

*The Reformation* 

# Messenger

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## REBELLION

Almost the whole world is in rebellion against God. The loving God, who made man and created the world for him, and also gave His Son to die in order to save man from death, is being rejected and hated. The great rebel leader, Satan, has been able to deceive the whole world to fight against Him, who is the only one who could save man. In the beginning one third of the angels joined with him in his rebellion against God.

In the time of Noah, the whole world was fighting against God except for one family. Satan had a plan for his rebellion, "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." Isa. 14: 13-14

Satan's plan was to get a higher position. He wanted to rule over others. This rebellion has taken the world into the same war, to fight for a position. The candidates at election time spend fortunes of money in order to secure the position that they are after. Many wars are fought in order to get control over people and lands.

This rebellion is carried on also in the churches. Sometimes, even in the church of God, many who are desiring for the positions in the church often have the same spirit that Satan has; to rule, to control others.

When Korah, Dathan and Abiram started their rebellion against Moses, they had no idea how great a sin it was before God. Leadership struggles have divided the churches many times.

"Pride of position is a deep-seated evil which has ruined thousands" Yes, tens of thousands, full of ambition *for* distinction and display, have been ruined because they have lost sight of principle." 2 8M 184

In order to disguise his ambition to rule over others, Satan had to come up with a reason why his government would be better than God's government. This he found in the law of God. The freedom from the law that Satan offered, appealed to the angels. This freedom from the law also appealed to Eve and her descendants. Not only the unbelieving world but also the churches have joined with Satan in his rebellion against the law of God. Sometimes they reject the law of God completely, preaching salvation by faith alone. Other times they only change the law but this has the same result in the end as rejecting it completely

"Rebellion and apostasy are in the very air we breathe. We shall be affected by it unless we by faith hang our helpless souls upon Christ." 1BC 1114.

Especially the cities are polluted and corrupted by Satan's rebellion. Wherever we look or listen we are exposed to the corrupting influence.

The authority of God has been challenged. Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice?" Ex. 5:2

Even the professed Christians want to make their own decisions in life rather than obey God. God's way requires self-denial while their own way gives freedom for their love of pleasure.

Job writes, "They send forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance. They take timbrel and harp, and rejoice at the sound of the organ. They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave. Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways, What is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? And what profit should we have, if we pray unto Him." Job 21:11-15.

The carnal mind is enmity against God. Our flesh, our eyes and our ears are not good judges or advisors for righteousness. Instead they lead us into sin.

David writes, "Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?" Ps

12:4.

So freely people talk words of evil, words of hatred and lies, without realizing that for every spoken word they must give an account on the judgment day. Satan rejoices when professed Christians join in his rebellion against God by foolish talking and by wrong thoughts.

So few of the Ancient Israelites entered into the Promised Land from the 600,000 male adults who left Egypt. Moses knew the reason for it. He said, "I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the Lord; and how much more after my death?" Deut 31 :27.

Joshua continued in the same line, "Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death." Joshua 1:18.

Even the children have joined with Satan in his rebellion. "At the age of ten, twelve, or sixteen, children think themselves very wise, imagine that they are prodigies, and regard themselves as altogether too knowing to be in subjection to their parents, and too elevated to stoop to the duties of every day life. The love of pleasure controls their minds; and selfishness, pride, and rebellion work out their bitter results in their lives. They accent the insinuations of Satan and cultivate an unhallowed ambition to make a great show in the world." CG p. 179. Children do not realize that suffering, anguish and sorrow in later life are the results of their rebellion against God in their childhood.

To every human being God has given a choice to obey Him or to rebel against Him. "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Isa 1:19, 20.

Even one sin that we may commit is rebellion against God. We cannot plead human weakness as an excuse to sin, because God has provided power enough to move mountains for us.

By rebellion against God we lose our joy, peace, happiness, protection of the angels and fellowship with God. When the Jews made their choice between Christ and Barabbas, they never understood that the destruction of Jerusalem and holocaust by Hitler and many other persecutions were the results of their own choice.

We also choose every day, either Christ or Barabbas. When we put the Bible away and watch vanity in the television~ we choose Barabbas. When we choose to stay home for no good reason, instead of going to prayer meeting, we choose Barabbas. When we decide to eat unhealthy food we choose Barabbas. When we speak angry or vain words, we offer incense on Satan's altar. When we dwell on sinful thoughts we turn our eyes away from Christ to the world of sin.

Sister White writes that the greatest enemies of God are unfaithful Sabbath keepers, the lukewarm professors of faith. They are in the camp of God but work for the enemy. She continues, "a mechanical obedience may hide the smoldering fire of rebellion, but it is ready to break out any time against restraint." MM p. 177.

Satan's rebellion against God was not visible to the angels in the beginning, for this reason they sympathized with him. Our rebellion is also hidden in the beginning. It is hidden in the heart; yet there are signs of it in the dissatisfied spirit of complaining.

Who is man to rebel against God Almighty? Anyone by his rebellion gains only his own destruction.

May the Lord help us to be on the Lord's side like the Levites in the time of Moses.

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Amos 3:3. There is no unity in the church as long as we have Achans among us. Let us all take our place on the Lord's side and be faithful. AMEN .

*Timo Martin.*

## FOR THE LOVE OF SELF

Back around 35 years ago, there was, in the United States, what was known as the Hippie era. It was a time when young people were throwing off all restraint and “free love” was a common understanding amongst the youth. They were complete non-conformists. A common symbol of one partaking in this movement was seen with the men growing their hair long, with hair bands around their forehead. They commonly wore clothing that was loose and worn looking - blue jeans were a must. Marijuana was used freely amongst its adherents. It was around this time in the early 1970's that a song became popular in the U.S.A. that was called, “Looking out for Number One.” Just what does this saying mean? It means that your major concern in life is to make sure you are cared for both mentally, emotionally and physically. The “number one” person is “self.” Each person partaking of this spirit was concerned with making sure they, personally, were well cared for and everyone and everything else came second to this. Their one object in life was for their own happiness.

Is this not the opposite of what Jesus is trying to teach us all throughout the Bible and by the example of His life on earth? Included in this “throwing off all restraint”, also included throwing off all religious restraint. This did not mean they overthrew anything to do with Jesus. Oh, Jesus was still revered, but with the inclusion of any and all sin they chose to partake in. There was no such thing as self-denial in the minds of these people. It was complete self-indulgence. This spirit is still strong in the world today and it is increasing in strength although perhaps not in the same form as it was back then. Satan keeps changing his plans and schemes that he puts into people's minds so that they don't realize that he is in control of their lives. Yes, perhaps today people don't partake of this Hippie movement as they see that it is not the best, however what about the thirst for money - the mad rush to get rich? Some don't care who they take advantage of along the way as long as they get more money. They would even take advantage of close friends and family. All they care about is themselves. Even then there are some who don't take advantage of others and they live honest, humble lives - never committing a crime and being always friendly, but they only live for themselves, not thinking of the needs and suffering of those around them. They only think of providing for themselves and their own families. If they have excess money they don't think of sharing, they think of investing for the future. Yes, there are many different forms of selfishness. Some are so subtle that it makes people look good on the outside, however their motives are all wrong - like those that donate large sums of money to charity so that they can have their names plastered on the wall of a large building that they helped build. Their name will be immortalized after their passing on this earth. They had no thought of the suffering ones they were helping, they only thought of the fame and glory it would bring to themselves.

What about in the Christian world? We read much in the Bible about crucifying our fleshly lusts. However some Christians may not even know that selfishness exists in their hearts and that is why it is important to pray as did David, “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.” Psalm 139:23,24. No person knows themselves fully and, day-by-day, as we seek God, He will reveal to us the secret hidden sins in our hearts that we were not aware existed. Yet if we want to be prepared for eternity when Jesus comes, we must be praying this prayer, with fasting and Bible reading otherwise the Lord will not reveal to us our sin. We must never rest satisfied that we have a good character. The root of selfishness is a very difficult root to pullout, yet we must.

Sister white wrote much in *the Testimonies for the Church* regarding selfishness. Why? These books were written to those within the church so it is clear that selfishness existed much in her days. And it would be very dangerous for us to conclude that we do not share in this sinful condition today. We must examine ourselves daily. Every night before going to bed, review your life for the day with the Lord and see if there is anywhere when you stepped off the pathway of light, even if just for a moment.

## LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR

We are instructed in the Bible to “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Which tells us that we must love our selves. This is where we need to find the correct balance. It is sin to love ourselves too much, while ignoring the needs of others around us, and it is equally sinful to hate ourselves, loathing our life. We need to thank God for the life that He has given to us and rejoice in the strength we have. We hate our sinful nature and we ask God to change it, however we are not to hate, who and what we are in Christ. God has taken effort to create us in His image and

from our birth He has been seeking to bring circumstances about for our salvation. He loves us, died to redeem us, and we need to learn also to love ourselves

### **AM I SELFISH? HOW DO I KNOW?**

“Another book was opened, wherein were recorded the sins of those who profess the truth. Under the general heading of selfishness came every other sin.” 4T 384.

Hopefully we do not find ourselves in the same situation that this person was in, in this following testimony that E. White wrote to a member. “You have a selfish disposition: you do not realize this, but it is true. Your principal thoughts are for yourself, to please yourself, to do those things which will be most agreeable to yourself, without reference to the happiness of those around you.” 3T 330.

I want to share some of the ways from the Testimonies that Selfishness is manifested among Christians. We are obviously aware of the selfishness that exists in the world - it is so plain and clear to see. However, selfishness in spiritual circles may be more subtle and have a deceiving effect. Just because we are in the church does not mean that we are automatically free of sinful tendencies. Satan’s attacks are much stronger and we need to be more aware of the subtle attacks.

“Selfishness girds many about as with iron bands. It is ‘my farm’, , my goods,’ ‘my trade,’ ‘my merchandise.’ Even the claims of common humanity are disregarded by them. Men and women professing to be waiting and loving the appearing of their Lord are shut up to self.” 2T 197. This is how E. White viewed the church members in her day. May God help us not to have their attitude. All that we have is from God and we are merely stewards of His bountiful gifts to share with those that are less fortunate than we are. God will bring us into account for what we have done with our possessions that He has granted us. Jesus said, “For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good:” Mark 14:7. There will always be someone who is poorer than we are and less fortunate. Jesus will make sure we meet them and will test us to see how generous we will be.

### **SOMEONE BETTER**

God requires all to do with faithfulness the duties of today.” There are, some, “who imagine that they are of a finer order of beings than their fellow mortals around them. The fact that their minds turn in this channel is proof that they are of an inferior order, narrow, conceited and selfish. They feel high above the lowly and humble poor, such as Jesus says He has called. They are forever trying to secure position, to gain applause, to ‘obtain credit for doing some great work that others cannot do. But it disturbs their fine grain of their refined organism to associate with the humble, the Unfortunate. The reason why they shun any of these duties not so agreeable is found in their supreme selfishness. Dear self is the center of all their actions and motives.” 2T 466/7. This was the attitude of the Jewish leaders in the days of Jesus, but Jesus showed a different spirit. He washed the disciples feet when they felt too proud to do such a lowly duty. That was the work of a servant not of a disciple, they reasoned.

### **UNAPPRECIATED**

“Again, Brother A, you are troubled with feelings and impressions which are the natural fruit of selfishness. You imagine that others do not appreciate your labors. You think yourself capable of accomplishing a large work, but excuse your failure to do it, because others do not give you room and credit according to your ability.” 2T, p. 543. When we have done some good work and no one seems to notice we are tempted to get upset because we go unnoticed, but Jesus said, “let not thy left hand know what your right hand doeth.” Mat. 6:3. “They are the result of selfishness in its fullest sense. This evil may take the form of inordinate self-esteem, or of an undue longing for the approbation of others, even if that approbation is obtained undeservedly.” 4T 221. It doesn’t matter if no one else notices, all our good deeds are written in the book of Remembrance in heaven.

The opposite is also true. To withhold appreciation when it is due, is selfishness. “He is too selfish to speak words of approval to the members of his family, especially to the one of all others who should have his love and tender respect.” 4T p.36 We need to encourage and help our family members as well as our spiritual family members.

## INDULGENCE OF APPETITE

Although we have heard the health principles spoken to us many times over, we are still tempted to indulge in foods that, while being unhealthy, are not strictly forbidden in order to become a member of the church. After baptism we have received further instruction regarding unhealthful foods and if we knowingly indulge in these foods, it is regarded by God as selfishness. We are only thinking of pleasing our taste buds, rather than having a healthy body and living for the honor and glory of God. Our taste buds rule. “I have said that some of you are selfish. You have not understood what I have meant. You have studied what food would taste best. Taste and pleasure, instead of the glory of God, and a desire to advance in the divine life, and to perfect holiness in the fear of God, have ruled. You have consulted your own pleasure, your own appetite; and while you have been doing this, Satan has been gaining a march upon you and, as is generally the case, has frustrated your efforts every time.” 2T 360.

“Intemperance of any kind is the worst sort of selfishness.” 4T 31. “To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” James 4:17.

## ALIENATION

“The selfish and avaricious have cherished their selfishness until it has withered their social sympathies, and their countenances reflect the image of the fallen foe, rather than that of purity and holiness.” 2T 534. Those who are harboring selfishness no longer desire the company of other church members. While they may still attend church because they know it is God’s church, outside of church they desire little company with the other members. They go home after church and spend the day alone, away from the members. They have their own circle of worldly friends and relatives whose company they prefer to spend time with during the rest of the week. “The Lord bids us empty our hearts of the selfishness which is the root of alienation.” 6T 43.

## COMPLAINING

“It is the worst phase of selfishness to fret and censure and complain because you have the power to do this and those whom you abuse in this way cannot prevent you. It is selfishness that causes variance in the family circle and in the church.” 4T 610. I am sure we all have met people who are never satisfied. They are constantly complaining because things are not just as they feel they should be. Some like to complain for the sake of complaining. It is another ploy to bring attention to one’s self.

“You love this world, and this love has made you cold, selfish, exacting, and penurious. . . . Your complaining, penurious spirit makes you unhappy and displeases God.

During your life you have been looking out for yourself, seeking to make yourself happy. It is poor work, unprofitable business. The more you invest here the heavier will be the loss. The less stock you take in this business of serving yourself the greater will be the saving on your part.” 2T 56. The love of the world, does not lead one to be happy, joyful, helpful and kind. Self-serving leads only to unhappiness because in this world of sin, self will be wounded over and over again

## IN MISSIONARY WORK

“It is selfishness which leads persons to think that the particular part of the work in which they are engaged is the most important of all.

“It is selfishness also that prompts the feeling, on the part of workers, that their judgment must be the most reliable and their methods of labor the best or that it is their privilege in any way to bind the conscience of another.” 5T 727.

This is a very real danger. In the days of the Apostles, the Corinthian believers were comparing their leaders - some preferred Paul, others Apollos, and others Peter. However God can use one leader and worker just as well as any other willing worker. There is not one part of the work that is more important than another and not one worker is more important and to be more highly esteemed than another.

“He also desires them to remember that they should not selfishly gather all the means possible to invest in a few places, but that they should work with reference to the many other places where institutions must be established.” 7T 99. Also in looking at the work of God as a whole, it is important not to centralize as the SDA church was

doing in Battle Creek over 100 years ago. This saving message that we have been entrusted with is to go around the world and our thoughts should be going out as to how we can reach new areas, rather than building only in our own area.

### **IN OFFERINGS**

“Selfishness has led you to expend money in ornaments for the gratification of yourself and your children. You did not think that this money was not yours; that it was only lent you to test and prove you,” 2T 280. Even if we give large donations to the church, we are still held into account if we spend much money for unnecessary items for ourselves and our families - money that is spent, not on necessities but on luxuries is not often money well spent.

### **DEATHBED CHARITY**

“I saw that many withhold from the cause while they live, quieting their consciences that they will be charitable at death; they hardly dare exercise faith and trust in God to give anything while living. But this deathbed charity is not what Christ requires of His followers; it cannot excuse the selfishness of the living.” 5T 154.

### **AT WORK**

“It is the most abhorrent form of selfishness that leads the worker to neglect the improvement of time, the care of property, because he is not directly under the eye of the master.” MYP 228. This type of selfishness at your work place is deception, in other words, lying. It is easy to relax a little when the employer is not present. This sin can be indulged in secular work as well as in spiritual work. We all need to be wise managers of our time. We are answerable, not to mere mortal men, for our wasteful use of time, but we will have to answer to God in the Day of Judgment. Whether our employer sees or not, God sees everything.

### **THE UNSEEN SELFISHNESS**

“Many receive applause for virtues which they do not possess. The Searcher of hearts weighs the motives, and often deeds highly applauded by men are recorded by Him as springing from selfishness and base hypocrisy.” GW 275. This type of selfishness only God can judge in the end of time. Sometimes we may be aware of our secret, hidden selfishness and try to hide it from others, however it is possible to be selfish and not realize it. This is why it is important for us to ask God to reveal to us the hidden things in our hearts.

### **IF OFFENDED**

“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.” Psalm 119:165. This is one of my favorite Bible verses and I keep repeating it to my children whenever they feel upset about what someone has done to them. (They also in turn have repeated it to me.) Is it wrong to feel offended? We all do at some point in time. It is easier to bear under offence if a person is a sworn enemy, but when friends and family disappoint us and offend us it is harder to bear. And then there is the offence that comes from a church member, minister or leader. Do we have right to feel offended? People are human and will offend us, even in the church. Leaders are not infallible and by a word or neglect they may unintentionally offend another member. We are all different and we may say or do something that seems perfectly fine to us, but another person finds completely offensive. The beauty of God’s church today is that the true believers can find it in their hearts to forgive when offended. Those that cannot forgive are seen outside the church today. They are the only ones who suffer as they have left the fold of God’s safety. Sister White is very clear about this issue. If we offend someone we are to ask their forgiveness even if we did it completely unintentionally - they completely mistook our actions and motives. However they themselves have a duty to not be so offended.

“We cannot afford to let our spirits chafe over any real or supposed wrong done to ourselves. Self is the enemy we most need to fear. No form of vice has a more baleful effect upon the character than has human passion not under the control of the Holy Spirit. No other victory we can gain will be so precious as the victory gained over self.

“We should not allow our feelings to be easily wounded. We are to live, not to guard our feelings or our reputation, but to save souls. As we become interested in the salvation of souls we cease to mind the little differences that so often arise in our association with one another. Whatever others may think of us or do to us, it need not disturb our oneness with Christ, the fellowship of the Spirit. ‘What glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God,’ I Peter 2:20.” MH 485.

This is a very important criteria which we can measure our selves with in order to see if we have any selfishness in our hearts. Are we easily offended? If we are, then self is alive because we are dissatisfied with what someone has done to us. We are mere, mortal sinful beings. Our righteousness is as filthy rags. If we throw ourselves on Jesus, surrendering ourselves completely to Him, we shall see nothing in ourselves with which to find glory in. Therefore if anyone says something that we could take as an offence, it should not bother us. We are truly nothing without Christ - and we can agree with them. Yes, that is what I am, but Christ can make a change in my life.

“Do not retaliate. So far as you can do, remove all cause for misapprehension. Avoid all appearance of evil. Do all that lies in your power, without the sacrifice of principle, to conciliate others. If impatient words are spoken to you, never reply in the same spirit. Under a storm of stinging, faultfinding words, keep the mind stayed upon the word of God. Let mind and heart be stored with God’s promises.” MH 485,486.

Although it is a sin to feel offended, it is equally a sin on the part of the person who brings the offence. We need not add sin to sin when someone offends us. If we have Christ living in our hearts, we will react like He did when people bring offences in our direction. We can answer, ‘Father forgive them; for they know not what they do.’ Luke 23:34. Until we can come to this point, we have not died to self. “Patiently Jesus listened to the conflicting testimonies. No word did He utter in self-defense.” DA 706. “Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:” 1 Pet. 2:23.

### **DISCONTENT**

In writing to a sister in the faith, E. White had the following to say: “It is a sad thing to be discontented with our surroundings or with the circumstances which have placed us where our duties seem humble and unimportant. Private and humble duties are distasteful to you; you are restless, uneasy, and dissatisfied. All this springs from selfishness. You think more of yourself than others think of you. You love yourself better than you love your parents, sisters, and brother, and better than you love God. You desire more congenial labor, for which you think you will be better fitted. You are not willing to work and wait in the humble sphere of action where God has placed you, until He proves and tests you, and you demonstrate your ability and fitness for a higher position” 3T 334. We need to be content with what God has given to us. The followers of Jesus are not promised worldly wealth, although some have been blessed with it. We are only promised that our needs will be taken care of. We are promised, food, clothing and shelter and with these we should be content.

### **LOVE OF DRESS**

It is possible to be modestly dressed and still have dress as an idol. Much money, time and energy is expended to make sure the person is immaculately dressed with every hair in place. Time and money are wasted in order to bring attention to a person’s appearance. Unfortunately in this world we live in, the outward appearance sometimes makes a big difference. Thank God that He only reads the heart. Our dress must be simple, tasteful, but not to the extent that we are attracting the attention of others to our appearance. This is where we have overstepped the boundary and find ourselves committing sin. Even if there is not much money wasted, much time can be wasted in making up the hair or planning our daily dress. This is due to selfishness because there is a great desire to attract attention to one’s self.

### **OUR CHILDREN**

There is a very real danger that we would compare our children with other children in the church. Especially if our children have grown up in the faith they, perhaps, are a little more well-mannered in their characters and in their ability to sit quietly in church. They are not as rough and coarse as some of the other children who have grown up in the world and only recently begun attending church. Even some children who have grown up in the church

are perhaps not up to where we think they should be in their standard of living. There is a temptation to try to keep our children away from the influence of these youth whom we see are not as 'spiritual' as our children. This is selfishness in a very real sense. "The children are God's property, and it is the duty of every church member to take an interest in their salvation. Because some children do not belong to your own family is no excuse for neglecting or mistreating them. You are to cooperate with Christ in seeking and saving that which has been lost. Let us not shrink from bearing responsibilities." SAT, Vol. 2, p. 301. Our duty is not to withdraw, but to try to help and encourage all the youth in the church. We should be influencing them in the right direction rather than mistreating and separating from them. The religious leaders denounced Jesus in His day for spending time with sinners and the lower class of society. He came to save sinners. We too must be seeking to encourage and educate sinners in the right direction.

### **THERE IS NO EXCUSE**

"When we frame excuses for selfishness, for evil thinking and evil speaking, we are educating the soul in evil, and if we continue to do this, it will become a habit to yield to temptation. We are then on Satan's ground, overcome, weak, and without courage." 2SM 236. As with any sin, selfishness has no excuse. No matter how uncomfortable we are, how sad we are, or how offended we may feel - there is still no excuse for complaining, not helping others or turning away from our brethren.

### **HOW GOD DEALS WITH SELFISHNESS**

"There are many who urge that they cannot do more for God's cause than they now do; but they do not give according to their ability. The Lord sometimes opens the eyes blinded by selfishness by simply reducing their income to the amount they are willing to give. Horses are found dead in the field or stable, houses or barns are destroyed by fire, crops fail. In many cases God tests man with blessings, and if unfaithfulness is manifested in rendering to Him tithes and offerings, His blessing is withdrawn." 4T 484. You may think you are gaining something by keeping your money or material goods to yourself, however God can destroy them in an instant. Homes can be destroyed, by fire, flood and earthquake. Cars can break down. In only a few minutes a person's life savings can be destroyed. To be generous with our goods, but selfish with our time and affections is equally sinful in God's eyes. The list of sinful indulgences can continue for many more pages.

### **EXAMINE YOURSELVES**

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." 2 Cor. 13:5.

"The Bible is full, clear, and explicit; the character of the true disciple of Christ is marked out with exactness. We must search the Scriptures with humble hearts, trembling at the word of the Lord, if we would not be in any way deceived in regard to our true character. There must be persevering effort to overcome selfishness and self-confidence. Self-examination must be thorough, that there be no danger of self-deception. A little catechizing of self on special occasions is not sufficient. Daily examine the foundation of your hope, and see whether you are indeed in the love of Christ. Deal truly with your own hearts, for you cannot afford to run any risk here. Count the cost of being a wholehearted Christian, and then gird on the armour. Study the Pattern; look to Jesus, and be like Him. Your peace of mind, your hope of eternal salvation, depends on faithfulness in this work. As Christians we are less thorough in self-examination than in anything else; it is no wonder, then, that we make such slow advancement in understanding self" 5T 332/333.

"In the end it does not profit any man to be selfish; for God marks it all and will render to every man according to his works." 2T 641.

### **MEEKNESS**

Meekness is the opposite of selfishness. "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Mat 5:5.

"Meekness is patient and labors to be happy under all circumstances. Meekness is always thankful and makes its own songs of happiness, making melody in the heart to God. Meekness will suffer disappointment and wrong, and will not retaliate. Meekness is not to be silent

and sulky. A morose temper is the opposite of meekness; for this only wounds and gives pain to others, and takes no pleasure to itself.” 3T 335.

“So long as we are in the world, we shall meet with adverse influences. There will be provocations to test the temper; and it is by meeting these in a right spirit that the Christian graces are developed. If Christ dwells in us, we shall be patient, kind, and forbearing, cheerful amid frets and irritations. Day by day and year by year we shall conquer self, and grow into a noble heroism. This is our allotted task; but it cannot be accomplished without help from Jesus, resolute decision, unwavering purpose, continual watchfulness, and unceasing prayer. Each one has a personal battle to fight. Not even God can make our characters noble or our lives useful, unless we become co-workers with Him. Those who decline the struggle lose the strength and joy of victory.” MH 187. “Selfishness is the strongest and most general of human impulses, the struggle of the soul between sympathy and covetousness is an unequal contest; for while selfishness is the strongest passion, love and benevolence are too often the weakest, and as a rule the evil gains the victory. Therefore in our labors and gifts for God’s cause, it is unsafe to be controlled by feeling or impulse. To give or to labor when our sympathies are moved, and to withhold our gifts or service when the emotions are not stirred, is an unwise and dangerous course. . . Christians should act from fixed principle.” CS 25.

### THE REMEDY

“The only cure for selfishness is to deny self, and work earnestly to be the blessing that you can be to your fellowmen.” TM 183.

“In the human heart there is natural selfishness and corruption, which can only be overcome by most thorough discipline and severe restraint; and even then it will require years of patient effort and earnest resistance.” 4T 496.

“Knowledge of useful labor will impart to your restless and dissatisfied mind energy, efficiency, and a becoming, modest dignity, which will command respect... Search your heart carefully, and take time for meditation and prayer. Unless you see the defects in your character and with genuine sincerity correct your errors, you cannot be a disciple of Christ.” 3T 336. “Up to duty! Arouse yourself and take up your neglected duty. Redeem the past by future faithfulness. Take hold of the work before you, and, in the faithful performance of duty, you will forget yourself and will not have time to muse and become gloomy, and feel disagreeable and unhappy.” 3T 330/331.

The only solution is to go to work for others.. If you keep yourself busy in this regard you will have little time to think about yourself. The second important duty is of systematic benevolence. Make a plan with your income to give a portion (aside from your tithes) regularly to the Lord and stick to it. This will keep the cause of God foremost in your mind and your own needs secondary. It will not be easy. It will be a battle, however the battle against self is the noblest battle that anyone has ever fought and through Christ you can come off victorious.

May God help us to root out any selfishness from our hearts that may be hidden away and pray that the Lord will reveal to us the hidden things in our hearts that we are not aware of. Jesus is coming soon and it is today that we must make urgent preparation for the future time of trouble and the glorious reward that is promised to every faithful overcoming believer. AMEN

*Wendy Eaton*

## Wars and Rumors of Wars

*“And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. “Matthew 24:6*

“Today the signs of the times declare that we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Everything in our world is in agitation. Before our eyes is fulfilling the Savior’s prophecy of the events to precede His coming: ‘Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. . . . Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. ‘, Evangelism p.194

It is easy to see that we are living in the time of the end. Wars are everywhere. In the last century two world wars have taken place? and a host of smaller ones.

“We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming ‘of Christ is near at hand. 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:” Lift Him Up p.356

“ ‘Take ye heed, watch and pray’ were the words of our Savior spoken in reference to the time of the end, and His second coming to take His faithful children home. First, you are to watch. Watch, lest you should speak hastily, fretfully and impatiently. Watch, lest pride should find a place in your heart. Watch, lest evil passions should overcome you, instead of your subduing them. Watch, lest a careless, indifferent spirit comes upon you, and you neglect your duty and become light and trifling, and your influence savor of death, rather than life.” Lift Him Up p.368

Most of the signs that proclaimed the coming of Christ have already been fulfilled. The sun darkened, the moon turning to blood, the great earthquake occurred, just to name a few. Only very few still remain to be fulfilled.

“During the time of the end the activity of Satan’s servants will greatly increase. The activity of God’s servants is to increase proportionately. Christian is to unite with Christian, church with church, in the accomplishment of God’s work, and all are to be under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.” The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials 1801.

***Ben Dammasch, 15 years old.***

*GC delegates of SDA Reformers, first session, Gotha, Germany, 1925. Front row, left to right: Constantin Ursan, Wilhelm Richtet; Dumitru Nicolici, Wilhelm Korpmann, Johann G. Hanselmann, Otto Welp, P. Rasmussen, Wilhelm Mass, Joseph Adamczak, AlbeIt Krahe. Back row, left to right: Mihai, Streza, Karl Kozel, Heinrich Spanknoebel, Sister A. Ottender, A. Jurgens, K. A. Ekeroth, Sister Ekeroth (not a delegate), Max Koehler, C. Adams.*

## STRANGE FIRE

Lev. 10:2-3

Fire is very useful to man. It is used for cooking, heating and light. Abraham asked Sarah to bake cakes on the fire for their heavenly guests. The Israelites roasted a lamb on the fire on the night of their departure from Egypt. As the disciples met Jesus by the sea of Galilee He had kindled a fire and had a fish on it. Jesus also spoke a parable of a woman who lighted a lamp to seek the lost coin.

Fire is also used to destroy. It is used to destroy people and property. Joshua with the Israelites burned the city of Jericho with fire. Achan and his belongings were burned with fire. King Nebuchadnezzar tried to burn the three Hebrew young men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Fire is also used by God to indicate His presence. As Abraham prepared his sacrificial animals, fire from the Lord passed between the pieces. (Gen. 15:17). Moses met the Lord in a burning bush. . There was also fire at Mount Sinai as the Lord spoke the law to the people of Israel. Elijah called fire from heaven to destroy the companies of soldiers. He was also taken to Heaven in a chariot of fire.

Fire is used by God to destroy the sinners. Jesus warned the people about the fire that never shall be quenched. (Mark 9:43). He also said that, "Every tree that does not produce fruit will be cast to the fire". The Lord destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by fire and brimstone.

It was divine fire from God that was used in the sanctuary and on the altar of sacrifice.

Sister White made many references to a fire. "There is a class of people who are always ready to go off on some tangent, who want to catch up something strange and wonderful and new; but God desires us all to move calmly, considerately, choosing our words in harmony with the solid truth for this time. The truth should be presented to the mind as free as possible from that which is emotional, while still bearing the intensity and solemnity befitting its character. We must guard against encouraging extremists, those who would be either in the fire or in the water." Bv.611.

"While prayer was offered for me, .. Something that seemed to me like a ball of fire struck me right over the heart." LS 71.

Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron and the nephews of Moses were in a high position in Israel. They had many advantages and privileges; they had heard the voice of God and been with Moses and Aaron on the mount of God. They had been dedicated to the service and sprinkled with sacrificial blood, and educated for the sacred service. All this made their sin greater. In the hour of worship as the prayers and praise of the people ascended to God, Nadab and Abihu being intoxicated took their censers and burned incense in them. But they transgressed God's commandment by using strange fire instead of the fire which God had kindled. Because of this sin, fire came out of the Lord and slew them in sight of the people.

Few months earlier the people had witnessed the power of God in giving the law at Sinai. After they had built a tabernacle and witnessed the fire coming down from God to the altar of sacrifice. Now their joy turned to sorrow as the sons of Aaron were dead.

The warning had been given to the priests. "And let the priests also, which come near to the Lord, sanctify themselves, lest the Lord break forth upon them." Ex. 19:22. The sons of Aaron neglected to sanctify themselves.

Aaron and his two other sons were not to show grief or sorrow for Nadab and Abihu. Aaron was silent and continued his priestly office without complaining. People who saw Aaron's composure were calmed in their fears and their faith was restored in God.

When the Roman army entered into Jerusalem in the year 70 A.D., the priests were conducting the service while the temple was burning. They did not panic nor run out from the fire.

Royalty have learned the same lesson. A bomb may explode near the royal carriage, but the king is not supposed to notice it. He must retain his composure and permit nothing to ruffle him.

Jesus' answer to certain would-be disciples who chose to make their personal matters a priority may seem hard and unfeeling.

“And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow Thee: but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” Luke 9:59-62.

Few duties are considered more urgent than caring for one's parents. Yet even these duties must not stand in the way of doing the work of God. The work must go on.

The sin of Nadab and Abihu was deliberately ignoring God's commandments. The common fire they brought to the temple looked the same as the holy fire that God had kindled to the people, but God knew the difference.

The same way the people cannot see the difference between the seventh day of the week and the first day of the week. Yet the difference is between life and death.

When someone was punished for his sins, people mourned for the punishment and not for the sins that had been committed. The sympathizers of those who had sinned were considered equally guilty with the sinner.

When God rebukes and reproves the erring ones through His messengers, many sympathize with the ones that have been rebuked; not realizing that God rebukes and chastens the ones that He loves. (Rev. 3: 19). This constitutes rebellion against God. The blood of (be erring ones will be found in their garments).

The case of Aaron's sons is written for us to learn from it how God regards disobedience. As we are preparing for the second coming of Jesus, we must control our appetite “that we would not sin as Nadab and Abihu. Depraved appetite destroys the fine feelings of soul and affects the reasoning powers of the mind, and the holy things lose their sacredness. Satan rejoices in this.

The sons of Aaron represent those who willfully transgress God's commandments; especially the Sabbath commandment. They put no difference between common and holy things. Isaiah 8:20 tells us, “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Man cannot obey or disobey the Lord without consequences.

Almost all the professed Christians disobey God by keeping the first day of the week instead of the seventh. The sin of these Christians is not any less than the sin of Nadab and Abihu. Their final punishment will be the same as Aaron's sons, which is death. They insult God by changing the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first day of the week.

They are bringing to their service strange fire which God has not kindled.  
God does not change. What He has spoken stands fast forever  
This is a terrible deception. This is an offense to God.

We must stand for the truth, tell people their errors. Let nothing stand in the way of doing God's work. The work must go on. We must beware of strange fires. AMEN.

*John Theodourou USA/GREECE*

## WORDS FROM THE CROSS (5)

*“My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?” Matthew 27:46*

Suddenly, when men refused to quench the thirst of their Creator, everything turned into darkness. It was noon and the sun refused to give its light to men who had rejected the spiritual light. The darkness of their souls was manifested outside and covered the earth. Everybody trembled in fear because they had never experienced anything of the kind. What would happen then? Some who knew the Scriptures remembered the plagues in Egypt when the Pharaoh had not paid heed to the petitions of God’s children and darkness had covered the land. Could it be that God’s judgments were falling upon the earth? They remained quiet, expecting something great to happen. Some of them ventured home in the darkness. There was silence everywhere, the laughter and jokes had ceased, only the barking of the dogs could be heard piercing the night as a prelude of something unusual that was about to happen. Every one was being given time to examine his own heart, there, at the foot of the cross, to look at Him who was hanging there and see in Him the Son of God condemned for his personal sins. What a solemn moment! What a crucial hour! The time of their visitation had come. For some it was a blessed moment, for others, a fatal one. It was the moment of the naked truth.

The Spirit of God was working with power to convince man of sin, while Jesus was living the most agonizing moment of His life. He had bore with the rejection and hatred of man, but He could not bear the Father’s rejection, the Father with whom He had lived since immemorial times, with whom He had participated in the act of creation, with whom He had shared the throne and heard the praises of the angels. His faithful and loving Father turned His face away from Him because He, voluntarily, in agreement with Him, in an act of insurmountable love, incomprehensible for human beings, had turned His back to the richness and joy of heaven, had become a man, a sinner, a *“filthy rag.”*

Divinity cannot be in contact with humanity because it would destroy it; so the Father hid Himself in darkness and bitterly cried seeing His beloved Son going through such affliction, such anguish in His soul as He was incapable of having communion with Him. That was what made Jesus pronounce these words that had been prophesized centuries before by a king of Israel who had been anointed by divine command: “My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?” (psalm 22: 1)

Is there anything worse than to be abandoned by God? To be abandoned by God means to be absolutely lost, for ever, to be dead. Jesus did not want to live, He could not live a single moment separated from the Father.

May the Lord help us understand the magnitude of the sacrifice on the cross, the agony our Creator went through in order to bridge the gap that separates us from the Father and reestablish communion with Him and may He give us hearts full of gratitude for His great sacrifice. Amen

*Theresa Corti - Greece*

## WORDS FROM THE CROSS (6)

*“It is finished” (John 19:30).*

The cross was wrapped in darkness and, we read *“then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two”*(Luke 23:45) For three hours Jesus went through terrible agony feeling the punishment for all the sins He had taken upon Himself, as He was paying the debt of all the Simons since the creation of the world until the end of it, of all the Marias, of all the Zaccheus, of all the adulteresses, of all the Nicodemus, of all the Jacobs, of all the Pauls, of all the Peters, feeling the bitterness of sin and drinking up to the last ~op its awful consequences. He was there agonizing for all the liars of this world, for all the harlots, for all the criminals, for all the adulterers, fornicators, traitors, who had humbled themselves before the Father as His great love had been revealed to them on the sacrifice on the cross. Then, they had left their crooked ways and had entered the narrow path of sanctification, the path that leads to heaven.

In spite of the agony of His soul He was pleased, because His could see beyond time and space, He could see us, you and me, next to Him, completely restored to His image, sharing eternity with Him, the Father, the Holy Spirit and the angels.

At that moment, all the redeemed ones were in His mind, from Adam to the last person who would accept His grace until the end of the world. He knew the end from the beginning, and rejoiced in the result of His sacrifice, in the rich harvest. He did not think of Himself, He did not concentrate on His wounds, on the sharp pain in His joints, on the cramps in His muscles. Neither did He think of the sweat that covered His body, but He rejoiced in advance on the fruit He would harvest from the seed He had watered with His own blood, so, when He had counted the last soul, He said: “It is finished.”

There He was, taking the condemnation of all those who would accept Him as a Mediator. At that moment *“the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two.* “ The veil that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place in the temple, where only the high priest could enter once a year, on the day of atonement to carry the blood of the sacrifice directly before the ark, was tom. Now there was no more any need of an earthly mediator. The high priest would stop bringing the blood of animals as a symbol of the sacrifice that was then being performed; now Jesus Himself, the Lamb of God, would enter the Most Holy Place to present His own blood. *“But Christ came as High priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place, once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.”* (Hebrews 9: 11,123) That is why we are called to approach *“boldly the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”* (Hebrews 4: 16)

May the Lord help us to understand that when these words will be again pronounced in the heavenly temple, the time of grace will have come to an end, and there will be no more time to repent. May He help us appreciate the great privilege He offers us of obtaining salvation and may He lead us to deep repentance. Amen.

*Theresa Corti - Greece*

## 144,000 COMPARISON STUDY

“I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus’ work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues. These plagues enraged the wicked against the righteous; they thought that we had brought the judgments of God upon them, and that if they could rid the earth of us, the plagues would then be stayed. A decree went forth to slay the saints, which caused them to cry day and night for deliverance. This was the time of Jacob’s trouble. Then all the saints cried out with anguish of spirit, and were delivered by the voice of God. The 144,000 triumphed. Their faces were lighted up with the glory of God.”<sup>1</sup>

This paragraph covers a large span of events in a very brief space. Therefore to avoid a misconception in understanding we need to put this paragraph into context by comparing it with more detailed passages which describe the same events. The comparison study on the following pages aligns this paragraph with two other passages of the same events, underlining portions that correspond across the columns.

Examine the comparison and notice the context of the following sentences. “Then all the saints cried out with anguish of spirit, and were delivered by the voice of God. The 144,000 triumphed. Their faces were lighted up with the glory of God.”<sup>1</sup>

The context is thus: The death decree has been issued and the saints are crying out for deliverance. At the commencement of the seventh plague they are delivered by the voice of God which declares “It is done.” Revelation 16:17. At that time there is a mighty earthquake and a partial, or, special resurrection takes place. Those who have died in the faith of the third angel’s message and who have kept the Sabbath are raised glorified to hear God’s covenant of peace.

In the next scene God delivers the covenant to His people. The Israel of God hear the words of the covenant and at the end of each sentence triumphantly shout, Glory! Hallelujah! Their faces are lighted up with the glory of God, as was the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. Now take note: It is the 144,000 who at this time are triumphant. It is their faces that are lighted up with the glory of God. It is they, the 144,000, who are the Israel of God. They are one and the same.

Now read the following text: “And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”<sup>2</sup>  
Can there be any doubt that the 144,000 are the Israel of God as spoken of in Great Controversy 640.2 and Early Writings 285.2?

Another thing to notice is that there is no reference to the 144,000 until after the special resurrection has taken place. The reason being is that the 144,000 are not all present until after the special resurrection and there are some who died in the faith of the third angel’s message that will be raised to join the living saints. Can this conclusion be sustained?

There is no denying the fact that a special resurrection takes place of those who died in the faith of the third angel’s message. When we look at the third’s angel’s message we see that it has the seal of the living God. “Who are voicing the message of the third angel, calling upon the world to make ready for the great day of God? The message we bear has the seal of the living God.”<sup>3</sup> Further to that we see that when the third angel’s message closes “all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received *“the seal of the living God.”*”<sup>4</sup> This shows that those who die in the faith of the third angel’s message must have the seal of the living God.

The question we now ask is: how many will receive the seal of the living God? “And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. . . . And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”<sup>5</sup> There is a definite number of sealed persons, “there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand.” So if sealed persons are to be specially raised to join the living saints it would be to deny the plain Scriptural statement “there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand” to make those raised sealed ‘extras’. If we increase the number of sealed

persons to stand on the earth at the coming of Jesus we deny Scripture.

There is written about one such Sister who died in the faith of the third angel's message that she would be raised in the special resurrection. "I saw that she was sealed and would, come up at the voice of God and stand upon the earth, and would be with the 144,000." <sup>6</sup> This Sister raised at the voice of God, was sealed and would be with the 144,000 meaning that she would be one of them and not a sealed extra.

To this suggestion the skeptic raises the argument that the word "with" means with them but not one of them: But consider these verses" But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. . . . And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you." <sup>7</sup> Thomas was with the disciples, at the same time being one of them. So we can immediately see the weakness of such word arguments in the face of better evidence provided. AMEN

*Glendon Higgins, Australia*

### *References:*

1. Early Writings, p. 36,37.
2. Revelation 7:4
3. Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 459.2
4. Great Controversy, p. 613.2.
5. Revelation 7:2,4
6. Selected Messages, vol. 2, p. 263.3.
7. John 20:24,26

## **A HAPPY SOUL CONQUERS ALL PAIN**

LORD, thank you so very much for your constant blessings and love. Thank you JESUS CHRIST for your love, teachings, examples, and the great sacrifice you made on our behalf. No words or actions can repay the debt we owe JESUS, our Savior, the Lamb of GOD, and prince of peace. He had love so strong, that he left glory in heaven to live with sinful men and die by their hands only to save them. Let's remember this sacrifice for the rest of our lives and never forget that GREAT day that JESUS saved men from their sinful outcomes.

I'm truly happy, not because I have so much by the world's standards, but because I know of our great father in heaven and I believe in his only begotten son's sacrifice on the cross. JESUS you bring joy Into my life more than anything that the world can ever offer me. Satan is always near by as my accuser but I know that through JESUS I am made strong and capable to handle his attacks. Also because of GOD'S grace I.'11 win this battle as long as I stay close to him. I'm happy and I want to remind you all to maintain smiles on your faces when Satan attacks so he can have no pleasure in your pain.

When selfish people take from you and use you...

When jealous people look at you with eyes of HATE...

When the workers of evil corner you making you feel as if you were alone...

When justice can't be found...

When Satan tells you that you're not worth it or you're not loved by GOD...

When pain, sadness, and despair surrounds you...

When people you call friends treat you like their enemy...

When you lose your way in search of truth because of the lies of men...

When you are tired of what this place has done to you...

BE HAPPY! We forget this simple thought and let the evil, injustice, and Satan convince us that there is no HOPE! I know because I have fallen into anger more often than I have remembered to smile. Hope and faith go hand in hand so we need to step back from life once in a while and remember this. There is nothing Satan or sinful men can do to remove you from happiness. Do not allow them to blind you with their sinful ways. As long as we hold tight to our LORD and hold tight to our Savior JESUS CHRIST, we are stronger as one, as they could ever be in great numbers. People will anger you, let you down, and while evil men seem to prosper their time is very short. They take joy in hurting, stealing, and they fool themselves thinking they are powerful, but they will reap what they sow. We all answer to a great and loving Father in heaven whether people believe it or not. GOD was not created from the Imagination of men, but men were created from the imagination of GOD.

### **A great lie...**

Satan has convinced many to turn their backs on their true Father. He has convinced them that there is no GOD so why not live your life in temporary pleasures because you have only one life to live. He convinces them that JESUS was nothing but a man. He convinces them that sin will not destroy them. He even convinces them that he does not exist because if you recognize the existence of Satan you will recognize then the existence of GOD. And, he always reminds them that they are not loved and they deserve nothing better than sin. What a sad existence it would be if his lies were true, but anyone that searches for GOD with an honest heart will (without a doubt) learn His great ways and fall in love with Him. Remember that this journey lasts a lifetime and expect to go through hardships in this life.

### **So remember...**

BE HAPPY because this is all temporary. BE HAPPY even though we battle through this world filled with sadness. We can't ignore pain, suffering and injustice, but we should not allow it to overcome our joy found in the LORD. We must always care about what happens to our fellow brothers and sisters, but don't lose focus on the joy that awaits us. Remember the great sacrifice of JESUS CHRIST and know we have a loving father in heaven.

### **Romans 8:35-39**

**“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of GOD, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

This world has much to be angry about and I will not deny that. My brother calls me “Angry Man” sometimes because I often complain about the injustice in this world. Governments filled with flaws will never satisfy me. I will never stop complaining “as some call it” because GOD has shown me what this world should have been like if we just would have followed Him. Instead we have all been lied to by Satan and he wishes nothing more than the destruction of all men. So, I understand all of our complaints about injustice because I am a person that

complains often about it. Trust the words in the Bible and know that GOD knows all of our heartaches, trials, sadness, disappointments, and He knows the cause of every tear that is shed by His children.

No tear or drop of blood is ignored in heaven...and no man can escape the justice of GOD.

So, do not waste too much of your time in sadness or in tears because of the trials we live through here on Earth. We all go through them and we all are saddened by them, BUT there is one difference. The believer has someone to turn to in times of pain, sadness, and when we are confronted with evil while those that do not believe must deal with their pain on their own. Man has spoken and tried their best to bring justice to their world but as long as they think they can do it alone...they will fail. So simply remember that GOD will provide and He will wipe every tear. Live in happiness because as Christians and children of GOD we have many blessings to come. I will end with some words from the Bible...

Take one day at a time and remember the sacrifice of JESUS CHRIST so smiles can overcome tears.

#### **Matthew 6:25 & 34**

**“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Take therefore no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”**

Remember...JESUS told us and warned us of the trails we would face.

#### **John 15:17.20**

**“These things I command you, that ye love one another. If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than the lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep your also”**

John also wrote by the inspiration of GOD...

#### **1st John 3:13**

**“Marvel not, my brethren if the world hate you”**

But...we have a Father who loves us very much.

#### **Revelation 21:4**

**“And GOD shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away”**

And, JESUS told us as He went into the clouds.

#### **Matthew 28:18-20**

**“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the son, and the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and 10, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen”**

For those that take pleasure in the suffering of others. For those that hate us for no reason. For those that bring pain and sadness to the lives of others.

We will pray that GOD brings justice your way and that you learn the same pains. sadness. and evil that you have caused us to bear. Let the yoke that you have placed on necks of others be placed on your sinful necks.

But, we will also pray for those lost souls because the LORD loves them just as much as He loves a just man. We pray that you come to understand the errors of your ways. We will pray that GOD can touch your hearts so you can learn not to be selfish or act as children of Satan.

**Matthew 6: 43-48**

**“Ve have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven; for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye: do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”**

Also...

**1st Thessalonians 5:15**

**“See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and all men”**

**Proverbs 15:13**

**“A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken”**

GOD BLESS US ALL! In the great name of JESUS CHRIST I pray...AMEN!

LET’S KEEP THESE VERSES CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS!

*Isaac Suarez*

**THE LAW OF GOD  
(THE TEN COMMANDMENTS)**

*To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, [it is] because {there is} no light in them. Isaiah 8:20.*

What did Christ say about Eternal life and how can we obtain it? If you read the scriptures in Mark 10: 17 “And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou Me good? (there is] none good but one, (that is], God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.” He pointed to him the ten Commandments.

Now some religious organizations say the ten commandments only exist after the Hebrews left Egypt and it was only for the Jews and we are under the grace so we don’t need the ten commandments. It is true, we are saved only by grace. “And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by Faith.” Philippians 3:9. But Christ pointed to the ten commandments. He would have told the young ruler that my grace is sufficient for you if you didn’t need to keep the commandments. The very purpose for His mission was to magnify the law and make it honorable.

The Law of God is like a mirror. When we are young, when we play in the playground we get dirty. So when we go and look at the mirror, we know where exactly the dirt is. A little bit on the right hand and on the nose. Now we go to the water and soap. The mirror can't clean us. But the water and soap can. We apply it to the part we need and we are clean again.

The same with our spiritual life. When we sin we go and look at the Law of God where we have actually sinned. It's like a mirror pointing us to our sins and where we have failed. Then we go to Christ who can cleanse us by His precious blood.

This is the part of grace given to us and set us free without guilt and sin. Now we are free but not to sin against Him. He knew the importance of the Law of God that He told the young ruler the importance of keeping it.

In this study we will analyze 1) From creation to Mount Sinai 2) From Sinai to the time of Christ 3) From Christ to the end of the world. 1) Isaiah 43:27 "Thy first father hath sinned, and thy teachers have transgressed against me."

Who is the first father? Wasn't it Adam who is the father of our human race? How did he sin? 1 John 3:4 "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law". Genesis 2: 16 "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which [is] in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, let't ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, and that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make [one] wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Now if we analyze which commandment did Adam and Eve transgressed they transgressed the first and the eighth commandments. The first says thou shalt have no other gods before me. But Satan made sure they disobeyed this commandment. Satan said to Eve, ye shall be gods. Isn't this the 1st commandment Satan failed and was cast out of heaven for? Isaiah 14:12 "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! [How] art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." Satan wanted to be like God Himself. Because of this he was cast out.

Then if you look at the eighth commandment it says "Thou shalt not steal," but Adam and Eve stole. Because of this, death came upon humanity and the woe of sins continued.

The next generation was Cain and he killed his brother Abel and broke the sixth commandment. What does the Bible say about this?: Gen 4:8. "And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. And the Lord said unto Cain, Where [is] Abel thy brother? And he said I know not: [Am] I my brother's keeper? And he said, what hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now [art] thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; when thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth."

Cain received the punishment but never repented and continued in his sins. The generations of Cain's children and the generations of Seth made inter marriage and because of this the whole humanity became corrupted and only eight souls remained true which was Noah's family. Of the rest the Bible says "And God saw that the wickedness

of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his hearts was only evil continually. They were openly sinning by breaking all the ten commandments of God and they were all destroyed by a flood.

After the flood Noah's son sinned against his father. He disobeyed the fifth commandment, "Honour thy father and thy mother that thy days maybe long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee," and was cursed. "And Ham the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers." Gen: 9:22.

The Lord overthrew the two cities Sodom and Gomorrah" Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven and He overthrew those cities and all the plain and all the inhabitants of the cities and; that which grew upon the ground." Gen 19:24, 25. The people of these cities broke the six commandments "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

Then Joseph "And it came to pass after these things,~at his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said lie with me. But he refused and said unto his master's wife. Behold my master wotteth not what is with me in the house and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand: ' There is none greater in this house than I neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife. How then can I do his great wickedness and sin against God." 39:7-9. with this I point out to you that all these people were punished because they disobeyed the commandments of God which they were taught and transferred from parents to children.

Then the Lord made His commandments clear when he spoke in the Holy Mount and gave it to Moses. Soon after the encampment at Sinai, Moses was called up into the mountain to meet with God. Alone he climbed the steep and rugged path, and drew near to the cloud that marked the place of Jehovah's presence. Israel was now to be taken into a close and peculiar relation to the Most High--to be incorporated as a church and a nation under the government of God. The message to Moses for the people was: "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people: for all the earth is Mine: and ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation."

Moses returned to the camp, and having summoned the elders of Israel, he repeated to them the divine message. Their answer was, "All that the Lord hath spoken we will do." Thus they entered into a solemn covenant with God, pledging themselves to accept Him as their ruler, by which they became, in a special sense, the subjects of His authority. Again their leader ascended the mountain, and the Lord said unto him, "Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee forever."

When they met with difficulties in the way, they were disposed to murmur against Moses and Aaron, and accuse them of leading the hosts of Israel from Egypt to destroy them. The Lord would honor Moses before them, that they might be led to confide in his instructions. God purposed to make the occasion of speaking His law a scene of awful grandeur, in keeping with its exalted character. The people were to be impressed that everything connected with the service of God must be regarded with the greatest reverence.

The Lord said to Moses, "Go unto the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes, and be ready against the third day: in the third day the Lord will come down in the sight of all the people upon Mount Sinai." During these intervening days all were to occupy the time in solemn preparation to appear before God. Their person and their clothing must be freed from impurity. And as Moses should point out their sins, they were to devote themselves to humiliation, fasting, and prayer, that their hearts might be cleansed from iniquity. The preparations were made, according to the command; and in obedience to a further injunction, Moses directed that a barrier be placed about the mount, that neither man nor beast might intrude upon the sacred precinct. If any ventured so much as to touch it, the penalty was instant death.

On the morning of the third day, as the eyes of all the people were turned toward the mount, its summit was covered with a thick cloud, which grew more black and dense, sweeping downward until the entire mountain was wrapped in darkness and awful mystery. Then a sound as of a trumpet was heard, summoning the people to meet

with God; and Moses led them forth to the base of the mountain. From the thick darkness flashed vivid lightning's, while peals of thunder echoed and re-echoed among the surrounding heights. "And Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly." "The glory of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mount" in the sight of the assembled multitude. And "the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder." So terrible were the tokens of Jehovah's presence that the hosts of Israel shook with fear, and fell upon their faces before the Lord. Even Moses exclaimed, "I exceedingly fear and quake." Hebrews 12:21. And now the thunders ceased; the trumpet was no longer heard; the earth was still. There was a period of solemn silence, and then the voice of God was heard. Speaking out of the thick darkness that enshrouded Him, as He stood upon the mount, surrounded by a retinue of angels, the Lord made known His law.

Moses, describing the scene, says: "The Lord came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; He shined forth from Mount Paran, and He came with ten thousands of saints: from His right hand went a fiery law for them. Yea, He loved the people; all His saints are in Thy hand: and they sat down at Thy feet; every one shall receive of Thy words." Deuteronomy 33:2, 3. Jehovah revealed Himself, not alone in the awful majesty of the judge and lawgiver, but as the compassionate guardian of His people: "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." He whom they had already known as their Guide and Deliverer, who had brought them forth from Egypt, making a way for them through the sea, and overthrowing Pharaoh and his hosts, who had thus shown Himself to be above all the gods of Egypt--He it was who now spoke His law.

The law was not spoken at this time exclusively for the benefit of the Hebrews. God honored them by making them the guardians and keepers of His law, but it was to be held as a sacred trust for the whole world. The precepts of the Decalogue are adapted to all mankind, and they were given for the instruction and government of all. Ten precepts, brief, comprehensive, and authoritative, cover the duty of man to God and to his fellow man; and all based upon the great fundamental principle of love. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." Luke 10:27. See also Deuteronomy 6:4, 5; Leviticus 19:18. In the Ten Commandments these principles are carried out in detail, and made applicable to the condition and circumstances of man.

"Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." Jehovah, the eternal, self-existent, uncreated One, Himself the Source and Sustainer of all, is alone entitled to supreme reverence and worship. Man is forbidden to give to any other object the first place in his affections or his service. Whatever we cherish that tends to lessen our love for God or to interfere with the service due Him, of that do we make a god.

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them." The second commandment forbids the worship of the true God by images or similitude's. Many heathen nations claimed that their images were mere figures or symbols by which the Deity was worshiped, but God has declared such worship to be sin. The attempt to represent the Eternal One by material objects would lower man's conception of God. The mind, turned away from the infinite perfection of Jehovah, would be attracted to the creature rather than to the Creator. And as his conceptions of God were lowered, so would man become degraded.

"I the Lord thy God am a jealous God." The close and sacred relation of God to His people is represented under the figure of marriage. Idolatry being spiritual adultery, the displeasure of God against it is fitly called jealousy. "Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me." It is inevitable that children should suffer from the consequences of parental wrongdoing, but they are not punished for the parents' guilt, except as they participate in their sins. It is usually the case, however, that children walk in the steps of their parents. By inheritance and example the sons become partakers of the father's sin. Wrong tendencies, perverted appetites, and debased morals, as well as physical disease and degeneracy, are transmitted as a legacy from father to son, to the third and fourth generation. This fearful truth should have a solemn power to restrain men from following a course of sin. "Showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments.." In prohibiting the worship of false gods, the second commandment by implication enjoins the

worship of the true God. And to those who are faithful in His service, mercy is promised, not merely to the third and fourth generation as is the wrath threatened against those who hate Him, but to thousands of generations.

“Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.” This commandment not only prohibits false oaths and common swearing, but it forbids us to use the name of God in a light or careless manner, without regard to its awful significance. By the thoughtless mention of God in common conversation, by appeals to Him in trivial matters, and by the frequent and thoughtless repetition of His name, we dishonor Him. “Holy and reverend is His name.” Psalm 111:9. All should meditate upon His majesty, His purity and holiness, that the heart may be impressed with a sense of His exalted character; and His holy name should be uttered with reverence and solemnity .

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.” The Sabbath is not introduced as a new institution but as having been founded at creation. It is to be remembered and observed as the memorial of the Creator’s work. Pointing to God as the Maker of the heavens and the earth, it distinguishes the true God from all false gods. All who keep the seventh day signify by this act that they are worshipers of Jehovah. Thus the Sabbath is the sign of man’s allegiance to God as long as there are any upon the earth to serve Him.

The fourth commandment is the only one of all the ten in which are found both the name and the title of the Lawgiver. It is the only one that shows by whose authority the law is given. Thus it contains the seal of God, affixed to His law as evidence of its authenticity and binding force. God has given men six days wherein to labor, and He requires that their own work be done in the six working days. Acts of necessity and mercy are permitted on the Sabbath, the sick and suffering are at all times to be cared for; but unnecessary labor is to be strictly avoided. “Turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and . . . honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor doing thine own pleasure.” Isaiah 58:13. Nor does the prohibition end here. “Nor speaking thine own words,” says the prophet. Those who discuss business matters or lay plans on the Sabbath are regarded by God as though engaged in the actual transaction of business.. To keep the Sabbath holy, we should not even allow our minds to dwell upon things of a worldly character. And the commandment includes all within our gates. The inmates of the house are to lay aside their worldly business during the sacred hours. All should unite to honor God by willing service upon His holy day.

“Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.” Parents are entitled to a degree of love and respect which is due to no other person. God Himself, who has placed upon them a responsibility for the souls committed to their charge, has ordained that during the earlier years of life, parents shall stand in the place of God to their children. And he who rejects the rightful authority of his parents is rejecting the authority of God. The fifth commandment

requires children not only to yield respect, submission, and obedience to their parents, but also to give them love and tenderness, to lighten their cares, to guard their reputation, and to succor and comfort them in old age. It also enjoins respect for ministers and rulers and for all others to whom God has delegated authority. This, says the apostle, “is the first commandment with promise.” Ephesians 6:2. To Israel, expecting soon to enter Canaan, it was a pledge to the obedient, of long life in that good land; but it has a wider meaning, including all the Israel of God, and promising eternal life upon the earth when it shall be freed from the curse of sin.

“Thou shalt not kill.” All acts of injustice that tend to shorten life; the spirit of hatred and revenge, or the indulgence of any passion that leads to injurious acts toward others, or causes us even to wish them harm (for “whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer”); a selfish neglect of caring for the needy or suffering; all self-indulgence or unnecessary deprivation or excessive labor that tend to injure health--all these are, to a greater or less degree, violations of the sixth commandment.

“Thou shalt not commit adultery.” This commandment forbids not only acts of impurity, but sensual thoughts and desires, or any practice that tends to excite them. Purity is demanded not only in the outward life but in the secret intents and emotions of the heart. Christ, who taught the far-reaching obligation of the law of God, declared the evil thought or look to be as truly sin as is the unlawful deed.

“Thou shalt not steal.” Both public and private sins are included in this prohibition. The eighth commandment condemns manstealing and slave dealing, and forbids wars of conquest. It condemns theft and robbery. It demands strict integrity in the minutest details of the affairs of life. It forbids overreaching in trade, and requires the payment of just debts or wages. It declares that every attempt to advantage oneself by the ignorance, weakness, or misfortune of another is registered as fraud in the books of heaven.

“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.” False speaking in any matter, every attempt or purpose to deceive our neighbor, is here included~ An intention to deceive is what constitutes falsehood. By a glance of the eye, a motion of the hand, an expression of the countenance, a falsehood may be told as effectually as by words. All intentional overstatement, every hint or insinuation calculated to convey an erroneous or exaggerated impression, even the statement of facts in such a manner as to mislead, is falsehood. This precept forbids every effort to injure our neighbor’s reputation by misrepresentation or evil surmising, by slander or tale bearing. Even the intentional suppression of truth, by which injury may result to others, is a violation of the ninth commandment.

“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor’s.” The tenth commandment strikes at the very root of all sins, prohibiting the selfish desire, from which springs the sinful act. He who in obedience to God’s law refrains from indulging even a sinful desire for that which belongs to another will not be guilty of an act of wrong toward his fellow creatures.

Matt: 5:17- 48. “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach [them], the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed [the righteousness] of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time; Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing. Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast [it] from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not [that] thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast [it] from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not [that] thy whole body should be cast into hell. It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: ‘But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery. Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God’s throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.

But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil:

but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have [thy] cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more [than others]? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”

In these verses the spirituality of the Law is explained and its implication many think easy. But the Law requires more than we imagine. Its beautiful role in the love towards God and our fellow men is perfectly explained. Then if we go further from the gospels and look what the epistles states what James writes concerning the Law we should shiver to break its precepts because we are guilty before God and shall be punished. James 2: 8-12.

If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye comnrit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one [point], he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not comnrit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.” Now if you put the churches to the test as who is the Church of God all of them will fail but only the true Church of God will stand. Try for example the Catholic church. They violate the second commandment. They have so many images and they violate the 2nd and 4th commandment. As the Sabbath day they keep the Sunday and the Bible instructs it is Saturday so we can easily find the true church through this tool of the commandments of God.

May the Good Lord bless us.  
AMEN.

*Augustus Ratneiyya - Montreal*

## **CHILDREN'S STORY**

### **SLEIGH RIDE**

Many years ago in the Northern United states, a group of young boys, all students in the same school, decided to take a sleigh ride together on a sunny but cold winter day. It was a Sunday afternoon and they did not have much else to do that day. The sleigh was large enough for 20 boys. Six horses drew it. It was a common custom of the school to which they belonged, and on previous occasions, their teacher had accompanied them. This time, however, he was unable to be with them as he had some other important business engagement that had come up.

On the day after the sleigh ride as the teacher entered the school room, he found his students standing around the stove, happily chattering to each other about the fun of their excursion the day before. He stopped awhile and listened Then he asked the boys about their day. One of the boys, whose heart was in the right place though sometimes his love of sport led him astray, volunteered to tell the teacher about the trip. As he came to the end of the story, he exclaimed: -

“0, Sir, there was one little incident which I almost forgot to tell you! Toward the end of the afternoon, as we were coming home, we saw up all lead of us, a strange looking sleigh on the road. At first we could not quite make out

what it was. It seemed to be a sort of half-and-half monstrosity. As we approached it, it proved to be a rusty old sleigh fastened behind a covered wagon. It was moving very slowly and taking up the whole road. After following it for awhile we realized that he was not going to pull to the side and let us pass so we decided to make some snowballs and throw them at him to get him to pull over, and also for a good laugh. We threw them eagerly and it worked better than we expected. The crazy machine not only pulled to the side, but that skinny old horse was so scared it ran full speed right into the deep snow. As we were passing, someone from our sleigh used the whip on his horse that made him run even faster into the snow. And so with another volley of snowballs at him, we rushed on by. With that the old man in the wagon, dropped his reins and shouted, "Why do you frighten my horse?"

"Why didn't you pullover then," said our driver. "So we gave him three rousing cheers and were off. His horse was frightened again, and ran up against a loaded team, and I believe, almost knocked the poor man off; and so we left him."

"Well, boys," replied their teacher, "That is quite an incident. But take your seats; after our morning worship is ended, I will tell you another story about a sleigh ride."

Having finished the reading of a chapter in the Bible, and a prayer, he began his story as follows:

"Yesterday afternoon a very good and respectable old man, a minister for the church, was on his way from Boston to Salem to spend the rest of the winter with his son. He decided to travel in the spring with his wagon, but in order to be prepared for deep snow; he fastened his sleigh behind his wagon. He was, as I have just told you, very old and quite sick. His face was thin, his hair white as he was 87 years old. His sight, and hearing also were fading due to his age, as yours will be when you reach his age.

"He was proceeding very slowly and quietly, for his horse was old and feeble, like his owner. He was thinking over his youth, when he had risked his life in preaching the gospel in heathen lands where missionaries were forbidden; to his later years when he was struggling daily to put food on his table. While he was deep in thought, he was suddenly disturbed and even terrified by loud shouts from behind and by a furious pelting of snowballs and ice at his wagon. In his sudden surprise he dropped his reins; and as his aged and feeble hands were quite numb from the cold, he found it impossible to gather them up, and his horse began to run away.

"In the midst of the old man's troubles there rushed by him, with loud shouts, a large group of boys in a sleigh drawn by six horses.

"'Turn aside, old fellow!' 'Give us the road, old boy!' 'What'll you take for your pony, old daddy?' 'Move it, frozen nose!' 'What's the price of oats?' were the various cries that met his ear.

"'Pray, do not frighten my horse,' exclaimed the feeble driver.

"'Turn aside, then! Turn aside!' was the answer, which was followed by repeated cracks and blows from the long whip of the grand sleigh, with showers of snowballs, and tremendous laughs from the boys.

"The terror of the old man and his horse was increased; and the horse ran away, to add to the danger of the man's life. He was finally able, with some exertion, to take the reins again, which had been out of his hands during the whole ordeal, and to stop his horse just in time to prevent him crashing against another loaded wagon.

"As he approached Salem, he overtook a young man who was walking toward the same place, whom he invited to ride along with him. The young man made mention of the large sleigh of boys which had just passed and the old man asked him if he knew who the boys were. He replied that he did; and that they all belonged to one school, and were a set of wild fellows.

"'Aha! Exclaimed the old man, with a hearty laugh, for his constant good nature had not been disturbed, 'they sure are wild indeed! Why, their master is very well known to me. I am going to his house, and I think I will relate

to him this incident.’

.. A short distance brought the old man to his journey’s end, the home of his son. His old horse was comfortably housed and fed, and he himself provided for.

“That son, boys, is your teacher; and that aged and infirm old man, that ‘old fellow’ that ‘old boy,’ who did not move aside for you, but who would gladly have given you the whole road had he heard you approaching, that ‘old boy,’ that ‘old daddy,’ and ‘frozen nose,’ is an old retired minister in our church, your teacher’s father. He is now at my home, where he and I will gladly welcome any and all of you.”

As the professor, with no frown on his face, gave this version of the ride, it was clear from the expression of the boys’ faces, and the glances they exchanged, that they recognized the history of their doings the previous day; and it is not easy to describe nor imagine the effect produced by this new relation of their story. Some buried their heads behind their desk; some cried; some looked bewildered at one another; and many hurried down to the desk of the teacher, with many apologies and regrets.

“We did not know it was your father,” they said.

“My dear lads,” replied the teacher, “What does it matter whose father it was? It was probably somebody’s father, - an inoffensive traveler, an aged and feeble old man, entitled to kind treatment from you and everybody else. But never mind; he forgives it all, and so do I.”

Freely forgiven, the boys determined that they would be more civil in the future to inoffensive travelers, and more respectful to the aged and infirm people. And the years that followed showed that each one of them carefully kept to their word. They learned a valuable lesson from their mistake. Some day they all became old men, as you young people will also be old one day and think of the kind of respect you would want the young people to have towards you. Our elders have been through many trials and difficulties - they have gone through many battles against sin and darkness, while preaching the gospel. They need our kindness and respect and we can learn much from taking the time to listen to them and heed their counsel.

## ENZYMES

In a book called Enzyme Nutrition, a Dr. Edward Howell wrote, “The human race is at least half sick... there are no completely healthy people living on the conventional diet. Even young adults who feel fit have health defects.”

He blames this national state of disease on malnutrition due to the consumption of cooked and processed food. This food destroys all enzymes and therefore makes it impossible for the body to metabolize nutrients.

There are three classes of enzymes: metabolic enzymes, which run our bodies; digestive enzymes, which digest our food; and food enzymes in the raw food itself, which start food digestion.

All of our organs and tissues are run by metabolic “worker” enzymes. These enzymes take proteins, fats and carbohydrates (starches and sugars) and structure them to make healthy bodies, keeping everything functioning in order. Nothing must interfere with the body making enough metabolic enzymes. Good health depends on it. A shortage means trouble!

The digestive enzyme group includes proteases (to digest protein), amylases (to digest carbohydrates) and lipases (to digest fat). Our Creator gives us these enzymes at birth, but in a limited supply. So His master plan is that we do not exhaust that supply by forcing the body’s digestive enzymes to carry the whole load of digestion. When food enzymes do some of the work, your enzyme potential can allot less activity to digestion and have more

energy to give to the hundreds of metabolic enzymes that run the entire organism, which is you!

According to Dr. Howell, the enzyme potential of almost all North Americans is facing bankruptcy. We are on a minus diet-food minus its enzymes. This is a strain on all organs, especially the pancreas. No wonder there is an epidemic of diabetes! ! !

The proponents of a LIVING-FOOD lifestyle introduces a new way of looking at disease.

Digestion begins in the mouth. Human saliva is loaded with enzyme activity: (that's why we're told to chew each mouthful 35 times!) The pancreas is designed to supply the rest. But it's the enzymes in raw food that begin the process of digestion, thus lowering the drain on the body's own enzyme supply.

ENZYMES tolerate no heat at all. If water is uncomfortably hot in your hand, it will destroy the enzymes in your food!

A LIVING-FOOD LIFESTYLE means eating food that contains all of its active ingredients: enzymes, vitamins, minerals, bioflavonoids, vitamin C-factors and fiber. That includes nuts and seeds.

Nuts should be consumed raw, because heat damages their natural oils and makes them carcinogenic. But nuts and grains are protected with a coating that prevents germination and inhibits enzyme action. That coating must be washed or soaked away to make them digestible. When nuts, seeds and grains are sprouted they are good, good food, and provide the necessary protein for optimum nutrition. Enzyme activity in the seed is generally at its height when the sprout is approximately 1 centimeter long.

“In germinated tree nuts and cereal grains we have all of the protein, carbohydrate, fat and calories we will ever need,” says Dr. Howell. “Complete enzyme nutrition, which the germinated nuts and cereals provide, can put a damper on the basic, if unrecognized, cause of many diseases and solve food shortages at the same time.”

**Submitted by: Kathleen Ross. Alberta. Canada**

89 year old Kerttu Karhinen is one of our senior members in Canada. She is pictured here with her great-grandchildren, Richard and Sharon. Sister Karhinen was born in Finland on April 18, 1913. She was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the age of 22. In January of 1957 she immigrated to Canada with her 3 children. Shortly after arriving in Canada she came into contact with the Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement and was accepted into fellowship. Sister Karhinen is still a faithful member of the church and enjoys good health due to the blessing of the health reform message. She is still able to live on her own and care for herself and looks forward to the day when Jesus will come again to fulfill His promise to redeem His faithful children when she can enjoy eternal youth. Our prayers is that the young people will learn from the example of the elders in the church, who have fought the battles of life for many years and stood faithful. They are true pillars in the house of God.

