it an extremely adaptable ingredient that can be used in a wide variety of cuisines. Swap it out for rice or pasta, use it in soups and salads, with vegetables, as a cereal, in puddings, cakes, bars. Always rinse well before using.



Source: webmd.com/diet/health-benefits-quinoa

Fruit

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains


MEXICAN QUINOA

Ingredients

1 onion, diced
1–2 Tbs. water or oil
3 cloves garlic, minced
2 cups cabbage, chopped, or
1 bell pepper, diced
1 tsp. cumin
1 tsp. paprika
1 tsp. smoked paprika
1 tsp. oregano
1 cup quinoa, rinsed
1 15-oz. can black beans,
drained and rinsed
1 cup frozen fire roasted
corn, or regular corn
1 ½ cups salsa

1 Tbs. tamari
2 ½ cups vegetable broth
“Sour Cream”
½ cup almonds, or
cashews, sunflower seeds,
hemp seeds
1 ½ Tbs. lemon juice, or
to taste
1 tsp. dark or light miso
paste
4 Tbs. water or a bit more,
if necessary
Salt, to taste

Process

Sauté the onion for 2–3 minutes in water or oil. Add the garlic and cabbage or pepper, and cook for 5 minutes. Add remaining ingredients, stir, cover, and cook for 10 minutes. Remove the lid, stir, and replace lid to cook for another 10 minutes or until the quinoa is soft. Blend all “sour cream” ingredients until smooth. Garnish with “sour cream,” chopped cilantro, avocado slices, and jalapeño slices, if desired.





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