

The Reformation Messenger

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 5, MAY 2010

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

“Through faith we understand that the worlds
were framed by the word of God, so that
things which are seen were not made
of things which do appear.”
Hebrews 11:3

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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The Reformation
Messenger

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Eight Reasons Why We Should Serve God

If someone offers a small child a million dollar cheque and a brightly coloured toy, most likely the child will take the toy. Would not this be a foolish choice that only a very small child would make?

Yet many wise, intelligent grown-ups make the same kind of foolish choices in their lives. They are offered eternal life and heaven, and also the world with its pleasures and entertainment. The majority of the people choose the world and its pleasures.

It is a choice between Christ and Satan; a choice also between church meetings and worldly amusement, between Bible reading and television shows.

Some try to hold on to both, which again is impossible.

The only good choice is to be baptised into the church and obey God in all things; to enjoy the pleasure and entertainment of the world is the wrong choice. It seems that almost all people decide to enjoy the world, and give up heaven and eternal life.

There are people who decide to obey God. They are baptised into the church, but yet at the same time they also want to enjoy the world. They have one foot in the church and the other foot in the world. They are thinking that when the end seems to be very near, they will quickly and completely come onto the Lord's side.

They love the world but come to church for selfish reasons, with the purpose to get heaven and eternal life. They do not love God,

neither their fellow men. We find examples of this in the Jewish people, of whom Jesus said, "And this is the condemnation that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil." John 3:19

The Jewish people wanted heaven and eternal life, but they did not enjoy the company of Jesus, therefore they cast Him out of their city and out of their lives.

We do the same when we stop reading the Bible every day; also when we stop praying without ceasing. When we start neglecting prayer meetings and other religious services, we separate ourselves from the company of Jesus.

I have selected eight reasons why we should come to Christ and obey Him and make a full surrender to God, and turn away from Satan and the world.

The first reason to serve God we find in the Psalm of David, "O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." Ps. 95:6

God created us, therefore we belong to Him. We are His property.

"Woe to him that striveth with his Maker!" If we are good, He will keep us, if not, then he will destroy us. God is a wonderful friend to us, but if we turn against Him, then He is a terrible enemy.

The second reason why we should obey the Lord is, "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Ps. 24:1

If you visit someone, you must respect their house and property, and follow the rules that the owner expects of his visitors. We are not owners, but stewards, handling the owner's goods. When He asks for ten percent of our income, He only asks what already belongs to Him. Every good thing comes from God, we live in Him; He gives us health and strength.

The third reason to serve Him is because He has promised to give us heaven and eternal life if we obey Him.

Sister White saw heaven in a vision, and when she tried to describe it, she said, "Our language is not able to describe it." And she adds that the boldest imagination is not able to picture heaven.

Paul writes, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared to them that love Him." 1 Cor. 2:9

Sister White saw only a glimpse of heaven and she writes that it spoiled this world to her, everything here seemed so dark and gloomy, so evil and sinful.

The fourth reason to serve and obey God is the fullness of joy and happiness that it gives us. The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, living within us makes us enjoy every minute of our lives.

On the other hand, the world can only offer misery and a restless life.

"But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast-up mire and dirt. There is no-peace, said my God, to the wicked." Isa. 57:20, 21.

David writes, "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters." Ps. 23:1, 2.

The Lord will satisfy our every longing. Also David writes, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for ever more." Ps. 16:11.

The fifth reason to serve God is the protection of His angels, which follow us all through our lives.

"Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by-day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee." Ps. 91:5-7.

"How graciously and tenderly our heavenly Father deals with His children! He preserves them from a thousand dangers to them unseen and guards them from the subtle arts of Satan, lest they should be destroyed." Test. Vol. 3, p. 373

"We cannot know how much we owe to Christ for the peace and protection which we enjoy." GC, p. 36

The sixth reason to serve God is, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Rom. 8:1

All who obey God have their sins forgiven. Instead of punishment they receive mercy.

Every sin, every wrong act, also wrong words and thoughts are recorded with terrible exactness in the ledger of heaven. And the record of sin is growing daily.

All vanity, selfishness, pride, jealousy, covetousness, and also neglected duties pile up and awful list that will be against us in the day of judgment. But if we serve God and obey Him, then every sin will be forgiven, as we would never have done them.

The seventh reason to serve God is, "And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." Mal. 3:3.

He will take away our filthiness and uncleanness, and wash us clean. Our selfishness and pride will be removed. Our dishonesty and impatience will be gone.

In the end, we will be lovely, wonderful people with characters beautiful as the character of Christ. All vanity and love of the world will be washed away. Every bit of hatred and bitterness will be changed to love and forgiveness.

The eighth reason to serve God is, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Paul writes, "For the love of Christ constraineth us." 2 Cor. 5:14.

If all other reasons were not strong enough to serve God, then His love towards us sinners should touch our hearts and cause us to love Him in return.

"And when they had plaited a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head, and a reed in His right hand: and they bowed the knee before Him, and mocked Him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon Him, and took the reed, and smote Him on the head. And after that they had mocked Him, they took the robe off from Him, and led Him away to crucify Him." Matt. 27:29-31

He who created the world and the whole universe, the King of kings, suffered upon the cross the cruel mocking and pain for mine and your soul.

He was willing to bear the burden of mine and your sins, and the only reason for it was His love towards us. Who loves and cares for us more than Him?

Can we look upon the scenes of Calvary and see Him dying upon the cross for our sins, and turn away and follow Satan?

Satan is laughing when he sees Christian boys and girls love the world, its sins and amusements. Satan knows how much it wounds the heart of Jesus, who loves them so much.

Are there now enough reasons to love God and to obey and serve Him?

Let us give our hearts and obedience to Him who loves us so much. Shall we take up the million dollar cheque instead of the cheap toy that Satan is offering to us?

If our eyes could be opened to see Jesus stretching out His hands towards us, with the nail scars upon them, could we still turn away from Him? Instead of that, tell Him, "I love you, Jesus, and will serve You to the end," and put a smile on the face of Jesus. **AMEN.**

Timo Martin, Canada



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PUBLISHING

Mysteries

The terms, mystery and secret, are very closely related, so much so that in some languages they are expressed with the same word; for example, in German: Geheimnis. Both terms refer to something that is revealed or entrusted to a few. We usually tell our secrets to people that we trust, who love us and can understand us. There is a pre-condition for us to reveal the secrets of our soul, and that is a heart-to-heart relationship with the person who will be the depositary of our most intimate concerns, thoughts or experiences.

Something similar happens with the mysteries of God. The Bible teaches us that God's mysteries are revealed to His children with whom He has a special relationship. Jesus tells His disciples, "...it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 13:11. Paul says to the Corinthians, "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God." 1 Corinthians 4:1. Jesus chose simple, malleable people, as well as a highly intellectual personality like Paul, to be depositaries of the secrets or mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. In the same chapter 13 of Matthew, He tries to define the kingdom of heaven by comparing it with several things: a hidden treasure, a mustard seed, leaven, a precious pearl, a net. But in spite of the simplicity of His words and the common examples He uses, which are quite familiar to His listeners, His appointed people, to whom it was "given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven," and who were to be stewards of these mysteries, did not quite understand their real value. Nevertheless, they were able to transmit, to share these mysteries and even to give their lives in order to preserve these truths alive. Thanks to them, who did not frustrate God's grace, and to Christ's disciples of all times, the Christian church has survived until today.

In the Scriptures it is spoken about several complementary mysteries: The mystery of Christ, the mystery of God's will, the mystery of faith, the mystery of the gospel, the mystery of godliness and about one discordant one: The mystery of iniquity or lawlessness.

Paul asks the Colossians to pray that he may be able to speak about the mystery of Christ. (Colossians 4:3) and Ellen White speaks about "the mystery of the altar of the cross of Calvary" which is "so dimly understood, so faintly comprehended." HP 319 She explains how Christ's disciples, "as He walked a man among men, had not understood the mystery of His incarnation, the dual character of His nature. Their eyes were holden, so that they did not fully recognize divinity in humanity." DA 507.1 Is it any different now? Although we have so many more sources available to us, so much history behind us, although the Scriptures tell us that everything written was done for our admonition so that we may make a step forward and not commit the errors of old, is our understanding of the mysteries of which we are stewards greater than the one of the apostles? Have we understood the dual character of Jesus' nature? Can we understand it? Here is another mystery that plays a very important role: The mystery of faith. (Timothy 3:9) The mystery of faith is what leads us to accept what we cannot explain and to act

accordingly.

"God is to be acknowledged more from what He does not reveal of Himself than from that which is open to our limited comprehension. If men could comprehend the unsearchable wisdom of God, and could explain that which He has done or can do, they would no longer reverence Him or fear His power. In divine revelation God has given to men **mysteries that are incomprehensible, to command their faith. This must be so.**" HL 296

Therefore, let us walk by faith and not by sight! Let us accept by faith everything that is written in the word of God and that is incomprehensible to our finite mind; let us accept Jesus, the living Word in His mysterious double nature and not risk our salvation by trying to explain the unexplainable with human theories. *"The secret things belong unto the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."* Deuteronomy 29:29. We are called to search and inquire what God in His grace has revealed or wants to reveal us personally and we are also called to obey the truth in **all** points. ✦

"The mystery of revelation challenges investigation, for there are mines of truth to be opened to God's people." But "we must put off self-righteousness, we must reach loftier heights. God will direct the soul action if we seek the righteousness of Christ so that God can be pleased with our efforts. We want none of self and all of Jesus." 1888 Materials, p. 72

God's will is another mystery that can be accepted only by faith. How is it possible for any of us to understand that His purpose is, *"to gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth?"* Ephesians 1:9. Sin has cut us off from Paradise and from any connection with the spiritual world; that is why God's will is to sanctify us wholly, spirit, soul and body so that we may be one with Him, with the heaven and all its inhabitants.

"Herein is the mystery of redemption, that the innocent, pure, and holy Son of the infinite God was permitted to bear the punishment of a thankless race of rebels against the divine government; that through the manifestation of His matchless love, these rebels might be inspired with faith in, and love for God, and might stand before Him repentant, forgiven, guiltless, as if they had never sinned. Angels in heaven marveled that the wrath of God should be laid on His well-beloved Son; that a life of infinite value in the heavenly courts should be given for the worthless life of a race degraded by sin." BEcho, November 25, 1895, par. 5

This testimony reveals the mystery of God's will as well as the mystery of the gospel or of godliness. *"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in this world, received up in glory."* 1 Timothy 3:16.

"Christ is the mystery of godliness, and God calls for a humble reliance upon Him, whose divine aid is promised to all." RH, July 18, 1899 par. 11

"This love is past all language to describe. It is the mystery of God in the flesh, God in Christ, and divinity in humanity. Christ bowed down in unparalleled humility, that in his exaltation to the throne of God, he might also exalt those who believe in him, to a seat with him upon his throne. All who look upon Jesus in faith that the wounds and bruises that sin has made will be healed in him, shall be made whole." RH, November 17, 1891 par. 13

"Our senses need to be quickened to lay hold of the mystery of godliness. It is the privilege of all to comprehend, far more than we do, the expiatory sufferings of Christ.... To the cross of Calvary, bearing a dying Saviour, we must look. Our eternal interests demand that we show faith in Christ." DA 660

The mystery of iniquity that was already to be seen at the time of Paul, but had not matured to the point that it did in succeeding years and that is quite visible in our times has always opposed God's plans and persecuted His children. To the egocentric and ambitious children of the devil, it is impossible to conceive the self-denying love of Jesus and His followers. It is beyond anyone's comprehension, how the seed of rebellion grows in the hearts of those who, like Satan, aspire to put their throne upon God's throne. Saul could not stand the fact that God had chosen David as the shepherd of His flock; the mystery of iniquity that surreptitiously entered into his heart was allowed to grow and ended up destroying him. That will be the sad end of all those who, for one reason or another, did not experience what one could call yet another mystery: The mystery of the new birth. This miracle does not happen unless the omniscient God of love reveals to us personally the *"secrets of the heart."* Psalm 44:21. *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart."* Jeremiah 17:9, 10.

It is a fact that we are a mystery to our own selves and unless, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we come to realize that our righteousness is nothing but dirty rags, we cannot capitulate and surrender to His holy will. We receive the seed of the gospel at first in our ears as we hear and listen to the word. Then we receive it through our eyes when we start to read the Scriptures. Finally we experience this seed sown in our heart, but "the mystery of the germination and growth of the seed" we "cannot understand." We must trust in "the agencies by which God causes vegetation to flourish." CG 501

We all carry that seed in our hearts. In some it is in its primary stage, in others it has already sprouted or even grown into a mature and lovely plant. "Every truly-converted soul is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. All such have implanted in them an earnest zeal and longing to turn many souls to righteousness." ST, November 30, 1891 par. 3

Come Out Of Her My People

Part 10
(Revelation 18:1-4)

The condition of the church and a call for revival and reformation,
continued

1900

THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

"Men will employ every means to make less prominent the difference between Seventh-day Adventists and observers of the first day of the week. A company was presented before me under the name of Seventh-day Adventists who were advising that the banner, or sign, which makes us a distinct people should not be held out so strikingly; for they claimed that this was not the best policy in order to secure success to our institutions. But this is not a time to haul down our colours, to be ashamed of our faith." 6T 144

"To lower the standard in order to secure popularity and an increase of numbers, and then to make this increase a cause of rejoicing, shows great blindness. If numbers were an evidence of success, Satan might claim the pre-eminence; for in this world his followers are largely in the majority." 6T 143

"As trials thicken around us, both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks. Some who are now ready to take up weapons of warfare will in times of real peril make it manifest that they have not built upon the solid rock; they will yield to temptation. Those who have had great light and precious privileges, but have not improved them, will, under one pretext or another, go out from us. Not having received the love of the truth, they will be taken in the delusions of the enemy; they will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and will depart from the faith." 6T 400-401

THE CALL

"We need now to begin over again. Reforms must be entered into with heart and soul and will." 6T 142

"But, on the other hand, when the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep will hear the true Shepherd's voice. Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost, and many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the great Shepherd. The people of God will draw together and present to the enemy a united front. In view of the common peril, strife for supremacy will cease, there will be no disputing as to who shall be accounted greatest. No one of the true believers will say; 'I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas.' The testimony of one and all will be: 'I cleave unto Christ; I rejoice in Him as my personal Saviour.' 6T 400

1901

THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

"The ways and works that have been developed in Battle Creek since the General Conference of 1901, cause me to tremble for those who are there, for many have been acting as if blinded by satanic agencies." SpTB07 52

"At the General Conference, held in Battle Creek in 1901, the Lord gave His people evidence that He was calling for reformation. Minds were convicted, and hearts were touched; but thorough work was not done. If stubborn hearts had then broken in penitence before God, there would have been seen one of the greatest manifestations of the power of God that has ever been seen. But God was not honored. The testimonies of His Spirit were not heeded. Men did not separate from the practices that were in decided opposition to the principles of truth and righteousness, which should ever be maintained in the Lord's work." 8T 97-98

THE CALL

"There must be an entire new organization. There should be a renovation with out delay." SpM APRIL 1, 1901

1902

THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

"Everywhere, people are perishing for a lack of a knowledge of the truths that have been committed to us. The members of the church are in need of an awakening, that they may realize their responsibility to impart these truths. Those who have been enlightened by the truth are to be light bearers to the world. To hide our light at this time is to make a terrible mistake. The message to God's people today is: 'ARISE, SHINE; FOR THY LIGHT IS COME, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD IS RISEN UPON THEE.'" 7T 62

"On every hand we see those who have had much light and knowledge deliberately choosing evil in the place of good. Making no attempt to reform, they are growing worse and worse. But the people of God are not to walk in darkness. They are to walk in the light, FOR THEY ARE REFORMERS." 7T 62

THE CALL

"God calls for a spiritual revival and a spiritual reformation. Unless this takes place, those who are lukewarm will continue to grow more abhorrent to the Lord, until He will refuse to acknowledge them as His children.

"A revival and a reformation must take place under the ministrations of the Holy Spirit. REVIVAL AND REFORMATION are two different

things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from the spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness, unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend." 1 SM 127

1903

THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

"In the balances of the sanctuary the Seventh-day Adventist church is to be weighed. She will be judged by the privileges and advantages that she has had. If her spiritual experience does not correspond to the advantages that Christ, at infinite cost, has bestowed on her, if the blessings conferred have not qualified her to do the work entrusted to her, on her will be pronounced the sentence: 'FOUND WANTING.' By the light bestowed, the opportunities given, WILL she be judged." 8T 247

"Unless the church, which is now being leavened with her own backsliding, shall repent and be converted, she will eat of the fruit of her own doing, until she shall abhor herself." 8T 250

THE CALL

"Unless there is thorough repentance, unless men humble their hearts by confession and receive the truth as it is in Jesus, they will never enter Heaven. When purification shall take place in our ranks, we shall no longer rest at ease, boasting of being rich and increased with goods, in need of nothing." 8T 250

"The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place. When reformation begins, the spirit of prayer will actuate every believer and will banish from the church the spirit of discord and strife. Those who have not been living in Christian fellowship will draw close to one another. One member working in right lines will lead other members to unite with him in making intercession for the revelation of the Holy Spirit." 8T 251

1904

THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

"Those leaders and teachers who refuse to follow Christ place themselves under the guidance of the evil angels. Some have already done this, and some, without severe chastisement from God, will never break the spell that is upon them.

"The Laodicean message must be given with earnestness and power, as a message from Heaven. If it be ignored, the Lord will

certainly cast away from Him those whose spiritual condition is so objectionable. Christ declares that pretentious piety is nauseating to Him. To the ones so full of self-sufficiency He says, 'I KNOW THY WORKS, THAT THOU ART NEITHER COLD NOR HOT.' Their works are opposed to the holy principles of God's word." (SpTB02 19, 20).

THE CALL

"At this time the Laodicean message is to be given, to arouse a slumbering church." SpTB02 14

1905

THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

"If those who in the past have been standard-bearers in the work of God had walked in the lines that He has marked out, they would better have honoured Him and would have increased usefulness... If those who in past years had been entrusted with large responsibilities had heeded the warnings and entreaties of the Spirit of God, they would now be walking before Him in strength and efficiency. When men educate others to rely on them and trust in them, when, by pen or voice, they dictate to others as to what they should do, they are teaching others to make flesh their arm, to give glory to human beings rather than to God." 8T 145

THE CALL

"THERE IS DANGER THAT MEN WILL RECEIVE THE COUNSEL OF MEN, WHEN BY SO DOING THEY WILL DISCARD THE COUNSEL OF GOD. Oh, what lessons all must learn before they will understand that God seeth not as man seeth. THE LORD says, 'My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways.... For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.' Isa. 55:8, 9. Unless there is a decided reformation among the people of God, He will turn His face from them." 8T 146

Brethren, From 1852-1905, 43 years SINCE the Seventh-day Adventist Church first became lukewarm/Laodiceans, it seems that, like Cain, humans just don't understand the supreme question regarding THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD. Unfortunately many of us today still do not understand, do we?

Some of us, even in the year 2010, still unwittingly put our trust in the arm of flesh; and if we are not trusting to our own righteousness, we are trusting another man's righteousness, or we are doing both...

In closing, let us examine this leprosy of sin that man has insulted our Creator with, since the time of Adam and Eve, as found in God's Word.

The supreme question regarding the righteousness of god, the question of the deepest interest and consequence to us is our personal relation to that righteousness.

Is righteousness in any degree inherent in human nature?

If so, how may it be cultivated and developed?

If not, is there any way of obtaining it?

If so, by what means, and when?

To the mind untaught and unenlightened by the word of god, this is a great, dark, baffling problem. In endeavoring to solve it, man has surely sought out many inventions. But uncertainty and confusion regarding our relation to the righteousness of god is quite unnecessary, for the true situation is clearly stated in the scriptures of truth.

The scriptures declare that: "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of god." ROM 3:23

That We Are Carnal, Sold Under Sin. (ROM. 7:14)

That There Is None Righteous, No Not One. (ROM. 3:10)

That in our flesh there dwelleth no good thing. (ROM. 7:18)

And finally, that we are filled with all unrighteousness. (ROM. 1:29)

This clearly answers the question as to whether righteousness is in any degree inherent in human nature: it is not.

On the contrary, human nature is filled with unrighteousness...

John Warncken. Australia.

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"But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6.

Bridle And Spur

What is here said of this faith? It is said that "without" this faith it is "impossible to please God;" without such a faith that helps us to walk with God, an active faith; and that we cannot come to God unless we "believe that He is, and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him." We must believe that God is, and that He is what He is; what He has revealed Himself to be in the Scriptures; a Being of infinite perfection, subsisting in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

So, just the practical belief of the existence of God, as revealed in the Word, would be a powerful force upon our souls. Oh! A "bridle" of restraint to keep us from sin, and a "spur" of constraint to put us upon all manner of gospel obedience! You see, by the "fall of man" we have lost God; we have lost the divine light, life, love, likeness, peace, and communion.

Ah! But God has wisely prescribed means and ways wherein He may be found; observing His ordinances, providential guidance, and in all things waiting His gracious presence and soon return. But, they must "diligently seek Him and find Him with all their heart" and when once have found Him, as their reconciled God, they will never resent the pains they have spent in seeking after Him.

Enoch's goal was to please God at any cost and he succeeded. This should still be the goal of every true believer. Noah built the ark as evidence of his faith, and saw his faith vindicated in his deliverance from the Flood. Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses all exemplify the life of faith; a glorious company of the just who lived by faith "through a righteousness which is according to faith." (ASV). For true believers, to live by faith is to **die in faith**. The faith life is a pilgrimage. Heaven is the only home of faithful believers. It is the **better home** to which those who live by faith are fully committed. Ah! And because they are committed to God, God is committed to them; a city and habitation for His own!

Perverse Generation

Consequently, "without faith it is **impossible** to please God." I am sure you have read that before. "Without faith," it does not say "it is hard to please God," or "it is tough to please God." But, that it is "**impossible** to please God." If so, then we had better define faith. Jesus, Himself, rebuked His disciples for having too little faith when they were unable to cast out demons. Mathew 17:14, 15 reads, "When they were come to the multitude, there came to Him a certain man, kneeling down to Him; (a sense of misery will bring people to their knees.) "Lord, have mercy on my son," he said. "for

*Seeds
Of Faith*

he is a lunatic, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water." He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water (falling disease). "I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him." (v. 16)

"O faithless and perverse generation," Jesus replied. Who is Jesus talking to? Why, His best friends, His disciples! Jesus continues, "how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me." (v. 17) "And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour." (v. 18) Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the Satan-vexed lunatic (distemper of the brain) boy and he was healed from that moment. Christ in His power and grace cast the devil out. Those who Satan gets possession of, he afflicts by those diseases of the body which most affect the mind; **for it is with the soul that he aims to do mischief**. Note the meteoric rise of Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia, paranoia, Down's syndrome, Learning Disorders: Attention Deficit Disorder(Hyperactivity)(ADD), learning disability, mental retardation, autism, developmental dyslexia, aphasia/dysphasia, etc?

"No single cause (etiology) has been defined medically; but neurologic deficits are presumed! Most medical, neurologic, or biochemical therapies popularly recommended are **unsubstantiated** by clinical and applied research." (The Merck Manual 16th Ed.1992, Merck Research Lab, Rahway, N.J. Pub. R. Berkow, M.D., Editor). This book is the most favored, established, favorite ready-reference book of the medical profession in the world! ("noting that memory is treacherous"); and the most widely used medical text in the world, compiling the whole range of medical disorders. This Manual has adorned my book case for years as a complimentary reference.

Prayer And Fasting

Satan seeks to devour! (1Pet 5:8). The Lion of the tribe of Judah will be too hard for the roaring lion that seeks to devour. Jesus struck at the cause! He broke the power of Satan as one having authority.

The child had an immediate cure and a perfect one! This is an encouragement for parents to bring their children to Christ whose souls are under Satan's power... early! Not only bring them to Christ by prayer, but bring them to the Word of Christ, the ordinary means by which Satan's strongholds are demolished in the soul. Now, because there was something in the type of the malady of the boy which rendered the cure much more than ordinarily difficult; then **"This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."** (v. 21). This possession, which works by a falling-sickness or the kind of devils that are thus furious, is not cast out ordinarily but by great acts of devotion, and wherein you were defective. Though the adversaries that we daily wrestle are principalities and powers, yet some are stronger than others, and their power broken with more difficulty. The extraordinary power of Satan, however, must

not discourage our faith, but quicken us to a greater intensesness in the acting of it, and more earnestness in praying to God for the increase of it; so some understand it here.

"This kind of faith (which removeth mountains) does not proceed, is not obtained, from God, nor is it carried up to its full growth, nor drawn out into act and exercise **but by earnest prayer.**" **Fasting and prayer are proper means for the bringing down of Satan's power against us, and the fetching in of divine power to our assistance.** Fasting is of use to put an edge upon prayer; it is an evidence and instance of humiliation which is necessary in prayer, and is a means of mortifying some corrupt habits, and of disposing the body to serve the soul in prayer. When the devil's interest in the soul is confirmed by the temper, state and constitution of the body, fasting must be joined with prayer, to keep under the body.

Failure!

Meanwhile, "then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, Why couldn't we drive it out?" (Matt 17:17-19). They distrusted the power they received and thus, they failed! To convince them of this Christ shows them what they might have done. If you have an active, growing faith, not dead, you will not be baffled by this.

The disciples failed because of their unbelief. When Jesus spoke to the father of the child and to the people, He charged it upon their unbelief; when He spoke to His disciples, He charged it upon theirs; for the truth was, there were faults on both sides. Ah! But, we are more concerned to hear of our own faults than of other people's, and to impute what is wrong or faulty to ourselves than to others. What did the disciples say? **"Why could not we cast him out?"** (v-19)

Furthermore, when the preaching of the Word seems not to be as successful as sometimes it has been, the people are apt to lay all the fault upon the ministers, and the ministers upon the people; whereas, it is more becoming for each to own his own faultiness, and to say, **"It is due me or a result of me."** Ministers, in reproving, censuring or rebuking must learn thus to give to each his portion of the word; and to take people away from judging others, by teaching all to judge themselves! **(It is "because of your unbelief.")** (v-20). Though they had faith, yet that faith was weak and ineffectual. As far as faith falls short of its due strength, vigour, and activity, it may truly be said, "There is unbelief!" Ah! Many are charged with unbelief, who are not yet called unbeliever! **It is because of our unbelief,** that we bring so little to pass in religion, and the church, the family, and so often miscarry, and come short, in that which is good.

"And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." Matt. 17:20. Have you ever seen a mustard seed? They are tiny; (3 mm

diameter), very difficult to find, and to see. All right, if the faith the size of a mustard seed can move a mountain, and the disciples can't cast out a demon, how big was their faith? And they lived with Jesus day in and day out! The faithlessness of the nine apostles was characteristic of their generation; they could not obtain the blessings from God. They were faithless and perverse! Those that are faithless will be perverse, and perverseness is sin in its worst colors. Israel of old was perverse, because of faithlessness. (Ps 95:9). Faith is compliance with God, unbelief is opposition and contradiction to God. You see, there are some special favours which Christ reserves the bestowment of to Himself; and sometimes He keeps the cistern empty that He may bring us to Himself, the Fountain.

How To Be Happy

Not only is it impossible to please God without faith; it is impossible to be truly happy in this world! James writes, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ¶Knowing [this], that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ¶But let patience have [her] perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. ¶If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all [men] liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. ¶But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ¶For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. ¶A double minded man [is] unstable in all his ways." James 1:2-8

If faith is so important, then what is it? "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen," Or simply, "trust in the unseen." Heb. 11:1. But faith is more! Faith is belief, but it is more. Faith is trust, a living power. Faith takes God at His word, and acts. Faith knows no obstacle and brooks no opposition from the evil one. Faith does not stop to look at circumstances or ponder results. Faith looks only to God! Happiness comes with faith!

Source Of Faith

We have defined faith; and the only way to "please God is to have faith." The next question is, How do I obtain this faith? The answer is in Romans 10:17, "So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Consequently faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the Word of Christ. Well, that is no secret. Why should we be weak in faith when the source of faith (and happiness) is in our hands? Or is this found in our hands often enough? Or is it there on the table waiting to be taken to church once a week? Do not let the source of faith lie idle on your book shelf! A small boy asked his mother, "Mommy, what is that large black book on top of the book shelf, covered with dust?" The mother answered, "Oh, my son that is God's book!" The boy answered, "Well, maybe we ought to return it to God, because I don't see anyone in the family reading it."

Essentials Of Faith

There are three essentials to having faith:

1. Knowledge. 2. Understanding. 3. Confidence

1. KNOWLEDGE – Knowledge is essential to faith. Why? You cannot believe in something and not know anything about it. Paul says, in Romans 10:14, 17, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?" "So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." You see, knowledge has to come before belief. It also has to be knowledge that is not dependent upon hearsay (rumors). If capable, we have to discover these truths for ourselves. It is dangerous to simply believe what someone tells you, without studying it for yourself. The noble Bereans of Greece (Berea - Macedonia) were called blessed because they read the Scriptures for themselves, not just trusting the preacher, evangelist, friend, neighbor, or another church. Although Paul preached there, they confirmed and studied the scriptures to see if it was true. "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11; 2 Tim 3:16)

God has revealed Himself so clearly, but some people and even professed believers, refuse to see. He has revealed himself in His Word and in creation, and by the "Word that became flesh and dwelt among us," Jesus Christ. (John 1:1, 2, 14). Yet many are blind to the obvious; something that clearly exists before them, and they insist it does not exist. What fourth Commandment? What health message? What moral standards? Why, that's for the older generation. What does it mean that the way I may speak to my child affects his view on how His heavenly Father is? Man ignores the obvious so easily. But, Knowledge is not enough! We must also have Understanding:

2. UNDERSTANDING – We must have an understanding of what is promised or said in the Scriptures. Without this we could not exercise intelligent faith! When Jesus appeared to His disciples, Luke 24:45 tells us, "Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures." Reading is not enough. We must have supernatural guidance – the Holy Spirit, in order to lead us into the "Spirit of understanding." (Isa 11:2). When the Holy Spirit is not invited to give us understanding, we are just reading a book. After Knowledge and Understanding, comes Confidence:

3. CONFIDENCE – We must have confidence in the Author and Finisher of our faith, in the Author of the Scriptures. In 1 John 5:14, 15, we read "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: ¶And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."

Do you have confidence in God? To ask according to His will and receive the best? You see, if we have no confidence in the

Messenger, we will have no confidence in the message. "Faith is above ignorance, superstition, and unbelief." HP 96

Many years ago a young officer in the English navy discovered a small uncharted but dangerous rock in the Mediterranean Sea. He reported his discovery to the Admiralty immediately. Orders were sent to all stations that the new hazard should be marked on every chart.

The first ship to sail over the spot after the news was sent out was commanded by an old sea captain who had been sailing those waters for many years. When he noted the warning newly placed on his map, he inquired who had reported the hazard. When told that it was a young naval officer, he was indignant. "There is no such rock there," he scoffed. "I have sailed these seas for twenty years; and if such a rock were there, I would have found it."

In scornful pride, he gave orders for his sailing master to steer directly over those co-ordinates. The anchor was raised, and the ship left port. The hazardous area was reached. Under full sail the great ship was driven over the danger spot. There was a tremendous crash as the jagged rock tore into the vessel's underside. The ship went down with all hands.

Our knowledge never exceeds God's knowledge. Our way is never better than His way.

How?

The next question comes to mind: once we have this faith, how do we act upon it? "Words and actions always express faith." HP 109

Do not be afraid to ask God for what you need, for the spiritual blessings that you must have, for forgiveness of sins and the assurance of salvation.

A man approached Alexander the Great, ruler of the Greek empire, and asked for some money as a marriage portion for his daughter. Alexander told him to go to his treasurer and ask for what he wanted. He went and demanded an enormous amount. The treasurer was startled and came to Alexander and said that he thought that maybe a small part of what the man has asked for would be plenty. "NO!" said Alexander, "Let him have it all. I like that man. He does me honor. He treats me like a king and proves by what he asks that he believes me to be both rich and generous."

Do we treat God as our King? Do we honor Him by believing He is both rich and generous?

There's a hymn that goes something like this, "He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands! Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold. His coffers are full. He has riches untold. I'm a child of the King, a child of the King! With Jesus, my Saviour, I'm a child of the King!"

Do you believe it? Belief must be acted upon. True faith leads to true love and true love leads to true obedience. "Faith without works is dead." (James 2:20). If it is not active, it is not useful; it is rotten! Faith without obedience is not faith; obedience to His Commandments, His Will, His Covenant, His Voice, His Spirit. **Works are a requirement of faith.** UL 30

Oh! You might finally say, "Well, if I had faith, I'd feel great, different, elated all the time." But, faith and feeling are two very different things. Faith is not about how you feel... our emotions. The name of Jesus has been written in blood to ensure that we have the deed and (the ticket) to heaven. **It doesn't matter how we feel. It matters what we believe!**

Seeds Of Faith!

Remember when Jesus told His disciples that even the faith of a mustard seed could help them to do the impossible? Well, what if you had the faith of an avocado seed? Huh? What could you do then, if you had that much faith?

Dwight L. Moody the famous Chicago evangelist, said, "A little faith will bring your soul to heaven, but a lot of faith will bring heaven to your soul." A little faith will get you there, but a lot of faith will make what goes on down here worth living; to serve God! "Faith is simply taking God at His word," TDG 9. "Sing and talk faith and light will come." 2MCP 651. Furthermore, "Prayer of faith brings light and strength to withstand Satan." HP 39

Now, one thing I have noticed about avocados is that they are pretty rough on the outside. They are all usually ugly, some uglier, shriveled, and more blotchy than others, but they're almost all seed! There is very little flesh between the seed and the skin. Ah! But that flesh is wonderful (full of nutrients, too) even if the skin is a little rough. Ah! But even though we may be rough on the outside, if we are filled with faith, our fruits will be wonderful!

But, even if your faith, dear soul, is still the size of a mustard seed, I have encouragement for you. The mustard seed of Palestine grows to over seven feet tall! It is the tallest garden plant of all! The huge plant provides shelter for many birds of the sky. So, feed your mustard seed faith with the Miracle Food of the Scriptures. Let the Spirit nourish it with understanding. And act with the confidence that comes from bearing good fruits and reaping the rewards that come from being a **child of the King.**

"The Word of God is a seed in the mind... care for it!" LHU 111

These are the **SEEDS OF FAITH!** Amen!

John Theodorou, USA



My Little Finger

Part 2

And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall

be thicker than my father's loins. 1 Kings 12:10

Rehoboam

When Rehoboam was made king over Israel in Shiloh, the people came to ask him to lighten the grievous yoke his father had imposed on them and thus they would gladly serve him.

But instead of being kind to them, to win their trust and confidence, by promising them right there to try to do what he could to make the nation happy and content, he had nothing to say but to tell them to come again in three days, which they did.

Here Rehoboam failed right from the start. What kind of ruler can one be who had so little interest in his subjects, who did not use his kingly right to utter some hope, and willingness to look into the serious problem, so that he would be respected and loved by them?

Why did he need three days to figure out what to do? Here we see right from the start of his reign a weighty lack of courage and character, traits unfit for one in sole authority and power.

Immature and Ignorant

So he went to the elder generation, to the counsellors of his father, who advised him to do the very thing the people asked from him. This was the right thing to do, but he could have given them the very same promise when the people asked him in the first place.

But no, Rehoboam refused this wise counsel and went to the princes and youth he grew up with. This youth had a totally different mindset. Being sons of the former king or of ministers in the royal court, they knew only luxury, pleasure and indulgence, and were driven by their carnal nature.

They thought more hardship was the answer in order to gain respect. The ambition that they thought worth following was to exercise power over those who were beneath them, and whom they would oppress as they saw fit. These young men were not concerned about the people's happiness and contentment, but saw them as mere underdogs to do their will, for they were the lords.

It was their idea that by harsh rules they were seen as men of strength and greatness, and to be feared with terror, so that no one may dare to conceive of thoughts of rising up a heel against them. And Rehoboam chose such for his advisers - but only disaster can result by such methods.

Rehoboam spoke roughly to the assembled Israelites, reciting

the very advice the young people gave him. "My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins," and "I will chastise you with scorpions." (2 Chron. 10:10-14)

This was certainly the most absurd, foolish and cruel utterance imaginable from a newly appointed king. It is unlikely that any heathen ruler would speak anything worse than that at the beginning of his office!

This shows the total unpreparedness of Rehoboam in his charge to be the head of the nation. He was the son of an Ammonite woman, one of the wives of Solomon. We are not told why he was chosen as Solomon's successor. It is rather sad, but the falling away of Solomon from following the Lord certainly prepared the character of Rehoboam and the other young princes to become so hardened of heart. Being so selfish, proud and totally ignorant of the welfare of the people, the new king gave a most disgraceful impression of his conduct.

The Outcome

The result was that the people turned their backs on him and said: "What portion have we with David? ... To your tents, O Israel..." (1 Kings.12:6)

So the ten tribes left; only Judah and Benjamin remained loyal to Rehoboam. This split was, of course, due to divine intervention, because of the drastic apostasy of Solomon. God informed His prophet Ahijah, when Solomon was still alive, that he will rent the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon's son. (1 Kings. 11:29-35)

But what did Rehoboam do next? He suddenly became brave and rash, preparing for a war against the ten tribes that he had lost, to get them back by force. This was another foolish decision. Technically speaking, how could he win with two against ten? He would have been wiped out in an instant, for the offended tribes in their disappointment in him would have been empowered with a strong spirit of revenge, and thus easily conquer Rehoboam and his army.

But God would not allow this to happen. He sent the prophet Shemaiah to Rehoboam to tell him not to fight against his brethren, for the whole cause is of God. Then the king listened to that advice. (2 Chron.11:1-4)

After that he dwelt in Jerusalem, and fortified many cities for a secure defence in Judah and Benjamin, built strongholds for victuals, oil, wine and weapons of war. He married more wives, also taking concubines (verses 5-12, 21). He worshipped in the temple, but not with his whole heart. But when his days became more relaxed, his kingdom secure, he forsook God and all the people with him. (2 Chron. 12:1)

Then God sent Shishak, king of Egypt to invade the land. The

prophet Shemaiah came to Rehoboam telling him of God's judgment to give him and all of Judah into the hands of Shishak. Then he and the princes humbled themselves greatly before the Lord, and God would not destroy them, but allowed Shishak to rob all the treasures of the temple and the king's palace; then he returned to Egypt. However, Rehoboam never did seek the Lord with all his heart to live righteously before Him. He remained in fear of Shishak and continually made war with Jeroboam who reigned in Israel. (1 Kings 14:30). He reigned 17 years in Jerusalem, being only 58 years old at his death.

Consequences

Rehoboam also died too soon. If not of a mortal wound of war, it must have been the result of an intemperate lifestyle, which debased his physical and mental strength. Indulgence in feasting and lust is the worst enemy to the life preserving powers. The delicate organs of digestion, overloaded with a burden of too many varieties of food, cannot handle this constant abuse, and disease must inevitably be the result.

The abundance of all sorts of meat, wines, etc., at a king's table and of the upper class is their greatest curse, because they were able to afford these delicacies in which appetite delights. It would have been to the honour of King Rehoboam would he have desired to become like the little finger of his father's in his grand years of reign, being then the ideal of a monarch before the world. And then to heed all the warnings and sad experiences Solomon wrote about after his repentance and conversion.

But coldly declaring his finger to be thicker than his father's loins, being altogether yet an inexperienced greenhorn in authority, he made a real fool of himself. His example is not to be followed by any intelligent youth. Such blind pride and stubbornness cannot be given any credit anywhere, neither in those days nor today.

True Greatness

Humility is a much greater virtue than boasting of something one could never be. Truly great people see themselves much smaller than the world ascribes to them to be, lifting them up unto pinnacles of greatness and looking at them as some unique species. True greatness stays firm on the earth, for it sees that if it really has achieved something noteworthy, it was by much effort, pain and sacrifice. Going through such a process takes much energy which leaves little left for boasting of oneself.

Jesus Christ - The Only One Perfect Model

However, the Christian is not to measure himself by the little finger of some famous person or even the greatest Bible hero, but is to strive to attain solely to the whole character of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He is the true and only Model of perfection in every sense.

This can be accomplished by humble submission to the guidelines given in the Holy Writ "bringing into captivity every thought unto the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:3), by a living sacrifice of body, mind and spirit until he becomes "a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Eph.4:13)

This is the heavenly standard to pursue which brings reward of eternal bliss and happiness - which leaves nothing to be compared to in this gloomy, evil and misguided world. To be with Jesus and the redeemed in a newly created world, where beauty and glory surrounds the blood-bought saints wherever they turn, to converse with holy angels - what a most wonderful reward for the yielding up and dying to self to win, at last, the crown of life!

The outlook of such a sublime, glorious future ought to stir, arouse, energize and vitalize every faculty of the human mind and ambition. It is the only objective worth striving for and living for! **Amen.**

Edda Tedford, Canada

BELIEVERS IN ETHIOPIA



Obedience Or Disobedience?

"And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men [and] brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe." Acts 15:7

We need to help people see the blessings in keeping God's law. We need to let people know that love and commandment keeping go together. "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." 1 John 5:3

God's Law and You

How do you feel about God's law? Have you discovered the blessings it contains? Have you learned how to keep it? Can you share it enthusiastically?

Bible writer's praise God's law. David calls it perfect. (Ps. 19:7). Paul calls it holy, just and good. (Rom. 7:12). Here are several good things that it brings to you as a son and daughter of God. You will think of others.

1. Freedom

Have you noticed that in Exodus chapter 20, before God gave His law, He reminded the people that He had brought them "out of the house of bondage?" (Ex. 20:2). The first thing He did was to give them freedom. Then He gave His law—"the law of liberty" (James 1:25)—to keep them free! True freedom comes from obedience to God's "law of liberty."

2. Peace

"Great peace have those who love Thy law," wrote David. "Nothing can make them stumble." (Ps. 119:165)

David experienced the guilt that comes from deliberately breaking God's law. For about a year after he committed adultery with Bathsheba, the infatuation of his sin kept him from feeling guilty. Then in God's mercy, a sense of guilt awakened. When it did, David's sin was ever before him. He couldn't forget it day or night.

He finally found peace, as we also can through repentance and confession. (Ps. 51). He knew from bitter experience that to keep that peace he must keep God's law, "O that you had hearkened to my commandments!" the Lord exclaims. "Then your peace would have been like a river." (Isa. 48:18)

3. Happiness

"He that keepeth the law," wrote Solomon, "happy is he." (Prov. 29:18). Ellen White comments, "Man's happiness must always be guided by the law of God... The law is the hedge which God had placed about His vineyard. By it those who obey are protected from

4. Health

Scripture is explicit about the relationship between health and obedience to God's law. God told the Hebrews, "If you will diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give heed to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases upon you which I put upon the Egyptians." (Ex. 15:26)

The sixth commandment,—"Thou shalt not kill" (Ex. 20:13)—is especially applicable to the subject of health. "All self-indulgence or unnecessary deprivation or excessive labour that tends to injure health—all these are, to a greater or less degree, violations of the sixth commandment." PP 308

Life

"Keep God's laws and you will live longer," Solomon wrote, "If you ignore them, you will die." (Prov. 19:16)

Breaking God's law often brings decay and a quicker funeral. But the worst penalty is eternal death. "Sin is the transgression of the law," 1 John 3:4, "and the wages of sin is death." Rom. 6:23.

We must understand, of course, that we cannot keep the Ten Commandments in our own strength. Salvation comes through acceptance of the forgiveness Jesus offers and through yielding our wills to God's will. He then writes His law on our hearts (Heb. 8:10). We keep the Ten Commandments, not in order to be forgiven, but because we have been forgiven and have experienced God's miracle of a changed heart.

Jesus summed up the first four commandments in this one sentence, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength." (Luke 10:27)

Think of the freedom and peace and happiness that would abound if every person did love God that way!

The last six commandments can be summed up in these five words, "Love... your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10:27). Think of the blessings and happiness that would permeate the life if each person really did love every neighbour as himself or herself.

"When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law

Every Person Will Be Tested

The warfare against God's law began with Satan.

1. From the beginning, Satan's rebellion has been a rebellion against authority. (Isa. 14:12-14)
2. Satan's rebellion against authority led him to attack God's law. (implied in Isa. 14:12-14)
3. Rebellion against God's law will be the issue in the final conflict. (Rev. 14:9-12)

"The warfare against God's law, which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time. Every man will be tested. Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world. All will be called to choose between the law of God and the laws of men. Here the dividing line will be drawn. There will be but two classes. Every character will be fully developed; and all will show whether they have chosen the side of loyalty or that of rebellion." DA 763

Let us do everything we can to help people choose wisely. Let's share information about the blessings that come through obedience to God's law.

"Always be prepared," Peter wrote, "to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (1 Peter 3:15)

In 1893 the Lord sent the youth of His church a message entitled, "The Need of Trained Workers" (FE 212-219). A key emphasis of the message is the need for lay workers who can settle in communities and work for people that ministers cannot reach. A second emphasis is that students need to know what they know so that they can be effective in explaining the scriptures to others.

The message warns against "a superficial knowledge of truth" and then gives this prophecy:

"You know not where you may be called upon to give your witness of truth. Many will have to stand in the legislative courts; some will have to stand before kings and before the learned of the earth, to answer for their faith. Those who have only a superficial understanding of truth will not be able clearly to expound the Scriptures, and give definite reasons for their faith." FE 217

"It does not seem possible to us now that any should have to stand alone; but if God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when we shall be brought before councils and before thousands for his name's sake, and each one will have to give the reason of his faith. Then will come the severest criticism upon every position that has been taken for the truth. We need, then, to study the word of God, that we may know why we believe the doctrines we advocate." RH, Dec. 18, 1888

The Ten Commandments: Before Sinai

Some writers claim that the Ten Commandments did not exist until God gave them at Sinai. Generally, the purpose of this argument is to try to prove that the Ten Commandments—and the Sabbath in particular, were for the Jews only.

Here are some facts you may want to keep in mind if you meet this argument:

1. Christ said that Satan was a murderer and a liar from the beginning (John 8:44). This shows that the commands not to murder or lie existed as principles of love at the time of Lucifer's rebellion. "I had not known sin, but by the law; for I had not known lust except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." Rom. 7:7.
2. "Bless the Lord ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word." Ps. 103:20. The angels cast out of heaven had "sinned" (2 Pet. 2:4). "Sin is the transgression of the law." (John 3:4). The fact that angels sinned shows that there was a law to transgress.
3. Cain was condemned for murdering Abel (Gen. 4:9-16). This shows the command not to kill was known during the time of Cain and Abel.
4. Of Abraham God said, "Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. (Gen. 26:5). This shows that Abraham was acquainted with God's law.
5. The Sabbath commandment was known before Sinai. In Exodus 16, about a month before the giving of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20, people went out to gather manna on the Sabbath. God asked, "How long do you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws?" (v. 28)

"The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." Mark 2:27.

It is not a Jewish institution; for it was made 2,300 years before there was a Jew. The Bible never calls it the Jewish Sabbath, but always, "the Sabbath," or "the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." Men should be careful how they stigmatize God's holy rest day.

"And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only [ye heard] a voice. And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, [even] ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone." Deut. 4:12, 13.

The law of God in the sanctuary in heaven is the great original, of which the precepts inscribed upon the tables of stone and recorded by Moses in the Pentateuch were an unerring transcript. "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law." Matt. 5:18. The law of God, being a revelation of His will, a transcript of His character, must forever endure. "All His commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever." (Ps. 119:89; 111:7, 8)

"He that turneth his ear from hearing the law even his prayer shall be abomination." Prov. 28:9.

"When the foundation of the earth was laid, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy, then was laid the foundation of the Sabbath." Job 38:6, 7; Gen. 2:1-3). Well may this institution demand our reverence; it was ordained by no human authority and rests upon no human traditions; it was established by the Ancient of Days and commanded by His eternal word." GC 455 Has God's Sabbath Been Changed?

God did not:

1. Malachi 3:6
2. Psalm 83:18
3. Exodus 6:3; 3:15
4. Deuteronomy 4:12, 13
5. Exodus 20:3-17
6. Psalm 111:7, 8
7. Psalm 89:34
8. Isaiah 42:21
9. Genesis 2:1-3
10. Exodus 20:8-11
11. 1 Chronicles 17:27, last part
12. Numbers 23:20, last part
13. Leviticus 26:2
14. Ezekiel 46:1
15. Exodus 34:21

Angels did not:

Psalm 103:20

Moses did not:

1. Deuteronomy 5:1-22
2. Deuteronomy 11:1, 26028
3. Exodus 16:4, 22-29, first part

Joshua did not:

1. Joshua 1:7, 8, 12, 13
2. Joshua 23:6, 16
3. Deuteronomy 4:12, 13

Ezra did not:

Ezra 7:6

Nehemiah did not:

1. Nehemiah 12:15-22
2. Nehemiah 8:1-12; 9:13, 14

David did not:

1. Psalm 199:60
2. Psalm 119:77
3. Psalm 119:35
4. Psalm 119:15
5. Psalm 119:165

Solomon did not:

1. Proverbs 1:7
2. Proverbs 28:9
3. Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14
4. Proverbs 10:8

Isaiah did not:

1. Isaiah 1:2, first part
2. Isaiah 1:18-20
3. Isaiah 58:13, 14
4. Isaiah 56:1-8
5. Isaiah 8:20

Jeremiah did not:

1. Jeremiah 17:19-27
2. Jeremiah 8:4-7

Ezekiel did not:

1. Ezekiel 20:1, 5, 11, 12
2. Ezekiel 20:18-20

Daniel did not:

1. Daniel 12:10
2. I John 3:4
3. Daniel 6:1-22
4. Exodus 20:3
5. James 2:10, 11
6. Daniel 7:25

Hosea did not:

1. Hosea 14:1, 9
2. Hosea 4:6
3. Hosea 10:9, first part
4. Hosea 6:7, first part
5. Deuteronomy 4:12, 13
6. Hosea 4:1, 2, 12
7. James 2:10, 11

Amos did not:

1. Amos 3:1-3
2. Amos 5:15
3. Amos 8:5-8

Micah did not:

1. Micah 6:8
2. Micah 7:18, 19
3. 1 John 3:4
4. Genesis 26:5

Habakkuk did not:

1. Habakkuk 2:1-4
2. Habakkuk 2:9, 12
3. Habakkuk 3:18

Zechariah did not:

1. Zechariah 1:1-6
2. 1 John 3:4
3. Zechariah 3:1-7
4. Zechariah 5:1-4
5. Zechariah 7:8-12

Malachi did not:

1. Malachi 1:1
2. Malachi 4:4
3. Deuteronomy 4:1-14

Christ did not:

1. Hebrews 13:8
2. John 10:30
3. John 14:8-10
4. Psalm 40:7, 8
5. John 5:30
6. 1 John 5:3
7. Matthew 5:17
8. John 15:10
9. Hebrews 4:8
10. Deuteronomy 32:2, 4
11. 1 Corinthians 10:4
12. Acts 7:38
13. John 14:15
14. Luke 4:16
15. Mark 2:28
16. Matthew 24:20; 22:36-40
17. John 15:14
18. John 10:27
19. John 12:26

Paul did not:

1. 1 Corinthians 11:1
2. Luke 4:16
3. Acts 17:2
4. Acts 13:14, 42-44
5. Acts 16:12, 13
6. Acts 18:3, 4
7. Acts 25:1, 7, 8
8. Hebrews 4:1-11
9. Philippians 3:17

John did not:

1. 1 John 2:3-7
2. Revelation 1:10
3. Revelation 12:12
4. Revelation 22:14
5. 1 John 2:6

James did not:

1. James 2:8-10
2. James 4:17

3. James 1:22-25

Peter and the other Apostles did not:

1. Acts 5:29
2. 2 Peter 2:18-21

Those closest to Christ did not:

1. Luke 23:54-56
2. Luke 24:1

Paul warned of apostasy to come. Read 2 Timothy 4:3-4; Acts 20:29. He puts his finger on a perverse power that would arise. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, 7. Daniel declared that a power would arise and "think to change times and laws." (Daniel 7:25). Since the Holy Scriptures are silent concerning any divinely authorized change of the Sabbath, we must conclude that any rest day other than the seventh day of the Bible is a man-made institution.

The highest form of worship we can offer God is obedience. The most convincing testimony of love we can bring to Christ is a life fully surrendered to Him in obedience. Not only in the matter of Sabbath observance but in all things He asks for full surrender—complete obedience. God calls for men and women to love Him enough to follow Him at any cost.

What Christ Nailed To The Cross

Do not Colossians 2:14-17 and Ephesians 2:15 teach that God's law ended at the cross? Answer: NO, these passages both refer to the law containing "ordinances" or Moses' Law, which was a ceremonial law governing the sacrificial system and priesthood. All of this ceremony and ritual foreshadowed the cross and ended at Christ's death as God had intended. Moses' Law was added, until the "seed should come" and that "seed... is Christ." Gal. 3:19, 16. God's law could not be involved here, for Paul spoke of it as holy, just and good many years after the cross. (Romans 7:7, 12)

Several laws are mentioned in Scripture. National laws governed the conduct of Israel under theocracy. God's moral law, the Ten Commandments, is man's eternal rule of right and wrong. The ceremonial laws of Moses dealt with various sacrificial ceremonies and other temporary laws introduced to impress the Jewish nation with God's plan to save man through the sacrifice of His Son. These laws were to be in effect until type met antitype at the cross.

- Leviticus 1:1-3; 7:37, 38
- 2 Chronicles 35:12
- Deuteronomy 31:24-26
- Colossians 2:16, 17
- Hebrews 10:1
- Daniel 9:26, 27
- Colossians 2:14
- Hebrews 7:18, 19

Galatians 3:24

"Had the people practiced the principles of the Ten Commandments, there would have been no need of the additional directions given to Moses...

"The ceremonial law was thus given to Moses, and by him written in a book. (Deuteronomy 31:24-26). But the law of Ten Commandments spoken from Sinai had been written by God Himself on the tables of stone, and was sacredly preserved in the ark." (Exodus 31:18; Deuteronomy 10:4, 5)

"There are many who try to blend these two systems, using the texts that speak of the ceremonial law to prove that the moral law has been abolished; but this is a perversion of the Scriptures. The distinction between the two systems is broad and clear. The ceremonial system was made up of symbols pointing to Christ, to His sacrifice and His priesthood. This ritual law, with its sacrifices and ordinances, was to be performed by the Hebrews until type met antitype in the death of Christ, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Then all the sacrificial offerings were to cease. It is this law that Christ 'took . . . out of the way, nailing it to His cross.' Colossians 2:14. But concerning the law of Ten Commandments the psalmist declares, 'Forever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven.' Psalm 119:89. And Christ Himself says, 'Think not that I am come to destroy the law. . . . Verily I say unto you'-making the assertion as emphatic as possible—'Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.' Matthew 5:17, 18. Here He teaches, not merely what the claims of God's law had been, and were then, but that these claims should hold as long as the heavens and the earth remain. The law of God is as immutable as His throne. It will maintain its claims upon mankind in all ages." PP 364, 365

Does God's Grace Encourage Disobedience?

Titus 2:11
Romans 3:20
Ephesians 2:5
Romans 5:20
Romans 6:14
Romans 8:1
Galatians 5:19-26
Romans 6:23
1 John 3:4
Romans 3:31
Romans 6:15

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things [done] in [his] body, according to that he hath done, whether [it be] good or bad." 2 Cor. 5:10

Some day everyone of us will have to appear before the judgment bar of God. The books of heaven will be opened, and by our records therein we will be justified or condemned. Every word, thought, and action, will witness for or against us. This judgment session will determine where we shall spend eternity.

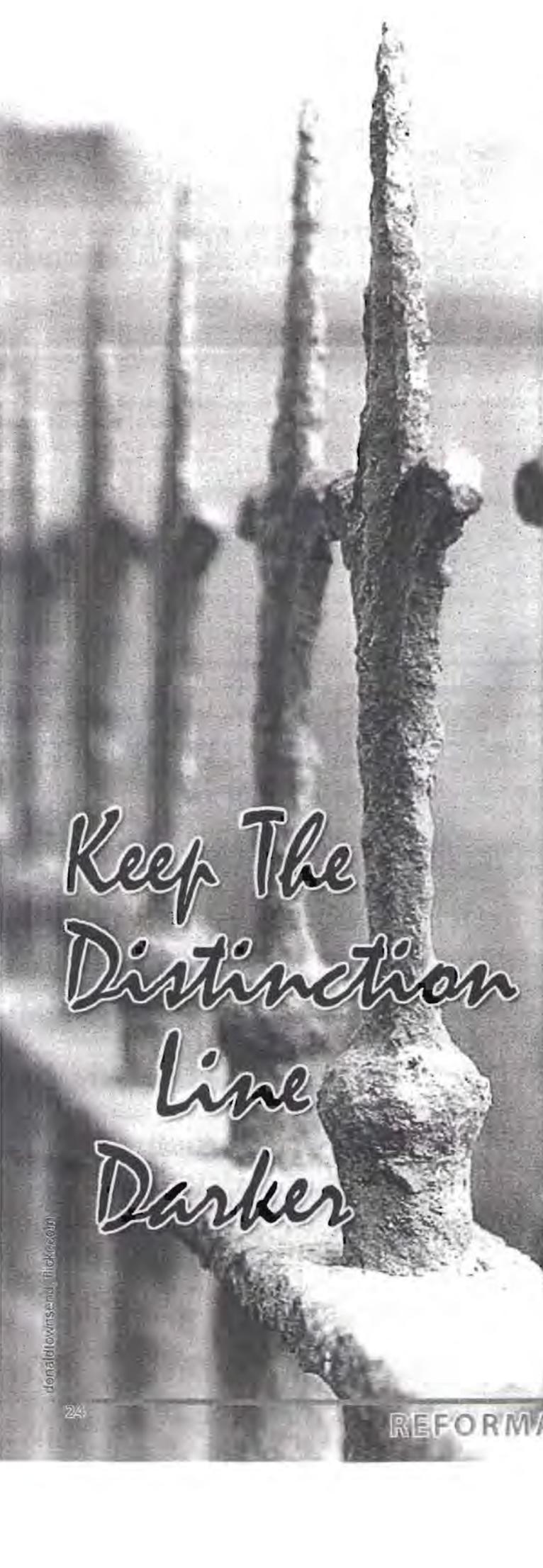
The choice is yours, my friend! In Christ and with Christ you may stand before God without hopeless fear. Without Christ you stand before the judgment without hope. See Deuteronomy 30:15.

Which choice are you making today? Are you right with God? Is Jesus your Saviour? With Christ's help are you keeping all of His commandments? Have you placed your case in the hands of your heavenly High Priest? It is not too late for you to do so today! **AMEN**

Golden Kayawa Hingabantu, Zambia



Timo Martin Making Maple Syrup



More often than not, people sharing land boundaries make sure that a clear demarcation exists between their lands. This is one of the reasons why they build fences all along their land; so as to avoid encroachment by the ones they share boundaries with. It may be a grass fence, live, wire, electric, or brick, depending upon the financial muscle of the person. Some build fences for security reasons. While others have the object of being separate from others (free from disturbances by outsiders).

But how does this apply in the Christian life as a church as well as individually? In trying to answer this question, we read as follows: The Lord makes a hedge about us (Job 1:10). Also "the angel of the Lord encampeth around about them that fear Him and delivereth them." (Psa. 34:7) Are you able to see the difference? It seems man provides his own safety but not so with those that fear God! God is the provider. Note that this protection is not just from physical harm but also from spiritual harm, i.e. sinning; then it can also be seen that we have always to say NO to self-righteousness. In other words, do not provide spiritual protection in your own strength. Do you believe in this? Listen to this: "for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). Also, "He who is trying to reach heaven by his own works in keeping the law, is attempting an impossibility." 1SM 364.

But is it God's purpose that we should be separate? Or does He sanction this view? As to this question(s), the Bible has this to say "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye *separate*, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." 2 Cor. 6:17 (emphasis mine). So it is clear here that by being separate we are received by God. This will be emphasized as we go on.

What really separates us? The above verse tells us by not touching an "unclean thing", so the separation here means that it has to do with truth separating people! It is this that is our boundary! -the line of distinction. So it is not about physical fence it is the truth- that is Jesus Christ- (John 14:6). The guiding line is as follows, according to the prophet of God. E.G. White:

"There is to be no change in the general features of our work. It is to stand as clear and distinct as prophecy has made it. We are to enter into no confederacy with the world, supposing that by so doing we could accomplish more... No line of truth that has made the Seventh-day Adventist people what they are, is to be weakened. We have the old landmarks of truth, experience, and duty, and we are to stand firmly in defense of our principles, in full view of the world." 6T 17

"Our only safety is in preserving the ancient landmarks. 'To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.'" -5T 199

"Never, never seek to remove one landmark that the Lord has given His people. The truth stands firmly established on the eternal Rock—a foundation that storm and tempest can never move." -8T 162

Keep The
Distinction
Line
Darker

But the actual situation has been fulfilled as follows:

"The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church-members love what the world loves, and are ready to join with them." GC 588

It is clear from here that the marker pen has dried and it is no longer able to draw clear, bold, darker lines that can clearly be seen. Oh! Tragic isn't it? Buying more ink- a solution?

There was a time when Adventists were a distinct people but after rejecting God's given message (Christ our Righteousness) in 1888, 26 years later they completely apostatized from the divine truth in 1914 and consequently united themselves with the world; and instead of them converting the world, the world has been since then 'leavening' the whole church from its very top into all its ways. No wonder the line of distinction can hardly be seen nowadays! Glory gone forever! Anyway, prophecy had to be fulfilled. This is why Sister White wrote:

"Unless there is a decided reformation among the people of God, He will turn His face from them." -8T 146

"The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place." -8T 251

"God calls upon those who are willing to be controlled the Holy Spirit to lead out in a work of thorough reformation." TM 514 (*General Conference Bulletin* May 19, 1913)

So this is the ink and it is already here now. Well, is that all? Or else- saved? NO! Remember- "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." 1 Cor. 10:12

There are a number of areas where Adventists of old were known for that which distinguished them from idolaters, and that the fathers and mothers in the Reform Movement continued following them closely up to the present. These areas we need to keep our eyes on, as the prophesied Reformation-the IMS. We need to build a fence around ourselves (by Christ) thereby making it hard for the "world" to have access to us. You see it (the world) cannot in any way leaven us as it has done with others.

What are these areas? Well first and foremost are our personal lives, because "true reformation begins with soul cleansing." MH 180. Then pay attention to proper Sabbath keeping; tithes and offerings. Mal. 3:7-10 (we cannot afford to continue stealing from God- up to when?); refrain from adultery and fornication (it is a cancer among many professed Christians, and beware, your sin will find you out! (Num 32: 23); dress reform (is mostly neglected, please reform here before it is too late!) It is part of health reform- the right arm of the third angel's message (Counsels on Health p. 21); missionary work, attending church meetings, finished? No, in these and others, that space cannot allow for all of them to be put

down on paper, "show thyself approved unto God." (2 Tim. 2:15)

But why is it important for us to be such a people? One of the main reasons for this is found in the words of Christ when He sat on the Mount of Blessings: "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." Matthew 5: 13, 14

You see now, brethren and sisters, the importance of being a distinct people! God has entrusted us with the light so that those in darkness can see and come to the light. But if we start degenerating into the very darkness (unclean pathways), people no longer see Christ in us as the light grows fainter and fainter. So they say: "if that professed Christian will enter heaven, then I also definitely will." Oh! It's again tragic isn't it?

May the Lord help each one of us to continue upholding the old landmarks and therefore continue to be a separate people and reflect the image of Christ our Lord to those who are in darkness, is my wish and prayer. **AMEN.**

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**Sister Austria, the Treasurer
of the General Conference.**

The First 200 Years of the Early Church



CHILDREN'S CORNER

"Oh, Ella, why did you clear the table?"

"I didn't clear it, Mamma. It was like this when I came in."

"Did you do it, Mabel? Tell me, is this a joke? Where did you put the tablecloth?"

"No, Mamma, I didn't touch anything."

"But I had the tablecloth on and the silverware out. Where is the silverware? And where's that loaf of bread I left on the serving table when I was called to the door? Who's been in the kitchen? Did you see anyone come into the house, Mabel?"

"No, but I saw a tall lady come out; and it looked as though she was carrying something under her apron."

"So that's what was going on while our neighbor lady was entertaining me in the front room! The two women were evidently working together. While one was so kindly telling me where I could buy the best strawberries, the other came in the back door and picked up whatever she could lay her hands on. That reminds me of what the groceryman told your father. He said, 'Be sure to lock your doors when you go out; for there's nothing too hot or too heavy for some people to carry away.'"

After that we were more careful about turning the key when we left the house. We watched the clothesline on washday. And we tried to remember not to leave anything of value in the yard. But even though we took the best of precautions, articles occasionally disappeared. At this time we were living in a rented house in Cooranbong, waiting for our cottage to be built across the road from Grandma White's home near Avondale.

One day when we returned from church, mother sent me to get a rice pudding from the cooler house, a small stone building by the kitchen door. But the pudding was gone, dish and all, and with it a pitcher of milk.

When we told grandma about it, she said, "Don't any of you say a word about this to anyone!" She made friendly visits around the neighborhood, even calling on the family suspected of the thievery. "We're

coming to live here among you," she told them, "and I trust you'll

find us pleasant neighbors. We're establishing a school nearby where you can send your children to receive an education. We're ready to help you in any way we can."

Not long after this grandma had the opportunity she was looking for to help her neighbors. Although the surrounding country was sparsely settled and without telephones, word spread rapidly that Mrs. White had a nurse in her family, Miss Sara McEnterfer, from the famous Battle Creek Sanitarium. This was welcome news, for the nearest hospital or doctor's office was at Newcastle, twenty-three miles up the railway line. The first call for help came from a home where a little boy had scalded his leg by upsetting a pot of boiling tea.

When the "famous nurse from Battle Creek" reached the house, she found the six-year-old patient suffering from a very sore leg. It had become infected, and for some time the little fellow had cried day and night with pain. Every morning for nearly two weeks Aunt Sara, as she soon came to be called throughout the neighborhood, drove with grandma's horse and carriage to the home and treated the scalded leg until it was entirely healed. After that calls for help came thick and fast.

Soon the Avondale School was opened, though the buildings were not quite finished. Grandma and her family of helpers had settled at Sunnyside, and grandma was busy with her writing. Four typewriters were clicking away as everyone worked earnestly copying, duplicating, and addressing pieces ready to mail—articles, letters, and book manuscripts. Our family had moved into the new cottage across the road.

One day a man came riding up to Sunnyside on horseback. All in one breath he said, "We have a very sick boy at our house, and we don't know what to do for him. Someone told us that a nurse lives here. Could she help us?"

When Aunt Sara reached the house, she found a boy of nine lying on a cot. His head was hot with fever, and his eyes were red and swollen from crying. His mother was in bed with a new baby, and his aunt was doing her best to take care of all three.

"Now tell me all about what happened," the nurse said.

"About a week ago, when Willie was driving a calf out of the yard, he stepped into a hole where some broken glass had been thrown

and cut a gash in his ankle an inch and a half long and as deep as the bone," the aunt explained. "His mother rubbed lard on the cut and tied it up, but it grew worse every day, and became so bad that his father took him to a doctor in Newcastle. The doctor cleaned and dressed the wound and sent some medicine for the boy to take, and said to apply bread-and-milk poultices every few hours. "Then the baby came, and the boy's mother was laid up. I have to take care of Willie, but I don't know what to do for him. I don't even know how to make the poultices. His father didn't ask the doctor how they should be made. [Aunt Sara learned that they had been soaking the bread in milk and laying it on the wound cold.] The doctor said if the leg got worse to bring the boy back; he might have to amputate. Then we heard about Mrs. White and the Battle Creek nurse that lives with her, and so we sent for you; and we're so glad you've come to help us!"

Aunt Sara examined the patient. "It's blood poisoning, and a serious case," she said. "Put the kettle on and heat water immediately. We'll do all we can to save that leg." She had brought her flannel fomentation cloths, as she always did when called out on duty. For two hours without interruption she applied alternate hot and cold fomentations, then dressed the wound. Before she had finished, the patient was asleep. After telling Willie's aunt how to continue the treatments, the nurse left, promising to return the next day.

When she returned the following morning, she found that the aunt had slipped while carrying a kettle of boiling water and had scalded her leg from the ankle to the knee. She was in so much pain that she could scarcely get around. So the nurse had two patients instead of one. She decided to bring them to Sunnyside, where she could care for them both. Willie's father carried the boy to the carriage and then helped the aunt in.

All the way home, Aunt Sara was wondering where she could find room in the house for those two sick folks. The four upstairs bedrooms served also as office workrooms. The cook and a girl attending school occupied a room over the carriage barn. Overnight guests were in the parlor. But Aunt Sara was used to contriving. She managed to find a vacant spot where she could set up a cot for the aunt until the guests had left. She brought the boy across the road to our cottage.

It was my duty, as soon as school was dismissed, to stoke the kitchen stove and keep plenty of hot water ready for Willie's treatments. We gave him alternate hot and cold leg baths several times a day. Aunt Sara came over every evening and applied charcoal poultices. Once when she removed the poultice, a piece of glass the size of a kernel of wheat was lying on the surface of the wound. As the leg healed, the treatments were given less frequently.

At the end of ten days the patients were taken home, and Willie astonished the neighbors with his story about the wonderful cure "just with hot and cold water and charcoal." From that time on, Miss McEnterfer was frequently called to give help and instruction in caring for the sick. No charge was ever made, although at times she had to travel long distances.

The calls for help came so fast that she could not keep up with them and attend to her other duties. Mrs. Rodd, an Adventist sister who was a practical nurse, volunteered her services, and during

the next two years, she, with the help of her husband, treated 240 people. They drove hundreds of miles with horse and buggy to homes scattered in surrounding villages and through the forest.

Most of the patients these two nurses treated made rapid recovery, but not all. One day when Aunt Sara answered an urgent call, she found a young man with a raging fever. He was lying in a small room which had no window and only one door. The entire family crowded close around his bed, waiting for him to die, and—as Aunt Sara said—hastening his death by shutting out what little fresh air might otherwise have reached him.

She dismissed the weeping relatives and gave the patient treatments to reduce his fever. Then she had him moved into a more airy room. For several hours she worked over him, applying cold compresses and hot footbaths, and giving sponge baths and other treatments, until his fever was greatly reduced and he said he felt better. After giving instruction for his further care, she left for the night.

The family had already called a physician; when he arrived that evening from Newcastle, he examined the patient and approved the treatment given. Before he left, a member of the family asked, "Shall we give the patient spirits to keep up his strength?"

"A little if you choose," was the answer.

Other members of the family shared the bottle. With reasoning powers thus dulled by liquor, they began giving the sick man frequent drinks. That night he died in a drunken fit.

When Grandma White saw the great need, she said, "We must have a place where the sick in the neighborhood can be treated intelligently, a place where students in the nursing class can get practical experience. Caring for the suffering people who live around here will be the best sermon we can preach." She wrote letters to friends telling them of the need for a little sanitarium in connection with the Avondale School. The school gave a piece of land near the new church, which was only a ten-minute walk from the college buildings. Students cut down some eucalyptus trees, and then worked overtime transforming them into lumber.

A combined clearing bee and picnic was announced. The school was closed for a day so that teachers and pupils could help clear the building site. Families living on the school estate or nearby laid their usual work aside and brought their tools. The men grubbed out trees and bushes and piled them in heaps for an evening bonfire. Children raked leaves and cleared away rocks. At noon we spread our lunch on the ground. Every housewife had brought extra food to share with those who had none.

Nearly every mail brought gifts of money from friends far and near. When all was ready, carpenters, painters, and plumbers volunteered their spare-time services free of charge. Within a few weeks a twenty-five-bed hospital was ready to begin its healing ministry, but even before the rooms were finished and furnished, patients began to arrive. The building and its furnishings were modest, and the charges moderate. It is doubtful if any patient was ever refused care because he was too poor to pay.



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