

The Reformation 

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NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

Another year has passed into eternity, and we are still here in this world of sin and corruption. We have expected the Lord to come long before this, but for some reason the Lord has delayed His coming - perhaps for our sake. It may be that we have not been ready for His coming yet. But an assurance has been given us, "For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry." Heb. 10:37

To many the Lord will come too soon. The sins that they have planned to put away are still persisting in their lives. The duties they have planned to fulfill are still neglected. The improvements in health reform, Sabbath-keeping, in tithes and offerings, and in Missionary work that they may have planned but still not yet accomplished, may keep them out of heaven.

Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matt. 5:48 We know this verse by heart, but do we realize that this is the condition for eternal life?

Because of these words of Jesus we understand why only 144,000 are sealed, and not millions. When the disciples asked, "Who then can be saved," Jesus answered, "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." Matt. 19:25-26

In other words, alone we can do nothing but with Christ we can do all things. This brings us to the understanding of Christ our righteousness message.

When the people of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron, the anger of the Lord was kindled against the people. "Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly into the congregation, and make an atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the Lord; the plague is begun." Num. 16:46

In this plague 14,700 perished of the people. Today the plague is also about to begin. "The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God. Here we see that the church - the Lord's sanctuary - was the first to feel the stroke of the wrath of God." T. Vol. 5 p. 211

These plagues and punishments upon the ancient Israel were shakings, that finally only two adult men of 600,000 who left Egypt entered the Promised Land.

Concerning today, we read, "The mighty shaking has commenced and will go on, and all will be shaken out who are not willing to take a bold and unyielding stand for the truth and to sacrifice for God and His cause." EW. 50

Sister White continued to say, "God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will shift them, separating the chaff from the wheat." T. Vol. 5 p. 7.07

"There must be painstaking effort to fasten in the minds of all, the solid arguments of the truth; for everyone will be tested, and those who are rooted and grounded in the work of God will be unmoved by the heresies that will arise on all sides; but if any neglect to obtain the necessary preparations, they will be swept away by errors that have the appearance of truth." Evang. p. 365

The mighty shaking has commenced. The heresies have been introduced to the people and many have been swept away by these false teachings.

Solemn and serious is the time in which we live. What the year 2002 will bring us may be more, surprising to us than what many anticipate. Will the Sunday Law be enforced this year? Will the mighty shaking reduce our numbers to a small remnant?

The prophet Joel calls us, “Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with mourning.” Joel 2:12.

And the Spirit of Prophecy continues in the same line, “I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Some, I saw, did not participate in this agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest praying ones.” EW 269-270

The battle is fierce. Satan being filled with wrath against the people of God is putting out every effort to deceive and to hold them back from the preparation for the end. We are not fighting against flesh and blood, but against the rulers of darkness but yet no one needs to fall a victim to the enemy. The promise given to us is “Now to Him that is able to keep us from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.” Jude 2:4

Let us aim high in this New Year. Let us all plan for victories and not for defeats. Let us be prepared for whatever this year will bring us and then we don't need to be in this world of sin much longer. Let us keep our eyes fixed to our Leader, Jesus Christ and He will guide us through all the turmoil and confusion to the sheltered heaven. This is my wish and prayer for all of us. *AMEN*

Timo Martin

RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION

“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:”

Ephesians 4:26.

There is much anger in our world today and uncontrolled anger has caused many irrational actions that could have been avoided and would never have been committed had the person retained control over their emotions.

Many Christians also justify their anger by saying that Jesus also got angry for a righteous cause and therefore it is perfectly acceptable for them to get angry. However there is a large difference between anger and righteous indignation.

Anger: “A strongly felt displeasure aroused by real or supposed wrongs, often accompanied by an impulse to retaliate;” Macquarie Dictionary

Indignation: “A strong displeasure at something deemed unworthy, unjust, or base.” Macquarie Dictionary.

So what is the difference between the two? With anger, we see the added part about, “often accompanied by an impulse to retaliate.” With indignation it is not there. Then when we add the word “Righteous” in front of the word indignation, we understand it to mean a strong displeasure when we see something done morally or spiritually wrong, whether against God or against mankind.

However, many have excused their strong emotions and words with the excuse that it is righteous indignation as Jesus used. Jesus was “angry” so they also have a right to be angry.

JESUS IN THE TEMPLE:

Let's look at what happened to Jesus in the temple. He cleansed the temple on two different occasions, once at the beginning and once at the end of His ministry.

“And the Jews’ Passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers’ money, and overthrew the tables;..” John 2:13-15.

“As Jesus came into the temple, He took in the whole scene. He saw the unfair transactions. He saw the distress of the poor, who thought that without shedding of blood there would be no forgiveness for their sins. He saw the outer court of His temple converted into a place of unholy traffic. The sacred enclosure had become one vast exchange...

“Christ saw that something must be done With a searching glance, Christ takes in the scene before Him as He stands upon the steps of the temple court As He beholds the scene, indignation, authority, and power are expressed in His countenance. The attention of the people is attracted to Him. The eyes of those engaged in their unholy traffic are riveted upon His face. They cannot withdraw their gaze. They feel that this Man reads their inmost thoughts, and discovers their hidden motives. . . .

“The confusion is hushed. The sound of unholy traffic and bargaining has ceased. The silence becomes painful. A sense of awe overpowers the assembly. It is as if they were arraigned before the tribunal of God to answer for their deeds... He speaks, and His clear, ringing voice - the same that upon Mount Sinai proclaimed the law that priests and rulers are transgressing - is heard echoing through the arches of the temple: ‘Take these things hence; make not My Father’s house an house of merchandise. ‘

“Slowly descending the steps, and raising the scourge of cords gathered up on entering the enclosure, He bids the bargaining company depart from the precincts of the temple. With a zeal and severity He has never before manifested, He overthrows the tables of the money-changers. The coin falls, ringing sharply upon the marble pavement. None presume to question His authority. None dare stop to gather up their ill-gotten gain. Jesus does not smite them with the whip of cords, but in His hand that simple scourge seems terrible as a flaming sword. Officers of the temple, speculating priests, brokers and cattle traders, with their sheep and oxen, rush from the place, with one thought of escaping from the condemnation of His presence.” DA 157,158.

From this account we see that Jesus did not utter one word of anger. He showed righteous indignation, but no anger. He had no thoughts of retaliation and he did not smite anyone with His whip of cords. He spoke with authority, but not in anger.

The second time the temple was cleansed, “And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought; Saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves.” Luke 19:45, 46.

“Three years before, the rulers of the temple had been ashamed of their flight before the command of Jesus. They had since wondered at their own fears, and their unquestioning obedience to a single humble Man. They had felt that it was impossible for their undignified surrender to be repeated. Yet they were now more terrified than before, and in greater haste to obey His command. There were none who dared question His authority. Priests and traders fled from His presence, driving their cattle before them.” DA, p. 591,592.

Again, Jesus uttered only one sentence and then proceeded to drive them out.

MOSES:

Looking at the life of Moses. We see that there were two times when he showed anger. The first time was when he came down from Mt. Sinai, after spending 40 days in the presence of Jesus, only to find the nation of Israel dancing around the golden calf. In the heat of the moment, he threw down the tables of stone, breaking them in pieces.

“Overwhelmed with horror and indignation that God had been dishonored, and that the people had broken their solemn covenant with Him, he cast the two tables of stone upon the ground and broke them beneath the mount. Though his love for Israel was so great that he was willing to lay down his own life for them, yet his zeal for the glory of God moved him to anger, which found expression in this act of such terrible significance. God did not rebuke him. The breaking of the tables of stone was but a representation of the fact that Israel had broken the covenant which they had so recently made with God. It is a righteous indignation against sin, which springs from zeal for the glory of God, not that anger prompted by self-love or wounded ambition which is referred to ill the scripture, ‘Be ye angry, and sin not.’ Such was the anger of Moses.” TM, p. 101.

“Does God condemn Moses? No, no; the great goodness of God pardons the rashness and zeal of Moses, because it was all on account of his fidelity and his disappointment and grief at the sight of his eyes in the evidence of Israel’s apostasy.” 3T 341.

MOSES’ 2ND DISPLAY OF ANGER:

Then towards the end of his life, we again read of Moses getting angry. There was no water in the desert and the Israelites came to Moses and Aaron, blaming them for all their troubles. Upon inquiring of the Lord as to what their duty was, they were told to go and speak to the rock. Moses, in a fit of anger, smote the rock two times. The water flowed out, but this second time when Moses displayed anger, it was different and it was this portrayal of anger that prohibited him from entering the Promised Land. “Hear now, ye rebels, must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly.” Numbers 20:10-11. While it was true that the many complaints of the people provoked him to anger, and it seemed to be anger for a righteous cause, Moses went too far this time. This time it was anger not indignation. “And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.” Numbers 20: 12.

“Aaron and Moses both sinned in not giving glory and honour to God at the waters of Meribah. They were both wearied and provoked with the continual complaining of Israel, and, at a time when God was to mercifully display His glory to the people, to soften and subdue their hearts and lead them to repentance, Moses and Aaron claimed the power of opening the rock for them. ‘Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?’ Here was a golden opportunity to sanctify the Lord in the midst of them, to show them the longsuffering of God and His tender pity for them. They had murmured against Moses and Aaron because they could not find water. Moses and Aaron took these murmurings as a great trial and dishonour to themselves, forgetting that it was God whom the people were grieving. It was God whom they were sinning against and dishonouring, not those who were appointed of God to carry out His purpose. They were insulting their best Friend in charging their calamities upon Moses and Aaron; they were murmuring at God’s providence.” 3T, p, 301,302.

Moses was weary from the 40 years wandering in the wilderness and the constant murmuring and complaining of the Israelites. Any time they were in a slightly difficult situation, rather than turning to God in prayer and faith asking for direction, they went to Moses and began complaining and blaming him for all their troubles. “Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the Lord! And why have ye brought up the congregation of the Lord into this wilderness, that we and our cattle die there? And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? It is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.” Numbers 20:3-5. They had clearly forgotten the wonderful way God had provided for them in the past. This constant murmuring did take its toll on Moses, however this was no excuse for his sin. “Moses had spoken from irritated feeling; his words were an expression of human passion rather than of holy indignation because God had been dishonoured.” PP417.

“Not even the integrity and faithfulness of Moses could avert the retribution of his fault, God had forgiven the people greater transgressions, but He could not deal with sin in the leaders as in those who were led. The fact that Moses had enjoyed so great light and knowledge made his sin more grievous. Past faithfulness will not atone for one wrong act.” PP 420.

“A wrong act can never be undone. It may be that the work of a lifetime will not recover what has been lost in a single moment of temptation or even thoughtlessness.” PP 426.

Two things Moses did wrong - he got angry and then he took the honour to himself that was due only to God.

“Because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips.” Psalm 106:33

“To human judgment this may seem a light thing; but if God dealt so severely with this sin in His most faithful and honoured servant, He will not excuse it in others. . . . The more important one’s position, and the greater his influence, the greater is the necessity that he should cultivate patience and humility.” PP 420.

There is a danger that God’s people today can make the same mistakes as Moses. The second mistake of taking glory to God is a real danger. “If the children of God, especially those who stand in positions of responsibility, can be led to take to themselves the glory that is due to God, Satan exults. He has gained a victory.” PP 421.

NO EXCUSE FOR ANGER

“All who profess godliness are under the most sacred obligation to guard the spirit, and to exercise self-control under the greatest provocation. The burdens placed upon Moses were very great; few men will ever be so severely tried as he was; yet this was not allowed to excuse his sin. God has made ample provision for His people; and if they rely upon His strength, they will never become the sport of circumstances. The strongest temptation cannot excuse sin. However great the pressure brought to bear upon the soul, transgression is our own act. It is not in the power of earth or hell to compel anyone to do evil. Satan attacks us at our weak points, but we need not be overcome. However severe or unexpected the assault, God has provided help for us, and in His strength we may conquer.” PP 421. “You may, by a single word spoken in haste and passion, leave a sting in the hearts of friends which may never be forgotten.” 4T 243.

Moses did not premeditate this sin. I am sure he was shocked when God pointed it out. If he had not allowed his anger to gain control of him, he never would have spoken the words that he did, nor taken the honour to himself that was due only to God. Anger is a terrible evil- once indulged, it controls a person’s reason and people do things they would never dream of doing if they had their emotions under control.

“It is a sin to speak impatiently and fretfully or to feel angry...” CG 95. Here it is said that it is a sin to even feel angry. How is this possible? Is it not said by modern day health professionals that it is ok to feel angry as long as you learn to manage it and channel it in the right direction? After all we are human and according to our emotional make-up, we will feel angry at times. No, this is not acceptable to God. We must learn to handle circumstances as they come our way and to not allow anger to creep into our emotional make-up. “Harsh, angry words are not of heavenly origin. Scolding and fretting never help.” CG 246. “We cannot get angry just when we please, and retain a clear conscience and the approval of God.” 2T 590. “That which is done in haste and anger is not excusable. The action is bad.” 4T 243.

Often angry feelings arise from feelings of resentment because someone has injured us. David says, “Great peace have they which love thy law and nothing shall offend them. “ Psalm 119:165. “Resentment, which is indulged because you think you have been misused, is the spirit of Satan and leads to great moral evil.” 4T 243. Uncontrolled anger has led to many horrible crimes and atrocities on this earth. There is no excuse for it and we must strive, by the grace of God, to completely eliminate it from our emotional make-up.

PARENTS AND CHILDREN

When our children do wrong over and over again, as parents it is easy to become exasperated and angry. However this will never solve the problem. When disciplining our children, not even the tone of our voice should change. We need to have perfect control of ourselves if we wish to control our children. “When you are obliged to correct a child, do not raise the voice to a high key. . . Do not lose your self- control. The parent who, when correcting a child, gives way to anger is more at fault than the child. . Be so calm, so free from anger, that they will be convinced that you love them, even though you punish them.” CG 246,249.

“Fathers and mothers, you are responsible for your children. Be careful under what influences you place upon them. Do not, by scolding or fretting, lose your own influence over them for good. You are to guide them, not to stir up the passions of their mind. Whatever provocation you may have, be sure that the tone of your voice betrays no irritation. Do not let them see in you a manifestation of the spirit pt Satan. This will not help you to fit and train your children for the future, immortal life.” CG 261.

If you discipline your children in anger, what you are teaching them is that anger is an acceptable response when circumstances don’t go as you expect them to, or when someone has disappointed you. They will begin to use the same methods they see in you. They will become angry when others disturb them or when they don’t get their own way. We need wisdom from the Lord in order to discipline our children and set a right example for them to follow.

INDIGNATION VS. ANGER

“Christ’s indignation was directed against the hypocrisy, and gross sins, by which men were destroying their own

souls, deceiving the people and dishonouring God. In the specious deceptive reasoning of the priests and rulers He discerned the working of satanic agencies. Keen and searching had been His denunciation of sin; but He spoke no words of retaliation. He had a holy wrath against the prince of darkness; but He manifested no irritated temper. So the Christian who lives in harmony with God, possessing the sweet attributes of love and mercy, will feel a righteous indignation against sin; but he will not be roused by passions to revile those who revile him. Even in meeting those who are moved by a power from beneath to maintain falsehood, in Christ he will still preserve calmness and self-possession.” DA. p. 619,620.

“It is true there is an indignation that is justifiable, even in the followers of Christ. When they see that God is dishonoured, and His service brought into disrepute, when they see the innocent oppressed, a righteous indignation stirs the soul. Such anger, born of sensitive morals, is not a sin. But those who at any supposed provocation feel at liberty to indulge anger or resentment are opening the heart to Satan. Bitterness and animosity must be banished from the soul if we would be in harmony with heaven.” DA, p. 31Q:

So what is the difference between Righteous Indignation and Anger? It is often the spirit and tone of the voice that will give it away. Many times, though, only God can tell what is in the heart and what is the motive behind the words and actions. Are they a result of disappointment for those that are going against the cause of God as in the case of Jesus and Moses when he threw down the 10 commandments? Or are they the result of hurt and irritated feelings that a person has towards themselves? It may often appear that a leader has displayed righteous indignation when they see the cause of God being wronged, but there is danger that, as a leader, the person shows anger because he is concerned with his reputation as a leader, rather than how the people are hurting themselves and the cause of God. However, God can read the heart and knows the motive for every action. We can hide from man, but not from God. Judas Iscariot allowed hidden resentment to grow in his heart and it led him to finally betray Jesus. Hidden anger and irritated feelings will be made manifest at some point in time. It is best to guard our thoughts and our words, as we will be judged by these also on the great judgment day. The recording angel faithfully records each word spoken, the spirit with which it is spoken and the motive behind the words. It is time now to give up all feelings of anger and resentment and not make excuses for our anger saying that “Jesus displayed anger” so it is ok for us to also. Plain and simple, anger is sin. We must allow the love of God to control our thoughts, words and actions.

“The real greatness and nobility of the man is measured by the power of the feelings that he subdues, not by the power of the feelings that subdue him. The strongest man is he, who, while sensitive to abuse, will yet restrain passion and forgive his enemies. Such men are true heroes.” 4T 656.

“He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.” Proverbs 16:32.

Wendy Eaton

IN THIS OUR DAY - REVELATION 13 FORESHADOWED

After the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., the incredible speed with which the nations of the world rallied about the American banner was an eye-opener to students of Revelation 13. In this crisis time the United States demonstrated that its word is almost law throughout the world. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates severed diplomatic relations with Afghanistan. Nations, long thought to be powerful enemies of America, such as China and Russia, joined the coalition for war. We do not know, of course, whether this worldwide crisis will eventually culminate in the Sunday Law, but things are certainly pointing that way in the near future.

What we have learned is just how rapidly nations of various faiths on every continent can be marshaled into a united alliance to do the will of the United States, when an impediment to security and prosperity is identified. This fact confirms to the devout student of Scripture that everything is in place for the United States to exert its prophesied role in end time events.

President Bush's implied threat to the nations of the world - "either you are with us or you are with the terrorists" was in itself an act of injustice. Surely any nation of the world has the right to hate terrorism, yet judge that to support a war, unlikely to achieve its aim of eradicating terrorism, does not serve the best interests of the nation or the world. In the present climate prevailing in the United States, any terrorist-hating nation which takes a stand for neutrality in this war, would not be acting in weakness but in courage.

We know that "Satan delights in war, for it excites the worst passions of the soul and then sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in vice and blood. It is his object to incite the nations to war against one another, for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God." GC 589

When President Bush commanded American financial institutions to cease all dealings with terrorists and their organizations, he did not request the financial organizations of other nations of the world to follow suit: he commanded them to do so under threat that they would be cut off from all business with the world's largest economy - the United States. The following day, the Group of Seven richest nations of the world complied.

Revelation 13: 17 foretells a world-wide economic boycott against faithful Sabbath-keepers. Once more, I emphasize that we do not know if this crisis will eventually generate this event, but we have learnt how the United States can effectively exert control over other nation's financial policies, surely a prerequisite for the introduction of an economic boycott of faithful followers of Christ when the United States finally passes the National Sunday Law.

A Change in the American Mind -Set

Another alarming consequence of the terrorist acts against New York and Washington has been the sentiment that "Americans are determined to try to win a war even if it means sacrifice and loss of civil liberties." Many are stating that if America wants full liberty, then it cannot expect security. If it desires security then the citizens must be prepared to forfeit some of its liberties. US Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has stated, "We are likely to experience more restrictions on our personal freedom than has ever been the case in our country."

The World Net Daily, Sept. 27, 2001 warned: "With Congress hotly debating whether to grant sweeping police powers to federal law enforcement agencies in the name of combating terrorism, two attorneys who have studied presidential directives in depth are concerned that civil liberties will take a beating from the executive branch as well as the legislative - and no one would realize it until it was too late.

"On Sept. 14 President Bush, responding to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon three days earlier, issued a proclamation declaring a state national emergency and reinforced it the same day with an executive order calling the Ready Reserves of the Armed Forces into active duty.

"For Constitutional attorney William Olson, alarm bells started ringing.

"This is just the beginning," he told WorldNet Daily. 'I am certain the proclamation and executive order by the president are the first of a series of executive orders that are likely to be issued as the administration identifies the powers it wants to invoke."

Liberty and security are not mutually compatible. Governments typically remove liberties on the pretext that the measure is essential for national survival in times of peril. Unthinking citizens frequently accept these measures. Many Germans, when their prosperity was ruined in the 1920's and early 1930's, accepted Adolf Hitler's abrogation of many liberties in return for his promise of prosperity and national greatness. Millions lost their lives as a consequence, a massive war ensued and German cities were reduced to ashes.

A New Crusade?

This war to exterminate Osama Bin Laden or exterminate terrorism is likely to do neither. But what many Christian religious and political leaders are likening this war to is probably closer to the truth: a new crusade to rid the earth of radical Islam. Anything or anyone that will not go along with the Papal agenda has to be taken out of the way for Revelation 13 to be fulfilled; and the radical Muslims are the only ones not on side with the new world order that is ready to come into place in every other respect, as we can see from the world nations lining up behind America.

In examining these matters, we can discern a prototype of the events prophesied in Rev; 13:15- 17. Of course, these events are not the fulfillment of that prophecy, but they do demonstrate the astounding rapidity with which

America can obtain the submission of most of the nations of the world - irrespective of the religion of their citizens to her policies and plans when a serious threat to security and prosperity is identified around the world.

We have in the past imagined that the enforcement of the Sunday law by the United States, would take a considerable time to be adopted by other nations. Now we can discern that the final movements could really be rapid ones and that many nations may adopt those laws, if urged to do so by the United States, in a matter of a few days.

Let us review, in the light of the New York tragedy, the divinely set forth scenario of the introduction of the death decree, economic boycott and the withdrawal of religious liberty. "In accidents and calamities by sea and land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstones, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more. frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. GC 589-90

What will be the response to this terrible carnage where nations are destroyed economically and many lives are lost? "And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God's commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of. the Sunday Sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troubles of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favour and temporal prosperity. GC 590.

In his video, "Prophecy and the New Times," Ted Flynn, the Roman Catholic devotee of Mary, reported that in an apparition "Mary" stated that terrible disasters were about to strike America. "She" stated that they were the result of sin and that the only solution was for Americans to return to God. The solution offered was to close all shops on Sunday; to ban sporting events on Sunday, to attend Mass and Confession and to say the Rosary.

Make no mistake, such deceptions of Satan will play a pivotal role in turning secular mankind to religion. But they will not sanctify the soul. A religious zeal will ensue. How easily this will generate Sunday Laws as a means of regaining divine favour! Such religious zealots, unsanctified at heart, will not hesitate to persecute faithful Sabbath-keepers in a vain effort to restore security and prosperity.

Sunday Laws Upheld by the Supreme Court

Already the United States Supreme Court in 1961 by an 8-1 decision, ruled that Sunday Laws do not violate the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees religious liberty. In 1990 the Supreme Court by a 5-4 majority in the case of Smith vs. the State of Oregon, "went far beyond the case and declared that when religious rights clash with the government's need for uniform rules, the court will side with the government."

All is ready for the fulfillment of Rev. 13:15-17. The New York-Washington, D.C. terror attacks have demonstrated how fragile are our own security and well-being. It has also highlighted the remarkable reliability of Sr.-White's prophetic gift. At a time when the greatest attacks have been leveled against the truth of the Spirit of Prophecy within Adventism, God has dramatically reminded us how accurate were His revelations to His servant. To ignore this lesson would be to imperil our own salvation. (What many don't realize is just how accurate that testimony was because the U.S. government and large corporations have ground down the poor with oppression, dealt fraudulently in trade and very proudly set up U.S. interests around the world, just as Testimonies Volume 9 said in context of New York's big buildings being "destroyed: How did they do this? You ask. The U.S. has, by signing "Free Trade agreements" with Third world countries and getting them to sign over their sovereignty, rights to own land for their lower classes and their natural resources - all for the right to have "American prosperity- ground down the poor with oppression and dealt fraudulently.)

"In the night I was, I thought, in a room but not in my own house. I was in a city, where I knew not, and I heard explosion after explosion. I rose up quickly in bed, and saw from my window large balls of fire. Jetting out were sparks, in the form of arrows, and buildings were being consumed, and in a very few minutes the entire block of buildings was falling and the screeching and mournful groans came distinctly to my ears. 11 MR 361

Sister White saw the conditions of today with great accuracy:

“The nations are in unrest. Times of perplexity are upon us. Men’s hearts are failing them for fear of the things that are coming upon the earth. But those who believe in God will hear His voice amid the storm, saying, ‘It is I; be not afraid.’” Last Day Events 18.

“The plagues of God are already falling upon the earth, sweeping away the most costly structures as if by a breath of fire from heaven. Will not these judgments bring professing Christians to their senses? God permits them to come that the world may take heed, that sinners may be afraid and tremble before Him.” Last Day Events 27,28

“Men will continue to erect expensive buildings costing millions of money. Special attention will be called to their architectural beauty and the firmness and solidity with which they are constricted, but the Lord has instructed me that despite the unusual firmness and expensive display, these buildings will share the fate of the temple in Jerusalem;” Last Day Events 111,112

Even worse times are ahead:

“The tempest is coming and we must get ready for its fury by having repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord will arise to shake terribly the earth. We shall see troubles on all sides. Thousands of ships will be hurled into the depths of the sea. Navies will go down, and human lives will be sacrificed by millions. Fires will break out unexpectedly and no human effort will be able to quench them. The palaces of earth will be swept away in the fury of the flames. Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent. Confusion, collision, and death without a moment’s warning will occur on the great lines of travel. The end is near, probation is closing. Oh, let us seek God while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near!” MYP 89,90

“In the last scenes of this earth’s history, war will rage. There will be pestilence, plague and famine. The waters of the deep will overflow their boundaries. Property and life will be destroyed by fire and flood. We should be preparing for the mansions that Christ has gone to prepare for them that love Him.” Maranatha 174

“The end is near and every city is to be turned upside down every way. There will be confusion in every city. Everything that can be shaken is to be shaken and we do not know what will come next. The judgments will be according to the wickedness of the people and the light of truth that they have had.” 1 MR 248 (1902)

“O that God’s people had a sense of the impending destruction of thousands of cities, now almost given to idolatry!” Evangelism 29 (1903)

While God is holding back the winds of strife, let us work with greater diligence and sacrifice for our Lord. “In the great closing work we shall meet with perplexities that we know not how to deal with, but let us not forget that the three great powers of heaven are working, that a divine hand is on the wheel, and that God will bring His purposes to pass.” Ev. 65 (1902)

“I asked my accompanying angel the meaning of what I had heard, and what the four angels were about to do. He said to me that it was God that restrained the powers, and that He gave His angels charge over things on the earth; that the four angels had power from God to hold the four winds, and that they were about to let them go, but while their hands were loosening, and the four winds were about to blow, the merciful eye of Jesus gazed on the remnant that were not sealed, and He raised His hands to the Father and pleaded with Him that He had spilled His blood for them. Then another angel was commissioned to fly swiftly to the four angels and bid them hold, until the servants of God were sealed with the seal of the living God in their foreheads.” EW38

“My dear brethren and sisters, let the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ be in your minds continually and let them crowd out worldly thoughts and cares. When you lie down and when you rise up, let them be your meditation. Live and act wholly in reference to the coming of the Son of Man. The sealing time is very short, and will soon be over. Now is the time, while the four angels are holding the four winds, to make our calling and election sure.” EW 58 AMEN

Edited by Jerry Eaton

FRIENDSHIP AT BETHANY

There are many kinds of friendships in the world. Today, amongst them are: Acquaintances - people we're friendly with but don't know very well. For instance, like in the workplace, we're cordial to all our co-workers but don't really see them elsewhere apart from that. Chums and buddies are people we're definitely close to, people we can relate to, and feel at ease with. Best friends though are special, one-of-a-kind, and often hard to find. Most often we don't have many of these, at the most 2 or 3, sometimes only one. With this kind of friend we can talk and laugh and cry and truly be ourselves in a way we can't with others.

Humans need close ties with others to truly experience life. For a life without friends is not worth living, without the company of others there is no joy or happiness and our existence becomes void and empty, leaving much to be desired.

The Lord never intended it to be this way. He created man a social being and made this planet to be inhabited. (Isaiah 45:18)

The Bible is a wonderful book filled with exemplary friendships: Abraham was called "the friend of God", with Moses He spoke "face to face", "the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul", Daniel shared things with his friends (Daniel 2: 17), Ruth was very loyal (Ruth 1:16-17) and many more.

Moving on in history, let us take a look at our Saviour while He was here on earth. As the "only-begotten" Son of God and the "express image of his person", "being made so much better than the angels" and the Creator of worlds, did He have any need of human companionship? Did He have any friends? Well, we know that there were the disciples who followed Him wherever He went and even ate and slept where He did, thus, forming a tight human bond.

Nevertheless, let us take a particular look at Bethany. Bethany comes from the Greek word 'Bethania' which means "house of unripe dates or figs". "Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs (2 miles) off". John 11:8

The question now is, what was so special about this place, this town that lay east of the Jordan? There were several incidences connected with this place; it was the home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus; it was also here that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11); and finally, it was here that He attended the feast at Simon's house. (Matt. 26; Mark 14; Luke 7)

Going back to our first question, what was so special about this place? The Spirit of Prophecy, in the Desire of Ages clarifies this.

"Jesus' heart was knit by a strong bond of affection to the family at Bethany.. .At the home of Lazarus, Jesus had often found rest. The Saviour had no home of His own; He was dependant on the hospitality of His friends and disciples, and often when weary, thirsting for human fellowship, He had been glad to escape to this peaceful household, away from the suspicion and jealousy of the angry Pharisees. Here He found a sincere welcome and pure holy friendship. Here He could speak with simplicity and perfect freedom, knowing that His words would be understood and treasured. Our Saviour appreciated a quiet home and interested listeners. He longed for human tenderness, courtesy, and affection.. ."

Let us look at some of these qualities in closer detail.

Rest:

What does it mean to rest? Is it to sit on the sofa- and relax after a hard day's work? Perhaps. Yet, this is not the

type of rest Jesus was looking for when He came to visit His dear friends at Bethany. Jesus often came to this place “To escape the anger and jealousy of the Pharisees.” When He was with Martha, Mary and Lazarus He was able to relax, to be Himself and to unwind. In this little quiet sanctuary He was not tense but felt at ease. Hence, we can say that Jesus spent many hours at their home enjoying peace and quiet, feeling that He could relax and be Himself around people He knew cared about Him.

Today, there are many people who long for excitement, they just want to have a good time and often spend their days foolishly in reckless amusement.

In High school I had an acquaintance who began to choose this kind of life. She wanted to party all the time; fun and excitement were the things she was looking for. So she began to smoke and drink and I saw very little of her.

As the years passed by she began to change and soon grew weary of this fast-paced life - hopping from one party to the next.

One time, in our final year as we were on the bus on our way home I heard her say to another friend “you know something? Now, I don’t like to go to parties anymore. When my other friends call, I ignore the phone because I don’t want to go where they’re going. It’s funny, but now I just like to stay home and relax with a good book or just have two or three good friends over.”

As can be seen, the attractions that the world has to offer don’t satisfy us very much and soon lose their appeal for in them we can find no rest.

Jesus knows us so well that He gave us a special day of rest, the Sabbath, so that we can forget about our worldly cares and place our burdens and perplexities at His feet and find true rest in His outstretched arms.

Welcome:

What does it mean to welcome?

In Webster’s dictionary it says, “to be received with gladness and hospitality.” Also, it is “to be cherished, appreciated, and regarded with esteem”.

When you are with a friend, do you feel welcomed? Do you feel that the other person is happy to see you? Christ felt appreciated and cherished in the home of Lazarus. He could see the welcome in the eyes of these 3 friends and feel esteemed with regard by Mary as “she sat by His feet and heard the precious lessons of truth that fell from His lips.”

Both Abraham and Lot his nephew were very hospitable men and they were “not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares”. (Hebrews 13:2) We can see this in Genesis 18:1-8 and 19:1-3.

Ease:

To be at ease is to have “freedom from pain and disturbance”. It is freedom from affectation or awkwardness. In other words, it is to find repose and relief.

When you’re with a friend do you find perfect freedom or is there a certain awkwardness between both of you that prevents ease and comfort?

If you don’t feel at ease or comfortable with this person perhaps you’re not as great friends as you think you are.

Another thought to ponder is: what is the attitude of your friend towards that which you as a Christian hold sacred (the Bible, the church, and Christ)? ..

What is the influence of spending time with your friend? Does he or she make it harder or easier for you to pray?

Jesus felt completely at ease with His three friends from Bethany. They respected him and were in agreement with His views in life regarding the truth, also known as the Scriptures. The influence Jesus had on His friends was of a heavenly origin. By the example of His sinless character He taught them more than words can say. He helped them to develop their better qualities: He strengthened their faith (John 11:21-27, 39- 40) and taught them to love and hope.

Moreover, He was also able to communicate freely with them, sharing what was in His heart and mind without reserve.

Communication:

Communication always involves at least two people..

What is it that enables you to be friends with another person?

Is it their appearance? Most certainly not. Or because of their talents? Could it be because of their possessions?

Of course, in real friendship, none of these apply.. Communication is a vital point in friendship. It is the ability to be able to talk and share ideas that builds a friendship, and time spent with each other is never worthless. Only by spending time together in close fellowship can you learn about one another. At Bethany, “Jesus could speak with simplicity and perfect freedom, knowing that His words would be understood and treasured.” Jesus could speak freely with Martha, Mary and Lazarus, there was no subject which He felt He could not broach for fear of offending them or getting them angry. In this quiet household He found true fellowship and a sympathetic relationship that connected Him to them. “Jesus’ heart was knit by a strong bond of affection to the family at Bethany.”

As a true friend Jesus sometimes cautioned His friends about where they were going and helped to push them into the right direction.

On one occasion “as Christ gave His wonderful lessons, Mary sat at His feet, a reverent and devoted listener.. Martha, perplexed with the care of preparing the meal, went to Christ saying ‘Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she may help me...’ Jesus answered her with mild, patient words, ‘Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things; but one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen the good part which shall not be taken away from her.’”

Jesus gave her a gentle rebuke so that she would turn her eyes away from the secular and mundane matters of this world to a better land, a heavenly land. Christ pointed out the error of her ways but He did it in a spirit of love.

At times a supposed friend may see you having difficulties and may say to you “I saw that you were heading in the wrong direction but I was afraid to say anything.” However, if a real friend (Jesus to Martha) sees you heading in the wrong direction he’ll try to warn you before it is too late.. although he knows you may get annoyed with him. Will you permit pride to cause you to reject someone who truly cares about you and your welfare by telling you the truth? Proverbs 27:6 says “Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy deceitful.” That is why perhaps the friends you should look for are those who will speak to you in a candid manner.

Listening: To listen is not to simply hear but to attend closely. “Our Saviour appreciated a quiet home and interested

listeners... those who received the heavenly instruction He was always ready to impart were greatly blessed.”

When the Saviour visited - Mary listened, “she stored her mind with the precious words falling from the - Saviour’s lips, words that were more precious to her than the earth’s most costly jewels.”

There is a well-known quote that says, “nature has given man two ears and one mouth so that he may listen twice as much as he speaks.” To be able to listen well (to attend closely) is a talent, one that Martha did not possess. The talent of listening must be cultivated and practiced if it is to be learned. One must be a good listener if one wants to have good friends, in this respect, we can learn much from Mary.

“One day though sorrow entered the peaceful home where Jesus had rested. Lazarus was stricken with sudden illness.”... that eventually led to his death.

In this time of sorrow and grief how did Jesus show Himself to be a good friend? At first, it seems as if Jesus did not really care, for apparently He delayed His coming and remained for two days at the place where He was. Apparently Mary, Martha and the dying Lazarus were left alone... but they were not alone. “Christ beheld the whole scene, and after the death of Lazarus the bereaved sisters were upheld by His grace.” “Jesus witnessed the sorrow of their rent hearts, as their brother wrestled with his strong foe, death. He felt every pang of anguish as He said to His disciples ‘Lazarus is dead.’ He suffered every pang of sorrow they endured.”

Share your feelings:

The fact that Jesus shared His thoughts and innermost feelings won Him the love of His friends. On many different occasions Jesus shared His feelings. He showed that He was moved with compassion, “But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them “ (Matt. 9:36); that He felt sorrow. “Then saith He unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful (Matt. 26:38); that He felt love “then Jesus beholding him loved him.. .” (Mark 10:21); and that He felt grief “Jesus wept” (John 11:35) by showing His tears.

Jesus was not ashamed to express His feelings in front of the people He trusted and took as friends. Of course this does not mean that you are to reveal your emotions with everyone you meet but you can be sincere and show your feelings to those whom you hold dear.

By getting to know someone and by trusting in that person, you’ll be able to gradually reveal some of your deepest thoughts and feelings. At the same time, while you’re learning to sympathize (to feel compassionate and share another’s troubles) and empathize (participate and share in another’s emotions by putting yourself in their shoes) you strengthen the tie of friendship. “When Jesus saw Mary weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.” Jesus also wept, “Though He was the Son of God, yet He had taken human nature upon Him and He was moved by human sorrow. His tender, pitying heart is ever awakened to sympathy by suffering. He weeps with those that weep and rejoices with those that rejoice.

Now, let us briefly take another look at these six essential characteristics that are necessary in friendship and let us see how they apply to Christ and His followers today.

1. REST
2. WELCOME
3. EASE
4. COMMUNICATION
5. LISTENING
6. SHARING FEELINGS

1. As sinners in the world today we all have a place where we can come and rest awhile and gain new strength to aid us on our journey. This sanctuary of rest is found in God’s house - the church - but it is not confined to the

physical aspect of the sanctuary; the walls and pillars that hold it up are not what consist of our being able to find rest. This rest is only found in Jesus Christ our Lord! by resting in His promises we can feel safe and secure. His people here on earth come to rest every Sabbath to forget the problems and difficulties that the cares of this world bring and remember their creator. Our thoughts are uplifted beyond this world and we begin to see with the eyes of faith the precious abode of rest He has prepared for us. Our tensions slowly ease up and we can find peace and quiet in His word

2. His call of invitation is made to all. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matt. 11:28-30)

He is always ready to sincerely welcome us with outstretched arms, "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was a long way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him." (Luke 15:20)

We were lost in sin but the Spirit. found us and slowly led us home. Christ is always happy to see us, He cherishes and appreciates us and regards us as His children - the apple of His eye - with great esteem.

3. It is in Jesus that we can find freedom from pain and disturbance. With Him we can feel at ease and be ourselves. We can also speak to Him with great facility and find relief from our heavy burden of sin. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16

4. Prayer, the breath of life, the key to heaven's doors and the food of every child of God is the most important tool we possess. With it we can commune with Christ daily and get to truly know Him, thus, building an everlasting friendship that shall never be broken.

As we speak to Him in prayer, He speaks to us: though His word, through nature, through prophecy and revelation, through the Holy Spirit and through the voice of conscience.

5. Listen carefully and you will hear the still, small voice of God speaking to you: in the form of a bird upon a tree singing a song to uplift your spirits and cheer you on your way, in the loving tones of a brother or sister who points you back into the right direction, and through His precious word telling you of His love for you and how He died to make you free.

6. Finally, let us share with Him our deepest feelings and emotions for there is none other who can truly understand us, "For in that He himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted." (Hebrews 2:18) "For we have an High priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15)

He became a man that He might sympathize and empathize with us and that is why He knows and understands us better than we do ourselves. Therefore, we can go to Him confidently, trusting that he will never betray us. Instead, the Son of man will hold out a helping hand that understands and pities us for He trod this way before us.

True friendship is a gift from heaven that we shouldn't neglect to cultivate for by it our burdens are eased, our hearts uplifted and our way is made more pleasant. Friendship at Bethany should be our goal. AMEN

[All quotes taken from chapter 58 of The Desire of Ages unless otherwise indicated.]

Reyna Conde

HOW ARE THE MIGHTY FALLEN!

2 Samuel 1: 19

The battle between the two armies has continued for 6000 years. As always in the battlefield there are casualties. Millions have fallen and become victims and prisoners of Satan. But when the mighty champions fall, it is a major setback for the army of Christ.

Lucifer was the mightiest being, created by God. Him the other angels admired and obeyed. When he fell, millions of other angels fell with him. Because of him the inhabitants of this world have also fallen.

It did not take much effort on the side of Satan to make Adam and Eve fall into sin, and in a short time the whole world separated themselves from God and joined with Satan and his army, that only one family remained faithful to God. Little later only Abraham and Lot and their families still served God when the rest of the world served idols.

King Saul was humble and faithful when he was chosen to his office. He said, "Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? And my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Wherefore then speakest thou so to me? 1 Sam. 9:21 But when he was exalted and became a mighty king, he fell into the snares of Satan.

King Solomon was humble when chosen to be king; he said, "I am but a little child I know not how to go out or come in." 1 King 3:7 But while in his high office he became corrupted. "For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods." 1 King 11:4 His great wisdom did not protect him from falling. Not only did the kings fall but also the prophets. "Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night." Hosea 4:5

In the time of Christ mostly the uneducated and poor people followed Him. "Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived? Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on Him? But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed." John 7:47-49

Instead of trying to win some educated and wealthy people on His side Jesus said, "I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes." Matt. 11:25

When Reformation started out from the Adventist church did any of the leaders join in it? General Conference members and Union leaders became enemies to the Church of God. Again the history was repeated that the mighty were fallen and what was left? We read, "I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall , trust in the name of the Lord." Zeph.3:12

Paul writes, "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called." 1 Cor. 1:26

The two young men, Jones and Waggoner brought a powerful message to the .1888 conference in Minneapolis. The Holy Spirit was upon them. But they both fell later and left the church.

Why is it that the great and mighty are fallen and humble, poor people remain? Is it not their human pride? Few great men remain humble as John the Baptist who said, "He must increase, but I must decrease." John 3:30

The praise that leaders get from their congregations often make them feel important and exalted and the Lord

cannot use them anymore.

“In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. They are self-sufficient, independent of God, and He cannot use them.” Test, Vo.,5 p. 80”

“Labor not to become great men; but labor rather to become good and perfect men, showing forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” M.L.310

Our message is to proclaim the fall of Babylon. Babylon includes all the churches outside the church of God. Who are then fallen with them? Are there not educated people among them, theologians, intelligent great men besides the millions of common people? It is very easy to fall from the grace, but it is difficult to remain a humble servant of God; actually, in human strength it is impossible. Who are fallen furthest away from the truth? Often it is the ones who have been closest to it. No one hated Jesus so much as the leaders of the Jewish nation. Also, who has taken most of the members away from the church of God? Is it not the churches that are closest to the doctrines of the true church of God? Churches that are far from the truth have not been so much a threat to God’s people as churches that are closest to the truth yet having errors mixed in their teachings. A healthy looking food with poison mixed in it is more deceptive than pure poison.

A warning is given to us, “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” 1 Cor. 10:12

. . “Many a star that we have admired for Its brilliancy will then go out in darkness. Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat.” Test. Vo 15 p. 81

This is a prophesy to us. Many among us are not pure wheat. There are tares among us and not all the great leaders will remain in the church to the end.

In the time of Sunday law, who will be our most bitter enemies? Is it not our former brethren? “

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and joint the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbath keepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.” Great Controversy p. 608

Terrible and solemn are the warnings and prophecies that have been given to us. The question will arise, “But who may abide the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appeareth?” Mal. 3:2

Apostle Paul recognized the fact that he himself who had preached to others could fall and be a castaway (1 Cor. 9:27) “How are the mighty fallen!” “How is the gold become dim! { How is the most fine gold changed!” Lam. 4: 1

It will be well for us to examine ourselves carefully. Our foundation must be on the solid rock. The house built on the sand will fall.

May the Lord help each one to be rooted and grounded in the truth because the mighty shaking that is before us will do its terrible work very soon. “And this word. Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.” Heb. 12:27 AMEN

Timo Martin

HATHAN'S GOLD

One morning, Chris Lighthouse, aged sixty-eight, received an unexpected sum of money of six hundred dollars. His good old face shone with joy. "I am never surprised at the Lord's mercies," he said, reverently. He thanked the Lord and went, with light-hearted steps to seek out his friend Nathan, aged twelve.

"Nathan," he said, "I guess I am the oldest man in this poorhouse, but I feel just about your age. Suppose you and I get out of here."

The boy smiled. He did not have a strong faith in God as did Chris although he was very old for twelve, even as Chris was very young for sixty-eight.

"For a poorhouse this is a good place," continued Chris, still with that jubilant tone in his voice. "It is well conducted, just as the country reports say. Still there are other places that suit me better. You come and live with me, Nathan. What do you say to that?"

"Where are you going to live?" asked Nathan, hesitantly.

The old man looked at him approvingly. "You'll never be one to take any chances will you?" he said. "You've got to learn to trust the Lord, but I have been looking around and I know of a room. I have had my eye on it for awhile. It is big enough to have a bed, a table, a cook-stove, and three chairs in it, and we could live there like lords. Just think of it! I can get it for two dollars a month." "With all these things in it?" "No, with nothing in it. But I can buy the things, Nathan; get them cheap at the second-hand store. And I can cook as good as most women." Then he looked eagerly into the unresponsive young face in front of him. "What's the matter with my plan, Nathan?" he asked, gravely. "Why don't you like it? I never knew you to hesitate like this before."

"I have no money," was the slow answer. "I can't do my share toward it. And I'm not going to live off you.. Your money will last you twice as long if you don't have to keep me. Six hundred dollars isn't much. Soon you'll run out and you will be back here again."

For a moment the old man listened in silence, "I won't spend it unwisely though," he said. Then his face cleared, and he laughed. "So you haven't any money, and you won't let me keep you," he continued, "well, those are pretty honourable standards. I expect to do away with them immediately." He stood up and said, "That is gold which is worth gold. You've got the gold all right, Nathan, or the money, whichever you choose to call it."

Nathan stared at the old man in wonderment. "Why, boy, look here!" Chris exclaimed as he took hold of the young man's arm, which was used to much hard labour and had developed a good muscle. "There's your gold, in that right arm of yours. What you want to do is get it out of your arm and into your pocket. I don't need to keep you. You can live with me and keep yourself. What do you say now?"

The boy's face lit up. "Let's go today," he said.

"Not today - tomorrow," decided Chris. "When I was young, before misfortune met me and I was cheated out of all I had, I was used to having large dinners and inviting all the poor people to dine with me. We'll give one tonight to those we used to be fellow paupers with until yesterday, and then tomorrow we will go. We began this year in the poorhouse; the Lord has blessed us so that we will end it in our own home. That is one of the bad beginnings that made a good ending, boy. There is more than one of them. Remember that."

The next day came, and the little home was started. Another morning followed and Nathan began in earnest trying to get that gold out of his arm and into his pocket. He was a boy who liked to daydream and very few people had patience with him; for nobody, not even he, knew the resistless energy and perseverance that lay dormant within him. Chris, however, suspected it. "I believe," he said to himself, "that Nathan, when he once wakes up, will be a person who knows how to hustle for work. But the poorhouse isn't exactly the place to rouse up the ambition of the boy. Having a chance to scold somebody is what the Head mistress of the poorhouse calls one of the comforts of a home. And she certainly took out her comforts on Nathan and all the rest helped her - sort of deadening him, though. Living here with me and doing for himself is a little more like what's needed in his case."

Slowly Nathan began to wake up and Chris had patience with him. He earned all he could, and he kept himself from being a burden on his only friend, but he disliked work, so he lagged over it. He did all that he did well, however, and he was thoroughly trustworthy..

Three years went by. Nathan was now fifteen years old, and Chris Lighthouse was seventy-one.

The little room had always been clean. There had been each day enough nourishing food to eat, though the old man, remembering the predictions of some people that his money would run out quickly, set his face like a flint against even the slightest indulgence in table luxuries. And, although there had been days when Nathan had recklessly brought home a ten-cent pie and half dozen doughnuts from the bakers as his share of the food for their common dinner, Chris felt that he had managed well. And now there were only fifty dollars of the original six hundred left, and the poorhouse was looming once more on the old man's sight. He sighed. An expression of patience grew on the kind old face. He felt it to be a great pity that six hundred dollars could not be made to go farther. And there was wistfulness in the glance he cast upon the boy. Nathan was, as yet, only half awake. The little room and the taste of honest independence had done their best. Were they to fail?

The old man began to economize. His mittens wore out. He did not buy more. He needed new pants. He did not buy them. Instead he tried to patch the old ones, and Nathan coming in suddenly saw him doing it.

"Why, Uncle Chris!" he exclaimed. "What are you patching those old things for? Why don't you just get new ones?"

The old man kept silent till he had his needle threaded. Then he said, softly, with a half-apology in his voice, "The money's almost gone, Nathan."

The boy stared. He knew as well as Chris that when the last coin was spent, the doors of the poorhouse would open once more to receive his only friend. A thrill of gladness went through Nathan as he realized he could provide for himself and that he did not need to return to the poor house. And by that thrill in his own heart he guessed the feeling of his friend. He could not put what he guessed into words. Nevertheless, he felt sure that the old man would not falter nor complain because of his faith in God.

"How much do you have?" he asked.

Chris told him. Then without a word, Nathan got up and went out. His head sunk in thought, and his hands in his pockets, He sauntered on in the wintry air while he mentally calculated how long Chris's funds would last. "He will be lucky to make it to Christmas before going to the poorhouse again." He walked only a few steps. Then he stopped. "Will he?" he cried. "Not if I can help it."

This was a big decision for a boy of fifteen. The next morning Nathan had second thoughts. He thought of changing his mind about the high task, which he had the previous day laid before himself. Then he looked at Chris, who had aged considerably in the last month, he was fast asleep still. Evidently he had lain awake in the night calculating how long his money would last. The sight of him made Nathan renew his resolve. "I am just going to dig out all the gold there is in me. Keeping Uncle Chris out of the poorhouse is worth it." Perhaps if I pray to God as Chris often does, then I will have the strength to carry through with my plans. Then it was that Nathan asked the Lord to help him in his resolve. Never before had he felt such a need of his Saviour until now.

But he did not tell the old man. "He would say it was too big a job for me, and talk about how I ought to get some schooling," concluded the boy.

Now it came about that the room, which, while it had not been the palace of lords, it had been the home of kingly kindness, at this time it became a silent place. The anxious old man had no heart to joke any more. He had been to the poorhouse, and had escaped from it into freedom. His whole nature rebelled at the thought of returning. And yet he tried to prepare himself to look forward to it bravely. "If it is the Lord's will," he told himself, "I will have to accept it."

Meanwhile those who employed Nathan were finding him a very different boy from the slow, lagging Nathan they had known. If he was sent on an errand, he went fast. "Here! Get the gold out of your legs," he would say to himself. If he sprouted potatoes for a grocer in his cellar, "There's gold in your fingers, Nathan," he would say. "Get it out as quick as you can."

He now worked more hours in a day than he had ever worked before, so that he was too tired to talk much at meals, and too sleepy in the evening. But there was a light in his eyes when they rested on Christ that made the old man's heart thrill.

"Nathan would stand by me if he could," he would say to himself. "He's a good boy. I must not worry him."

A month after Nathan had begun his great labour of love, an astonishing thing happened to him. He had a choice of two places which offered him employment as general utility boy in a grocery. At one time he would have told Christ and asked his advice as to which offer he should take, but he was now carrying his own burdens. He considered carefully, and then he went to Mr. Benson.

"Mr. Benson," he said, "Mr. Dale wants me, too, and both offer the same wages. Now which one of you will give

me my groceries at a reduced price as you do your other clerks?"

"I will not," replied Mr. Benson, firmly. "Your demand is ridiculous. You are not a clerk."

The irate Mr. Benson turned on his heel, and Nathan felt himself dismissed. He then went to Mr. Dale, to whom he honestly related everything that happened. Mr. Dale laughed, "But you are not a clerk," he said, kindly.

"I know it, but I mean to be, and I mean to do all I can for you, too."

Mr. Dale looked at him, and he liked the bearing of the lad. "Go ahead," he said. "You may have your groceries at the same rate I give the clerks."

"Thank you," responded Nathan, while the gratitude he felt crept into his voice. "For myself," he said, "I would not have asked for a reduction, but for Uncle Chris I will. I have a big job on hand."

That day he told Chris that he had found a job at Mr. Dale's and that he was to have a reduction on groceries.

"Which means, Uncle Chris, that I pay for the groceries for us both, while you do the cooking and pay the rent."

Silently and swiftly Chris did some calculations in his mind. He saw that if he were spared of buying his own groceries, he could easily stay well. past Christmas. The poorhouse receded a little from the foreground of his vision as he gazed into the eyes of the boy opposite him at the table. He did not know that his own eyes spoke eloquently of his deliverance, but Nathan choked as he went on eating.

"Now hustle, Nathan!" he commanded one day on his way back to the store. "There's gold in your eyes if you keep them open, and in your tongue if you keep it civil, and in your back and in your wits if they are nimble. All I have to say is, Ask God to help you get it out."

"Lord, help me to get it out by using my talents and strength to the best of my ability," he repeated when he had reached the rear of the store. He began busily filling and labeling kerosene cans, gasoline cans, and molasses jugs. From there he went to the cellar to measure up potatoes.

"Never saw such a fellow!" grumbled his workmate. "You'd think he runs the store by himself the way he steps around with his head up and his sharp eyes seem to be in everything. 'Hi there' he said to me. 'Fill that measure of gasoline full before you pour it into the can. Mr. Dale doesn't want the name of giving short measure because you are careless.' Let's do some reporting on him, and get him out of the store," he said. "But there's nothing to report and there never will be."

But the boy persisted, and very shortly he found himself out of a job.

"You don't have to get another boy if you don't want to Mr. Dale," observed Nathan, cheerily. "I am so used to the place now that I can do all he did, as well as my own work. And, anyway, I would rather do the extra work than go on watching somebody to keep him from measuring up short or wrong grade on everything he touches."

Nathan smiled. He had lately discovered that he no longer hated to work.

Mr. Dale smiled in return. "Very well," he said. "Go ahead and do it all if you want to."

A week went by, and at the end of that time he found, to his delight, that Mr. Dale had increased his wages. "Did you think I would take the work of two boys and pay for the work of one?" asked Mr. Dale. .

"I didn't think at all, sir," replied Nathan, joyously; "But I am the happiest boy in town to get a raise."

"Uncle Chris," he said that night, I got a raise today."

Chris expressed his pleasure, and his sense that the honour was well merited, but Nathan did not hear a word he said, because he had something more to say himself.

"Uncle Chris," he went on, his face very red, "I have been saving up for some time, and tomorrow's your birthday. Here is a present for you." And he thrust out a ten-dollar piece, with the words, "I never gave a present to anyone before."

Slowly the old man took the money. and again his eyes outdid his tongue in speaking his gratitude. And there was a great glow in the heart of the boy.

"That's some of the gold the Lord helped me to dig out, Uncle Chris," he laughed. "You are the one who first told me it was in me. I do not know whether it came out of my arms or my legs or my head. And it was you who inspired my faith in God to give me strength to dig."

"I know where the best gold there is in you located, Nathan," smiled the old man. "It is your heart that is gold, my boy. The Lord has changed your heart to a heart of gold."

Two months later Nathan was a clerk at twenty-five dollars a month. "Now we're fixed, Uncle Chris!" He cried, when he told the news. "You and I can live forever on twenty-five dollars a month."

"Do you mean it?" asked the old man, tremblingly. "Do you wish to be burdened with me?"

“No, I do not, Uncle Chris,” answered the boy, with a smile on his face. “I do not want to be burdened with you. I just want to go on living here with you.”

Then to the old man the poorhouse forever receded from sight. He looked with pride and tenderness on the boy who stood erect and alert in front of him, looked again and yet again, for he saw in him the Lord’s deliverer, though he knew not that he had been raised up by his own kind hand. Together they knelt to thank the Lord for His goodness.

GOD’S BENEFITS # 3

Have you ever experienced the world without colour? Gray, lifeless, hopeless, flat, cold, And then the light shines and the world comes alive, meaningful.

Light is mentioned all through Scripture, and with light comes colour. Maybe only a person who has gone through the darkness can really appreciate light colour. Many of us most of the time take it for granted. We take it for granted until it is taken away. Such a “common” everyday thing. So usual, so constant.

Like God who made it, it is everywhere; and so we cease to notice it. We are blind in the light to the Light. Until it is taken away. Then we wish for it back.

Does God have to withdraw all His blessings before we appreciate them? It would seem so. He gave them one by one and He can withdraw them one by one.

So let us not be afraid at the events happening around us. God withdraws blessings in order to return them with fuller meaning. Yes, our daily blessings so constant as to be unnoticed will be withdrawn, but as light follows night, so God the Creator of light and colour and every precious thing will restore all blessings in brighter more vivid hues than ever before.

We must walk through the dark to get to the light. AMEN

Sister Kathleen Ross

MEET IT

When an eagle glides on the wind, it cannot move with the wind. It must go against the wind to stay up, So we, when we see a temptation, cannot run away and still overcome it. When an army goes to battle they know well enough that to flee means to accept defeat. If we flee we accept defeat.. Therefore we must not flee, but fight the temptation, and with God’s help overcome it. As the cry rang out on the Titanic, “Iceberg ahead”, the fatal command was given to try to avoid it. And the Titanic sank. If the command had been, “Meet it” the Titanic would have stood a good chance of survival.

“Shortly before I sent out the testimonies regarding the efforts of the enemy to undermine the foundation of our faith through the dissemination of seductive theories, I had read an incident about a ship in a fog meeting an iceberg. For several nights I slept but little. I seemed to be bowed down as a cart beneath sheaves. One night a scene was clearly presented before me. A vessel was upon the waters, in a heavy fog. Suddenly the lookout cried, ‘Iceberg just ahead!’ There, towering high above the ship, was a gigantic iceberg. An authoritative voice tried out, “Meet it!” There was not a moment’s hesitation. It was a time for instant action. The engineer put on full steam, and the man at the wheel steered the ship straight into the iceberg. With a crash she struck the ice. There was a fearful shock, and the iceberg broke into many pieces, falling with a noise like thunder to the deck. The

passengers were violently shaken by the force of the collisions, but no lives were lost. The vessel was injured, but not beyond repair. She rebounded from the contact, trembling from stem to stem, like a living creature. Then she moved forward on her way.

“Well I knew the meaning of this representation. I had my orders. I had heard the words, like a voice from our Captain, ‘Meet it!’ I knew what my duty was, and that there was not a moment to lose. The time for decided action had come, I must without delay obey the command, ‘Meet it!’” 1 SM 205,206.

We must meet the temptations that surround us. Only in this way do we stand a chance of victory.

“A storm is coming, relentless in its fury.

Are we prepared to meet it?” 8T 315.

It is our choice to sink or swim. But if we meet it. we will, with Christ’s help, surely swim! AMEN

Benjamin Dammasch Australia

A KALE AND HEARTY VEGGIE

There’s a curly green out there that is jumping off the shelves of health food stores. It’s inexpensive, perfect for soup season and has real nutritional clout - were talking kale.

At the Big Carrot Natural Food Market, kale flies off the shelves. Produce manager Grant MacKinnon says he sells 250-300 bunches of the curly green in a week.

That’s a lot of kale for a relatively small produce section. No doubt health-minded shoppers at this store are savvy about kale’s nutritional reputation.

A cup of cooked kale delivers almost a day’s supply of vitamins A and C. Kale is a veritable cornucopia of other nutrients, such as vitamin E and B6, calcium, iron, magnesium, potassium, thiamine, riboflavin and folate.

But that’s not all. Kale was recently ranked by a research team at Tufts University in Boston as the antioxidant king among veggies. In other words, kale may help protect you against age-related diseases such as cancer, heart disease, cataracts, even memory loss.

Of course, throughout the Mediterranean they’ve been merrily dinning on kale for centuries.

Kale figures prominently in caldo verde, the national dish of Portugal. The leaves are sliced filament-thin and added to a hearty soup containing potatoes, garlic and vegetarian linketts. Kale is perfect contender for the soup pot, since its shape and flavour stand up well to long cooking times.

It comes in several varieties. The most common sports big, dark-green, sturdy leaves with curly edges. Most bunches are so voluminous, you’ll need to cover both ends with plastic bag when storing.

Ornamental kale, also know as salad savoy, is popular garnish used by caterers and rarely found in supermarkets.

These striking kales are usually two-tone, such as light green and cream, or violet and maroon. All are edible yet their taste is much stronger than ordinary kale.

And there's a new kale in town known variously as Tuscan kale, black cabbage, dino kale, lacinato or palm tree kale. In Italy, they call cavolo nero (black cabbage) and toss it into rustic preparations such as ribollita, a hearty bean and bread soup.

This kale doesn't look like it's frilly cousin. It has long, narrow, dusky blue-green leaves that are 20-30 centimeters long. Aficionados say it delivers an earthy sweetness unparalleled by common kale.

Choose kale that's perky with rich colour.

You can boil, saute, braise or microwave it. It takes longer to cook than greens, usually 10-20 minutes, depending on the size of the leaves. The stems and mid-ribs are edible, but are often removed since they take longer to cook than the leaves.

A SOUL FOR CHRIST

In 1998, at the age of 30, my daughter Gladys was diagnosed with breast cancer. She began a natural treatment for four months but the tumor grew, so she decided to have an operation. She was well for 2 years so Gladys went back to work and forgot about her healthy eating and lived a life full of stress.

For three years she attended the church but Satan's distractions led her to try different paths looking for a happiness she never found for 24 years of her life. Like the prodigal son, I hoped and prayed that she too, would return to the Saviour's arms, but with a hardened heart she rejected the Lord's call.

Two years ago, she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. Shortly after labour, she suffered a severe hemorrhage; leaving her anemic, so she began to drink carrot and beet juices. In February of this year, Gladys began to suffer from strong, headaches, bone aches and it was difficult for her to co-ordinate her speech. I begged her to go to the doctor and get tests done. The results later showed she had cancer of the bones, brain and liver. Brain surgery was conducted removing one of three tumors. The two remaining were too difficult to eliminate due to their small size and one of them had infected half of her brain already. Radiation and chemotherapy were her only options allowing her to feel better for eight months.

Meanwhile, my prayers continued. I asked the Lord that His will be done that if she were to die to grant me the peace of knowing she would pass away with a repented heart. For the Lord says, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

In October, my daughter began having convulsions and lost movement to her left arm and leg. The doctor started treatment once again and decided to perform another brain surgery. Three tumors of the size of lemons were removed, leaving her with only a small tumor. Her health deteriorated from then onwards. She suffered from severe liver pains, constipation, insomnia, loss of voice and blurred speech. The time frame between her breaths grew longer and the movement of her arm and leg diminished further. She was given no less than 40-50 pills daily.

Day and night Gladys cried, 'frustrated and hopeless because everything that was humanly possible was tried to make her well. She only needed to return to the path she had forsaken in her youth. Like the prodigal son who returned to the open arms of his father. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest, is the promise of the Lord.

In anguish she asked the doctor to discontinue her medication because she preferred to die than suffer any longer. Seeing her in despair and without hope, I asked her to give herself to the Lord. I told her He would give her peace

and: eternal life. I said to her, “the Lord as a loving Father will receive you with open arms, repent, ask Him for forgiveness and: He will remove the pain of your soul. He will lift you up at His coming and will give you a new body to take you to the new earth where there shall be no more sorrow, nor crying; neither shall there be any more pain.” Five days prior to her death she told me she wanted to surrender to the Lord and have eternal life. I asked her to pray together repeating after me and she did. After the prayer, her face reflected peace and cried no more. I gave God thanks saying, “thank you Father for your love, thank you for granting my petition that for so long I made in faith and hope that my daughter’s conversion would become a reality.

On Sunday the 26th of November, Sr. Kanagarajah, his wife and a few brethren from Hamilton came for the acceptance into membership of my daughter, the foot washing and the Lord’s Supper. Glory to God! Another soul won over to Christ!

On the 28th of November at 11:20 a.m., my daughter fell asleep in Jesus. May God bless sister Teresa from London, brother Joaquin and all the brothers and sisters who prayed with me to gain another soul for Christ, for this brings great joy to heaven.

Brothers and sisters, pray without ceasing and be faithful to God knowing that our hope in Him is not in vain. Do not dismay but continue forward with the Lord for we are not alone. AMEN

Sister Shartery London, Ontario

Pray

Why, when a man is doing all that he can,
Providence proves him wrong;
You try to run away from the past,
Hide your fear behind a mask,
Even though you know
The fantasy won't last,
There is always a ghost
To haunt you from the past.
You try to hide your sorrow with a smile,
That only lasts a while,
At the day comes on
You wish you weren't here,
The thought of facing tomorrow,
Fills your heart with horror,
So you try to drown yourself in sorrow,
You try your best, but you can't get rest,
There is no place where you are finding happiness.

You want to be alone,
You feel you can't make it on your own,
You step into the world of the unknown,
Your path lies before you like unnumbered bones,
You try to live a lie, but your fear
Strives you in the snow,
There is no one to hear your cries,
You realize you have been blind, you have gone out of line,
Hurting the people to you have been kind.

There is someone whose door is always open,
Waiting to hear your call,
And lift you whenever you fall,
Whose lips never have a harsh word spoken,
Someone who is true and always a former faithful friend,
A friend who is ready to show you the way,
Who never to you will a hurtful word say,
Someone who will welcome you with open arms,
Protect you from life's turbulent storms.

It doesn't matter how far you want to run,
It doesn't matter what you say,
God is there to show you the way,
He will be with you right and day,
All you have to do is - pray!

By Windsor Stubbs, England