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“I am crucified with Christ:  
nevertheless I live; yet not I,  
but Christ liveth in me:  
and the life which I now live in the flesh  
I live by the faith of the Son of God,  
who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20



Alfred the leader of Ethiopia with 3 sisters of the church.



Believers In Malawi



*"With God All Things Are Possible"*

*Matthew. 19:26*

Western Field Conference, American Union August 18-22, 2010

Amongst the beautiful trees and landscapes of the lower Sierra Nevada mountains, the Leoni Meadows campground was the setting for the American Union, Western Field conference 2010.

The children of God gathered together on Wednesday afternoon to begin the spiritual feast that awaited them. The motto of the conference was, "With God all things are possible." Mat 19:26.

On Wednesday evening Brother Dering gave the opening address by using the example from Nehemiah chapters 1-4 describing the additional challenges that Nehemiah faced, beyond his own personal responsibilities. A parallel was drawn to the "broken walls" that everyone can face in this life: health problems, employment problems, bills, rent or mortgage, or the suffering brought about by bad habits. It is human to think that there is no solution, but with God all things are possible. "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." Mark 9:23. The wall around Jerusalem was completed in 52 days. How much time is there for the last work to be done – for the gospel to be preached to the world? The task seems impossible with 7 billion people in the world today, but all who are united and willing to focus on the common goal of proclaiming the three angel's messages will see God work in miraculous ways.

On Thursday (all day) and Friday morning we were presented with nine workshops that delved into the issues of the revelations of God and His interactions with mankind. The ultimate goal of the Plan of Redemption is to restore man into the image of God as he was at creation.

The workshops are briefly summarized here:

A very good place we can find a revelation of God is in nature. We are surrounded by nature at the camp ground, but also at our homes, there is nature. When we leave the cities and go spend time in nature our minds are drawn out to the Creator. Everything was made perfect. Although sin has marred nature to a certain degree, there are still many amazing lessons to be learned from nature.

A part of the Creator's work was to create nature, but He also created man for a purpose. Man was created in the image of God, however sin marred this image. Man's purpose today is designed of God – to partner with Him in saving others from the destroyer.

The core of what the Bible reveals about God was summed up by the presenter by the question, "What is the most essential part of what the Bible makes known about God?" The "core" is the

innermost part, and “reveal” means to lay open and display. With much group participation, it was concluded that there is not just one portion that is essential. God is revealed everywhere in the scriptures.

Since nature is a beautiful revelation of God, Satan is constantly at work against God. He influenced mankind to develop the Evolutionary theory to try to take the focus away from God. Everything can be explained by science and humanism. The truth is that only with God can man measure nature or himself accurately and then fulfill his potential.

We were then given a presentation on the amount of good nutritious food found in nature that is often labelled as weeds and are therefore cast out and thrown away. This information will be very useful when the time comes when we cannot buy or sell.

God's universe is very large and what is mankind in relation? Very small. We were given a glimpse of the vastness of the universe and earth is just a speck. However, this earth is the centre of interest at the moment throughout the universe as we near the close of this earth's history. The Plan of Redemption is nearing its completion.

Although this earth is small and far away from Heaven, God did not leave it to manage on its own. The ladder that Jacob saw in vision is a clear representation of the close relationship that heaven has with earth.

The question was asked, “What will happen soon to give a revelation of God to all mankind?” When each of us yields to God as an instrument for Him to use, our obedience is a revelation of Him to others – to the world. Through the grace of Christ alone, physical, mental and spiritual life will be restored to those who seek first His kingdom.

What is special about the relationship between Christ and His children? Mankind plus Jesus equals righteousness. One may live according to the Bible and Testimonies and still not have Jesus; there is no salvation in this. By knowing Jesus we will be changed into His image.

The other worship services brought forward more clearly the fact that nothing is impossible with God. Although all things are possible with God, where does our greatest interest lie? It is common to be most concerned about our worldly interests. One thing is impossible for God, and that is to choose for us. That is our part of the equation. God leads us to do His will, while discontent drives us out of His will. Do we know what His will is? If we love Him, we will automatically obey Him; we don't have to be told what to do. Let's choose with all our heart to put our will on God's side and meditate on how Jesus makes everything possible for us.

The Sabbath is always the highlight of any conference. The Divine service brought out many occasions in the Bible where God

performed the impossible. The birth of Jesus was a miracle in itself that we cannot explain. Abraham had a child in his old age when his wife was elderly also. Sometimes we expect things from God, but they don't happen as we expect. We need to learn patience and trust. Moses was impatient to deliver the nation of Israel out of Egypt and even killed a man in his zeal. He had to learn to wait for God. It was God who would do the delivering. Paul was zealous and thought he was doing God's will, but the Lord stopped him and changed his course in life. We need to be instruments in the hand of God and He will perform the seemingly impossible through us. We don't need to be special, just obedient.

The children and youth blessed us in the afternoon with their songs of praise and testimonies. The youth are the future of the church and the adults were encouraged to take a more active part in the lives of the youth. They were encouraged to take time on a consistent basis to really listen and communicate with them.

As always, the end of the conference arrives quicker than we would like it to. In conclusion, Remember, God does nothing without the individual's cooperation and permission. He is in the process of making up His kingdom, and only those who cherish the holy principles of that Kingdom will be there. They consider the things of God and Jesus Himself as the pearl of great price, and treasure hid in the field; and they regard everything else worthless by comparison. Those who look with hope and longing for Jesus' return will separate from the controlling systems of this world. They will be pleading with God now, to make them holy as He is holy; perfect as He is perfect. This can be done only through the Holy Spirit living in them, imparting to them the divine nature, Christ's righteousness.

We are privileged to have this knowledge of salvation as revealed in Nature and in the Word of God. Let's fulfill God's purpose for our lives and go and share this blessing to a world that is perishing in sin. **AMEN**

# Columba's Legacy



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

After the death of Columba, the leadership of Iona was taken over by Baithen. This great man was an experienced missionary who had built a training center on the island of Tiree. It was said that he was the most knowledgeable person in both the Scriptures and in science, of anyone living west of the Alps.

The next four hundred years saw great events take place in England, Scotland, and Ireland. There were many battles between the kingdoms in England and Scotland. All three countries were invaded by the Danes who conquered England and Ireland. There also was intense pressure put on the Celtic Church by the ever-growing papacy. Some of the kingdoms accepted the power of the papacy to help them regain their power from their invaders. The Roman Church worked through the armies of powerful papal states such as Germany, France and Spain. Those that favored the Celtic Church couldn't see any country in Europe that had not made an alliance with Rome. This left the British Isles in a vulnerable position and the papacy was quick to take advantage.

Within 125 years of Columba's death the Picts had been swayed by Rome to begin keeping the Roman Easter (which always fell on a Sunday) and ordered all the Columban pastors to leave.

Yet not everyone was against the Celtic Church. When Kenneth MacAlpine, king of the Scots, united both the Picts and the Scots into one kingdom a little over 125 years later, he quickly brought back the Culdee pastors to lead their former churches.

Because of the deep love and respect that was held for the memory of Columba and his successors, the Scottish Church remained true to most of the ideals that had been handed down to them for over 500 years.

Then in 1058 Malcolm III (or Malcolm Canmore) came to the throne. He had been educated in England with the English king, Edward the Confessor, who was a loyal Roman Catholic. Malcolm was not well grounded in the Celtic doctrines. It was at his coronation that Celtic Christianity began a fierce struggle to survive.

Satan set a plan in motion that would help destroy the Culdee church. As he has often done in the past, he used someone the king loved to influence him for evil. Satan knows how to use “peer pressure” even on adults. This is what happened: Malcolm III married a woman named Margaret. She was a member of one of

the royal houses of England, but had lived in Hungary where she became a devoted Catholic and planned to enter a nunnery. She did agree to marry Malcolm, but she insisted that she be allowed to take charge of the religious affairs of England. Dr. Wilkinson tells us, “Margaret found the Scottish Church a church of the people; she determined to make it the church of the monarch.” Truth Triumphant 111.

Now began a battle between the people and the throne. Margaret was a beautiful and intelligent woman with a good memory, and she had been well trained in papal doctrines. She brought with her teachers who would help her deal with the Celtic Church. She knew that it would be unwise to try to destroy the name of Columba so she began instead to pass laws against the customs and teachings of his church. Margaret began to do what had worked so well for the papacy in many other countries – she used the power of the throne to bring obedience to the Church.

A three-day religious congress was called. Margaret was the one in charge and the king gave his full support to his much-loved wife. She began with a law to enforce the Catholic Easter and then moved into the question as to why the Culdees used their native language for services rather than Latin as the Roman Church did. She protested against the Scots' day of worship. “Let us,” she said, “venerate the Lord's day, inasmuch as upon it our Saviour rose from the dead: let us do not servile work on that day.” Truth Triumphant p. 113. Sunday laws were put in place and the inevitable persecution followed.

In 1130, Margaret's son, King David, ordered the Culdees to worship on Sunday or their lands would be taken away and the people expelled. The people chose to be loyal to God's law and had to move while their properties were given to the Sunday-keeping monks. However the Celtic Church's love for the Bible and their attention toward education and critical thinking sowed many seeds of truth. For a time those seeds were hidden but in the days of Wycliffe and later when the Reformation gained strength in England and Scotland they sprang up to flourish and bear fruit.

The godly life of Columba bore a heavy harvest. His life shows us what God can do with a person totally dedicated to Him. The enemies of truth could not erase the powerful influence of this great man.

So it was that during the French Revolution, the two witnesses of Revelation 11 – the Old and New Testament were banned and burnt since the truth that they revealed was intolerable for the self-righteous Illuminati. Intellect and human understanding arose above divine wisdom. The creatures rebelled against their Creator, just like Satan had done in heaven. But God has some humour and the same enemies of the truth that scorned it and persecuted it, without being aware of it, fulfilled the Biblical prophecy by causing a deadly wound to the authoritarian religious power of the time, exactly as it was prophesied in Revelation.

But the truth did not die out and men who feared God were inspired to found Bible Societies in different countries. Now each person could have a Bible in his own language and search the Scriptures. Thus it happened that the deep study of the Bible led God's faithful children to discover that Jesus should come again and that the time of the judgment was at hand. This was and still is a very hard and unpleasant truth for those who love the world and its glory.

The truths preached in 1833 and thereafter caused a real revival of Christianity. Books and pamphlets were published to invite the people to prepare themselves for the great event, to forsake their sins, to be converted, because the time of the judgment had come and the Saviour of the world was about to appear in the clouds of heaven.

Not only were the children of God part of this movement and the news went like the wind from place to place, but signs happened in the sky that were a testimony that God was behind it all. Thousands of meteorites fell on the earth; and not only in America were these signs visible, but once, in London, the sky was so red and the reflection of the light so strong that the firemen in the whole city were in movement thinking that the city was being engulfed by flames.

But the present truth brought to the people then was also not popular and was opposed and persecuted.

In Sweden, where it was forbidden to teach anything that was against the doctrine sustained by the church, God raised children who fearlessly preached the present truth for that time: "The hour of His judgment is come". The first case was that of a 5 year-old girl in Eksjo who could not read or write, but sung a Lutheran hymn by heart and announced, "the hour of His judgment is come". This caused an awakening in her family and many turned to God asking for mercy. This movement went from place to place as different children arose to preach the present truth. In Orebro, Sweden, two young men filled with the Holy Spirit announced this message and were imprisoned and beaten up. A lady of the high society made an appeal to the king and they were set free. Later on, an eight year-old boy was brought before the local priest because he spoke clearly and directly from the Bible. The priest could not bring the child to court due to the king's decree, but he tried to ridicule him and gave him a Bible to read. The child said, "I cannot read." Then,

what do you know about the Bible?" asked the priest. The child answered that in Revelation 18:13 there are 14 things mentioned, among them the soul of men. The priest answered, "That is not true." The child said, "Please, open the Bible and read." And in effect it was as the child had said. The people were astonished and mockingly said, "The child knows the Bible better than the priest." From then on the child could freely give the message without being disturbed. (from Loughborough's *Church History*).

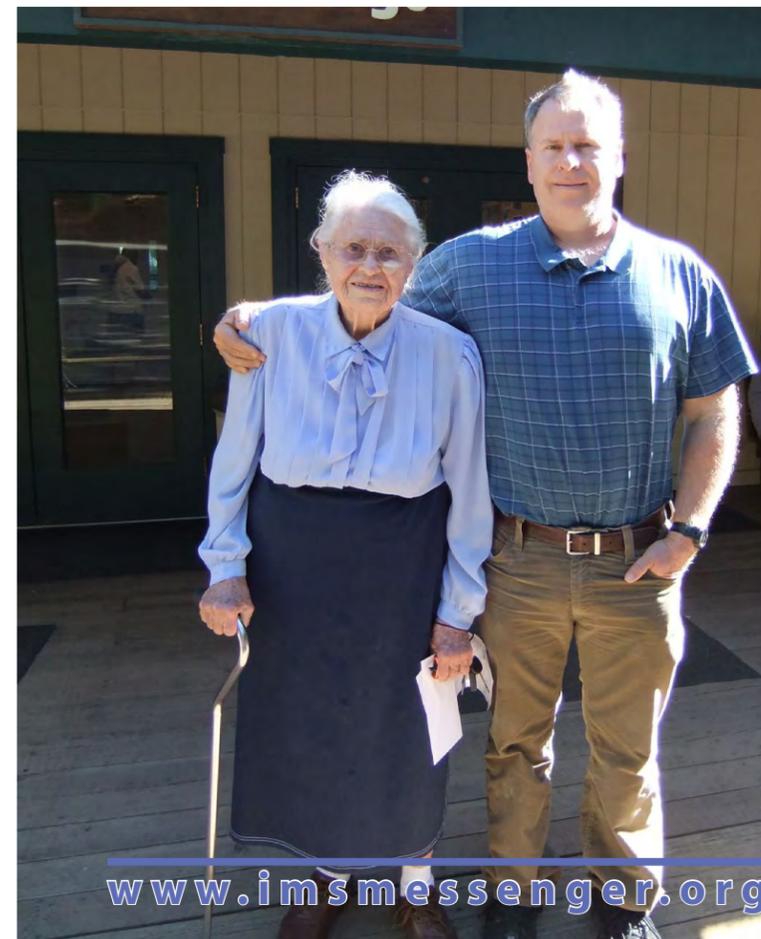
But all these stories belong to the past, we may say. We are living in 2010. What is the present truth for us today? Who preaches it? What reaction does this message receive? The story of the cross is and will always be a present truth; since without the cross there is no salvation, no eternal life and no hope. Without Christ's sacrifice on Calvary there is no reconciliation with God the Father, no forgiveness of sin, no true peace in our heart. But Jesus Christ is no longer hanging on the cross. Today He is in heaven and mediates for us and His invitation to His disciples in His time is valid also for us today, "If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? **For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.**" Matthew 16:24-27.

The present truth for our time is: Jesus is coming back! Everything that is happening today in the world is not accidental, but prophetic. We are living in the most solemn time in the history of this world.

It is well known that history repeats itself. Thomas, Jesus' disciple could not believe that his Master had been resurrected and wanted to put his finger into His wound. We do not need to doubt any longer since we can also put our finger into the wound of the beast of Revelation 13, who received a deadly wound and came back to life.

The oil and the wine that during the Middle Ages were not harmed, although the wheat and the barley were very expensive, will again today awaken a people as in the time of the Reformation, that will preach the present truth without fear because they love God and man more than their own lives. Then the last chapter of Daniel will be fulfilled, "Here shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [even] to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book... And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." Daniel 12:1, 3.

May the Lord help us to acknowledge and live out the present truth, so that we may be prepared to announce it to the world, because "we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth." 2 Corinthians 13:8. **Amen. Teresa Corti**



# God's Creation Of Man



God's relationship to man is quite an interesting subject but before we look at it, let us for a time explore Satan's strategies, deceptions and heresies as have been propagated throughout the centuries; of course bearing in mind that they are so numerous that this article therefore can be in no way exhaustive.

Today, many heresies have cropped up in the Christian world as Satan is in a great battle to win many souls to his side. Most of them are quite old, others are relatively new or just modified. According to the Bible, it is "because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." (Rev. 12:12). These heresies have become so rampant that the minds of many are so beclouded with them and cannot discern the truth, which was once delivered to the saints.

In the days of Christ, Satan had a certain strategy. He worked so hard to make people focus on the law as a source of salvation and cling to traditions of men to gain the approval of heaven. The Savior Jesus Christ was rejected and ridiculed. Often the Pharisees and the teachers of the law found themselves in conflict with the Son of God whenever He worked to relieve the suffering on the Sabbath day. Even Christ's brothers were a reproach to Him. By not recognizing "the sacrifice that brought salvation to the lost world," (DA 485), the Jews had completely placed themselves beyond the reach of God's mercy. Their sins could only be cleansed through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ and because they did not accept this, they lost the chance of salvation which was readily around them. Satan exulted in that his sophistry had worked out.

A similar, solemn event is seen in the history of the Laodicean Church. In 1888 at Minneapolis, Minnesota General Conference session, the leaders of the church had advocated for the law at the expense of our only hope--Jesus Christ. Consequently, a few years later, heresies came into the church, pioneered by Dr J.H. Kellogg. Worse off, the church 26 years later plunged into deep apostasy when it came face to face with the crisis in 1914. This marked the downfall of the Adventist Church. Again Satan exulted though he failed to wipe out all the church of God.

Going back a little in the line of history, soon after the death of the apostles, heresies came into the church and propagated throughout history to our day. On the other hand, not long ago, Pentecostalism had gained ground with the popular teaching that Christ, and Christ alone with no personal responsibility. What really matters is faith in Jesus and the grace of God to keep the Ten Commandments.

Protestants have also echoed their words and this has become their main doctrine. This is a great deception from Satan. Do you see how the strategy has changed? As discussed previously, Satan had been shown to be working to make people hold to the law and their traditions rather than Christ. Now he says not the law but Christ alone! Why is this so? Satan knows that it is impossible to be for Christ or inherit the kingdom of God when you do not have His law--His character. Consider the following:

When Jesus was born, the present truth was His birth that was announced by the shepherds and the kings from the East. Everything happened as it was prophesied. The so longed for Messiah had finally come! But, how was this truth received by the majority of the people? It was rejected and opposed. "*He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*" John 1:10, 11.

Shortly after His birth, Herod commanded all children under two years old to be killed, but he could not kill the One who said about Himself, "*I am the way, the truth and the life.*" The child grew up and at the appointed time He started His ministry. The truth He preached that had to do with repentance and conversion was not so popular either for the political authorities or for the priests, Pharisees and scribes; the Messiah was not what they had expected, therefore they fought against Him. The Messiah was crucified and His followers were persecuted and many of them killed. But He was God, the Son of God, the True and Faithful Witness and He was resurrected. Even His disciples, who were with Him for three and a half years did not understand the plan of salvation. They also expected that He would be crowned as an earthly king and would bring peace upon the earth. But God's plan goes forward whether we understand it or not, whether we want it or not, whether we cooperate with it or fight against it. "*For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.*"

What was the present truth when Jesus came out of the grave? Mary had to tell His disciples that the sepulcher was empty, that He had been resurrected according to the Scriptures. Everything happens according to what is written, but the imagination of man, his expectations and covetousness darken his understanding and blind his spirit so that he cannot see what is important for the salvation of his soul.

What a truth was that one! The political authorities, influenced by the religious leaders had set soldiers before the tomb in case that, what the Saviour had foretold might happen. Now something had to be done against this amazing present truth! The best thing was to bribe the soldiers, to buy their conscience so that they would tell that Jesus' disciples had come at night and had stolen His body. Were not lies and false testimonies what they had used all the time against the Master and His disciples? The present truth is not at all popular. It causes upheaval, enmity; it stirs human passions.

All the apostles, except John, were killed; and the persecution of Christians went on through the centuries. Satan does not sleep. He managed to raise hatred against the sect of the Nazarenes in the unconverted heart of man. The history of the Hugonotes, the Albigenses, the Waldenses is a testimony that the present truth has been always rejected and opposed by the majority.

When, in the 1800's, the fire of persecution arose in Germany against those who accepted and preached the truth regarding

the 2300 days, many families fled to southern Russia where they spread this precious truth among their countrymen who had moved there many years before; and a movement called the "Stundists" was founded due to the fact that they gave Bible lessons (Stunden) in private houses. This is just to prove that "*we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.*" In MB, page 110 we read; "Even the enmity of the wicked will prove a blessing by disciplining you for heaven... God permits us to encounter obstacles, persecution and hardships not as a curse, but as the greatest of blessings of our lives."

In each time there is a present truth related to what happens or should happen in that time according to the prophecies. God has a perfect plan and there is no human or satanic power that can hinder it.

What was the present truth during the Dark Ages? In Revelation it is written that during that time the wheat and barley were very expensive. The bread of life--God's word, was difficult to find. The pagan Babylonian religion and the Greek philosophy had taken the place of Christ and His pure doctrine, and woe to him who did not agree with that kind of faith and worship. But in the same book we read that the wine and the oil were not hurt. The Holy Spirit, sent to guide every sincere soul into the whole truth, cannot be killed. The wine, God's grace represented in the blood of Jesus shed for us is still flowing for every man who wants to be reconciled with heaven and inherit eternal life.

This "oil" kindled a flame in the hearts of straightforward men like Wycliff, Huss and Luther who understood that it is not our work, neither the rituals nor the indulgences that were sold at the time that can save our soul, but only grace.

As we all know, one day, when Luther was in Rome, climbing the supposed steps from Pilato's palace, he heard the voice of the Holy Spirit telling him, "*The just shall live by faith.*" Romans 1:17. That became the present truth of his day. A great work of reformation started with the pure doctrine of salvation by grace, "Sola Gratia". The word of God was the only foundation of the faith, "Sola Scriptura." What an awakening to real piety was the time of the reformers and what terrible persecution suffered by those who dared preach the present truth for their time! Here and there people were imprisoned, burnt and tortured. Isaiah writes, "*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*" Isa. 40:8. "*For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.*" The Almighty God stays behind the truth and even if men try to kill it, He can resurrect it, as He did with His beloved Son--our Saviour, the incarnation of the Truth.

When we read the history of Christianity, we can see that every present truth brought a revival and an opposition. The powers of darkness dressed either in imperial or religious garments always tried to do away with the truth.

# The Present Truth

Apostle Paul, who believed to be a faithful servant of the Lord when he was actually an enemy of the truth, after his encounter with our Saviour understood his real condition and experienced a deep conversion. He knew exactly what he meant when he wrote to the Corinthians, "For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth." 2 Corinthians 13:8.

Let us read a couple of paragraphs written by James White and published in 1849 in the magazine The Present Truth, "It is through the truth that souls are sanctified, and made ready to enter the everlasting kingdom. Obedience to the truth will kill us to this world that we may be made alive, by faith in Jesus. 'Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth.' John 17:17; this was the prayer of Jesus, 'I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.' 3 John 4.

"Error darkens and fetters the mind, but the truth brings with it freedom, and gives light and life. True charity, or love "rejoiceth in the truth." 1 Corinthians 13:6. "Thy law is the truth." Psalm 119:142.

"David, describing the day of slaughter, when the pestilence shall walk in darkness, and destruction waste at noon-day so that 'a thousand shall fall at thy side and ten thousand at thy right hand', says- ' he shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings thy shall trust, his TRUTH shall be thy SHIELD and BUCKLER.'

"The storm is coming. War, famine and pestilence are already in the field of slaughter. Now is the time, the only time to seek a shelter in the truth of the living God.

"Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know [them], and be established in the present truth.' 2 Peter 1:12.

Elder James White continues writing, "In Peter's time there was present truth, or truth applicable to that present time. The present truth now, is that which shows present duty, and the right position for us who are about to witness the time of trouble, such as never was. Present truth must be oft repeated, even to those who are established in it. This was needed in the Apostle's day, and it certainly is no less important for us, who are living just before the close of time." (End of quotation).

Among us it is often spoken of the present truth and it was this verse from Peter and the previous paragraphs quoted from a book I have recently translated that motivated me to meditate upon this subject.

It is a fact that there is a present truth for each time that it is important for that specific time. In our personal life there is also a present truth. The place where we live, the society in which we interact, the situation that we are living at the moment may be not the same as some years ago.

"God requires perfection of His children. His law is a transcript of His own character, and it is the standard of all character. This infinite standard is presented to all that there may be no mistake in regard to the kind of people whom God will have to compose His kingdom. The life of Christ on earth was a perfect expression of God's law, and when those who claim to be children of God become Christ like in character, they will be obedient to God's commandments. Then the Lord can trust them to be of the number who shall compose the family of heaven. Clothed in the glorious apparel of Christ's righteousness, they have a place at the King's feast. They have a right to join the blood-washed throng." COL 3:15

This testimony speaks for itself on the relationship between Christ and the Law. This being the case let us develop the subject a little further.

Now that we have seen how Satan is working subtly throughout the ages with the evil angels at his aid and human instrumentality on the other, let's consider another false teaching that has become popular nowadays. It is based on the story of creation in some verses of Genesis chapters 1 and 2. If you often do missionary work, you may have met this teaching regarding God having created two beings (not as in Adam and Eve) but the spirit man and the physical man. Have you heard or read about it in any book? In either case, let's examine this matter thoroughly in line with the Bible and the Testimonies and then reach that one conclusion which we ought to hold as God's people who are the treasurers of His truth.

The verses are as follows: Gen.1:26- 28; 2:5, 7, 18,21-23. To the casual reader, these verses are taken to be difficult to understand because they intertwine and therefore should better be left alone. But to the keen reader of the inspired writings, being actuated by the spirit, there is no cause for confusion whatsoever.

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And the LORD God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof. And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is

now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Thus the story of man's creation is given by the inspired writings. Now let us with prayer and consecration figure out the meaning of it all as we analyze each given verse.

To begin with, always bear in mind that some of the Bible stories were not written in the chronological order of events. That is to say, it is not all the time that the telling of a story is completely finished for the writer to take you to another story. Or in some cases the inspired writers could take you far ahead of events before taking you back to the original point to describe it in a detailed fashion. Let us pursue this a little further, and prove this fact biblically.

Isaiah 1-5 and 6 give us a good starting point. You see, Isaiah's call into the ministry is found in chapter 6, the beginning part; yet is full of his prophecies in chapter 1. The reason for this is, many servants of God have opted to give the people God's message first before they recount their own experiences. Compare this with the apostle John of Patmos Rev. 1:9. He recounts of himself in verse 9 instead of probably verse 1. In Daniel 8:14, Daniel is given the vision of the 2300 days but this subject is left for a while only to be explained in chapter 9:24; in between the two verses are completely different issues. Revelation 15:2-4, John recounts the experience of the saints first before he continues to explain the seven last plagues. There is a lot of evidence on this matter especially in the book of Revelation.

Now that we have this clear in mind, let's take Genesis 1:26-28. It does not mean that because God is a Spirit (John 4:24, Greek word for "Spirit" is pneuma which means, life, the rational soul or vital principle), therefore man was created a spirit without the body. Instead this verse outlines what God did and therefore whatever is stated in chapter 2:5-7 about man being made from the dust of the earth, is part and parcel of this verse and a single task, not events independent from each other.

What remains to be done now is to look at the creation of the woman. You can already see that verse 27 of chapter 1 says the woman was already created, but in chapter two we read that man is in need of a companion, the reason is already established above, in the way some scriptures are written. Definitely the woman was created a little later than the man as is obvious from the verses quoted previous.

Chapter 1 can be said to define the final product while chapter 2 talks of the process taken to create man. In between, Moses first speaks about the rest of the creation, and then presents the joy of the Sabbath before coming back to how man was created. However, bear in mind that it was within the creation week that man's creation was completed. God made man a body out of the ground, breathed into its nostrils and then man became a living soul. The truth about the spirit is as given in the following testimony and verses.

"From eternal ages it was God's purpose that every created being, from the bright and holy seraph to man, should be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator." DA161.

How does God dwell in these beings? Through "His Spirit in the inner man" Eph. 3:16, "In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Eph.2:2, 22.

Is it not now a worthy conclusion on the matter? Well it is! The first man was a man with the physical body with God dwelling in him through the Spirit.

May God help us always to adhere to the Bible and the Testimonies, with prayer before reading them and deep consecration, so that we continue to discern true teachings and that not one of us is misled into perdition, is my wish and wish and Prayer. **AMEN.**

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## CANADIAN YOUTH CAMPING IN ALGONQUIN PARK



God is hardly calling us to ignore the law! Paul says we're under grace and not the law as an avenue of salvation. The Law can save nobody! Only grace can save. He's right, but does that do away with the law? Romans 6:15 reads, "What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid."

What is sin? The answer is in 1 John 3:4; "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." When under grace do I go out and break the law? Now, while under grace do I go out and kill? Steal? Bear false witness? Break the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath? Then why is it that we feel very comfortable in going out and dealing with commandments and declare that all commandments are binding except one: Remember the 7<sup>th</sup> day – the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment?

Why is it that some people conclude that when you are keeping nine commandments you are under grace, but when you keep the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment you suddenly come under the law? What kind of logic is that? Ah! But when it is all said and done, the biggest reason for not honoring the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath is that: "Ah! Come on, it's just one little commandment, God won't mind." Remember James 2:10? Of course! If we break just one of the Ten Commandments we are guilty of breaking.... how many? ALL! Now, if it didn't matter to God if we broke "one little one," He should not have given any of them. No! Not even one!

So your Pastor's example in obeying God is one of the most powerful forces many of your churches will ever have outside of the Holy Spirit speaking to us in the Holy Scriptures. The destiny of millions can be in their hands. Awesome! Terrifying! What's the secret for lasting leadership? Obey ALL of God's moral precepts--the Law! Jesus spoke, in restoring Peter, "Feed my lambs; Tend my sheep; Feed my sheep;" John 21:15-17.

### RADICAL OBEDIENCE!

There's a moral war raging out there. How can we call our people; friends, families, sinners, to God's high moral standards of God's Law if we are ourselves unwilling to embrace ALL of God's Commandments? We cannot! Of course, we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus. But, the Lord of Salvation is also the Lord of the Sabbath. How can we call people to accept Him as one and not call people to accept Him as the other? A paradoxical dilemma! Senseless!

James 2:10 is for the life of you and me. I know. You say, "I've found the Truth." But has the Truth found you? Found you in the very deep and secret places of your spiritual life? Is your heart disobedient? James 2:10 is a call to radical obedience of ALL of God's Ten Commandments; a life preserving, protective relationship of the Ten Commandments. What good is it for you to cry out against immorality in Hollywood, politics, schools, churches, and society, and yet blatantly disregard one of God's Ten Commandments ourselves?

### DECISION

"Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, saying 'I've sinned against your God, forgive me. Ask your God that He alone can take away this deadly thing from me.'" (Exodus 10:10-17). I don't know what deadly thing you're wrestling with in your life now. But, God can take that deadly thing away from you.... whatever it is! Someone came to this earth and became the deadly thing Himself.... Jesus Christ. "He was wounded for our transgressions." Isaiah 53:5. When He died on the cross He took our deadly thing to death with Him.

The plagues will soon strike with a vengeance. Time today is of the very essence... it is short. Obedience is no longer an option. Will you let Jesus deliver you now? You need a Power! But, He needs your permission, "to take away this deadly thing!" The doors of Calvary are wide open; the probationary period is still open. You and I know it; open to the heart of God's eternal love.

I know some of you have been praying earnestly, and realize; saying, "shall I follow Jesus all the way in baptism if I never have been baptized by immersion?" Maybe you were baptized years ago, and wandered away? Maybe you're saying, "I need a new start." I want a beginning.... a brand new beginning. Many have made decisions already to follow Jesus through Baptism. It's time for you to make that decision. You're probably surprised as to how many around you have already made that decision. But, don't worry about them. Start with yourself. The decision is between you and God to follow Jesus, and to **TAKE AWAY THIS DEADLY THING!** Surrender to God's will is the only way to escape that day of calamity. Alas, for that day is great, so that none is like it. "Thus says the Lord." Amen!

*John Theodorou, USA*

## INDEX TO THE MESSENGER

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Furthermore it is the only day – the 7<sup>th</sup> – that He rested (an example for us) (God never tires) and blessed and hallowed the 7<sup>th</sup> day! No other day of the week has this distinction! God designates the Sabbath and the Sabbath only!

I can just hear someone say, “It’s not the greatest commandment.” Yes, you are right. I know what Jesus said. The greatest commandment is this, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, body, and mind.” (Math 22:37). But, you know something? If it wasn’t for the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment, we wouldn’t know which god it is we’re supposed to love with all our heart, soul, body and mind! It’s perplexing indeed for doubting unbelievers.

#### 10/10

So the question arises, could it be that’s why the leaders and clergy in the Christian world, and indeed, leaders of nations of the entire earth are having such a difficult time calling the nations to observe God’s high moral standards and pleading vainly for “this deadly thing to be removed?” Ah! Could it be also that we as Christians, and the presumed leaders of the people are effectively neutralizing our witnessing by our own disregard and disobedience of the very moral law we are seeking to call others to; nations, churches, families, friends, and professed believers?

What does James 2:11 read? “For He who said, “Do not commit adultery,” (6<sup>th</sup>) also said, “Do not murder,” (7<sup>th</sup>). Now, if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.” What good does it do if we, as Christians, wring our hands about the tragedy of the broken 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> commandments when all the time we are ignoring the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment? (Remember the Sabbath Day...). James 2: 10 again reads: “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”

Could it be then, that if we as Christians were faithful in keeping 10/10 of God’s commandments, our nations, churches, families, and lives would not be in such moral trouble as we are in today? Now, I know, and you know too, that world leaders, Christian leaders, moral leaders, teachers, scholars, and theologians, give the reason that, today the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment is no longer needed, is because it’s not necessary as Christians for us to keep it in this day and age! It is an ancient belief of the Hebrews, Old Testament, Jewish, etc. The Church Fathers and the Church Uncles changed things!

#### LEGALISM

Furthermore, some say that to obey the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment is legalism! How can this be legalism? Is it legalism to obey the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment (“you shall not murder”) and protest against abortion? Is it legalism to obey the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment (“you shall not commit adultery”) and protest against child pornography? So, how can it be legalism to obey the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment and worship

God on His 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath? The issue is not legalism; the issue is “illegalism”. It is when one illegally chooses to disregard a known law. The issue is not legalism at all, but the issue is LOVE. How can any of us not see this... miss the point? John 14:15 reads, “If ye love Me, keep My commandments.” Jesus, Himself brought this out on the eve of His own death! How can it be any plainer than this?

When a young man falls in love with a young women and they become married, is it legalism for the young wife to expect her husband to remain true to her until his dying breath? Is that legalism? Is it legalistic to ask him to be faithful? Ha! Marriage and fidelity is not about legalism... it’s about LOVE. So, “if you love Me, remember the 7<sup>th</sup> day to keep it Holy!”

There are other reasons some give as to why the 7<sup>th</sup> day is no longer a principle. We cannot know then which day of the week is the 7<sup>th</sup> day anymore! Let’s see what Luke, the gospel writer, (doctor-disciple), identified, observed, analyzed, researched, and wrote what are the most critical consecutive days in the history of humanity! Luke 24:54 reads:

(1.) **Friday** - “that day was the Preparation and the Sabbath drew near.”

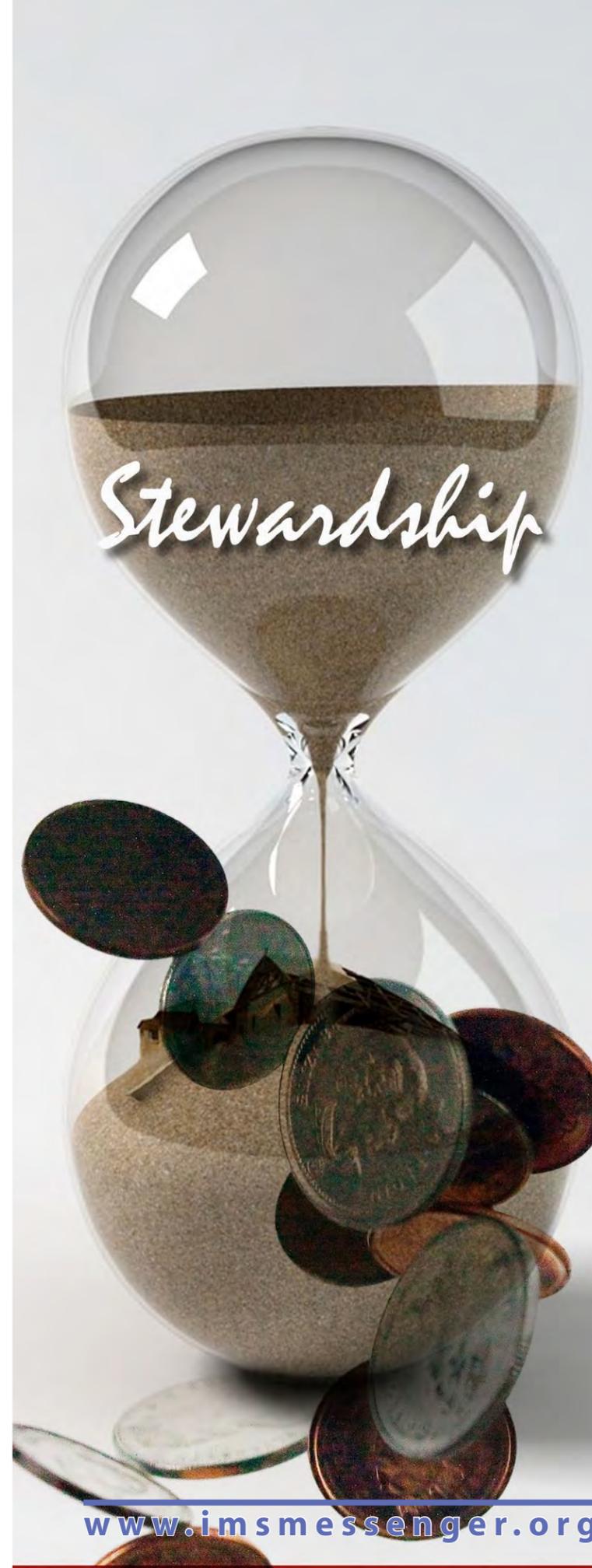
(2.) **Sabbath** –“Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath, according to the commandment.” We know that the Preparation Day (GR-paraskevi), is followed by the Sabbath. Luke 24:1 reads:

(3.) **Sunday** - “Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning they and certain other women with them came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.” What day is that? It is Sunday. We know Jesus was crucified on Good Friday. So, Sabbath is in between. No disputing this, that there can only be one day – the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath of the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment; the day before Sunday and the day after Friday. So now you have it figured out. Well, you’re right! That cycle has never changed since Jesus ascended to heaven.

#### GRACE AND THE LAW

I realize there might be another objection or two. Yes, I’ve heard. Oh! But the Ancient Church changed the day of worship. If the Church changed the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment (“You shall not murder?”), could we all go out and kill with license?

Crazy and stupid! No church on earth has the authority to change God’s moral law, is there? There are more objections. Now that we live after the Cross, Grace supercedes the Law. Doesn’t the Bible teach we’re no longer under the law but Grace? The answer is yes and no. Romans 6:14, “Ye are not under the Law, but under Grace.” Aha! There it is! Is that what Paul is saying here? How does Paul describe the law? Romans 7:12 reads, “Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.”



If stewardship was a product to be sold on the market, many would find it hard to buy, but people tend to like it after getting a fuller knowledge of it. So what should the stewardship educator do? Wrap it well and wait for the right time to unwrap it. Present it in an attractive way. Stewardship should not be presented in a lifeless manner.

### Use the Law of Progression

Know your congregation’s level of understanding. Lead them from the known to the unknown. Don’t censure any person’s ignorance; kindly avoid rushing to application of your subject, wait until they are ready. Don’t shun the basics because so many are joining the church. These people should be helped to understand the basics of stewardship.

### Integrate it with Other Subjects

Where people are prejudiced against stewardship, integrate it with familiar, favourite subjects. Show the audience that stewardship does not exist in isolation. Some people think that once tithe and offerings are given, there is nothing else required of them.

They should be made to understand that stewardship is interrelated with other subjects. After tithe and offerings have been given, the sick need to be visited and the dead need to be buried. Needs of the church, for example, building and maintenance work still calls for giving. Stewardship is not the end in itself. It comes in a package with other kingdom responsibilities.

### Teach it as a Tool

Stewardship is a tool for a finished work. Whether it is tithe, talent, or temple, all are tools to be used for a finished work. People who are tired of this world should naturally be faithful stewards so as to hasten the soon coming of our Lord, Jesus. Returning tithe is a sure way of finishing the unfinished business of presenting Christ to the world and have people prepared for His coming. It is contradictory to say we want to go home and yet fail to return tithe. If this was not the case, what would we do with Matthew 24:14, which suggests that Jesus will only break the eastern sky when a witness about Him has been made? We are still here because the majority of God’s people are unfaithful. How long we shall continue to be here will depend on how long it will take for God’s people to be faithful.

### An Environmental Point of View

Present stewardship from an environmental point of view. God gave us everything in the world to manage but what have we ended up doing to our environment?

We have destroyed our ecology to such an extent that planet earth is no longer able to sustain us sufficiently. Planet earth is groaning because of what we are doing (see Rom. 8:22, 23; Ps. 6:6; John 11:33; Ps. 102:5; Ex. 6:5; Acts 7:34; Rom. 8:26). Mankind is enemy number one to his environment as Revelation 11:18 suggests. Stewardship means taking care of the rivers, forests, animals, etc. Ask the group to mention ways human beings have mismanaged their environment.

## From a Family Life Point of View

Stewardship blends very well with family life. In fact, family life is an aspect of stewardship. Taking care of the family is living stewardship. (1 Tim. 2:8) Target families and focus on children to reach their parents. Remember that it is families that make up churches.

## Center It on Christ

Any subject that centers on something else other than Christ is bound to achieve nothing and is not worthy of our time and energy. Unless stewardship lifts up Christ, it will be resented by the hearers. People should see Jesus in our stewardship lessons if they are to fall in love with it. Our failure many times in presenting stewardship is due to leaning more on money and not Christ, the "Treasure of all Ages". People are dying to see how Christ is linked to tithing, time management, talents and temple (body).

## Tithing Principles

### 1. God is our Creator, Owner, Sustainer and Redeemer.

"For by Him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in the earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him; And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist." Col. 1:16, 17

Read also: Gen. 1:1; Ps. 33:6-9; Ex. 20:8-11; Rev. 14:6, 7; Ps. 24:12; Ps. 50:10-12; Hag. 2:8; James 1:17; 1 Chron. 29:11-14; Deut. 8:18; Acts 17:24, 25; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20.

"We belong to God; we are His sons and daughters, --His by creation, and His by the gift of His only-begotten Son for our redemption. 'Ye are not your own; for ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.' The mind, the heart, the will, and the affections belong to God; the money that we handle is the Lord's. Every good that we receive and enjoy is the result of divine benevolence." CS 72

### 2. Man is a manager or steward administering God's goods.

"Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things under his feet." Ps. 8:6. Read also: 1 Cor. 4:1; Gen. 1:26-28; 1 Tim. 6:7; Acts 4:32.

"A steward identifies himself with his master. He accepts the responsibilities of a steward, and he must act in his master's stead, doing as his master would do were he presiding. His master's interests become his. The position of a steward is one of dignity because his master trusts him." 9T 246

### 3. Jesus is our example in faithful stewardship.

A steward identifies fully with his master's interest.

"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me." John 6:38. Read also: John 4:34; Matt. 26:39; Matt. 28:18-20.

"The great work which Jesus announced that He came to do was entrusted to His followers upon the earth. Christ, as our head, leads out in the great work of salvation and bids us follow His example. He has given us a world-wide message. This truth must be extended to all nations, tongues, and people. Satan's power was to be contested, and he was to be overcome by Christ and also by His followers. An extensive war was to be maintained against the powers of darkness. And in order to do this work successfully, means were required. God does not propose to send means direct from heaven, but He gives into the hands of His followers talents of means to use for the very purpose of sustaining this warfare." 3T 388

### 4. God to be first in everything.

"Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." Ex. 20:3.

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind and thy neighbor as thyself." Luke 10:27. Read also: Matt. 6:33; 2 Cor. 8:5; Prov. 3:9-10; Ex. 23:19.

"Our Redeemer claims far more than we give Him. Self interposes its desire to be first; but the Lord claims the whole heart, the entire affections. He will not come in as second. And should not Christ have our first and highest consideration? Should He not demand this token of our respect and loyalty? These things underlie our very heart life, in the home circle and in the church. If the heart, the soul, the strength, the life, are surrendered wholly to God, if the affections are given wholly to Him, we shall make Him supreme in all our service. When we are in harmony with God, the thought of His honor and glory comes before everything else. No person is preferred before Him in our gifts and offerings. We have a sense of what it means to be partners with Christ in the sacred firm." 6T 103-104

from this moral violence" – of immorality – the fears and greed that is a consequence of.

A British citizen once said, "God save the Queen!" We ought to be saying, "God save the World!" We ought to be praying, singing, confessing, repenting; "remove this deadly thing from us."

It's not only endemic in the USA, but Europe – the world; Africa, Australia, South America, Asia; the scourge is present – pandemic! Everywhere there are human beings!

We must, however, not abandon the moral high roads. We must seize the initiative that many politicians don't realize and most Christian leaders have forgotten; hearts that have a passion for a moral revival – and the Truth. What the nations of the world and the churches need more than anything else is – a return to God and His Moral Laws. We need to "fight the good fight." Sadly, however, Christians are not succeeding in bringing a moral revival in the moral agenda for the world. Satan seems to be triumphing! Why?

Now, does it not follow that before Christian churches can call any nation, people or religious body to the high standards of the Divine Law, that the church itself must set the example? Does not that follow? Ah! But this starts first with the church, and then Christians must practice what they preach – not merely professing Christians – only!

The Word of God, and The Divine Law, therefore is the standard for the Truth – the Way. Something very pertinent to the moral agenda is found in James 2:10-12: "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty."

James here is referring to the Ten Commandments; of course it is – no question. James mentions two commandments preachers often draw people's attention to from the pulpit and remind us: the 5th – "you shall not murder," and the 7th – "you shall not commit adultery." Murder today is commonplace, cascading; sexual perversion, pornography, paedophilia, homosexuality, etc., is rampant. So, they emphasize these two great moral principles; calling on the people, and society to live up to these moral standards – God's great Law. What did James 2:10 say, again? "If we neglect to obey just one of God's commandments we end up breaking them all." If we take an ordinary drinking glass and hit it at one point with a hammer, the entire glass shatters! The point is that a glass that is struck only in one point is, nevertheless, shattered! If we break the commandments in only one point, it is to break them all – shattered!

## LOVE AND THE SABBATH

The Law is a unit. Its unity is love. To violate it at one point is to violate love as such – the whole of it! A plant needs water to survive; by not watering it all – it dies; so does love! The appeal here is to Christian leaders, and Christian friends. It is not sufficient for Christians and Christian Churches to call nations, society, family, and friends, back to only nine/tenths – 9/10 of God's Law. We need to embrace ALL of His precepts.

Before we can call others; nations, society, friends, family, and churches, we must first summon ourselves, which is why I feel compelled to remind you that there is one of God's moral laws – the Decalogue (The Ten Commandments) that the Christian churches of the world have forgotten! It begins with "**Remember!**"

Exodus 20:8-11: Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

It is the least popular commandment in contemporary Christian churches. Why? Read on! By turning to the Ten Commandments, and reading the 4<sup>th</sup> we will notice at (verse 11) (above) that the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment fully identifies:

Law Giver: (all rulers, presidents, kings, have such a title and seal identifying their office.)

The **Name** – Lord Jahweh!

The **Office** – Creator; Made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them.

The **Jurisdiction** – Whole Universe; heavens, earth, sea. You see, the Lord Creator of the Universe is in the heart of the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment – nowhere else! The 4<sup>th</sup> commandment declares God as the solemn Creator of all peoples and all nations throughout the entire jurisdiction of the entire cosmos (GR- world). Which means – that this commandment, the 4<sup>th</sup> is the only one that provides the legal and judicial justification for His claim of our keeping, and being, in the other 9 commandments! Does this make sense to you? It's proof, clearly written for man.

Now, if you remove this commandment from the other 10, you then remove the historical and legal foundation for God's claim for love, reason, devotion and obedience! Look at the other 9 commandments! Be my guest! You can search and look everywhere. You'll not find this seal; you'll only find it here! He, only as God, has the authority, not only as our "**life – giver.**" "but authority as our "**law – giver.**" He alone has the right to ask us for our loyalty to Jesus Christ.

# Take Away This Deadly Thing!

"Now therefore, please forgive my sin only this once, and entreat the Lord your God, that He may take away from me this deadly thing only." Exodus 10:17

## THE PHARAOH'S PRAYER

The Pharaoh pointed out to Moses during the plague of locusts on Egypt in those awful moments, praying "remove this deadly thing from me!" Presidents, Kings, Prime Ministers, Rulers, and World Leaders today, although they do not use the same language as the Pharaoh's prayer, they are pleading for the "deadly thing to be removed." They are pleading, not about locusts, but talking about deliverance from the plague of violence and terrorism that permeates our media all the time.

Not only the politicians of the world, but the people of the entire world are worried about the moral epidemic that violence is a deadly symptom of. Some of the politicians are asking for a return to moral values. Some of the same politicians are appealing to the churches and church leaders of the land! We've heard it in State of the Union addresses. Interestingly, there's more houses of worship in America than any other country in the world, per capita! Only Patmos Island in Greece exceeds this figure. This is an embarrassing statistic for America! You would think that this would turn life into a more exemplary kind of life style, which it is not.

The same politicians are not only trying to appeal to the religious leaders of the lands of the world, but, to their congregations, appealing to work for "change," essentially a "reformation." What is it that the world leaders are so deeply concerned about? Well, it's finally dawning on them that our nations are in deep moral trouble and out of control. So, the ancient prayer of the Pharaoh was not so inappropriate for us at this time on planet earth. Pharaoh's prayer went straight into the face of Moses. He heard it from the Pharaoh himself! This was a main showdown between the gods of Egypt, and the God of Moses – the God of Israel.

Many natural and supernatural disasters descended on Egypt, but because of the plague of locusts, the Pharaoh prayed this prayer so solemnly. The Middle East knows the scourge of locusts; in essence "covering the face of the earth." (Australia, Iowa, USA, and others have been affected by this scourge).

## THE DIVINE LAW

So, the Pharaoh's prayer, "take away from me this deadly thing" is very appropriate for all nations today, as they desperately seek some sort of moral revival – a moral survival – a solution to their plight. We all recognize that not only are the politicians concerned about this moral disease, but religious bodies as well are deeply concerned. Many are ready for the Good News – for change; strengthening their homes, their families. Many are praying for a moral revival. So, the prayer of the Pharaoh to Moses, "Please remove this deadly thing from me," in essence is, "God deliver us

## 5. The tithe principle is divine in origin.

"But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises." Heb. 7:6. Read also: Mal. 3:7, 10; Gen. 14:18-20.

"But the tithing system did not originate with the Hebrews. From the earliest times the Lord claimed a tithe as His, and this claim was recognized and honored. Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, the priest of the most high God. Genesis 14:20. Jacob, when at Bethel, an exile and a wanderer, promised the Lord, 'Of all that Thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto Thee.' Genesis 28:22. As the Israelites were about to be established as a nation, the law of tithing was reaffirmed as one of the divinely ordained statutes upon obedience to which their prosperity depended." PP 525

## 6. Man is co-partner with God.

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain." 2 Cor. 5:20; 6:1. Read also: Mal. 3:10-12.

"The greatest lesson to be taught and to be learned is the lesson of co-partnership with Christ in the work of salvation." CT 434

## 7. The tithe is holy, even as the Sabbath is holy.

"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed or the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy unto the Lord." Lev. 27:30, 32.

"The very same language is used concerning the Sabbath as in the law of the tithe: 'The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.' Man has no right nor power to substitute the first day for the seventh.... In like manner a tithe of our income is 'holy unto the Lord.' The New Testament does not reenact the law of the tithe, as it does not that of the Sabbath; for the validity of both is assumed, and their deep spiritual import explained." CS 66

## 8. Regularity and system to be exercised in returning to God His own.

"And at that time were some appointed over the chambers for the treasures, for the offerings, for the first fruits, and for the tithes, to gather into them out of the fields of the cities the portions of the law for the priests and Levites: for Judah rejoiced for the priests and for the Levites that waited." Neh. 12:44. Read also: Neh. 10:32-39; 2 Chron. 31:11-21.

"This matter of giving is not left to impulse. God has given us definite instruction in regard to it. He has specified tithes and offerings as the measure of our obligation. And He desires us to give regularly

and systematically... Let each regularly examine his income, which is all a blessing from God, and set apart the tithe as a separate fund, to be sacredly the Lord's... After the tithe is set apart, let gifts and offerings be apportioned, 'as God hath prospered you.'" Review and Herald, May 9, 1893

## 9. The tithe is to be brought to God's storehouse.

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Mal. 3:10. Read also: Ex. 23:19.

"The tithe is sacred, reserved by God for Himself. It is to be brought into His treasury to be used to sustain the gospel laborers in their work." 9T 249

"It is part of your work to teach those whom you bring into the truth to bring the tithe into the storehouse as an acknowledgment of their dependence on God." Ev 250

## 10. The tithe is returned to God in proportion to the income, in recognition that all we are and have are His.

"...And they shall not appear before the Lord empty; Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessings of the Lord thy God which He hath given thee." Deut. 16:16, 17; Read also: Deut. 14:22, 23; 2 Cor. 8:12.

"In the Bible system of tithes and offerings the amounts paid by different persons will, of course, vary greatly, since they are proportioned to the income." CS 73

"In God's dealings with the Jews and His people to the end of time, He requires systematic benevolence proportionate to their income." 3T 405

## 11. Returning tithe and offerings is part of worship, a joyful expression of praise, love and gratitude.

"And now behold, I have brought the first fruits of the land, which thou, O Lord, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the Lord thy God. And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the Lord thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you." Deut. 26:10, 11. Read also: 2 Cor. 8:7-9; 2 Cor. 9:12, 13

"God imparts His gifts to us that we also may give, and thus make known His character to the world. Under the Jewish economy, gifts and offerings formed an essential part of God's worship. The Israelites were taught to devote a tithe of all their income to the service of the sanctuary. Besides this they were to bring sin offerings, freewill gifts, and offerings of gratitude. These were the

means for supporting the ministry of the gospel for that time. God expects no less from us than He expected from His people anciently. The great work for the salvation of souls must be carried forward. In the tithe, with gifts and offerings, He has made provisions for this work." COL 300

### 12. In the tithing system the individual determines what is income.

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7.

"God, the creator of man, by instituting the plan of systematic benevolence, has made the work bear equally upon all according to their several abilities. Everyone is to be his own assessor and is left to give all he purposes in his heart." 4T 469

"In determining the proportion to be given to the cause of God, be sure to exceed, rather than fall short, of the requirements of duty." Ibid.

### 13. The Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy clearly define temporal and spiritual blessings resulting from faithful stewardship.

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." 2 Cor. 9:8. Read also: Deut. 28:1-13; Mal. 3:10-12; 2 Cor. 9:8-11

"The spiritual health and prosperity of the church is dependent in a great degree on her systematic benevolence. It is like the life blood which must flow through the whole being, vitalizing every member of the body." 3T 405

### 14. The supreme purpose of the tithe is to develop character and test our loyalty to God.

"Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, wherein shall we return?... Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house. And prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts." Mal. 3:7-12.

"God planned the system of beneficence, in order that man might become like his Creator, benevolent and unselfish in character, and finally be a partaker with Christ of the eternal, glorious reward." 9T 255

### 15. It is the clear duty of church leaders, members, and parents to practice tithe faithfulness as one of God's requirements.

"Bring ye all the tithe into the storehouse that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing,

that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Mal. 3:10. Read also: Lev. 27:30, 32; Num. 18:21; Deut. 6:6-9; Deut. 8:11-18; Luke 11:42.

Let the church appoint pastors or elders who are devoted to the Lord Jesus, and let these men see that officers are chosen who will attend faithfully to the work of gathering in the tithe. If the pastors show that they are not fitted for their charge, if they fail to set before the church the importance of returning to God His own, if they do not see that the officers under them are faithful, and that the tithe is brought in, they are in peril. They are neglecting a matter which involves a blessing or a curse to the church. They should be relieved of their responsibility, and other men should be tested and tried.

Gospel extension signals the end of the world but how can this be unless we give ourselves and our resources to the cause of God. Selfishness is a sign of the end of time.

"God gives man nine tenths, while He claims one tenth for sacred purposes, as He has given man six days for his own work and has reserved and set apart the seventh day to Himself. For, like the Sabbath, a tenth of the increase is sacred; God has reserved it for Himself. He will carry forward His work upon the earth with the increase of the means that He has entrusted to man." 3T 395

"Let those who have become careless and indifferent, and are withholding their tithes and offerings, remember that they are blocking the way, so that the truth cannot go forth to the regions beyond. I am bidden to call upon the people of God to redeem their honor by rendering to God a faithful tithe." CS 96

"All that is withheld of that which God claims, the tenth of the increase, is recorded in the books of heaven against the withholders as robbery." 3T 394

"Obedience and submission to God's requirements are the conditions given by the inspired apostle by which we become children of God, members of the royal family." 3T 365

"By our baptismal pledge we avouched and solemnly confessed the Lord Jehovah as our Ruler. We virtually took a solemn oath, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, that henceforth our lives would be merged into the life of these three great agencies, that the life we should live in the flesh would be lived in faithful obedience to God's sacred law. We declared ourselves dead, and our life hid with Christ in God, that henceforth we should walk with Him in newness of life, as men and women having experienced the new birth. We acknowledged God's covenant with us, and pledged ourselves to seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. By our profession of faith we acknowledged the Lord as our God, and yielded ourselves to obey His commandments. By obedience to God's word we testify before angels and men that we live by

thousand years the race had been decreasing in physical strength, in mental power, in moral worth, and Christ took upon Him the infirmities of degenerate humanity. Only thus could He rescue man from the lowest depths of degradation." MS 113, 1902

There are about 400 quotations from Sister White about the nature of Christ in His humanity.

Many are confused by the letter Sister White sent to Pastor W.L.H. Baker in Tasmania. Part of the letter says, "Be careful, exceeding careful as to how you dwell upon the humanity of Christ. Do not set Him before the people as a man with the propensities of sin... He took upon Himself human nature, and was tempted in all points as human nature is tempted. He could have sinned; He could have fallen but not one moment was there in Him an evil propensity." Manuscript Releases 13, p. 18.

According to the dictionary, the word "propensity" means tendency and leaning.

If we practice sin, we create a habit or tendency to sin, and this we must overcome.

We can overcome and put away the sinful propensities, but we cannot get rid of our sinful flesh. It continues to tempt us as it did with Jesus. Jesus was tempted the same way as we are tempted (Heb. 4:15), but without sin. And He has shown to us how we also can be without sin, even that we are tempted the same as Jesus was tempted. And this is the condition for eternal life.

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne." Rev. 3:21.

Sister White writes, "The perfection of Christian character is attainable." The Kress Collection, p. 32.

"The Lord requires perfection of His redeemed family. He expects from us the perfection which Christ revealed in His humanity." CG, p. 477.

"He who lays hold upon the righteousness of Christ may become a perfect man in Christ Jesus." TM 150

"So long as we are united to Him by faith, sin has no more dominion over us... we may attain to perfection of character." DA 123

"The time of probation is given us that we may perfect a character fit for eternity." 1 SM, p. 318

"Now, while our great High Priest is making atonement for us, we should seek to become perfect in Christ. Not even by a thought could our Savior be brought to yield to the power of temptation...

He had kept His Father's commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage. This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble." GC 623.

Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matt. 5:48.

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." 1 John 3:9

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Peter 1:4

Jesus took upon Himself our sinful nature and showed us a way how we can be partakers of His divine nature.

Then we will be like Jesus, with both human and divine natures. Then we can move mountains and nothing is impossible to us. Let us follow the example of Jesus. **AMEN.**

*Timo Martin, Canada*

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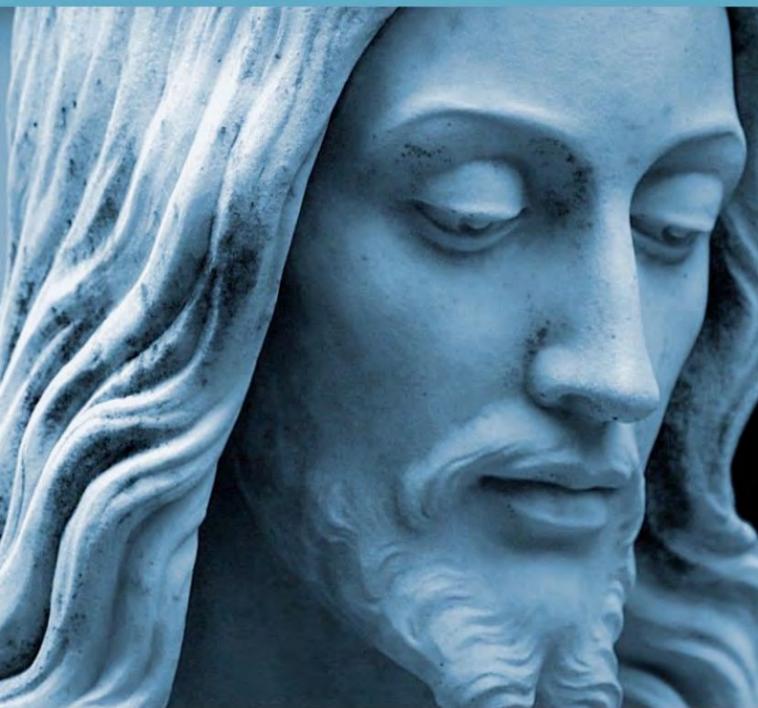
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# Human Nature Of Christ



Many people like to believe the idea that Jesus Christ came to this world in the unfallen nature of Adam. Therefore He could overcome sin and all the temptations of Satan, but we on the other hand have a sinful nature and therefore we cannot live a sinless life. If this would be the case, then Christ would not be an example to us on how to overcome sin. But the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy are clear on the human nature that Jesus took upon Himself.

Paul writes clearly, "God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh." Rom. 8:3.

"Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh." Rom. 1:3.

David did not have an holy flesh, therefore his seed also had a sinful flesh. Therefore Jesus also had a sinful flesh. But He condemned it and did no sin.

"For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham." Heb. 2:16.

"But was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Heb. 4:15.

He was tempted like as we are tempted, from inside and outside, because He took upon Himself our sinful flesh.

Sister White writes about the sinful nature that Jesus took upon Himself.

"He took upon Him our sinful nature." RH 12/15/96; ST 7/30/02

"But many say that Jesus was not like us, that He was not as we are in the world, that He was divine, and therefore we cannot overcome as He overcame. But this is not true. 'For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels, but He took on Him the seed of Abraham...' He took upon Himself our nature." Bible Echo 11/01/92

"In taking upon Himself man's nature in its fallen condition, Christ did not in the least participate in its sin." ST 6/09/98

"He endured every test that man will ever be called upon to endure. He met all the temptations which man will meet in his life experience." MS 196, 1899

"He took upon Himself fallen, suffering human nature, degraded and defiled by sin." Y1, 12/20/1900.

"Adam had the advantage of Christ, in that when he was assailed by the tempter, none of the effects of sin were upon him. He stood in the strength of perfect manhood, possessing the full vigor of mind and body. He was surrounded with the glories of Eden, and was in daily communion with heavenly beings. It was not thus with Jesus when He entered the wilderness to cope with Satan. For four

every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Manuscript Releases, vol. 1, p. 118.

"Ungodliness is not Christianity. Do not think that you can stand under the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel unless as faithful soldiers you obey His orders. In word and action you must say, 'I am a Christian.'" Review and Herald, Dec. 31, 1901.

"And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house; and of all that Thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto Thee." Gen. 28:22 **AMEN.**

**Golden Kayawa Hingabantu, Zambia**

## Heart, Stop Worrying

On December 1st, 2009, I had to take an important English exam. I was nervous because it was part of the first state exam and I didn't know exactly what to expect. My family and I prayed a lot for this and put my worry in God's hands. Before going to bed I opened my Bible and read: "Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him." (Psalms 62:5)

At night I dreamt that the next day all trains were behind schedule and I wouldn't arrive on time to my appointment. I woke up totally confused and my heart was pounding like mad, but I was relieved when I realized that it had been just a dream. Before even telling my parents about it, they advised me to take a train at an earlier hour. You never know. I acted on my parents' advice and took the earlier train. It gave me a chill when I got to know that actually on that day all trains were delayed! In that moment it became clear to me that God wanted to warn me by the use of a dream and my parent's advice. With His help I arrived on time at university. I still had to wait 15 minutes in front of the room where the oral exam took place. A couple of other students were standing there as well; some of them already had taken the same exam or still had to take it. A fellow student briefly told me about the text he had to comment on and about the questions that had been asked by the examiner. After that I was called in. Someone handed me my work sheet and I couldn't believe my eyes when I was reading the same text my fellow student had told me about! I thanked God in my heart and I was able then to answer the examiner's questions in a focused manner. God, my best friend, had kept His promise again and had not forsaken me. "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (1 Peter 5:7) **Manuela Di Franca**



**Sis. Emelina Chiatto  
Camping with youth  
in Algonquin Park,  
Canada**

# Western Field Conference. American Union, 2010

