

The background of the cover is a lush forest scene. In the foreground, a calm pond reflects the surrounding trees and sky. Several large, dark rocks are scattered in the water. A single white bird is perched on a prominent rock in the middle ground. The forest is dense with tall, thin trees, some with green foliage and others with golden-brown leaves, suggesting an autumn setting. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

The Reformation
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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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“Be Still and Know

that I am God”

Psalm 46:10

“An intensity such as never before was seen is taking possession of the world. In amusement, in moneymaking, in the contest for power, in the very struggle for existence, there is a terrible force that engrosses body and mind and soul. In the midst of this maddening rush, God is speaking. He bids us come apart and commune with Him. ‘Be still, and know that I am God.’ Psalm 46:10

“Many, even in their seasons of devotion, fail of receiving the blessing of real communion with God. They are in too great haste. With hurried steps they press through the circle of Christ's loving presence, pausing perhaps a moment within the sacred precincts, but not waiting for counsel. They have no time to remain with the divine Teacher. With their burdens they return to their work.

“These workers can never attain the highest success until they learn the secret of strength. They must give themselves time to think, to pray, to wait upon God for a renewal of physical, mental, and spiritual power. They need the uplifting influence of His Spirit. Receiving this, they will be quickened by fresh life. The wearied frame and tired brain will be refreshed, the burdened heart will be lightened.

“Not a pause for a moment in His presence, but personal contact with Christ, to sit down in companionship with Him—this is our need.” —*Education*, p. 260–261

“If we would bear in mind the momentous events which are soon to take place, we would not be so weak in char-

acter. We would feel that we were living in the presence of God, and awed and amazed we should heed the injunction, ‘Be still, and know that I am God.’ Oh, when shall we ever realize the full value of our Saviour's work and intercession? When shall we rely upon Him with full confidence, and live a noble, pure, and devoted life? To what heights may the imagination reach when sanctified and inspired by the virtue of Christ! We may take in the glories of the future, eternal world. We may live as seeing Him who is invisible. Walk by faith and not by sight.” —*Reflecting Christ*, p. 318

“In all who are under the training of God is to be revealed a life that is not in harmony with the world, its customs, or its practices; and everyone needs to have a personal experience in obtaining a knowledge of the will of God. We must individually hear Him speaking to the heart. When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. He bids us, ‘Be still, and know that I am God.’ Psalm 46:10. Here alone can true rest be found. And this is the effectual preparation for all who labor for God. Amid the hurrying throng, and the strain of life's intense activities, the soul that is thus refreshed will be surrounded with an atmosphere of light and peace. The life will breathe out fragrance, and will reveal a divine power that will reach men's hearts.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 363

Ellen G. White

Handwriting

On the Wall



A number of years ago, Dr. Everts Graham was doing pioneering experiments on cigarette smoking. His smoking machines would extract tar from cigarettes, and they would paint that on the back of experimental animals. He found that cigarette smoking and cancer were related, because these animals were developing a cancer that was indistinguishable from human cancer. Dr. Everts Graham himself was a smoker who smoked over a pack of cigarettes every day. And as he continued to do experiments on the effect of cigarette smoking in the lungs, he himself developed lung cancer.

He wrote a letter to his colleague and friend, Dr. Alton Ochsner, a famed cancer lung surgeon in New Orleans. Dr. Ochsner said it was the saddest letter he had ever received. Dr. Graham said, "I am so sorry to tell you that I have cancer in both my lungs, and it is malignant. I won't be living much longer." Dr. Ochsner said the brilliance of Dr. Graham's mind did not keep him from getting lung cancer. He knew from the experiments that he was performing that cigarette smoking was related to lung cancer, but he himself did not do what he needed to do to prevent getting cancer himself. He knew, but he did not do it. Most of the time, our problem in life is not that we do not know—it is that we do not do.

Daniel chapter 4 relates the story of how Nebuchadnezzar finally accepted Jesus into his life and accepted God's rule as supreme. It is a beautiful story of redemption and illustrates the lengths God will go to in order to save just one person. In the next chapter we read what happens when a person ultimately rejects God's offer of salvation.

In one of the most dramatic stories in the Bible, king Belshazzar of Babylon was hosting a party in his palace when, in the midst of the festivities, a mysterious hand appeared and wrote several words on a wall in the room where the party was taking place. "It was not the hand of the priest that rent from top to bottom the gorgeous veil that divided the holy from the most holy place. It was the hand of God. When Christ cried out, 'It is finished,' the Holy Watcher that was an unseen guest at Belshazzar's feast pronounced the Jewish nation to be a nation unchurched. The same hand that traced on the wall the characters that recorded Belshazzar's doom and the end of the Babylonian kingdom, rent the veil of the

temple from top to bottom, opening a new and living way for all, high and low, rich and poor, Jew and Gentile. From

henceforth people might come to God without priest or ruler." —*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 1109

Unable to interpret the writing on the wall, the king summoned his counsellors—the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers—to tell him the meaning of the writing. Once again they were unable to interpret the meaning of God's messages. King Belshazzar was greatly troubled and his countenance changed. The Queen, when she saw that, told the king that there is a man in the kingdom in whom is the Spirit of the Holy God.

The king then called Daniel and asked him to tell him the meaning of that mysterious message. Daniel stated; "God has numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. . . thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." Daniel 5:26–27. "In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldean slain. And Darius the Mede took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old." Daniel 5:30–31. That night the Persians invaded. Cyrus the Great, king of Medo-Persia, broke through the supposedly impenetrable wall of Babylon by cleverly diverting the river flowing into the city so that his soldiers could enter through the river duct. Historical records show that this invasion was made possible because the entire city was involved in a great drunken feast. If there was any doubt about safety and security, it was forgotten in the frenzy of the hour. For, after all, Babylon's walls were high, the city shielded further by the deep waters of the Euphrates. Food was abundant. There was nothing to worry about. So, that very evening, the mightiest kingdom in the world was overthrown, and Belshazzar leaned on Bel, the chief god of Babylon, instead of leaning on El, the God of Daniel and the supreme God of the universe.

Babylon had fallen. The story of Belshazzar illustrates the truth that, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18. The Bible tells us in the book of Revelation that Babylon is going to fall again. The question is: How do we understand the future fall of Babylon? In what way does this affect the people of God?

Ancient Babylon was a leading world power. The Babylonians ruled a significant section of the planet, and the city of Baby-

lon was a center of wealth and influence. Babylon was also a religious center without rival in the world. The religion of Babylon was characterized by idolatry, ancestor worship and sun worship. Tammuz was a god worshiped by the Babylonians. As we already know—the name “Babylon” is derived from the word “Babel” meaning “confusion,” a description of the confused pagan teachings of Babylon. “Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.” Genesis 11:9

In the book of Revelation, spiritual Babylon is represented in two ways. Firstly, as a city, demonstrating a parallel with ancient Babylon. And secondly, as a woman, representing a spiritual entity, or a church. This symbolism of a woman representing a church comes from the following Bible verses. “I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman.” Jeremiah 6:2. “I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 11:2

Reference to Babylon as represented as a woman comes from this verse, “Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters.” Revelation 17:1

This woman is sitting on a beast (a nation, “The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth.” Daniel 7:23). “I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.” Revelation 17:3. This depicts a union of church and state. She was, “arrayed in purple and scarlet colour.” Revelation 17:4. She persecuted God’s people (“drunken with the blood of the saints.” Revelation 17:6), and was located in a city on seven mountains (“The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.” Revelation 17:9).

Each of these identifying marks point to the church of Rome, or Catholic church, as being the Babylon of the book of Revelation. “And on her forehead was a name written; MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH”. Revelation 17:5. Just as the woman, or the mother of the woman in Revelation 17, represents a church, her daughters, also women, represent apostate churches that follow her. The mother church, “Babylon,” is the church that, like ancient Babylon, has confused the world with her teachings. The daughters’ churches are those that follow the teachings of the mother church. They teach her errors as truth, even though those errors have no Biblical basis and rest only upon human authority. Doing so they are also a part of what the Bible calls, spiritual Babylon. Just as wine is intoxicating (confusing), the teachings of Babylon have intoxicated and confused. Because of Babylon’s influence, many people in the world today reject some of the plainest teachings in the Bible, and accept the confusing wine of Babylon. Sun worship was practised in ancient Babylon, and Sunday, the day of the sun, has replaced the Bible

Sabbath day as the day of worship for many Christians. While many are unaware of the origin of their worship, they break this commandment of God and practise unbiblical worship.

God calls men and women from all these apostate churches to, “Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” Revelation 18:4. This is a message of life and death; it is the message given by Jesus, the Faithful Witness. It is our message as individuals and as a collective group (Church). Will you go in the Name of Jesus to warn the people and invite them to unite with the faithful remnant of God? There is a last dance, there is a last drink, there is a last party, there is a last night for everyone, when your time runs out. No one will be lost because of what they did not know. They will be lost because they did not do what they knew they should. People will be lost because God shone His light upon them, and they turned their back; they rejected the light.

On June 5, 1947, a man was with his friends in the LaSalle Hotel in downtown Chicago, playing cards late into the night. At 1 o’clock in the morning, he called his wife and said “Honey, I will be home after a few more hands of cards. His wife said, “Darling, please come home now. It is late. Please, I am worried about you. Don’t stay out any later.” But he said, “no, just another hand of cards.” Within minutes, a wiring shortage caused a terrible fire at the LaSalle hotel, and 60 people died. The next morning, they pulled the man’s charred body out of the ruins. He knew he should have been home with his wife and family, but did not do as he knew. He pleaded with his wife to be with his friends just a little longer, just give me a little more time for “fun.”

This story is a sad reminder that, while God offers salvation to everyone, there will be many individuals who, nevertheless, choose to reject Him. God is just and merciful and will judge everyone accordingly. “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:14. Those who are lost will not be lost because of a lack of knowledge. They will be lost because they *choose* to be lost. Since God is love, He cannot force people to choose salvation and to obey Him.

Friend, it is ultimately your choice whether or not you will follow Jesus or the idols of this world. Joshua made it plain for His people. “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15

Will you accept God’s call and choose Jesus now? I have chosen Jesus and His offer of salvation; I hope you will do the same. Let me tell you, friend, this is the best choice I have ever made. May God bless you. Amen!

Nicholas Anca

How Can We Deny Him?

“And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto him, Art not thou also one of His disciples? He denied it, and said, I am not. One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with Him? Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.” John 18:25–27



Peter’s shameful denial is, I am sure, not something that we want to duplicate. He denied His Lord with cursing and swearing—are

there are other ways to deny Jesus?

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” 2 Timothy 2:3–4

We have fully reached that time to which the Scriptures refer, when Christians would have “a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.” 2 Timothy 3:5. There are so many preachers around that seem to be lacking any kind of self-awareness, or perhaps they just want to do things their own way, regardless of what the Bible says.

First we should ask, “how can we confess Him?” Are our professions lining up with our confessions? Are our actions lining up with our beliefs?

We confess Christ by:

- Confession and repentance of our sins.
- Taking Him at His word and learning to trust Him regardless of our situation or circumstances
- Being positive and trusting God, even in the face of



negativity.

- Prayer/Study/Sharing the light with others.

When Peter said to Jesus, “I will go with Thee to prison and death”, was he sincere? Yes! The problem was he did not know his own proud heart. When the test came in a way he did not expect, his pride caused him deny His Lord with cursing and swearing.

There are some other ways that our pride fools us into thinking that we are serving our Lord when actually we are only serving the god, self.

“He who would confess Christ must have Christ abiding in him. He cannot communicate that which he has not received. The disciples might speak fluently on doctrines, they might repeat the words of Christ Himself; but unless they possessed Christlike meekness and love, they were not confessing Him. A spirit contrary to the spirit of Christ would deny Him, whatever the profession. Men may deny Christ by evilspeaking, by foolish talking, by words that are untruthful or unkind. They may deny Him by shunning life’s burdens, by the pursuit of sinful pleasure. They may deny Him by conforming to the world, by uncourteous behaviour, by the love of their own opinions, by justifying self, by cherishing doubt, borrowing trouble, and dwelling in darkness. In all these ways they declare that Christ is not in them. And ‘whosoever shall deny Me before men,’ He says, ‘him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.’

“The Saviour bade His disciples not to hope that the world’s enmity to the gospel would be overcome, and that after a time its opposition would cease. He said, ‘I came not to send peace, but a sword.’ This creating of

strife is not the effect of the gospel, but the result of opposition to it. Of all persecution the hardest to bear is variance in the home, the estrangement of dearest earthly friends. But Jesus declares, 'He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after Me, is not worthy of Me.'" –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 357

Let us look at another similar view from a Christian in times past.

"If anyone thinks that Christians regard unchastity as the supreme vice, he is quite wrong. The sins of the flesh are bad, but they are the least bad of all sins. *All the worst pleasures are purely spiritual: the pleasure of putting other people in the wrong, of bossing and patronising and spoiling sport, and backbiting; the pleasures of power, of hatred.* For there are two things inside me, competing with the human self which I must try to become. They are the Animal self, and the Diabolical self. The Diabolical self is the worse of the two. That is why a cold, self-righteous prig who goes regularly to church may be far nearer to hell than a prostitute. But, of course, it is better to be neither." –*C.S. Lewis* (emphasis mine)

In the end, "We can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth." 2 Corinthians 13:8

In the time of the early Adventists, there was a problem with the church in upstate New York. They had lost the ability to love one another. For this reason, the blessing of the Lord was withdrawn from them, no souls were being won for Christ, and all they could manifest was the wrong spirit.

"I saw that many in New York have had so much care for their brethren, to keep them straight, that they have neglected their own hearts. They are so fearful that their brethren will not be zealous and repent, that they forget that they have wrongs that must be righted. With their own hearts unsanctified, they try to right their brethren." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 165

What did the Lord say through His servant Ellen G. White?

"Now the only way the brethren and sisters in New York can rise is for each to attend to his own individual case, and set his own heart in order. If sin is plain in a brother, breathe it not to another, but with love for the brother's soul, with a heart full of compassion, with

bowels of mercy, tell him the wrong, then leave the matter with him and the Lord. You have discharged your duty. You are not to pass sentence." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 165

She called a halt, so that they could get themselves straight—to examine their own selves before helping their brother. The original sin was pride, and this led them to examine their brothers with unsanctified scrutiny.

Let us consider why Jesus has not come back to this earth. Could it be because we ourselves are not ready? God's grace is still the same. His character is still the same. So it must be something else that needs to change. Ask yourself, if you are denying Christ in your life. What needs to change in yourself, so you can help your brother in the spirit of Christ, and not delay Jesus' coming?

In our mingling in society, in families or in whatever relations of life we are placed, either limited or extended, there are many ways wherein we may acknowledge our Lord and many ways wherein we may deny Him.

"We may deny Him in our words, by speaking evil of others, by foolish talking, jesting and joking, by idle or unkind words, or by prevaricating, speaking contrary to truth. In our words we may confess that Christ is not in us. In our character we may deny Him by loving our ease, by shunning the duties and burdens of life which someone must bear if we do not, and by loving sinful pleasure. *We may also deny Christ by pride of dress and conformity to the world, or by uncourteous behavior. We may deny Him by loving our own opinions and by seeking to maintain and justify self. We may also deny Him in allowing the mind to run in the channel of lovesick sentimentalism and to brood over our supposed hard lot and trials.*" –*Counsels for the Church*, p. 81 (emphasis mine)



Peter found repentance following that look of mercy and pity, mingled with love, that Jesus gave to him in the midst of His torture at the hands of cruel men. That look broke Peter's proud heart. Ever after that, he had the new, soft heart that God promised.

“Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put My spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do them.” Ezekiel 36:25–27

If we truly want to see Jesus and live with Him in heaven, then we must learn not to deny Him here. “Whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 10:33

If there was anyone who thought he was saved and had good reason to believe this, it had to be Peter. Had he not been with Jesus for 3 ½ years and done many deeds of mercy and kindness for others?

We never have anything in which we can glory in missionary work for, it is His work. We cannot take any credit to ourselves. And if we do, or try to, we can be sure that soon we will lose the Lord’s blessing and that others around us will be stirred with a spirit of contention and strife, as well.

If we are striving for merely an earthly crown then there will be no way that we can strive for a heavenly one. “I then saw a company pressing through the crowd with their eyes intently fixed upon the heavenly crown. As they earnestly urged their way through the disorderly crowd, angels attended them, and made room for them to advance. As they neared the heavenly crown, the light emanating from it shone upon them and around them, dispelling their darkness, and growing clearer and brighter, until they seemed to be transformed, and resembled the angels. They cast not one lingering look upon the earthly crown. Those who were in pursuit of the earthly, mocked them, and threw black balls after them. These did them no injury while their eyes were fixed upon the heavenly crown, but those who turned their attention to the black balls were stained with them. The following scripture was presented before me:

‘Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

‘The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.’ Matthew 6:19–24.” –*Christian Experience and Teachings*, p. 163

Peter wanted to see Christ establish an earthly kingdom or at least one where he could have a high place. He did everything in his own strength to see this accomplished. And what happened? He wore himself out, almost killed a man and shamefully denied his Lord. Could the same thing happen to us? “No,” you say, “we are Adventists, even Reformers!” But let us remember that the Seventh-day Adventist people are exactly repeating the history of Ancient Israel.

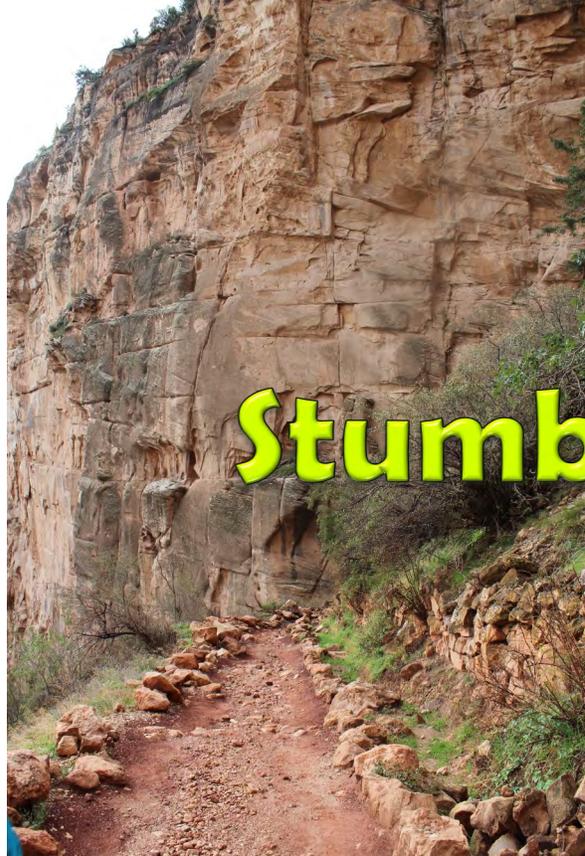
Exactly like Peter was confused about his place in establishing Christ’s kingdom, there is danger that some of the professed people of God today may be striving for merely an earthly crown. They try to establish Christ’s kingdom through political or social means, striving for position and honour in the church. In order to establish God’s kingdom we need the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We must have our spirits, souls and bodies yielded fully to the Holy Spirit.

“And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on Me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see Me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. . . These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16:8–11, 33



It is my prayer that we stop looking for the early crown and allow Jesus to break through all of our denials of Him, so that we may win that heavenly crown, for in this way only can we be saved. Amen.

Jerry Eaton



Stumbling Stones

We have come to the last days of this world. We have gone through

many experiences. We have had trials, sorrows, and many difficulties, and we are still on the way to heaven. Some have fallen out of the way, and some have turned back. God has been helping us, and encouraging us to continue forward. Angels have been leading us, and urging us to climb higher and higher every day. The road on which we travel is getting narrower, and harder to climb, and more stumbling stones are on the way.

Sometimes our road ends at the foot of the mountain, what do we do now? Or our road leads us to an ocean shore, what do we do then? Many would stop, or turn back, and look for another road.

In our Christian life these things happen. The mountain is too high and the ocean is deep and wide. The Bible calls these mountains and oceans stumbling stones. "But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed." Romans 9:31-33. All who tried to climb the mountain in their own strength, or tried to cross the ocean without faith, they all stumbled.

Words that are so common even among professing Christians are, "I cannot do it," "I do not know how," "I could not help it," "it is too hard." Human wrecks and

failures are seen everywhere, and people pass away from this life unsaved. Something was too difficult for them to do. There was some condition for salvation they could not fulfil, therefore they fell off the road, some sooner, others later, almost at the end of their journey. Without the power of God we cannot get over these stumbling stones, or the mountains. In the plains and level roads we all seem to make it somehow, but when the road becomes difficult, and humanly impossible, then all who are traveling in their own strength will fall away from it.

But, thanks to God, help is offered to us. It was the Christ's Righteousness message that was given in 1888 as a help to the people, to prepare them for the crisis that came upon them twenty-six years later. In the year 1914 the road came to a mountain and all who were self-righteous fell off and stumbled, but a little remnant, in the power of Christ's righteousness, were able to climb over the mountain.

As we are nearing the end, these stumbling stones become bigger and bigger. In the chapter, "Traveling the Narrow Way," Sister White writes, "As we traveled, the cord moved along with us. The path finally became so narrow that we concluded that we could travel more safely without our shoes; so we slipped them from our feet, and went on some distance without them. Soon it was decided that we could travel more safely without our stockings; these were removed, and we journeyed on with bare feet.

"We then thought of those who had not accustomed themselves to privations and hardships. Where were such now? They were not in the company. At every change, some were left behind, and those only remained who had accustomed themselves to endure hardships. The privations of the way only made these

more eager to press on to the end.

“Our danger of falling from the pathway increased. . . . At length we came to a large chasm, at which our path ended. There was nothing now to guide the feet, nothing upon which to rest them. Our whole reliance must be upon the cords, which had increased in size, until they were as large as our bodies. Here we were for a time thrown into perplexity and distress. We inquired in fearful whispers, ‘To what is the cord attached?’ My husband was just before me. Large drops of sweat were falling from his brow, the veins in his neck and temples were increased to double their usual size, and suppressed agonizing groans came from his lips. The sweat was dropping from my face, and I felt such anguish as I had never felt before. A fearful struggle was before us. Should we fail here, all the difficulties of our journey had been experienced for naught.” –*Life Sketches of Ellen G White*, p. 191–192

It is a miracle of God to get over these stumbling stones, mountains and oceans. Many will fail; they come to a standstill and start falling back. The Holy Spirit will lead us step by step into perfection and holiness. If in one point we refuse to advance, the Holy Spirit will strive with us for a while. Then He will finally leave us alone since we voluntarily and wilfully turn back because the road becomes impossible to continue in human strength alone.

Can this happen to us? Can we stumble and fall off the road? We all will have these stumbling stones, mountains, and oceans. Are we able to endure them all?

“And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.” 1 Peter 2:8. This is the first stumbling stone, the word of God.

The next one we find in Malachi. “But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.” Malachi 2:8. Many stumble at the law of God, the Ten Commandments, especially the fourth commandment, of keeping the Sabbath day holy.

The next stumbling stone to many is health reform. “Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.” Philippians 3:19

The first sin was of Adam and Eve eating the forbidden food; and today, six thousand years later, almost the whole world still eats food that is forbidden and unhealthy. “And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and stumblingblock, and a recom-

pense unto them.” Romans 11:9. An uncontrolled appetite has caused many to stumble and to lose their salvation.

Many stumble at the sixth commandment, “Thou shalt not kill.” Exodus 20:13. Jesus said, “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.” Matthew 5:44. Even Christian churches send their young men to join the army, and to take a gun, and kill the enemy. The true church of God refuses to send their young men to war.

Idol worship is a stumbling stone to many. “Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?” Ezekiel 14:3

Iniquity is a sin that many practice, this includes dishonesty, selfishness, love of pleasure, love of amusements, love of competitive sports, and many other practices that have become idols for the people.

The love of money is a stumbling stone to many. “They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity.” Ezekiel 7:19

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” 1 Timothy 6:10. Judas coveted money, but in the end he cast it on the floor.

Another stumbling stone we find in Revelation. “But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.” Revelation 2:14

Balaam taught Balak how to cast a stumbling stone before the children of Israel. He told Balak to make a great feast and invite Israel’s young people to it, and introduce them to idol worship and fornication; Balak did so, and the result was that 24,000 Israelites died.

These are the sins that make the world today as was Sodom and Gomorrah. Only the pure in heart can see God; those who pollute their bodies in sensual gratification will perish with the wicked world, even they that profess religion.

Another stumbling stone is that of being offended. “Woe

unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" Matthew 18:7. We will be hurt, misunderstood, neglected, rejected, persecuted, ridiculed, and condemned; all these offences will come upon us. "Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended." Matthew 13:21

Jesus spoke about the last days, "And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another." Matthew 24:10

How can we overcome these stumbling stones? "He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him." 1 John 2:10

Who brings these stumbling stones on our way? "Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand." Ezekiel 3:20

"Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will lay stumblingblocks before this people, and the fathers and the sons together shall fall upon them; the neighbour and his friend shall perish." Jeremiah 6:21

These stumbling stones are necessary. It was the Lord who led the people of Israel to the Red Sea. They had the sea in the front and the Egyptian army behind. But it was also the Lord who provided the escape, the way out. He opened the way for them through the sea. They did not need to turn back, neither did they even have to stop.

"Then He answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and He shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it." Zechariah 4:6-7

These stumbling stones, the mountains and seas, have a purpose. "For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nev-

ertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Hebrews 12:10-11

"If received in faith, the trial that seems so bitter and hard to bear will prove a blessing. The cruel blow that blights the joys of earth will be the means of turning our eyes to heaven. How many there are who would never have known Jesus had not sorrow led them to seek comfort in Him!

"The trials of life are God's workmen, to remove the impurities and roughness from our character. Their hewing, squaring, and chiseling, their burnishing and polishing, is a painful process; it is hard to be pressed down to the grinding wheel. But the stone is brought forth prepared to fill its place in the heavenly temple." -*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 10

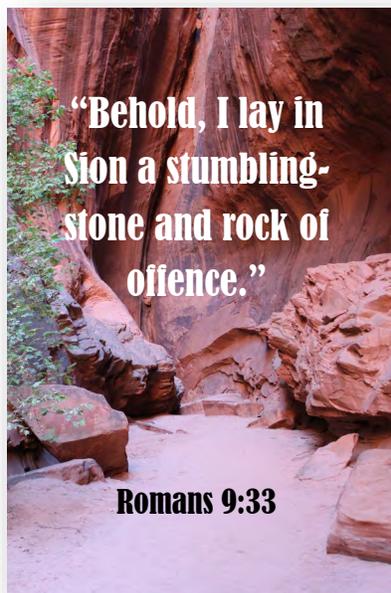
In the midst of trials, offences, and afflictions, we must still have faith in God, that He knows the way. "There is no sin greater than unbelief." -*My Life Today*, p. 14. For this sin of unbelief, the people of Israel perished in the wilderness.

What we are experiencing today is nothing compared to the trials that we have to go through in the future. "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, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?" Jeremiah 12:5

Stumbling stones bigger than ourselves will be on our way, mountains are before us, we must cross the Red Sea. "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him." James 1:12. The love of Jesus will carry us through; what is humanly impossible can be done in the power of God.

Joshuas and Calebs will make it to the end, when many others will fail. The only things today that are important are, "Am I ready to meet my God? Have I confessed all my sins? Is my name written in the book of life?" If these are taken care of, then we will meet each other in heaven. Amen.

Timo Martin





What God Cannot Do

There is a song that goes, "My God is so great so strong and so mighty there's nothing my God cannot do!" The Bible is certainly filled with many powerful and mighty examples of the things that God *can* do! He can heal the body, mind and spirit. He can cleanse us from all unrighteousness and sin and replace the most vile and corruptible heart with a pure, clean heart. God has the power to save sinners, which is no small feat in itself. The Bible tells us that "While we were yet sinners Christ died for us." Romans 5:8. These wonderful words are written to bring us to the realization that when we are at our lowest point, having wandered far away from God and His love, this is when Jesus died for us. It was when we least deserved it that His mercy was extended unto us. The Apostle Paul, the author of Romans, in the above mentioned verse, focuses on the fact that while we were sinners, deep in our trespasses, Christ died for us. This shows unequivocally that our salvation is not based on our own merit whatsoever, but rather on the sacrifice of Christ. The power of the Godhead is contrasted with our weakness and helplessness.

Yes, God certainly is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient, meaning that He is all powerful, present everywhere at the same time, and all-knowing. But are there certain things that the all-powerful God we serve cannot do, or chooses not to do? Is it not a contradiction to say that our God is all-powerful and a God without limitations but there are certain things He cannot do?

The Apostle Paul writes about this. "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for

God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us." Hebrews 6:17–18. When a human being says "I swear" while giving their word or making a promise, it lets us know that they will actually follow through and do as they have said. Human beings have the capability of lying and so it is reassuring when they add an oath. It tells us they are serious about keeping their word. It also holds them to a greater degree of accountability when they give their word. However, it is interesting to note that in verse 17 it says that God confirmed it by an oath, and in verse 18 it goes on to say that it is impossible for God to lie. God Cannot Lie! But if it is impossible for God to lie, then why would it be necessary for Him to confirm His word with an oath?

If we truly believe that it is impossible for God to lie, then every beautiful promise that God makes to His people in the Bible will come to pass. Conversely it also means that when God promises to love the sinner, yet hold each individual accountable for their life choices in

the day of judgment, this is also a truism. If we truly believe that God cannot lie, then we should never have to deal with doubt and unbelief again, and we should be able to take God exactly at His word.

Returning to the question, "If God cannot lie why would He confirm His promise with an oath?" He does so entirely for our sake. As humans, we have the capability and, yes, the tendency to doubt and to lack faith, so God caters to us and speaks to us in terms we understand. To make Himself more believable to us He makes an oath as we would. However, in reality, this should not be necessary because given that God cannot lie and we claim to be believers in Him, taking Him at His word should be the simplest thing in the world.

So the two things we have seen so far that God cannot do are, He cannot lie or break a promise.

A manager was asked by his laziest employee for a recommendation for another job. The manager thought hard all night for something that would be honest without hurting the young man's chances. He finally wrote: "You will be lucky if you can get him to work for you." Was this a lie? Is an intentionally ambiguous response a lie? "An intention to deceive is what constitutes falsehood. By a glance of the eye, a motion of the hand, an expression of the countenance, a falsehood may be told as effectually as by words. All intentional overstatement, every hint or insinuation calculated to convey an erroneous or exaggerated impression, even the statement of facts in such a manner as to mislead, is falsehood. . . . Even the intentional suppression of truth, by which injury may result to others, is a violation of the ninth commandment." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 309

Booker T. Washington describes meeting an ex-slave from Virginia in his book, *Up From Slavery*: "This man had made a contract with his master, two or three years previous to the Emancipation Proclamation, to the effect that the slave was to be permitted to buy himself, by paying so much per year for his body; and while he was paying for himself, he was to be permitted to labor where and for whom he pleased.

"Finding that he could secure better wages in Ohio, he went there. When freedom came, he was still in debt to his master some three hundred dollars. Notwithstanding that the Emancipation Proclamation freed him from any obligation to his master, this black man walked the greater portion of the distance back to where his old master lived in Virginia, and placed the last dollar, with interest, in his hands.

"In talking to me about this, the man told me that he knew that he did not have to pay his debt, but that he had given his word to his master, and his word he had never broken. He felt that he could not enjoy his freedom till he had fulfilled his promise."

If only each one of us was so committed to fulfilling our promises. Even in the unfair and unjust situation this Christian was in, he was till committed to fulfilling his promise.

What else can God not do? "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." Malachi 3: 6. Here we are told that the Lord cannot change. The Apostle Paul writes, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Hebrews 13:8. Through the process of implication we can assume that if it is impossible for Him to change then there are other things closely correlated with God and His character that cannot change.

"The word of the Lord endureth for ever." 1 Peter 1:25. There is a specific part of His word, or the Holy Bible, that is more representative of His character than any other part. This part was important enough that He wrote it with His own finger; it is the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20. Jesus Himself tells us this about His law and its degree of changeability. "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matthew 5:17-18

When Jesus says that He came not to destroy but to fulfill, how did His time on this earth fulfill the law? Because He lived a perfect life in exact accordance with the Ten Commandments clearly indicates that, despite Satan's claims of the unfairness and injustice of God's law, it was in fact, possible to keep it. Why would He go through all the effort to pray and fast all night as He did for 40 days in the

wilderness if He was just planning to do away with the law at the cross? Also, routinely asking God's help to overcome during His all night prayer sessions would have been a pointless endeavour if there was no law to live up to and no sin to overcome.

Furthermore, let us pose this question, "If God's law, which represents His character, is changeable and is not actually immutable (as the nominal Christian world argues) then could we not argue that God Himself could change?" If God's law could change then it would imply that His character could also change, and if His character represented by the moral law (Ten Commandments) could change or be downgraded then would the sacrifice of Jesus have been necessary?

The sacrifice of Jesus was necessary to free mankind from their sins, but without a law to show them their guilt and to have something to measure their lives against, there can be no sin. If there was no law telling us that the speed limit was 100 Km/h we could drive at 170 Km/h on the freeway and the police officer could say absolutely nothing! All this leads us to the conclusion that if God's law could be changed then God's character could also be changed; sin could be excused and Satan could have free reign over this world. The degradation and ugliness of sin could have full power and sway over the inhabitants of this world, and it would not even be considered sin.

Because God's character and His law are one and the same and cannot be changed, Jesus had to come to die for us to give us hope of freedom from sin and this dark world.

Going back to Malachi, "Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied Him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?" Malachi 2:17. Malachi was written sometime after 444 B.C. shortly after the Babylonian Captivity was over. Nehemiah, King Artaxerxes' Cupbearer, heard that conditions were not great in Jerusalem so he returned and carried on a mighty work of reformation among the returned exiles for a period of 12 years. After these years he returned to Babylon to resume his previous duties. After some time he returned to Jerusalem again only to see a state of spiritual decline and much of his work of reformation undone.

It must be frustrating to see your work of reformation undone. If Martin Luther, who posted the 95 Theses to the



church door in Wittenburg, in 1517, was alive today, how would he feel seeing his mighty work of reformation mostly undone?

Malachi wrote his book at a time of spiritual decline. "And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not Me, saith the LORD of hosts. For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." Malachi 3:5-6. These verses effectively refute the claim that God winks at evil, and is actually not a God of judgment.

Because God's law and character cannot be changed we have hope of salvation and freedom from sin, but conversely we also face consequences for our actions if we refuse to give up our sin, and we will face a judgment one day.

The good news is we do not have to despair regarding God's judgments. "Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of Thy righteous judgments endureth for ever." Psalms 119:160. God's judgments are always righteous, unlike man's judgments in an earthly court. He is a fair judge and He does not base guilt on outward appearances alone, but also upon the inner workings of the heart. Furthermore, because He sees all, and knows all, there is no chance that an innocent individual will be falsely accused or that a guilty party will be acquitted. He is a righteous judge because in His word that cannot change He tells us clearly the necessary steps that must be taken to attain salvation. We must keep God's law and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, He clearly outlines the results if we choose not to abide by His law; there are no secrets with God, and no lies.

Due to the immutability or unchanging nature of God's law and character, there is something He does not like. "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear." Isaiah 59:1-2. God cannot effectively communicate or connect with someone who is knowingly sinning. Not because He is not trying, but because the sinner cannot distinguish His voice from the other voices, or they are actively trying to quiet His voice. If there is no connection, the refining work of the Holy Spirit cannot be done effectively. Is it possible then for an individual in this scenario to ever achieve a

character that would be appropriate for heaven? I would say unequivocally no!

If God's love is so profound could not His love for sinners be greater than His hatred for sin and ultimately cancel out His hatred for sin? No, despite His profound love, God cannot excuse or look past sin in order to save someone who is deliberately cutting themselves off from God's grace. God will not help someone that does not want help, because that would be force. He refuses to force anyone to yearn for salvation or eternal life who does not want to be free from sin. Any form of force would be cutting directly against God's character of love.

We also know and understand that God cannot be pleased without faith. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6. If you had a friend but you did not believe they were honest or trustworthy, would you respect them? Probably not. You would not be inclined to stay a loyal friend to them or express appreciation for them through kind acts. So it is the same with God, He knows very well that if someone doubts His very existence or His ability to save them from their sin, they will never truly love Him or serve Him on any level.

Going back to our friend example, even if an individual believes in God but does not believe that He is a kind, just, and trustworthy God, they will never be inclined to establish a relationship with Him. Without a relationship there can be no mutual respect or appreciation, no loyalty, no worship or Christian works that manifest our love for God.

Yes, God cannot be pleased without faith, because our faith in Him leads us to seek Him and desire to establish a relationship. Our relationship with Him leads us to know God and all His goodness which fosters a deep love for Him, a love which shows itself through our kind deeds and actions to our fellow man. This is how faith and works come together in perfect harmony.

Faith honours God and God honours faith! A story from the life of missionaries Robert and Mary Moffat illustrates this truth. For ten years this couple labored faithfully in Bechuanaland (now called Botswana) without one ray of encouragement to brighten their way. They could not report a single convert. Finally, the directors of their mission board began to question the wisdom of continuing the work. The thought of leaving their post, however, brought great grief to this devoted couple, for they felt sure that God was in



their labours, and that they would see people turn to Christ in due season. They stayed; and for a year or two longer, darkness reigned. Then one day a friend in England sent word to the Moffats that she wanted to mail them a gift and asked what they would like. Trusting that in time the Lord would bless their work, Mrs. Moffat replied, "Send us a communion set; I am sure it will soon be needed." God honoured that dear woman's faith. The Holy Spirit moved upon the hearts of the villagers, and soon a little group of six converts was united to form the first Christian church in that land. The communion set from England was delayed in the mail; but on the very day before the first commemoration of the Lord's Supper with the six converts, the set arrived. A real living faith is full of works, and takes a course of action that indicates full belief in God even when all appearances are cause for doubt and negativity.

There are two more things that God cannot do. "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." Psalm 51:7. God cannot despise or ignore a broken and a contrite spirit, filled with repentance, and feeling their need of Jesus. The reason for this is because, "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." Jeremiah 31:3. He loved us before we were born. In fact, before the foundation of this world He loved us because He already made the commitment to come and die for us through the plan of salvation. And He will love us till our dying day on this earth and in eternity. He cannot, and will not, stop loving us. Praise the Lord, His love and care for us despite ourselves is truly what gives us hope and courage to go on in life.

A certain medieval monk announced he would be preaching next Sunday evening on "The Love of God." As the shadows fell and the light ceased to come in through the cathedral windows, the congregation gathered. In the darkness of the altar, the monk lit a candle and carried it to the crucifix. First of all, he illumined the crown of thorns; next, the two wounded hands; then the marks of the spear wound. In the hush that fell, he blew out the candle and left the chancel. There was nothing else left to say. The sacrifice of Jesus is the perfect summation of God's love for us. "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39. Because of the unchanging nature of God's love, which is

what His character is all about, nothing can separate us from that love, except for one thing—our own sinful hearts that we are unwilling to have Him change. It is our own choice!

It is beautiful to know that all the darkness, and wickedness and evil of this world cannot separate us from God's unchanging love because His love, like a ray of light, pierces the darkness and gloom of this sin-filled world.

Whether you want to look at the things God cannot do as limitations He puts on Himself, or whether you want to look at it like I do, as an innate part of His character, either way the things God cannot do are what makes Him the beautiful and perfect God that He is and separates Him from all false gods. The things that God cannot do are just as powerful an argument for belief in Him and love for Him as the things that He can do.



In conclusion, let us remember that, God cannot lie, He cannot break His promises, God's character cannot change (same yesterday, today and forever), God's Word and His Ten Commandments cannot change, God cannot stop or avoid the judgment work He must do, God cannot excuse or look past sin, God cannot be pleased without faith, God cannot despise the broken spirit, and He cannot stop

loving us.

It is my wish and prayer that we will realize that because our all-powerful God cannot do certain things this makes His power even greater and His character more perfect, thereby "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13. Because our God cannot, and will not, do certain things, this gives us the opportunity to do all things through Christ and overcome all sin through His power.

As Christians who serve a God that cannot, and will not, do certain things, are there certain things we will refuse to do? Absolutely, there should be. We will ultimately look at the restraints of God's law, which restrains His creatures from committing acts that hurt themselves and others, as the greatest blessing to us.

Let us follow Christ's perfect example in everything, realizing that a love for truth and righteousness will put us under the restraints of God's law. Just as Jesus lived under the restraints of God's law when on this earth and as God lives under the restraints of His own law, the restraints of God's law will give us the ultimate freedom from all that besets us—sin, Satan, and the Darkness of this world. Amen.

Richard Eaton



Are You Sleeping?

My dear brethren, let us try to examine our spiritual growth. Since the time we have received the Lord Jesus as our personal Saviour, is there growth or decline, or have we remained neutral? What is our spiritual condition in this world?

“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.” Romans 13:11

God wants His people to awake out of sleep and fulfill their responsibilities to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Those who are sleeping are responsible for delaying the coming of our Saviour.

THE DISCIPLES IN GETHSEMANE

Jesus took His closest disciples to watch and pray with Him when He was pleading with God. But what happened?

“And He cometh unto the disciples, and finding them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Matthew 26:40–41

“The disciples awakened at the voice of Jesus, but they hardly knew Him, His face was so changed by anguish. Addressing Peter, Jesus said, ‘Simon sleepest thou? Couldst not thou watch one hour? Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready but the flesh is weak.’” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 689

John also, the loving disciple who had leaned upon the breast of Jesus was most assuredly asleep. The love of John for his Master should have kept him awake. His

earnest prayers should have mingled with those of his beloved Saviour in His time of supreme sorrow.

“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.” Matthew 6:22

It is when men are sleeping, that Satan accomplishes his work. “It was in sleeping when Jesus bade him watch and pray that Peter had prepared the way for his great sin. All the disciples, by sleeping in that critical hour, sustained a great loss.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 713–714

THE RESULTS OF SLEEPING

Brethren, ask yourself if there are any circumstances through which you are sleeping. Are you keeping in mind the time in which we are living? Or are there many times in which you are careless and not taking heed of the time we are living? You should sleep only at the right time lest you will sleep the sleep of death.

“The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.” Romans 13:12

“Men and women are in the last hours of probation, and yet are careless and stupid, and ministers have no power to arouse them; they are asleep themselves. Sleeping preachers preaching to a sleeping people!” – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 337

“God calls for watchmen who, in the power of the Spirit, will give to the world the last warning message; who will proclaim the time of night. He calls for watchmen who will arouse men and women from their lethargy,

lest they sleep the sleep of death.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 304

THE CALL TO AWAKE

“Wherefore He saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” Ephesians 5:14–16

“What shall I say to arouse the remnant people of God? I was shown that dreadful scenes are before us; Satan and his angels are bringing all their powers to bear upon God’s people. He knows that if they sleep a little longer he is sure of them, for their destruction is certain.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p.263

“God calls upon all, both preachers and people, to awake. All heaven is astir. The scenes of earth’s history are fast closing. We are amid the perils of the last days. Greater perils are before us, and yet we are not awake. This lack of activity and earnestness in the cause of God is dreadful. This death stupor is from Satan.” – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 260–261

“The work is fast closing up, and on every side wickedness is increasing. We have but a short time in which to work. Let us awake from spiritual slumber, and consecrate all that we have and are to the Lord. His Spirit will abide with true missionaries, furnishing them with power for service.” –*The Southern Watchman*, April 9, 1903

“Slumbering watchmen, what of the night? Do you not know the time of night? Do you feel no burden to lift the danger signal and give the warnings for this time? If you do not, come down from the walls of Zion, for God will not entrust you with the light He has to give. Light is only given to those who will reflect that light upon others.” –*Evangelism*, p. 144

“Let the church arise, and repent of her backslidings before God. Let the watchmen awake, and give the trumpet a certain sound. It is a definite warning that we have to proclaim. God commands His servants, ‘Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins’ (Isaiah 58:1).” –*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p.



“Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.” Isaiah 42:9

“The people need to be aroused in regard to the dangers of the present time. The watchmen are asleep. We are years behind. Let the chief watchmen feel the urgent necessity of taking heed to themselves, lest they lose the opportunities given them to see the dangers.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 714

Thus saith the Lord, “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.” Revelation 2:4–5

May God bless you to understand your true spiritual condition. May you be convicted if you are spiritually slumbering, and bring forth fruits of repentance unto God, having faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Jenifer Akello Uganda

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Are you prepared?



desecrated and dishonored. In dismay one asks himself how deep a man can sink. Sin has corrupted the world. We are now standing just before the end. It is time for the hour of truth to strike

The great clock of God with its minute hand is rapidly approaching the midnight hour. With overwhelming speed the inhabitants of the earth are arriving at their final destination. The prophetic timetable is announcing the end of the world with amazing accuracy. This means that soon Jesus Christ will return the second time to save His children and destroy the wicked. However, before His second coming, God in His great love sends warnings so that people may prepare for this—the greatest event in the world’s history. One of these warnings is found in 1 Peter 4:7: “But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.” A most earnest and serious question needs to be presented to each of us: **“ARE YOU PREPARED?”**

All around the world, violent and sudden catastrophes are occurring with startling frequency. Hurricanes, typhoons, cyclones, tornados, and other windy storms bringing rain, floods, ice, hail, and snow, are increasing in ferocity, spewing forth their turbulent destruction. Droughts, famine, fires, earthquakes, and volcanos are escalating. Wars, conflicts, violent crimes, as well as unexpected accidents by sea, land, and air, are multiplying the list of the dead. And what do all these things loudly proclaim to each of us? That the crisis is upon us, and our God is coming soon! **Are you prepared?**

The condition of humanity is getting worse by the day. Misery is followed by more misery, corruption follows further corruption, and cruelty is followed by more cruelty. Crime and terrorist attacks lower the worth of human dignity. Even life is no longer respected and valued. A spiral of violence is covering the world with blood. We hear constantly about mass murder and massacre at the cost of humaneness. The Lord is neither acknowledged as God nor thanked. His will, and much less His law, is not taken into consideration. The mercy of God is increasingly being misused. The Lord is denied; and His holy name,

and the day of righteousness to dawn. It is time to consecrate ourselves completely to the Lord, no matter what the cost!

Some European nations now share a common currency. People are proclaiming: “The national border is over.” While others are proclaiming: “The United States of Europe”; the sign of a “New World”. World newspapers are proclaiming: “For the first time since the Roman Empire, a large portion of Europe now shares a common currency.” What do these things loudly proclaim to each of us? That the crisis is upon us, and our God is coming soon! **Are you prepared?**

Many people today are becoming conscious that we live in a unique time. The reality of the day of the Lord is becoming more obvious every day. Of this, the interested reader of the Holy Scriptures is fully aware. Even the man of the world, shaken by one event after another, is compelled to ask himself questions and to acknowledge the truth (See Luke 21:26). Yes, we are to acknowledge the fact stated by the Holy Scriptures: “The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: . . . Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD’s wrath.” Zephaniah 1:14–18. “Kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him

that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb." Revelation 6:15–16. **Are you prepared?**

Yet, many are being lulled into a fatal security of peace and prosperity through many and varied means, and the above realities pass by with little or no notice as to their extreme significance as signs of our Lord's soon coming. And sad to say, this is the case with many of God's professed people who believe the present truth! The people, above all others, who should be first and foremost to rise to the occasion and sound the trumpet notes of alarm, are asleep. Many are as unprepared for the crisis and their Lord's return as are those who know not the Lord! How many of us are prepared to stand when our Lord comes and not find ourselves running from Him and calling for the rocks and mountains to hide us from His glory and brightness? It is a shame that some among us are even leaning their hopes upon the excuse that since they are not yet ready, then God will delay the final crisis and put off His coming until they are ready. But is this a safe excuse to hide behind?

In view of this solemn event, the counsel is given us: "Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought His judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger." Zephaniah 2:3. The great day, "The great day of the Lord" is a very important subject, which is often mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments. We find concepts such as "the day," "that day," "the great day," "the great and marvelous day," "day of God," "day of the Lord," "day of Christ," "the last day," and others. Thousands of years ago, Enoch predicted such a day: "Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, To execute judgment upon all. . . that are ungodly among them Jude 14–15. The later prophets as well (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Joel, Zephaniah and Malachi), the apostles Peter, Paul and John, as well as Jesus Himself, restated the message of the great day of the Lord. On this day the Lord will make an end of the present condition of the world. It is the scheduled summons to executive justice. It is the long-delayed point of time when the Lord will reveal His presence and omnipotence. It is the hour when men will receive their deserved punishment for their misdeeds, evil and sinfulness. The injustices and deceptions will be brought to light and condemned, and pride and arrogance will be broken.

The things which were announced are at the door. The impressive scenes connected with that great day contain a clear warning for God's people. They are to be shaken awake out of their carnal security. They are to realize how soon the events will come. This is also an invitation to return to God before it will be too late and an appeal

for faithfulness, consecration, and genuine communion with God (Isaiah 2; Malachi 3:2–5; Joel 2). It is near, and hasteth greatly. We are coming closer and closer to this solemn day with its great consequences. What is our Christian life and testimony to be like in view of the event before us? The answer is given by the Spirit of Prophecy:

Dear reader, we need not look any further into the future for the time of crisis to occur, because it has already begun! So, ready or not, the crisis is here! Ready or not, our Lord is coming! We cannot put off till tomorrow what we can do to prepare today. Tomorrow is not the day of our salvation. Today is the time. Tomorrow may be too late! "To day if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts." Hebrews 3:15. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Corinthians 6:2. How many of us are prepared for the judgment and our names coming up in review before God? How many of us would be saved if our probation closed today? How many of us are prepared for the winds of strife to be let loose? How many of us are prepared for the time of trouble that has never yet been seen since there was a nation? Are you prepared for God to change the way He has dealt with this world of iniquity? Many of us are completely unprepared to even abide the glorious appearance of a single heavenly angel, not to mention the greater glory at the coming of the Lord!

Brethren, it is indeed time to "prepare to meet thy God." Amos 4:12. It has only been out of the infinite mercy and compassion of our Father that many of us still have time to prepare! But how? What can we do to be prepared for the greater crises ahead, and especially for our Lord's return?

Get ready!

"We are in the waiting time. But this period is not to be spent in abstract devotion. Waiting, watching, and vigilant working are to be combined." *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 276. If we do not wish Satan to defeat us, then it is essential to: **watch, pray, and work**. Prayer and watchfulness are necessary to be able to grow in godliness. Never in your life was that time more important than it is now. You can only feel safe if you are constantly watching, praying, and working. These three characteristics alone can protect you from the snares of Satan. Now we must watch and pray as never before and refuse to become careless and indifferent. All who profess Christ must watch and pray in order to guard the door to their heart.

To be prepared for the time of trouble and for our Lord's coming, we need to pray earnestly and exercise strong

persevering faith in disciplining self to live by every word and command of God which will enable us to exhibit the character of Christ in our lives. As you can see, this is a step by step process needing a varying amount of time to accomplish, depending on the individual! No one can achieve this overnight, nor can anyone jump ahead, skipping any of the steps. A fitness for heaven is only accomplished one advancing step at a time. Thus if we do not start now, but wait for tomorrow or tomorrow's tomorrow to begin in earnest, then we will not be fully prepared, and thus lack the experience necessary to successfully make it through. And Jesus, along with heaven, will be forever lost to us!

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May we fully realize that "salvation is far from the wicked" (Psalms 119:155), because they do not do God's will nor keep His commandments and thus they continue to commit sin (1 John 3:3-10). Let us instead make sure that we prepare ourselves now for our Saviour's return so that His coming does not "overtake" or catch any of us unprepared as "a thief in the night" and we be lost. But you, **Are you prepared?**

We need to be the "children of the day" (1 Thessalonians 5:5), who confess and forsake their sins (Proverbs 28:13); those who walk in the light of Christ; those who "Fear God and keep His Commandments" (Ecclesiastes 12:13), and who "hold fast [to Christ] and repent." Revelation 3:3. May we be diligent to make our "calling and election sure" (2 Peter 1:10), knowing that God will not allow any of His people to suffer "above that ye are able" (1 Corinthians 10:13). May we realize that "all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12), and that it is only through patiently enduring these "fiery

darts" (Ephesians 6:10-17) and "the fiery trial" (1 Peter 4:12-14) and persecution that our faith or gold is being "tried in the fire" (Revelation 3:18). And if we are proven true, standing "fast in the faith" (1 Corinthians 16:13) and being found faithful to the end, then we will "obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" and will "live together with Him" (1 Thessalonians 5:9-10) forever in "the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:10).

"The day is at hand when the destiny of every soul will be fixed forever. This day of the Lord hastens on apace. The false watchmen are raising the cry, 'All is well'; but the day of God is rapidly approaching. Its footsteps are so muffled that it does not arouse the world from the

deathlike slumber into which it has fallen. While the watchmen cry, 'Peace and safety,' 'sudden destruction cometh upon them,' 'and they shall not escape'; 'for as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.' It overtakes the pleasure-lover and the sinful man as a thief in the night. When all is apparently secure, and men retire to contented rest, then the prowling, stealthy, midnight thief steals upon his prey. When it is too late to prevent the evil, it is discovered that some door or window was not secured. 'Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.' People are now settling to rest, imagining themselves secure under the popular churches; but let all beware, lest there is a place left open for the enemy to gain an entrance. Great pains should be taken to keep this subject before the people. The solemn fact is to be kept not only before the people of the world, but before our own churches also, that the day of the Lord will come sudden-

Are You Prepared?

"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

"When the scorner, the rejecter of truth, has become presumptuous; when the routine of work in the various money-making lines is carried on without regard to principle; when the student is eagerly seeking knowledge of everything but his Bible, Christ comes as a thief." – *The Desire of Ages*, p. 635

ly, unexpectedly. The fearful warning of the prophecy is addressed to every soul.” —*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 335–336

Is it not a fact today that the politicians talk more about peace and security among the nations than anything else? The preoccupation with affluence and technological and scientific developments has almost enveloped humanity. And how many other evidences we have that the day of the Lord is near! Let us therefore be on our guard so we might not underestimate the many dangers. In anticipation of these events the time has come for us, as members of the people of God, to earnestly ponder our spiritual condition. Do we acknowledge the light which the Lord has given us as a sacred privilege?

We read further in the apostle Peter’s writings: “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?” 2 Peter 3:10–12. **Are you prepared** for that?

Let us receive the heavenly message with an open heart. Then, by the help and grace of God, it will be possible for us not only to have seeing eyes concerning the events before us and understand their significance, but also to act in accordance with it and prepare for that glorious day. Then it will not be a day of anguish and darkness for us nor will it cause us terror. It will be the day for which we have waited in faith; it will be the culmination of our hope, and we will greet it with joy as the dawn of a new era. Let us keep in mind that we, “according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, where in dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless.” 2 Peter 3:13–14



Jesus will soon come. Let us therefore redeem every opportunity which the Lord in His mercy imparts to us to work for Him. Let us not do as did this man, who let twenty years pass and then began again to work for the Lord. Your neighbour, friend, or colleague who lives and dwells with you—everyone needs to hear the message of reconciliation, to be reconciled with God. It creates peace, joy, shelter, and fulfillment. Do you want to become an “ambassador for Christ”? Make your decision today. Ask the Lord Jesus for strength, and then go out with a loving heart to tell the people the last, wonderful message of mercy: “We pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20. Thus a people will be gathered which can joyfully look forward to the return of Jesus and meet Him in peace. **Are you prepared?**

Victor Shumbusho,
D.R. Congo / Union Secretary

**NOTE: PART TWO OF, HEALTH MATTERS:
CHOLESTEROL, WILL APPEAR IN THE
DECEMBER 2016 ISSUE OF
THE REFORMATION MESSENGER**

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CHILDREN'S CORNER:

A World without :



"Annie wake up! Annie wake up! Grandpa is coming today!" little Max shouts as he jumps on his older sister's bed.

"Max! Let me sleep, I was having the best dream ever!" Annie pulls her pink pillow over her head.

"How can you sleep when Grandpa is coming?"

Max pulls the flowered curtains aside to let some light into the room. Then skips out of the room happily.

A few minutes later, Annie and Max eat a yummy healthy breakfast and the get ready for school.

"Mommy, do we have to go to school today? What if Grandpa comes and doesn't find us?" Max asks while putting his school bag on.

"He will be here waiting Max," Mother answers with a kind smile, "now let's pray before we leave."

School seemed to never end, the hours passed slowly for Annie and Max. Grandpa came to visit once every month, and his valuable lessons always captivated their minds. Finally, school was over, and they both ran all the way home.

"Grandpa! Grandpa!" they shouted sounding like a choir as they burst through the door.

"Hello my dear little ones!" Grandpa chuckled as he opened his arms to embrace his grandchildren.

Soon they found themselves around the kitchen table as the aroma of their grandfather's famous delicious vegetable soup came up from each bowl. Annie and Max awaited each visit eagerly for this moment. Annie said grace, and right away, in went the spoons, but this time, something was not right, and as everyone slowly swallowed, everyone made eye contact.

"Um, Grandpa, the soup, it tastes... different," Annie said trying to be as kind as can be.

"Yes, Grandpa, something is missing, something very important," Max added.

"Hmm, you both are right! I forgot to add salt!" Grandpa said as he scratched his head. "You know, this reminds me of something Jesus said." He smiled as he reached over the kitchen counter for the table salt.

"Grandpa tell us! Tell us!" Annie and Max excitedly shouted.

Grandpa chuckled, "of course I will tell you," he said. "Jesus was teaching the people of how important it was to be different in the world. Many times, good actions, like being courteous, loving, helpful, and kind are lacking. This takes away the delicious flavour of life and of being a child of God; just like this soup, though filled with delicious vegetables, is in need of salt to make it tasty."

"So Jesus wants us to be like salt, Grandpa?" asked Annie.

"Yes, Annie, we are to be the salt of the world," Grandpa smiled, "and now, for the challenge of the month, find where in the Bible Jesus speaks about salt."

"Yes! I love challenges!" shouted Max excitedly, as he jumped out of his seat.

"Oh no, just wait a minute, little one," laughed Grandpa, "let's finish our soup, but this time let's add a little salt."





Challenge one

Step 1: Help Annie and Max find the Bible verse that speaks about salt using the symbols below.

a= *	g=Σ	m=①	s=J	y=ϣ
b= #	h=£	n=¢	t=Ω	z=●
c= ≈	i=¥	o=Ⓢ	u=∂	
d= !	j=∞	p=Ⓜ	v=□	
e= ⬆	k=↗	q=ℓ	w=x	
f=◇	l=↖	r=Δ	x=→	

Step 2: Fill in the spaces with the appropriate letter:

_____ : _____
 ① * Ω Ω £ ⬆ x ◇ ¥ □ ⬆ Ω £ ¥ Δ Ω ⬆ ⬆ ¢

Step 3: Write the Bible verse

Complete all 15 Challenges

Don't miss Grandpa's
 next visit to Annie and
 Max's home!!

Send in your answers by email:

veronicoemigarcia@gmail.com

Veronica Garcia





LE PRIX D'UN INSTANT

Concernant la mesure du temps, un instant est si court qu'il est peut-être le plus volatile. Cette volatilité devient moindre quand nous allons d'une minute à une heure ou à une journée, etc. Parce que le temps d'un instant est le plus volatile, il peut être le moment le plus important dans notre vie. Une fois qu'une action est accomplie, elle entre immédiatement dans l'histoire et ainsi il est impossible de l'annuler car l'instant est déjà parti. Ce n'est pas étonnant, comme nous allons le voir qu'un moment peut suffire pour déterminer notre destinée !

Dans cette ligne de réflexion, Ellen G. White dans le livre *Patriarches et Prophètes*, p. 38 pose solennellement la question : « Qui saurait prévoir, au moment de la tentation, les terribles conséquences qui résulteront d'un faux pas ? » Nous lisons aussi : « En un instant, quelques paroles inconsidérées, emportées, peuvent causer un mal qu'une vie entière de repentance n'effacera pas. » –*Éducation*, p. 267

L'espace est limité pour fournir ici tous les exemples bibliques possibles. Ce passage de l'Esprit de prophétie suffira :

« Quelques instants lui [Ésaü] suffiraient pour se préparer à manger dans la tente de son père. Mais en échange d'un plat, il renonce à ce droit d'aînesse et confirme cette aliénation par un serment. Pour satisfaire un caprice momentané, il troque froidement le glorieux héritage que Dieu a promis à ses pères. Prêt à sacrifier les choses célestes à celles de la terre, à échanger un bien futur contre un plaisir passager, il montre que, pour lui, le présent prime tout. » –*Patriarches et Prophètes*, p. 159

En ce qui concerne son frère Jacob, cela lui a coûté beaucoup de contrition ; il a souffert le remord d'un péché dont il s'était repenti et dont il avait reçu le pardon. Sa mère aussi par sa manigance, fut punie, en ce qu'elle fut dans l'impossibilité de revoir son fils bien-aimé.

Oui, c'est vrai ! Une action peut être commise en un instant, mais les résultats peuvent être énormes et de longue durée. Cette action peut être une clé pour de grandes choses qui devraient suivre après (bonnes ou mauvaises). On peut semer quelques graines, mais la récolte est toujours supérieure aux semences. Beaucoup de vies aujourd'hui sont dans une misère totale et l'esclavage du péché, juste à cause d'une seule action que ces personnes ont accomplie dans leurs vies. S'ils ne s'affligent pas et ne croient pas dans la grâce de Jésus par la foi, ils périront.

Parmi les dons fondamentaux dont l'homme a été doté par Dieu dès la création, se trouve la volonté – être un agent

moral libre – accordant ainsi à l'homme le pouvoir de prendre des décisions indépendantes. Autrement, sans cette caractéristique, l'homme ne serait qu'un simple automate ou un robot.

« A l'homme seul, couronnement de la création, Dieu a donné une conscience apte à comprendre les exigences sacrées de la loi

divine, et un cœur capable de l'aimer en la déclarant sainte, juste et bonne ; aussi une obéissance prompte et parfaite est-elle exigée de l'homme. Néanmoins Dieu ne le force pas à obéir, lui laissant sa liberté d'agent moral. » –*Messages Choisis*, vol. 1, p. 253

« Dieu avait le pouvoir d'empêcher Adam de toucher le fruit défendu ; mais s'il l'avait fait, Satan aurait eu un prétexte pour accuser le gouvernement de Dieu d'être arbitraire. L'homme n'aurait pas été un être moral libre, mais une simple machine. » –*The Review & Herald*, 4 juin 1901 – *Commentaires bibliques*, p. 3.

« Privé de la faculté de choisir, l'homme n'aurait pas été un être libre, mais un simple automate. Son obéissance aurait été forcée et non volontaire. Adam n'aurait pas pu se former un caractère. » – *Patriarches et Prophètes*, p. 26. « [Aussi] ses affections étaient pures ; ses appétits et ses passions, sous l'ascendant de la raison. » –*Patriarches et Prophètes*, p. 22

Quel état que celui-là ! Après sa chute, l'homme devint dépravé et eut une inclination au mal, de par lui-même il perdit la capacité de résister au mal.

« Lorsque l'homme transgressa la loi divine, sa nature devint mauvaise, et il se trouva d'accord et non en mésintelligence avec Satan. » –*Le Grand Conflit*, p. 511

« Sa nature morale a été tellement altérée par la transgression qu'il lui est devenu impossible, par sa propre force, de résister à la puissance du mal. » –*Le Meilleur Chemin*, p. 15

En raison de leur péché, Adam et Ève perdirent leur demeure en Éden.

« Ayant péché, Adam et Ève furent avertis qu'ils ne pouvaient plus demeurer en Éden. Ils supplièrent Dieu de les laisser habiter le lieu qui fut témoin de leurs joies et de leur innocence. Confessant qu'ils avaient perdu tout droit à occuper cet heureux séjour, ils promirent une stricte obéissance pour l'avenir. Il leur fut répondu : Votre nature s'est altérée et pervertie par le péché ; vous avez perdu une partie de votre force de résistance au mal ; vous serez donc désormais plus facilement victimes encore des attaques de Satan qu'en votre état d'innocence. » –*Patriarches et Prophètes*, p. 39

Bien que nous devons reconnaître la condition de l'homme comme indiquée ci-dessus, Christ, le second Adam, a donné au premier Adam et à sa postérité (ceux qui resteraient fidèles) une assurance du retour au paradis perdu. Il déclare

que même si l'homme a vendu son royaume à Satan, il le lui rendra ainsi qu'à sa postérité, cette fois, dans un état plus glorieux qu'au début.

« Le Christ est appelé le second Adam. Il a commencé où le premier Adam avait commencé, dans la pureté et dans la sainteté, en relation avec Dieu et aimé de lui. ...

« Le Christ fut tenté de maintes façons par Satan, plus cruellement que ne l'avait été Adam et dans des circonstances plus douloureuses encore. Le suborneur se déguisa en ange de lumière mais le Sauveur résista à ses tentations. Jésus racheta la chute ignominieuse d'Adam et il sauva le monde. ... Il vécut la loi de Dieu et il honora cette loi dans un monde de transgression ; il révéla à l'univers céleste, à Satan, à tous les fils et à toutes les filles d'Adam que par sa grâce l'humanité peut garder la loi de Dieu. ...

« La victoire du Christ fut aussi totale qu'avait été complète la défaite d'Adam. Nous devons donc résister à la tentation et obliger Satan à s'éloigner de nous. » – *Puissance de la Grâce*, p. 42

Grâce à la condescendance, la mort et la résurrection de Jésus, Satan a vraiment été vaincu. Maintenant, nous pouvons être des vainqueurs ! Par la puissance du Saint-Esprit combinée avec notre volonté nous pouvons à nouveau prendre de bonnes décisions !

« Comprenez qu'à chaque moment vous devez compter avec la présence du Saint-Esprit, parce qu'il peut réaliser l'œuvre que vous ne pouvez faire par vous-même. » – *Témoignages pour les Pasteurs*, p. 154

Vous et moi, voyageons maintenant vers notre demeure céleste, et vraiment nous avons le grand désir d'y parvenir. Mais notre ennemi fait tout ce qui est possible pour nous empêcher d'arriver à la demeure dont il a été lui-même banni à jamais. Nous sommes appelés à faire attention à la façon dont nous utilisons chaque instant de notre vie. Les écrits sacrés nous y incitent vivement.

« Vous n'êtes pas un seul instant à l'abri des attaques de Satan. Vous n'avez pas le temps de vous relâcher du travail vigilant et fervent. Vous ne devez pas dormir un instant à votre poste. C'est un conflit très important. Des conséquences éternelles sont impliquées. C'est une question de vie ou de mort pour vous et votre famille. » – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 397

« Vous ne devriez pas accorder un seul instant votre attention à une suggestion impure et équivoque, car même cela souille l'âme comme les eaux polluées souillent le canal où elles se déversent. » – *Le Foyer Chrétien*, p. 320

L'histoire de Joseph dépeint une situation qui montre la valeur d'un instant dans notre vie :

« Mais son intégrité devait être soumise à une rude épreuve. La femme de son maître voulut l'entraîner à la violation de la loi de Dieu. Jusque-là, Joseph était demeuré pur au milieu de

la corruption qui régnait autour de lui. Mais comment repousser une tentation aussi soudaine, aussi forte, aussi séduisante ? Il savait quelle serait la conséquence de sa résistance. D'un côté se plaçaient la duplicité, mais aussi la faveur et les récompenses ; de l'autre, la disgrâce, la prison, la mort peut-être. **Toute sa carrière future dépendait de sa décision.** Joseph restera-t-il fidèle à ses principes et à son Dieu ? Les anges observent cette scène avec un intérêt inexprimable.

« La conduite de Joseph va révéler la force d'un caractère fondé sur des principes religieux. Sa décision est prise. Quelles qu'en soient les conséquences, il ne trahira ni la confiance de son maître terrestre, ni sa foi envers son Maître céleste. Sous l'œil scrutateur de Dieu, combien de personnes prennent des libertés qu'elles ne se permettraient pas en présence de leurs semblables ! Mais il n'en fut pas ainsi avec Joseph : "Comment pourrais-je commettre une si grande faute et pécher contre Dieu ?" fut sa réponse. » – *Patriarches et Prophètes*, p. 193

« Nous aussi, nous craignons de pécher si nous avons toujours à la pensée le fait que Dieu voit et entend tout ce que nous faisons et disons, et qu'il en tient un registre fidèle dont nous aurons à rendre compte. » – *Patriarches et Prophètes*, p. 194

Le Seigneur nous exhorte par l'intermédiaire de sa servante : « Ne cessez pas un seul instant de raisonner, car Satan triompherait si vous cédiez à la tentation. Ne cessez pas le dialogue avec votre conscience, aussi faible soit elle. Gardez-vous du premier pas sur le sentier de la transgression. » – *Puissance de la Grâce*, p. 148

Si nous restons sur le lieu de la tentation et faisons un pas dans le péché, nous nous retrouverons finalement loin de Dieu. La voie du retour peut être souvent si difficile que fréquemment, les gens ont perdu leur chemin et ils ont péri.

Conclusion : « Les plaisirs que procure le péché sont les chaînes avec lesquelles Satan lie les hommes. Seuls seront trouvés fidèles ceux qui préfèrent mourir plutôt que de consentir à une action mauvaise. » – *Messages à la Jeunesse*, p. 72

C'est aujourd'hui le temps de repenser à notre position. C'est maintenant le temps de se rapprocher de Dieu plus que jamais. Il n'y a pas de temps à perdre. Prenons garde à chaque instant. Surmonter une tentation est un pas vers le ciel et nous prépare pour de grandes victoires dans la vie. Que Dieu nous aide à faire cela et ainsi nous serons avec lui dans la Canaan céleste. Amen

- **Joel Msiska, *The Price of a Moment*.** The Reformation Messenger. Volume 21, N° 7, Juillet 2014. Traduit par le groupe des traducteurs de l'église de Montréal.

- **NOTE: SEE EXPLANATION NEXT PAGE.**

South Africa



“There is a great work before us. The world is to be warned. The truth is to be translated into many languages, that all nations may enjoy its pure, life-giving influence.” –*The Review and Herald*, October 29, 1914

Language, as Ellen G. White says, is something that must to be taken into consideration when preaching the Word. Language allows us, as light bearers, to connect with people from other cultures, beliefs and backgrounds. Canada, where our publishing house is, is an interesting example of how language can play an important role in society. With a population of about 32 million people, it is estimated that nearly 200 languages are spoken by Canadians every day! Did you know, however, that the country’s two official languages are English and French? The current Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, is a very good example of a bilingual Canadian and how the French language has a significant presence in Canada. With that being said, The Canadian Field Delegates have decided that the Publishers of the Reformation Messengers take steps to increase our presence in the French community! We would like to take this time to inform all of our subscribers (you!) that the decision has been made by the delegates that once every three months there is to be an article in French translated from an existing English publication. We invite you to share these articles with any French-speaking family members, friends or co-workers. Whether you speak French or are learning French, this is a great opportunity to share the gospel in another language.

God bless you,

The Publishers





Zambia



Primary School in Benin



Finland

A photograph of a lush forest with a small white boat on a pond. The boat is on the left side of the image, partially on the shore and partially in the water. The forest is dense with tall trees, and the lighting suggests a late afternoon or early morning setting. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Joyful in Him

There's a whisper in the treetops,
There is music by the sea,
There's a murmur, mid the rushes,
Of the brook across the lea;

There's a voice from winged flowers,—
Hum of hopper and of bee,—
And a myriad-throated warble
From the feathered minstrelsy.

O, the night is one sonata,
And the day a chorus grand;
And our life a glorious anthem
When our Master has command!

For the minor chords, though plaintive,
Lend enchantment to the strain,
And the final hallelujah
Shall in joy engulf all pain.

Tune thy heart to sense the measure;
Train thine ear to hear each chord;
Every day conclude some measure
All harmonious to thy Lord.

Worthie Harris Holden