



*The Reformation*  
**Messenger**  
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**“In summer, as we look up on the trees of the distant forest, all clothed with a beautiful mantle of green, we may not be able to distinguish between the evergreens and the other trees. But as winter approaches, and the frost king encloses them in his icy embrace, stripping the other trees of their beautiful foliage, the evergreens are readily discerned. . . .**

**Thus it will be with all who are walking in humility, distrustful of self, but clinging tremblingly to the hand of Christ. While those who are self-confident, and trust in their own perfection of character, lose their false robe of righteousness when subjected to the storms of trial, the truly righteous, who sincerely love and fear God, wear the robe of Christ's righteousness in prosperity and adversity alike.” –*The Faith I Live By*, p. 119**

**WE BELIEVE:** The all-wise loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the 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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**Volume 21, Number 2, February 2014**

- 3 The Evergreen**
- 4 Learning New Good Habits**
- 6 A Solemn Time in Which We Live . . .**
- 10 Where Angels Delight to Dwell**
- 14 Because!**
- 18 Continuing the Early Attentions**
- 20 Children's Corner: An Effectual Prayer**
- 22 Keep On Keeping On**
- 23 Montreal Conference**
- 24 Christ Our Example**

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# The Evergreen

“Seek to be an evergreen tree. Wear the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. Cherish the grace of love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. This is the fruit of the Christian tree. Planted by the rivers of water, it always brings forth its fruit in due season.” —*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, p. 1142

“The Christian is likened to the cedar of Lebanon. I have read that this tree does more than send down a few short roots into the yielding loam. It sends strong roots deep down into the earth, and strikes down farther and still farther in search of a still stronger hold. And in the fierce blast of the tempest, it stands firm, held by its network of cables beneath.

“So the Christian strikes root deep into Christ. He has faith in his Redeemer. He knows in whom he believes. He is fully persuaded that Jesus is the Son of God and the Saviour of sinners. . . . The roots of faith strike deep down. Genuine Christians, like the cedar of Lebanon, do not grow in the soft surface soil, but are rooted in God, riveted in the clefts of the mountain rocks.

“If the Christian thrives and progresses at all, he must do so amid strangers to God, amid scoffing, subject to ridicule. He must stand upright like the palm tree in the desert. The sky may be as brass, the desert sand may beat about the palm tree's roots, and pile itself in heaps about its trunk. Yet the tree lives as an evergreen, fresh and vigorous amid the burning desert sands. Remove the sand till you

reach the rootlets of the palm tree, and you discover the secret of its life; it strikes down deep beneath the surface, to the secret waters hidden in the earth.

“As the palm tree, drawing nourishment from fountains of living water, is green and flourishing in the midst of the desert, so the Christian may draw rich supplies of grace from the fountain of God's love, and may guide weary souls, that are full of unrest and ready to perish in the desert of sin, to those waters of which they may drink, and live. The Christian is ever pointing his fellow men to Jesus, who invites, ‘If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink.’ John 7:37. This fountain never fails us; we may draw, and draw again.” —*Our High Calling*, p. 331

“Christians indeed may be fitly represented by the palm tree. They are like Enoch; although surrounded by corrupting influences, their faith takes hold of the Unseen. They walk with God, deriving strength and grace from Him to withstand the moral pollution surrounding them. Like Daniel in the courts of Babylon, they stand pure and uncontaminated; their life is hid with Christ in God. They are virtuous in spirit amid depravity; they are true and loyal, fervent and zealous, while surrounded by infidels, hypocritical professors, godless and worldly men. Their faith and life are hid with Christ in God. Jesus is in them a well of water springing up into everlasting life. Faith, like the



rootlets of the palm tree, penetrates beneath the things which are seen, drawing spiritual nourishment from the Fountain of life.” —*The Signs of the Times*, July 8, 1886



# Learning New

# Good Habits

We are very adaptable. We get used to different conditions very quickly. People can live in the North under extreme, cold temperatures and also in the constant heat of a hot climate. Man can live in luxury and also in poverty. We can get used to living in a city amongst millions of people, but also in the country as hermits.

Man can get used to living in sin, in constant evil thinking, evil planning and evil doing. His mind can be filled with bitterness, hatred, and a revengeful spirit. He can get used to vanity, to continuous fun and parties. He can become engrossed in business so much that nothing else matters anymore except making money and more money.

Man can get used to more than 2000 different Christian religions. It does not matter how wrong their doctrines are, there is always someone willing to join with them.

We can also get used to a life of holiness, of purity, and of self-denial. Bible reading and prayer can be our favourite pastimes.

Anything we do a few times in a row becomes a habit to us. First, it seems like a thin spider's web, but every time we repeat it, it gets stronger, and finally it becomes as a cable of steel which is almost impossible to break.

We begin to form our habits from the earliest time in our childhood. Therefore, it is very important that parents start the character formation of their children from their early years. "Train up a child in

the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

"The children begin young to deceive, cover up, tell things in a different light from what they are to their mother, as well as their father. Exaggeration becomes habit, and blunt falsehoods come to be told with but little conviction or reproof of conscience." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 157

Later in life these characteristics are hard to change, but it is our life work to break up bad habits and learn new, good habits. This is the purpose of the church, to teach the members how to do it. Also, God has promised to help us to overcome all our bad habits and to learn good habits.

After we have overcome our bad habits, there is always the danger to fall back into them. Solomon writes, "As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly." Proverbs 26:11

Often young people who have tried certain sins will create lifelong temptations to fall into them again.

Jesus said, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26:41. Jesus meant that the old habits may come back to life again, therefore, we must watch and pray.

A drug addict can stop using drugs with a great effort, but now he has to be careful not to fall into this bad



habit again. If he would have never used drugs he would have no temptation to use them again.

Little sins are dangerous because many do not pay attention to them. They look so small, so trivial, but these little sins open the way to greater sins.

"Noble faculties have been paralyzed by wrong habits of sinful indulgence. The aspirations are perverted, and the soul and body defaced." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 165

This backsliding works so slowly that we do not always realize the danger until suddenly we wake up and find out that we have no faith. We have no desire to serve God, and our missionary spirit is dead.

In order to develop good habits we need to do what David wrote. "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him." Psalm 34:8

We need to make experiences with the Lord, daily. With His help we have power to break every bad habit. This way we will be stronger and more faithful every day. Also, we will be more happy as time goes on.

"Unless evil habits are conquered, they will conquer us and destroy our happiness. There are many poor creatures, now miserable, disappointed, and degraded, a curse to all around them, who might have been useful and happy men had they but improved their opportunities." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 654–655

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." 1 John 2:15–17

The love of the world will separate us from God. The literature, movies and sports, that the world loves is not for a Christian to see. Our habits are Bible study, prayer, and missionary work.

Sister White writes, "Cultivate the habit of speaking well of others. Dwell upon the good qualities of those with whom you associate, and see as little as possible of their errors and failings." –*Ministry of Healing*, p. 492

When tempted to complain of what someone has said or done, praise him for something good in his life and character. It is Satan who wants you to dwell on the

mistakes and failures of others. This way you separate friends and turn weak members away from the church.

Some have the habit of staying away from the prayer meetings and other religious services. "It is a serious mistake to neglect the public worship of God. The privileges of divine service should not be lightly regarded." –*Ministry of Healing*, p. 511

If we do not overcome all bad habits, we will lose our faith and our salvation. It takes hard effort and continuous practice to gain good habits and to overcome the bad ones. This way we become sanctified into Christ-likeness, and the fullness of joy and happiness will fill our hearts. In the end, heaven and eternal life will be granted to us. May the Lord help us to be overcomers in our life battles. Amen.



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# *A Solemn Time in Which We Live*

*God is Calling Us . . .  
Wake up!*

In the Christian life, everything depends upon the word of God and its power in our lives. The word of God is living and powerful in the lives of the genuine followers of Christ. Christians who study their Bibles with the sincere desire to know Christ will soon start reflecting His character, sharing His love with others. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience. Why is it necessary to open the Scriptures before people? What do we find in there? Well, when we start reading the Bible we are not the same; something happens in our life when we first discover our true condition. This happened with me and I believe it can happen with any sincere soul who wants to be saved.

What is our condition, according to the Scriptures? How does the Bible describe us because of sin? What are the wages of sin? Can anyone be indifferent or neutral? The great apostle Paul writes in his epistle to the Romans the following words: "There is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They have all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." Romans 3:10–12. And further on the prophet Isaiah said in Isaiah 64:6, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." The word of God tells us in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death." By God's help, in this study I would like to find together answers and meanings to

these questions which will motivate us to take a stand in favour of the truth and the truth alone, because only when we understand all the truth will we be mature in faith and strongly anchored in Jesus, our Saviour and Lord.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:31, "I die daily." Is this yours and my experience also? Every Christian needs to die daily. Did you die to self this very day as you read these words? Are you converted anew in this new day of grace? Listen to what the pen of inspiration wrote regarding this issue. "Genuine conversion is needed, not once in years, but daily. This conversion brings man into a new relation with God. Old things, his natural passions and hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong, pass away, and he is renewed and sanctified. But this work must be continual; for as long as Satan exists, he will make an effort to carry on his work. He who strives to serve God will encounter a strong undercurrent of wrong. His heart needs to be barricaded by constant watchfulness and prayer, or else the embankment will give way; and like a millstream, the undercurrent of wrong will sweep away the safeguard. No renewed heart can be kept in a condition of sweetness without the daily application of the salt of the Word. Divine grace must be received daily, or no man will stay converted." —*Our High Calling*, p. 215

Dear brothers and sisters, dear friends, time is very important and, most of all, this very time in which we are living. There is a judgment right now taking place up in heaven in the Most Holy place where our Saviour, Jesus Christ still pleads in our behalf with His blood

that was shed on the cross. Since I became a Christian and received Jesus as my personal Redeemer and Lord, I have had a passion for Him and His word, the Bible. This passion is the plan of salvation, namely, "Why did Jesus die for me?"

Many people in the world today do not recognize or receive Jesus as their Lord just because they do not study the Bible for themselves, which is the power of God unto salvation for those who believe in it. There are many excuses; some might say that I am too young, or too old, to study the Bible. Others might say, well, it was easy for Jesus to come and live a perfect life because He was God. Can anyone ever say that? Do you want to know how much yours and my salvation cost? Come with me to the Bible—for instance, let us read Isaiah 53:3–8, "He is despised and rejected of men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He

hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a

lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare His generation? for He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of My people was He stricken."

Did you notice the words used here by the prophet Isaiah, such as "despised and rejected, a man of sorrows, stricken, smitten and afflicted by God, wounded, bruised for our iniquities, cut off from the land of the living" and so forth, my friends? For whom did Jesus suffer all these terrible things? I believe, for us, for our sake He took upon Himself all these sufferings, my friends.

Pain and suffering afflict every human life. Physical, mental, and emotional traumas are universal. However, human suffering has no expiatory or meritorious value. The Bible teaches that no amount or intensity of human suffering can atone for sin. The suffering of Jesus Christ alone is sufficient. Jesus did all these for you and me, my friend, because He loves us so much and He wants us to be with Him in paradise throughout all eternity. He gave His life willingly to atone for your sin and mine. Even then, when on the cross He felt separated from His Father forever because of the enormity of sin laid upon Him, when He said (Matthew 27:46) "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?", He did it for you and me because of His passion and amazing love for sinners.

How are we saved? Shall I do something in order to be saved? In this study I want you to remember a particular case in the Bible of someone who had the opportunity to be saved but he lost it.

Could it be possible to lose salvation although we may believe that Jesus died on the cross for us? Could it be possible to say what Felix, a Roman procurator said when the apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit reasoned with him about righteousness, self-control and judgment said; "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you?" Did Felix have the opportunity to be saved?

I remember while I was working in Romania as a Gospel Worker

how one of my Bible students, after receiving all 30 Bible studies which were written by Brother Gerhard Hunger, after a long period of study together, while I was making an appeal for commitment to him to surrender completely and give his heart to Jesus through baptism he said: "now I know everything about the Sabbath and Sunday law, but Nicholas do you know what I am going to do when that time will come?" I said, "what?" He said, "I will keep Sabbath, I will give up smoking, drinking and all of these things. . . . I will be like you, keeping and doing God's will." Of course I knew who was behind those words that made him so sure of his salvation—although the plan of salvation and its requirements were presented to him. Like Felix,



in other words, he told me: "Nicholas, go away for now, when I will find a convenient time I will call you back." In fact, whom are they rejecting? Jesus and His salvation.

Modern-day Felixes treat the Gospel with the same indifference, my friends, and, on this occasion I want to make a fervent appeal to you: do not do that. The fact is that Felix never called Paul back to talk about salvation. It is one thing is to say "no" to a friend, though he has good intentions, and another thing is to say "no" to God and His Son, who was sacrificed on the cross for our sins. So, we have learned three important things in this study, namely: When is the time to accept the Lord Jesus as our personal Saviour and Redeemer? After I received Him—what is next? Can we say once saved, saved forever? If there is no such a gospel, where did people get it from and what is the danger in it?

Brothers and sisters, beloved friends, many tragedies could have been averted if someone had acted in time. Many lives could be spared if some would recognize that time doesn't extend beyond its allotment in God's order. The Apostle Paul clearly understood the value of time and its importance to the soul of lost sinners. He says, "Behold, now is the accepted time." Not tomorrow, not next week, not even within the next hour. "Now" means immediately.

Permit me then to consider with you the urgency of God's time. You are in danger of going to perdition, of missing God's favour and His loving invitation to come to Him. Listen to His Word, "To day if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts." Hebrews 4:7. When God says "now," He means now! The Psalmist David said, "Remember how short my time is." Psalm 89:47. Throughout the Bible we find time in relationship with people's salvation. For example, if we think of Noah's time, there was a time allotted to them in which they had to decide either for or against God. Sodom and Gomorrah had a time of probation. The city of Nineveh and its inhabitants, the Jewish nation had a time of probation. What about us? Christians today? Is there any place in the Scriptures where God calls us to take a stand and make up our minds for Christ?

The Three Angel's messages in Revelation 14:6–11 is our solemn message for this end-time that we are living in. It is crucial that you accept God's offer of salvation now. Eternal life is graciously offered to you now. You must accept God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as your Saviour now—you do not know what will happen tomorrow.

I remember there was a lady back in Romania while I worked for the Romanian Field, in a place called Moreni Dambovita. I contacted her in my canvassing work; she was very sick, though just 40 years old. Her husband didn't look after her because of her sickness. She weighed almost 200 kg and her cholesterol level was almost 400 mg/dL (normal is below 200 mg/dL). As I stood in front of the door, ringing the bell, a voice was heard inviting me to come in. As I entered in, this woman was sitting on her couch, looking at me and imploring me for help. I sat down and we started talking



about Jesus and His love for us. I shared with her some health counsels regarding the importance of diet. The next day I brought her a Bible with big letters and with the words of Jesus in red. She loved that Bible so much, and whenever I was invited to come to her place she called me "brother in Christ." It was only one week or about ten days later that I had the opportunity

to go to her place and open God's word with her and pray for her. After that, the next time I went to her place, while I was ringing the bell her neighbour told me that she had died. In that very moment I understood once again how important the work is that God has entrusted me with, in terms of people's salvation. There is no time for delay. Today is the day of salvation.

God needs only one second in order to justify the repentant sinner; this is what we call justification. But He needs the rest of one's life in order to sanctify the sinner and prepare him or her for Eternity. Sanctification, my friends, is the second step that God performs in the life of a repentant sinner, and it starts the very moment you receive Jesus as your personal Saviour, making your covenant with Him through baptism by immersion. True sanctification means perfect love, per-

fect obedience, perfect conformity to the will of God. We are to be sanctified to God through obedience to the truth. Our conscience must be purged from dead works to serve the living God. The pen of inspiration puts it in this way:

“True sanctification is an entire conformity to the will of God. Rebellious thoughts and feelings are overcome, and the voice of Jesus awakens a new life, which pervades the entire being. Those who are truly sanctified will not set up their own opinion as a standard of right and wrong. . . . True sanctification is a daily work, continuing as long as life shall last.” —*Reflecting Christ*, p. 80

Another important quotation from the Spirit of Prophecy: “Sanctification is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of constantly dying to sin, and constantly living for Christ. Wrongs cannot be righted nor reformations wrought in the character by feeble, intermittent efforts. It is only by long, persevering effort, sore discipline, and stern conflict, that we shall overcome. We know not one day how strong will be our conflict the next. So long as Satan reigns, we shall have self to subdue, besetting sins to overcome; so long as life shall last, there will be no stopping place, no point which we can reach and say, I have fully attained. Sanctification is the result of lifelong obedience.” —*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 560

Many times we have heard and continue hearing these words, “Once saved, saved forever,” no matter what your life is; no matter what you are doing—the way you live, the way you eat, or the way you think—what does matter is only these simple words—“just believe” in God. But, my friends, is this sufficient for our salvation? The Bible says that even demons believe and tremble—but are they saved? I don’t think so; this is a false gospel, and those who teach people according to this false doctrine put themselves in a dangerous place.

My friend, there is only one truth that leads us to salvation; there is only one Gospel and this is the Gospel of Jesus Christ—the good news in the Bible. We are saved by grace and grace alone, no one of us can add something to this Gospel in order to be saved. Paul makes that crystal clear in Ephesians 2:8: “For by grace are ye saved through faith.” So, our faith in Christ makes us able to follow Jesus and then do the good works which are the result of the Holy Spirit working in us.

Jesus said, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” This is a

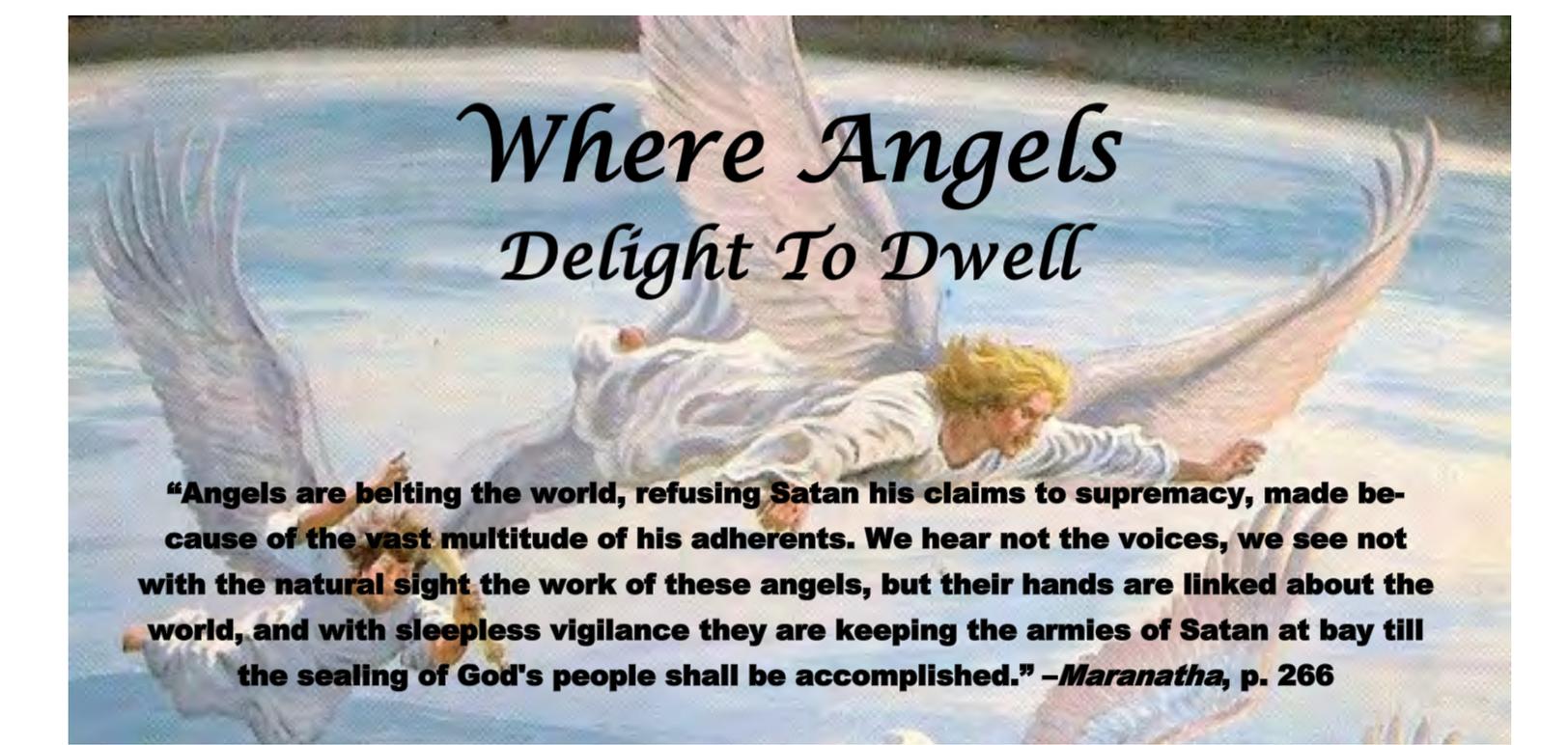
promise made by Jesus Himself; He wants us to live for Him and represent His character in this last generation of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. God calls His people to surrender themselves thoroughly to Him—giving a good example in terms of what Christianity is all about. Just as genuine love is a principle, a genuine follower of Christ is a testimony of what a man or woman might become in Christ, a new creature, born again in God’s kingdom.

Is there any danger in having this false concept regarding salvation, namely, “once saved, saved forever?” Yes, there is a danger you must be aware of, because following this false gospel gives a license to sin to those who are not willing to live according to the Bible standard. The kingdom of God is at hand; our message must be given clearly that anyone who desires salvation may know well what God’s will is. I encourage you to take your salvation seriously and the salvation of others around you. Let us make new promises to the Lord, coming before Him with new desires according to His will, because the only safety is in His presence, studying His living and powerful Word. Remember, you and I are not alone in this battle. We have the One who overcame Satan and his angels many times in heaven and on this earth. Satan lost the battle forever; he is a defeated foe, and anyone of us, by the blood of the Lamb, can overcome Satan and his temptations.

Let us hold fast our faith in Christ because He will come soon, my brothers and sisters. Every morning we have a new opportunity to express our gratitude and faithfulness to God. We were helpless sinners and He looked for us; we were disobedient and He forgave us; we offended Him and He offered us His love. He offers to declare us righteous even though we are guilty. He does all this through His grace. How many reasons there are for us to love Him and give Him our hearts, my friends! The question is: Are we ready to give up everything for Christ? May God bless us richly!

In Christ,





# Where Angels Delight To Dwell

**“Angels are belting the world, refusing Satan his claims to supremacy, made because of the vast multitude of his adherents. We hear not the voices, we see not with the natural sight the work of these angels, but their hands are linked about the world, and with sleepless vigilance they are keeping the armies of Satan at bay till the sealing of God’s people shall be accomplished.” –*Maranatha*, p. 266**

“A home where love dwells and where it finds expression in looks, in words, in acts, is a place where angels delight to dwell.” –*Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, p. 115

We all want angels to dwell in our houses, in our churches and also to be with us wherever we go. This world is a battle ground between good and evil in the visible as well as invisible world. Our only safety is in the protection of the mighty angels; angels who excel in strength. The mighty enemy also is a strong, powerful force and we are no match for the enemy; therefore, we need constant protection from the angels of God. We need those angels to keep the armies of Satan away from us.

Angels love to attend church services and they love to dwell in Christian homes. However, if unconverted elements are permitted to be continually practiced, they may turn away in sadness, even from these places. A well ordered home or church that is filled with love is where you will find the angels dwelling.

“Angels work harmoniously. Perfect order characterizes all their movements. The more closely we imitate the harmony and order of the angelic host, the more successful will be the efforts of these heavenly agents in our behalf. If we see no necessity for harmonious action, and are disorderly, undisciplined, and disorganized in our course of action, angels, who are thoroughly organized and move in perfect order, cannot work for us successfully. They turn away in grief, for they are not authorized to bless confusion, distraction, and disorganization. All who desire the co-operation of the heav-

enly messengers, must work in unison with them. Those who have the unction from on high, will in all their efforts encourage order, discipline, and union of action, and then the angels of God can co-operate with them. But never, never will these heavenly messengers place their endorsement upon irregularity, disorganization, and disorder. All these evils are the result of Satan’s efforts to weaken our forces, to destroy our courage, and prevent successful action. –*Christian Experience and Teaching*, p. 199

“God desires that His work shall be done with system and exactness, in order that He may place upon it the seal of His approval.” –*The Review and Herald*, October 12, 1905

## WORLD IN CHAOS

As much as the Western World likes to portray the fact that we supposedly live in a well-ordered society in an enlightened age, nothing could be further from the truth. Crime and corruption are everywhere, if not openly, then in subtle methods such as fraud and deception. There is also very little order in the chaotic world of politics. Angels do not like the chaos of the world.

“The world and all society are looked upon as in disorder. Ideas and methods and skilful inventions are instituted to remodel it, but the system is almost altogether human.” –*Testimonies to Southern Africa*, p. 74

We have also seen some of these evils creeping into the Christian world. Satan is studying very hard to combine the chaos of the world and bring it into the homes

of Christian families and into Christian churches. Unfortunately, he is succeeding in many families and churches. I pray that he will not succeed in our families and in God's church.

"Satan well knows that success can only attend order and harmonious action. He well knows that everything connected with Heaven is in perfect order, that subjection and perfect discipline mark the movements of the angelic host. It is his studied effort to lead professed Christians just as far from Heaven's arrangement as he can; therefore he deceives even the professed people of God, and makes them believe that order and discipline are enemies to spirituality." —*Christian Experience and Teachings*, p. 201

"The power and malice of Satan and his host might justly alarm us, were it not that we may find shelter and deliverance in the superior power of our Redeemer. We carefully secure our houses with bolts and locks to protect our property and our lives from evil men; but we seldom think of the evil angels who are constantly seeking access to us, and against whose attacks we have, in our own strength, no method of defense. If permitted, they can distract our minds, disorder and torment our bodies, destroy our possessions and our lives. Their only delight is in misery and destruction. Fearful is the condition of those who resist the divine claims, and yield to Satan's temptations, until God gives them up to the control of evil spirits. But those who follow Christ are ever safe under His watch-care. Angels that excel in strength are sent from Heaven to protect them. The wicked one cannot break through the guard which God has stationed about His people." —*The Great Controversy*, 1888, p. 517

#### A HOME WHERE ANGELS DELIGHT TO DWELL

A home is not necessarily a big, fancy building. A home can be large, or it can be very small. A home can be described as a sanctuary. It should be a place of safety and comfort from the outside world. In the home one can relax and rest peacefully (hopefully). It should be a respite from the chaos of the outside world as long as we keep the outside world just there, on the outside. Unfortunately, some bring the outside world inside the

home, disturbing the peace and harmony in this sanctuary.

How can we keep homes in a condition where the angels delight to dwell? Some feel that when they are in their homes, they are away from the public eye and can keep their homes in any condition they choose. However, this is false. While there is disorder and chaos outside, there should be order and neatness inside the home. "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace. . . . Let all things be done decently and in order." 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40

"You are under obligation to God always to be patterns of propriety in your home. Remember that in heaven there is no disorder, and that your home should be a heaven here below. Remember that in doing faithfully from day to day the little things to be done in the home, you are a labourer together with God, perfecting a Christian character." —*Counsels for the Church*, p. 149. **"Uncleanness in the home is a great mistake, for it is educating in its effects and casts its influence abroad."**

—*Child Guidance*, p. 106.

**"They should be taught that they are not to keep the house in perpetual disorder."** —*Child Guidance*, p. 101. "The home must be kept pure and clean. Unclean, neglected corners in the house will tend to make impure, neglected corners in the soul." —*Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, p. 142–143. "I saw that the houses of the saints should be kept tidy and neat, free from dirt and

filth and all uncleanness." —*Selected Messages*, vol. 3, p. 274

"None should be so fearful of being like the world that it will lead them to be careless in their houses, leaving things in disorder and uncleanness. It is not pride to be neat in dress, cleanly in person, orderly and tasteful in their household arrangements. . . . These outside appearances tell the business character of those living in the house, and not only this but the religious character of its inmates. It is impossible for a slack, disorderly person to make a good Christian. Their lives, in temporal and religious things, are just as disorderly as their dress, houses, persons, and premises." —*Our High Calling*, p. 230



“Order and cleanliness is the law of heaven; and in order to come into harmony with the divine arrangement, it is our duty to be neat and tasty. They are to be taught that those who are to represent the high and holy God must keep their souls pure and clean, and that this purity must extend to their dress and to everything in the home, so that the ministering angels will have evidence that the truth has wrought a change in the life, purifying the soul and refining the tastes.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 22

Is our home in a such a condition that the angels would delight to dwell with us?

### THE FAMILY

Ask yourself if the angels delight to live with your family? “A home may be neat and tidy but what about the people who dwell in the home? There needs to be order in the family circle as well. The lack of appreciating order and system in the arrangement of family matters leads to destructiveness and working to great disadvantage.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 379

“Home should be a place where cheerfulness, courtesy, and love abide; and where these graces dwell, there will abide happiness and peace. Troubles may invade, but these are the lot of humanity. Let patience, gratitude, and love keep sunshine in the heart, though the day may be ever so cloudy. **In such homes angels of God abide.**” —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 393 (emphasis mine)

“Mutual kindness and forbearance will make home a Paradise and **attract holy angels** into the family circle; but they will flee from a house where there are unpleasant words, fretfulness, and strife. Unkindness, complaining, and anger shut Jesus from the dwelling.” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 421 (emphasis mine)

“From the very beginning of their lives, children are to be taught as to how to conduct themselves in order to welcome the heavenly guests, and prevent them from fleeing.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 199

“The love and respect of her children should be of the highest value to every mother. Everything upon her person should teach cleanliness and order and should be associated in their minds with purity. There is a

sense of fitness, an idea of the appropriateness of things, in the minds of even very young children; and how can they be impressed with the desirability of purity and holiness when their eyes daily rest on untidy dresses and disorderly rooms? How can the heavenly guests, whose home is where all is pure and holy, be invited into such a dwelling?” —*The Adventist Home*, p. 254. Let us invite the heavenly guests into our homes and family circle.

### PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT

Everyone needs recreation at certain periods in order to become refreshed for all their daily duties. It is important, though, where the recreation takes place, for Satan has created many forms of entertainment where the angels are really not wanting to enter. Choose carefully your place of recreation and refrain from going to places where the angels may refuse to enter or

you will find yourself in a place surrounded by the chaos of this world with only evil around you. It is a fearful place to be if you could see into the unseen world. All the evil and corruption—and the delight on the face of the evil one—would be enough to frighten any true saint from entering such places. There is much written about places that the angels choose not to enter from the pub to brutal sporting events. We must always keep in mind, “would the angels be with me when I go here?”

“It is dangerous for those who wish to honour God to find their pleasure and entertainment with companions who fear Him not. Satan ever surrounds such with great darkness; and if those who profess Christ go unbidden into

this darkness, they tempt the devil to tempt them. If, in order to do good and glorify His name, the Lord requires us to go among infernal spirits, where is the blackest darkness, He will encircle us with His angels and keep us unsullied. But if we seek the company of sinners, and are pleased with their coarse jests, and entertained and amused with their stories, sports, and ribaldry, the pure and holy angels remove their protection and leave us to the darkness we have chosen.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 222

What if we bring forms of entertainment into our homes, such as inappropriate movies that the angels do



not like to watch? Or if we view Internet web sites that the angels do not like to look at? Will the angels delight to dwell with us in our homes?

## IN THE CHURCH

Our churches are also a place of refuge, a sanctuary from the chaos of the outside world. We need to keep the world outside so that the angels will delight to worship with us, and not turn away and flee in sadness.

Order in the church is kept by recognizing the sanctity of the sanctuary and instilling that into our children. "Thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." 1 Timothy 3:15

"The house of God is desecrated and the Sabbath violated by Sabbath believers' children. They run about the house, play, talk, and manifest their evil tempers in the very meetings where the saints have met together to glorify God and to worship Him in the beauty of holiness. The place that should be holy, where a holy stillness should reign, and where there should be perfect order, neatness, and humility, is made to be a perfect Babylon and a place where confusion, disorder, and untidiness reign. This is enough to shut out God from our assemblies and cause His wrath to be kindled, that He will not be pleased to go out with the armies of Israel to battle against our enemies." –*Selected Messages*, vol. 3, p. 257. Hopefully this is not the case in our churches.

"There is order in heaven. There was order in the church when Christ was upon the earth, and after His departure order was strictly observed among His apostles. And now in these last days, while God is bringing His children into the unity of the faith, there is more real need of order than ever before; for, as God unites His children, Satan and his evil angels are very busy to prevent this unity and to destroy it." –*Early Writings*, p. 97

"The moral taste of the worshipers in God's holy sanctuary must be elevated, refined, sanctified. This matter has been sadly neglected. Its importance has been overlooked, and as the result disorder and irreverence have become prevalent, and God has been dishonoured. When the leaders in the church, ministers and people, fathers and mothers, have not had elevated views of this matter, what could be expected of the inexperienced children? They are too often found in groups, away from the parents, who should have

charge of them. Notwithstanding they are in the presence of God, and His eye is looking upon them; they are light and trifling; they whisper and laugh, are careless, irreverent, and inattentive." –*Child Guidance*, p. 542. Are we guilty of irreverence in the house of God? I hope not, or the angels may flee from such worship services.

"Do not have so little reverence for the house and worship of God as to communicate with one another during the sermon. If those who commit this fault could see the angels of God looking upon them and marking their doings, they would be filled with shame and abhorrence of themselves. God wants attentive hearers. It was while men slept that the enemy sowed tares." –*Child Guidance*, p. 542

**In conclusion:** "Perfect order characterizes all the movements of the angels of God. We are in the world as the children of Israel were in the wilderness, to be fitted for the heavenly Canaan, and the society of holy angels. We should carry out as far as possible in our families and in the church the order and harmony of Heaven. Angels of God often turn away in grief from those who excuse disorder and confusion as very trivial matters; they are not authorized to bless such. All who desire and expect the co-operation of the heavenly messengers must work in unison with them. Satan understands that success will only attend unity of action. He well knows that independence, self-exaltation, and pride caused him to lose paradise, and he is constantly tempting others to rebel against order and discipline that they may share his fate." –*The Signs of the Times*, July 29, 1880

Do we wish to have the protection of the heavenly angels with us wherever we go? May God help us to keep our homes, families and churches as places where the angels will delight to dwell. And also to make sure we only go where they will delight to accompany us. Without their protection we are fearfully in the hands of the chaotic evil in the world. However, God loves us and longs to be with us. Let us not shut Him out from our presence, our homes or our churches is my wish and prayer. Amen.

**Wendy Eaton**





# Because!

**DEFINITION: because**/bikawz,-kuz/conj. For the reason that; since, - **because of** on account of; by reason of. {ME f. BY prep. + CAUSE, after OF par cause de by reason of} > for, since, as, inasmuch as, seeing that, owing or due to the fact that.

(*OXFORD AMERICAN DICTIONARY AND THESAURUS*, p. 118, Oxford University Press, 2003)

**“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.” Revelation 14:6**

## EVERLASTING

The gospel (definition: “unquestionable truth”—*Collins Dictionary*, Harper Collins, 1991), noted here in the opening verse, is an everlasting gospel; it is so in its nature, and it will be so in its consequences. “For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and its flower thereof falleth away: but the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.” 1 Peter 1: 24–25. The everlasting gospel is of great concern to the whole world, and as it is the concern of all, it is very much to be desired that it should be made known to all, even to “every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.” Revelation 14:6. The gospel is the great means whereby men are brought to fear God, and to give glory to Him. Natural religion is not sufficient to keep up the fear of God, nor to secure to Him glory from men; it is the gospel that revives the fear of God attended by the power of the Holy Spirit, that men are turned from idols to serve the living God as the Creator of the “heaven, and the earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” Revelation 14:7

“One of the wonderful qualities of the New Testament’s four Gospels (Mathew, Mark, Luke, John) is that they force you either to embrace or reject them. You can study the gospels as “literature” if you like, but their logic subverts any attempt to treat them as you

would treat other literary texts. Hamlet: may reach dizzying heights of sublimity and repay a lifetime of study, but it doesn’t ask for radical changes in your thought and behaviour and has no power to compel them.” (Opinion—Book Review; by Barton Swaim, on Jay Parini’s “*Jesus: The Human Face of God*,” Wall Street Journal, Dec. 23, 2013)

“I do not seek to understand so that I may believe, but I believe so that I may understand.” St. Anselm

## BAD NEWS!

Ah! But, in the unveiling of conditions on the earth at the end of the age, we see a manifestation of the power of Satan. As the year turns and time painfully progresses—ambitiously, the subject that is becoming impossible to duck or avoid is the growing global disorder, global unease, suicide bombings, assassinations, kidnappings, mass killings, and intimidations. Moreover, the world is on a global financial death spiral! The world, furthermore, is ruled by de facto military juntas, military criminals, or a distracted or disinterested leadership, and over shadowed by an insidious plotting for power while exercising economic dictatorship—and all satanically energized.

Of Satan it is said that he is the deceiver of the whole world (Revelation 12:9). Satan has organized the world of unbelieving mankind upon his cosmic principles of

force, greed, selfishness, ambition, and pleasure (Matthew 4:8–9; John 2:15–17). This world system is imposing and powerful with military might, is often outwardly religious, scientific, cultured, and elegant; but, seething with national and commercial rivalries and ambitions, is upheld in any real crisis only by armed force, and is dominated by satanic principles (Zechariah 12:1–6; Matthew 4:8).

Satan, furthermore, has created a surge in devices and services in homes, businesses, schools, and churches. He is churning out a number of Internet-connected gadgets with wicked connotations. “Also the schemes of the schemer are evil; He devises wicked plans to destroy the poor with lying words.” (Isaiah 32:7 NKJV); Psalm 37:7; Proverbs 1:31; Proverbs 19:21; Jeremiah 18:12

Not only is there a potentially dangerous breakdown of international order, but also people’s loss of faith in their leadership. But in a world with as many disturbances as now, what usually comes with intense national disaffection and frustration is rarely good. It is a world that is running on the cliff’s edge.

## REFLECTION

It is a time for reflection—meditation; a change! A time to turn to the Bible, the Holy Scriptures, the Word of God, but pointedly—the Book of Revelation—the concluding book of the scriptures which unfolds the great events bringing history to consummation, including the revelation of Jesus at His second advent.

The word “Revelation,” used as the title of the book, is from the late Latin, “revelato” which means (as does the Greek, “apokalipsis” from which the English word “apocalypse” is derived ) disclosure of that which was previously hidden or unknown. The book is a record of what the Apostle John saw and heard, that wise old sage on Patmos Island, Greece (AD 95).

## BOOK FOR THE END OF AGE

Of all the books of the Bible, this book is the one that certainly may be considered as the book for the end of the age. It’s obvious to see that the Western world itself, including its leaders, presidents, kings, statesmen, religious leaders, scientists, economists, authors, essayists, news editors, and students, have consciously or unconsciously recognized this. Ah! Not only the West-

ern world! Just throw a dart randomly at a map of the Middle East, Southeast Asia, or Africa, and it will hit “trouble!” It is no surprise that in conversations of late one hears invocations of chaos or war! If you have the courage to view, read, hear any media source and it will reek of violence. The use of the word “apocalypse” surfaces—invariably! This word has come to stand for an age of upheaval, world conditions fraught with fearful consequences, the unleashing of vast powers which man himself seems unable to control.

## TO THE CHURCH

The author of the book on Revelation in the Moffatt commentary, Martin Kiddle, refers to “the remarkable relevance” of the message of this book “to the church in our own day. It is only one more example of the divine sanction, and the timeless significance of John’s visions. Whenever there is a world crisis, whenever the State exalts itself and demands an allegiance which Christians know they cannot pay without abandoning their very souls, whenever the Church is threatened by destruction, and faith is dim and hearts are cold, then the Revelation will admonish and exhort, uplift and encourage all who heed its message.” (p. xlix)

## ONE WORLD ORDER

This, furthermore, the book of Revelation is supremely the book of one world, and surely now, in the twentieth century, we are approaching a one-world condition. Often in the Apocalypse we come upon such a phrase as “many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings” (Revelation 10:11; 11:9; 17:15), which suggests the universal scope of the vision. When kings are introduced, they are the “kings of the whole world” (Revelation 16:14; 17:2,18; 18:9; 19:19).

An interesting Christian book that relates to this is: “*En Route to Global Occupation—A High Ranking Government Liaison Exposes the Secret Agenda for World Unification.*” Gary H. Kah, Huntington House Pub., 1991. He warns that national sovereignty will soon be a thing of the past. Political forces around the world are now cooperating in unprecedented fashion to achieve their goal of uniting the people of this planet under a New World Order. The author demonstrates that there is an ominous cooperation between the globalists, who are



promoting the one world government, and the burgeoning New Age groups, who are promoting a new religion. Another appropriate book for this time is: "The Secret Terrorists" by Bill Huges, Truth Triumphant, P.O. Box 567, Tangerine, FL. 32777. The book unfolds the fact that the U.S.A. is in more danger today than ever before. A secret terrorist organization has been working from within to destroy America, its Constitution, and everything for which she stands. This book gives all the details—how!

### ENDLESSLY BLESSED

The Book of Revelation is pre-eminently a book for a



troubled age, for an age in which the darkness deepens, fear spreads over all mankind, and monstrous powers, godless and evil, appear on the stage of history (as they appear in the book of

Revelation). But, there is comfort and encouragement here: God knows all things from the beginning, even the tribulations of His own people. However, the ultimate end of this conflict, persecution, tribulation, martyrdom, is determined by Christ, when He finally will be victorious. Sin and Satan and all Satan's cohorts will be eternally defeated; and believers will be with the Son of God in glory forever.

All right, but, even if one were to say these things were not true, and especially for the age we live in, we should not forget that this is the only book in the Bible that pronounces a beatitude regarding the hearing, reading, and obeying of its words: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things which are written therein." Revelation 1:3. (see also Revelation 22:7)

### GOOD NEWS

Doubtless in the future, the importance and influence of the Book of Revelation will constantly increase with the existing and increasing confusion and gloom of the times. But, whether such times are measured in time and forthcoming, the order of events are not the subject of this article, but to the furthering of man's salvation and preparedness. In other words, man is yearning for the Good News!

So, to begin with, the word "Gospel" means "Good News!" As used in the New Testament, the word deals with different aspects of divine revelation. But, absolutely essential to man's salvation are the following:

**A. Gospel of the Grace of God** "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to My gospel."Romans 2:16. Grim news—too!

### B. Gospel of Divine Revelation

- 1) That Jesus Christ died on the cross for the sins of the world;
- 2) That He was raised from the dead on account of our justification;
- 3) That by Him all who believe are justified from all things.

### C. Gospel of God

"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God." Romans 1:1

#### It is The Gospel of God

**BECAUSE**—it originates in His love.

**BECAUSE**—"of Christ." "For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:14

**BECAUSE**—it flows from His sacrifice.

**BECAUSE**—He is the object of faith.

**BECAUSE**—of "the grace of God." "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." Acts 20:24

**BECAUSE**—it saves those who the law curses.

**BECAUSE**—it is "glorious." "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Corinthians 4:4. "According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust." 1 Timothy 1:11

**BECAUSE**—it concerns Him who is in the glory and is bringing many sons to glory. "For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings." Hebrews 2:10

**BECAUSE**—“of your salvation” “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.” Ephesians 1:13

**BECAUSE**—“it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.” “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” Romans 1:16

**BECAUSE**—“of peace” because through Christ it makes peace between the believing sinner and God, and makes inward peace possible. “And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.” Ephesians 6:15

#### **D. Gospel of the Kingdom**

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.” Matthew 4:23. This is the good news that God purposes to set up on the earth, the kingdom of Christ, the Son of David, in fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:16). Now, the good news of this kingdom was announced by the Old Testament prophets (Isaiah 9:6–7), by Christ in His first coming (Matthew 9:35), and will be proclaimed during the great tribulation (Matthew 24:14).

**E. Everlasting Gospel**—(Revelation 14:6—opening verse) is described as the announcement of divine judgment upon the wicked in the coming great tribulation. It is good news for the suffering believers as it heralds their coming deliverance and reward (v. 12). So, in view of those who “dwell on the earth” are exhorted to fear God and worship Him (v. 7).

**F. Another Gospel**—but the “good news” of divine revelation is contrasted with “another gospel” (a warning!). “For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with

him.” 2 Corinthians 11:4. “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel” (Galatians 1:6), which Paul states “is not another,” but a perversion of the gospel of the grace of God. We are warned against all its se-

ductive forms which deny the sufficiency of grace alone to save, keep, and perfect. Its teachers lie under the awful anathema (GR. anathema; “another subject”) (Definition: “anything detested, hateful, ban of the church, a curse of God.” —*Collins Dictionary of the English Language*, Harper Collins, 1991). “As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you

than that ye have received, let him be accursed.” Galatians 1:9. Grim news!

#### **SUMMATION:**

The abounding and consoling word, “gospel,” therefore, includes various aspects of the good news of divine revelation. But the marvellous fact that God has proclaimed the good news of the gospel of grace, the gospel of the coming kingdom, and the everlasting gospel of divine judgment upon the wicked and deliverance of believers does not mean that there is more than one Gospel of salvation. Grace, you see, is the basis for salvation in all dispensations, and is under all circumstances the only way of salvation from sin.

“If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, in which thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?” Jeremiah 12:5

#### **Is it BECAUSE?**



# Continuing the Early Attentions



The family unit was designed to be a blessing to mankind. Love was to be woven into the tender and sacred fabric of this enduring relationship. Even though sin entered this world, it is still love that binds and unites the happy couple to face life's realities and to cope with its many difficulties, as well as to share its joys. The apostle Paul briefly describes the duties of the husband and wife. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it." Ephesians 5:22, 25. These wise and timeless words point out clearly the obligations of each partner in order to preserve this monumental pillar which the Lord instituted in the Garden of Eden.

Unfortunately, too often in the family the precious heavenly gift of love begins to lose its lustre, charm, and novelty; and it eventually wanes into a state of dissatisfaction, lack of interest, lack of respect, and may even die out completely. "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." Revelation 2:4

Has your once romantic and idyllic adventure of love grown to bring still greater closeness and happiness? Do you still remember how you treated your spouse just after the ceremony in which you made your solemn vows to love and to cherish? Maybe you thought, "I will do everything for my sweetheart." Not only did you frequently say, "I

love you," but you really meant it. Many beautiful memories may still linger in your mind of the early period of marriage, which was just ideal, wonderful, with cheerfulness and happiness radiating from both of you.

As the years go by, the husband and wife may get out of tune or out of step with each other, so to speak. They may lose touch with each other on a mental and spiritual plane. Each travels his own road, and the distance between them widens. This should not be the case. God said, "Let them be one." It is God's plan that the couple should share the joys and experiences of life rather than living each to himself.

## EARLY ATTENTIONS

It is very important for both husband and wife to treat one another the same way now as they did in former years. Did you ever open the car door for your wife or buy her a bouquet of flowers on that special occasion—birthday, anniversary, or Mother's Day? It cheered her up and made her feel loved and appreciated as an individual, didn't it? Do you still call up your wife when you will be late for supper? This way she can plan the supper and not be too inconvenienced. How about the second honeymoon? It's sure worth taking again after the children have grown up.

"Let the husband and wife study each other's happiness, never failing in the small courtesies and little kindly acts that cheer and brighten the life. Perfect confi-



dence should exist between husband and wife. Together they should consider their responsibilities." *—The Ministry of Healing*, p. 393

Many husbands think that the housewife is just a maid or robot to be ordered around. The woman of the house has more than an eight-hour job. The daily routine of housekeeping needs to be interrupted with a change of pace and scenery. How about a trip to the mountains, to the zoo or the seashore? A surprise or two may lift her spirits.

#### APPEARANCE

Let's not forget how pleasant it was when both husband and wife looked neat and attractive. Each one was properly groomed and tried to look his best at all times. One doesn't need to spend a fortune on the latest fashions to be physically attractive, but do take care of your clothes. Make sure they are clean, pressed, well-fitting, and generally becoming to your person. It is our privilege to look our best. Wouldn't it be great to receive a compliment on how you look and to have a feeling of self-respect and self-confidence?

#### SPIRITUAL VALUES

With but few remaining days of probation still left, the enemy of our souls will work with greater zeal and energy than ever before to hinder the development of a Christlike character. Without Christ as the connecting link between husband and wife the union will not withstand the stresses of life. Both parties are to reflect the image of Christ and to help and strengthen one another. Defects of character will be readily seen in each other, but you should still be able to honestly say, "I appreciate you more than ever." Have you prayed for your husband or wife to overcome sin? Have you asked for forgiveness for the wrong attitude or harsh words you have spoken to each other? Have you talked things over in a nice way, without getting hot under the collar? Does morning and evening worship still continue in the family, or is no time found for God's Word? Do the children receive the right guidance from both mother and father, or are they permitted to go their own ways?

These few questions are meant to stimulate your thinking regarding the importance of the early attentions. I do hope that you can answer these questions positively and, if not, that you will make a prayerful assessment of your shortcomings and correct them.

I would like to conclude with this inspired counsel:

"There are many who regard the expression of love as a weakness, and they maintain a reserve that repels oth-

ers. This spirit checks the current of sympathy. As the social and generous impulses are repressed, they wither, and the heart becomes desolate and cold. We should beware of this error. Love cannot long exist without expression. Let not the heart of one connected with you starve for the want of kindness and sympathy." *—The Ministry of Healing*, p. 360

**Henry Dering**



## THE BIBLE

*The Bible is rich with the greatest words,  
To people who seek to find the Lord,*

*The Bible is like a honeycomb,  
Sweet to the soul and health to the bones.*

*All our questions have answers there.*

*If surely our path seems darker,  
It is the only way to find answers.*

*The Word of God is planted in our heart,  
God put it there and hopes it won't  
depart.*

*It gives us new hope to look,  
Where?*

*Its verses encourage us not to hurt,  
For they are clear from heart to heart.*

**Cheryl Manago**



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

# An Effectual Prayer

One day, a man walked into the office of his lawyer in order to ask how his work was going. The man had asked the lawyer to evict an elderly man and woman from a house they were renting from him because they were far behind in the rent and he wanted to sell the house to make a little profit. The man was not in any need of money, however, he just wanted a little more, to live a little more of a luxurious life. If they could not catch up on their rent, he was determined to evict them.

The lawyer, however, had changed his mind about taking the case.

"No," said the lawyer, "I will not follow through with your claim against that man; you can get some one else to take the case, or you can withdraw it, whatever you please."

"Do you not think it will make any money at this time?" asked the man.

"There would probably be a little money in it, but it would come, as you know, from the sale of the little house the man occupies and calls his 'home.' And I really don't want to meddle with this case."

"What made you change your mind? Has God frightened you out of the case?"

"Not at all."

"Or perhaps the old man convinced you not to follow through with the case?"

"Well, yes, he did."

"And you gave in, I suppose?"

"Well, yes."

"What did you do?"

"I believe I shed a few tears."

"The old fellow begged pretty hard, then, for you to react like that."

"No, he didn't speak to me."

"Well, may I ask, whom did he speak with?"

"His Father in heaven."

"He took to praying, did he?"

"Yes; not for my benefit, however. After finding the



little house, I knocked on the outer door which stood ajar, but no one heard me, so I stepped into the little hall, and looked through the crevice of the door into the sitting room; and there, upon the bed, with her silver head high on the pillows, was an old lady who looked just as my mother did when I last saw her. I was going to knock again when she said, 'Come,

Father, begin: I am ready now.' So reverently down on his knees went the silver-haired man: and I couldn't have knocked then for the life of me; not when he was just about to pray for his sick wife.

"Well, he began:

"First, he reminded God that they were still his submissive children, mother and he, and no matter what He saw fit to bring upon them, they would not rebel

against His will. Of course, it was going to be hard for them to go out homeless in their old age, especially with poor mother so sick and helpless; but still they had seen sadder things than that. But O, how different might it now be had even one of their boys been spared to them! Then his voice somewhat broke, and a thin white hand stole from under the coverlet, and moved softly over his snow-white head. Then he went on to repeat that nothing could be so sad again as the parting with their three sons—unless mother and he should be separated. But at last he fell to comforting himself with the fact that the gracious Lord knew that it was no fault of their own that mother and he were threatened with the loss of their little home, which to them meant beggary and the almshouse—a place they prayed the Lord to deliver them from entering, if consistent with His will. Then he quoted a number of promises concerning the safety of them that put their trust in the Lord. Yes, I should say he begged hard. In fact, it was the most thrilling plea to which I ever listened. And in conclusion, he prayed for God’s blessing upon those who were about to demand justice. He prayed for you and I.”

Pausing a moment in silence, the lawyer continued slowly, “and I believe I would rather go to the poorhouse myself than stain my heart and hands with the blood of prosecuting these two dear people who have had a hard lot in their life.”

“So,” said the man, “you are a little afraid to defeat that prayer, eh?”

“Bless your soul, man,” the lawyer went on, “you could not defeat that prayer. I tell you, he left it all subject to the will of God; yet he did not fail to make known his desires, claiming that we had been commanded to make our requests known unto God. But of all the pleading I ever heard, that was the most impressive. You see, I was taught that kind of thing myself in my childhood; and why I was sent there to hear that prayer, I am sure I don’t know—but I hand the case over. I will not take your case.”

“I wish you hadn’t told me about the old man’s prayer,” said the client, uneasily.

“Why not?” asked the lawyer.

“Well, because I greatly desire the money that the little place would bring. But, like you, I also was taught the Bible straight enough when I was a youngster, and I hate to run against what you have just related. I wish you hadn’t heard a word of it, and another time I wouldn’t listen to petitions not intended for my ears.”

The lawyer smilingly said: “You are wrong again, my dear fellow; it was intended for my ears, and yours too; and God intended it. I remember hearing my aged mother sing about God moving in a mysterious way.”

“Well, my mother also used to sing the same,” said the client, as he twisted the claim papers in his fingers. “You can call them in the morning, if you like, and tell ‘mother and him’ the rent has been paid up.”

“In a mysterious way,” added the lawyer, smiling.

“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16



“The Lord hears and answers prayer. He lays upon us no burden greater than we can bear in His strength and by His grace. In every time of need He is a present help. O, that we might have faith to ask Him for strength according to our great need. Faith is the hand by which we grasp the hand of the mighty Helper. God’s promises are sure. Why should we not take Him at His word?”  
—*The Gospel Herald*, December 10, 1902

“Jesus Himself, while He dwelt among men, was often in prayer. Our Saviour identified Himself with our needs and weakness, in that He became a suppliant, a petitioner, seeking from His Father fresh supplies of strength, that He might come forth braced for duty and trial. He is our example in all things. He is a brother in our infirmities, ‘in all points tempted like as we are;’ but as the sinless one His nature recoiled from evil; He endured struggles and torture of soul in a world of sin. His humanity made prayer a necessity and a privilege. He found comfort and joy in communion with His Father. And if the Saviour of men, the Son of God, felt the need of prayer, how much more should feeble, sinful mortals feel the necessity of fervent, constant prayer.”  
—*Steps to Christ*, p. 93

# Keep on Keeping on



**“For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.” Isaiah 30:15**

Reading Isaiah 30:15 gives me great comfort in my old age of 86 years. There are many elderly Christians who need this help, especially those who try to live without the Lord’s help regarding their health. They are extremely vulnerable to much ill health and unhappiness.

But we, in good faith, can keep on, keeping on in faith—having a purpose in life. It is important that we continue with much prayer, by following correct principles of healthy living as well as being 100% advocates of our blessed health message in face of the dearth of healthy food products in the super markets today.

Over 100 years ago, Sister Ellen G. White was given a message regarding health reform which saved the problem of ill health for God’s people in her ministry. Also the general public, along with the Christians of her day, were blessed by Sister White’s message of vegetarianism. It was published by the thousands and distributed in North America to educate the people regarding health. It put many on the road to a healthier life style and these principles still exist today.

But something terrible is happening all over the world in this day and age. Our soil is depleted of vital vitamins and minerals which are necessary to keep us healthy, and this includes those of us who are 100% vegetarians.

We all need help in this respect. Yes, all of us need help, by taking supplemental vitamins and minerals that the Lord has made available in this day and age in order for us to uphold a reasonably healthy lifestyle.

The two principles I follow in my diet are: 1) I eat fruits before my meal of grains and vegetables; 2) In my diet I include supplemental vitamins and minerals.

This information comes to us in this day and age similar to the message given to Sister White in 1864.

Elderly people all over the world need this extra health information and I am happy to learn that our General Conference is planning to incorporate a new world organization known as IHO (International Health Organization). We are a small people in the view of the world, but well known for our health message, because Ellen G. White spread this message

far and wide; it helps the young and not so young.

In closing I quote Isaiah 30:29, “Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the mighty One of Israel.” Amen and Amen.

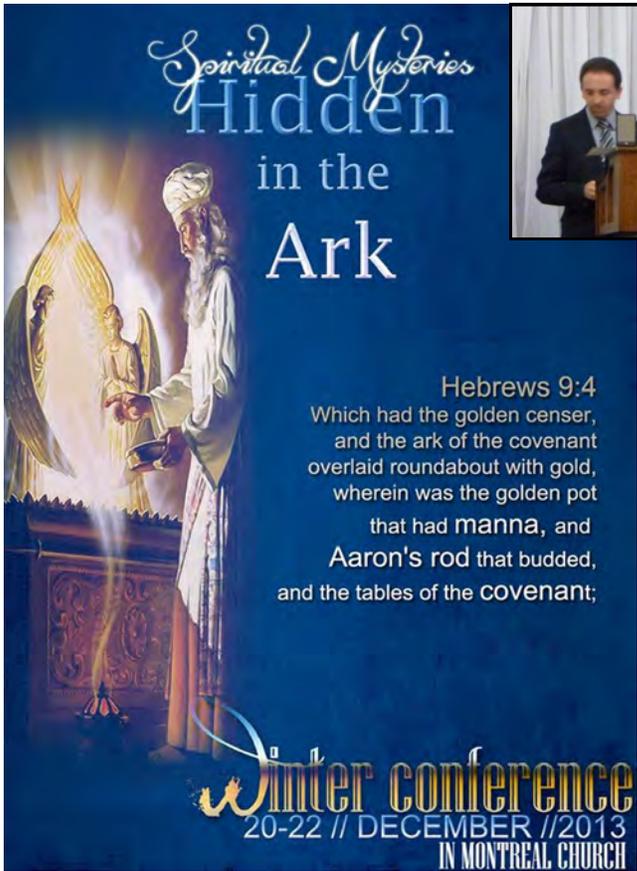
**Ernie Gale  
New Zealand**



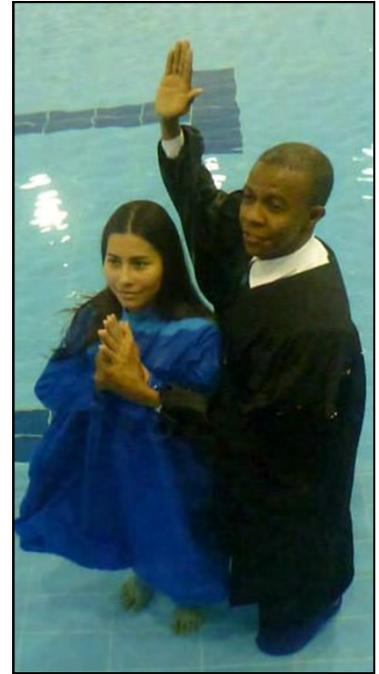
*Spiritual Mysteries*  
**Hidden**  
 in the  
**Ark**

Hebrews 9:4  
 Which had the golden censer,  
 and the ark of the covenant  
 overlaid roundabout with gold,  
 wherein was the golden pot  
 that had manna, and  
 Aaron's rod that budded,  
 and the tables of the covenant;

**Winter conference**  
 20-22 // DECEMBER // 2013  
 IN MONTREAL CHURCH




The City of Montreal, Canada was the host of the Winter Conference for 2013. Many mysteries hidden in the ark were studied. The highlight of the conference was when two souls decided to make their covenant with the Lord through baptism. Brother Alirio Beltran and Sister Leidy Lozada buried their old lives of sin in the watery grave on Sunday, December 22nd. Let us pray for these new souls in Christ as they begin their new journey with the Lord and also for the little church in Montreal that is starting to blossom once more.





## Christ Our Example

At a time of year when the majority of the world is feasting in celebration of a pagan holiday, God's people in the Greater Toronto area decided to have a spiritual feast of their own.

For five days they enjoyed spiritual fellowship and spiritual food to nourish them in their Christian journey.

The theme of the celebration was, "Christ our Example." On the final day of the "celebration" dear sister Sonia Lewis decided to make her covenant with the Lord through baptism and join with God's remnant people in proclaiming the last message of salvation to the world, through her words and her example.

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps." 1 Peter 2:21

Jesus came from heaven, not to show us what God can do, but to show us what man can do with the help of Christ.

Our profession of faith has little value if we do not have corresponding actions. "Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:21-23

Many religions claim that we cannot live a life without sin, as did Jesus. It simply is impossible, as they say. But Jesus said in Matthew 5:48, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Perfection is not profession only. We may have the theology perfected, however, without Jesus we are as nothing. We need to pattern our lives after Jesus. "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:18

The life of Jesus can be described in three words: Sacrifice, humility, obedience. Is it possible to live such a life as Jesus' did? Yes, if we are willing to let go of our sins. God will not save a sinner who clings to his sin. As we let go of our sins and allow the Holy Spirit to dwell in us, and transform us, we become good examples for others.

The end of the year is a time of reflection. We need to consider if we are closer to the kingdom of God than we were a year ago. Has our character improved? Have we gained any spiritual victories? Are we pleased with what is written in the books of heaven or are we ashamed?

If we are not closer to the kingdom of God we need to turn our lives around seriously. It is not safe to procrastinate or postpone our preparation for heaven any longer. We not only need to make a decision as to whether we will join God's church, but those that have been members for a long time, need to seriously consider if there is something they still need to overcome. Jesus is calling us today. "For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Corinthians 6:2

"Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his

spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil." Jeremiah 13:23. "It is impossible for man in his own unaided strength to overcome the natural propensities to evil. There is no saving quality in the law, to save the transgressor of the law, and yet no man who has had light as to the binding claims of the law will be excused from obedience by the great Lawgiver because it is inconvenient to keep God's commandments, because it would injure man's popularity, or hurt his worldly interests. In the judgment the law will be seen to be the test of character. It is the settled purpose of Satan to deceive men today as he deceived Eve in Eden, and lead them to disregard the command of God, and accept something besides God, something independent of God, something in opposition to God." —*The Signs of the Times*, April 4, 1895

The question then can be asked, "How did Jesus do it? What is His secret for living a life without sin?"

1) "For He whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him." John 3:34. Without the Holy Spirit is it impossible. God gave Jesus the Holy Ghost without measure; without limit and therefore He could live this kind of life. The Holy Ghost is also offered to us without limit so that we can follow Jesus' example.

2) "Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Luke 1:34–35. God was in Him. Divinity was combined with humanity. We need to be born again. As a man, Jesus overcame the temptation by the strength of God. Without this power, Jesus could not have lived the sinless life. Our humanity must be combined with the divinity of Jesus for us to overcome.

3) "If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love." John 15:10. We are to continue to abide in the love of God.

4) "And it came to pass in those days, that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." Luke 6:12. Jesus needed a good prayer life to be an overcomer.

5) "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work." John 4:34. Doing God's will to assist in the finishing of the work on

earth will bring the blessing of the Lord in overcoming sin.

You cannot live a Christian life by yourself. We need divine power. The secret is total surrender to God.

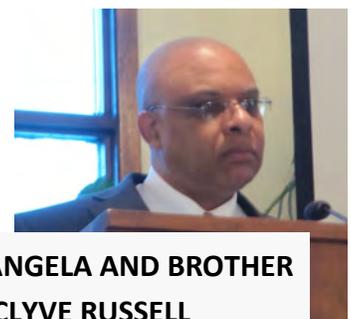
"The result of the eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is manifest in every man's experience. There is in his nature a bent to evil, a force which, unaided, he cannot resist. To withstand this force, to attain that ideal which in his inmost soul he accepts as alone worthy, he can find help in but one power. That power is Christ. Co-operation with that power is man's greatest need." —*Education*, p. 29

Jesus is our guide who came to lead us to perfection. While He was on earth the church thought He was leading in the wrong direction and then they killed Him. Not long afterwards the Roman army came and killed many of them who had refused to follow the leading of Jesus. It is so important for us to follow our leader, Jesus Christ. He will not force us. He walks in front of us and we have to follow Him.

Jesus loved everyone and He put His love into action. He is calling us to use our talents and follow His example. Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice."

"We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God. But Christ has made a way of escape for us. He lived on earth amid trials and temptations such as we have to meet. He lived a sinless life. He died for us, and now He offers to take our sins and give us His righteousness. If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. Christ's character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned." —*Steps to Christ*, p. 62

Let us, in this new year, make earnest efforts to draw closer to the Lord and to follow the example of Jesus in every aspect of our daily living is our prayer. Let us make this new year a memorable year in which we draw much closer to the Lord and surrender our lives completely to His leading. Amen.



**SISTER ANGELA AND BROTHER  
CLYVE RUSSELL**



**SPIRITUAL FEAST DECEMBER 25 TO 29, 2013  
TORONTO, CANADA**



**SISTER SONIA LEWIS**



**BAPTISM IN TOGO**



**BAPTISM**

**OF**

**NEW**

**SOULS**

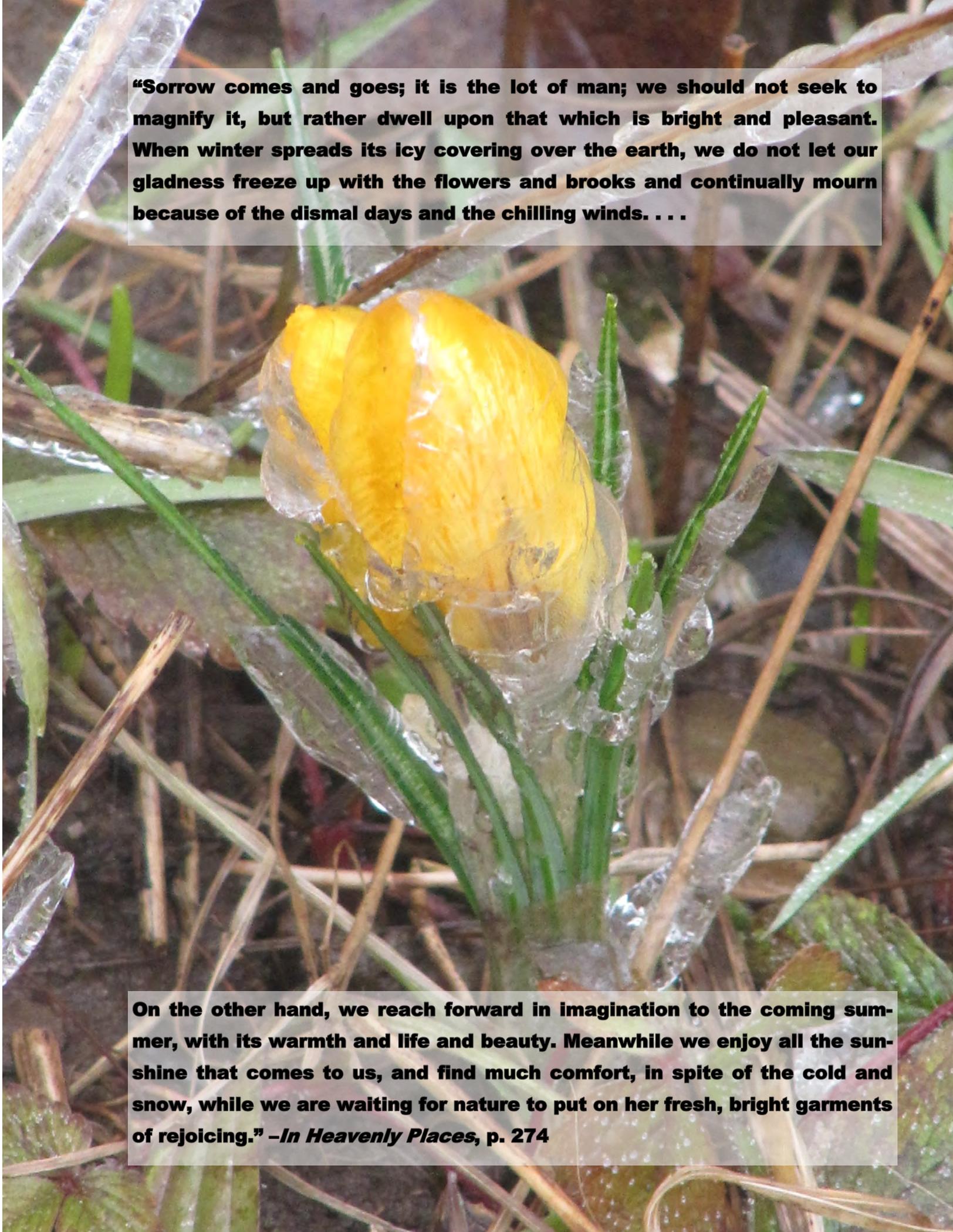
**IN**

**GHANA**



**BENIN**



A close-up photograph of a bright yellow flower, possibly a tulip, completely encased in a thick, clear layer of ice. The flower is the central focus, with its petals and stem visible through the frozen coating. The background is a dense thicket of green grass blades and dry, brown pine needles, some of which are also partially covered in ice, suggesting a cold, wintry environment. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the ice and the vibrant color of the flower.

**“Sorrow comes and goes; it is the lot of man; we should not seek to magnify it, but rather dwell upon that which is bright and pleasant. When winter spreads its icy covering over the earth, we do not let our gladness freeze up with the flowers and brooks and continually mourn because of the dismal days and the chilling winds. . . .**

**On the other hand, we reach forward in imagination to the coming summer, with its warmth and life and beauty. Meanwhile we enjoy all the sunshine that comes to us, and find much comfort, in spite of the cold and snow, while we are waiting for nature to put on her fresh, bright garments of rejoicing.” –*In Heavenly Places*, p. 274**