

The Canadian-Caribbean Union



Messenger

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Some of the Children attending the Conference in Toronto

Christ Our Righteousness

Part 11

What Must We Do in Order to Receive Christ's Righteousness?

According to Matthew 5:6 we must hunger and thirst after righteousness and then we shall be filled. How many are doing this? The common hunger and thirst among people is for riches, honour, longevity, health, comfortable life and entertainment. Hunger and thirst are very powerful desires in a person. A traveler in a desert who is dying from thirst wants nothing else so much as water. If he would find a treasure chest full of money it would not interest him as much as would finding water to quench his thirst.

"None are so low, so corrupt and vile, that they cannot find in Jesus who died for them, strength, purity, and righteousness, if they will put away their sins, cease their course of iniquity, and turn with full purpose of heart to the living God. He is willing to strip them of their garments, stained and polluted by sins, and put upon them the white, bright robes of righteousness." Test. Vol. 2, p. 453

According to this testimony, in order to receive Christ's Righteousness we must put away our sins, cease our course of iniquity and turn to God with full purpose of heart. This means that prayer alone is not enough, we must do something ourselves that we may receive Christ's Righteousness.

"When we bring our lives into complete obedience to the law of God, regarding God as our supreme Guide, and clinging to Christ as our hope of righteousness, God will work in our behalf. This is a righteousness of faith, a righteousness hidden in a mystery of which the worldling knows nothing and which he cannot understand.

The commandments of God diligently studied and practiced, open to us communication with heaven, and distinguish for us the true from the false. This obedience works out for us the divine will, bringing into our lives the righteousness and perfection that was seen in the life of Christ." Bible Commentary, Vol. 1, page 1118

Again we learn that we must do our part before God will do His part in granting us His righteousness. We must bring our lives into complete obedience to the law of God. We must study and practice the commandments of God. Then this obedience will bring into our lives the righteousness of Christ.

This is the reason why not even one in a hundred understand Christ Righteousness and even less receive it. While we practice any known sin we cannot receive this white garment of righteousness. A professed Christian who loves sin will not be able to leave it, because he loves to practice it. If we love the world the love of God is not in us, neither His righteousness. It is not until we learn to hate sin that the thirst and hunger for righteousness can arise in our hearts.

Jesus said: "Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:33

This is another thing we must do first and then we can expect to receive the righteousness of Christ. The rich young man was not willing to forsake all and therefore he lost the heavenly gift. Adam and Eve committed one sin and lost this righteousness. The merchant man sold all he had and then was able to purchase the goodly pearl which is nothing else but Christ's Righteousness.

Millions of people pray and ask for Christ's Righteousness daily but yet fail to receive it because they do not do their part in obedience and sacrifice, therefore the true witness counsels us to buy the white raiment. With many the price is too high. He who hungers and thirsts after righteousness also loves the law of God because righteousness is obedience to the law.

David said, "His delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night." Psalm 1:2 "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day." Psalm 119:97. "Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea above fine gold." Psalm 119:127. "My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness." Psalm 119:172

Very few professed Christians love the commandments of God above gold. In reality many churches are trying to do away with the commandments because they do not love them. What makes the way of Christians narrow? Is it not the commandments? Where does all the murmuring and complaining come from? Is it not from the commandments which are as a heavy cross on their shoulders? Yet there are believers who value the commandments. To them they are more precious than fine gold, and they meditate on the law of God day and night. There is no room in their hearts for the worldly thoughts and ambitions because the law occupies their minds all the time.

"As the flower turns to the sun, that the bright beams may aid in perfecting its beauty and symmetry, so should we turn to the Sun of Righteousness, that heaven's light may shine upon us, that our character may be developed into the likeness of Christ." Steps to Christ, page 68 In other words, in looking to Jesus we are changed into the same image from glory to glory.

Our part in salvation is not only to believe because even the devils believe and tremble. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Phil. 2:12 "Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin." Heb. 12:4. "If thy right eye offend thee pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." Mat. 5:29. These Bible verses give us a picture of the terrible struggle and effort that we must put forth. God will then do His part for us which will complete our salvation. He then covers us with "the pure white linen which is the righteousness of saints."

God is more than willing to do His part in our salvation but the difficulty lies in us. Very few professed Christians are willing to do their part and therefore fail to receive the promise.

CANADIAN-CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE

JUNE 27 - 30, 1996

From near and far our believers gathered together again to partake of a spiritual feast for four days.

Thursday, June 27

On Thursday evening Br. Timo Martin opened the conference with a few encouraging words, welcoming the members and visitors to the conference. Br. Raul Escobar continued by relating some of the experiences of the past two years. He quoted from 2 Tim. 4:9. Persecution and difficulties are present yet we must overcome them all with the help of God. Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." We can therefore triumph over all our difficulties.

Br. Pretel, from Puerto Rico then spoke to us of the Divine Power of God. The Divine Power will save, comfort, and strengthen us. There are many kinds of powers in this world but nothing compares to God's power. Worldly powers have power to destroy, but only the power of God can save and redeem us. The power of God brings life, rain and sunshine. This the power of the world cannot do. Christ is the head of the church, of his people. His power maintains all. This power also works for our salvation. The only verb heaven recognizes is, - to serve. We are to serve each other. Not to control each other but to serve each other in humility. Then we can have the power of God working through us.

Friday, June 28

Br. Antonio De La Rosa, from Dominican Republic, spoke to us in the morning concerning "Victory through Faith". He began with Hebrews 11:1. Men of God triumphed by their faith in the Lord. What happened in times past happens today also. The same faith that gave victory to our forefathers gives us victory today. Speaking of faith in the past these men of God, Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Daniel, etc. were all surrounded by difficulties and suffering but they overcame by their faith. Trials and problems surround us constantly also, but this same faith will give us victory over them all. We must watch that our faith will not fail, but that it will increase daily.

Br. Cabrera, from Germany, continued. There are many invitations in the Bible to each one of us. We can accept or reject them, but whatever choice we make, we must bear the consequences. One marvelous invitation of Jesus is, "Come unto me all ye who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." In Matthew 6:20 we find another invitation to lay up our treasure in heaven. Is not this an important invitation also? In this world a person is not valued if he has no wealth, but heaven values us whether we are poor or rich, as long as we are faithful in handling our finances to the honour and glory of God. Worldly banks invite us to put our money in them for interest. They offer interest of 5 to 7 percent. But heaven offers to pay us 100 times our investment and even more.

Our offerings to the church and to the needy are deposits into the bank of heaven. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is there will your heart be also."

The afternoon was spent in Sabbath preparation and we came together again in the evening. A special song was played and sung by Richard and Sharon Eaton. Ian Grant, from Jamaica, then spoke to us of things that God cannot see or know. There has first of all never been a person that He cannot save and also there has never been a sin that He would not hate.

We were then favoured by a special song by the Toronto church choir. Br. Jerry Eaton then followed with some encouraging words for us. In the world there is a lot of self-indulgence. People do not want self-denial or problems. Jesus said, if any man will come after me he is to deny himself. People say they will be happy when they have material things. But this is a mistake. Men of God served God in poverty, trials and difficulties and were content with their lot in life. Br. Thomas from Haiti then spoke a few brief words about his country. There is much poverty and lack of necessities. They have a school in Haiti and the children there need our help in order to continue.

Sabbath June 29

We were favoured with special music during the Sabbath School by Br. George and Gilbert from Puerto Rico. For the divine service, the Toronto church choir again blessed us with some music. Br. Andrade held the divine service and spoke on "Practical Religion." He quoted Matthew 23:2. Jesus cleansed the temple 2 times and taught the people for 3 1/2 years, yet the people did not obey His teachings. This kind of religion exists all over. People know the truth but do not practice it. It is good to know the prophecies and commandments but it is more important to obey and practice them. Cain and Abel sacrificed to God and Abel's offering was accepted because it was connected with obedience. Cain's offering was rejected because there was no obedience.

In the afternoon we had a praise and testimony meeting conducted by Br. Timo Martin. Many touching testimonies and special songs were presented to the honour and glory of God. It was expressed that angels join with our thanksgiving and praise. We must thank God for every day. One day is enough to save or lose our soul. Each day of life is a gift of God, purchased to us by the blood of Christ. When difficulties surround us can we then praise God? Yes we can since even trials are brought upon us by God in order to save us. Toward the end of the meeting an ordination ceremony was held. Two new ministers were ordained into the ministry to work here in Canada.

A special highlight of the conference was the cantata presented by the young people. It was a one hour musical entitled, "He is Alive."

After dinner Br. Cabrera spoke concerning the motto of the conference, "Be Ye Therefore Perfect." Luke 17:5. The disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith. Should not this be also our petition? What did Jesus answer? "If you have faith as a mustard seed you can tell this mountain to move and it will." Nothing is impossible to us then. The mustard seed is very small. Jesus said that it is impossible to increase our faith if it does not exist. In Mark 4 Jesus said, "Why are ye so fearful, how is it that ye have no faith?" We may ask for faith but do we understand what faith is? In verse 40 of Mark 4 Jesus

said, "Why are ye so fearful?" When we have no faith, we have fear. Faith is certainly of things hoped for and if we have this faith all our fears will be gone.

The Toronto choir then presented another special for us. In some closing words, Br. Escobar spoke of how God often must answer our prayers with a, "No". Paul prayed three times that the thorn would be removed from his flesh but the Lord did not grant this request to him.

Sunday June 30

Sunday morning we had a health meeting and the health leaders from various countries and churches each spoke a few words concerning the necessity of health reform. Health Reform is the right hand of our message and we need to guard carefully the temple of the Holy Spirit (our body) which the Lord has given us to care for.

The conference closing meeting was then held and the leaders from the different countries said farewell, "...until we meet again."



**A group of members and visitors at the Canadian-Caribbean Union Conference
July 27-30. Toronto, Canada**

"Sometimes you just have to wink." ***-- Winking at the Weak*** by Idel Suarez,

The strong and the weak

Paul in many of his epistles states that in the church of Christ there would be weak Christians and strong Christians. He also wrote that the strong were to become as if they too were weak when meeting the weak in their infirmities. The strong needed to support the weak and be patient toward them.

Romans 14:1: "Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations." The margin says: "not to judge his doubtful thoughts."

Romans 15:1: "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves."

I Corinthians 9:22: "To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

II Corinthians 11:29: "Who is weak, and I am not weak?..."

I Thessalonians 5:14: "Now we exhort you, brethren ... support the weak, and be patient toward all men."

Have you ever observed how big cats deal with their cubs? Or have you noticed how big dogs don't pay much attention to little dogs which bark at them? It seems as if the mighty in nature are consequent with the weak. He that is strong, and knows he is stronger, is a bit tolerant with those that are weaker in his own species, particularly if they are of the same kin.

Every teacher knows that in his class there are some slow learners and other students which seem to be whiz kids. Yet she must reach every student and sometimes needs to go a bit slower so as not to leave too far behind the slow learners in her class.

Some flowers bloom in early spring. Other flowers don't bloom till the summer is in full swing. Both of these types of flowers bloom but at different times and only when their season arrives.

So how do you consider yourself? Are you strong or weak? Are you a fast learner or a slow one? Do you blossom as soon as you learn some new truth and seek to incorporate it into your lifestyle, or do you take longer to blossom -- that is do you take longer before deciding to change your poor habits and incorporate new habits into your lifestyle?

The strong Christian's temptation

Elder Larry D. Watts at a workers symposium categorized truth into three areas:

1. fundamental or essential truth,
2. nonfundamental matters,
3. nonessential or trivial issues.

A common temptation for the Christian is to haggle and argue about trivial or trifle matters. The nonessential issues are those that are not clearly, emphatically, or settled and

defined in Scriptures. Rather deductive thinking, collaborative evidence, cultural view points, or church tradition are used to substantiate an idea, a concept, strongly held opinion or theory.

The temptation to haggle over trivial issues is addressed in the following inspired statements:

Bible Training School, 07-01-03: "We are to proclaim the third angel's message to a perishing world, and we are not to permit our minds to become diverted by matters pertaining to eternal life and eternal death, many of the smaller matters that they desire so much to adjust, would adjust themselves."

Testimonies to Southern Africa, p. 79: "Differences of opinion will always exist, for every mind is not constituted to run in the same channel. Hereditary and cultivated tendencies have to be guarded, lest they create controversies over minor matters... Christian charity covers a multitude of that which one may regard as a defect in another. There is need of much love and far less criticism. When the Holy spirit is manifestly working in the hearts of ministers and helpers, they will reveal the tenderness and love of Christ."

"Many things which have references to outward forms are not all defined in Scriptures, but are left unsettled; and personal preferences have often been urged too strongly over these matters. When every thing is not in accordance with the practice of some other of the body of believers, let not little variances swell into grievances and cause disunion. The methods and measures by which we reach certain ends are not always precisely the same. We are required to use reason and judgment as to how we shall move. Experience will show what is the fittest course to pursue under existing circumstances. Let not controversy arise over trifles."

Ibid, p. 80: "...The little things which some are ever harping upon, which are not authoritatively settled by the Word of God, will not be magnified into important areas."

Ibid, p. 11: "The one object to be kept before the mind is that you are reformers, and not bigots. In dealing with unbelievers, do not show a contemptible spirit of littleness, for if you stoop to haggle over a small sum, you will, in the end, lose a much larger sum... Those who pursue this course do not see how contemptible it appears to others, especially those not of our faith; and the precious cause of truth bears the stamp of this defect."

What does it mean to be a bigot? The Oxford English Reference Dictionary defines bigot as "an obstinate and intolerant believer in a religion." It defines "bigoted" as "unreasonably prejudiced and intolerant."

The spirit of bigotry is the spirit of inquisition. It is intolerant to any deviances from the established traditional norm which may not be clearly sustained by Scriptures.

The above quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy suggest that sometimes in seeking to correct one minor wrong unwisely, one may create major problems. Such an effort is then counterproductive. Far better let trivial matters wait. Give the weak more time. Let them bloom at their own rate. Concentrate first on "the weightier matters of the law, namely, hope, love, mercy, and righteousness by faith." **I Corinthians 13:13; Matthew 23:23.**

There is a Spanish proverb which says, "el remedio es peor que la enfermedad." The remedy is worse than the disease. Beware of implementing a remedy that may be idiopathic or disease-producing in itself. The side-effects from the medication may cause complications which are more dangerous than the original disease.

The truth of the matter is that many still have weak areas in their Christian experience. They have some areas in which they may be strong, while another in those same areas may be

weak, but strong in the other's weak areas. Sister White writes that with the help of God our weakest point will become our strongest point.

Winking at the weak

My father has worked with people all his life. He has managed employees, dealt with sales personnel, and catered to a wide variety of clients from different cultures. He says, "te tienes que hacer de la vista gorda" which means "you need a broader view." That is, as a manager, you have to deal patiently when you see things that are not correct.

How does God deal with humanity? Isn't He also patient with us? Then, why not be patient with those whom we consider to be weak Christians in the church?

Acts 14:16: "Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways."

Acts 17:30: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent."

Romans 3:25: [Behold] "the forbearance of God."

Leo Buscaglia puts it this way in his book "Reflections on Love", page 303: "When we are strong we learn not to condemn weakness, fear or fury. Our strength encourages us to feel empathy, to be more flexible and indulgent." Learn to be understanding and patient toward the weak, even as God deals with us.

Holy Father help me to be strict with myself but to forbear the infirmities of the weak and be patient with them. Amen.



Toronto Church choir

DENIAL

ELLEN G. WHITE

"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. Christ knew the fiery ordeal through which they were to pass. He knew how Satan would work to paralyse their senses that they might be unready for the trial. Therefore it was that He gave them warning. Had those hours in the garden been spent in watching and prayer, Peter would not have been left to depend upon his own feeble strength. He would not have denied his Lord. Had the disciples watched with Christ in His agony, they would have been prepared to behold His suffering upon the cross. They would have understood in some degree the nature of His overpowering anguish. They would have been able to recall His words that foretold His sufferings, His death, and His resurrection. Amid the gloom of the most trying hour, some rays of hope would have lighted up the darkness and sustained their faith. DA p. 713, 714

"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. 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. "Rom. 13:11, 12

"Peter had not designed that his real character should be known. In assuming an air of indifference he had placed himself on the enemy's ground, and he became an easy prey to temptation. If he had been called to fight for his Master, he would have been a courageous soldier; but when the finger of scorn was pointed at him, he proved himself a coward. Many who do not shrink from active warfare for their Lord are driven by ridicule to deny their faith. By associating with those whom they should avoid, they place themselves in the way of temptation. They invite the enemy to tempt them, and are led to say and do that of which under other circumstances they would never have been guilty. The disciple of Christ who in our day disguises his faith through dread of suffering or reproach denies his Lord as really as did Peter in the judgement hall.....

"When the degrading oaths were fresh on Peter's lips, and the shrill crowing of the cock was still ringing in his ears, the Saviour turned from the frowning judges, and looked full upon His poor disciple. At the same time Peter's eyes were drawn to his Master. In that gentle countenance he read deep pity and sorrow, but there was no anger there.

"The sight of that pale, suffering face, those quivering lips, that look of compassion and forgiveness, pierced his heart like an arrow. Conscience was aroused. Memory was active. Peter called to mind his promise a few short hours before that he would go with his Lord to prison and to death. He remembered his grief when the Saviour told him in the upper chamber that he would deny his Lord thrice that same night. Peter had just declared that he knew not Jesus, but he now realized with bitter grief how well his Lord knew him, and how accurately He had read his heart, the falseness of which was unknown even to himself.

"A tide of memories rushed over him. The Saviour's tender mercy, His kindness and long-suffering, His gentleness and patience toward His erring disciples, - all was remembered. He recalled the caution, "Simon, Behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not." Luke 22:31,32. He reflected with horror upon his own ingratitude, his falsehood, his perjury. Once more he looked at his Master, and saw a sacrilegious hand raised to smite Him on the face. Unable longer to endure the scene, he rushed, heartbroken, from the hall.

"He pressed on in solitude and darkness, he knew not and cared not wither. At last he found himself in Gethsemane. The scene of a few hours before came vividly to his mind. The suffering face of his Lord, stained with bloody sweat and convulsed with anguish, rose before him. He remembered with bitter remorse that Jesus had wept and agonized in prayer alone, while those who should have united with Him in that trying hour were sleeping. He remembered His solemn charge, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." Mat 26:41. He witnessed again the scene in the judgment hall. It was torture to his bleeding heart to know that he had added the heaviest burden to the Saviour's humiliation and

grief. On the very spot where Jesus had poured out His soul in agony to His Father, Peter fell upon his face, and wished that he might die." DA p. 712, 713

What would we have done if we were in Peter's place? Would we have denied our Lord as openly and readily as did Peter in that judgement hall? There are other ways in which we can deny our Lord and when we do deny Him in other ways we are just as guilty as was Peter in that judgement hall.

"Young and old have a conflict, a warfare, before them. They should not sleep for a moment. A wily foe is constantly on the alert to lead them astray and overcome them. Believers in present truth must be as watchful as their enemy and manifest wisdom in resisting Satan. Will they do this? Will they persevere in this warfare? Will they be careful to depart from all iniquity? Christ is denied in many ways. We may deny Him by speaking contrary to truth, by speaking evil of others, by foolish talking or jesting, or by words that are idle. In these things we manifest but little shrewdness or wisdom. We make ourselves weak; our efforts are feeble to resist our great enemy, and we are conquered, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh," and through lack of watchfulness we confess that Christ is not in us. Those who hesitate to devote themselves unreservedly to God make poor work of following Christ. They follow Him at so great a distance that half the time they do not really know whether they are following His footprints or the footsteps of their great enemy.....There must be an entire, unreserved surrender to God, a forsaking and turning away from the love of the world and earthly things, or we cannot be Christ's disciples." 1T p. 408

"Jesus invites us to come to Him and He will lift the weights from our weary shoulders and place upon us His yoke, which is easy, and His burden which is light. The path which He invites us to walk would never have cost us a pang had we always walked in it. It is when we stray from the path of duty that the way becomes difficult and thorny. The sacrifices which we must make in following Christ are only so many steps to return to the path of light, of peace and happiness. Doubts and fear grow by indulgence, and the more they are indulged, the harder are they to overcome. It is safe to let go every earthly support and take the hand of Him who lifted up and saved the sinking disciple on the stormy sea." 4T p. 558

"God will accept only those who are determined to aim high. He places every human agent under obligation to do his best. Moral perfection is required of all. Never should we lower the standard of righteousness in order to accommodate inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrong-doing. We need to understand that imperfection of character is sin. All righteous attributes of character dwell in God as a perfect, harmonious whole, and every one who receives Christ as a personal Saviour is privileged to possess these attributes." COL p. 330

"The law of God should be loved and honoured by His true people now more than ever before. There is the most imperative necessity of urging the injunction of Christ upon the minds and hearts of all believers, men and women, youth and children: "Search the Scriptures." Study your Bible as you have never studied it before. Unless you arise to a higher, holier state in your religious life, you will not be ready for the appearing of our Lord. As great light has been given, God expects corresponding zeal, faithfulness, and devotion, on the part of His people. There must be more spirituality, a deeper consecration to God, and a zeal in His work that has never yet been reached. Much time should be spent in prayer, that our garments of character may be washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb." 5T p. 717

"Let us follow the Saviour in His simplicity and self-denial. Let us lift up the Man of Calvary by word and by holy living. The Saviour comes very near to those who consecrate themselves to God. If ever there was a time when we needed the working of the Spirit of God upon our hearts and lives, it is now. Let us lay hold of this divine power for strength to live a life of holiness and self-surrender." 9T p. 166





Canadian Field Conference Delegates



Canadian Field Delegates in Session

“In all who have been chosen to accomplish a work for God the human element is seen. Yet they have not been men of stereotyped habits and character, who were satisfied to remain in that condition. They earnestly desired to obtain wisdom from God and to learn to work for Him. Says the apostle, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” James 1:5. But God will not impart to men divine light while they are content to remain in darkness. In order to receive God’s help, man must realize his weakness and deficiency; he must apply his own mind to the great change to be wrought in himself; he must be aroused to earnest and persevering prayer and effort. Wrong habits and customs must be shaken off; and it is only by determined endeavor to correct these errors and to conform to right principles that the victory can be gained. Many never attain to the position that they might occupy, because they wait for God to do for them that which He has given them power to do for themselves. All who are fitted for usefulness must be trained by the severest mental and moral discipline, and God will assist them by uniting divine power with human effort.” Patriarchs and Prophets, page 248



Our new minister, Jerry Eaton, with his wife Wendy.

What or Whom do we Seek?

“And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that [is] wisdom; and to depart from evil [is] understanding.” Job 28:28

The Lord has spoken to us brothers and sisters through His prophets who were moved by His Holy spirit; and now in these last days by His son Jesus Christ. Now more than ever is the need to put into practice that which God has instructed us to observe. The subject that is very urgent at this time is the subject of **“pleasures.”** Are we as professed Christians deep into the pleasures of the world? I’m referring to the **“Television.”**

In the Spirit of Prophecy we have an abundance of warnings to avoid the pleasures of the world. Sister White does not as such mention T.V. but, she writes about Theaters. Here is what she said, *“We often hear of disasters in theaters and pleasure resorts, where lives are lost, and many are wounded, and perhaps made life-long sufferers. But these things do not arrest the pleasure-seekers. They rush on, thirsting for excitement, and often in the very act they too are hurled into eternity; without a moment’s warning, their probation is ended; and what has been their life record? Multitudes are vainly seeking happiness in worldly amusements. They crave something which they have not. They are spending their money for that which is not bread, and their labour for that which satisfieth not. The hungry, thirsting souls will continue to hunger and thirst so long as it partakes of these unsatisfying pleasures. Oh that they would listen to the voice of Jesus, ‘If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink.’ Those who drink of the living water thirst no more for frivolous, exciting amusements [t.v.]. Christ, the well-spring of life, is the fountain of peace and happiness.”* From Historical Sketches, page 191. One could say after reading such a text, that we do not go to the theater, or such places as described above. Let us see just where we really go into when we watch our favorite show on t.v. or video. The truth is we go where the camera takes us. If the camera goes to a night-club, we are in and we listen to the dirty, filthy talk and anything else that goes on. When the camera takes a scene of someone being raped we are also participants in the act. We very well know that what we watch on t.v. affects our very life for the better or worse. After watching such things do we feel like taking our Bibles to study? Are we ready for Christ’s return at that very moment? Can we say we are Spirit filled after watching a movie?

“Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” 1 John 2:15. We all know what this verse is all about! We can also include that watching television and our video is to have the love [lust] of the world. For we seek after those things that please us. It pleases the eye to behold such beauty, speed, glamour etc. We are hooked for hours, and those are the hours we should be studying our Bibles. We may even say that there are good t.v. shows or videos for our education. Let us read what Sister White says about that, *“It is the god of this world that deludes, and blinds, and leads to destruction. Satan does not enter with his array of temptations at once. He disguises these temptations with a semblance of good. He will mingle with amusements and folly, some little improvements, and deceived souls make it an excuse that great good is to be derived by engaging in them.”* Testimony to the church at Battle Creek, page 53. From what we have just read there is no good thing that could come from watching television. Let us ask ourselves a good and honest question. What percentage was good from what we watched, and what was not good? If we can come up with at least 1 percent that was not good, then it was of the devil. God does not mingle the two together, the devil does!

Many thoughts may be going through our heads as we reason these things out. Even though we have these worldly desires we are not that bad. We may even pat ourselves in the back and say that we

are good church going Christians. Let's read what the Bible says about that. **"not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven."** Also from Sister White (same page as quoted above) *"He [Satan] does not want them to give up praying, but maintain a form of religious duties, for he can thus make them more useful in his service. He unites his sophistry and deceptive snares with their experiences and professions, and thus advances his cause wonderfully."* We can see from both sources that unless our religion produces works of righteousness it means nothing. Again we read in 2 Timothy 3:5, **"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof."** The power to say no to that which displeases Our heavenly Father; to deny the flesh

We need to be sober in these last minutes of Earth's history. Let us not fool ourselves that God's agenda is forever, waiting until we are good and ready. We need to remind ourselves what the word of God says, **"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."** James 4:4. How can we say that to spend time watching the "box" is to have friendship with the world? Simple, the advertisements say so on t.v. "let us bring the world to your doorsteps." They seem to know what they are saying to us, but do we realize what they mean?

Brothers and sisters are we at the time of Baal-peor? Are we exchanging our birthright for a little time of pleasure? Let us read again from Sister White's writings, *"..their hellish plans were too successful. It was not long before the poison of licentiousness and idolatry had spread like a deadly infection through the congregation of Israel. The people seemed to be infatuated. The rulers and leading men were among the first to step over the line; and so general was the defection, that it is recorded in the Sacred Word, that Israel joined himself unto Baal-peor. Alas that the people who had been so signally protected from Satan's power, should now deliberately walk into the net which he had laid for them."* Signs of the Times. Israel departs from God. What we have just read are very serious warnings. What the Lord is showing us in His Word is, if we have a Television at home and spend time with it; **we are not saved.** How can we serve two masters and say we are saved? How can we continue in this practice and say Jesus is our Master? My last quote from Sister White, *"When we come to the final hour, and stand face to face with the record of our lives, shall we regret that we have attended so few parties of pleasure [T.V.] that we have participated in so few scenes of thoughtless mirth? Shall we not, rather bitterly regret that so many precious hours have been wasted in self-gratification, -- so many opportunities neglected, which, rightly improved, would have secured for us immortal treasure?"* Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald... Should Christians Dance? 02/02/82. What the Holy Spirit is saying is this, **"And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that [is] wisdom; and depart from evil [is] understanding."** Job 28:28

Will we not even now encourage one another to forsake the ways of the flesh, and turn to our Father through Jesus in asking for His Holy spirit for strength to obey His commandments. Jesus bids us, **"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."** Matthew 5:48. May this be our wish and prayer in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Written in love;
Your brother in Christ

Tony Cabral, Montreal

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ROCK AND SAND

Happy he whose willing ears
Catch the words of life with joy;
He who treasures what he hears,
Makes its practice his employ.

On the rock his house he rears;
Vain the floods that `round him roar;
Built on Christ, no storms he fears;
God his trust for evermore.

Woe to him who hears in vain -
Hears, but does not, Christ's commands;
Shuns the cross this world to gain,
Builds his house upon the sands!

Soon the gathering storm shall dash,
Waves shall beat, and tempests roar;
Then, with awful, endless crash,
Sinks that house, to rise no more!

Help me, Lord, to hear and do
All Thy words of life and love;
Christ my rock, my house in view,
Built for endless years above.