



# The Reformation Messenger

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 12, DECEMBER 2007

International Missionary Society of The S.D.A. Church Reform Movement

*"And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine."  
Ezekiel 47:12*

**WE BELIEVE:** The all-wise, loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ; He is its Owner and Sustainer. He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh. The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth, convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all unrighteousness. The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine; the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform. His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus. Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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A crisp autumn day in Ontario, Canada.

Photo taken by:  
Sis. Helen Marttinen

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This word, “Maranatha”, that is the name of our Missionary School in Argentina and that our preachers in Congo exclaim every time they stand at the pulpit, while the congregation answers “Amen” is an Aramaic term--the language in Palestine at the time of Jesus. The word means, “The Lord is coming!” It appears in the Bible only once, in 1 Corinthians 16:22 in the following context, “*If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.*” Anathema means curse. No wonder the brethren in Congo say, “Maranatha”, “Amen.” They just express their love for the Lord, their expectation and joy in the hope of His coming.

In Revelation 22:20 we read, “*Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus,*”--in other words, “Maranatha.”

If people who loved the Lord at the time of John said “*Amen, come Lord Jesus*”, how much more should we all follow the example of our brethren in Congo and say “Maranatha” from our pulpits and the congregation should answer “Amen”, full of enthusiasm and joy!

Most prophecies have been fulfilled, people are as they have been described by Paul in his epistle to Timothy. “*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come*

*for men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, , boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof..”* 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

Therefore, the invitation to all mankind is, “*Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*” Revelation 14:7.

The previous verse to this one says, “*And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.*” It is interesting; John sees three angels, one after the other, but they all have a message that is related to the previous one and has to be given to the whole world. This message is called the everlasting gospel.

According to the Bible, the gospel is “*the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.*” Romans 1:6 Christ came

to save His people from sin. The definition of sin is the transgression of the law; in other words, Christ came to make us turn to obedience to the law. The three angels’ messages do not speak about God’s love for mankind, the blood of Jesus that washes our sins and all those things that can move people’s hearts; but they warn and call to repentance. True love speaks the truth, even if this can cause pain or fear.

The world and the churches have spoken and still speak much about love and all Christians have heard about the love of Jesus. Many people have had the experience of conversion, as they understood that our Saviour gave His blood because of our unrighteous deeds, our pride, our hard words and moved by this message they changed their life and became new creatures. Such a power has the sacrifice of love done for us in Calvary! But these angels do not speak about these things, although they ply the skies to give their messages. They speak about judgment, God’s wrath, about the mark of the beast, fire and brimstone. They do not speak about grace, but they warn and threat. No joyful message. Is that actually the gospel?

Maybe, as we read these messages we remember Paul’s warning to the Galatians, “*But though we, or an angel from heaven,*

*preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*" Galatians 1:8. The message of the gospel is love, and those who do not love the Lord Jesus are "anathema", accursed. Why are these messages of a totally different kind?

If we read the following verses we can better understand why. *"And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud [one] sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped."* Revelation 14:14-16.

The Son of God, Jesus Christ is coming in the clouds of heaven to harvest the earth. The time of grace is over and this chapter speaks of another angel that gathers *"the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe."* Rev. 14:18.

Chapter 15 of Revelation presents seven angels holding golden vials with the wrath of God—the plagues—that are to be poured upon the earth. No more grace.

This has nothing to do with us, because as children of God who have confessed their sins and accepted Jesus Christ as our Saviour we want to live and die under grace.

All children of God, all born again Christians who live in His grace have the law in their hearts, they do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not covet, do not kill or practice idolatry and they have the privilege to bring to the world the message of salvation. Before the time of grace is over, all children of God have to come under His protection and be sealed as His property. This seal is, as we all know, the Sabbath day.

Jesus said, "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, [and] one shepherd." John 10:16. The Holy Spirit living in us is the voice of the Lord calling the sheep to His fold, through us, His instruments. The Holy Spirit in us is to give the three angels'

messages to the world. The Lord has given us His Spirit and as we fulfil our duty toward Him and mankind, we shall receive ever a greater measure to call people to God's rest.

The Sabbath is the spiritual ark of our time and the invitation has to be given to all believers who are still in Babylon so that they may join the crowd that will be translated to heaven when our Lord comes. *"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work-..."* Exodus 20:8. This is the message, that God's church,—the angels of Revelation

14 has to give the world so that the sheep that already belong to the Lord and are still grazing on foreign fields may join us and all together may say: "Maranatha!"

May the Lord grant us a greater measure of His Spirit so that we may fulfil the commission given to the angels. **AMEN.**

*Teresa Corti*



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# FEAR AND TREMBLING OF SALVATION



The hope that we have needs to be enriched and encouraged as we look at Scripture and seek to feed our souls. We see very vividly that without the help of the Holy Spirit, the reading of the bible and E G White's writings raise many contradictions.

Because of these apparent contradictions to our human mind, we need the Holy Spirit to correctly appreciate. One of the contradictions we need clarifying on is regarding salvation. On one hand the Scripture says, "fear not, come unto me and you will find rest, peace I leave with you. Trust and perfect love casteth out all fear." Then on the other hand, it says, "work out your salvation with fear and trembling." Do you see an apparent contradiction there?

"Well, then, you say, am I to go around fearing and trembling all the way? Yes, in one sense, but not in another sense." {TDG 344.1}

Philippians 2:12-13. "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

In these two texts the Scriptures exposes and unravels an essential interaction for the salvation of sinful humanity of which we all are a part.

You have the fear of God before you, and you will have a trembling lest you will depart from the counsels of God. There will be that trembling. You will be working out your own salvation all the time with fear and trembling. Does it rest here? No, let us hear how the divine power comes in: "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (verse 13). Here are man's works, and here are God's works. They both cooperate. Man cannot accomplish this work without the help of the divine power. {TDG 344.2}

This meditation, as quoted is to grasp it in living exercise. We often hear we have to work together with God. What is the actual engagement? To fear and to tremble, to rest and to trust. What is the living aspect of this? Did you notice you have the fear of God before you? God, the great monarch of the universe comes to every sinner on this planet as is demonstrated in His approach to the children of Israel, the Hebrews as they came out of Egypt. Here is an object lesson in living reality. This is where we will gain our appreciation. God speaks to them on Mt Sinai. There is the demonstration of the fear of God before the people.

Exodus 20:1-2. "And God spake all these words, saying, I [am] the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

He is speaking from Mt Sinai. He reminds them, I have brought you out of bondage with this mighty hand you have just experienced by demonstration. Now they stand in front of Him. These sinners He was wanting to help; and with thundering tones He proclaims the Ten Commandments.

Exodus 20:18. "And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw [it], they removed, and stood afar off."

Here lies the real issue. The fear of God must be before us. God makes sure of it in dealing with the Hebrews. He comes to them with power and glory and they tremble. Moses says, don't be afraid, God is



proving you that you sin not.

It is essential we have this fear in place as demonstrated here. Because as that fear is in place that we sin not and with the Ten Commandments, we become awestruck at this expectation and demonstration of God's greatness.

We look at the fear that is in place and its consequence.

Exodus 19:3-8. "And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; 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. These [are] the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD."

The Lord may be speaking to us today. You have seen what I have done for you. Hasn't the Lord done wonderful things for us? He has redeemed us from our past life of bondage. He reminds us of this.

With the consciousness of the fear of God, the people said they would do it all. God proves you when He gives you the Ten Commandments whether you will be true to your commitment. With that fear and beautiful promise you made, of course, yes, Lord we will do it. He secures the human agreement, the human expression. What the Lord has said we will do it, they say. They were in terrible fear. We will be

obedient, we will do that. What does God do? He entrenches the commitment they had expressed. He drives it home? How?

Exodus 24:5-8. "And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood, and put [it] in basins; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient. And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled [it] on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words."

They were awestruck at the demonstration of God's glory. Animals were slain, blood was sprinkled at their commitment. It was a vow, a serious relationship with God.

Deut 26:16-18. "This day the LORD thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul. Thou hast avouched the LORD this day to be thy God, and to walk in His ways, and to keep His statutes, and His commandments, and His judgments, and to hearken unto His voice: And the LORD hath avouched thee this day to be His peculiar people, as He hath promised thee, and that [thou] shouldst keep all His commandments."

Many people in Christian circles do not regard the old covenant relevant today...

What have they done? They have avouched. Another word is vowed. A solemnly promise. This is unequivocal. This is no variation. It is firmly entrenched and put in to place. God has placed His laws before the sinner, and has said to them, this is what will make you great, this will give you a future. They want that, of course. With the fear of God before them, they make that

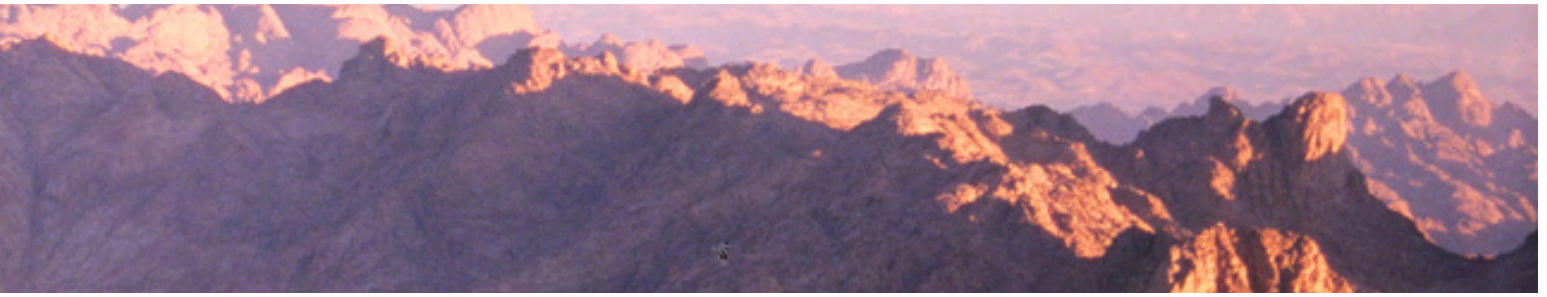
solemn statement.

Many people in Christian circles do not regard the old covenant relevant today because they have come up with a false interpretation of Scriptures.

The covenant that God made with His people at Sinai is to be our refuge and defense... This covenant is of just as much force today as it was when the Lord made it with ancient Israel. This is the pledge that God's people are to make in these last days. Their acceptance with God depends on a faithful fulfillment of the terms of their agreement with Him. God includes in His covenant all who will obey Him. To all who will do justice and judgment, keeping their hand from doing any evil, the promise is, "Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off." (Isa. 56:5). {AG 142.3}

Can we see clearly there is no alteration? The solemn trembling submission to those Ten Commandments and to all of God's statutes are to be solemnly agreed with. We are to take hold of those principles. We have it in the words of Jesus. Remember when He was asked what must one do to have eternal life by the rich young ruler? What did Jesus say? Keep the commandments. This is how you're going to have eternal life. With all your heart and soul are we to engage with God.

Luke 10:25-28. And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, 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 neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.



Onthesetwocommandmentshangallthelaw.

Without any deviation of understanding, this is reality. This was and is and always will be the way of eternal life for the sinner who has not done these things, who has been redeemed by God's mighty hand from captivity. When a sinner feels that he is gagged as he has sinned already, he feels like this.

Ezekiel 33:12. "The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his [righteousness] in the day that he sinneth."

It is very vivid then that the turning away from disobedience from breaking those Ten Commandments or any of God's laws requires us to turn away from doing that. We must follow those statutes. This is man's part in gaining salvation. This is man's part of the equation. Remember when we read it? We'll be working out our own salvation with fear and trembling. This side of the equation is ours, to put away wrong and to keep the commandments. There is no other way.

As this is man's part of the equation, how do you succeed? How did the children of Israel succeed? They said yes, everything God has said we'll do. We know the story so well. In one simple statement, God puts this across in a heart-broken approach.

Jeremiah 31:32. "Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day [that] I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD."

Here is the most humiliating experience that meets every sinner. Like the children of Israel, they make a solemn vow. They

confess very solemnly, yes. It was confirmed with the sprinkling of blood and the death of an animal so solemnly entered into. Now the human pride and intensity of trying to keep those laws has been totally shattered. They have not kept that as promised.

Look back at your life, was there ever a time where you promised you would keep those commandments? And you vowed to God that you were going to keep them? Those that are baptised have made such a vow. Then comes the shattering of reality, that I have failed. There are many a people who become totally discouraged and think they're never going to make it as they have ruined their sense of proprietary and honour by blatantly doing the opposite of what they were going to do. Does God turn his back on them? Like as a father pitieth his children... Did you notice God is ever so merciful? He looks upon the people who have made Him a promise and doesn't despair.

Psalm 103:8-14. "The LORD [is] merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep [his anger] for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, [so] great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, [so] far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth [his] children, [so] the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we [are] dust."

Indeed, God does not cast us off because He remembers what we're made of. He remembers our condition. He knows it. So like a pitying father, He finds another way. What does He do with our broken vow and covenant that was so solemnly made?

Jeremiah 31:31-33. "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new

covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day [that] I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this [shall be] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people."

The covenant that we made, broken as it is, God makes another covenant with the people who have broken their covenant. What an amazing story when you let it sink into your heart. "I've absolutely disgraced myself, I'm devastated, I'm lost! Because I've broken my vow." God says, right, I'm going to make another with you. This time, this covenant sounds different.

Hebrews 8:6-8. "But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first [covenant] had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah."

Was it faultless? It was faulty. That's why He had to have a second one. Where did the fault lie? Finding fault with them. What did they do? What do we do? We promise. But God is going to make a covenant built on better promises than that. The faultiness of the previous covenant is in us. He knows we're children of dust and that He can't rely on those promises. But the promise must be made.

Hebrews 8:9. "Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to

lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.”

The better covenant, better promises. To ratify, to make that new covenant of better promises become an entrenched, embedded appreciation in the believer. What did God do in reference to that better covenant?

Hebrews 9:13-15. “For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions [that were] under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.”

**There are a lot of sinners out there who think Jesus simply died for their sins and that was it.**

He looks back at that sprinkling of the blood that ratified the first covenant that was built upon man’s promises. There are a lot of sinners out there who think Jesus simply died for their sins and that was it. What did Jesus die for? He died for the redemption of transgressions under the FIRST testament.

What was the first testament? I will keep those commandments. Now that I have failed miserably, what does it require? I have transgressed that solemn vow. As my conscience is struck by my weakness, my absolute shortfall, I see Jesus dying for that very transgression. Is this a better covenant when your conscious is purged no longer by the death of animals and your own promises? But by the death of Jesus for the transgression of my failed vows and my mistaken activities. So contrary to what I really wanted.

What did Jesus die for? For the transgressions after I made the agreement. That’s what He died for. That really drives the point home. Here we behold a two-fold sense of responsibility.

1. The fear of breaking my promise and then failing, the fear of doing it again.

2. The fear of despising God’s immense sacrifice. There is a two-fold activity in the two covenants God has laid out before us.

Listen to the immense sacrifice it took to release me from the transgressions of my promises.

The cup of suffering was placed in his hand as if he were the guilty one. He bore the sin of the world to the bitter end. MR 369:3.

Think, this is the immense sacrifice that it took to relieve us of our broken promises.

Romans 2:4. “Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”

It purges my conscience. My promise, honour and failure. A deep sacrifice of Jesus, His loving kindness and goodness leads me to repentance. It leads me to deal with my problem of sin breaking. I won’t ever want to break the commandment again. I’ve broken the covenant. I’m going to try to not break it. I need a firm decision. Can you see the fear that comes in now? The fear of despising the sacrifice? It leads me to repentance. What is true repentance? This is something that this two-fold covenant is going to achieve.

2 Corinthians 7:10-11. “For Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a Godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, [what] clearing of yourselves, yea, [what] indignation, yea, [what] fear, yea, [what] vehement desire, yea, [what] zeal, yea, [what] revenge! In all [things] ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”

True repentance is when we have violated that covenant and we feel so crushed because we’ve done so. Then the second covenant comes into focus that Jesus has died for that. What feelings of resentment come inside of you because of your sinfulness? How careful will I be in the future, I can’t continue to do this in future any more. It is a Godly sorrow. What clearing of yourselves. What indignation. When Nathan asked King David about this man that was wrong, and he brought

it to his conscience, David was indignant, he said, he deserves to die. Nathan said, you are that man. What fear, but Jesus died for me. It’s overwhelming. I have a vehement desire. He has done something so wonderful for me. I am going to make a difference in my life. Work out my own salvation with fear and trembling, I don’t want to break this thing again. What revenge, what zeal. He works in us a great zeal. That’s what God does with us. This is true repentance. Here is the working of the new covenant, in cohesion with the old; if you don’t have the old covenant in your experience you don’t have the new. One is needed in conjunction with the other.

2 Corinthians 3:3. “[Forasmuch as ye are] manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart.”

Can you see the function of the two covenants? The broken covenant is brought into function with the covenant of Jesus Christ. The conscience is purged through the activity of the first so the second becomes entrenched. The tables of stone I promised to keep is now written through the purging sense of Jesus dying for my broken promises. It’s written into my heart. That’s the new covenant in conjunction with the old. It goes hand in hand. It can’t function without the two. This activity of salvation is ongoing. A conscience wrought by intense commitment of the old covenant, a discovery of failure and a surrender to the new. A deepening repentance. Notice what vehement desire and repentance was engendered by the love of God in Jesus dying for the transgression of the covenant.

All our good works are dependent on a power outside of ourselves. Therefore there needs to be a continual reaching out of the heart after God, a continual, earnest, heartbreaking confession of sin and humbling of the soul before Him. Only by constant renunciation of self and dependence on Christ can we walk safely. {COL 159.4} The nearer we come to Jesus and the more clearly we discern the purity of His character, the more clearly we shall discern the exceeding sinfulness of sin and the less we shall feel like exalting ourselves. Those whom heaven recognizes as holy ones are the last to



parade their own goodness. The apostle Peter became a faithful minister of Christ, and he was greatly honored with divine light and power; he had an active part in the upbuilding of Christ's church; but Peter never forgot the fearful experience of his humiliation; his sin was forgiven; yet well he knew that for the weakness of character which had caused his fall only the grace of Christ could avail. He found in himself nothing in which to glory. {COL 160.1}

As we keep on going with the promises we have made and the failures we have engaged in, we keep coming to the cross saying, Lord be merciful to me. The repentance deepens by heart breaking confession of sin. Only by constant renunciation of self and dependence on Christ can we walk safely. The two come hand in hand.

You can't make anyone do it. It can only be through the understanding of both covenants. You can't make someone humble himself. We often do it among human beings. Someone has really violated the law of God in the church. We come and up say, what did you do that for? You know we have to censure you now? What goes on in the heart of a person who does that? When you've broken your promise, Jesus had to die for that. It goes deeper than just Him dying for it. He bore the sin of the world to the bitter end. If you lose sight of Jesus you'll keep on sinning. But you will be determined with revenge upon your sinfulness. We will resist these terrible things by keeping our eyes on the two covenant activities.

Isaiah 56:1 "Thus saith the Lord, keep ye judgement, and do justice for my salvation is near to come and my righteousness to be revealed."

What must we do? We must be faithful in the old covenant we make with God. We keep on doing what is right irrespective of our failures. I must continue to do it. I can't succeed perfectly, my repentance becomes deeper and deeper. As that continues to permeate and purge my conscious, there comes a point in time where God's righteousness will be manifest in His people. That's the process.

TDG page 344:2. "You have the fear of God before and you will have a trembling lest you depart from the counsels of God."

You tremble, I know I've failed before, help me Lord. You will be working out your own salvation with fear and trembling all the time. Here are God's works, and here are man's works. They both co-operate.

TDG page 167. "Everyone of us has a work to do in our own salvation. Which is to meet every requirement of God. God does not do anything independent of him..."

You can't separate this to obey every command. The ongoing process of firm resolute decision and of fear lest I fall back into breaking my covenant again, and a firm reliance upon God's sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This is the ongoing exercise. My vehemence over my failures deepens and I cast myself more heavily upon God's sustaining strength. This is the fear and trembling.

OHC page 91. "What does this mean? It means that everyday you are to distrust your own human efforts and wisdom, you are to fear to speak at random, you are to fear to follow your own impulses. Fear the pride of heart and the love of the world."

Fear that the new covenant is not going to happen in your life. Fear that. Watch closely to keep your promise of keeping those laws. And if you fail, rely on the grace of Jesus. Fear to rely on the slightest human power. Only follow the decision, the will. Don't rely upon your human effort.

AG page 302. "But those who are waiting to behold a magical change in their characters without determined effort on their part to overcome sin, will be disappointed. We have no reason to fear while looking to Jesus, no reason to doubt but that He is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto Him; but we may constantly fear lest our old nature will again obtain the supremacy, that the enemy shall devise some snare whereby we shall again become his captives."

The old nature is not being totally destroyed. It's the flesh, it's still there. All our memories of all our past ways of living, we may fear that this should take the supremacy, that the enemy should devise that we should become his captives again.

Very vividly this co-partnership experience is described in the two covenants. Man's effort and God's power.

The work of gaining salvation is one of co partnership, a joint operation. There is to be cooperation between God and the repentant sinner. This is necessary for the formation of right principles in the character. Man is to make earnest efforts to overcome that which hinders him from attaining to perfection. But he is wholly dependent upon God for success. Human effort of itself is not sufficient. Without the aid of divine power it avails nothing. God works and man works. Resistance of temptation must come from man, who must draw his power from God. On the one side there is infinite wisdom, compassion, and power; on the other, weakness, sinfulness, absolute helplessness. {AA 482.2}

Unless you have the old covenant experience, you don't recognise that. Unless you see the power of the cross of Jesus Christ in dying for the remission of the transgression of your broken promises, you can't appreciate the power of God. How does God interact with us in this work? How does He propose to bring us to these exercises. It will shock you.

While the Lord is working with us, we must be working for ourselves. When the Lord sends His servants to us with reproof, with cautions, with warnings, we are not to turn away and refuse to receive the message because it does not come from learned men. We are not to say, This message is not needed. Every message sent to you by God's messenger is for your good, to teach you the way of salvation more perfectly. What means has God to communicate His will to men, unless it be through His delegated messengers? And are you not afraid to select that portion of the message that pleases you, and reject that which crosses your track? {TDG 167.3}

It is human to reject things that don't suit us. Because of the two covenants that God has enacted, he has sent messages to make the expectations of God vivid to my mind. I'm brought deeper and deeper into repentance. If I reject God's messengers, where am I going to go?

Let us thank God for the revelation of His grace, thank God for the two covenant exercises, and the measure by which He has helped us to be saved. Let us take of hold it with the whole heart and the whole soul. **AMEN.**

*Transcribed sermon by John Thiel*

## Introduction

The steadfastness of the man of God in ages past was so great, as it appears impossible for us today to walk as they did. It is not because we have no knowledge of what is expected of us, nor lack a pure source from which to be refreshed, but because the fallen state of man is so imperfect that it requires an infinite effort to put right the wrong in us.

In the commission to His disciples, Christ not only outlined their work, but gave them their message. "Teach the people", He said, "to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." The disciples were to teach what Christ had taught. That which He had spoken, not only in person, but through all the prophets and teachers of the Old Testament. There is no place for tradition, for man's theories and conclusions, or for church legislation. No laws ordained by ecclesiastical authority are included in the commission. Christ's servants are not to teach the traditions of man. "The law and the prophets," with the record of His own words and deeds, are the treasure committed to the disciples to be given to the world. Christ's name is their watchword, their badge of distinction, their bond of union, the authority for their course of action, and the source of their success. Nothing that does not bear His superscription is to be recognized in His kingdom. {DA 826.}

### An Infinite System

God has employed varied means to reach man in varied generations to date, in communing with His people. The angels, prophets, Jesus [Emmanuel], favored human beings, the Spirit, God's utterances in His law etc, have delivered God's messages to effect an intended purpose with a view of harmonizing the earthly government with the heavenly. Noting that God's government is founded on His holy law, it would be worthy to denote that among the agencies employed, it has been before creation and, 'It is to be preserved through the eternal ages, immutable as the principles of His government.' CT P. 248

"Adam and Eve persuaded themselves that in so small a matter as eating of the forbidden fruit, there could not result such terrible consequences as God had declared. But this small matter was sin, the transgression of God's immutable and holy law, and it opened the flood-gates of death and untold woe upon our world. Age after age there has gone up from our earth a continual cry of mourning, and the whole creation groaneth and travaileth together in pain as a consequence of man's disobedience. Heaven itself has felt the effects of his rebellion against God. Calvary stands as a memorial of the amazing sacrifice required as a propitiation for the transgression of the divine law." {RH, March 27, 1888 par. 8}

Many have tried and are striving to live with the determination not to repeat the mistake of our first parents; but they have instead done the very opposite of what is required. They are about to fill the cup of iniquity that will provoke God's wrath on the disobedient earth. About 4000 years ago, God exercised His power in commanding water to cleanse the filthiness of every kind that was on the face of the earth because of laying aside the immutable law and putting a similitude in its place. It is for this reason that the Lord has sworn saying: "Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, [yet] will I not hear them." Ezekiel 8:18

"WE HAVE  
A LAW..."



## The Vital Lesson

In ancient times, men of God were determined to maintain the true identity of the law. It was the patriarch's guide in combating with the evils then present. "By Samuel the schools of the prophets were established to serve as a barrier against the widespread corruption resulting from the iniquitous course of Eli's sons, and to promote the moral and spiritual welfare of the people. These schools proved a great blessing to Israel, promoting that righteousness which exalteth a nation, and furnishing it with men qualified to act, in the fear of God, as leaders and counselors. In the accomplishment of this object, Samuel gathered companies of young men who were pious, intelligent and studious. These were called the sons of the prophets. The instructors were men not only versed in divine truth, but those who had themselves enjoyed communion with God, and had received the special endowment of His Spirit. They enjoyed the respect and confidence of the people, both for learning and piety." {FE 96}

"The chief subjects of study were the law of God with the instructions given to Moses, sacred history, sacred music, and poetry. It was the grand object of all study to learn the will of God and the duties of His people. In the records of sacred history were traced the footsteps of Jehovah. From the events of the past were drawn lessons of instruction for the future. The great truths set forth by the types and shadows of the Mosaic law were brought to view, and faith grasped the central object of all that system, the Lamb of God that was to take away the sins of the world." {FE 97.}

## Unseen And Unfelt Deviation

"In the days of Christ the town or city that did not provide for the religious instruction of the young was regarded as under the curse of God. Yet the teaching had become formal. Tradition had in a great degree supplanted the Scriptures. True education would lead the youth to "seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him." Acts 17:27. But the Jewish teachers gave their attention to matters of ceremony. The mind was crowded with material that was worthless to the learner, and that would not be recognized in the higher school of the courts above. The

experience which is obtained through a personal acceptance of God's word had no place in the educational system. Absorbed in the round of externals, the students found no quiet hours to spend with God. They did not hear His voice speaking to the heart. In their search after knowledge, they turned away from the Source of wisdom. The great essentials of the service of God were neglected. The principles of the law were obscured. That which was regarded as superior education was the greatest hindrance to real development. Under the training of the rabbis the powers of the youth were repressed. Their minds became cramped and narrow." {DA 69.}

"Jesus did not come into the world to lessen the dignity of the law, but to exalt it. The Jews had perverted it by their prejudices and misconceptions. Their meaningless exactions and requirements had become a by-word among the people of other nations. Especially was the Sabbath hedged in by all manner of senseless restrictions. It could not then be called a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; for the scribes and the Pharisees had made its observance a galling yoke. A Jew was not allowed to light a fire upon the Sabbath, nor even to light a candle upon that day. The views of the people were so narrow that they had become *slaves to their own useless regulations*. As a consequence, they were dependent upon the Gentiles for many services which their rules forbade them to do for themselves." {GCB, March 5, 1895 par. 14}

The Jews certainly assert to this fact when in response to Pilate they answered saying, "We have a law, and by our law he ought to die..." John 19:7. The Jews daily rehearsed the law which they purported to keep as was written in Exodus 20:13, "Thou shalt not kill." In their first response to Pilate, they quoted the law that was their only safeguard as long as they remained true to it. "Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death:" John 18:31.

## A Degenerate Age

"The Lord designs to warn you, to reprove, to counsel, through the testimonies given, and to impress your minds with the importance of the truth of His word. The written testimonies are not to give new light, but to impress vividly upon the heart

the truths of inspiration already revealed. Man's duty to God and to his fellow man has been distinctly specified in God's word, yet but few of you are obedient to the light given. Additional truth is not brought out; but God has through the Testimonies simplified the great truths already given and in His own chosen way brought them before the people to awaken and impress the mind with them, that all may be left without excuse." {5T 665.}

"In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the testimonies of His Spirit. There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will and the course that He would have them pursue." {5T 66.}

The promise of God's people in the past as well as today is the same as the chorus that sounded in the Israelite camp after Moses had delivered the message he received from God for the people, "...All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD." Exodus 19:8.

However later the people raised their voices saying, "... This is an hard saying; who can hear it?" John 6:60. And with this view, they chose an alternative way. "Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where [is] the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk [therein]." Jeremiah 6:16. Nevertheless, did they remain doing nothing? No! But had a suitable substitute which they made known as "...We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: *only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.*" Isaiah 4:1.

In His (Jesus) testimony, Christ has expressly revealed that "'I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever." John 6:51. Our Saviour is the Bread of Life, and it is by beholding His love, by receiving it into the soul, that we feed upon the bread which came down from heaven." {MB 112}. Christ gives us a divine apparel, "The white raiment is the righteousness of Christ, the wedding garment which Christ alone can give". {7BC 965} but in which many are seeking to "wear our own apparel".

## Current Negating Reflections

Has men's attitude changed over the ages down to the current one? Are we free from complaints of being overly strict? Whatever your answer would be, inspiration has noted with dismay "...how is that law disregarded! Behold the world today in open rebellion against God. This is in truth a froward generation, filled with ingratitude, formalism, insincerity, pride, and apostasy. Men neglect the Bible and hate truth. Jesus sees His law rejected, His love despised, His ambassadors treated with indifference. He has spoken by His mercies, but these have been unacknowledged; He has spoken by warnings, but these have been unheeded. The temple courts of the human soul have been turned into places of unholy traffic. Selfishness, envy, pride, malice-- all are cherished." {PK 185.}

"But today in the religious world there are multitudes who, as they believe, are working for the establishment of the kingdom of Christ as an earthly and temporal dominion. They desire to make our Lord the ruler of the kingdoms of this world, the ruler in its courts and camps, its legislative halls, its palaces and market places. They expect Him to rule through legal enactments, enforced by human authority. Since Christ is not now here in person, they themselves will undertake to act in His stead, to execute the laws of His kingdom. The establishment of such a kingdom is what the Jews desired in the days of Christ. They would have received Jesus, had He been willing to establish a temporal dominion, to enforce what they regarded as the laws of God, and to make them the expositors of His will and the agents of His authority." {DA 509.}

"The end of all things is at hand. The Lord is soon coming. Already His judgments are abroad in our land. We are not only to talk of Christ's coming, but in every action we are to reveal the fact that He is soon to be manifested in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Have we the wedding garment on? Have we personal piety? Have we cooperated with divine agencies in a wholehearted, unreserved manner, in weaving into our life's practices the divine principles of God's holy law? It is one thing to talk the law, and it is another thing entirely to practice it. It is the doers of the law that shall be justified before God; for those who do the law represent

the character of God, and lie not against the truth. {TM 187.}

"The Holy One has given rules for the guidance of every soul so that no one need miss his way. These directions mean everything to us; for they form the standard to which every son and daughter of Adam must conform. We can not turn aside from any of these divine rules, and be found guiltless. We are required to make the will of God paramount in our lives, and to have the faith that works by love and purifies the soul. I would warn you to keep from the dangerous ground on which your feet would naturally be inclined to stray..." {OHC 206.}

"Through His servants, God gave the Jewish people a last opportunity to repent. "He manifested Himself through His witnesses in their arrest, in their trial, and in their imprisonment. Yet their judges pronounced on them the death sentence. They were men of whom the world was not worthy, and by killing them the Jews crucified afresh the Son of God. So it will be again. The authorities will make laws to restrict religious liberty. They will assume the right that is God's alone. They will think they can force the conscience, which God alone should control. Even now they are making a beginning; this work they will continue to carry forward till they reach a boundary over which they cannot step. God will interpose in behalf of His loyal, commandment-keeping people." {DA 630.}

Dear reader, remember this saying, "The thing that hath been, it [is that] which shall be; and that which is done [is] that which shall be done: and [there is] no new [thing] under the sun." Ecclesiastes 1:9.

People are considering to have a more modern law than the ancient Decalogue. But we are secure in what we know as the divine law of liberty. May the Lord help us discover "the mysteries of God" that are revealed to us that we may know Him as He is and to know His perfect law. *Amen.*

*John Riang'a Obwocha.*



Br. Alberto With  
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# PROSPERITY



Prosperity is something that most people are working towards and hoping to gain. Even professed Christians want to have a comfortable life and financial security. Rather than depend on God's providence they want to depend on money in the bank and insurance policies. Luxury items in the home and a life of pleasure and ease are very appealing to the human nature.

But there is a great danger in prosperity. Many faithful children of God who gained prosperity in their lives lost their faith and dependence on God.

David was very faithful to God in the days of his youth. When he was persecuted and had to flee for his life he trusted in God's help and wrote many wonderful psalms.

But then when he had become a great king and was surrounded with luxury and prosperity he fell into sin. The praise and flattery had their effects on him that he forgot God and became self-trusting.

"But in the midst of prosperity lurked danger. In the time of his greatest outward triumph David was in the greatest peril, and met his most humiliating defeat." PP 716.

Solomon was faithful to God and upright in his heart. God blessed him with riches and power, and many years he walked uprightly before God. But then his prosperity was a snare to him.

"Solomon, under all his honours, walked wisely and firmly in the counsels of God for a considerable time; but he was overcome at length by temptations that came through his prosperity. He had lived luxuriously from his youth. His appetite had been gratified with the most delicate and expensive dainties. The effects of this luxurious living, and the free use of wine, finally clouded his intellect, and caused him to depart from God." BC 2, p. 1033

Sister White writes a counsel to a brother in the church who had prosperity in his life. "It is when you are prospered, when all men speak well of you, that you are in danger. Be on your guard, for you will be tried. My greatest fear for you has been that you should have too great prosperity, and you would fail to learn that your dependence is alone upon God. You have been placed in a position of great trust and honour, and there has been danger of your becoming dizzy and forgetting your dependence upon God." Test. Vol. 8, p. 124.

Not only riches and money are signs of prosperity, but also a position or an office in the church can make a person proud and independent.

"There are many men whom God could have used with wonderful success when pressed with poverty,--He could have made glory hereafter,--but prosperity ruined them, they were dragged down to the pit because they forgot to be humble, forgot that God was their strength, and became independent and self-sufficient." Test. Vol. 4, p. 544.

"Money was power among the foolish of earth, and money was their God; but their very prosperity has destroyed them. They became fools in the eyes of God and His heavenly angels, while men of worldly ambition thought them wise. Now their supposed wisdom is all foolishness, and their prosperity their destruction." Test. Vol. 2, p. 42.

“Multitudes who are prosperous in the world, and who never stoop to the common forms of vice, are yet brought to destruction through the love of riches. The cup most difficult to carry is not the cup that is empty, but the cup that is full to the brim. It is this that needs to be most carefully balanced. Affliction and adversity bring disappointment and sorrow; but it is prosperity that is most dangerous to spiritual life.” MH 212.

“In the history of men we learn how dangerous is prosperity. It is not the men who have lost their money and their property who are in the greatest danger, but those who have obtained a fortune and are placed in a high position. These need careful, earnest labour. Adversity may depress, but prosperity elevates to presumption.” *Evang*, p. 561.

These testimonies of the Spirit of Prophecy are clear. They show us the great danger of prosperity. Yet even most of the professed Christians are seeking and dreaming of worldly prosperity, thinking that it would give them a happy life and security.

When Jesus sent His disciples on a mission journey, He said to them, “Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves. Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes.” Luke 10:3, 4

Later He asked of His disciples, “When I sent you without purse, and script, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.” Luke 22:35.

Jesus was teaching His disciples to depend on God to provide their needs, and this is a lesson that we also must learn. The life of Jesus shows us how God provides for His people all their necessities. He had no worldly riches, and no possessions, yet He was provided for while helping others.

Yet we find men in history who were prosperous and remained faithful to God and also remained humble.

Joseph trusted in God and depended on Him for his needs. “And his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand.” Gen. 39:3.

Even when he was exalted to the position of Prime Minister of Egypt he did not become

proud, nor forget his God.

Abraham was wealthy and remained faithful, trusting in God for guidance and protection.

Job had great possessions and yet remained righteous before God. Even when he lost it all he did not complain.

Few people have been able to remain faithful, depending on God and humble while having prosperity. Money is a talent that we need to use wisely to the honour of God.

Jesus spoke about a rich man whose ground brought a great harvest and did not know where to store his fruits. “And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, “Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall these things be, which thou hast provided? So is

he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” Luke 12: 18-21.

“Then said Jesus unto His disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.” Matt. 19: 23, 24.

Before we start dreaming about prosperity and working towards it, let us consider the dangers that it may bring upon us. And if we have gained riches let us use them wisely to support the work of God, and the entrusted talent to our care will not bring a curse upon us but a blessing. The bank of heaven will yield the highest interest to our investment. **AMEN.**

*Timo Martin, Canada*



Br. & Sis. Parks With Br. Loyd In Toronto, Canada



*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17*

### Identity

We are living in an “identity crisis” in a sensitive, insecure world. It seems that when the question, “Are you a Christian?” is posed, it portends of “profiling,” which is developing into a taboo word in social circles.

Firstly, what is the meaning of “Christian?” Well, it has many and diverse meanings, perhaps, many misunderstandings, and erroneous ideas associated with it. You see, it is not a creed or philosophy. For many, today, many are asking not so much whether Christianity is true, but is it real? Furthermore, they ask, “does it have any real worth in my actual life?” However many Christians today, or rather the average Christian says, “Well, yes I am saved.” If so, then where are the fruits? Where are the characteristics in you that reflect the image of Jesus Christ, and that He has taught us to expect in a “Christian?” Think for a moment in what way are we different from others? Are we a copy of their aggressiveness and quest for ambitious goals in life; unscrupulous, driving hard bargains (GR ‘bazarri’) just like they are? Actually, “many Christians are living for the world.” MYP 374

### Salt, Light, Fountain

“There are many classes of Christians today, but for simple clarity, a Christian is in essence, a Christlike person, a follower of Christ, a representative of Christ, the “salt” of the earth, the “light” of the world, “living fountain;” those who labor only to please God, who live a life of sobriety, humility, and holiness, never complain that Christ’s yoke is galling, possess the missionary spirit, make God first, and last and best in everything.” (2T 549; MYP 346; 5T386; PK68)

### Delicate System

We could go on and on as to what we need or ought to be as Christ’s followers. Even so many believers need to know and learn what it is to be a Christian. Prior to the adoption of the name, “Christian,” Christians called themselves believers (Acts 5:14), brothers (Acts 6:3), or saints (Acts 9:13), names that continue to be used today. In fact, presently in Greece, a common greeting between two Christians is responded by, “Praise the Lord.” (GR doxa ton Theo). Christianity, furthermore, is: “a system, for every day and every place, inwrought with Christ’s life, and not just a belief laid aside when convenient.” (GC47; 4T 494; 4T 190). Remember, when Paul was before the governor, Felix, “hearing him concerning faith in Jesus, and he reasoned of righteousness, self-control, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and

answered, go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.” (Acts23:24, 25)

Christianity is superbly unique among all the religions of the world. Most of them emphasize the life of the founder, but Christianity is based on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The death of Jesus is unique, also, for it was prophesied in the opening pages of the Bible (Genesis 5) and came to pass in the New Testament age thousands of years later.

In addition, the Christian religion, based on Jesus Christ being the central point—the crucified Messiah, the only Saviour and Mediator between God the Father and sinful humankind, is “the Creator and author of Christianity, the crown and glory of man’s life here, and is designed to write God’s law in the mind and heart.” (FE 375; 2SM 253; SD 50)

### Angelic Suffering

“Early Christianity, the first or primitive Christianity, however, passed through many cruel trials. They were persecuted and accused by Nero for the burning of Rome, condemned as foes of religion, pests to society, and rebels against the Roman Empire. They were thrown to the arena to be torn by wild dogs and lions; covered with skins of wild animals by the persecutors and eaten by wild beasts! This was a ghastly form of punishment which

served as entertainment at public fetes. Great numbers of Christians, also, were burned alive in the amphitheaters, and furthermore, crucified by pagans. Others were left in dungeons to die from cold, hunger, and torture. Many others were exiled to life in the mountains, and deserts, or forced to live in heathen lands, or desolate and solitary places. Thousands more found shelter in the catacombs of Rome. Countless others were hunted like beasts of prey by their enemies; which persecution drew the Christians nearer to Christ and to each other. Many Christians who passed through such severe trials felt the power of truth. In fact, the world's salvation or loss depended on them, because of their fidelity to principle. Although few in number, they were a peculiar people, poor, without honor, position, or wealth, scattered from Jerusalem, and persecuted by unbelieving Jews; but a terror to evildoers. They rejoiced when counted worthy to suffer for Christ, and as such their unselfish labors should inspire us" (GC 39-48; 5T 239-40; AA 103-106)

### **Apostates**

"In spite of this great suffering and persecution of the early Christians, which is an example of those Christians for us in suffering for Christ's sake, and should inspire us, there was a great apostasy among the early first century Christians who united with their half-pagan companions. These apostates warred against the essential doctrines of Christ. Although there was a mighty influence exerted by the early Christians, there was also a great opposition of the apostate Christians against the faithful Christians in the first centuries; namely, the persecutions came from the unbelieving Jews." (DA 629; AA 487; 5T 213)

### **Professed Christians**

Whether apostate or not there are many distinctions to discern. Many Christians use the name Christian as a name of honor, and not of shame, and many Christians are Christians because Christianity is considered honorable. The mere profession of faith, or having one's name on the Church books, but living for this life only, however, does not make one a Christian. Many do not have a true conversion, but only a superficial one, and are Christians in name only. These are the professed Christians

who are seen everywhere. Their profession of Christianity is nothing in God's sight.

### **No Salt**

"Professed Christians appearing gloomy do not have the genuine article of religion (living in the book of Lamentations). They are unceasingly gathering up gloom and sadness, which falsely represents God and Christianity. They are asleep in blindness, a sleepy indolence which Satan uses, and who make no advancement in knowledge and piety. They fail to exercise their God-given powers, and fail to grow up in Christ ("My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Hos. 4:6) Being destitute of wisdom from above, they're unprepared to meet fierce conflicts awaiting the church.

"They reject the Sabbath truth, are fruitless, rough in manners and influence, always hungering for something new and diverse, live a dwarfed and sickly existence, slothful--which hinders those who would move out in God's work, unfaithful as God's stewards, whining and complaining constantly, and indifferent to Satan and his work. These Christians are like salt that has lost its savor, and Christians in name only, which are worse than unbelievers. These and many more are a backslidden condition of the Christian, representing the sign of the times."(5T 262-63; GC 309-11; 454-5; 463-64; 508; DA 152-53; 306)

### **Church and World United**

We read from Early Writings, pg, 227, 228, "I saw a very large company professing the name of Christ, but God did not recognize them as His. He had no pleasure in them. Satan seemed to assume a religious character and was very willing that the people should think they were Christians. He was even anxious that they should believe in Jesus, His crucifixion, and His resurrection. Satan and his angels fully believe all this themselves, and tremble. But those who profess it to imitate the self-denying life of Christ, Satan is not disturbed; for they merely assume the Christian name, while their hearts are still carnal, and he can use them in his service even better than if they made no profession. Hiding their deformity under the name of Christian, they pass along with their unsanctified natures and their evil passions unsubdued. This gives occasion for the unbeliever to reproach Christ with their imperfections, and cause

those who do possess pure and undefiled religion to be brought into disrepute."

### **Smooth Gleanings**

The ministers preach smooth things to suit carnal professors. They dare not preach Jesus and the cutting truths of the Bible; for if they should, these carnal professors would not remain in the church. But as many of them are wealthy, they must be retained, although they are no more fit to be there than Satan and his angels. This is just as Satan would have it. The religion of Jesus is made to appear popular and honorable in the eyes of the world. The people are told that those who profess religion will be more honored by the world and be prosperous! Such teachings differ very widely from the teachings of Christ. His doctrine and the world could not be at peace. Those who followed Him had to renounce the world.

These smooth things originated with Satan and his angels. They formed the plan, and nominal professors carried it out. Pleasing fables were taught and readily received, and hypocrites and open sinners united with the church. If the truth had been preached in its purity, it would soon have shut out this class.

### **Bad Scene**

But there was no difference between the professed followers of Christ and the world. I saw that if the false covering had been torn off from the members of the churches, there would have been revealed such iniquity, vileness, and corruption that the most diffident child of God would have had no hesitancy in calling these professed Christians by their right name, children of their father, the devil, for his works they did.

Jesus and all the heavenly host looked with disgust upon the scene; yet God had a message for the church that was sacred and important. If received, it would make a thorough reformation in the church, revive the living testimony that would purge out hypocrites and sinners, and bring the church again into favor with God."

### **Genuine Christian**

"Finally, then, after all of the above, we are brought to that class of Christians where we all seek and aim to reach the highest



attainments for doing good to others, and by so doing we bear fruit – God’s ‘signature.’ If believers are making no practical self-sacrifice for the good of others they are not Christians.”

“A genuine Christian abhors evil, yet cannot be careless, light and trifling with unbelievers, even though the world is a land of strangers and enemies, and we are few. Even so, you cannot withdraw yourselves from others and be a genuine Christian.”

### Character Analysis

Foremost is the element of character. “The character and disposition of a genuine Christian is like Christ’s; being compared to ‘precious stones,’ constantly acknowledging Christ, to copy the pattern given by the Saviour, having the victory over besetments and passions, having sacrifices to make, self-denying, and that persecution will also be the lot of the Christian. Our work, thereby, is to represent Christ in the world. We can be helped in doing this by being holy, having confidence in God, and by resembling Christ most closely in character. We have a humble opinion of self, thinking happy, working for God in all times and all places.”

“Therefore, cling to what is good, do not choose the company of the unconverted – but, keeping company with the ‘soundest’, yet, do not keep as far as possible from souls who most need your help. Be modest in dress with good order and taste, dressing in a manner showing sacred regard for Sabbath and worship of God. Never be unkind, be free from envy or jealousy, being benevolent, control appetite and passions. Do not love the atmosphere surrounding irreligious lives, not having a desire to enter a place of amusement or engage in diversion on which you cannot ask God’s blessing. In addition, not neglecting parents, and standing firm as a rock in testing time.”

“There are Christians in every church; the Roman Church and others not of the SDA faith. But, we cannot harmonize with servants of Satan. In the end, Christ’s act of cursing the barren fig tree is a warning to all.”(MYP 131, 349; 5T 112, 123; AA 576-7; GC 602; Ev 575) (Lk. 21:29-33)

### The Best Test

Consequently, our best brief interpretation and test of a **Christian** is found in the

Bible: “To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” (Isa. 8:20) “By this we know that we love the children of God, and keep his commandments.” (1John 5:3)

Furthermore, the **Test Of Christianity** and religion is: “If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit the fatherless, and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” (James 1:27)

### The Best Rule

The Apostle Paul gives us a pertinent rule for the thinking life of the **Christian** in Philippians 4:8, 9. Have we ever really applied our minds into seriously thinking about this?

“Finally brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”

It is because we will not bring our thoughts into captivity to the obedience of Christ that all our trials and perplexities are produced regarding the ways we think that resemble Christianity. We often base our thinking on principles and doctrines, bits from here or there to agree with certain principles, but the truth, our Lord Jesus Christ is ignored. “Our mind and affections are transformed by Christianity.” (5T 275). May it be so.

### Tender Stop!

There is a story of a young American Indian boy on a bus traveling from Tucson to Phoenix, Arizona. Somewhere in between he fell asleep and missed his stop at his Indian reservation. Having no money to return, and asking the bus driver if he would please return, the driver gruffly and rudely answered, “No, that’s too bad, it’s your problem for not being awake, I won’t do it.” A kindly woman sitting in front of the Indian boy, turned and said, “don’t

worry young man, when we reach Phoenix I will buy you a ticket to return, and see that you get on the right bus back.” The boy sat silently in disbelief. Many minutes elapsed, before the young boy tapped the lady on the shoulder and shyly asked in a whispered tone, “Pardon me ma’am, **are you a Christian?**”

What a testimony! What an example in faith for us! Faith in action! “What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?” (James 2:14, 24)

“God gives us the Holy Spirit not only for holy living but for holy thinking.”

Assuredly, “a Christian is a link in a chain to save the world.” (DA369)

Here is the answer to, “**Are You A Christian?**” *Amen.*

*John Theodorou, U.S.A*



Sis. Reyna Conde,  
Toronto, Canada

## The Message Will Go With Great Power

As the third message swells to a loud cry and as great power and glory attend the closing work, the faithful people of God will partake of that glory. It is the latter rain which revives and strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble. 7BC 984 (1862).

As the end approaches, the testimonies of God's servants will become more decided and more powerful. 3SM 407 (1892).

This message [Rev. 14:9-12] embraces the two preceding messages. It is represented as being given with a loud voice; that is, with the power of the Holy Spirit. 7BC 980 (1900).

As the third angel's message swells into a loud cry, great power and glory will attend its proclamation. The faces of God's people will shine with the light of heaven. 7T 17 (1902).

Amidst the deepening shadows of earth's last great crisis, God's light will shine brightest, and the song of hope and trust will be heard in clearest and loftiest strains. Ed 166 (1903).

As foretold in the eighteenth of Revelation, the third angel's message is to be proclaimed with great power by those who give the final warning against the beast and his image. 8T 118 (1904).

### Like the 1844 Movement

The power which stirred the people so mightily in the 1844 movement will again be revealed. The third angel's message will go forth, not in whispered tones, but with a loud voice. 5T 252 (1885).

I saw that this message will close with power and strength far exceeding the midnight cry.--EW 278 (1858)

### Like the Day of Pentecost

It is with an earnest longing that I look forward to the time when the events of the Day of Pentecost shall be repeated with even greater power than on that occasion. John says, "I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory" [Rev. 18:1]. Then, as at the Pentecostal season, the people will hear the truth spoken to them, every man in his own tongue. 6BC 1055 (1886).

In visions of the night, representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God's people. Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought. A spirit of intercession was seen, even as was manifested before the great Day of Pentecost. 9T 126 (1909).

The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel, are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. . . {LDE 203.1}

Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning



will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. GC 611, 612 (1911).

### God Will Employ Agencies That Will Surprise Us

Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness. TM 300 (1885).

Do not imagine that it will be possible to lay out plans for the future. Let God be acknowledged as standing at the helm at all times and under every circumstance. He will work by means that will be suitable, and will maintain, increase, and build up His own people. CW 71 (1895).

The Comforter is to reveal Himself, not in any specified, precise way that man may mark out, but in the order of God--in unexpected times and ways that will honor His own name. EGW'88 1478 (1896).

He will raise up from among the common people, men and women to do His work, even as of old He called fishermen to be His disciples. There will soon be an awakening that will surprise many. Those who do not realize the necessity of what is to be done will be passed by, and the heavenly messengers will work with those who are called the common people, fitting them to carry the truth to many places. 15MR 312 (1905).

### Laborers Qualified by the Holy Spirit

In the last solemn work few great men will be engaged. . . . God will work a work in our day that but few anticipate. He will raise up and exalt among us those who are taught rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the outward training of scientific

institutions. These facilities are not to be despised or condemned; they are ordained of God, but they can furnish only the exterior qualifications. God will manifest that He is not dependent on learned, self-important mortals. 5T 80, 82 (1882).

To souls that are earnestly seeking for light and that accept with gladness every ray of divine illumination from His holy Word, to such alone light will be given. It is through these souls that God will reveal that light and power which will lighten the whole earth with His glory. 5T 729 (1889).

It is discipline of spirit, cleanness of heart and thought that is needed. This is of more value than brilliant talent, tact, or knowledge. An ordinary mind, trained to obey a "Thus saith the Lord," is better qualified for God's work than are those who have capabilities but do not employ them rightly. RH Nov. 27, 1900. {LDE 205.2}

Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service.

### The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions.

Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the

words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power--all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these. In amazement they hear the testimony that Babylon is the church, fallen because of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from heaven. As the people go to their former teachers with the eager inquiry, **Are these things so?** the ministers present fables, prophesy smooth things, to soothe their fears and quiet the awakened conscience. But since many refuse to be satisfied with the mere authority of men and demand a plain "**Thus saith the Lord,**" the popular ministry, like the Pharisees of old, filled with anger as their authority is questioned, will denounce the message as of Satan and stir up the sin-loving multitudes to revile and persecute those who proclaim it. {GC 606.2}

### God Uses Even the Illiterate

Those who receive Christ as a personal Saviour will stand the test and trial of these last days. Strengthened by unquestioning faith in Christ, even the illiterate disciple will be able to withstand the doubts and questions that infidelity can produce, and put to blush the sophistries of scorners.



{LDE 205.4}

The Lord Jesus will give the disciples a tongue and wisdom that their adversaries can neither gainsay nor resist. Those who could not, by reasoning, overcome satanic delusions will bear an affirmative testimony that will baffle supposedly learned men. Words will come from the lips of the unlearned with such convincing power and wisdom that conversions will be made to the truth. Thousands will be converted under their testimony. {LDE 205.5}

Why should the illiterate man have this power, which the learned man has not? The illiterate one, through faith in Christ, has come into the atmosphere of pure, clear truth, while the learned man has turned away from the truth. The poor man is Christ's witness. He cannot appeal to histories or to so-called high science, but he gathers from the Word of God powerful evidence. The truth that he speaks under the inspiration of the Spirit is so pure and remarkable and carries with it a power so indisputable that his testimony cannot be gainsaid. 8MR 187, 188 (1905).

### Children Proclaim the Message

Many, even among the uneducated, now proclaim the words of the Lord. Children are impelled by the Spirit to go forth and declare the message from heaven. The Spirit is poured out upon all who will yield to its promptings and, casting off all man's machinery, his binding rules and cautious methods, they will declare the truth with the might of the Spirit's power. Ev 700 (1895).

When the heavenly intelligences see that men will no longer present the truth in simplicity as did Jesus, the very children will be moved upon by the Spirit of God and will go forth proclaiming the truth for this time. SW 66 (1895).

### The Ministry of Angels

The angels of heaven are moving upon human minds to arouse investigation in the themes of the Bible. A far greater work will be done than has yet been done and none of the glory of it will flow to men, for angels that minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation are working night and day. CW 140 (1875).

There are many men in our world who are like Cornelius. . . As God worked for Cornelius, so He works for these true standard-bearers. . . They will obtain a knowledge of God as Cornelius did through the visitation of angels from heaven. Letter 197, 1904.

When divine power is combined with human effort, the work will spread like fire in the stubble. God will employ agencies whose origin man will be unable to discern. Angels will do a work which men might have had the blessing of accomplishing had they not neglected to answer the claims of God. ISM 118 (1885).

*Laszlo Honti, Australia*

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### Sample Recipe:

## OAT/WHOLE WHEAT CRACKERS

3 cups rolled oats

½ cup wheat germ

2 tsp. sea salt

1 cup water

2 cups whole wheat flour

½ cup bran

2/3 cup oil (extra virgin

olive or other good oil)

Mix wet and dry ingredients separately, then combine. Divide dough into two. On lightly floured board, roll each piece out to 1/8" thick. Score. Move to oiled cookies sheet. Bake at 350 F. until golden.

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# VEGETARIAN COOKING CLASS & HEALTH SEMINAR

On November 4, 2007, the Hamilton Church enjoyed a tasty and informative cooking demonstration and health seminar.

Bro. Evald Pedersen gave the greetings and opening remarks. He asked the audience to bow their heads for the opening prayer, which was given by Sister Rose Powell. Bro. Evald introduced Pastor Jerry Eaton, who talked about the different types of oils and fats, with their various sources and properties that can be beneficial or destructive to the body. He discussed the benefits of the omega-3 fats that are lacking in our bodies. One of the best sources of omega-3 oil is flax seed. He also discussed the dangers of over indulgence of salt and sugar in our diet. There was interest in his remarks, and he was often asked question. There was also much participation from the twenty-one visitors; some had a bit of knowledge about health, but there were others who were searching for truth.

Sis. Gloria Ferguson was introduced and she did a demonstration with the assistance of Sis. Rose Powell, on how to make homemade bread and vegetarian lasagna. The audience was amazed at how easy and nutritious the dishes were made.

Sis. Wendy Eaton then demonstrated the multi facets of tofu in various dishes. She mentioned the three different forms of textures of the tofu. There are the soft tofu that can be used for making dressings and dips; there is the firm that could be used to make lasagna or pizza, and the extra firm tofu. She demonstrated a tofu spinach quiche and a tofu pizza casserole.

Sis. Franziska Pedersen did nut patties/balls, and listed the ingredients that were placed in the patties. She talked about the crackers she had made, which had approximately six ingredients in them, as compared to the crackers she had investigated in the grocery stores and discovered that the majority of the crackers on the shelves had about thirteen to sixteen ingredients on the boxes, but most of them were chemicals and unknown to her.

Bro. Jerry did a demonstration of his tofu salad dressing made with parsley. He mixed together the ingredients for the French dressing, which consisted of oil, spaghetti sauce, soy powder, salt, lemon juice, paprika, and oregano. He finished his session with a question and answer period on health and diet.

Bro. Evald gave his demonstration on juicing. He placed carrots and celery that was washed and sectioned into the juicer. He mentioned to the audience that vegetable juicing was more agreeable to the stomach than fruits, since fruits tend to be more acidic. He stated that beets are also good to add, but not too much since they work as a cleanser, and a large quantity of beets will purge the system.

We then prepared the table to sample all of the dishes demonstrated and the other dishes that were already prepared by our members. After a prayer by Sis. Maurine, the food was gladly eaten with great compliments from the thirty-three souls at the Hamilton church. We pray that the knowledge and good tasting food will influence those who need a change in their lives, and to continue in this new light they have discovered. *Yours in Christ,*  
*Sis Maurine Gerald*



Br. Pedersen Displays The Art Of The Juicer



Sis. Wendy Eaton



# HEALTH MATTERS: OLIVE OIL



Olive oil, which has been around for thousands of years and is a staple of the Mediterranean diet, has many health benefits. People who regularly consume olive oil as part of a healthy diet live longer and have lower rates of heart disease, stroke, and breast and colon cancers.

Olive oil is a food that contains high levels of healthy monounsaturated fats. Studies have shown that olive oil protects against heart disease by lowering LDL (bad) cholesterol and raising HDL (good) cholesterol. Hardening of the arteries occurs when particles of LDL stuck to the walls of blood vessels. Eventually these particles build up and form plaque. This plaque narrows the blood vessels and increases the workload of the heart in an effort to get oxygenated blood to the entire body. The result can be a heart attack. Olive oil prevents LDL from oxidizing, (in other words, acts as an antioxidant), and thus preventing LDL from sticking to the blood vessels. Because it decreases the stress on the heart, it also has a benefit of lowering blood pressure.

It also has an anticoagulant effect on the

clotting system. The body has less of an opportunity to develop clots. This aids in prevention of strokes. No other food has as high a content of monounsaturated fats as does olive oil.

One of the monounsaturated fats in olive oil, known as oleic acid, has the ability to reduce the ability of a certain gene (called an oncogene) to turn normal cells into cancer cells. This particular oncogene is associated with the rapid growth of breast cancer tumours. Oleic acid was also shown to be beneficial in treating prostate cancers.

Unlike other fats, which are associated with a higher risk of colon cancer, olive oil helps protect the cells of the colon from carcinogens. When cooking with olive oil, it reduced the amount of carcinogenic compounds in the food.

Olive oil is well tolerated by the stomach. In fact, olive oil's protective function has a beneficial effect on ulcers and gastritis. Olive oil activates the secretion of bile and pancreatic hormones more naturally than

prescribed drugs. Consequently, it lowers the incidence of gallstone formation.

A team of scientists found that a substance in olive oil called polyphenols can kill *Helicobacter pylori*, the bacteria that causes most ulcers. Chronic infection with *H. pylori* can also increase the risk of stomach cancer.

Diabetics benefit from the use of olive oil. In combination with a low-fat, high carbohydrate diet, olive oil is superior at controlling blood sugar levels compared to a diet that consists entirely of low-fat meals. Adding olive oil is also linked to lower triglyceride (fat) levels. Many diabetics have high triglyceride levels which put them at risk for heart disease.

These polyphenols also have strong antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects which also promote heart health and helps protect against cancer. Studies have shown that people who consumed about 2 tablespoons of virgin olive oil daily for one week had higher levels of antioxidants (substances which slow down the aging

process) in the blood.

The body uses the healthy fats in olive oil to produce natural anti-inflammatory agents. These agents can help reduce the severity of arthritis and asthma. When cells are not inflamed, the walls of the cell (membrane) are more fluid and are better able to move healthy nutrients into the cells and move waste products out. A lower incidence of osteoporosis and dementia is found in areas where people consume large quantities of olive oil.

A study done on overweight men showed that with no decrease in calories and no change in physical activity, the group who used olive oil instead of oils with saturated fats had lost weight and had a lower body-fat index than the men who ate saturated fats.

### Types of Olive Oil

Extra virgin olive oil—considered the best because it's less processed, comprising the oil from the first pressing of the olives, and has higher quantities of these disease-fighting components, especially the antioxidant, Vitamin E.

Virgin olive oil—from the second pressing.

Pure olive oil—undergoes some processing, such as filtering and refining.

Extra light olive oil—undergoes considerable processing and only retains a very mild olive flavour.

When buying olive oil, you will want to obtain a high quality extra virgin oil. The oil that comes from the first “pressing” of the olive is extracted without using heat (a cold press) or chemicals. The less the olive oil is handled, the closer it is to its natural state, and the less refined, the better the oil. Heat destroys antioxidants, so cold pressed olive oil is the best. Often the bottle will indicate that the oil was “cold pressed.”

Try to avoid “pure” and “light” olive oils. Pure oil is made by adding a little extra virgin olive oil to refined olive oil. Light olive oil is a marketing concept to allow people to think that “light” is more healthy, but it is not a classification of the grade of the oil and its definition is completely unregulated. Often light olive oil is mixed

with other vegetable oils.

In storing olive oil, keep it in a cool, dark place, tightly sealed. Light, air and heat can easily turn olive oil rancid. This destroys the healthy, antioxidant properties of the oil. Therefore, buy your olive oil in darkly tinted bottles if possible.

Extra virgin olive oil is more expensive than other oils, but some foods are worth the extra money, and olive oil is one of them.



# CHRIST OUR PATTERN

*Signs Of The Times, November 12, 1896*

*By Mrs. E. G. White.*

The example of Christ is authoritative for every son and daughter of Adam. His life was the law of God lived and exemplified, a perfect pattern for all humanity, showing what man may become by partaking of the divine nature. Representing as he did the character of God, he was a perfect standard of moral excellence in humanity.

How did the world's Redeemer walk? Not to please himself, but to glorify God, and work the works of him that sent him, in uplifting man, who was formed in the divine image, and by precept and example teaching righteousness.

He did not have a smooth path for his feet to travel. Those who ought to have been co-laborers with him in all his works, were so far separated from God by selfishness that they counteracted the work of Christ. His convenience, his comfort and pleasure, were not studied. He was the Commander of all heaven; yet he was here on earth as one that serves. Uncomplainingly he endured privations, lived the life of a poor man. The luxuries indulged in by many who claim to be sons and daughters of God, he did not bring into his life. He was a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. His whole life was one of self-denial, expressing, "Not my will, but thine be done."

Christ never flattered any man; he never deceived, never defrauded, never changed his course of straightforward righteousness to obtain favor or applause. He ever expressed the truth. The law of kindness was upon his lips; there was no guile in his mouth.

The Son of God so conducted his life that even his unbelieving countrymen were compelled to say, "He hath done all things well." His character was without a flaw. He did not leave the example of a life of idleness and self-indulgence, altho he was heir of all things in heaven and earth, the only-begotten Son of the Father.

Here is where human intelligences have

lost sight of the Pattern. Men, because entrusted with talents of means; follow, not the standard of the character of Christ, but the standard of the world. Because they have abundance of money, houses, and lands, they train their children to a life of idleness and selfish indulgence, making them useless so far as doing good in the world is concerned. By their unwise training, the youth are unfitted in character for the future eternal life. Christ, in his life, gave us altogether a different example; he worked at the carpenter's trade with his father.

Youth are now educated in the belief that it is the possession of plenty of money that gives men value. The sure result is pride and vanity, pleasure-loving, and abundance of idleness. Thus the way is open for Satan to corrupt life and character with his temptations to vice. Sinful practices become common. Whether rich or poor, high or low, Satan finds employment for the youth who are not trained to useful industry, and guarded and barricaded with principle.

Time is not considered as a precious treasure, a trust from God, for which every human being must give an account. Money, too, is entrusted of God to be used, not in needless extravagance by parents to the ruin of their children, but as a means of doing good to their fellow men. Even from their earliest years, as reason develops, the principles of the character of God, as given in his law, should become the rule of life and character.

Christ is our pattern, and those who follow Christ will not walk in darkness; they will not seek their own pleasure. The glory of God will be the standard at which they will unceasingly aim. The two grand precepts of the moral law are to regulate the conduct of all human intelligences: "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." The Lord of heaven demands of us supreme love and worship.

The Lord will work through the human agent if he will unite himself with Christ,

and the record for him in the books of heaven will be, as in the case of Enoch, that he walks with God. Like Enoch, he will have a sense of God's abiding presence. The reason that so large a number of those who profess to be children of God always feel in uncertainty, is because they feel that they are orphans. They do not cultivate the precious assurance that Jesus is the sin-bearer; that altho they have transgressed the law, and are sinners in his sight, yet the object of the incarnation of Christ was to bring to the repenting, believing sinner everlasting peace and assurance. The great Advocate assumed human nature, and became like unto his brethren, to impress upon the human mind that no one who through faith accepts him as a personal Saviour is an orphan, or is left to bear the curse of his own sins. Christians may daily cultivate faith by contemplating the One who has undertaken their cause, their "merciful and faithful High Priest." Having suffered, being tempted, not merely in a few things, but in all things like as we are tempted, he is able to succor all that are tempted. Even now in heaven he is afflicted in all our afflictions, and as a living Saviour he is asking intercession for us.

The human agent is to compare his life with the character of Jesus Christ, and through the grace which he imparts to all true believers, seek to reach the perfection of his example who lived the law of Jehovah.

Christ's testimony of himself was, "I have kept my Father's commandments." Those who follow Christ will be constantly looking into the perfect law of liberty, and through the grace given them by Christ, will fashion their character to meet the divine requirements. The heart must be opened to receive Christ, and abide in him. As the branch is connected with the living vine, a vital union is formed between the parent stalk and the branch, and the same fruit appears on the branch as is seen on the vine. Every faculty of mind and body is to be enlisted in the service of Christ, following his example, and catching his spirit, thus building the character after the divine similitude. Our faith is daily to be exercised, and to increase by exercise in him who has redeemed us, not only because he loved us, but because, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."



# THE JOKE THAT FAILED



CHILDRENS CORNER

“Who’s that man in the front room talking with father?” Sarah asked her mother one day as she entered the house.

“It’s Otis Nichols, an Adventist from Dorchester, Massachusetts. He wants you and Ellen to spend a few days at their home. Two self-appointed preachers are teaching strange doctrines, which have confused and discouraged some of the believers there. He wants them to hear Ellen relate her visions, and if possible put an end to their fanatical teachings.”

When Mr. Nichols returned to his home, Sarah and Ellen went with him. Soon after they arrived, two men, a Mr. Sargent and a Mr. Robbins, called on an errand. When they had finished their business, they said to Mr. Nichols, “We’ll stay overnight if it’s all right with you.”

“Yes, indeed,” Mr. Nichols replied: “come right in; the Harmon sisters are here, and you’ll have a chance to get acquainted with them.”

Mr. Sargent looked at Mr. Robbins, and Mr. Robbins looked at Mr. Sargent. Suddenly they both decided they must hurry back to Boston.

Mr. Nichols was disappointed. “Too bad,” he said, “but you’ll have a chance to meet the sisters in Boston. We’re planning to bring Sister Ellen with us to speak to the company on Sabbath.” When he said Sabbath, he really meant Sunday, for they did not yet understand that Sunday was not the Sabbath.

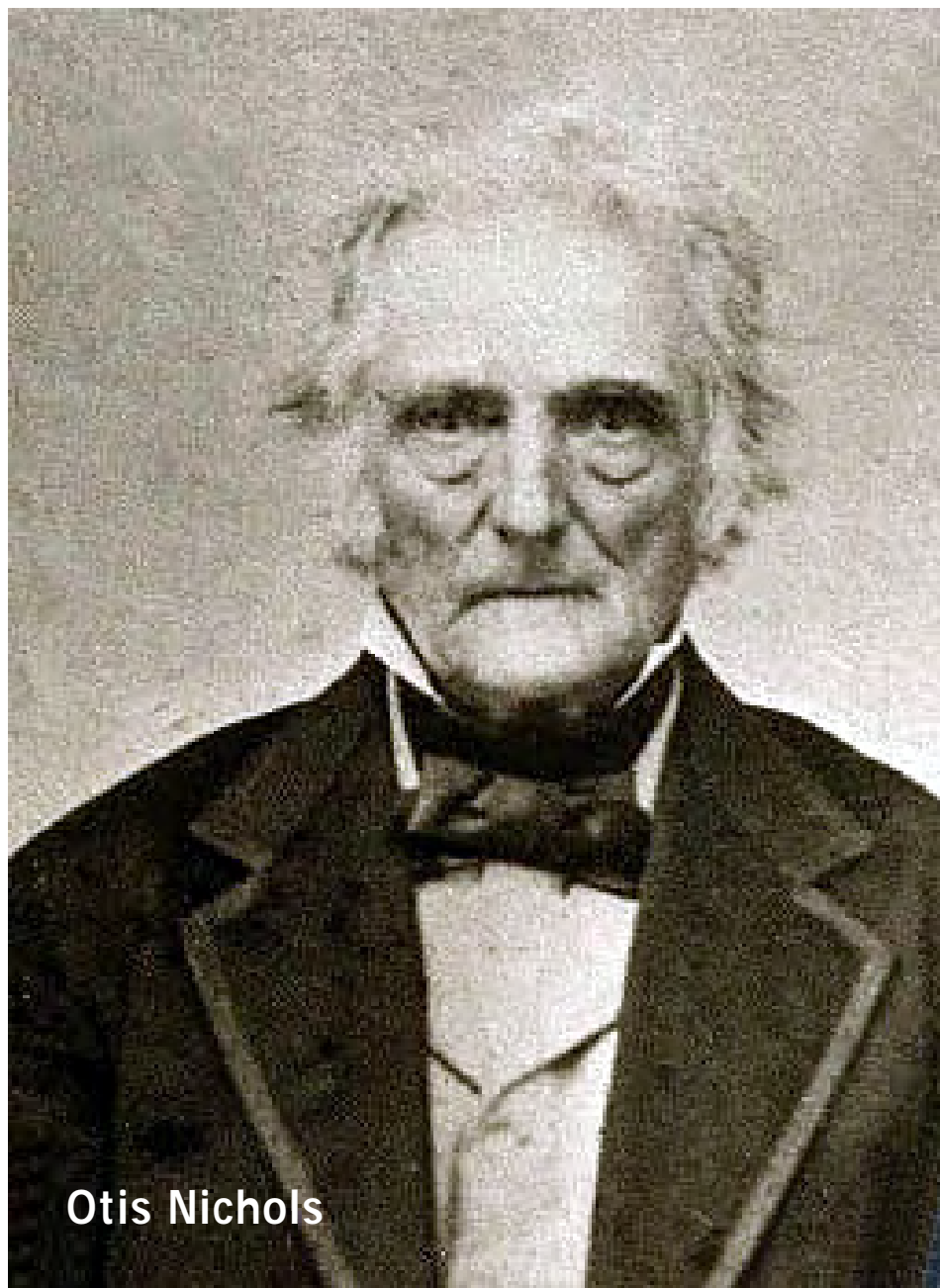
“All right,” the men replied, “we’ll send out word that Miss Harmon is to speak in Boston next Sabbath, and we’ll meet you there.

That evening during family worship Ellen was shown in a quiet vision lasting only a moment that she should not go north to Boston on Sunday, but to Randolph, a town about ten miles south of Boston.

When she told Mr. Nichols, he protested. “We can’t go to Randolph. I promised the men we’d meet them in Boston. How can I break my word?”

“That will be all right,” said Ellen. “The Lord has shown me that we should go to Randolph. We’ll understand when we get there.”

After leaving Mr. Nichols’ home, the two men sent out an announcement that there would be no meeting that week at Boston; all the believers should meet at Randolph. They thought they were playing a clever joke on Ellen Harmon. In Boston she would find an empty house, while all the people she expected to talk to would be at



Otis Nichols

Randolph listening to *them* preach.

According to their announcement, on Sunday morning the two men met the Adventist believers at the Thayer home in Randolph. They were greatly pleased with themselves with having outwitted Brother and Sister Nichols and the Harmon sisters. Mr. Sargent, who did most of the speaking, had been telling people that the time was past when Christians should work.

“Brethren,” he said, “we are in the year of Jubilee, when every man should rest.” He had nothing to say about the women who had to cook, clean house, and chop wood while their husbands rested. These men were spreading the fanatical teaching everywhere. Sensible people asked, “How can we live this way? How will we support our families?” The men answered, “Let the rich sell their possessions and give to the poor. Then there will be no necessity for anyone to labour.”

On this particular day Mr. Sargent was preaching this strange doctrine. Then he began talking about his visions.

“You have heard about those visions of Ellen Harmon’s,” he said. “Don’t listen to them; they are of the devil.” There was a knock at the door. In walked the Nichols family with Sarah and Ellen Harmon. Sargent stopped in the middle of a sentence, too surprised to continue. Abruptly he turned to Mr. Robbins and asked him to announce a closing hymn. “We will come together after lunch,” he said.

Lunch was soon over, and the people were back in the room, eager to see what would happen next.

During the opening prayer the Spirit of the Lord took Ellen into vision. This displeased Sargent and Robbins. It was the last thing they wanted the people to see, for they knew Ellen was opposed to their strange teaching. All eyes were fixed upon the young woman in vision. Occasionally she spoke words of comfort and hope.

Something must be done to take attention from her, Mr. Robbins thought to himself. He stood up and announced a hymn, but scarcely anyone joined the two men in singing. Mr. Sargent picked up his Bible and began reading, shouting in an effort to drown out Ellen’s voice.

“Will you please stop singing and reading,” came a request from the audience. “We want to hear what Sister Ellen is saying.”

That was just what the two men did not want. They continued shouting and singing until both were hoarse, and their hands shook so much they could hardly hold their books. But Ellen’s voice, as she seemed to be conversing with someone in the vision, rang out clear and distinct. Every word could be heard.

Everyone in the room could see that she was under the control of a divine power. They watched her dignified movements and noted that she did not breathe, even while repeating to the listening company sentences that were being spoken to her in the vision. There were whisperings:

“Her message can’t be from the devil; it’s so full of cheer and comfort and the love of God.”

“Her words are like a voice from heaven.”  
“Surely these men have been telling us lies.”

“This vision reminds us of the visions God gave His prophets in Bible times.”

Mr. Thayer stood up. “I have been told that visions which come from Satan can be stopped by laying an open Bible on the person having the vision. Mr. Sargent, will you make this test?”

Mr. Sargent refused.

At the moment Ellen was resting in a chair in the corner of the room, leaning back against the wall. Mr. Thayer lifted a large family Bible from the table and laid it upon her chest.

Immediately she lifted the Bible in one hand. She stepped to the centre of the room, raised the Bible high above her head, and exclaimed, “The inspired testimony from God!”

For an hour she held that heavy Bible in one hand, above her head, and turned its pages with the other hand. With eyes directed away from the book, she pointed with her finger to the very text she was repeating.

“Let’s see if she is quoting them correctly,”

someone suggested. Moving a chair to Ellen’s side, he stepped up on it so that he could look down on the Bible. In surprise he exclaimed, “Sister Ellen is turning the pages and pointing her finger at the very texts she is using. Without looking, she is quoting correctly!” Others climbed onto the chair to see for themselves, and said in astonishment, “This is wonderful! She is not seeing those scriptures with her natural eyes. They are being shown to her in vision.”

The words she spoke brought hope to the people. They could see that God was speaking to them through His weak, humble messenger.

After a time Ellen turned to scriptures which described the punishment of the wicked at the judgment day. At this Mr. Sargent and Mr. Robbins became troubled and silent. What would they do now? The company waited—hoping, expecting. Would they confess their sin? But they were too proud. At the close of the meeting they left without acknowledging that they were wrong.

Mr. Robbins had boasted to Sarah Harmon that he could throw a spell over Ellen and bring her out of vision. But here in the presence of the power of God, he was afraid even to attempt to carry out his threat.

About sundown candles were lighted. During the time that Ellen had been in vision she had not breathed, nor had she been conscious of anything in the room. Now she began to breathe and to notice the people around her.

This is the longest vision of which there is any record. It lasted nearly four hours.



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