

The Reformation **Messenger**

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

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- **Canadian Field Conference: August 4 -6**
 - **Canadian Workers Meetings: August 7 - 9**
 - **Canadian Youth Conference: Aug. 28 - Sep. 3**

"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men." John 1:3, 4

The Reformation Messenger

We Believe

The all-wise, loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ; He is its Owner and Sustainer.

He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh.

The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth, convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all unrighteousness.

The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine; the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform.

His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus.

Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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THE CALL OF ABRAHAM

“Faith is the condition upon which God has seen fit to promise pardon to sinners; not that there is any virtue in faith whereby salvation is merited, but because faith can but hold of the merits of Christ, the remedy provided for sin.” EGW, R & H. Nov. 4, 1890.

“Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee. And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the Earth be BLESSED.” Gen. 12:1-3

“There was given to Abraham the promise, especially dear to the people of that age, of a numerous posterity and of national greatness.” PP 125.

CALLED OUT

“After the dispersion from Babel, idolatry again became well-nigh universal... Abraham had grown up in the midst of superstition and heathenism. Even his father’s household, by whom the knowledge of God had been preserved, were yielding to the seductive influences surrounding

them, and they ‘served other gods’ than Jehovah.” PP 125.

The prophet Joshua tells in his book in chapter 24:2, “And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.” It was for this reason that God called Abraham out from his family and kindred, to separate him from other nations.

Abraham obeyed the call because of his faith in God. “Abraham’s unquestioning obedience is one of the most striking evidences of faith to be found in all the Bible. To him, faith was ‘the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.’ Relying upon the divine promise, without the least outward assurance of its fulfillment, he abandoned home and kindred and native land, and went forth, he knew not whither, to follow where God should lead.” PP 126.

The same call God gives to his people today, “Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate... And [I] will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” 2

Corinthians 6:17-18.

John the Revelator said, “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins.” Revelation 18:4.

“Many are still tested as was Abraham. They do not hear the voice of God speaking directly from the heavens, but He calls them by the teachings of His word and the events of His providence. They may be required to abandon a career that promises wealth and honour, to leave congenial and profitable associations, and separate from kindred, to enter upon what appears to be only a path of self-denial, hardship, and sacrifice. God has a work for them to do; but a life of ease and the influence of friends and kindred would hinder the development of the very traits essential for its accomplishment.” PP 126-127. The patriarch Abraham did not let worldly ties and associations separate him from God. He chose self-denial. Romans 8:35, says, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”

“The Lord in His providence had brought this trial upon Abraham to teach him lessons of submission, patience, and faith-

lessons that were to be placed on record for the benefit of all who should afterward be called to endure affliction. God leads His children by a way that they know not, but He does not forget or cast off those who put their trust in Him. He permitted affliction to come upon Job, but He did not forsake him. He allowed the beloved John to be exiled to lonely Patmos, but the Son of God met him there... God permits trials to assail His people, that by their constancy and obedience they themselves may be spiritually enriched, and that their example may be a source of strength to others." PP 128 So, God will not abandon us if we choose to serve him, if we choose the path of self-denial, like Abraham.

"And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD." Gen. 12:7-8.

"Abraham, 'the friend of God,' set us a worthy example. His was a life of prayer. Wherever he pitched his tent, close beside it was set up his altar, calling all within his encampment to the morning and evening sacrifice. When his tent was removed, the altar remained. In following years, there were among the roving Canaanites who received instruction from Abraham; and whenever one of these came to that altar, he knew who had been there before him; and when he had pitched his tent, he repaired the altar, and there worshipped the living God." PP 128.

How many of us are following Abraham's example in prayer today? We talk and discuss business plans but neglect prayer. Even some of us wake up in the morning and forget to give thanks to God. We cannot be overcomers, unless we learn how to communicate with God, like Abraham. Malachi. 4:6, "And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." Please read Eph. 6:1-4 and 2 Tim. 3:1-2. "Abraham's affection for his children and his household led him to guard their religious faith, to impart to them a knowledge of the divine statutes, as the most precious legacy he could transmit to them, and through them

to the world. All were taught that they were under the rule of the God of heaven. There was to be no oppression on the part of parents, and no disobedience on the part of children. God's law had appointed to each his duties, and only in obedience to it could any secure happiness or prosperity... How few there are in our day who follow this example! On the part of too many parents there is a blind and selfish sentimentalism, miscalled love, which is manifested in leaving children, with their unformed judgment and undisciplined passions, to the control of their own will. This is the veriest great cruelty to the youth and a great wrong to the world. Parental indulgence causes disorder in families and in society." PP 142.

Parents need to reform; ministers need to reform; they need God in their households... In too many households prayers is neglected. Parents feel that they have no time for morning and evening worship. They cannot spare a few moment to be spent in thanksgiving to God for His abundant mercies—for the blessed sunshine and the showers of rain." PP 142-143.

THE PURPOSE OF THE CALLING

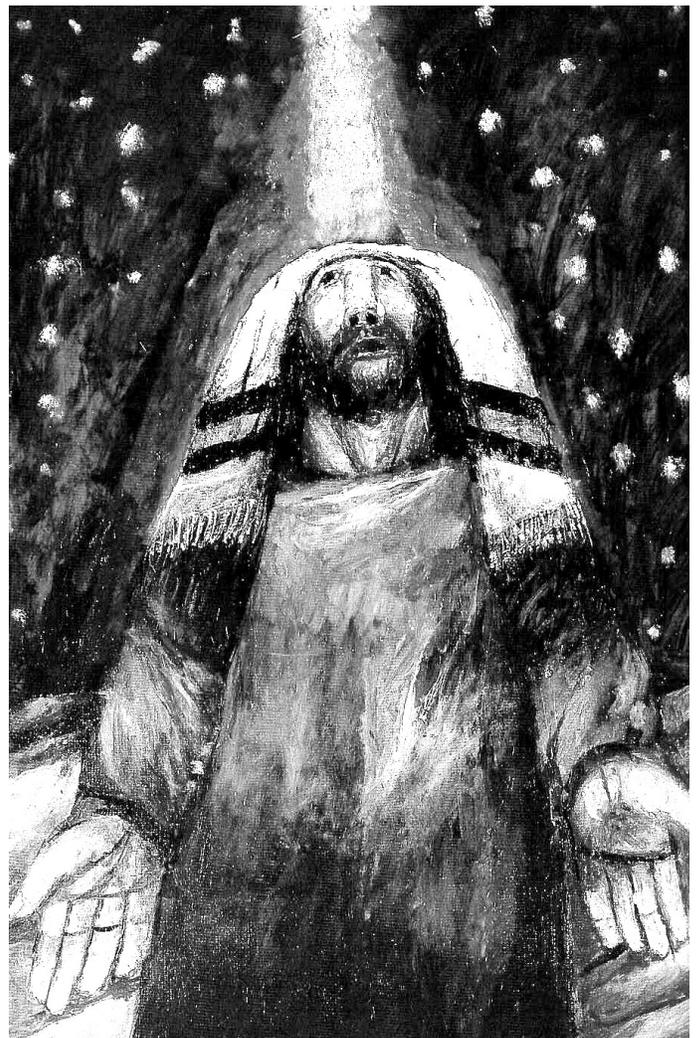
"He chose Abraham, of the line of Shem, and made him the keeper of His law for future generations... The true faith was not to become extinct. God has ever preserved a remnant to serve Him. Adam, Seth, Enoch, Methuselah, Noah, Shem in unbroken line, had preserved from age to age the precious revealing of His will. The son of Terah became the inheritor of this holy trust." PP 125. Gen. 26:4-5: "And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of earth be blessed; Because that

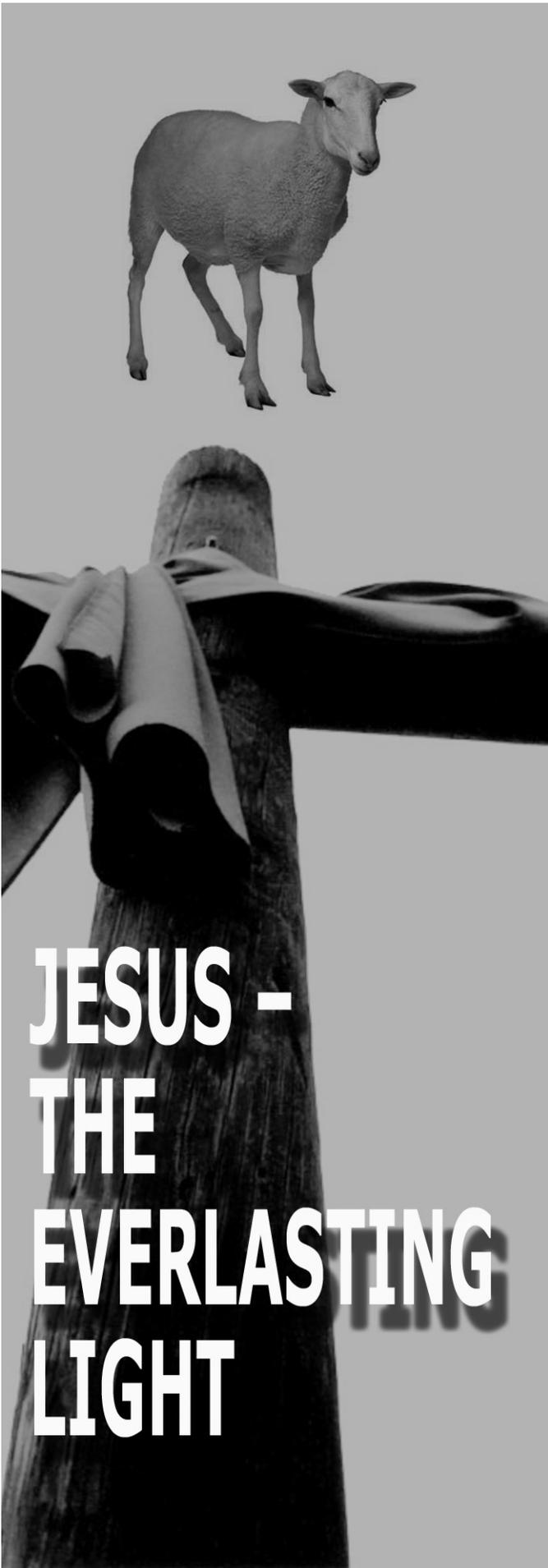
Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes and my laws." It was the purpose of God that Abraham should be the inheritor and treasury of His law.

"Faithful among the faithless, uncorrupted by the prevailing apostasy, he steadfastly adhered to the worship of the one true God." PP 125. So in these last days of apostasy God has chosen us for His purpose. "And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in." Isa. 58:12. Malachi 2:7—For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts."

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people." 1 Peter 2:9 (a) Amen.

Anthony Cedric Adjei, Ghana





“In the morning the sun rose clear, but was soon overcast. The clouds became lowery, and from them, black and ominous, as they soon appeared, lightning flashed, thunder rolled, and a little rain fell. Toward nine o’clock, the clouds became thinner, and assumed a brassy or coppery appearance, and earth, rocks, trees, buildings, water, and persons were changed by this strange, unearthly light. A few minutes later, a heavy black cloud spread over the entire sky.” GC, p.306

“Candles were used; and hearth fires shone as brightly as on a moonless evening in autumn... Fowls retired to their roosts and went to sleep, cattle gathered at the pasture bars and lowed, frogs peeped, birds sang their evening songs, and bats flew about. But the human knew that night had not come..... G.C.p.307

The Dark Day

“In most part of the country it was so great in the daytime, that the people could not tell the hour by either watch or clock, nor dine, nor manage their domestic business, without light of candles... It was observed as far east as Falmouth. To the westward it reached to the farthest part of Connecticut, and to Albany. To the southward, it was observed along the seacoasts; and to the north as far as the American settlements extend... The intense darkness of the day was succeeded, an hour or two before evening, by a partially clear sky, and the sun appeared, though it was still obscured by the black heavy mist. After sundown, the clouds came again overhead, and it grew dark very fast. Nor was the darkness of the night less uncommon and terrifying than that of the day... May 19,1780, stands in history as “The Dark Day” – G.C., pp.307, 308

The Prophecy Was Fulfilled:-

“In the Saviour’s conversation with His disciples upon Olivet, after describing the long period of trial for the church, – the 1260 years of papal persecution, concerning which He had promised that the tribulation should be shortened, -- He thus mentioned certain events to precede His coming, and fixed the time when the first of these should be witnessed: ‘In those days, after the tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light.’ Mark 13.24. The 1260 days, or years terminated in 1798. A quarter of a century earlier, persecution had almost wholly ceased. Following this persecution, according to the words of Christ, the sun was to be darkened. On the 19th of May, 1780, this prophecy was fulfilled.” G.C., p.306

According to the above thoughts, we know light is one of the important things in the life of human beings. Light and dark or day and night is necessary for mankind’s work and rest. These two are equally included in their life. If it is always light in the earth, how can human beings get rest? Or if it is always dark in the earth, when can the people work, and how can they find their food? So these two, light and dark, are mingled in the life of human beings. The Bible says, we could not find the way or place of light and darkness. “ Where is the way where the light dwelleth? And as for darkness, where is the place thereof, that thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths to the house thereof?” Job 38:19, 20

Fear God, Heed His Word

In the beginning God created the greater light (sun) on the fourth day of the week, to rule the day. The sun rises in the morning and sets in the

evening. By the command of God, the sun rule over the day and in the night time it is hidden. King David says about this sun: "In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber. And rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof." Psalm 19:4-6 Who received a good name from the Lord? "Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil?" Job 1:8. The same Job says, "Which (The Lord) commandeth the sun, and it riseth not." Job 9:7

If the Lord of God commands the sun not to rise for some days, what will happen in this world? The world becomes dark. The plants lose their green colour and are then destroyed. If there are no plants, there is no food for human beings and for livestock. The plants take in carbon dioxide, and give out oxygen. So if there is no light, there are no more plants, and therefore no more human beings. If no plants, where can we go to clean the air? Now we also understand that the light is very important to livestock. All the livestock were afraid on the Dark day on 19th May 1780. Even for one dark day all the livestock were afraid. If all the future days would be full of darkness, what would be the situation of the earth? Kindly think for one minute.

Word Of The Lord Gives Light

In the beginning God created man in His own image, but man sinned with his disobedience. Mankind lost the image of God and fell down into the darkness of sin. When mankind is struggling or in great distress in sinful darkness, God is gives the light through the word of God. "For the commandment is a lamp, and the law is light; Proverbs 6:23. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105 "The entrance of thy words

giveth light; It giveth understanding unto the simple." Psalm 119:130.

"Here you are crying before God, in the anguish of your souls, for more light. I am authorized from God to tell you that not another ray of light through the Testimonies will shine upon your pathway until you make a practical use of the light already given. The Lord has walled you about with light; but you have not appreciated the light; you have trampled upon it. While some have despised the light, others have neglected it or followed it but indifferently. A few have set their hearts to obey the light which God has been pleased to give them." 5T, p. 666.

Before sin entered into this earth, the heavenly angels were giving good counsel to our first parents, Adam and Eve. They

enjoyed, and were happy with the counsel of the angels. After sin entered into this world God gave His heavenly light, that is, the word of God, to mankind through His prophets. When they searched the word of God, they found the way to receive true peace and the "love of the Lord." So, that light, the word of God, helps us to walk on the true path, without sin.

"God has seen fit in this manner to bring the minds of His people to His word, to give them a clearer understanding of it. The word of God is sufficient to enlighten the most beclouded mind and may be understood by those who have any desire to understand it. But not withstanding all this, some who profess to make the word of God their study are found living in direct opposition to its plainest teachings. Then,

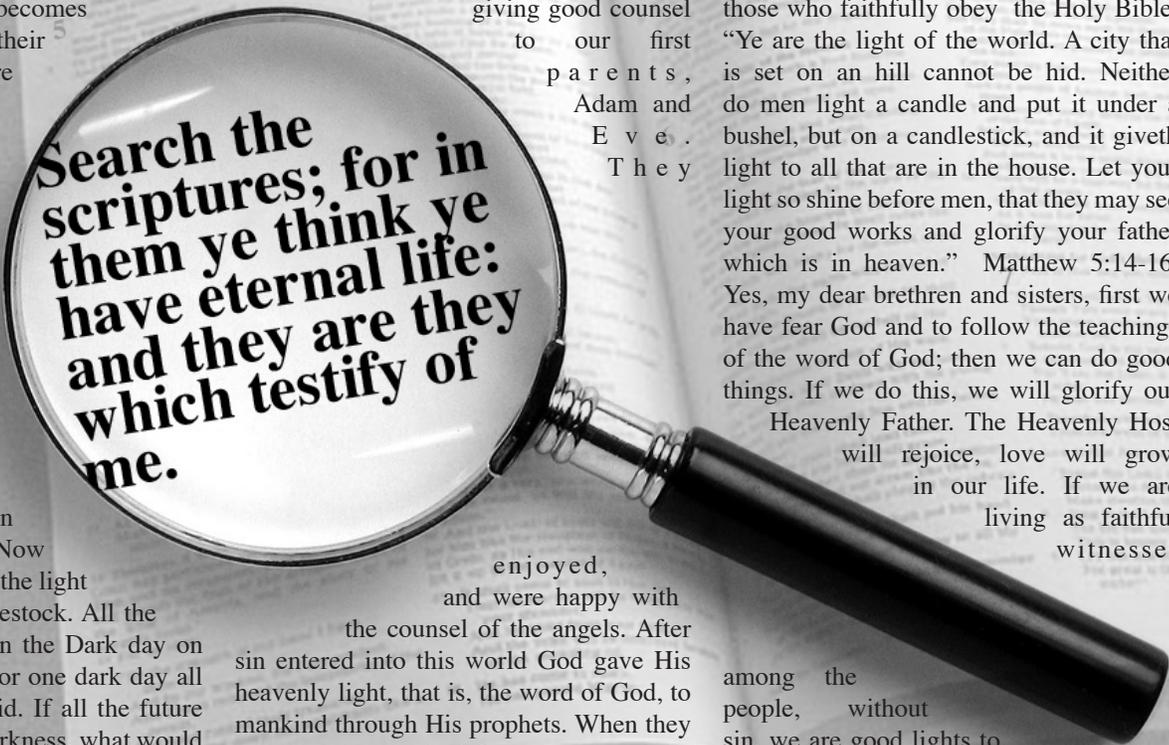
to leave men and women without excuse, God gives plain and pointed testimonies, bringing them back to the word that they have neglected to follow." – 5T,p. 663.

You Are The Light Of The World

The word of God teaches us to find the way of light, of life. Why? Mankind is living with sinful darkness. When we search the word of God, the Holy Bible, continuously, we can receive the divine love, the heavenly love. Our faults and sinful activities will be reduced; we will improve in good things so that we can turn our souls to the side of our Saviour Jesus Christ. The word of God teaches us how to live a good life full of good things. The word of God can change to a good man those who have bad habits, also. Our Saviour Jesus Christ says regarding those who faithfully obey the Holy Bible: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light to all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16. Yes, my dear brethren and sisters, first we have fear God and to follow the teachings of the word of God; then we can do good things. If we do this, we will glorify our Heavenly Father. The Heavenly Host will rejoice, love will grow in our life. If we are living as faithful witnesses

among the people, without sin, we are good lights to the world. What will be the result if we do this? "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day" Proverbs 4:18. Apostle Paul says, "among whom ye shine as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life..." Philippians 2:15, 16 We have to continuously read the word of God, and follow its teachings and to obey God. Then we can do good things and be a light to the world. The word of God can change us and mankind to be great lights among the darkness of sin.

"To the law and to the testimony: If they speak not according to this word, it is



because there is no light in them. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.” Isaiah 8:20; 9:2 “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.

“Then Jesus said unto them,... walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you.” John 12:35. Those who turn away from the light which God has given, or who neglect to seek it when it is within their reach, are left in darkness. But the Saviour declares, ‘He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life’ John 8:12. “Whoever is with singleness of purpose seeking to do God’s will, earnestly heeding the light already given, will receive greater light; to that soul some star of heavenly radiance will be sent to guide him into all truth.” GC, p. 312.

Jesus – The True Light!

The light of the word of God helps us, to escape from the darkness of sin. If we follow this light we will change to be lights to the world. After that if we have the true light of Jesus Christ, what must we do? Our Saviour Jesus tells us: “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” John 5:39. “That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.” John 1:9.

The moon receives light from the sun and shines in the night. In the same way, if we are receiving light from the true light of Jesus, we can also shine in the darkness of sinful earth, as witnesses of our Saviour, the true light, Jesus Christ. Our Saviour says: “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” “I am the light of the world: He who followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” John 9:5; 8:12.

“That God who walked with Enoch was our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He was the light of the world then just as He is now.” 6T, 392.

“We should all become witnesses for Jesus. Social power, sanctified by the grace of Christ, must be improved in winning souls to the Saviour..... Christ is pleased with His followers when they show that, though

human, they are partakers of the divine nature... Their hearts, refreshed by the dews of divine grace, open and expand to the Sun of Righteousness. The light that shines upon them they reflect upon others in works that are luminous with the love of Christ.” – DA. pp. 152, 153.

The Lord Is The Light

The True Light, Jesus Christ, came to this world from the Heavenly Father, who dwells in unapproachable light. Yes, the Lord God, “who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto, whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.” 1 Timothy 6:16 Apostle John says about the Lord of God as follows; “...His countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.” – Rev 1:16.

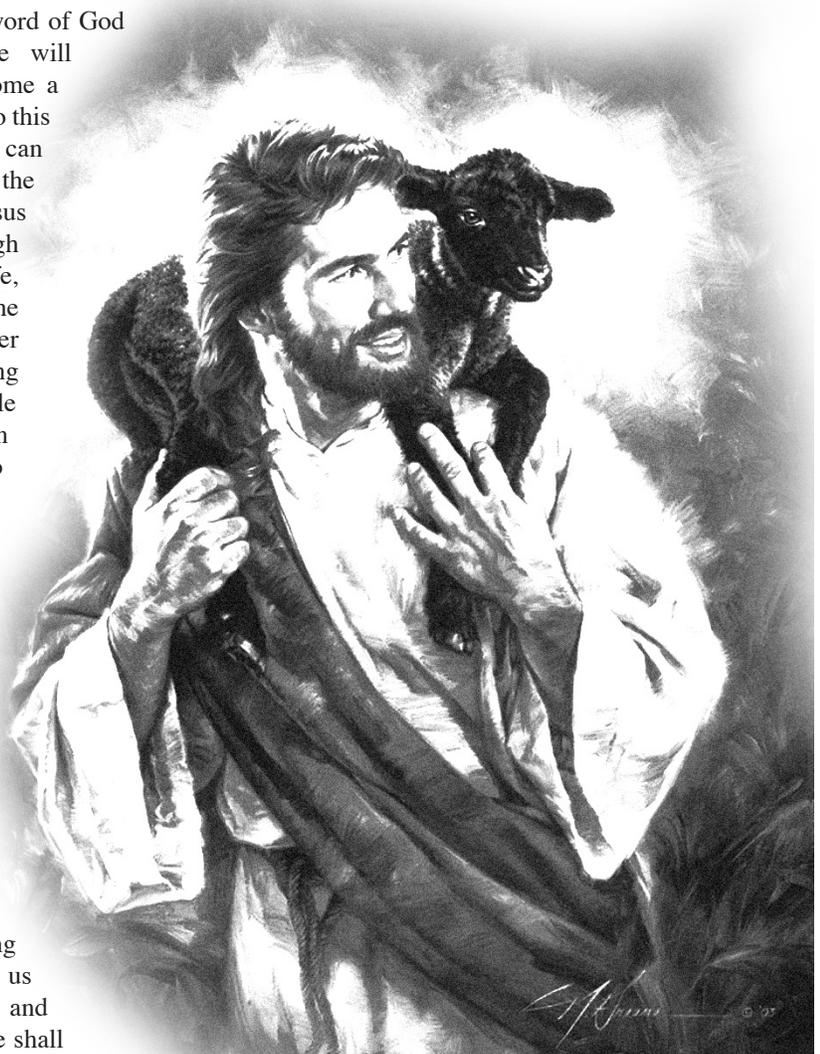
Because of the dark day, the world was afraid on May 19th, 1780. Those who are suffering in sinful darkness, need to come out. The everlasting light is waiting to shine upon you. If we follow the light in the word of God always, our life will change and become a wonderful light to this world. Then we can go forward under the true light of Jesus Christ. Through this light of life, we will reach the Heavenly Father who is dwelling in unapproachable light. And then there is no darkness, but always light; we will be in the everlasting light.

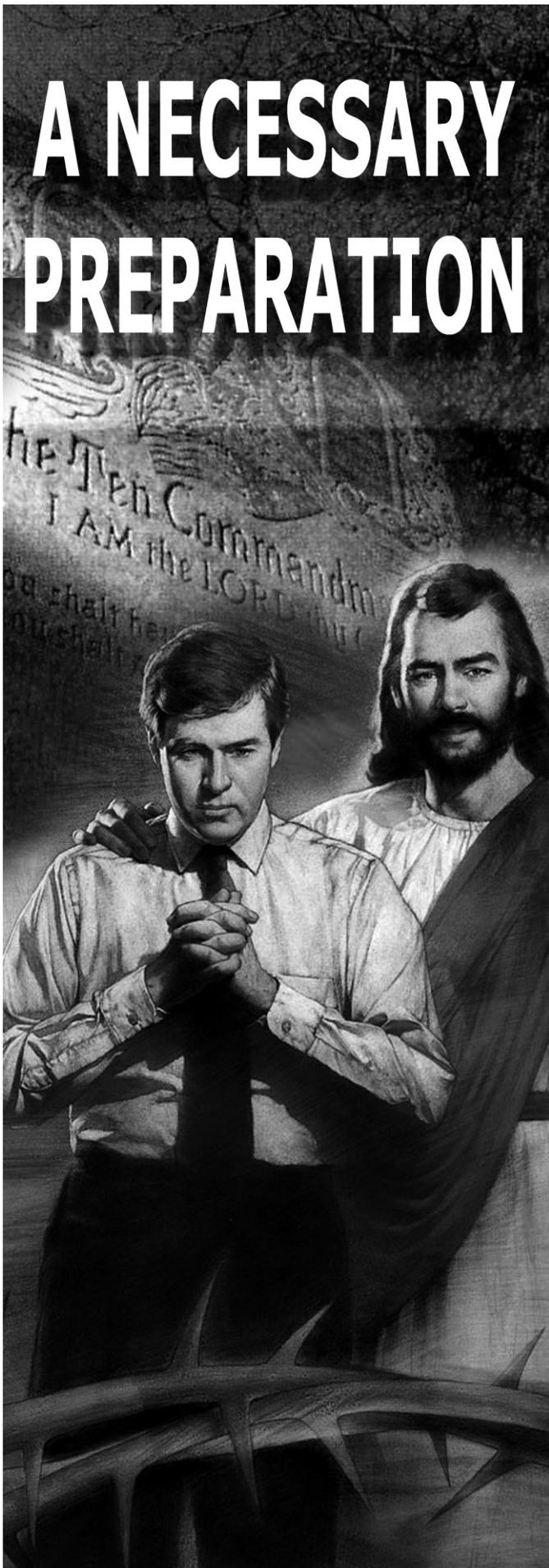
So, my dear brethren and sisters, search the Bible always and think always of the teachings of the Bible. Then our loving Lord will give us everlasting life and light. “And there shall

be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: And they shall reign for ever and ever.” Rev 22:5 So we need not fear the darkness; the sun and moon also will take rest in their tabernacle. In the new heaven and new earth, “And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.” Rev. 21:22, 23 “...The Lord shall be unto you an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory...” Isaiah 60:19, 20

In the everlasting light of the Lord there is no darkness in us, and no darkness of sin upon us. May God abundantly bless you all with these words of light. “But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: Let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them.” Psalm 5:11 **AMEN.**

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“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12.

This Bible verse reveals to us very important things. In the third angel’s message, God warns us not to take the mark of the beast and his image in the forehead or in the hand. Immediately after, He says what the punishment will be for those who do so. The transgressors shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, deprived of mercy, which is poured out in the cup of his indignation.

Thereafter, the Lord reveals what will be the character of those who will come out as overcomers, and He says, “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

The time is short. Soon the last scenes of the history of this world will be fulfilled as prophesied in the Holy Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy. A great work of preparation has to take place within us so that we do not remain in a lethargic, indifferent condition, believing that we are saved because our names are written in the books of the church. We should be sure that we are totally on the side of the Lord.

When I meditate upon these things, I find myself before a great dilemma: Shall I have the patience of the saints who keep the commandments of God in spite of the terrible persecution of the beast to prevent me from keeping them? Shall I have the perfect faith and trust that Jesus had in the Heavenly Father? Jesus’ parable about the faith of the widow, who insistently bothered the unrighteous judge so that he would do justice to her, ends with the following question, “When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8).

Satan always tries to make us lose faith because thus he hopes we shall abandon God and transgress His commandments. The wicked will do everything possible to force the keepers of God’s law to take the mark of the beast. How prepared are we to face this situation? Is it enough that the Lord has revealed to us the prophecy regarding the beast and his image and that He showed us what will happen to those who refuse to worship Him? Shall we deny ourselves for the sake of Jesus Christ as He denied Himself for us? Shall we have the strength to say, “No, I shall not worship the beast and his image,” like Daniel had the power not to fall down and worship the great golden statue that Nebuchadnezzar had built, when the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kind of musical instruments sounded? Or shall we deny the Lord like Peter did when the Lord was undergoing judgment at the hand of the high priest? But Peter repented and cried bitterly after that. If our faith in Jesus and our patience is well founded and unmovable, we shall be counted among those who confess their Lord, otherwise the following verses will be fulfilled, “And that servant, which knew his lord’s will, and prepared not [himself], neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many [stripes]. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few [stripes]. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.” Luke 12:47, 48.

The third angel’s message says, “If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God...” Is our faith so strong so as to overcome all fear before the threats of the worldly power? What would happen if all of a sudden we read on the front page of the

newspaper, in big letters, that the Sunday law has been sanctioned? Let us seriously meditate upon this. Are we in the faith? Have we the faith of Jesus? Have we the faith of Enoch, of Noah, of Daniel?

Not long ago there was a terrible seaquake, 7 degrees Richter, near the island of Kithera, in Greece, at the depth of 70 kilometers. This quake was so powerful that the African tectonic plaque got one meter closer to the European plaque. The seaquake shook Kithera and many old houses and churches in the island collapsed as big rocks fell off the steep mountaintops. A huge rock fell on the wall of a house and then rolled away from it. The dwellers of that house rushed into the street as they realized there was an earthquake and were amazed to see a huge hole that the rock had made on the ground, next to the couch where they had been sitting a short time before.

How will our faith be when the Sunday law comes out and opens a big hole in our peaceful and secure way of life? "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" 2 Corinthians 13:5.

The houses in Kithera were marked with a red, yellow and green X. The red color indicated that they were bound to collapse in case of another earthquake; the yellow color indicated that they needed to be restored so that they would not fall down in a possible second earthquake, and the green color that they were strong and would not collapse. The time the Sunday law is issued will be a

critical period for all of us. Is the structure of our faith like the one of those houses that were marked with a green X--ready to resist the shaking or is it maybe like the ones marked with a red X--ready to collapse? If the latter is the case, what is the solution? "Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not." Luke 12:40.

What does the Lord mean when He says we should be ready? He means we should grow in perfection. We should understand that to have an imperfect character is a sin. This thought troubles me greatly because when I look at myself I see those traits of character I have not yet overcome. When I read the Holy Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy, I come across that measure which I have not yet reached, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:48. I am called to be perfect in my thoughts, in my words, in my purposes, in my character, in my love to the Lord and my neighbour. It is only when we realize how far we are from reaching the goal that we feel what the apostle Paul says, "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Romans 7:24. There is only one solution, "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed,

and [that] the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. " Revelation 3:18, 19.

The solution for our imperfection is repentance. Before this is granted to us we have to desire it, understand our imperfection and our need of repentance.

In Steps to Christ, in the chapter about Repentance, pages 25, 26 we read, "It is the virtue that goes forth from Christ that leads to genuine repentance. Peter made the matter clear in his statement to the Israelites when he said, 'Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a prince and a Saviour for to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.' Acts 5:31. We can no more repent without the Spirit of Christ to awaken the conscience than we can be pardoned without Christ." Every day we should come to the Lord and believe that if we confess our sin He will help us and give us power to overcome.

The white raiment the Lord wants us to buy represents Christ's righteousness. We have to ask for it! We need to insist in prayer. If we tell Him: "Lord, my own righteousness is just a filthy rag. Please, change it and give me your righteousness. I want to be like you!" He will answer our prayer and give us gold tried in the fire to become rich. This is



Jesus' faith. Our faith will be tried through hard trials and we shall come out clean like the gold of Ophir. This message that the Faithful Witness gives to the church of Laodicea shows the real spiritual condition of this church. The Faithful Witness does not say that the lukewarm attitude of the church cannot change. It can, if the church takes heed to His counsel, shows zeal and repents.

We think that because the Lord gave us so much light we are rich and in need of nothing. "For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself." Galatians 6:3. "When people realize that they are nothing, then they are ready to dress Christ's righteousness." Christ our Righteousness, Wagner.

In the Spirit of Prophecy, we read which condition of holiness we have to reach as we wait for the glorious coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Enoch was a man of strong and highly cultivated mind and extensive knowledge; he was honored with special revelations from God; yet being in constant communion with Heaven, with a sense of the divine greatness and perfection ever before him, he was one of the humblest of men. The closer the connection with God, the deeper was the sense of his own weakness and imperfection..."

"In the midst of a life of active labor, Enoch steadfastly maintained his communion with God. The greater and more pressing his labors, the more constant and earnest were his prayers. He continued to exclude himself, at certain periods, from all society. After remaining for a time among the people, labouring to benefit them by instruction and example, he would withdraw, to spend a season in solitude, hungering and thirsting for that divine knowledge which God alone can impart..."

"The wickedness of men had reached such a height that destruction was pronounced against them. As year after year passed on, deeper and deeper grew the tide of human guilt, darker and darker gathered the clouds of divine judgment. Yet Enoch, the witness of faith, held on his way, warning, pleading, entreating, striving to turn back the tide of guilt and to stay the bolts of vengeance..."

"The godly character of this prophet

represents the state of holiness which must be attained by those who shall be 'redeemed from the earth' (Revelation 14:3) at the time of Christ's second advent. Then, as in the world before the Flood, iniquity will prevail. Following the promptings of their corrupt hearts and the teachings of a deceptive philosophy, men will rebel against the authority of Heaven. But like Enoch, God's people will seek for purity of heart and conformity to His will, until they shall reflect the likeness of Christ." Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 85- 88.

"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets." Rev. 10:7.

Dear brothers and sisters, are we looking forward to that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ? Titus 2.13.

Shortly will Jesus come to take His bride to Him, and the question is: Shall we rejoice and say, "Lo, this [is] our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this [is] the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation." (Isaiah 25:9) Or shall we tell the rocks and mountains, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb?" (Rev. 6:16)

We often see how abruptly a life ends and this should make us meditate. A Christian should be always ready, with his lamp burning, with enough oil so that his light will not go off and he may be able to receive the bridegroom when His voice will be heard at midnight.

We need the baptism of the Spirit. Without this gift, without the latter rain, we shall not be able to stand in the faith and to preach the last message of mercy to mankind before the time of probation closes forever. Neither shall we be able to come out victorious over the beast and his image.

In Revelation chapter 18, John sees an angel who comes down from heaven with great power and the earth is lightened with his glory. And with a loud voice says, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk

of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." Revelation 18:1-5.

These are the ones who receive the latter rain--the power of the Holy Spirit to cry in a loud voice and invite people to abandon the fallen churches and worship and obey the living God.

"Through the church eventually will be made manifest the final and full display of the love of God to the world that is to be lightened with its glory." TM, p. 50.

What a great privilege and responsibility! With the power of the Holy Spirit we have to reveal to the world God's love and glory. The only way to fulfill this mission is to die daily to self and be baptized with the Holy Spirit. When we shall totally submit to the Spirit, He will clean us from every sin and make it possible for us to reflect the heavenly light. A new creature, created in God's image, imbued with the Holy Spirit received in the Latter Rain will carry forward the message of salvation and lead many souls to repentance.

"The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying, and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling one against another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theaters, horse races, gambling halls. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation's hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agencies at work that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied and entranced, until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut." DA, p. 636.

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." *Amen.*

Teresa Corti

REFORMATION MESSENGER: AUGUST 2006

FOOLISHNESS

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18

Bankrupt Christians

These wonderful words of life were preached by the apostle Paul to the Corinthian church, called out of pagan society, in voluptuous Corinth, the most important city in Greece during his day. It was a bustling hub of world-wide commerce, degraded culture, and idolatrous religion.

The faults and abuses in the Corinthian church were due to Christians behaving as un-regenerative men, as carnal believers instead of spiritual. Many were spiritually dying, dead or “bankrupt.” The result was the evil of disunity or factionalism brought about in turn by a perversion of Christian liberty. The legitimate likes and dislikes of teachers and leaders were perverted into parties and cliques. (1 Cor. 1:12-13)

The Cross

Only at the cross can the sin of dividing over men instead of uniting around a message be avoided. The futility of worldly philosophy and human wisdom will here be contrasted to the triumph of preaching the cross; its perfection of words voiced by God for our perfection. (1 Cor 1:21-25)

Power of God

Jesus Christ was rejected by His own people, and family, unmercifully flogged, hung on the cross naked, humiliated, suffered agonizing pain, died, buried, and rose again. Jesus said, “It is finished.” This stunning message needs to be preached for sinners like you and I. But, hardness of heart, selfish pride, the love of sin more than God, prevents us from yielding our hearts to Him. You see, we are much like the Jews who, by knowledge and works alone, established their own righteousness. Admittedly, I did.

The Apostle Paul, however, said it is all “foolishness.” But, it’s the “power of God” alone from God; exactly that, to stop our perilous course and awake in us a state of repentance. We can say most assuredly with Paul that it is the power of God alone from God, not yours or mine; His power to give us a new position – sanctified in Christ,” and “called saints”(those set apart). Glory in the Lord!

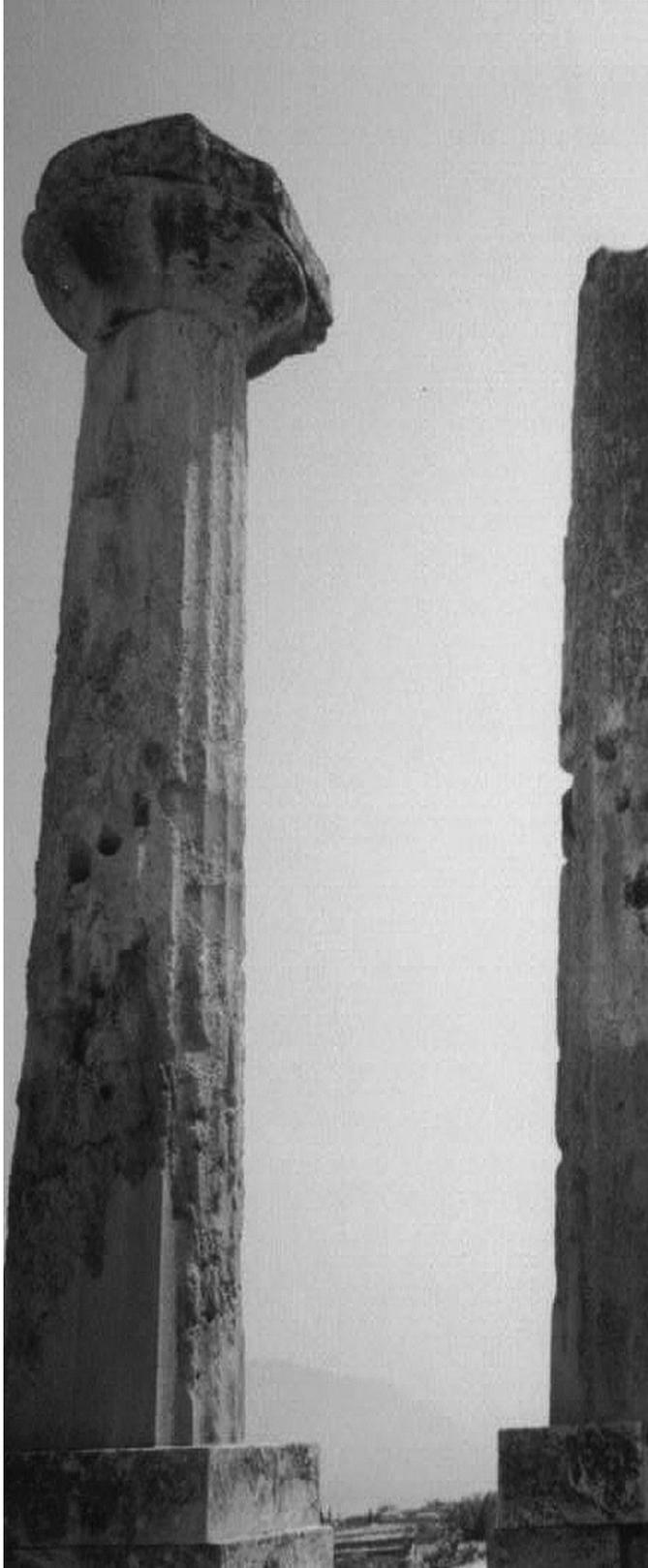
What A Fool

Fool, foolish, and foolishness, is mentioned over 250 times in the Bible. A remarkable number and justifiably so, as mankind’s nature is such that foolishness is often common in one’s conduct; erring, falling, forgetting, indifferent, etc., quite often, unconsciously, inadvertently, ignorantly, or innocently.

It is aptly defined as one who is stupid, silly, a person who lacks judgment or sense. A weak minded or idiotic person; one who putters around aimlessly, wastes time.

It gets worse. Also, a simpleton, nincompoop, moron, imbecile, asinine, witless. (Archaic GR worthless).

Foolhardy, being one who is reckless, or thoughtlessly bold, foolishly rash or venturesome. It is not time to be any of these, and as the end progresses, not to be rash in “fleeing to the mountains”, but to be “wise as a serpent and gentle as a dove.” Moreover, “prayerful and watchful.”





Bible Fools

One of the most well known Biblical references is perhaps, the parable of the foolish virgin. (Math 25:1-13) The five foolish virgins symbolize the unbelieving segment, who only profess to look for the Messiah's advent. They will be without oil (the Holy Spirit), and will be shut out from the Messianic Kingdom; hence, foolish.

Then, too, there's the foolish rich young ruler, and the foolish prodigal son, among others.

What Is New?

This paper, in part, has been composed, I pray, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit on a ship cruising from the Greek Island of Myconos, to the Eastern port of Rafina, and then to Athens, a prodigal journey of 6 hours. In Athens, the capital city of Greece, I was confronted by much, but much more, of what the Apostle Paul witnessed in his time. "He was exasperated to see how the city was wholly given to idolatry." Idolatry is utter folly and wickedly reprehensible. (Isaiah 40:18-20) To the apostle the artistic magnificence and cultural refinements of the city were seriously tarnished by superstition and spiritual ignorance.

"Now all the Athenians and foreigners who lived there spent their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new," (the last new idea). (Acts 17: 15-21) Athens, thereby,

was the most famous intellectual center in the world. Paul, although a learned scholar in his day, may not have been wise in his discussions with the intellectuals of Athens. He realized this in his failure with them and subsequent expulsion from Athens.

To these philosophers, Paul sounded like a "babbling," meaning literally "seed-picker," described as one who picks up scraps of undigested knowledge, or in Greek (spermologos), meaning a loquacious person with nothing important to say. In essence, "foolishness."

Bad Taste

No message could have been more unpalatable to Greek philosophers than that of the cross, bodily resurrection from the dead and a day of judgment. This was "untactful" to the philosophers... foolishness. Paul later abandoned this approach, due to the character of the Athenians, themselves, but not to his message.

Therefore, there is no reference to a church in Athens (alas, but there is today), but "the first fruits of Achaia" (1 Cor. 16:15), were in Corinth.

Paul quoted, in his debates with the philosophers, one of the Greek poets, Aratus, a pagan Stoic, who embraced a philosophy of stern self-repression on the basis of human self-sufficiency. Also, a Cretan poet, Epimenides, whom Paul quoted. Paul attempted the intellectual approach and tried to be a philosopher among philosophers, rather than preaching the simple gospel of Jesus Christ.

On the other hand, Plato, the Greek philosopher, suggested, "too much philosophy might be at odds with nurturing responsible citizens."

Open Door

The Gospel, in fact, must never be presented as a human philosophical system, but preached as a "salvation." Wisdom of words marks the transition to Paul's analysis of the cause of the dissension at Corinth; this love of a false wisdom. (1Cor 1:14-17)

To the perishing the cross must always appear to be foolishness. Paul regarded the cross as God's paving instrumentality. The foolish perishing souls in this turbulent world presents a constant stream of the lost,



toppling into eternity without Jesus Christ, and the much fewer, but still constant stream of the saved, entering the door of eternal fellowship with Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:18)

Wayward Saints

Paul was not the only one to write and propound this foolishness question. It was written well before his time in the Old Testament in Isaiah's ministry with his "woe to Jerusalem" and its fate; "for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden." (Isaiah 29:14)

Many learned in the time of Isaiah, and Jeremiah, that by following the Word of God, seeking His counsel, they would not perish. But they, because of their blindness of disobedience, lost it. The prophet Jeremiah had a heart-breaking message of doom to proclaim to the people of Judah, "yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward." (Jer. 7:24, 28, 30).

Listen

Furthermore, God pronounced judgment on their obscene religion, "so you shall say to them, this is a nation that does not obey the voice of their Lord nor receive correction. Truth has persisted and has been cut off from their mouth." There was no more

blessing in the Temple, “for the children of Judah have done evil in My sight,” says the Lord. “They have set their abomination in the house which is called by My name to pollute it.” (Jer. 7:24, 28, 30).

Jeremiah was pleading, to “stand in the gate of the Lord’s house, and proclaim there His word, and say, “Hear the word of the Lord, all you Judah who enter in at these gates to worship the Lord.” Saying, “do not trust in these lying words, saying, “the Temple of the Lord, the Temple of the Lord are these.” (Jer. 7:2, 4, 5) Here, the priests, scribes, and sages thought they were truly wise, but God said, “I’ll destroy them.”

Paper Wisdom

Nicodemus, ruler of the Jews, a rabbi, a Pharisee, and leading member of the Sanhedrin council, and who met secretly with Jesus Christ at night, was troubled with the premise of Jesus that “man born of flesh is flesh, and man born of spirit is spirit.” He asked, in turn, “How?” Jesus answered him, “are you the teacher of Israel and knowest not these things?” (John 3:1-15)

You see, one can have many promising advanced degrees of learning, but will be destroyed by the perils of false teaching, broken covenants, shamelessness, disobedience, brazenness,

Many claim this vain wisdom and attempt to promulgate it. I asked a Christian believer; Quest. “What do you believe?” Ans: “I believe in the Church.” Quest: “What does your Church believe?” Ans: “What the Church teaches.” Quest: “What does your Church teach?” Ans: “What the Church fathers have written.”

Many, thusly, are blindly led, saying, “we are the true Church, we have the Truth,” but without any biblical basis or evidence, make such confounded, foolish, declarations.

Trembling Belief

The wisdom of the wise that do not bow down to God will be destroyed unless under the heading, “It is written.” (Math 4:4, 7, 9) Moreover, Isaiah had written, “on this one will I look on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit and who trembles at my word.” (Isaiah 66:2). What? Why tremble at the Gospel, the Good News? Well, not because of the message. But, to ask self the heart-searching questions... do I know it? Am I living it? Am I living it in my heart? Or, do I “come short of the Glory of God,” and to God’s glory and saving of my soul?

Heart Attacks

The wilderness Christians, because of unbelief, could not enter Canaan. They “hardened their hearts, have gone astray in their hearts, have not known My ways, so I swore they shall not enter My rest.” (Heb. 3:7-11) Again, why? They thought they were wiser than Moses, than God! They wanted to appoint another leader and return to Egypt. As a consequence they died in the wilderness. All the older ones pitifully perished. The younger ones came into the light, saw the walls of Jericho fall. They had the victory over wickedness. “These we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard lest we drift away.” (Heb. 2:1) Brethren, friends, do not neglect salvation! (Heb. 2:3). “Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. Since, therefore, it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter, because of disobedience. Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” (Heb. 4:6, 7)

It’s In Vain

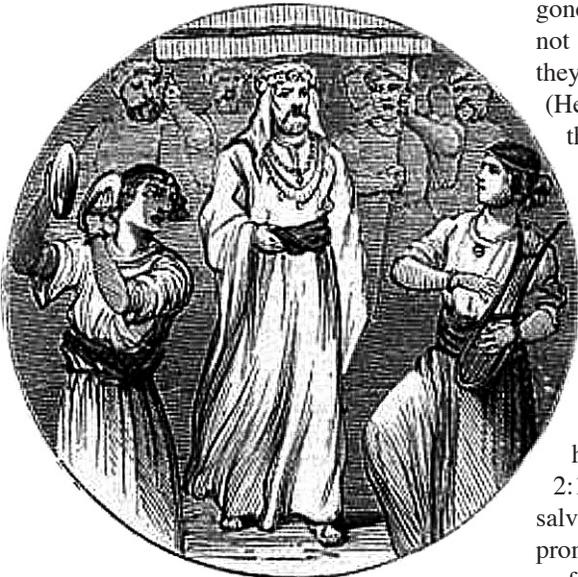
Don’t trust in your own learning. Many attempt to prove their points by the scriptures or testimonies; testing them, and others, and often sit on one verse or passage like a “thumb tack”! I know, because I thought I knew so much, but, oh, so little! My thinking was actually inadvertently, in rebellion with God! “For it is written, I’ll destroy the wisdom of the wise.” (1 Cor. 1:19) Furthermore, “hath not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. But, we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks, foolishness.” (1 Cor. 1:20-23) For many, however, preaching the cross is still foolishness. Even the disciples, who lived near to Jesus and witnessed His miracles asked for more proof, a sign that “we may see it and believe in You.” (John 6: 29-30)



Ticket To Heaven

Jesus stated, “verily, I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 18:3)

Ah! But also to enter Christ’s Kingdom, a man must realize his personal inadequacy, and his “complete dependence” on the Lord Jesus Christ and not self. Abandon self! He must experience a new birth. (Math 18:1-14) Have you experienced it, or are experiencing it, or living it? Lukewarm?



p r i d e ...
 foolishness!

Isaiah and Paul both proclaimed it, “I’ll destroy the wisdom of the wise and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.” (1Cor. 1:19) (Isa. 29:14)

Know-It-All

When we live in a perishing state, we think it is foolishness; the cross, believing, worshiping, praying, prophecy, testimonies, etc., when actually we think we know it all! But, in reality, know not anything! Socrates, although a pagan Greek philosopher, however, made a profound statement, "I know one thing in this world. That I know nothing!"

Born Again?

Unless one is born again, he can't see it in those that believe, for those that are, thusly, perishing, it is "foolishness." Why? "It is the worst kind of foolishness to leave the Lord out of your councils and to put confidence in the wisdom of men." (5T 561)

Writer, George Orwell, interestingly, stated further, "character is more important than intellect." We can see now that, "for it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise." (1Cor. 1:19)

"For the worldly wise have been brought to nought, and the called who believe now enjoy a sovereignty given salvation sufficient for all the exigencies of time and eternity."

Taught Of God?

The pulpits, pews, prisons, atheists, preachers, leaders, professing Christians are many that think they know it all, but are not taught of God, "but I make known to you, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached by me is not according to man's for I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ." (Gal. 1:11, 12)

Fools First

The Lord says, "come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28) How? "Close your heart against all foolishness." (SD 283)

"To many, the externals are the sum total of religion and yet it will be evidenced that the heart has not the genuine courtesy which alone is of value with God. The sacred position of the minister with His message of warning is lost. They think themselves as paragons of wisdom. To all such, God says that they will have to become fools in order to know the true wisdom of Christ. (TM 196)

Fool's Paradise

Many today are living in a "fool's paradise." They are in a state of enjoyment based on false beliefs or hopes; living in a state of illusionary temporary happiness. They are living much like the disordered saints of Corinth, completely unconcerned about disciplinary action or on their responsibilities. Moreover, living perhaps like the early Epicurians in Athens who followed Epicurus (342-271 B.C.); in abandoning the search for pure truth by reason as hopeless and giving themselves to present pleasure.

You see, true wisdom is distinctly God's wisdom, "a mystery... hidden," and revealed only by the Holy Spirit, and comprehended only by the mature or adult believer... the spiritual man.

Proof!

The proof that the leaders of this world were ignorant of this true wisdom is the fact that they crucified the Lord of Glory who is the true wisdom of God. (1 Cor. 2:8). The spiritual man (GR pneumatics), has the potential to understand all things. He is judged by no man (who is not spiritual) for the unspiritual do not have the necessary relation to the Spirit to judge or understand the spiritual. This explains why Christians and saints are often enigmas or perplexing to worldlings, and sometimes enigmas to carnally minded Christians. Much controversy among Christians can be traced to this principle. Bear this in mind, and with patience, in your relations with the unspiritual. You are the light; let it shine!

Natural Man

This is in contrast with the natural man, the non-Christian. (Jude 19; Rom 8:9) The Greek word "natural" means "dominated by the soul," the principle of physical life. This man does not receive divine truth, or possess the Holy Spirit, nor does he receive true wisdom because it is mere folly to him. (Acts 17:11; 1Thess. 1:6; 1 Cor. 2:10, 11) Human ears cannot hear high-frequency radio waves, blind men cannot enjoy beautiful scenery, deaf men are unable to judge music, and the unsaved are incompetent to judge spiritual things or perceive them; another important principle. Bear this in mind, also. Remember, you were foolish and in the darkness.

One Thing

What else? Well, let us share the words

of counsel from the Apostle Paul, "for I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." (1Cor. 2:2)

Jesus Christ died in your place and my place. Did you know that? He is now interceding for you in the Heavenly Sanctuary, or does He see you in FOOLISHNESS? *Amen.*

John Theodorou, Athens, Greece

2006

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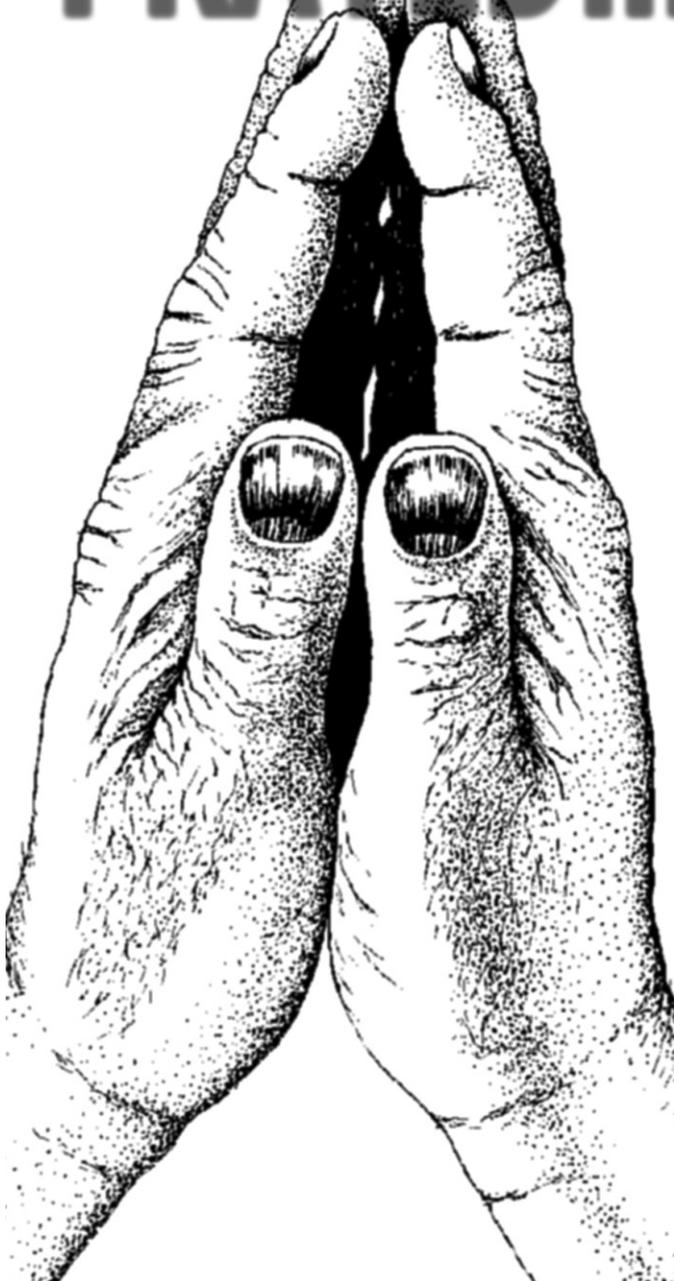
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WHEN JOB PRAYED...



Job was a godly man who went through many trials, however in his hour of need his friends doubted his integrity. Throughout his sufferings, his friends encouraged him to confess any sin that he may be hiding in secret. Surely the Lord will not punish an innocent man, they reasoned. They could not fathom the idea that sometimes the righteous do suffer at the hands of the devil, according to God's permissive will. Although they misunderstood him, Job did not lose his faith in the Lord. He knew in his heart that he was not guilty as his friends accused him. Humanly speaking, Job could have told his friends to go away and leave him in peace – to suffer alone. Their words only made his suffering more intense.

We are told that Job's captivity was turned finally when he decided to pray for his friends. "And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before." Job 42:10

In this world of misery and suffering there will be times when people misunderstand us and we need to learn from Job's experience and do as he did. "Let us strive to walk in the light as Christ is in the light. The Lord turned the captivity of Job when he prayed, not only for himself, but for those who were opposing him. When he felt earnestly desirous that the souls that had trespassed against him might be helped, he himself received help. Let us pray, not only for ourselves, but for those who have hurt us, and are continuing to hurt us. Pray, pray, especially in your mind. Give not the Lord rest; for His ears are open to hear sincere, importunate prayers, when the soul is humbled before Him (Letter 88, 1906)." 3BC 1141

JAMES WHITE

James White had been led of the Lord to begin the publishing ministry, however all along the way, his brethren doubted him. Often he had to finance the work on his own as he received no support from his brethren. He still remained faithful to the church of God, knowing that God understood. "God in heaven marked the unjust decision, and from that time took the case in His own hands, and has returned the blessings removed, as He did to faithful Job. From the time of that heartless decision, He has been working for His servant, and has raised him above his former health of body, clearness and strength of mind, and freedom of spirit. And since that time my husband has had the pleasure of passing out with his own hands thousands of dollars' worth of our publications without price. God will not utterly forget nor forever forsake those who have been faithful, even if they sometimes commit errors." 3T 88

JOSEPH

Joseph was not sold as a slave by his enemies, but by his own brethren – his own flesh and blood. He had every right to punish them when they came under his power in Egypt, but he did not. Rather he told them. "Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt." Genesis 45:5-8.

Joseph did not accuse his brothers. Although he was a slave for many years in Potiphar's house and a prisoner in Pharaoh's prison for 2 years,

he saw it all in the light of God's permissive will. "The life of Joseph illustrates the life of Christ. It was envy that moved the brothers of Joseph to sell him as a slave; they hoped to prevent him from becoming greater than themselves. And when he was carried to Egypt, they flattered themselves that they were to be no more troubled with his dreams, that they had removed all possibility of their fulfilment. But their own course was overruled by God to bring about the very event that they designed to hinder. So the Jewish priests and elders were jealous of Christ, fearing that He would attract the attention of the

people from them. They put Him to death, to prevent Him from becoming king, but they were thus bringing about this very result...

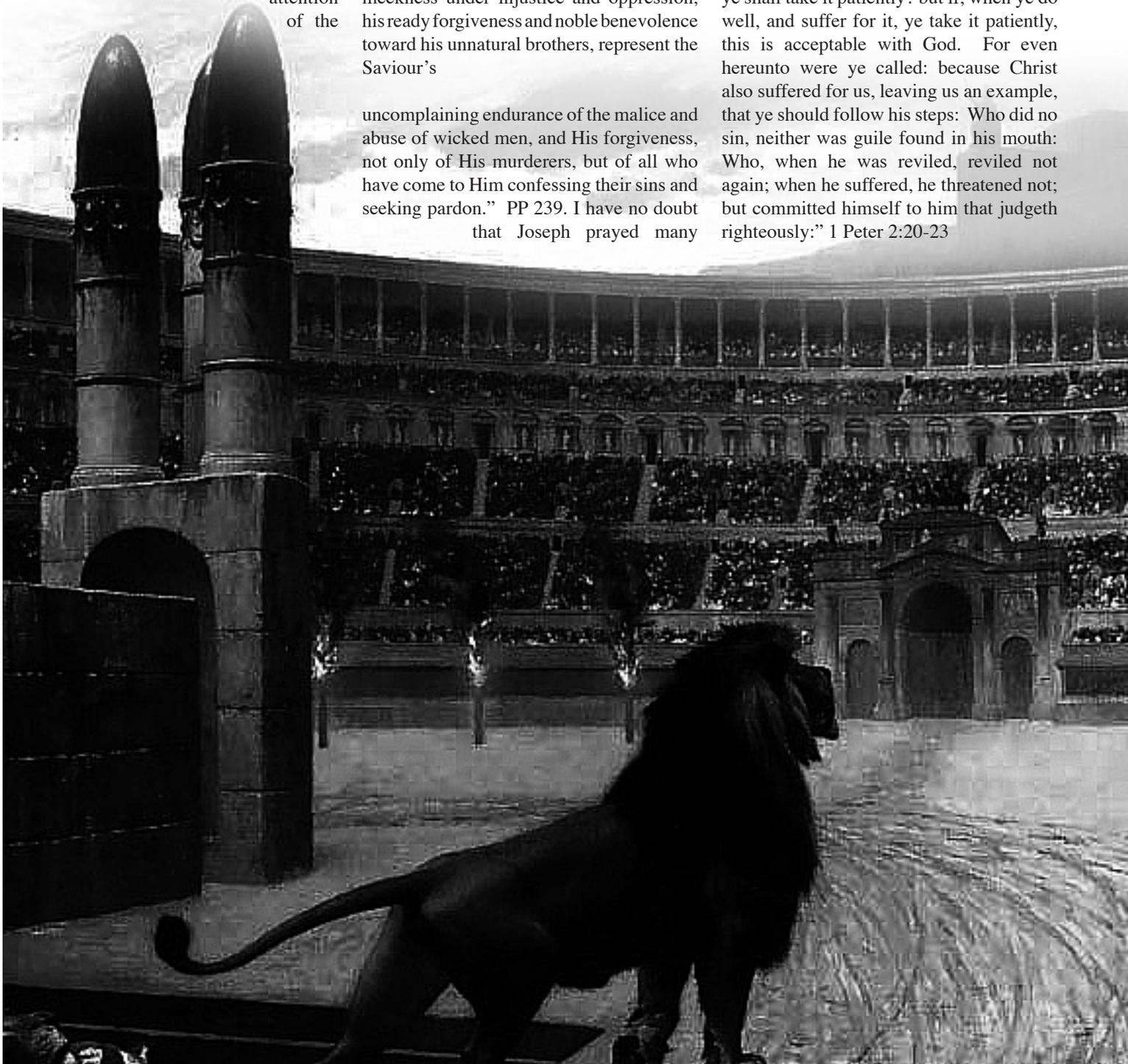
"As Joseph was sold to the heathen by his own brothers, so Christ was sold to His bitterest enemies by one of His disciples. Joseph was falsely accused and thrust into prison because of his virtue; so Christ was despised and rejected because His righteous, self-denying life was a rebuke to sin; and though guilty of no wrong, He was condemned upon the testimony of false witnesses. And Joseph's patience and meekness under injustice and oppression, his ready forgiveness and noble benevolence toward his unnatural brothers, represent the Saviour's

uncomplaining endurance of the malice and abuse of wicked men, and His forgiveness, not only of His murderers, but of all who have come to Him confessing their sins and seeking pardon." PP 239. I have no doubt that Joseph prayed many

times for his brothers.

JESUS' EXAMPLE.

Jesus was greatly misunderstood while on this earth. The religious leaders of His church were constantly seeking ways to put him to death. They finally succeeded. Although Jesus knew of their plottings, He still loved them. Even Judas, His betrayer, was shown unconditional love. Jesus washed his feet the very night he planned to betray his Master. Jesus made no complaints when He was suffering. "For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:" 1 Peter 2:20-23



“Christ suffered keenly under abuse and insult. At the hands of the beings whom He had created, and for whom He was making an infinite sacrifice, He receive every indignity. And He suffered in proportion to the perfection of His holiness and His hatred of sin. His trial by men who acted as fiends was to Him a perpetual sacrifice. To be surrounded by human beings under the control of Satan was revolting to Him. And He knew that in a moment, by the flashing forth of His divine power, He could lay His cruel tormentors in the dust. This made the trail the harder to bear.” DA 700. Jesus suffered unfairly because He had never committed an act deserving of punishment. The measure of His nobility of character was the intensity of harassment that beset Him from childhood. In the face of mounting injustice Christ exhibited a perfect pattern of suffering for righteousness sake. He met evil taunts and insinuations without retaliation. He confronted the

meanness of men with a magnanimous love. He suffered patiently confident that God would make all things work together for good. He is a perfect example, which we may copy when the enemy buffets us. At the end of His life, He prayed for His enemies. “Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.” Luke 23:34

STEPHEN

Stephen had learned from his Master. When he was facing death, he recognized that people are not his enemy. These people had given themselves over to do the devil’s work and needed the power of God to free them from these forces of darkness that were controlling them. Thus Stephen prayed for them...

“And they stoned



Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.” Acts 7:59,60

Stephen could do little with respect to his persecutors’ past sins, but he had a personal right to request forgiveness for their present transgression. In pleading for them he revealed how fully he had acquired the forgiving spirit that had characterised his Master. Throughout his defence, Stephen’s conduct is in marked contrast with that of his accusers. They are filled with vindictive fury, but he maintains a calm such as possessed Christ in the judgment hall.

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT IN THIS LIFE?

Can we expect anything different as we near the close of time? Satan is getting angry, as a roaring lion, seeking to devour anyone who is not strongly connected to Jesus. “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you... Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.” John 15:18,20

“Those who closely connect with God may not be prosperous in the things of this life; they may often be sorely tried and afflicted. Joseph was maligned and persecuted because he preserved his virtue and integrity. His wicked enemies hunted David, that chosen messenger of God, like a beast of prey. Daniel was cast into a den of lions because he was true and unyielding in his allegiance to God. Job was deprived of his worldly possessions and so afflicted in body that his relatives and friends abhorred him, yet he preserved his integrity and faithfulness to God. Jeremiah would speak the words, which God had put into his mouth, and his plain testimony so enraged the king and princes that he was cast into a loathsome pit. Stephen was stoned because he would preach Christ and Him crucified. Paul was imprisoned, beaten with rods, stoned, and finally put to death because he was a faithful messenger to carry the gospel to the Gentiles. The beloved John was banished to the Isle of Patmos ‘for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.’ ”

“These examples of human steadfastness,

in the might of divine power, are a witness to the world of the faithfulness of God's promises--of His abiding presence and sustaining grace. As the world looks upon these humble men, it cannot discern their moral value with God. It is a work of faith to calmly repose in God in the darkest hour-- however severely tried and tempest-tossed, to feel that our Father is at the helm. The eye of faith alone can look beyond the things of time and sense to estimate the worth of eternal riches." 4T 525 "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;" 2 Cor. 4:8,9. We will find the greatest peace when we can pray for our enemies.

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

"But I say unto you, 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

"But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and [to] the evil." Luke 6:35

The Greek word for love used here is 'Agape,' which denotes unconditional love. It is not a love that involves emotions such as exist in a family (filial love). Agape denotes a love of respect. The command of Jesus to love our enemies would be impossible if Jesus was talking about filial love (emotions), for it is nearly impossible to have the same natural feelings for our enemies that we would have towards our immediate family members. Jesus does not expect this, and nowhere is it commanded in the New Testament. However, we are commanded to have Agape love for our enemies, for it is under the control of the will. To have this kind of love to our enemies is to treat them with respect and courtesy and to regard them as God regards them.

Who are we to pray for in these verses? For those who despitefully use (or abuse) you and persecute you. When we can do this, we can have the freedom that Job experienced when he prayed for his friends who were opposing him. It will often happen that our brothers in the faith may misunderstand us causing us great distress.

It was not Job's enemies who were causing him this distress, but rather his friends. He found deliverance from the distress when he prayed for them.

"There is often a great temptation to talk of things which do not profit the speaker or the hearer, but which bring evil and barrenness to both. Our probationary time is too brief to be spent in dwelling upon the shortcomings of others. We have a work before us which requires the closest diligence and the strictest watchfulness, united with unceasing prayer, or we shall be unable to overcome the defects in our characters and to copy the divine Pattern. We should all study to imitate the life of Christ. Then we shall have a sanctifying influence upon those with whom we associate. It is a wonderful thing to be a Christian, truly Christlike, peaceable, pure, and undefiled. Dear sister, God must be with us in all our efforts, or they will avail nothing. Our good works will end in self-righteousness." 4T 135

REFORMERS NOT DESTROYERS

"Reformers are not destroyers. They will never seek to ruin those who do not harmonize with their plans and assimilate to them. Reformers must advance, not retreat. They must be decided, firm, resolute, unflinching; but firmness must not degenerate into a domineering spirit. God desires to have all who serve Him firm as a rock where principle is concerned, but meek and lowly of heart, as was Christ. Then, abiding in Christ, they can do the work He would do were He in their place. A rude, condemnatory spirit is not essential to heroism in the reforms for this time. All selfish methods in the service of God are an abomination in His sight." 6T 151

As Reformers we will seek to fulfil the prayer of Christ, that we "all may be one:" We will pray for those who do not harmonize as Job prayed for his friends who did not harmonize with him.

MARTIN LUTHER

"He who desires to proclaim the word of Christ to the world, must expect death at every moment." GC 135. "They've destroyed my honour and my reputation. One single thing remains; it is my wretched body: let them take it; they will thus shorten my life by a few hours. But as for my soul,

they cannot take that." GC 135. And yet Martin Luther did not retaliate. He left the battle to the Lord and prayed for those who did not harmonize with him.

ENEMIES HOUSEHOLD

"And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. 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." Matthew 10:36-37. When a man accepts Christ, often his closest friends turn out to be his most bitter and relentless enemies. This is often true, not only in heathen lands, but also in Christian lands and among professed Christians who practice a form of religion but know little if any thing of its power to transform the life.

Jesus sanctioned the binding claims of the 5th commandment and rebuked any attempt to escape the obligations of children towards their parents. Nevertheless, love for one's parents must never stand in the way of obedience to God in every particular, should the two be in conflict. Love to God and service for Him are to be the supreme rule of life.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12

Could it be possible that our enemies could be found in our family or in God's church? "The world has no right to doubt the truth of Christianity because there are unworthy members in the church, nor should Christians become disheartened because of these false brethren. How was it with the early church? Ananias and Sapphira joined themselves to the disciples. Simon Magus was baptized. Demas, who forsook Paul, had been counted a believer. Judas Iscariot was numbered with the apostles. The Redeemer does not want to lose one soul; His experience with Judas is recorded to show His long patience with perverse human nature; and He bids us bear with it as He has borne. He has said that false brethren will be found in the church till the close of time" COL 72/73. "We have far more to fear from within than from without. The hindrances to strength and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world. Unbelievers have a right to expect that those who

profess to be keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will do more than any other class to promote and honour, by their consistent lives, by their godly example and their active influence, the cause which they represent. But how often have the professed advocates of the truth proved the greatest obstacle to its advancement! The unbelief indulged, the doubts expressed, the darkness cherished, encourage the presence of evil angels, and open the way for the accomplishment of Satan's devices." 1SM 122

What is our duty towards these people? We need to pray for them and show them the love of Christ (courtesy).

COALS OF FIRE

We are to heap coals of fire on those brethren who are working against us. "If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee." Proverbs 25:21,22

Paul repeats this idea in his letter to the Romans. "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but [rather] give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance [is] mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:19-21

The idea of personal vindictiveness must be eliminated from our minds, leaving vengeance to God. God will mete out justice to all people in His time.

Kindness is the best vengeance that a Christian can take against an enemy. That heaping coals of fire on an opponent's head is by an act of love rather than of malice. In Proverbs the verse ends with, "and the Lord shall reward thee," and Paul sums it up by encouraging us not to be overcome of evil, "but overcome evil with good."

The infliction of vengeance is a sign, not of strength, but of weakness. The one who allows his temper to be stirred up and his Christian principles of love and self-control to be abandoned suffers defeat. But the person who represses the desire for revenge and turns a wrong done to him into an opportunity for showing kindness gains

a victory over himself and over the powers of evil. This is not only nobler in itself but will be much more effective. It may disarm an enemy. "A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger." Proverbs 15:1... And it may win another soul. Thus God has not meted out to sinners the vengeance they have long deserved, but rather has overwhelmed them with love and mercy. And it is the goodness, forbearance, and long-suffering of God that lead men to repentance. The Christian who is being transformed into the image of God will show by his treatment of his enemies that day-by-day his character is becoming more and more like the character of God, who is love. "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." Proverbs 16:32.

"Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's." 2 Chronicles 20:15

KING SAUL THE LORD'S ANOINTED

Job prayed for his friends. He did not cast them out or chase them away. What is our duty to those who do not harmonize with us?

In God's church, we are not to chastise brethren who we don't see eye-to-eye with. We are to do as Jesus did – pray for their forgiveness. Although King Saul had been told he was rejected by God and his kingdom will be given to another man who was more worthy than him, God still allowed him to remain king for some years to come. The Lord allowed David, on two different occasions, to have Saul completely in his power, to end his life, however David refused. He waited on the Lord. He had already been anointed by Samuel at this point in time, but the Lord was testing him.

"Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he [is] the LORD'S anointed." 2 Samuel 24:10

"The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go." 1 Samuel 26:11

David's men encouraged him to kill King Saul when the opportunity was laid before him. David's men were willing to love their friends, but they still cherished hatred for their enemies. In the midst of such attitudes David revealed respect for his worst enemy. In the Lord's time, He removed Saul from being king and placed David on the throne.

"When David's men saw this they urged their leader to kill Saul. The fact that the king was now in their power was interpreted by them as certain evidence that God



Himself had delivered the enemy into their hand, that they might destroy him. David was tempted to take this view of the matter; but the voice of conscience spoke to him, saying, Touch not the anointed of the Lord.' " PP 661

David's men even quoted words of the Lord in an attempt to convince him to murder the king. "David's men were still unwilling to leave Saul in peace, and they reminded their commander of the words of God, 'Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem

good unto thee.” PP 661

“Abishai raised his spear, and said to David, ‘God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time.’ He waited for the word of permission; but there fell upon his ear the whispered words: ‘Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the Lord’s anointed, and be guiltless?... As the Lord liveth, the Lord shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish. The Lord forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the Lord’s anointed:” PP 670/1

“We have been inclined to think that where there are no faithful ministers there can be no true Christians, but this is not the case. God has promised that where the shepherds are not true He will take charge of the flock Himself. God has never made the flock wholly dependent upon human instrumentalities. But the days of purification of the church are hastening on apace. God will have a people pure and true. In the mighty sifting soon to take place we shall be better able to measure the strength of Israel. The signs reveal that the time is near when the Lord will manifest that His fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor.” 5T 79

The time is coming when we will not have any earthly supports to lean on. We need to learn of Jesus because He is our only hope to see us through these difficult times ahead. May God help us to pray as did Job – a prayer for those who despitefully use us. Pray for our friends; pray for our enemies; pray for those brethren who don’t harmonize with us; pray for those who despitefully use us; pray for those who persecute us, whether they be family members, friends, brethren or enemies... Then we will find deliverance as did Job, as we come into full harmony with Jesus. Then we can truly say we have shared in His sufferings, and we will be given the privilege to share in His victory. *AMEN*

Wendy Eaton, Australia

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SOWING AND REAPING



“For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” Gal. 6:7. This is an unchangeable law of God; and this law applies to the believers as well as to the unbelievers. It is not possible to sow a seed in our actions, words or even thoughts that would not bring the harvest to us. And the harvest is always more plentiful than the seed sown.

“Every seed sown produces a harvest of its kind. So it is in human life. We all need to sow the seeds of compassion, sympathy, and love; for we shall reap what we sow. Every characteristic of selfishness, self-love, self-esteem, every act of self-indulgence, will bring forth a like harvest. He who lives for self is sowing to the flesh, and of the flesh he will reap corruption.” COL, p. 85.

David committed a sin by causing the death of Uriah. This sin was forgiven to him after he repented and confessed it, but yet he had to reap the harvest of his sin: Four of his children died prematurely.

Where the sowing and reaping is clearly seen is in the upbringing of the children. Often parents neglect to discipline their children when they are small and later when they grow bigger, the parents are not able to correct them anymore.

Parents think that it is an expression of love to their children when they are not punished for their misbehaviour and when they are given all what they want.

“In your blind and foolish fondness you have both surrendered to your child. You have allowed her to hold the reins in her tiny fists, and she ruled you both before she was able to walk. What can be expected of the future in view of the past? Let not the example of this indulged and petted child give lessons which will testify against you, and which the judgment will show have resulted in the loss of scores of children. If men and women accept you as a teacher from God, will they not be inclined to follow your pernicious example in the indulgence of their children? Will not the sin of Eli be yours? And will not the retribution that fell on him fall on you? Your child will never see the kingdom of God with her present habits and disposition. And you, her parents, will be the ones who have closed the gates of heaven before her. How, then, will it stand in regard to you own salvation? Remember that you will reap what you sow.” Test. Vol. 4, p. 383.

Many parents are guilty of Eli’s sin by neglecting to discipline their children in their early years. The first three years are the most important. That time the discipline is the most effective to the child.

At the age of seven, the character has been formed. After this age it will be much harder to correct bad behaviour. When the children reach the teenage years, it is almost impossible to change them. At that time the parents wonder what has gone wrong. Why have their children no interest in religion?

Of course some parents may be too harsh and demanding on their children and fail to show love and affection to them. This also is sowing wrong seed and the harvest is again the loss of their children. Children of such parents often hate their parents and their religion.

The most precious work of sowing is to sow the gospel seed into human hearts. This work of sowing will also produce the richest harvest.

The Lord says, “Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters.” Isa. 32:20.

“This I say, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.” 2 Cor. 9:6.

“To sow beside all waters means a continual imparting of God’s gifts. It means giving wherever the cause of God or the needs of humanity demand our aid. This will not tend to poverty. ‘He which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.’ The sower multiplies his seed by casting it away. So it is with those who are faithful in distributing God’s gifts. By imparting they



increase their blessings. God has promised them a sufficiency that they may continue to give. ‘Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.’ Luke 6:38.” COL, 85, 86.

Apostle Paul dedicated his life into sowing the gospel seed, and he never turned back. All the trials and persecution did not shake his faith. Today God is calling men and women to work in His vineyard. “The harvest is great but the labourers are few.” The value of one soul is more than all the riches of the world together. We are not to sow the gospel seed occasionally by impulse, but steadily with constant effort. Apostle Paul was a tentmaker. This was his profession to make a living, but his main job was to preach the gospel, we also need to make missionary work as our main job and besides this we do other work for earning money.

It is the free time when most of the sin and vanity are done. But if our holidays and free time is spent in soul-saving work, then Satan will be defeated and blessed harvest is waiting for us.

Every thought is a seed sown that bears harvest; but when we pray without ceasing then wrong thoughts cannot enter into our minds. Every word is a seed sown, but when the Holy Spirit inspires all what we speak, then the harvest of our words will be a blessing to us.

Every act what we do is also a seed that will bring a sure harvest to us. If we do like David writes in the Psalms we will do less sin. “But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night.” Ps. 1:2.

No person has ever suffered as an innocent. Every sorrow, every suffering is a result of our own sowing. No sacrifice what we do is really a sacrifice because the Lord will bless us and pay us richly all what we have given.

Let us then learn the lesson of sowing and reaping and start sowing the seed of kindness, and unselfish love and we will rejoice when the harvest comes to us. **AMEN.**

Timo Martin, Canada

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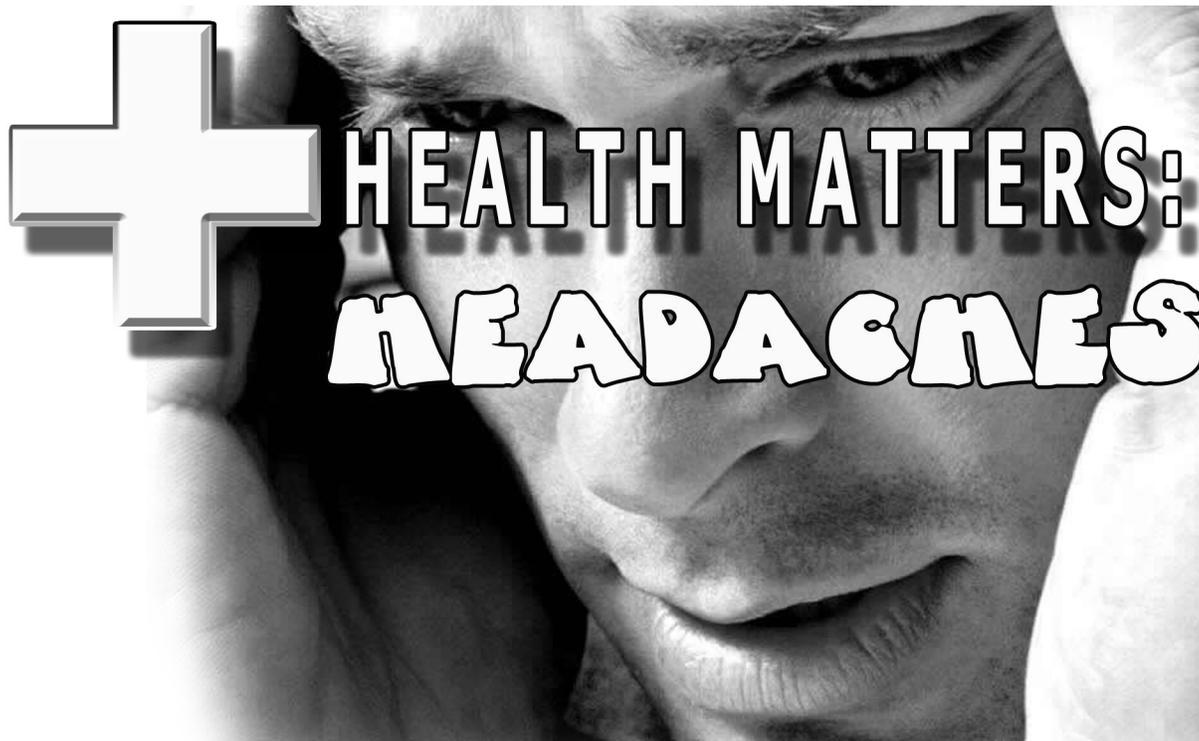
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2006



What is it? Tension headaches are caused by muscle contractions in your neck and head. They are most often associated with stress, exhaustion, or repressed anger.

Changes in the blood vessels in your brain can cause headaches, too. Migraines and cluster headaches are examples. Exercise, certain foods, or a hangover can bring these on.

Other headaches are symptoms of something else, like eyestrain, sinusitis, high blood pressure, or, rarely, a brain tumour. Even overusing headache medications can lead to what is called a rebound headache.

Symptoms: dull, sharp or throbbing pain; tightness or pressure.

Popping pills every time you get a headache can be a headache in itself. The next time your head throbs and you feel like someone is tying your scalp into a knot, try one of these natural cures. Passed down from generation to generation, these remedies are trusty fixes for stress headaches.

Double-team the pain. While soaking in a steamy bath, hold an ice pack on your head. The combination of hot and cold relieves your headache by drawing blood away from your head and narrowing the blood vessels in your scalp.

Wrap it up. Try tying a bandana or

handkerchief around your head, just above your brow. This could also reduce the blood flow in your scalp and get rid of the pounding in your head.

Treat your feet. With just one teaspoon of powdered mustard or ginger, you can turn a plastic basin of hot water into a fast headache cure. Just mix the powder into water that's as hot as you can stand. Then pull up your favourite chair, sit back, and let your feet soak for 15 minutes. It's important to cover the basin with a heavy towel to keep the heat in. Keep your eyes closed and your muscles relaxed for the full effect. Your headache should vanish by the time the water cools.

Serve up relief. To win against your headache, wrap two tennis balls in the toe of a non-elastic sock. Then lie on your back and wedge the balls behind your neck, one on each side. They will relax your neck muscles, smoothing away headache-causing tension.

Rub out the tension. Sit in your favourite chair with your eyes closed. Begin massaging your temples and forehead, then work your way down to your neck and shoulders. Breathe slowly and deeply, and focus on relaxing your entire body.

Draw out the pain. To make a handy hot compress, heat up salt in a dry pan until it's warm but not too hot. Pour the salt into a

thin dishtowel and bundle it up. For pain in the front of your head, hold the compress to the back of your head and rub. The dry heat from the salt could draw out the ache.

Stop your headache cold. For a frozen compress, hold on to your old socks. Wet them, and seal them in a zip-lock bag in your freezer. Use the whole sock if you want, or cut off the bottom and use just its top.

Help yourself to migraine relief

Migraines mean misery. But it's not just the agonizing pain or nausea that you have to deal with. Often, migraines affect the way you view your entire life.

Understand your headache. Try to figure out when your headaches occur and what might trigger them. It helps to keep a headache diary where you can record all the details surrounding your headache, such as your mood, the food you ate, your sleeping patterns, and anything else you think might be related. Once your doctor diagnoses your problem, make sure you know what the diagnosis means. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

Gun down triggers. Your headache diary will help you see what factors may trigger your headaches. Your job is to avoid those triggers. Common headache triggers include cheese, nuts, yogurt, and chocolate. New research reveals another potential

culprit—wheat. Some people are sensitive to gluten, and protein found in wheat products. When they switch to a gluten-free diet, their headaches disappear.

Ditch the drugs. Sometimes, medication is not the answer. If you are allergic, pregnant, or nursing, drugs can be dangerous. Or maybe you just don't like relying on medicine. Instead of drugs, try alternative therapies like relaxation training, biofeedback, or stress management. They just might do the trick.

Try herbs and supplements. If you are looking for a natural way to treat and prevent migraines, try these supplements:

Feverfew. The most successful of the herbal remedies, feverfew has been a valued migraine fighter since 78 A.D. You can chew on fresh, freeze-dried, or heat-dried leaves to get the benefit of this herb. Or take feverfew in pill form. One 125 milligram capsule or tablet a day should do. Make sure it is standardized for 0.2 percent parthenolide, the main ingredient that

reduces pain and frequency of migraines.

Ginger. Mix some powdered ginger into a glass of water and drink. That daily approach worked for a long-time migraine sufferer in Denmark, who swears ginger soothes the pain and nausea of her headaches. You can also munch on fresh, raw ginger, or cook with it to harness its benefits.

Rely on vitamins and minerals. You know you need a certain amount of vitamins and minerals to keep your body running smoothly. But a little more of the following vitamins and minerals may mean the difference between a migraine and no pain.

Vitamin D and calcium. This dynamic duo has helped those with migraines. Drink vitamin D-fortified milk for a double dose of protection.

Magnesium. A deficiency of this mineral may contribute to migraines. Studies show that large doses of magnesium supplements can lessen the number and the severity of

these painful headaches. You can also find magnesium in oatmeal, sweet potatoes, brown rice, broccoli, peas, and skim milk.

Riboflavin. Taking 400 mg of this B vitamin daily could cut the number of migraines you get in half. It has been shown to relieve headache pain as effectively as aspirin—without any side effects. Get some extra riboflavin in pasta, bread, grains, broccoli, spinach, almonds.

If you are past 50, take notice of headaches that start when you begin to exercise and go away when you stop. This could be a sign of heart disease, even if you have no other symptoms. Be sure to mention it to your doctor.

Folk remedy. The next time you feel tension creeping up your neck and lodging in your head, try this headache remedy. Mix peppermint oil, eucalyptus oil, and rubbing alcohol in a small bowl. Gently sponge the fragrant concoction over your forehead and temples, avoiding your eyes. You should feel better in no time.

HOME MINISTRY—THE INFLUENCE OF HOME LIFE

“God designs the family to be a symbol of the great family in heaven.” “In the home is laid the foundation for the prosperity of the church.” Therefore, properly conducted home duties are a preparation to labour in the church, and beyond that, to the world. Selah. (Pause, think about it!)

The way we act and react in our every day home-life will be the way we act and react when brought into like circumstances in the church or in the world. Moreover, we cannot hide anything from God. Every thought and motive is all precisely recorded in the books of heaven. Therefore, our daily work is very important as a training for more important duties, and even for heaven itself. The home is a very important place, although we sometimes don't think so. Therefore our human tendency, I think and know by experience, is to be in a rush to get through with these mundane tasks, and on to SOMETHING IMPORTANT! Something GREAT and WORTHWHILE. Overlooking the IMPORTANT, GREAT and WORTHWHILE duties I'm tripping over in my haste, or stepping around, or walking on.

“Eve had been perfectly happy by her husband's side in her Eden home; but, like restless modern Eves, she was flattered with the hope of entering a higher sphere than that which

God had assigned her. In attempting to rise above her original position, she fell far below it. A similar result will be reached by all who are unwilling to take up cheerfully their life duties in accordance with God's plan. In their efforts to reach positions for which He has not fitted them, many are leaving vacant the place where they might be a blessing. In their desire for a higher sphere, many have sacrificed true womanly dignity and nobility of character, and have left undone the very work that heaven appointed them.” PP 59.

The home is a very important place; moreover, it is a sacred place. It is a sanctuary, a refuge from the world. A quiet place undisturbed by anger, worry or fear. A restful place. The inmates should all treat each other kindly and gently, wisely and tenderly. The sunshine of God's love should be invited in. Cheerfulness should be allowed to pervade the atmosphere. Provision has been made that divine grace will co-operate with every effort to imitate Christ, however feeble the attempt, or seemingly futile. Persistent, attentive, and energetic application to the task of character refinement will be rewarded. Since we are fallen, sinful people living in a fallen, sinful world, we are bound to encounter—not perfection in one another; but, perhaps unaccountable quirks, or unlooked for reactions. We must be prepared for the

unexpected. We must keep our equilibrium.

Equilibrium—any condition in which all acting influences are cancelled by others resulting in a stable, balanced, or unchanging system. (even balance)

And when we fail, we must remember, “HIS MERCY ENDURES FOREVER.” Try again. To those who receive Him, Christ gives power to become the sons of God. Jesus is to be looked to, thought of, lifted up. When He lives in our hearts, all will be changed, joyful. All needs will be supplied. “The right principles followed daily, hourly, in the home, bring Jesus very near.”

“If you keep My commandments, you shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.” John 15:10.

“He that has My commandments and keeps them, he it is that loves Me: and he that loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.” John 14: 21.

These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.” John 15:11. AMEN.

Kathleen Ross, Alberta, Canada
REFORMATION MESSENGER: AUGUST 2006

HIS MOTHER'S PRAYER



CHILDRENS CORNER

Arthur raised his arm slowly in order not to frighten the birds roosting on the branch far above his head. Then he slid a stone into the leather band of his slingshot, pulled back the rubber band and released the stone. It flew through the branches and straight for the cluster of birds. There was a dull thud as one landed a short distance away. One was not enough. Silently Arthur slid among the undergrowth, taking care not to stand on any brittle twigs that might break and give him away. There were other birds and he decided to try to hit another one. From his leather pouch he took a little pile of stones, looking for two that would fit together in his slingshot. They needed to be rounded on one side but flat on the other, and about the same size and weight. "Perfect!" he whispered. "These ones are ideal." Again there was absolute silence until he released the stones. This time it was followed by two dull thuds.

Arthur unwound a length of a thin vine from the tree the birds had been on, broke it off, and used it to tie together the legs of his three birds. He wanted the birds as trophies.

"It's me, Mother!" Arthur called as he neared home. There was silence. Dropping his birds on the floor, he went in quietly. It took a minute for his eyes to get used to the darkness after being out in the brilliant African sun. Seeing his mother on her knees didn't take him by surprise. Monica was a Christian, and when she wasn't doing all the work she was on her knees praying. Arthur listened.

'Lord, please forgive my child of his sins. And also help him to have more respect for the creatures you created. Please save his soul and use him to tell others about yourself,' she said.

"She's praying for me again as usual," he thought, creeping back out into the sunlight. He wasn't so proud of his birds any more. "Maybe I'll become a Christian one day, but I'm too busy enjoying myself to be bothered just now. I wish Mother would

stop asking God to convert me until I'm grown up. It would be so easy to become a believer just to please her, but I want to please myself while I'm young."

"I had a visit from the police today, son," Monica told her young son, when she joined him outside. "There's been trouble and they wondered if you were involved."

Arthur looked at her. "What am I meant to have done?" he asked, laughing just a little nervously. "Because I didn't do it and I wasn't there when I did it."

His mother looked serious. "Arthur," she said, "I know you weren't involved because you were with me when the theft took place. But I also know that you don't always keep good company and you do get into scrapes."

Arthur hung his head, but just for a minute. "I'm young, Mother," he said. "I'll not do anything so stupid that the police will come for me. And I promise I will think about becoming a Christian... sometime."

"Sometime may not be soon enough," his mother warned. "Not everyone lives to grow up."

A shiver went down the young boy's spine. "But I will," he said, defiantly.

A few months later, Arthur was whining about not feeling so well. "What's wrong?" his mother asked. "Are you feeling sick?" Before he could reply, he was caught in a spasm of pain. He was bent over double with the force of it, and it was some minutes before he could speak again. "It's my stomach, Mother," he said. "I've got a terribly sore stomach."

Monica felt his forehead. He was hot and beads of perspiration were forming as she watched. Another spasm of pain hit him and he landed on the floor. Within an hour he was tossing and turning. One minute he was roasting and the next minute he was

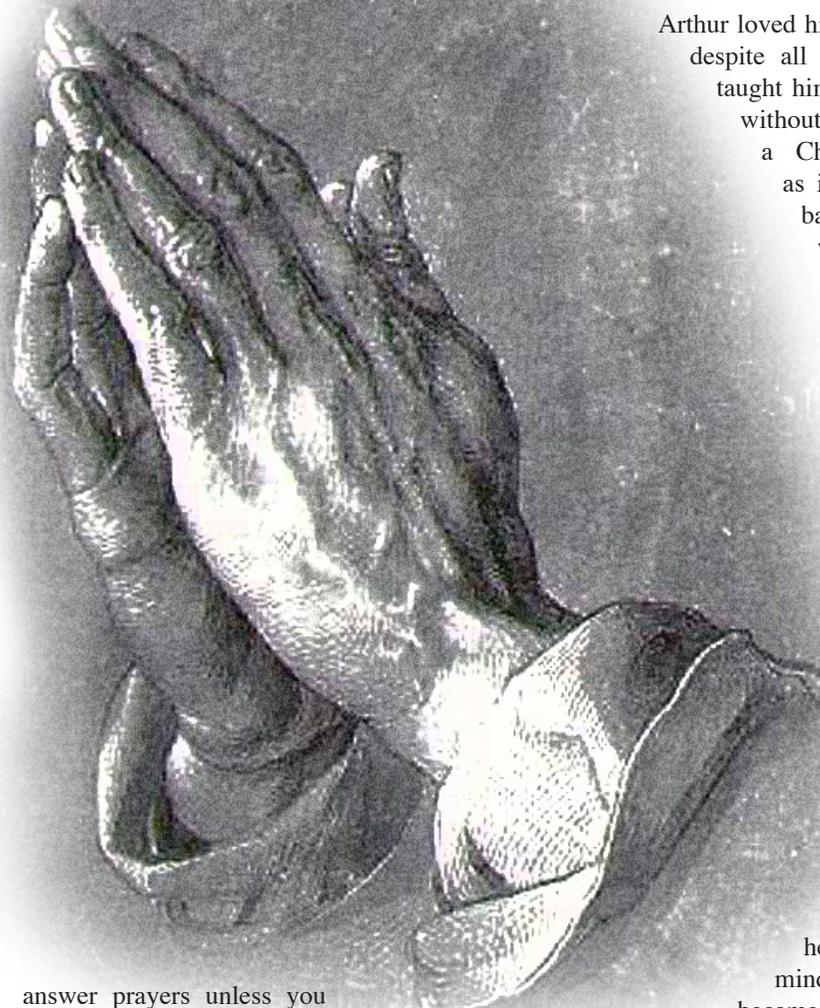
shivering with cold. His mother washed him to bring his temperature down and gave him sips of water to drink.

"He's in a bad way," said Philip, Arthur's father. "I've made an offering to the gods for him but maybe you should be praying to your God too."

"I've been praying to the Lord God for him since before he was born," Monica said, "and I've never stopped praying all of today."

"I don't understand you Christians," said Philip. "How do you expect your God to





“I don’t think I’m going to die quite yet!” Arthur grinned.

Arthur loved his mother, but despite all that she had taught him he grew up without becoming a Christian. And as if that wasn’t bad enough, he went to live an immoral life.

Monica must have been deeply upset, but she kept

praying. Although she was proud of

her son’s able mind, and that he became a professor across the Mediterranean

Sea in Italy, all she really wanted for him was that he should become a Christian. Philip, who followed the Roman gods and was not a Christian, didn’t bother about his son’s behaviour as that was how people lived in the Roman Empire in the year 386.

On day when Arthur was 32 years old, he was walking along a road in the Italian city of Milan. He passed a beggar who was sitting on the pavement laughing. “How can this man laugh?” he asked himself. “He’s sitting there on the street, owning nothing but the clothes he’s wearing, and not even sure if he’ll have a meal today, and he’s happy. The man is laughing!” Arthur walked on. “And here I am,” he thought. “I’ve got a good job, another pretty girl, plenty of money, fine clothes and as much to eat as I want.” He stopped and looked back at the happy beggar. “And I’m miserable,” he admitted. “He’s happy with

nothing and I’m miserable with everything. What a mess!”

Shortly after this incident a friend of Arthur’s invited him to go to church with him. Arthur almost automatically said, he would rather not, when he remembered the beggar. “Yes, I’ll come,” he said. “I hear that this man is a good preacher.”

“You can judge for yourself,” his friend commented. Monica, who moved to Milan soon after her son, heard he was going to church and she prayed, how she prayed!

“He’s a good preacher right enough,” Arthur said, as he and his friend left the church. “I’m going to have to think about what he said.”

For some time he did just that. He wept over it too. “I just can’t take it in,” he told Monica, one day. “My sins are so terrible, how can God love me? How can Jesus have died for me after all that I’ve done?”

“Jesus died for us because we’re sinners,” his mother explained. “He wouldn’t have needed to die if we’d been perfect. His blood was shed on the cross for you and for me, and because of that our sins can be washed away.”

Soon afterwards Arthur was in his garden with a friend. He left his companion sitting under a tree and walked about restlessly. He was in a terrible mental muddle. “Take it up and read it; take it up and read it,” he heard what sounded like a child’s voice saying. “Is this a nursery rhyme?” he wondered, but couldn’t remember any with those words. Suddenly he realised it was God speaking to him. He rushed back to his friend who had the Bible book of Romans. Opening it up, Arthur read words that told him he should look to Jesus and not to live the immoral life he was living. Arthur suddenly knew the truth, confessed his sins and believed in Jesus. When he and his friend went back into the house, Monica learned that all her prayers and been answered. “I’m happier now than I’ve ever been,” he told his mother. “And it’s all thanks to that happy beggar who made me realize how miserable I really was, and to my mother’s prayers.” Arthur became a great student of the Bible and a teacher of the Christian faith.

answer prayers unless you give Him animal sacrifices?”

“Mother,” Arthur said weakly. “I think I’m going to die.”

Monica looked at him, and stroked his hand gently. “Is he dying?” she wondered. “He’s not eaten for days and he’s lost so much weight. He’s just skin and bone.”

“Please, mother,” he said, through tears. “Please get the priest quickly. I want to go to heaven when I die.”

His mother kissed him, her tears mixing with his. “I’ll get the priest,” she said. But when she came back, not knowing whether her young son would be alive or dead, she discovered that he had made an amazing recovery! He was sitting up eating a piece of mango.

“Praise the Lord!” said the delighted Monica. “Praise the Lord!”

Sarah Keren Newby



Cyrus & Stephen Newby
Toronto, Canada



Sarah Keren Newby
Toronto, Canada 2006/06/28



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Health Topic: How To Avoid Disease

Monday, 7:30 pm
AUGUST 7



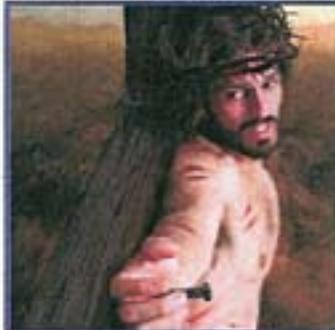
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Discover who is modern Babylon? Discover her false belief system. What is the final fate of modern Babylon? Where do you fit in?

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Health Topic: Bible Secrets To Good Health

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**JESUS -
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Health Topic: Good Nutrition

Wednesday, 7:30 pm
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