

The Reformation 

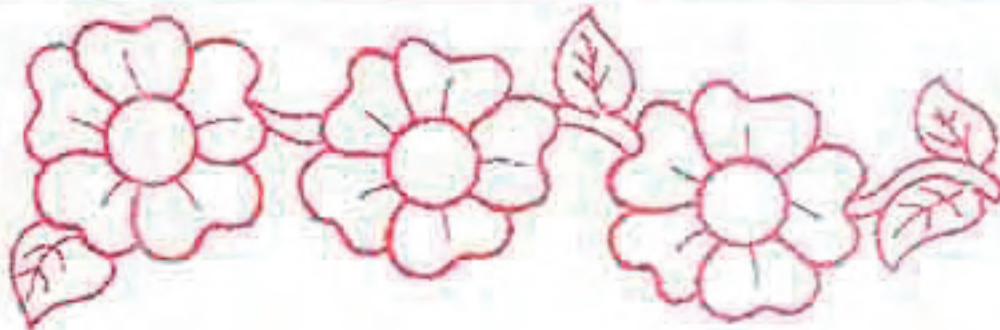
Messenger

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TESTING, TESTING, TESTING

God is testing His people to find out their weak points. Daily we go through trials and inconveniences to see how we react to them. God knows what we are but we do not know our own weaknesses. Peter thought himself strong, ready to die for his Master, but that same night he realized his weakness of character and wept bitterly because of it.

Sometimes we pass through great tests like Abraham and Job. But most of the tests are small, that we may not pay much attention to them. In traffic someone may cut you off; almost causing an accident. How do you react to it? Do you get angry or do you pray for this careless driver? If you have waited a long time in the store to get service and then someone new enters in and gets service before you, how do you react to it?

Patience is one thing where the Lord is testing us especially. "The Lord places us in difficult positions to stimulate us to greater exertion. In His providence special annoyances sometimes occur to test our patience and faith." Test. Vol. 4 p. 166

"Each conflict has its place in the great battle for righteousness, and each will add to the joy of their final triumph. Having this in view, the test of their faith and patience will be cheerfully accepted rather than dreaded and avoided." D.A.306

"Severe trial endured by the grace of God develops patience, vigilance, fortitude and a deep abiding trust in God." A. A. p. 468

The trials and conflicts in our life not only reveal to us our weaknesses but they also develop in us patience and faith.

God is testing us in prosperity and also in poverty. When we are abounding, having a good fortune; it is a test to find out if we are selfish and keep it all to ourselves. When we are lacking the necessities we are tested to find out if we complain and become unfaithful in tithes and offerings.

The rich young man was tested when Jesus told him to sell all that he had and to give to the poor. He failed this test and went away sorrowful. He loved his possessions more than he loved Jesus or the poor and needy. Many professed Christians would fail this test the same way.

God is testing us in the health reform to find out if we have the willpower to control our appetite. Adam and Eve failed in this point. Paul writes that there are people "whose God is their belly". Phil 3:19 Esau failed in this test also. Food was more important to him than his God-given birthright.

"Unless he is free from the bondage and slavery of appetite he cannot be a true, obedient servant of Christ. It is the indulgence of appetite and passion which makes the truth of none effect upon the heart. It is impossible for the spirit and power of the truth to sanctify a man, soul, body and spirit, when he is controlled by appetite and passion." Test. Vol. 3 p. 57.

"Sins of the greatest magnitude are committed through the indulgence of perverted appetite." Test. Vol. 4 p. 30

"Many separate themselves from God by their indulgence of appetite." C.D. p.159

"Through appetite, Satan controls the mind and the whole being." C. D. p. 167

Daily God is testing us in health reform. Many are failing this test and therefore also their salvation. The old Israel had a perfect diet during their wilderness journey, but they were not satisfied with it. When God finally did give them flesh to eat it caused a plague in which many perished.

Television is comparable to the tree of knowledge in the paradise. It brings the knowledge of evil to the people. It is a test to us to see which we love more; Bible reading or television watching. Same is with the worldly literature which is available everywhere.

God is testing our love to our fellowmen to find out if we love them as much as ourselves. Are we truly the good Samaritans or are we like the priest or the Levite who passed by without helping the wounded man? This love to our fellow beings calls for missionary work. How could we say that we love our neighbour and let him perish in his sins.

The great test by the Sunday law is, still before us. The smaller tests today prepare us for the great test in the future. If we remain faithful in the smaller tests then we will be well prepared for the supreme test that will soon come upon us.

Year 1914 the Seventh Day Adventist Church passed through a test in which only a small remnant remained faithful to God's commandments. Something similar will take place in the test by the Sunday law.

“To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few - this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason. The nation will be on the side of the great rebel leader. will surely come.” Test. Vol. 5 p. 136

The smaller tests develop our characters; the great tests reveal what we are. The inconveniences and trials in our daily life are the test that in the end will determine our salvation or perdition.

Peter learned the value of.: these tests and wrote, “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” 1 Pet. 1:6-7

So important were these trials to David that he prayed to God to try him. “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” PS 139:23-24

As we know the purpose of these daily tests let us look upon them as blessings of God to prepare us for heaven, rather than inconveniences. No one has ever made it to the perfection of the character without these tests and trials. They prove that God has not forsaken us but is still working on our characters. God is not giving us even one pain or sorrow needlessly. As He place us in the fire, He is carefully watching us, in order to purify us as gold or silver. Let us learn to thank Him for these daily tests and prove ourselves faithful in them. Then the end result will be the perfect character of Christ. in us. May the Lord help us in this. AMEN

Timo Martin

COMPLETELY NAKED

*“For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain that we carry nothing out.”
1 Timothy 6:7.*

In whichever country we may have been born, whichever race or social status we may belong to, we all came to the world in the same way. We all slid down the dark tunnel of our mother's birth track - in the case of a natural birth - head down, and came to the light with our body covered with fluids and attached to the placenta by the umbilical cord that was to be soon cut off. Then, our fragile body was washed and clothed after we had taken that

breath of air that put our lungs to work in this hostile environment, while a cry gave sign that we were alive and brought joy and peace to our mother. What a strange way of coming into the world! How traumatic the experience of birth is for a newly born. We do not know, but to come from a dark, humid and warm environment where we swam like a fish, to a dry, cold and bright place where we have to learn to breathe and develop as independent human beings, may not be very easy. Nevertheless, a new life is a miracle, a miracle of God's love for man. That new creature needs much warmth, attention, love in order to develop and grow physically, mentally and spiritually healthy. Jesus was also born in that way for our sake.

What do we bring with us when we are born? Nothing. Not even a character. We are like a piece of stone with which the great Artist wants to shape a masterpiece according to His image and likeness. We have been entrusted to our earthly parents so that they may keep direct contact with the One who rules the course of the Universe and help us to become what we were born to be. We do not belong to our parents, as it is written: "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord", so our parents' duty is to consult with the Lord, as Sampson's father did and asked Him: "Teach us what we shall do with the child who will be born?"

Jesus did not belong to Mary and Joseph and that is why when they lost him and found him again in the temple in Jerusalem after three days. He said he had to take care of His Father's business. Although He was an obedient child, He knew His Father in heaven was above his earthly parents.

Since the moment we are born, an angel is given to take care of us, to protect us, to guide our steps, to inform the heavenly Father about {he: progress we are making in this hostile world. Are we aware that we have an angel of God at all times near us? Have we ever felt his presence? Let us read this wonderful news: "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven." Matthew 18:10.

With each newly born, anew register is opened in heaven, on which all the thoughts, words, plans, dreams, intentions, actions of that person are faithfully written during his whole life. As we go through the different stages in life, infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, we develop a character as we acquire certain habits, because it is actually the performance of our daily habits that develops our character. Jesus developed a perfect character and since He is our model we should study His life and see what His habits were since his first years of life. According to the environment in which we grow up, the society in which we interact, we start to develop certain ways of acting or reacting. We have our parents as our first pattern and in that way, children are a reflection of their parents. But if our heavenly Father is above all, we should be a reflection of His character, and that is what Jesus was, as He lived a life beholding His face. He came with a mission and nothing distracted Him from it. And we are also here with a mission, to build up characters that make us suitable for heaven.

Jesus was not allured by the vanities of this world, He did not start accumulating material things as if he were going to live here forever, but He led a simple life for the service of others and thus He developed a humble and meek character and was a really free man, free from earthly passions, free from lust, free from covetousness, envy, jealousy and all those feelings that rule those who have their goal set on the things of this world.

When our life reaches an end, it does not matter in which way we have lived it. Once again we are naked, just as when we were born. Now, instead of catching the first breath of air, we expire the last breath, and once again we are washed and dressed and cleaned from all the fluids that come out from our body whose muscles have been put to rest. We may have many belongings, properties, much money in the bank, we may have traveled all over, we may have made a name for ourselves in this world, we may have won a beauty contest, or have had a glorious life. Our name may appear in a famous encyclopedia, but we take nothing from all that to the tomb with us and just as Paul said to Timothy: "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain that we carry nothing out."

But we have something we did not have when we came to this world, something very important that will seal our eternal destiny: we have a character, that was formed by the accumulation of the habits of a whole life, a character that will determine whether we shall be saved or lost.

The last page of the book that was assigned in heaven to every human being at birth, is written the day of our death, and if at the end, one very important word is written: “Repented,” then, we are saved and will sleep in the tomb in peace awaiting the resurrection of the righteous when the Lord Jesus will come again for the second time. The prophet wrote: “Blessed are the dead who died in the Lord.” If, instead, we have rejected His grace, we have not followed the model sent to us from heaven, Jesus Christ, and the word is “Unrepented =lost,” all the same we shall sleep in the grave, but we shall not arise until Jesus’ third coming, when the resurrection of the wicked will take place. Are we well aware of this? Are we aware that the wicked are not only the criminals, the thieves and prostitutes who do not repent, but the unbelievers, the ones who think themselves righteous although the word of God says there is no one righteous, the ones who do not repent of their vanity and selfishness and do not ask for forgiveness and a change of heart? This is the worst sin in God’s eyes: unbelief. The Bible speaks about the people who will not resurrect at Jesus’ second coming: “But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished...Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power. “

May the Lord help us to make the right decision and make a covenant with Him as Jacob did: “If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I must come to my father’s house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God.” We are all on the way to the Father’s house and Jesus is the only way. May He grant us the grace to understand it and to follow Him. Amen.

Theresa Corti

JOB’S WIFE

In the Bible only one small statement is recorded about Job’s wife. It was written at a time when she and Job were struggling with the overwhelming hopelessness of their situation. Because the book of Job focuses on Job and his sufferings, it is easy to forget about Job’s wife. In fact we are not even given her name, yet this woman was Job’s partner in all the tragedies that he experienced. All that was written about her was a bitter cry to her husband in agony of spirit, “Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die.” Job 2:9.

Many condemn her for this outburst as it showed great lack of faith. What right did she have to complain when Job did not, and he was the one suffering extreme pain? If we were in her place would we react in a similar manner? In fact this comment of Job’s wife challenges us to consider: How would we express our deepest grief and pain? How would we respond to the brutal loss of everything dear and precious to us? Would our first thought be that God has abandoned us?

We can understand the pain that Job suffered from his many speeches recorded in the Bible, but the pain of Job’s wife remains unknown. We can only imagine how great it was, and how hopeless her situation must have seemed to her. All ten of her children were killed in one night in a tragic windstorm (Job 1:18-19). Not one escaped. The loss of One child can be devastating to a mother - or even having a child become extremely ill with no known cure; but how much can a mother’s heart bear if she loses all of her children.

While she was trying to cope with the shock of this tragedy, she also saw the loss of all their material wealth and then she began to see her husband’s body develop painful boils. (Job 2:7). Her beloved husband, her life-partner, was now in excruciating pain. It seemed too much for her to bear. In the midst of all her losses, she at least still had her husband alive for a while, but it appeared to her that he too might be taken away because he was so ill. This made her situation seem hopeless. Where was God when she needed Him the most? Why was He allowing this to happen? Why was He not doing something about it.?

Although nothing is recorded about her sufferings, we can only try to understand why she said what she did. Her children were dead, her husband was dying. How could a God who allowed this to happen be trusted? - she must

have wondered. In her mind she did not understand God and she came to the conclusion that He could not be trusted and therefore she chided Job for remaining faithful to God.

This heartrending cry of utter helplessness is understandable. It may be easier to deal with one's own pain than to see a loved one hurting and be powerless to stop it.

Job responded to his grieving and bitter wife by saying, "Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" (Job 2:10). This may seem like a harsh reply, however this may have been the only way for Job to break through her tears. Whatever the case, Job's statement points to the fact that no one is exempt from the realities of living in a broken world where sin and evil often have their way.

PROMISED TRIBULATION

Many years after this event, Jesus offers a similar view of the Christian's life, "In the world ye shall have tribulation," John 16:33.

Some people say that when we trust in Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, he will take away all of our troubles. But clearly He has not promised that. Instead He has promised to be there with us in the midst of our trials: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Heb. 13:5. The Lord will walk with us through the realities of life.

SUFFERING

While there are two different types of suffering, (physical and mental) both are equally difficult to experience without the Lord. Both kinds have led many people to suicide due to their inability to cope with the suffering. Job suffered physically and his wife, mentally, but both suffered together through the tragedy.

There has never been a life on this earth that has not been touched by suffering. Nothing is more feared and despised, whether it is the suffering person him/her self or close friends and relatives watching a loved one suffer. Often when we hear of sickness and tragedy and prayer is requested, we immediately begin to pray for the physical sufferer. What about the parents of the sick child? Or the pain of loved ones watching an elderly loved one suffer towards the end of their life? Imagine the sorrow the loved ones are experiencing, wishing they could do something to relieve the suffering but knowing there is nothing they can do to change things. They also need our prayers as they will need the strength and comfort from the Lord to help this loved one while they are suffering physically. They most certainly need our prayers as they are suffering mentally, and are in deep sorrow, shedding many tears for their suffering loved ones.

The Bible indicates that suffering is a part of the servants of God, "But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses. In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watching in fasting" 2 Cor. 6:4,5.

However we are not left to suffer alone, "By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left." V. 6-7.

This type of --life would suggest that sufferings would produce sorrow, however Paul did not see it this way, "As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing all things." V. 10. "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed." 2 Cor. 4:8,9. In these verses Paul presents some contrasts. On one side there is the frailty of earthen vessels and on the other side the power of God despite the frailty.

Every Christian finds himself in the midst of the age-long battle between Christ and Satan. Therefore you cannot escape tribulation. Yet the success that attends the efforts of frail human beings in the midst of tribulation and

distress is due to the presence of Jesus in the person's life. This is the only real way that a person can manage suffering. Job pointed his wife to the Lord. He let her know that circumstances are not to control the life of the believers, rather circumstances are orchestrated by God to draw us closer to Him. She needed to let the Lord carry her burdens by giving Him her sorrow and trusting Him to still be in control of the situation.

As universal and hated as suffering is, it is often just as incomprehensible. Nothing else gives rise to so many heart-searching questions or so threatens the foundations of our faith in God. Then we hear it from the unbelievers, "How could a loving God permit so much pain and suffering in our world." What do we answer? At one time or another I am sure we all thought about this question.

The Bible gives us many reasons why believers suffer today. Suffering is part of the process where a believer becomes more like Christ, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope." Rom. 5:2-4. Our faith is tested and purified through suffering as precious metals are purified by fire, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." 1 Pet. 1:7.

Paul suffered for a different reason in his life, "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." 2 Cor. 12:7-10. In Paul's life his prayer for healing was not answered in the way he wanted. He was told that he must continue to suffer but that God's grace would see him through.

Job was not given any reason for his suffering. He was a good, kind man. He was generous and he loved the Lord. By reading the Bible we understand that Satan was challenging God and for that reason God allowed Satan to torment Job. Was it just for show though or an experiment? Did Job need to increase his faith? We see that he already had strong faith in God. "The Lord gave, and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Job 1:21. Could we say the same words if we lost all our material possessions and very nearly our life? However, as righteous as Job was perhaps God knew that he could be a better help to the poor, the sick, and the needy if he had actually experienced the same pain that they did. It is well to give counsel and encouragement to those in need and we can find many comforting words in the Bible to share with them, however the one that can give the best encouragement is the person who has personally experienced the pain. For this reason some suffer and I believe that perhaps this is one reason Job was allowed to suffer. "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation." 2 Cor. 1:3-7.

Jesus is our Mediator because He suffered all the sorrow that we go through. He "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." It was not God the Father or the Holy Spirit. It was Jesus who suffered and therefore, we can "Come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:15,16. He understands because He has walked many miles in our shoes.

Once when Jesus went to heal a blind man, His disciples asked Him, "Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him." John 9:2,3. "The belief of the Jews in regard to the relation of sin and suffering was held by Christ's disciples. While Jesus corrected their error, He did not explain the cause of the man's affliction, but told them what would be the result. Thus Jesus answered the question of the disciples in a practical way, as He usually answered questions put to Him from curiosity. The disciples were not called upon

to discuss the question as to who had sinned or had not sinned, but to understand the power and mercy of God in giving sight to the blind.” DA 471.

Our pain opens up a pathway to a deeper, richer and more meaningful relationship with the Lord. “That I may know Him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto His death;” Phil. 3:10.

COMFORT

Comfort and ease were never intended for sinners, although sometimes Satan may make people comfortable so that they forget about God. More often than not, he loves to see people suffer. This is our situation on earth today and we are mistaken if we think we can rise above this imperfect condition without help outside of our selves.

Christ’s death and resurrection and His work in the Sanctuary in heaven reveals to us the seriousness of our condition. It took suffering and death for Him to break the bondage that holds all of God’s creation in its vicious grip. That suffering has made it possible for us to enter into new life. Now His work continues in us and with us throughout our lives. As true Christians we will find ourselves at war with our old ways, so we should not be surprised at pain and suffering in the walk of faith. “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;” 1 Pet. 4: 1. It is all part of the gift of believing. “For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake,” Phil. 1 :29. It is the path to strength and steadiness, “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.” 1 Pet. 5:10. It is the process of being completed, “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.” James 1:2,3.

The coming of Christ gave new dimension to suffering, for God became man to suffer and die for our sakes. As followers of Christ, we are called upon to follow His example of suffering for our own salvation as well as for others. Just as Christ died unjustly, we too may suffer in His name. But in suffering for Christ’s sake, we glorify God and open the way for great acts of faith. And by our suffering, we participate through Christ, in our own redemption and the redemption of others.

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us... For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.” Rom. 8:19,22,23.

The issue is not whether we will have to suffer, BUT how will we respond when suffering comes? Suffering may shake our faith in God or it can lead us to a deeper faith. .Despite Job’s suffering and the misunderstanding of his friends, the experience did bring him closer to the Lord. He did not learn why he suffered, but He learned to trust in the Lord.

Today we suffer the pain in this world that sin has caused. One day we will be set free from all sufferings. The pains are momentary and will pass away. The joy will be everlasting.

During her first vision of heaven, Sister White was led to say, “We tried to call up our greatest trials, but they looked so small compared with the far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory that surrounded us that we could not speak them out, and we all cried out, , Alleluia, heaven is cheap enough!” “ EW17. Many of us know how much she suffered for the cause of truth. Many times her life hung in the balances between life and death, however she was able to look past her sufferings to the great beyond. And we also see the anguish she experienced when two of her children were taken - when she saw her husband ill and suffering. She suffered physically as well as mentally. Mental suffering is very real and needs to be acknowledged. People going through mental suffering need our prayers equally as those who are suffering physically. And the God of all comfort will be near to the sufferer who puts their trust in Him.

We truly are blessed as children of God, because we know that God cares about our pain. One of my favorite songs is: "Tears are a language that God understands."

Verse 1

Often you've wondered why
tears come into your eyes,
And burdens seem to be much
More than you can stand.
But God is standing near,
He sees your falling tears,
Tears are a language
God understands.

Verse 2

When grief has brought you low,
It causes tears to flow,
Things have not turned out
The way that you had planned.
But God won't forget you,
His promises are true,
Tears are a language
God understands.

Chorus

God sees the tears
Of a broken hearted soul,
He sees your tears
And hears them when they fall.
God weeps along with man
And takes him by the hand;
Tears are a language
God understands..

For now, though we must suffer a little while, but we can look forward with joyful expectation to the eternal glory that is ours in Christ. The unbelievers in the world do not always understand the suffering they experience. And truly their sufferings are futile unless they come to know the Lord. This makes it all the more important that we reach out to show those who suffer in spiritual darkness - whatever the personal cost to us - to offer them the glorious hope that we possess.

The Bible does not tell us what happened to the faith of Job's wife. Perhaps she reflected on her husband's words and developed more trust in the Lord, despite severe tragedy. She more than likely listened to some of the conversation between Job and his friends as she tried to minister to her husband and make him more comfortable. She must have also come closer to the Lord as she shared in the blessings later, bearing 10 more children and enjoying the greater wealth in their later life.

We need to ask ourselves what would the quality of our faith be like if we are facing tragic circumstances as was Job's wife? When troubles come our way, are we able to look past the pain and see the Lord, who is always with us? Can we pray to Him with honesty, expressing everything that is in our heart?

However great the trials we encounter, they are not beyond endurance. No Christian need be discouraged. Even when stripped of everything of earthly value his greatest treasure remains secure - beyond the reach of men or

demons.

We all will have to suffer at one time or another, whether physically or mentally, or we may be asked to help a loved one through their suffering. This being the case we need to pray for each other and the Lord has promised to give us grace to endure. AMEN

Wendy Eaton.

THE PILARS OF OUR FAITH

PART 2

As Seventh Day Adventists we are required to study in detail the earthly and heavenly sanctuary and it's very good to have this knowledge. We want to understand what Jesus is doing in our behalf in the heavenly sanctuary. Many of us know what the earthly sanctuary contained, with it's different colors, curtains and utensils. It is also important to know the meaning of the colors, curtains, and utensils. They all pointed to a significance in the ministry of Christ in behalf of human kind.

Which are some of the pillars of our faith we should know? I will begin by mentioning the Sabbath, the fourth commandment in God's law, a day that God established for us to worship him. The next pillar is the state of the dead. In our time the doctrine of the immortality of the soul is like a hot pancake. The Bible states in many verses that when we die we are in a sleep until resurrection day. The Ten Commandments and the faith of Jesus is another pillar. The Bible says, "if ye love me keep my commandments" John 14:6. The Lord also in the new covenant writes his Law in our hearts and mind. Having the faith of Jesus is important. "When the Son of man cometh shall he find faith in the earth? As true believers we should have the faith of Jesus. Another pillar is the Three Angels Message found in Rev. 14:6-12, a very important message for the time we are living in. The Temple of God in heaven which contains the Ark of the Covenant in the most Holy Place is another pillar. Inside the ark are located the Ten Commandments. In the commandments as we stated before is the light of the Sabbath. The protestant world preaches that the Sabbath commandment was nailed to the cross and thus fulfilled in Jesus. The Lord has raised up the Adventist faith to defend the pillars of our faith from the false teachers in our time. We read before that the pillars of our faith shouldn't be removed not even an inch.

There are many that know their Bible's very little and they remove the pillars of the faith by not being able to defend them. "The enemy will set everything in operation to uproot the confidence of the believers in the pillars of our faith in the messages of the past, which have placed us upon the elevated platform of eternal truth, and which have established and given character to the work Those who have a hold of the truth theoretically, with their finger tips as it were, who have not brought its principles into the inner sanctuary of the soul, but have kept the vital in the outer court, will see nothing sacred in the past history of this people which has made them what they are, and has established them as earnest, determined, missionary workers in the world." Selected Messages 2 p.447

There are souls that have only the theory of the message and have not let the principle enter into their soul. Many of us know the theory but we don't live the truth, we have not experienced entering into the Most Holy Place with Jesus. As Seventh Day Adventist Reformers we should know that we have aligned the fence that was twisted, we have placed the pillars where they should be, we have raised up the property of Jehovah. What I want to say is that we have a right to exist as an organization because we have the original doctrines of the pillars of the faith of the pioneers. Our organization was not established by men but by the Spirit of God leading men and women to defend the pillars of the faith.

The message of the Investigative Judgment where Christ is interceding for us is very special. No other church teaches the ministry of Jesus in the Most Holy Place. Jesus is doing a very special work in behalf of his people. We have a soul to win or lose, when we see Jesus face to face will we be able to stand? My desire is that we may enter by faith into the Most Holy Place with Jesus, his grace is sufficient for us. We are sinners in need of a Saviour to help us to live the present truth (pillars of our faith). May the LORD help us to live as true Reformers for God's honor and glory. Amen

Servant in Christ: Joshua Martinez

“THE PREACHER BIRD”

Psalm 104:27,28

Interestingly, there is a bird actually called the “preacher bird”, or red-eyed Vireo: family Virconidae (order Passeriformes)! They can be any of 42 species of New World birds. They are the most primitive of the New World songbirds. They are anywhere from 10 to 18 centimeters (4 to 7 inches) long, and with red eyes (irises). They occur in woodlands and thickets, where they slowly and laboriously gather insects from foliage. Interestingly, also, is that the “preacher bird” is a compulsive singer: Songs of repeated, often melodious, loud, short phrases, over and over again; harsh scolding notes. ... A message for the ministry, or God's people, and, hence, the potent and respected God is speaking to us in these last days. (2 SM 315). The Great Teacher, Jesus Christ, brought His hearers in contact with nature, that they might listen to the voice which speaks in all created things. He delighted to gather the spiritual teaching from the surroundings of nature and of daily life. The birds of the air, the lilies of the field, the sower and the seed, the shepherd and the sheep - with these Christ illustrated the immortal truth. In His lessons there was something of interest to every mind, to appeal to every heart. (Ed 102) The perfection of God's work and nature, is as clearly seen, as the tiniest insect, as in the kind of birds, the albatross, which can attain a length of 1.5 metres (5 feet), and wing spread of about 13 feet (4 meters). The Sabbath calls our thoughts to nature, doesn't it? It brings us into communion with the Creator. It was He that filled the earth with beauty and the air with song-birds. And upon all things in earth, air, and sky, He wrote the message of His Father's love. Creation sings God's praise. Even now all created things declare the glory of His excellence. There is nothing, save the selfish heart of man, that lives unto itself. No bird that cleaves the air but ministers to some other life; no animal that moves upon the ground even, but ministers to another life. (DA 20)

In the song of the bird, the singing of the trees, music in the air and the sea, we may still hear His voice who talked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day. We are to lift up our eyes on high and behold who has created these things (DA 281⁷²; Isa 40:18-29; Ezek 20:20). He calls all the birds (and creatures) by name; myriads of birds, an estimated world-bird population of about a hundred billion with the world's human population.

The lovely birds are caroling forth their happy songs to the Creator, who speaks to their senses of the goodness, mercy and benevolence of God (CG 54). God's voice is heard in the singing birds; Christ's voice is heard in the singing birds (DA 281; Ed 129) Be cheerful while listening to the singing birds (AH 510). Are you listening? Singing birds have an exhilarating effect upon the nervous system, and the sick even, are benefited by hearing them sing (MM 231; 234).

Jesus spent most of His life in the open air, and He delighted in listening to the birds of the air and uniting His voice with them in their happy songs of praise (SD135). On the Mount of Blessing, Jesus pointed His hearers to the birds as they warbled their carols of praise, untroubled, or burdened with thoughts of care, “for they sow not, neither do they reap, yet the Great Father provides for their needs. And He asks, “Are ye not of much more value than they?” (Mat. 6:26) It is He who gave- to the sparrow His song, who says, “Behold the birds, consider the

lilies. Why has He given you the singing birds? Because of the overflowing love of a Father's heart that would brighten and gladden your path of life (MB 96).

All that was needed for your existence and survival of this earth would have still been yours, without flowers or birds, but God was not content to provide what would be enough for you to just barely survive or exist. NO! He has filled the earth, air and sky with glimpses of beauty to tell you of His loving thought for you. This beauty is just a small gleam from the shining of His glory. If He has done this, how can you doubt that He will give you every needed blessing?

I had a faithful bird feeder on my veranda and I noticed that every day, over and over, wordless sermons were preached to me from that serene feeder. The preachers were the birds and their message was simply this: DEPENDENCE! Dependence on God for all His creatures. YES! You and I, TOO!

Here is the brilliant sermon on God's dependence that the birds live out faithfully, over and over, again: 1. Seek God's provision daily. 2. Seek God's provision expectantly, for He has satisfied you before over and over again. 3. Seek God's provision actively, taking the responsibility to gather it in-to do something. The birds make this very clear from our opening verse: "Every one of these depends on you to give them daily food. You supply it, and they gather it. You open wide your hand to feed them and they are satisfied with all your bountiful provision."(Psalm 104:27,28).

The Bible is like a table (or feeder) loaded with nourishing food that we need everyday: Like, promises; instruction, wisdom, comfort, encouragement, protection. God is marvelously telling us to come and dine with Him now, that we might one day feast with Him in Heaven. But, we often fail to do this. Why? Because we depend on everything and everyone else, but Him, and then blindly wonder why our faith is feeble and we are anxious... For nothing. "Be not anxious" (Math 6:25). He who has given you life knows your need of the Lord to sustain you.

But, if like our feathered friends, the birds, we'll come and feast DAILY, EXPECTANTLY, and ACTIVELY, the Lord will surely provide for all of your needs. Depend on it! God's word provides the nourishment. We need it to grow, but if we don't feast on it, here and now, we'll never have vitality, or zeal. We will become "spiritual dwarfs"!

The Great Provider for man and His creatures opens His hand and supplies all His creative living works. The birds of the air are not beneath His notice. But He does not drop the good into their bills (beaks), or nests, but He makes provision for their needs. THEY must gather the grains He has scattered for them. THEY must prepare the material for their little nests. THEY must feed their young. THEY cheerfully sing while they work... Because they're happy, "for your heavenly Father feedeth them", and, "are you not much better than they?" Are you not intelligent, spiritual, worshippers of more value than the birds of the air? Will not the Author of our being, the Preserver of our life, the One who formed us in His own divine image, provide for our necessities if we but trust Him? (SC 123)... DAILY, EXPECTANTLY, ACTIVELY? It's there, gather it in. Depend on God, it's only right!

From all this, we can see that as we study the lessons in all created things and all of life's experiences, that the same laws which govern the things of nature, and the events of life are to control us; That they are given for our good, and only by obedience to them can we find true happiness and success!

Nature reveals to us that the great law of life is the law of service (Lk 27:27). The same law of service is written upon all things in nature (Heb 1:14); the birds of the air, the trees they nestle in, the forests, leaves, the flowers, the sun and stars - all have their ministry. Each takes to give. "Give and it shall be given unto you." (Lk 6:38) A lesson written in nature and the Holy Word: All channels to the world (Ed 103).

The law of the life of a disciple is Give, Give, Give (Lk 6:38).. It's the "instinct of giving." As Christians, our giving is to be proportionate to all we have received of the infinite giving of God. "Freely you have received, freely give."(Mt10:8) Not how much we give, but what we do not give is the test of our Christianity.

We have seen, also, and learned how the world all fits together; the intertwining of nature. Things just prophetically fit together, because an intimate personal God watches over them, and preserves them. Birds (and animals) eat on schedule, not because their habitat contains adequate food, but because God gives them their food “at the proper time”. The Lord says, “The stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming. But my people know not the judgment of the Lord.” {Jer. 8:7}. When is your “proper time”, and “appointed season”?

Many today believe that the birds and creatures of today are of no real value to anyone and are simply for food, sport, or commercial uses. For others they are of some interest as dainty, fluffy pets, but to God they are extraordinarily worthy and of priceless value. How does nature affect you? How do you affect nature?

The songbirds of today are mainly silent, songless, frightened, caged captives, imprisoned, exposed to enemies constantly... rare... many extinct... endangered... in a suffering, perishing... careless world! “For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now; even the things of nature, like animals, birds, fish, plants, suffer in sickness and death as they await this Great Day; when God will resurrect His children. But even the animals and material creation, cursed for man’s sake (Gen 3:17), will be delivered by Christ (Rom 8:19-22; Isa.11:6-9).

Are birds a part of your life? Is there a “preacher bird” in your life?...crying out loud, urgent, divine messages over and over again... by the voice of God? Or, is there an “albatross” in your life? ...a “wandering albatross”... a seemingly inescapable moral or emotional burden, as of guilt or responsibility something large or burdensome that is impeding action or progress in your bird- cage life? If so, remember that every breath of life depends on HIS will. The psalmist ends (104:35), interestingly, with a wish that God would clean up the earth, “cleanse it of all wickedness and that sinners vanish - those who mar its perfection by their rejection of God’s will and refuse to praise Him.” The beauty of the earth and air of songbirds, created by God, calls out for purity - purity and sincerity of the heart.”

The time is soon coming when faithful believers, the children of God, at the second coming of Christ, will say, “the singing of the birds has come.” (Canticles 2:12),

“Praise the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord.” Amen

John Theodorou USA/GREECE

THE TWO RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHURCH

Rom 13:11 “this. also, knowing the time that it is already time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we believed.”

The events around us become more ominous. Most of the people think that something is going to happen very soon. We cannot continue like this for a long time. We are cutting the branch on which we sit. The world runs unto its self-destruction. The coming of Christ is very near.

“ The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude. The agencies of evil are combining their forces, and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones”. --Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 11. {ChS 52.2}

Our generation is ill. All the humanity is ill.

Jer 8:22 “Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the healing of the daughter of My people not come?”

Is there no balm in this world? Yes, there is. It is called Salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. It is the amazing divine grace, given to all. The balm is that marvelous plan of salvation. What a pity that the people are not interested. The world runs unto its end. Anyone who has heard and accepted the message of redemption has the privilege of taking part in the proclamation of it.

“They would see that in the great judgment day those who have not worked for Christ, who have drifted along, carrying no responsibility, thinking of themselves, pleasing themselves, will be placed by the Judge of the whole earth with those who did evil”. ST Oct 28. 1897. Those who have not shared their faith would be counted with those who have done evil. What do we do for the salvation of the others? We have the responsibility to make the third angels message heard.

Act 2:47 “praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

The church must be like the Ark of Noah, Sheltering those who have been invited. Here are the two responsibilities of the church:

- 1- To bring the message to all**
- 2- To shelter those invited**

I am asking today two questions.

- 1. How are we going to receive those who accept the invitation?**
- 2. What will they see in our church?**

Let us look at an ancient story. It happened more or less 3000 years ago...

Ruth 1:1 “And it happened in the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem-Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

Ruth 1:2 And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem-judah. And they came to the fields of Moab and stayed there.

This family left Bethlehem because they encountered a difficult situation- famine. They moved to Moab to look for a better life. And they stayed there.

Ruth 1:3 And Elimelech, Naomi’s husband, died. And she was left, and her two sons.

Ruth 1:4 And they took wives for themselves from the women of Moab. The name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they lived there about ten years.

Ruth 1:5 And Mahlon and Chilion also died, both of them. And the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

How long a time did the good time last? First the father died, latter the two sons. At the end we see three widows alone. Let us draw a parallel. In which days did this story happen?

And it happened in the days when the judges ruled. In which time do we live?

Dan. 7 and Rev.14 Since 1844 we live in the days of the investigative judgment. This is a critical time, a time of shaking, a time of crisis. At this time some say, it is better to leave the church to look for a better life out there. And when the church solves its problems we will come back. When there is no famine we will return.

Job 3:25 For the thing which I greatly feared has come upon me, and that which I was afraid of has come to roe.

Do not leave the church, thinking that out of it you will have fewer problems. The thing which you greatly feared, will come upon you. Remain with the Lord.

Ruth 1:6 Then she arose with her daughters-in-law so that she might return from the fields of Moab. For she had heard in the fields of Moab how Jehovah had visited His people in giving them bread.

Naomi decided to return. Her daughters in law were very close to her, yet she told them

Ruth 1:8 ... Go, return each one to her mother's house. May Jehovah deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me?

Ruth 1:11 And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Are there yet sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

Their names were Orpah and Ruth. Orpah loved the woman Naomi, Ruth loved not only her noble character, but also her faith, her ideals, that is why she decided not to leave her, but go with her.

Ruth 1:16 And Ruth said, Do not beg me to leave you, to return from following after you. For where you go, I will go. Where you stay, I will stay. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

Ruth 1:17 Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May Jehovah do so to me, and more also, {f anything but death parts you and me.

Ruth 1:18 When she saw that she was determined to go with her, then she quit speaking to her.

A pagan woman was captured, convinced by the life of her mother in law--- Naomi.

Now comes the second question--- How will she be accepted by the people of God, how will they accept her-the foreigner. Naomi attracted her, but...

Ruth 2:3 And she went. And she came and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come upon a part of the field of Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.

There was a law Deu 24: 19 When you cut down your harvest in your field, and have forgotten a sheaf in the field, you shall not go again to bring it. It shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow; so that Jehovah your God may bless you in all the work of your hand. So Ruth went after the harvesters, according this law.

Rth 2:8 And Boaz said to Ruth, Do you not hear, my daughter? Do not go to glean in another field, neither go away from here, but stay here close by my maidens.

Ruth 2:9 Let your eyes are on the field that they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men that they shall not touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink of that which the young men have drawn.

Ruth 2:10 Then she fell on her face and bowed herself to the ground, and said to him, Why have I found grace in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?

Ruth 2:14 And Boaz said to her, At mealtime come here and eat of the bread and dip your bit in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers. And he handed her roasted grain, and she ate and was satisfied, and left.

2:11 And Boaz answered and said to her, It has been fully shown to me all that you have done to your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, And you left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before now.

Ruth 2:12 May Jehovah repay your work, and may a full reward be given you from Jehovah, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to trust.

With what a tremor and expectation Ruth has tread after Naomi in their trip to Betlehem. Maybe she has thought: How will they accept me...Boaz did not look at her with coldness, just the opposite, he called her "my daughter"

Ruth 2:14 And Boaz said to her, At mealtime come here and eat of the bread and dip your bit in. the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers. And he handed her roasted grain, and she ate and was satisfied, and left.

Dear reader, Boaz gave her to eat, he was so hospitable, so kind. Did she eat all? No, she took something for Naomi.

How did the people of Bethlehem meet Ruth? With warmth, respect, love, concern. She felt comfortable, she felt like being part of them.

How do we meet people who come to church? What is our attitude? Do we show real interest in them?

What will the people find in our churches?

Ruth saw in Bethlehem true people of God. They were very nice to her. What will the people from the world see in us? Faith, hope, love must be part of our lives.

Will they see in us real trust in God?

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psa 46:2 Therefore we will not fear when the earth changes, and when mountains are slipping into the heart of the seas.

Will they see that in good and in bad times we follow our God?

Will they see righteous people, who have peace in their hearts and in their homes?

Rom 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:5 And hope does not make us ashamed, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us.

When you are tempted to look at the brother or at the sister ask yourself the question “Am I a new creature?” AM I in harmony with, God?

2 Cor. 5:17 So that if anyone is in Christ, that one is a new creature; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Did the faith make us good people? Barnabas was a good man. This was one of his basic qualities.

Act 11:24 For he was a good man and full of the Holy Spirit and faith. And many people were added to the Lord.

The purpose of our coming to church is to become good people.

2 Ti 3: 16 All Scripture is God-breathed, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2 Ti 3:17 that the man of God may be perfected, thoroughly furnished to every good work. Only good people will enter in the kingdom of God.

Mat 25:21 His lord said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a few things; I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.

If goodness and faithfulness are not part of our lives everything else is vain. May God prune from us thistles, that we can be good people.

Joh 13:34 I give you anew commandment, that you love one another. As I have loved you, you should also love one another.

Joh 13:35 By this all shall know that you. are My disciples, if you have love toward one another. Love is expressed in showing attention, care, being kind.

Will they see in us people who wait for their Master return?

“ We are living in the last days of this earth’s history, and it is time we understood what we must do to be saved.

The Lord will work intelligently for all who will work intelligently for Him. My brethren and sisters, there is something more for you to do than to sit in your churches Sabbath after Sabbath and to listen to the preaching of the Word. You have a work to do for [your] friends and neighbors. God requires. . . that you visit these families and seek to create an interest in the truth for this time. You are not laboring together with God if you neglect the work of helping others to take hold upon eternal realities". {UL 264.2}

"We have a truth that is saving and precious. The Word of God must be planted in many hearts; the bread of life must be dealt out to many hungry souls. . . . It is a blessed work to lift up Christ before the world." (UL 264.3)

"We have a truth that is saving and precious. The Word of God must be planted in many hearts; the bread of life must be dealt out to many hungry souls. . . . It is a blessed work to lift up Christ before the world". {UL 264.3}

"Let the light shine where you are. Lay hold of the power that there is in Christ, and learn to overcome through the merits of His blood and the word of your testimony. --Manuscript 93, Sept. 7, 1909, "Address to the Church at Salt Lake City." (UL 264.6)

This world needs the message of salvation. May God give us His Spirit, that the work could be finished. Let us cooperate with those who labor to bring souls to the church. Remember the character of Boaz and the people of Bethlehem.

Amen.

Ivo Ionov, Montreal, Canada

WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION!

"We should be careful not to take into our hands the work of judging that belongs to God...

The Saviour bids us, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Matthew 7:1,2, Remember that soon your life record will pass in review before God. Remember, too, "that He has said, therefore you are inexcusable, O man who ever you are who judge, for in what ever you judge another you condemn yourself, for you who judge practice the same things." Romans 2:1 G.W. p.474 and Remember always, written by apostle James "who are you to judge another?" James 4:12.

Win Souls to the Saviour's kingdom:

As the children of God, we have to win souls to our Saviour's kingdom. That is our right duty. But unfortunately, some of the Christians are thinking to destroy or push away those who are co-workers and faithful members, from the church. Those who do this are agents of Satan.

These things are happening every where, But they are not willing to solve the problems and talk to each other and be open hearted. Instead of doing this, they are taking revenge on them. These kinds of people are losing their salvation and are also making others lose their salvation. If anyone find fault with their co-brother, it is destroying the work of Jesus Christ.

The will of God:

When the first Coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ occurred, he said to us, we should think what is the will of the heavenly father, ‘Even so it is not the will of your father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.’ Matthew 18:4. What wonderful words! What does the apostle Peter say? “... but is long suffering towards us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance”. 2 Peter 3:9 The apostle Paul also says about the will of God. “who desires all men to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth.” 1 Timothy 2:4 Our Saviour says, what is the thing which makes joy in heaven more than any thing. “I say to you that like wise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety nine just person’s who need no repentance.” Luke 15:7.

Do the will of God:

What we know by reading the above passage’s are... “not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” This is God’s will. If we are also God’s children, our will also must be like this. Now what to do? If we find any fault from others, we have to do according to the words of Matthew 18:15-17. With the love of Jesus, we have to inform them not to lose salvation because of their sin. This is also one of the wonderful works of salvation. Instead of this we should not think to destroy the sinners. This creates joy in heaven.

Find The Good Things:

Many people say we are true Christians and followers of Jesus Christ. But our activities are against the character of our Saviour. How can Jesus come among them? We can find one thousands faults as well as we can find ten very good things in a person. What shall we do? Shall we condemn them always with one thousand faults or shall we encourage them with ten good things? If we always condemn anyone, he will grow in the faults. If we encourage him for good things, he will improve .in good things. Then the faults will be reduced, so we can turn such souls to the side of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

How many persons are working like this? This is the time and place for us to think. If we think that anyone wants to destroy without repentance means this is the character of the elder-son becoming jealous of his own brother. (Luke 15:29-32) If you are not searching sinners for repentance, at least when the sinners realize and return from their sin, we should be happy with Jesus and the heavenly kingdom.

Pray for you and me:

“The time spent in criticizing the motives and works of Christ’s servants might better be spent in prayer. Often if those who find fault know the truth in regard to those with whom they find fault, they would have an altogether different opinion of them. How much better it would be if, instead of criticizing and condemning others, every one would say, “I must work out my own salvation. If I co-operate with Him who desires to save my soul, I must watch myself diligently, I must cut away every evil from my life. I must become a new creature in Christ. I must overcome every fault, then, instead of weakening those who are striving against evil, I can strengthen them by encouraging words” -8 T. p 83,84

Generally, those who find fault with others, think that they must be punished. They don’t think their character is against Jesus Christ. Apostle Paul says, “bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another, even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do” Colossians 3:13 Those who have the character of Jesus Christ, they will go forward with love and heavenly love.

One who is against the character of Jesus Christ, enjoys seeing his brothers problem’s and unhappiness and is critical. What advice the Bible gives for such people are... If some one says, “I Love God”, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?” 1 John 4:20

Love your own soul:

“While many are neglecting their own souls, they eagerly watch for an opportunity to criticize and condemn other “Now”, say these self-constituted judges, “we have facts. We will fasten upon them an accusation from which they cannot clear themselves”. They wait for a fitting opportunity and then produce their bundle of gossip and bring forth their tidbits... while condemning the errors of others, they indulge far greater errors themselves.

Is there no law of kindness to be observed? Have Christians been authorized of God to criticize and condemn one another? Is it honorable, or even honest, to win from the lips of another, under the guise of friendship, secrets which have been entrusted to him, and then turn the knowledge thus gained to his injury? Is it Christian charity, to gather up every floating report, to unearth everything that will cast suspicion on the character of another, and then take delight in using it to injure him? Satan exults when he can defame or wound a follower of Christ. He is “the accuser of our brethren,” Shall Christians aid him in his work?

“God’s all seeing eye notes the defects of all and the ruling passion of each, yet He bears with our mistakes and pities our weakness. He bids His people cherish the same spirit of tenderness and forbearance. True Christians will not exult in exposing the faults and deficiencies of others, they will turn away from vileness and deformity, to fix the mind upon that which is attractive and lovely. To the Christian every act of fault finding, every word of censure or condemnation, is painful”. 5 T. p. 95, 96

Do the work of salvation

Many persons are happy with others punishment. That is a very bad habit, so, first you have to concentrate in keeping your salvation. You know the fate of those who tried to destroy the prophet Daniel in the den of lions? And also you know what happened to Miriam who acted against the servant of God, Moses? If you find anybody goes in a wrong path, make them to realize it and correct it in the name of Jesus Christ and God will bless you with a life of joy and love.

“A glance, a word, even an intonation of the voice, may be ,vital with false wood, sinking like a barbed arrow into some heart, inflicting an incurable wound. Thus a doubt, a reproach, may be cast upon one by whom God would accomplish a good work and his influence i.e. blighted, his usefulness destroyed. Among some species of animals, if one of their number is wounded and falls, he is at once set upon and tom in pieces by his fellows. The same cruel spirit is indulged by men and women who bear the name of Christians. They manifest a pharisaical zeal to stone others less guilty then themselves. There are some who point to others faults and failures to divert attention from their own, or to gain credit for great zeal for God and the church” 5 T.p.59

So, one who can realize and recognize the Christianity in his heart, has to leave the habit of betraying others with false allegations. and realize thy own sin of jealousy of others health and wealth, name and fame. We should forgive others and make them realize their faults. This leads one to salvation in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ. If we do this, we will become a perfect soul in the life of Jesus Christ. This is the wonderful work in the Christian life.

What you need, do that for others:

“Therefore, what ever you want men to do to you, do also to them for this is the law and prophets” Matthew 7:12
“If you are a true Christian, ignore other’s faults, and correct yourself. If we do like this, we can see the healthful condition in the Lord’s Church. When the lord collects His gems, He can see the faithful and honest souls. When he makes the crown’s for them, the light will given brightness to the crown from the Lords throne” 5 T. p. 96, 97

So, If we want to be perfect, first we have to obey our lord of God, then afterwards we will not find any fault, or jealousy, anger, or misunderstanding among the children of God.

So, brethren, “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood

of Jesus Christ His son cleanses us from all sin” I John 1:7

We will encourage everyone with this word. If we often find others faults, we are losing our salvation and also disturbing others salvation. It will be very sad in heaven. So, first we love ourselves and keep our salvation then we will help others to receive their salvation. If we do like this, our love is reaching to our heavenly father through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Then after what? Happy! Every where!! In heaven also, praise the Lord, Amen.

S. RAJ ISRAEL, M.A, B.Ed, India.

HAVE YOU HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

After hearing about all the various efforts made by the many, different Christian organizations to evangelize the world, to preach the Gospel, the Good News, to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, combined with all “the emotional and promotional “hype” associated with Christmas--Jesus being the reason for the season--(so they say), I began to wonder why hasn’t our world come to its end?

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. “1

Many have suggested that there are people living in underdeveloped and in communistic countries who have never heard “the gospel of Christ.” Okay. But what about the thousands living in industrialized and in democratic countries who haven’t heard “the glorious gospel of the blessed God”? “There are thousands in America perishing in ignorance and sin.”2 Why haven’t these heard the God News?

Would it be presumptuous to believe that these people inhabit deserted places, or dwell in secret chambers, and man, with his wicked devices, who have overturned nearly every rock, and has lightened nearly every crack and crevice, and has uprooted nearly every tree on earth cannot find them? And having not found none, no, not one, he with his vain imagination, now imagines to build a ladder, a tower that might reach another planet, that is an heavenly. Then, there he will migrate in order to escape the judgments that are now falling upon the earth. But he will not escape.

‘I have waited on Thy salvation, O Lord.,,3

There is another reason why our world hasn’t come to its end. “The law of Ten Commandments has been lightly regarded by man, but the Lord would not come to punish the transgressors of that law without first sending them a message of warning. The third angel proclaims that message.”4 Unfortunately, “living preachers are few.”5 “Not all our ministers who are giving the third angel’s message really understand what constitutes that message.6 “There is not one in one hundred who understands for himself the Bible truth on this subject that is so necessary to our present and eternal welfare.,7

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 118 “But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.”9 “For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”10

“The glory of the attributes of God is expressed in His character.” 11 “When Moses prayed, ‘Show me Thy glory’, the Lord answered, ‘I will make all My goodness pass before thee.’ Exodus 33: 18, 19. This is His glory. The lord passed by Moses, and proclaimed, ‘The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long- suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.’ Exodus 34:6,7.

He is 'slow to anger, and of great kindness,' 'because he delighteth in mercy.' Jonah 4:2; Micah 7:18., 12 "And God declared by the prophet: 'Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him the glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the Lord which exercises loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord. , 13

"The law of God from its very nature, is unchangeable. It is a revelation of the will and the character of its Author. 14 "The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them." 15 "They show that there is a spiritual power that can enable men and women not to swerve an inch from truth and justice for all the gifts that men can bestow.,16 "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; AND THEN SHALL THE END COME!" 17

Have you heard the Good News? "Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory .,,18 "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"19 "You can never see the King in his beauty if you are not yourself a representative of His character. ,, 20

"Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own. ,,21 "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.,, 22 "For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will tarry. ,, 23 "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. " ,

Chester Cosby

- 1 Matthew 24:14
- 2 8 T 35
- 3 Genesis 49: 18
- 4 3 T 161
- 5 4 T 387
- 6 5 T 715
- 7 1 SM 360
- 8 Romans 10:14
- 9 Numbers 14:21
- 10 Habakkuk 2:14
- 11 COL 115
- 12 SC 10
- 13 5 T 737
- 14 GC 467
- 15 COL 415,416
- 16 9 T 24
- 17 Matthew 24:14
- 18 Colossians 1:26,27
- 19 2 Corinthians 13:5
- 20 1 SM 11
- 21 COL 69
- 22 James 5:7

23 Hebrews 10:37
24 Revelation 22:20-21

PROMISED SEED

1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. Gen 12:(1-3) FAITH

3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father, 4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; 5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. Gen 26:(3-5) OBEY

1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? 2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. 3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Romans 4: (1-3) BELIEF

WHAT DOES "In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" MEAN? 8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. 9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham Gal 3:(B-9)

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. Romans 1: (16-17)

HOW MUCH LAND IS PROMISED TO ABRAHAM? 13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: 15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. 16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, Romans 4: (13-16) PP. 137.001

"And the voice of God was heard, bidding him not to expect immediate possession of the Promised Land, and pointing forward to the sufferings of his posterity before their establishment in Canaan. The plan of redemption was here opened to him, in the death of Christ, the great sacrifice, and His coming in glory. Abraham saw also the earth restored to its Eden beauty, to be given him for an everlasting possession, as the final and complete fulfillment of the promise."

WHO IS THE SEED OF THE PROMISE?

16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. Gal 3(16)

CAN ANY MAN, JEW OR GENTILE, RECEIVE THIS PROMISE?

JESUS TELLS US:

8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham Luke 3 (8)

Parable: READ :Matt 2 1 :(33-46) The wicked vinegrowers (Jews)

PAUL TELLS US: 6Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, 10, we turn to the Gentiles. 47For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. 48And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed, 49And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region. Acts 13:(46-50)

4Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; 5Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. 6Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. 8That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed. Romans 9(4-8)

26For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Gal 3:(26-29) 5He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 6Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. 7Know ye therefore that they which are of faith the same are the children of Abraham. Gal 3(5-7)

14How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. Heb 9:(1 4-15) 29 Is He the God of the Jews only? Is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: Romans 3(29)

WHAT IS THIS SPIRIT?

3Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: 5By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: 6Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: Romans 1 :(3-6)

5For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. 6For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. Gal 5:(5)

14That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Gal 3:(14)

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: Rom. 8(14-16)

32And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him Acts 5:32

RH 1. 1890-04-01.012 We must have oil in our vessels with our lamps, and not be like the foolish virgins of the parable whose lamps went out ,as they slumbered and slept, and who had no oil to replenish them, and so failed to be ready to meet the bridegroom. We should seek for a living experience, and obtain the grace of Christ. We

need his love and gentleness; we-need our faith revived. Let no one disregard the counsel of God, but let us all buy of him gold, and white raiment, and plead for the anointing 14For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby,we cry, Abba, Father. 16The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

The power of Christ alone can work the transformation in heart and mind that all must experience who would partake with Him of the new life in the kingdom of heaven. "Except a man be born again," the Saviour has

47for so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. 48And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. Acts 13(47)

16For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. 18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Romans 1 :(16-17). 11 say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. Romans 11: 11

9And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him; Heb 5(9)

Prophecy of Isaiah 52(10) Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem. 10The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

10Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by Him doth this man stand here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Acts 4 (12)

31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. 32Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; 33As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. Romans 9 (31-32)

3For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin; condemned sin in the flesh: 4That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 5For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. Romans 8:(3-4)

ELLEN WHITE TELLS US:

RH. 1890-04-01.008 Several have written to me, inquiring if the message of justification by faith is the third angel's message, and I have answered, "It is the third angel's message in verity." The prophet declares, "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory." Brightness, glory, and power are to be connected with the third angel's message, and conviction will follow wherever it is preached in demonstration of the Spirit.

RH.1894-03-20.002 laborers in the cause of truth should present the righteousness of Christ, not as new light, but as precious light that has for a time been lost sight of by the people. We are to accept Christ as our personal Saviour, and He imputes unto us the righteousness of Christ. let us repeat and make prominent the truth that John has portrayed: "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

The Bible says: [Abraham] staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to Him for righteousness. Now it was not written for His sake alone, that it was imputed to Him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on Him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. Romans 4:(20-25) said, "he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. The religion that comes from God is the only religion that can lead to God. In order to serve Him aright, we must be born of the Divine Spirit. This will lead to watchfulness. It will purify the heart and renew the mind, and give us a new capacity for knowing and loving God. It will give us willing obedience to all His requirements. This is true worship. {CD 37.3}

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE JEWS?

READ Matt 24: (15-22) and Luke 21 :(20) 70 AD over 1,100,000 Jews Perished

Christ's mission was not understood by the people of His time. The manner of His coming was not in accordance with their expectations. The Lord Jesus was the foundation of the whole Jewish economy. Its imposing services were of divine appointment. They were designed to teach the people that at the time appointed One would come to whom those ceremonies pointed. But the Jews had exalted the forms and ceremonies and had lost sight of their object. The traditions, maxims, and enactments of men hid from them the lessons which God intended to convey. These maxims and traditions became an obstacle to their understanding and practice of true religion. And when the Reality came, in the person of Christ, they did not recognize in Him the fulfillment of all their types, the substance of all their shadows. They rejected the antitype, and clung to their types and useless ceremonies. The Son of God had come, but they continued to ask for a sign. The message, "Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," they answered by demands for a miracle. Matt. 3:2. The gospel of Christ was a stumbling block to them because they demanded signs instead of a Saviour. They expected the Messiah to prove His claims by mighty deeds of conquest, to establish His empire on the ruins of earthly kingdoms. This expectation Christ answered in the parable of the sower. Not by force of arms, not by violent interpositions, was the kingdom of God to prevail, but by the implanting of a new principle in the hearts of men. {COI 34.4}

"He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man." Matt. 13:37. Christ had come, not as a king, but as a sower; not for the overthrow of kingdoms, but for the scattering of seed; not to point His followers to earthly triumphs and national greatness, but to a harvest to be gathered after patient toil and through losses and disappointments.

{Cal 35.1 } And on "whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." The people who rejected Christ were soon to see their city and their nation destroyed. Their glory would be broken, and scattered as the dust before the wind. And what was it that destroyed the Jews? It was the rock which, had they built upon it, would have been their security. It was the goodness of God despised, the righteousness spurned, the mercy slighted. Men set themselves in opposition to God, and all that would have been their salvation was turned to their destruction. All that God ordained unto life they found to be unto death. In the Jews' crucifixion of Christ was involved the destruction of Jerusalem. The blood shed upon Calvary was the weight that sank them to ruin for this world and for the world to come. So it will be in the great final day, when judgment shall fall upon the rejecters of God's grace. Christ, their rock of offense, will then appear to them as an avenging mountain. The glory of His countenance, which to the righteous is life, will be to the wicked a consuming fire. Because of love rejected, grace despised, the sinner will be destroyed. {DA 600.2}

By many illustrations and repeated warnings, Jesus showed what would be the result to the Jews of rejecting the Son of God. In these words He was addressing all in every age who refuse to receive Him as their Redeemer. Every warning is for them. The desecrated temple, the disobedient son, the false husbandmen, the contemptuous builders, have their counterpart in the experience of every sinner. Unless he repent, the doom which they foreshadowed will be his. {DA 600.3}

IS SALVATION OF THE JEWS ONLY? 21 Jesus saith' unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. 23But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship him in spirit and in truth. John 4(21-24) 6And all flesh shall see the salvation

of God. Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. Luke 3(6-8)

WHAT IS THIS RIGHTEOUSNESS IMPUTED UNTO US? Christ has provided means whereby our whole life may be an unbroken communion with himself; but the sense of Christ's abiding presence can come only through living faith. There must be a personal consecration to him. Self must be hid with Christ in God, then the grace received will be constantly imparted as a grateful offering to God. In this union Christ identifies himself with man before God and the heavenly universe. "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." Our sins are reckoned to Christ. His righteousness is imputed to us, and we are made the righteousness of God in Him. Because of His atoning sacrifice, our prayers go up to the Father, laden with the fragrance of Christ's character, and, one with Christ, we are accepted in the Beloved. {RH, September 18, 1900 par. 14}

RH 1890-04-01.010 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. 141 put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem. Job 29(14)

101 will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. Isaiah 61 (10)

10Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, 16Above all, taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God: 18Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; Eph 6:(10-18)

And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, Came behind [Him], and touched the border of His garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanchd. And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with Him said, Master, the multitude thronq thee and press [thee], and sayest thou, Who touched me? And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched Me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of Me. And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before Him, she declared unto Him before all the people for what cause she had touched Him, and how she was healed immediately. And He said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace. Luke 9:(43-48)

"And I heard the number of them which were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel." Rev. 7:4 "These are they which have come out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Rev. 7:14 "After this I beheld, and, 10, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; Rev :7 (9).

AMEN **GEOFF LOCKE, AUSTRALIA**

CHILDREN'S CORNER

MY FATHER'S KISS

I saw the car just before it hit me. I seemed to float. Then darkness smashed my senses, and I came to in an ambulance.

Opening my eyes, I could make out only shreds of light through the blackness. My face was bandaged because the impact of the car had ejected me into the air and then dropped me facedown onto the gravel.

I didn't know it then, but small particles of rock, dirt, and debris had embedded in my 16-year-old face. As I tried to touch my cheek someone tenderly pressed my arm down and whispered, "Stay still."

A wailing siren trailed distantly somewhere, and I slipped into silent unconsciousness. My last thoughts were a desperate prayer - "Dear God, not my face please....."

I don't think it's unusual for a teenage girl to find a good deal of her identity in her appearance. Everything about adolescence seems to revolve around the image presented on the outside.

The way others related to me was different from the way they related to less-attractive girls. That had been true since childhood, and like most cute children, I learned that lesson early. I got out of more than one jam by batting my eyes and tilting my head just right so the light caught my red hair and set it ablaze.

My father loved me. He had four sons, but only one daughter. I remember one week as we got out of the car at church, Mom had stayed home with the sick baby. My brothers ran ahead. I was gathering my small purse and Bible when Dad opened the door. I looked up at him, convinced in my 7-year-old heart that he was more handsome than any daddy anywhere.

He extended his hand to me and with a twinkle in his eye said, "A hand, my lady?" Then he swept me into his arms and told me how pretty I was and that "no father has ever loved a little girl more than I love you."

My father wasn't given to outbursts of emotion. He worked from morning until night on the farm and also as a welder at a small shop in town. The Irish clan he came from showed strong devotion to their families, but it was a practical devotion, not an emotional kind. He loved us by putting fresh fruit and bread on our table.

I don't know what it was about that spring morning in the church parking lot - I just don't know. In the heart of a child, one who didn't understand what a father's love is really about, I thought it must have been the pretty dress - and most of all, my prettiness - that Father loved.

As I grew I was often asked to enter pageants, join the student council, become a part of the honour society, all because of my beautiful looks. My father seemed proud of me, and I thought he was proud of his pretty daughter. I was also learning to know about Christ and shaping a friendship with Him. A few weeks before the accident I had made a personal commitment to Christ.

In the hours immediately after my accident, I drifted in and out of consciousness. Whenever my mind cleared even slightly, I wondered about my face. I was bleeding internally and had a severe concussion, but I wondered most about my face. In the midst of shots and doctors probing me, it never occurred to me that my concern with appearance was disproportionate and unhealthy. I knew only that I had been able to depend on my looks. Pretty meant a wide circle of friends for me.

I couldn't open my eyes more than a slit when I asked a nurse for a mirror. She didn't look at my face as she took my blood pressure. Instead, she gazed at my arm and said, "You just concern yourself with getting well, young lady."

Her refusal to give me a mirror only fuelled my determination. It must be worse than I imagined, I reasoned.

My face felt tight and itchy. It burned sometimes~ and just ached other times. I didn't touch it, because my doctor told me that might cause infection.

My parents kept watch at my bedside continually. They also battled me to keep mirrors away. As my body healed internally and my strength returned, I became increasingly difficult.

At one point, for the fourth time in less than an hour, I had asked, pleaded, and demanded that Dad give me a mirror. Five days had passed since the accident.

Angry and beaten down, he snapped, "Don't ask me again! I said no, and that's it!"

I wish I could offer an excuse for what I said. I propped myself on my elbows, and through lips that could barely move I hissed, "You don't love me. Now that I'm not pretty anymore, you just don't love me!"

Dad looked like someone had knocked the life out of him. He sat in a chair and put his head in his hands. His shoulders heaved. My mother walked over to him and put her hand on his shoulder. I collapsed against the pillows and the room was quiet, filled with the soft sound of my father trying to control his tears.

I didn't ask my parents for a mirror again. Instead I waited until someone was straightening my room the next morning. I figured a worker from the housekeeping division wouldn't know about the "no mirror" order.

My curtain was drawn as if I were taking a sponge bath. From behind it I asked for a mirror, explaining, "I must have mislaid it." After a little searching, the woman found one and handed it to me around the curtain.

Nothing could have prepared me for what I saw. Instead of the familiar glowing complexion and pretty features, I stared at an image resembling a giant scraped knee, oozing and bright pink. My eyes and lips were crusted and swollen. Hardly a patch of skin, ear to ear, had escaped trauma.

A little while later, my father arrived with magazines and homework tucked under his arm.

He found me staring into the mirror. Over and over my mind cried, My life is over,. everyone will be repulsed by me...

He pried my fingers from the mirror, saying with each finger he loosened, "It isn't important... this doesn't change anything that matters... no one will love you less..."

He tossed the mirror onto a chair, and then sat on the edge of my bed, taking me in his arms. He held me a long time before making me lie down.

"I know what you think," he said,

"You couldn't," I mumbled, turning and staring out the window.

"You're wrong, though," he continued, ignoring my self-pity. "This will not change anything." He put his hand on my arm, running it over an IV needle. "The people who love you have seen you at your worst, you know."

"Right. Seen me with rollers or with cold cream - not with my face ripped off"

"Let's talk about me, then. I love you. Nothing will ever change that, because it's you I love, not your outside. I've changed your diapers and watched your skin change to a cluster of blisters with chicken pox. I've wiped up

your bloody noses and held your head while you threw up in the toilet. I've loved you when you weren't pretty." He hesitated then continued. "Yesterday you were ugly - not because of your skin, but because you behaved ugly. But I'm here today, and I'll be here tomorrow. Fathers don't stop loving their children no matter what life takes - you will be blessed if life only takes your face."

I turned to my father, feeling that these were all words, the right words, spoken out of duty - polite lies. I looked at him through swollen eyes and spoke through bloody lips. "Look at me then, Daddy. Look at me and tell me you love me!" My tone of voice defied and accused him.

I will never forget what happened next. As he looked into my battered face, his eyes filled with tears. Slowly, Father leaned towards me, and with his eyes open he gently kissed my scabbed, oozing lips.

It was the kiss that tucked me in every night of my young life, the kiss that warmed each morning. A kiss echoing eternity. A kiss that works on twisted lips. Even lips that curse more often than bless:

My only scar, years later, is one tiny indentation just above my eyebrow. But my father's kiss and what it taught me about love remain with me.

Although we may not be physically scarred, we are all scarred by sin. Some have deeper wounds and scars, but this does not change the way our Heavenly Father feels towards us. He still loves us with an everlasting love - a love that is so strong that He sent His only Son to pay the penalty for our sin. No matter how terrible a life we have led in the past or how much we have disappointed our Heavenly Father, He is still there for us and will put His arms around our scarred and broken body, and kiss our bruised lips. He will heal our backslidings and will be with us every step of our journey here on earth. How can we refuse such love?

COLOUR

The light of the sun is white, but if it passes through a prism then it will divide into 12 different shades and as in the colours of the rainbow. There is no black colour, neither brown because to create the colour brown, black is needed.

The foundation of the walls of new Jerusalem is formed from 12 different precious stones in layers as we read in Rev. 21:19-20. These precious stones are similar colours as the colours in the rainbow, and also in the same order. The names of the 12 apostles are written on these stones in the foundation. Rev. 21:14. The name of Judas is not written on these precious stones because in his character there were black colours which do not fit into the walls of New Jerusalem.

These 12 different shades of colours fit together in the white sunlight, in same way these 12 different characteristics fit together in the white colour of the character of Jesus. They all have white garments, but yet they have different characteristics.

We can imagine that the eager Peter reflected the red colour and the more calm apostles reflect blue and green colours. Someone else took the place of Judas and his name appears in the foundation of the wall. The city also has 12 gates. We do not know if they also have different shades of colour but the names of the 12 tribes of Israel are written upon them. But one name is missing and it is Dan. Rev. 7:5-8. Why is this? We read in Gen. 49:1 that, "Dan shall be a serpent by the way." It was a serpent that tempted Eve to commit sin and we read in Rev. 20:2 that Satan, the Devil, is the old serpent, or the ruler of darkness, and because in the darkness there is no light, therefore it does not fit into the gates of New Jerusalem.