



The Reformation **Messenger**

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“Legal religion will not answer for this age. We may perform all the outward acts of service, and yet be as destitute of the quickening influence of the Holy Spirit as the hills of Gilboa were destitute of dew and rain. We all need spiritual moisture; and we need also the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness to soften and subdue our hearts. We are always to be as firm as a rock to principle. Bible principles are to be taught, and then backed up by holy practice”.—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 417, 418.

WE BELIEVE: The all-wise loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the Owner and Sustainer. He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh. The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all unrighteousness. The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine, the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform. His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus. Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Matthew 24:14

Very soon the earth’s history will come to a climax. God’s time-clock is pointing unmistakably to the second advent of Christ as an imminent event. Bible prophecies are unfolding and fulfilling themselves very rapidly, telling that probationary time will not linger long.

But before Christ appears in the clouds of heaven, God is proclaiming a special message of warning to the inhabitants of the earth. Whether mankind accepts or rejects the divine offer of salvation, the solemn message must be sounded. To accomplish His plan, God will direct servants to “Go . . . and teach all nations. . .” Matthew 28:19. Before being sent to teach the requirements for salvation from sin and destruction, individuals must be called out of darkness into His marvellous light (1 Peter 2:9).

Only when called by God directly, can one respond and be a light-bearer to others. Before conversion or regeneration, the heart is entangled and held in subjection to the power of satanic forces. Once this strong connection with Satan is severed, God can and will use the converted to fulfill His divine purpose of calling others to the “feast” or “supper.” “By the great supper, Christ represents the blessings offered through the gospel.” – *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 222

“Then said He also to him that bade Him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neigh-

bours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.” Luke 14:12–14

“We are not to wait for souls to come to us; we must seek them out where they are.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 229. This specific command set before God’s light-bearers encompasses everyone with whom they come in contact. Those who are lost in trespasses and are blinded by the enemy must be reached and taught the saving truths for this time. None is to be excluded from salvation because of caste, color of skin, wealth, education, or profession. God’s love envelopes the masses and is drawing sinners to repentance. The wealthy are not to be bypassed. Too often they rely on their riches for security but find no peace in their hearts. They need to be awakened out of slumber and reminded of their responsibility and the account they must render.

Those who call men into the light of truth must love the unconverted. “For the love of Christ constraineth us. . . .” 2 Corinthians 5:14. There is a good story quoted by C. H. Spurgeon that illustrates the power of love. “A man was accidentally buried by a fall of earth, and many were greatly energetic to dig the poor fellow out. One man stood by, scarcely as much concerned about the

matter as many others were, until a woman rushed out of the crowd, and laid hold on him, and said in his ear, 'It's your brother Bill that's in there!' Those few words wrought a marvelous change in the man; his coat was off in an instant, and he was down in the sewer working like a Trojan. If we would save our hearers from the wrath to come, we must realize that they are our brothers. We must have sympathy for them, and anxiety about them; in a word, passion and compassion. May God grant these to us!" —*An All-Round Ministry*, p. 305–306

METHODS OF CALLING SINNERS TO REPENTANCE

The Lord requires all who have been called and by faith accepted Christ as the Saviour to do personal service for Him. This active labor on behalf of sinners cannot be done by proxy or even by sinless angels. Christ desires and urges the cooperation of man. He Himself took on humanity to demonstrate practical Christian ways of working for others. The one-soul audience was extremely important in the winning of Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman at the well.

After his conversion, Paul resorted to house-to-house labor. ". . . but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house." Acts 20:20. This particular line of missionary work serves a useful purpose in reaching souls who would not have otherwise been found. Not every Christian is engaged in this branch of work to rescue the perishing. The Lord does not expect everyone to be a full-time colporteur, but everyone can witness in this manner whenever the opportunity arises.

"I have been instructed that the canvassing work is to be revived, and that it is to be carried forward with increasing success. It is the Lord's work, and a blessing will attend those who engage in it with earnestness and diligence." — *Colporteur Ministry*, p. 17–18

Soul winning is a science and an art which necessitates patience, tact, wisdom, endurance and a great deal of prayer to God. By way of canvassing, the Lord will direct the labourer to homes where the honest in heart are waiting for illumination. Many opportunities will

crop up for distribution of literature, and a ready entrance in the homes. Very often words of comfort, encouragement, and warning to prepare for the second coming of Christ will be spoken. Through this special way of reaching people, arrangements are sometimes made for conducting formal Bible studies.

Giving Bible studies is a unique and impressive way of instructing individuals about the plan of salvation and



the requirements of God. It is God's ordained means of revealing His love and speaking to them through the Holy Spirit.

Another way of calling men to salvation is by neighbourly friendliness. Being a true Christian neighbour is an opportunity to be a living epistle for Christ. A simple gesture such as sharing your garden vegetables or flowers may open the door to someone's heart. Sympathizing interest and help in sickness or bereavement are other means of being a blessing to someone. Or you may be talking with a neighbour and in a very tactful way turn the conversation to God and the truth.

There are hundreds of ways to bless and help others. Let me list some of them: Introduce to a friend a new vegetarian dish that you found nutritious and tasty. Lend a book or magazine. Answer a question about your faith, such as why you don't smoke, or drink, or eat meat. Why do you go to church on Saturday? Listen to someone weighed down by a problem or difficulty. Just by being a careful listener you can be a great help to someone who needs to unburden himself. Write a missionary letter. It is a simple yet effective way to impress hearts with gems of truth. Writing to someone shows that you care and are interested in them. A thoughtful and loving letter can brighten the day of someone who is lonely, ill, or discouraged.

Some letters have a different, direct purpose. For example, a couple of years ago a letter from Italy was addressed to Denver, Colorado, asking someone to visit a lady in Canada who may be interested in the Adventist message. The person was contacted, instructed in our message, and today this soul has taken her stand with the remnant church. So the letter from Italy proved to be a real blessing. Of course, not all



such letters accomplish direct results in this manner, but each letter sent out in love has an influence that cannot be measured.

Conduct cooking classes, instructing people on how to prepare wholesome food. Blend with the principles of physical health, spiritual food for the soul.

EXCUSES FOR NOT ACCEPTING THE CALL

“And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.” Luke 14:18–20

None of the reasons given above are justifiable. The fact is that their temporal interests have become all-absorbing. When accepting the call to salvation, everyone needs to make his worldly interests subordinate to the one purpose of following Christ. Times have not changed since the antediluvian world. . . Christ said, “But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Matthew 24:37–39

And just as in Noah’s time the majority rejected the divine call, so in the last days men will have ready excuses to condone their actions. Here are some typical ones encountered when doing home missionary work. “I have no time right now.” “I don’t want to get involved.” “Some other time, ok?” “I have my own church.” “The Sabbath was for the Jews.” “I don’t read religious books.” “I’m an atheist—it’s not for me.” “My husband (wife) is opposed.” “Can’t you read the sign—‘No peddlers, agents or solicitors!’?”

Maybe you, too, have heard such and similar excuses. Many refuse the call of Christ because they fear division in the family. “Many there are who allow their wives or their husbands to prevent them from heeding the call of God. The husband says, ‘I cannot obey my convictions of duty while my wife is opposed to it. Her influence would make it exceedingly hard for me to do so.’” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 224. They may urge that difficulties would arise and that the peace and prosperity of the home would be destroyed. Children may hear the Master’s voice but be afraid of the conse-

quences. Ridicule, contempt, hatred, and even separation from the home may result when one accepts the Lord.

For those who are presently in conflict with their families, an assurance by God is given to sustain them. “And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive an hundred-fold, and shall inherit everlasting life.” Matthew 19:29

There are many souls today like Felix, who was convicted of the truth, and yet did not accept the divine call. “And as he [Paul] reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.” Acts 24:25. The convenient time may never come. “Tomorrow, I’ll become a Christian,” is expressed by thousands. “I’ll do what is right some day, but not now.” There is real danger in postponing this decision for life eternal. One’s life may be cut short, or his conscience may become insensitive to the working of the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 3:7–8).

THE REWARD

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.” Revelation 3:20



There is a reward—peace and happiness in the heart, for the soul that surrenders completely to the influence of the Holy Spirit, breaking the barriers of unbelief, superstition, bigotry, selfishness, false conceptions of God, erroneous

teachings by popular religious leaders, and a host of other obstacles. The image of God will again be reproduced in the human heart. It will be transformed, ennobled. Discouragement will give way to hope. . . . Joy and happiness will radiate out of the soul that is born again.

But the reward is not in this life only. The best is yet to come! Eternal life is granted to the one who heeds the call. Won’t you accept the call while Christ still invites you to the Supper?

Henry Dering



Builders Of Babel Today

Among the early manifestations of rebellion against God recorded in the divine Scriptures is the act of building the tower of Babel. This is clear as we read Genesis 11:1–9. In chapter 10:9–10 of the same book, we get to know that the chief architect of that tower was a hunter called Nimrod. Ever since that tower was constructed, Babel has remained a symbol of apostasy in the Bible. Revelation 17:5–6 speaks of John having seen a woman drunk with the blood of the saints. “And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” (v.5). But we are getting ahead of the story; let us hear more about this later.

After the flood, we know from Genesis 8:4 that Noah’s ark which he had “prepared to the saving of his house” rested on Mount Ararat. The flood truly curbed iniquity and evil to a great extent. But the tide of evil was soon to spread itself again. Sister White explains how this came about:

“For a time the descendants of Noah continued to dwell among the mountains where the ark had rested. As their numbers increased, apostasy soon led to division. Those who desired to forget their Creator and cast off the restraint of His law felt a constant annoyance from the teaching and example of their God-fearing associates, and after a time they decided to separate from the worshipers of God.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 118

The separated group dwelt in the plain of Shinar. Here the manner of spirit they were of was soon to be manifested. They disbelieved God’s covenant that He would not bring a flood again upon the face of the earth.

Worse still, many of them denied the existence of the Deity and attributed the flood to natural causes. In this way, sadly, the way was prepared for the great work of apostasy. They sat down and agreed to mold bricks and burn them thoroughly, and then build a city and a great, tall tower as would render it one of the wonders of the world! God in His wisdom soon put a halt to such a work of rebellion.

The word Babel is synonymous with Babylon. Both mean confusion (Genesis 11:9). It means “gate of god(s) in the Chaldean language.” The confusion of language at that time brought about a dispersal of the people, but the Babylonian spirit in the future was to continue to exist in an even broader form.

Of Babylon (the same place—Shinar; see Daniel 1:2), later in the time of Nebuchadnezzar, grave sins were seen being committed. There is enough evidence that lays this bare in the book of Daniel the prophet. The spirit of self-gratification and uncontrolled appetite (Daniel 1:8) were all manifested. Witchcraft, necromancy, sorcery, magic, etc., were practiced openly. Some people were employed to do such work (Daniel 2:2). Moreover they were worshipers of graven images instead of the God of heaven (Daniel 3:1–5). Persecution of God’s people is seen in Daniel chapter 3:13–21.

Here we find the story of the three faithful young men whose integrity had to be tested by fire! Pride of life was at its peak (Daniel 4:30). The apogee of licentiousness, drunkenness, and animal passions during the time of Belshazzar marked the fall of the old Babylonian kingdom. All these evils and many others not here cited show how far they had gone.

In his letter to the Galatians, the apostle Paul tried to list the works of the flesh also practiced in Babylon. Galatians 5:21 shows that he failed to exhaust them. Doubtless, it is because sin appears in uncountable ways. He writes: "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: [not exhaustive] of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:19–21

About 42 years later, the apostle at Patmos was privileged to see the nature of modern Babylon and its final judgment. He saw a woman, a mother of harlots riding a scarlet coloured beast in the wilderness (Revelation 17:1–7). "And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." (v.5). We also read: "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." Revelation 14:8. These verses [Revelation 17:1–7] refer to the abominations of the Catholic Church and [Revelation 14:8] the fall of "religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt"—the daughters.



Furthermore, Revelation 18:1–4 still speaks of the fall of Babylon. "This scripture points forward to a time when the announcement of the fall of Babylon, as made by the second angel of Revelation 14 (verse 8), is to be repeated, with the additional mention of the corruptions which have been entering the various organizations that constitute Babylon, since that message was first given, in the summer of 1844. A terrible condition of the religious world is here described." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 603

As members of God's church we may be satisfied having left the fallen churches. Yet we need to remember that "there are tower builders in our time." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 123. This may be surprising, or does it concern members of God's church? The answer is, definitely yes! It is a continuum. We really do not need to

be atheists or humanists to believe in the science of evolution, or associate with fallen churches to be seen as building Babel. (Read the whole page of *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 123). Unbelief was the first thing that opened the way for the building of that ancient tower. As long as our actions, thoughts, speech, etc., are of the spirit of Babylon; or (in simple terms) by rejecting to fully surrender to Jesus, then in one way or the other, knowingly or unknowingly, we are helping to build the tower of Babel today.

"When the first step is taken in the path of transgression the way becomes easy." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 630

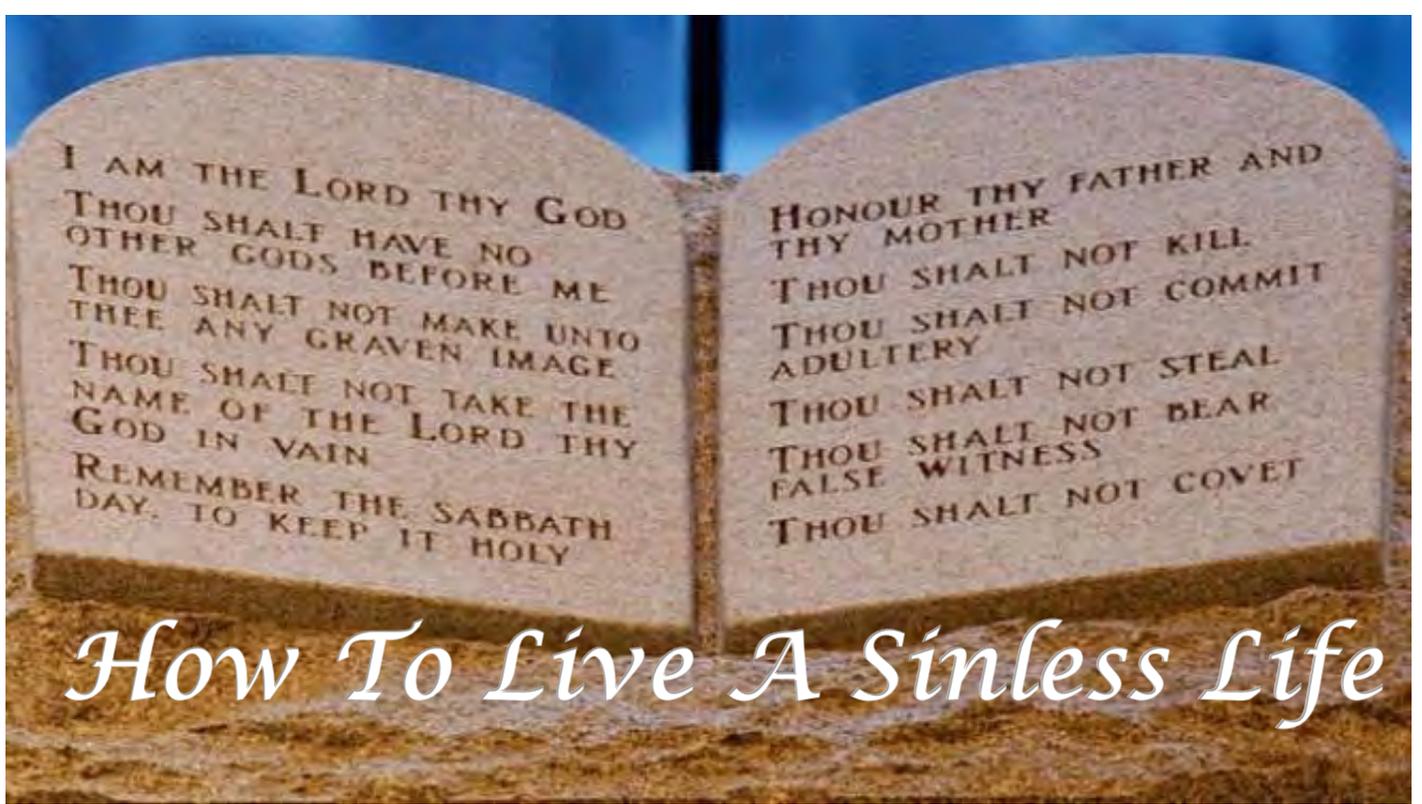
While there are people at this time who are busy helping to build God's kingdom of grace that is to prepare men for the kingdom of glory (to be ushered in at the second coming of Jesus), others are busy building the tower of Babel. Regardless of how obstinate we remain, and harden our hearts in clinging to known sins and besetments, the result is that we must perish together with Babylon. Not long from now, the cup of Babylon will be full, making her ripe for destruction.

"Of Babylon, at the time brought to view in this prophesy, [Revelation 18: 1–4] it is declared: 'Her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.' Revelation 18:5. She has filled up the measure of her guilt, and destruction is about to fall upon her." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 604

John saw the end of Babylon as described in the following verse: "And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all." Revelation 18:21

God's people will live with Him in the beautiful city, the New Jerusalem. May the Lord help us to make a firm stand to shun Babylon, and make the needed preparations to live for eternity. Amen.

Joel L. Msiska



We all try to live a sinless life because the wages of sin is death. Also, the condition for eternal life is sinlessness. Millions of professing Christians have tried to live a life without sin but have failed in their efforts. Yet there are 144,000 in the last days who overcome every sin in their lives, and besides this there will be a great multitude in heaven who also have gained a sinless condition. This means that to overcome sin is not an impossibility; it can be done. But we have to learn how to do it.

The first thing that we want to do is to repent. We need to feel sorry for the sins that we have done. Then we need to confess our sins to God and to the persons against whom we have committed sins. After this we make a decision not to sin anymore and ask God's help to live a sinless life. So far it seems clear what we must do. But then the problems come when, with the best intentions, sin still enters into our lives.

What happened to the power of God which was supposed to enable us to move mountains, and nothing should be impossible to us? If this happens, then some commandment of God we have failed to fulfill. Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Matthew 22:37-40

If we love God above all then our money, our time, our talents are spent mostly on Him and His work. If we

spend most of our money on ourselves, then we love ourselves more than God. If we have no time to do missionary work, nor attend all religious meetings, then we do not love God above ourselves. Love and sacrifice go hand in hand. We prove our love by sacrifice.

Jesus said, "For I was an hungered, and ye gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me in: Naked, and ye clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited Me: I was in prison, and ye came unto Me." Matthew 25:35-36. All these are expressions of love to our neighbour. If any of these things are neglected, then we are lawbreakers and the power of God is not with us. We either obey and keep all of God's commandments, or not any one of them.

James writes to us, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10. God will give us power to keep all His commandments, but if we decide to break one of them then we lose this power, and then we cannot keep any one of them correctly.

Jesus said, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." Luke 16:10. The reason for this is that small unfaithfulness will take the power of God away from us and then we cannot be faithful in greater temptations that Satan brings on our way. To Adam and Eve the seemingly small sin was enough that they were cast out of Paradise. Can we enter in if we have a small sin which we are guilty of? Even the neglect of constant prayer can cause us to fall into sin.

“No man is safe for a day or an hour without prayer. . . . We should study the Bible with humility of heart, never losing sight of our dependence upon God. While we must constantly guard against the devices of Satan, we should pray in faith continually: ‘Lead us not into temptation.’” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 530

It is a continual miracle of God to live a sinless life. It is a life of continual happiness, peace, and joy.

We are to look to Jesus all the time. Meditate on His death on the cross. Peter could walk on the water as long as his eyes were beholding Jesus, but as soon as he turned his eyes away from Him, he began to sink.

“If they kept their eyes fixed on Jesus, who was just before them, leading them to the city, they were safe.” –*Early Writings*, p. 14

There is a selfish religion that has no value, no salvation in it. People want to enter into heaven and have eternal life, and also escape hell fire. In human strength alone they follow the rules that are required for church membership, but it is not enough for salvation. These professing Christians do not love God, neither their fellow men.



In Egypt there is a snake called aspis vipera; when it bites someone it puts him into a pleasant sleep from which he will never wake up. So also the practice of sin puts us to sleep. First we lose the sinfulness of it. Then we try to minimize its evil character, and we also think that someday later we will stop practicing it. And one sin quickly leads us to another sin, and again to another. It may happen that we will never wake up from this sleep of death. We need to avoid the company of sinners, because sin is very contagious.

David writes, “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.” Psalm 1:1

Very strict rules were given by God to Ancient Israel, not to mingle with outsiders, with the surrounding nations, because their influence would lead them to sin. Just to look at sin is dangerous. Eve looked at the for-

bidden tree, and this looking created a desire in her to taste it. Satan has inspired so many worldly books, movies, television programs and things on the internet, which are poisonous and do create sinful thoughts and desires in those who read and watch them.

If someone decides to do sin wilfully after they have received knowledge about it, there is no more chance of salvation to them, because they sin against the Holy Spirit. “For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.” Hebrews 10:26

Jesus was tempted in every point where we are tempted, yet without sin. He knows how to overcome sin, and He can help us also to overcome.

When Jesus said to the lame person, “arise and walk,” he could do it. When He said to the blind person to open his eyes and see, he could do it. In the same way when Jesus said to a sinner, “Go and sin no more,” he could do it, because every time He provided power for it.

“He who lays hold upon the righteousness of Christ may become a perfect man in Christ Jesus.” –*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 150

“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed [the divine principle of life] remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.” 1 John 3:9

What we need to do is to help others to overcome sin, “But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” Hebrews 3:13

May The Lord help us overcome all sin and by our example help others also to overcome is my desire and prayer. Amen.

Timo Martin



“You Are the Salt of the Earth - You Are the Light of the World”



Labourers together with God. Every time I wake up to a new day of grace I give thanks to my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ for giving me the opportunity to witness about Him in my house—in my neighbourhood or place of work—in the church. He appointed me as a Watchman and everywhere I go, God brings me to be His witness and to give a fresh and new fragrance for life unto life towards the people I meet. Brothers and sisters, dear friends, it is important and I want to emphasize the fact that our influence, which, according to the Spirit of Prophecy, is one of the most important gifts besides money and time; our influence can bring people to Jesus or can bring people to death. Do we understand the importance of our calling? Do we understand the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:14–16?

It is a great privilege to be called by God His peculiar people—a holy nation—His own special people that proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvellous light, according to Exodus 19:5–6 and 1 Peter 2:9. But if you read those words carefully there is a condition God set up for His people both in that generation and today’s generation. The principle is the same—in God there is no changing. Remember Hebrews 13:8? Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. “If ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant.” Exodus 19:5

What a joy it would have been to be one of the twelve disciples, working with Jesus and sharing the thrilling news of the kingdom of God. What a joy it would have been to be able to listen to the precious lessons fall from Jesus’ lips, enjoying His presence—what a thrill it would have been. The good news, my beloved, is that we may have the same experiences as the disciples if we join with Jesus in His burden for the salvation of souls. The Holy Spirit is at our disposition if we let Him use us in finding the lost sheep and bringing them back to the feet of Jesus at the foot of the cross. But, before

doing that, you and I must be brought to the feet of Jesus—at the foot of the cross. Do you agree with that? I think you should, because we cannot bring someone where we ourselves have not yet reached. I have shared this reality many times. We cannot bring people to Jesus if we ourselves have not been brought to Him. Then arises the question—“How can I know if I have been brought to Jesus?” There are many evidences, my friends—one of the best is what Jesus said in Matthew 7:16. “Ye shall know them by their fruits.” Here Jesus spoke these words in the context that refers to the false prophets, according to Matthew 7:15–20. I do not want to take these words out of context, but allow me to picture it from another perspective or point of view. First of all, let us see what the Spirit of Prophecy says about the words that Jesus spoke in Matthew 7:16.

“All whom God is leading will manifest a high regard for the Scriptures in which His voice is heard. The Bible will be to them ‘profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.’ ‘Ye shall know them by their fruits.’ We need no other evidence in order to judge of men’s sanctification; if they are fearful lest they shall not obey the whole will of God, if they are listening diligently to His voice, trusting in His wisdom, and making His Word the man of their counsel, then, while they make no boasts of superior goodness, we may be sure that they are seeking to attain to perfection of Christian character. But if the claimants of holiness even intimate that they are no longer required to search the Scriptures, we need not hesitate to pronounce their sanctification spurious. They are leaning to their own understanding, instead of conforming to the will of God.” —*The Review and Herald*, October 5, 1886

“In the truths of His word, God has given to men a revelation of Himself; and to all who accept them they are a

shield against the deceptions of Satan. It is a neglect of these truths that has opened the door to the evils which are now becoming so widespread in the religious world. The nature and the importance of the law of God have been, to a great extent, lost sight of. A wrong conception of the character, the perpetuity, and the obligation of the divine law has led to errors in relation to conversion and sanctification, and has resulted in lowering the standard of piety in the church. Here is to be found the secret of the lack of the Spirit and power of God in the revivals of our time." —*The Great Controversy*, p. 465

From these two quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy we understand that it is by neglecting the truth in their lives, the Bible is neglected—in other words, there is no sanctification because the truth is not put into practice in the daily life and so sanctification is not taking part in one's life. Also, not paying attention to God's voice puts someone on a dangerous ground where Satan's deceptions can snare that soul—so, in other words, my friends, there is no evidence of good work or the good fruits in one's life because the connection with Jesus is broken. Jesus said, without Me you can do nothing. You shall know them by their fruits.

What does it mean to be the salt of the earth? Why did Jesus use this expression? To find the meaning of these words we read in Matthew 5:13 where it says, "Ye are the salt of the earth." Now, what does that mean? You are the salt. Jesus did not say "you ought to be the salt of the earth," or "you should be," or "you might want to be." He said, "you are." I think this means several different things.

Number one, it means you are the flavour of the earth. In Job 6:6 it says, "Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? or is there any taste in the white of an egg?" Some food you just have to salt to bring out the flavour. A Christian adds a good flavour, wholesome, honest flavour to his neighbourhood, to his family, to his workplace. Salt brings out the best in food and you are the salt of the world, so you should bring out the best in the people that you associate with.

The Christian will be cheerful and bring out cheerfulness in his family. Bring out the flavour of Jesus. Our life needs to magnify Jesus Christ, and we are the salt

of what? The Bible says you are the salt of the earth, the whole Earth—the whole World—the entire Planet. If you want people to become Christians, then you need to look like you have a little bit of happiness in your life. Christians ought to be happy. This is the reason Jesus calls us the salt of the earth. We should give savour or flavour to the world. The question is, "Do I still have that flavour that salt can give to food? Or have I lost that flavour?"

Number two. Not only should we add good flavour, but we should also be a preservation agent, because salt is a preservative. The Bible says something interesting in Luke 14:34; it says "salt is good." *The Desire of Ages* tells us on page 439 that Christ's righteousness is the saving salt to the Christian. When Christ is in us this fact is very important: the salt of the Christian represents the Christ-likeness of that Christian.

Now the question is: can you and I lose our saltiness?

Do you think salt could lose its saltiness? Would that be possible? Yes we can, as Christians, lose our Christianity. If you lose your relationship with Jesus Christ, what value are you? Not much. You won't be saved. So how can it lose its flavour? If we are taken by the cares of this world, we will lose our unique flavour. We are God's last day remnant church; we believe God has entrusted us with a very important message, (the Three Angel's Messages) that need to be proclaimed around the world before Jesus comes the second time; because of this great task we don't want to lose our flavour. Your works are no good without the righteousness of Jesus, because salt represents Christ's righteousness. The works we should produce are the works that God makes through us, just as Paul says in Ephesians 2:10, "For we are His



workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." So, consider this—by whom is the good work done in us? God prepared the way, my friends; we should only walk in that way which is Jesus Christ. Don't miss this point. Only Jesus Christ and His perfect righteousness will make our best efforts acceptable to God. No good works without Christ can gain anything towards your salvation. We are saved by accepting the free righteousness of Jesus Christ. So, I want you to be a good Christian. We need to hear Bible preaching that uplifts Jesus Christ. We need to uplift the truth that we

have; we must not lose our unique flavour. In John 17 Jesus' prayer was that we should live in this world but not as the world—in other words, we are not to be a part of this world.

I remember years ago in my country of Romania, where there are so many Monasteries, I had received Christ as my personal Saviour, and I wanted to share the good news that I found in the Bible with these people, with the Monks, in my missionary work there. It is very difficult to point their attention to Christ. They follow traditions more than the Bible, the simple truth just as it is in the Bible. When people see their style of life they say, well, they have consecrated their lives completely to God because, look, they do not have a family, they have no relationships with anyone—he or she is God's servant. But what did Jesus tell us regarding living in the world but not being a part of it? He tells us that we have to live in this world; not out of this world, but in this world, spreading good flavour around us; in other words, not participating in this world's pleasures or sin. Christians, in order to change the world, must come into contact with the world. We have to get out and share Christ with others. Are you doing that, my friend? Do you find it difficult sometimes to share your faith with people, stepping out in faith and doing some canvassing work door-to-door? There are souls, precious souls to be found.

"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 unto 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. So, what is the reason for good works? Because it saves us? No, we are not saved by the good works which we may produce. Paul makes it clear how we are going to be saved. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8. Then why good works? Because James makes it clear in his epistle in chapter 2 that faith without works is dead. Then how can we explain this dilemma? The fact is that the good works were prepared by

God before we were even doing them; we just walk in them. When we walk away from God's path the results are the works of the flesh. When we remain in Jesus then those deeds are not ours, they are the fruit of the Holy Spirit working in us, my friends. Here is the secret. We must remain in Jesus in order to give good flavour and be the light of the world.

In the gospel of John, Jesus said, "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the Light of the world: he that followeth Me will not walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of life." John 8:12. My dear brothers and sisters, if we walk with Jesus then we have light, our pathway is lighted by the One who is the Light of the world. Many times in the Bible the term "light" is used. Even from the beginning, in the book of Genesis in the first chapter, verse 3, God said, "Let there be light;" the first thing that God created was light. In the gospel of John, speaking about Jesus Christ as the Creator of all



things, John says, "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." John 1:5. You see, Jesus is the light of the world, and if we come to Him then we also are to be lights in this darkened world.

We have learned two principles in this study, both in the case of the salt of the earth and the light of the world. The first we have seen is that salt gives taste or flavour and preserves. The second is that we are lights, which shine through the darkness, making it possible that the path be lighted and walkable.

One of the functions of light is to show the way. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." John 14:6. In Acts, when Saul is traveling to Damascus, he is blinded by the light as Jesus speaks to him. Throughout the Bible we continue to see the significance of light. So, being called to be the light of the world should be taken seriously, right? Paul reminds believers in Ephesians 5:8, "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light." We were once in darkness, but now we are the light of the world. How are we to live, then? We are to live as children of the light. John speaks to the same issue when he says in 1 John 1:5–7, "This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in

Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

In closing I want to make an appeal to you, my dear ones—do you have fellowship with your brothers and sisters there in your local church? Do you spread the light from God’s word around you? Is there any flavour in your spiritual life? If yes, what kind of flavour, because we have seen in this study there is only one good flavour which flavours the food. Is your influence a good one and makes a direct impact in the lives of those you are in touch with? There is only One who can give us a good flavour and make us lights of the world and the salt of the earth, and that is Jesus. Have you received Him as your personal Saviour? Did you make reconciliation with God through His precious, redeeming blood? I did, and let me tell you, I am the happiest person in the world because I know in whom I believe. No matter what happens next; in this world we have troubles, sometimes a beloved one left us and there, deep within our heart remained something that we cannot go on with; the more we try to get rid of it the less we are able. But let us remember, Christ has passed through such experiences also; He understands our sorrows and pain, we are not left alone—He is still the broken heart repairer. Evil, disease, poverty and sickness will not have the last word, my friend. God will. God’s plan, God’s people, God’s church will be triumphant at last. The work of God on earth will be fin-

ished, the mission will be accomplished, the task will be complete. Jesus will come to deliver His people. He will come as a Mighty Deliverer. He will come as King of kings and Lord of lords, just as we find written in Revelation, the last book written for the last generation on planet earth.

So, my friend, lift up your eyes from the dirt of this world and see Jesus. Lift up your eyes and see Him coming soon. Lift up your eyes and take Him seriously, because there is no time to waste. If there ever was a time in which I believed that Jesus will come soon, right now is that time. Looking around us, the prophecies are fulfilled; they give us the confidence that the word of God remains forever—it is eternal, just as our Saviour is. I wish that this message will bring you closer in your walk with Christ. Share your faith with others, let your light shine and the salt give flavour, is my wish and prayer, and may God add His blessings to His word. Amen!



“The men of the world suppose this faith to be beneath the notice of their great and intelligent minds, something too low to give attention to; but here they make a great mistake. It is altogether too high for their human intelligence to reach.” –The Review and Herald, July 18, 1899. “But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.” 1 Corinthians 1:27

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The Journey of Life

When you go on a journey, a car trip, and you drive for a long distance, what is the road often like? Is it completely straight? No, not at all. On the trip you will face bends in the road, to the right and to the left. There will be hills and valleys. You will go up hills and down hills. You will come to crossroads and need to decide which way to go. There may be obstacles on the road that would necessitate you having to get around it one way or another. As the road gets worn out, potholes develop on the road. You need to take rest stops along the way and if you get lost, you may have to make a U turn.

However, after many days the journey comes to an end and you are safe at home.

The Christian life is also a journey and Satan wants to make it difficult for us to remain on the correct roadway, "As men seek to come into harmony with God, they will find that the offense of the cross has not ceased. Principalities and powers and wicked spirits in high places are arrayed against all who yield obedience to the law of heaven. Therefore, so far from causing grief, persecution should bring joy to the disciples of Christ, for it is an evidence that they are following in the steps of their Master." —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 29

Some people, when they come to Christ and are baptized, expect the road to be smooth for the rest of their lives. This will not happen. To be successful in this journey of life we need the constant guidance of the Holy Spirit to be our navigator. Although the roadway may be difficult at times, we must remain connected with Jesus at all times and have complete trust in Him, or we will be led onto the wrong road.

BENDS

No road is completely straight on this earth, and although we are walking on the strait and narrow way to heaven, the road may bend and make turns; sometimes we see roads to the right and to the left. We need to know when to turn and when not to turn. In our spiritual journey we need to listen to our Guide when He tells us, "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." Isaiah 30:21

HILLS (Mountain top experiences)

Our car trip may take us over mountains, from where we can get a beautiful view of the valley below. The view can be breathtaking. The mountaintop experiences in the Christian life are special times when the Lord asks for heroic deeds (i.e. Elijah on Mount Carmel) or special seasons of time alone with God (i.e. Enoch). Or they can also be the special times of fellowship we experience at conference time.

When we are on the mountain top we often feel as though we are ready for anything. We wish that it could be like this always! This is not the Lord's plan. We cannot stay on the mountaintop forever. At some point the road leads us down into the valley.

Those mountaintop moments are moments of insights which we have to remember during those times when we are down in the valley. We have to learn to be as diligent on the grey days as we are on the sunny days. If we have Jesus abiding in our hearts then we can keep the truth burning in our hearts even on the dull and dreary days with the commonplace duties and people.

VALLEYS

Our journey will take us through valleys. The valley is not always a place of darkness. It may be a time when we are going through trials, but it is also may be a time when we are doing nothing special as it may seem—just normal every day duties. It is the time after a special communion with the Lord, alone or at a conference, when you return to your every-day life. You can have sunshine in your valley. It does not need to be filled with darkness and clouds. When we have sunshine in our hearts we will have peace in our valley.

The valley is not really a bad place to be. The mountain-top experience prepares us for life in the valley. It is our lifestyle in the valleys that shows how closely we are connected to Christ. True success is seen in those that are able to travel in the valleys of life, sometimes alone, with courage, strength and fortitude. “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4

Often it is the case that those who perform heroic deeds and are having a mountain top experience, when they come back to the valley they get depressed. Where do we find Elijah after his experience on Mount Carmel? We see him fleeing for his life in the desert (1 Kings 19).

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58. Sometimes it may look as though there is little result from our work for the Lord, however, we must never give up. Our efforts will never be in vain for the Lord. We may not know until we are in heaven, the results from our work, so we must continue faithfully performing our duties now.

MOUNTAINS OUT OF MOLEHILLS

The road we travel may have small bumps that appear to us larger than they really are. Sometimes we fear the molehills on the way, making them appear as mountains in our mind. I am sure we have all been guilty of making mountains out of molehills in our life’s experience. Here is one way we do it. “We are to stand in the

strength and power of Israel’s God. Shall we do it, brethren and sisters? Or shall we murmur and complain, looking at the obstacles in the way and making a mountain out of a molehill?” —*Christ Triumphant*, p. 121. Let us not murmur, but trust in God to clear the molehills.

TRAVELLING UP HILL

The road takes you up, not only mountains, but smaller hills; the minor duties in life. “The path of holiness is narrow, full of self-denial and continual sacrifice; and yet in this laborious, up-hill path is happiness, comfort, and hope. In the midst of conflicts, rebuffs, and trials, the most elevated consolation is enjoyed by those who walk in the path of obedience.” —*The Review and Herald*, April 15, 1880

We are not promised an easy road. “He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” Matthew 24:13. It is a struggle—an uphill struggle—and we cannot give up. But be of good cheer, Christ has promised to be with you.

Here is how you can make your uphill travel even more difficult. “When you find your work hard, when you complain of difficulties and trials, when you say that you have no

strength to withstand temptation, that you cannot overcome impatience, and that the Christian life is uphill work, be sure that you are not bearing the yoke of Christ; you are bearing the yoke of another master. But for Christ’s sake, for the truth’s sake, I entreat you to repent and be converted. Do not dishonour the name of religion by an inconsistent course.” —*The Signs of the Times*, July 22, 1889

TRAVELLING DOWN HILL

While driving, there are times when the road leads you downhill. Going down hills is easy. It is simply drifting. However, in our Christian walk we must continue onward and upward. Although, at times we have gone downhill, hopefully we will cease to do so and continue upwards. “We can never be saved in indolence and inactivity. There is no such thing as a truly converted person living a helpless, useless life. It is not possible



for us to drift into heaven. No sluggard can enter there.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 280

OBSTACLES ON THE ROAD

When you are driving, there can be large obstacles on the road. With obstacles, there are several options:



Detour: A detour takes you around the obstacle. It will not be the shortest route, but it gets you around the obstacle. God sometimes has a reason for sending us on a detour. For example,

Ancient Israel met an obstacle in their road on the way to Canaan. With the mighty Amalekite nation in the way, God made them take a detour to the south, across the Red Sea and into the wilderness. It was not exactly the way they originally thought they should go, but God knew better.

The route we have in mind in our Christian walk may not be exactly the way God wants us to go, whether it be a job, a place to live, a spouse, or a duty we want to perform. God may lead us in a way that we think is contrary to our human reasoning. God’s ways are sometimes mysterious to us, but we have to always remember that God is in control and we need to yield our will to His will.

Over: “They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall.” Joel 2:7. If the obstacle is large, we may have to leave our car behind and use a lot of effort to climb. It may be strenuous and tax every fibre of our muscles, but we can do it with the help of Christ. “For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall.” Psalm 18:29. If it is not so high an obstacle, one can leap over the wall. Still, it takes effort without your car. We may have to leave all earthly “crutches” behind and go with God. “We are to do all that we can do on our part to fight the good fight of faith. We are to wrestle, to labour, to strive, to agonize to enter in at the strait gate. . . . We are to reach the highest standard, believing that God will help us in our efforts.” —*Faith and Works*, p. 49

Some will turn back when they see obstacles, while others will meet them with courage and seek the Lord for ways to overcome them. With every obstacle in life, God has made a way to overcome it, one way or another. We cannot give up.

POT HOLES

Many roads which are poorly maintained will have pot holes. The devil puts pot holes also in the way on our Christian journey. We need to be aware of them and watch for them so we don’t stumble. Just when we think we are going along fine, we may take our eyes off Christ and stumble



as Peter did when he walked on the water. We must always keep our eyes on Christ. Again, Peter thought he was secure in his Christian walk, but on the night of the crucifixion, he stumbled. He denied Christ. Have you stumbled and denied Christ in your words, deeds or actions?

“If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.’ The path of obedience is the path of safety. ‘He that walketh uprightly walketh surely.’ Walk in the light, and ‘then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.’ Those who do not walk in the light will have a sickly, stunted religion.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3 p. 108–109. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8

“Y” IN THE ROAD

When we come to a crossroads, we must trust the sign



post and our map to help us decide which road to take. Life is full of decisions. In Deuteronomy 28, Moses called the people to make a decision. If they served God they would be blessed; if they did not they would

be cursed, but they could choose the road they wished to travel. It is the same today. We decide our eternal destiny.

“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15. “All are now deciding their eternal destiny.” —*Maranatha*, p.108

“The will is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or choice. Every human being possessed of reason **has power to choose the right.**” – *Education*, p. 289 [emphasis mine]. “God has given full directions regarding His law, so that none need be left in darkness, unless they choose darkness rather than light.” – *The Review and Herald*, December 20, 1898

U-TURN

If you have been travelling the wrong way, you may need to turn around—make a U turn—and travel back to the correct road. No one likes to be told that they are wrong. If you have a great idea and think this is the right thing to do, it is often difficult to accept the fact that you have been wrong. It takes a lot of humility to acknowledge a wrong doing. But we all have made our mistakes. The Lord does not leave us to continue travelling the wrong way. He appeals to us to “Return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.” Hosea 14:1

He does not reprimand us while bringing us back to the correct road, but rather He says, “I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for Mine anger is turned away from him.” Hosea 14:4. “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” Isaiah 55:7. What a wonderful God we serve.

“But none who have fallen need give up to despair. Aged men, once honoured of God, may have defiled their souls, sacrificing virtue on the altar of lust; but if they repent, forsake sin, and turn to God, there is still hope for them.” – *Prophets and Kings*, p. 84. God loves the sinner, but hates the sin.

Those that are humble and love the Lord, will listen to and heed the voice of correction. “They that dwell under His shadow shall return.” Hosea 14:7. “Some, I saw, would gladly return. Others will not let this message to the Laodicean church have its weight upon them. They will glide along, much after the same manner as before, and will be spewed out of the mouth of the Lord. Those only who zealously repent will have favour with God.” – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1 p. 144

“The Lord is full of compassion for His suffering ones. What sins are too great for His pardon? He is merciful, and as such is infinitely more ready and more pleased to pardon than to condemn. He is gracious, not looking for wrong in us; He knoweth our frame; He remem-

bereth that we are but dust. In His boundless compassion and mercy He heals all our backslidings, loving us freely while we are yet sinners, withdrawing not His light, but shining on us for Christ's sake.” – *Selected Messages*, vol. 2, p. 231

REST STOP

When we go on a long car ride it is important that we make a rest stop along the way. Although this may cause a bit of a delay, the rest is important. “Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.” Psalm 27:14



“But though time is short, and there is a great work to be done, the Lord is not pleased to have us so prolong our seasons of activity that there will not be time for periods of rest, for the study of the Bible, and for communion with God.” – *Lift Him Up*, p. 263

Sometimes we have a forced rest stop if the car may break down and we have to wait for it to be repaired. If we do not make regular rest stops in our Christian life, God sometimes stops us in our tracks and tells us to stop and wait. For example, a person may face an unexpected illness and need to remain in bed and cease from labour for a time. Every trial we face in life is permitted by the Lord, for our salvation. We may not understand why things don't go according to our way of thinking and timing, but we need to trust and wait.

“It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.” Lamentations 3:26

So do not be surprised by the way that the Lord is leading you. Just trust. No matter which way your journey through life leads, you need to take heart and trust that God is in control. Nothing happens by accident and each bend and hill in the road is placed there by God. We have to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and remain on the strait and narrow pathway. Only then will we be granted a crown of victory. I look forward to meeting each of you readers at the end of the journey. Amen.





Recreation vs. Amusements

The Spanish word for amusements is very interesting – Diversions. . . . Can you say that your amusements are bringing you closer to God, or are you getting diverted further away from Him? Is your sport giving you more strength and knowledge to do God’s work? Is it practical?

Is it helping you find your way to help, heal and bless others? Or is it just all about you? Is it a self-centered exercise in which you are indulging? Or is it with and for others, as well?

All of these are questions we will answer in this article. The American Constitution talks about life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Isn’t that what everyone wants out of life? Happiness? And people look in lots of places to find happiness, don’t they?

Maybe you have seen some of your friends at school pursuing happiness in some of those places, like sex, drugs and rock and roll—and did they find happiness? Now, please understand that they probably found lots of mirth and laughter, lots of superficial pleasure. But what does the Bible say about the pleasures of sin? “Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.” Hebrews 11:25. It only lasts for a short season.

“Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD.” Psalm 144:15. Do you know this kind of happiness? Or, there is actually another word for it—*joy* What is the difference between mere fun and joy—what would you say the difference is?

But what if my pursuit of happiness infringes upon someone else’s happiness? “Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother’s way.” Romans 14: 13. The Bible says not to put a stumbling block in any one else’s way. So is that article of dress that you find so comfortable actually going to be a curse if you put it on? Maybe not a curse for you, but a curse for someone else? Is that food that you are going to eat or the amount of food you are going to eat, even, actually going to unfit you for the Bible study that you want to give later on?

“Everything in the world is in agitation. The signs of the times are ominous. Coming events cast their shadows before. The Spirit of God is withdrawing from the earth, and calamity follows calamity by sea and by land. There are tempests, earthquakes, fires, floods, murders of every grade. Who can read the future? Where is security? There is assurance in nothing that is human or earthly. Rapidly men are ranging themselves under the banner they have chosen. Restlessly they are waiting and watching the movements of their leaders.

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

“‘Come unto Me,’ Christ says, ‘and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest.'

"In the heart of Christ, where reigned perfect harmony with God, there was perfect peace. He was never elated by applause, or dejected by censure or disappointment. Amidst the greatest opposition and the most cruel treatment, He was still of good courage. But many who profess to be His followers have an anxious, troubled heart, because they are afraid to trust themselves with God. They do not make a complete surrender to Him; for they shrink from the consequences that such a surrender may involve. Unless they do make this surrender, they can not find peace." —*The Signs of the Times*, July 6, 1904

Do you think making a complete surrender to God will also involve your food, clothing and amusements? Generally speaking, we can say that the outside appearance is an index to the heart. And the more naked someone is, the more into sin they will be.

Also, the more worldly that a person's amusements are, the more worldly and sinful they will be, also generally speaking.

"The abiding rest—the consciousness that God is true—who has it? That rest is found when all self-justification is put away, and an entire surrender is made to Christ, to be and do only what He wills. Those who do not comply with these conditions can not find rest." —*The Signs of the Times*, July 6, 1904

In Christ there is perfect peace. . . and could we say that He has perfect joy as well?

How about sports? Are sports ever acceptable?

"The Problem of Many Athletic Sports.—Vigorous exercise the pupils must have. Few evils are more to be dreaded than indolence and aimlessness. Yet the tendency of most athletic sports is a subject of anxious thought to those who have at heart the well-being of the youth. Teachers are troubled as they consider the influence of these sports both on the student's progress in school and on his success in afterlife. The games that occupy so much of his time are diverting the mind from study. They are not helping to prepare the youth for practical, earnest work in life. Their influence does not tend toward refinement, generosity, or real manliness.

"Some of the most popular amusements, such as football and boxing,



questions in the proper way, and choose only those sports or activities that fit this criteria and thus give honor and glory to our gracious God through our thoughts, words and activities. Amen.

Jerry Eaton

have become schools of brutality. They are developing the same characteristics as did the games of ancient Rome. The love of domination, the pride in mere brute force, the reckless disregard of life, are exerting upon the youth a power to demoralize that is appalling.

"Other athletic games, though not so brutalizing, are scarcely less objectionable because of the excess to which they are carried. They stimulate the love of pleasure and excitement, thus fostering a distaste for useful labor, a disposition to shun practical duties and responsibilities. They tend to destroy a relish for life's sober realities and its tranquil enjoyments. Thus the door is opened to dissipation and lawlessness with their terrible results." —*The Adventist Home*, p. 500

"On such occasions parents and children should feel free from care, labor, and perplexity. Parents should become children with their children, making everything as pleasant for them as possible. Let the whole day be given to recreation. Exercise in the open air for those whose employment has been within doors and sedentary will be beneficial to health. All who can should feel it a duty to pursue this course. Nothing will be lost, but much gained. They can return to their occupations with new life and new courage to engage in their labor with zeal, and they are better prepared to resist disease." —*The Adventist Home*, p. 502

To sum up: Here are several other things to consider when we are trying to choose a pastime or recreation—is it giving honor and glory to God? Or self? Am I more concerned with winning this game, or getting exercise? Is this type of exercise too brutal, stimulating a love of pleasure and excitement or is it actually helping me to relish life's sober realities and tranquil enjoyments? Am I more concerned with making a display of this game to others—or is it for keeping my body fit and healthy through exercise?

Am I going to come away from this recreation more fitted for handling life's burdens and problems—or less fitted for these things after this activity?

May God bless you and I when we consider our recreations and amusements, that we can answer all these



“Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.” 1 Peter 3:8.

“Those who work for Christ are to be upright and trustworthy, firm as a rock to principle, and at the same time kind and courteous. Courtesy is one of the graces of the Spirit. To deal with human minds is the greatest work ever given to man; and he who would find access to hearts must heed the injunction, ‘Be pitiful, be courteous.’ Love will do that which argument will fail to accomplish. But a moment’s petulance, a single gruff answer, a lack of Christian politeness and courtesy in some small matter, may result in the loss of both friends and influence.” —*Reflecting Christ*, p. 30

“Kind words are as dew and gentle showers to the soul. The Scripture says of Christ, that grace was poured into His lips, that He might ‘know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary.’ And the Lord bids us, ‘Let your speech be always with grace’ ‘that it may minister grace unto the hearers.’” *Gospel Workers*, p. 121—122

Courtesy is one of the graces of the Spirit. It is an attribute of Heaven. The angels never fly into a passion, never are envious or selfish. No harsh or unkind words escape their lips. If we are to be the companions of angels, we too must be refined and courteous.” —*In Heavenly places*, p. 180

“The truth of God is designed to elevate the receiver, to refine his taste and sanctify his judgment. No man can be a Christian without having the spirit of Christ; and if he has the spirit of Christ, it will be manifested in a refined, courteous disposition. His character will be holy, his manners comely, his words without guile. He will cherish the love that is not easily provoked, that suffers long and is kind, that hopes all things and endures all things.” —*In Heavenly places*, p. 180

CHRIST’S EXAMPLE

“What Christ was in His life on this earth, that every Christian is to be. He is our example, not only in His spotless purity, but in His patience, gentleness, and winsomeness of disposition. He was firm as a rock where truth and duty were concerned, but He was invariably kind and courteous. His life was a perfect illustration of true courtesy. . . . His presence brought a purer atmosphere into the home, and His life was as leaven working amid the elements of society. Harmless and undefiled, He walked among the thoughtless, the rude, the uncourteous; amid the unjust publicans, the unrighteous Samaritans, the heathen soldiers, the rough peasants, and the mixed multitude.” —*In Heavenly places*, p. 181

“He spoke a word of sympathy here and a word there as He saw men weary and compelled to bear heavy burdens. He shared their burdens and repeated to them the lessons He had learned from nature, of the love, the kindness, the goodness of God. He sought to inspire with hope the most rough and unpromising, setting before them the assurance that they might become blameless and harmless, attaining such a character as would make them manifest as children of God. . . . Jesus sat an honored guest at the table of the publicans, by His sympathy and social kindness showing that He recognized the dignity of humanity; and men longed to become worthy of His confidence. Upon their thirsty souls His words fell with blessed, life-giving power. New impulses were awakened, and the possibility of a new life opened to these outcasts of society.” —*In Heavenly places*, p. 181

“The essence of true politeness is consideration for others.” —*Education*, p. 241

“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with

salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Colossians 4:6.

"Those who profess to be followers of Christ and are at the same time rough, unkind, and uncourteous in words and deportment have not learned of Jesus. . . . The conduct of some professing Christians is so lacking in kindness and courtesy that their good is evil spoken of. Their sincerity may not be doubted, their uprightness may not be questioned; but sincerity and uprightness will not atone for a lack of kindness and courtesy. The Christian is to be sympathetic as well as true, pitiful and courteous as well as upright and honest." *-In Heavenly places, p. 180*

"True courtesy blended with truth and justice makes the life not only useful but beautiful and fragrant. Kind words, pleasant looks, a cheerful countenance, throw a charm about the Christian that makes his influence almost irresistible. In forgetfulness of self, in the light and peace and happiness that he is constantly bestowing on others, he finds true joy." *-In Heavenly places, p. 180*

"Let us be self-forgetful, ever on the watch to cheer others, to lighten their burdens by acts of tender kindness and deeds of unselfish love. Leave unspoken that unkind word; let that selfish disregard of the happiness of others give place to loving sympathy. These thoughtful courtesies, beginning in the home and extending far beyond the home circle, go far to make up the sum of life's happiness, and the neglect of them constitutes no small share of life's misery." *-In Heavenly places, p. 180*

"Every human agency connected with the Lord's work needs to appreciate the work in which he is acting a part. The work in God's institutions is to be carried on without friction, without hasty speech, without dictatorial words. The workers are to be pure, clean, and holy in thought, in word, in act. They are to be Christ's witnesses, testifying that they are born again." *-In Heavenly places, p. 182*

"There is to be no sharp speaking, no fretful scolding, for angels of God are walking up and down in every room. Christ loves to commend every faithful worker, and He will do it. Every good act is registered in the book. Little mistakes may be made, but words of censure arouse feelings of retaliation, and God is dishonored. . . . Any word spoken thoughtlessly or unadvisedly should be retracted on



the spot. . . . We are to remember that as Christians professing to work in unity we must not act like sinners, whose sinful words and works, unless repented of, will condemn them." *- In Heavenly places, p. 182*

"The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned." Isaiah 50:4

"The religion of Jesus softens whatever is hard and rough in the temper and smooths off whatever is rugged and sharp in the manners. It is this religion that makes the words gentle and the demeanor winning. Let us learn from Christ how to combine a high sense of purity and integrity with sunniness of disposition. A kind, courteous Christian is the most powerful argument that can be produced in favor of the gospel." *-In Heavenly places, p. 181*

"Purity in speech and true Christian courtesy should be constantly practiced." *-Adventist Home, p. 16*

"'Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die' (Revelation 3:2). This is our work. There are many ready to die spiritually, and the Lord calls upon us to strengthen them. God's people are to be firm to duty. They are to be bound together by the bonds of Christian fellowship and are to be strengthened in the faith by speaking often to one another about the precious truths entrusted to them. Never are they to quarrel and condemn. They are to unite upon the importance of obedience to God's law." *-In Heavenly places, p. 182*

"In this life there is nothing of greater importance than preparation of character that we may at last enter with joy into the saints' abode on high. Why do we not improve our privilege of being saints here below?" *-In Heavenly places, p. 182*

Ellen G. White



Hamilton Church Cooking Class and Health Seminar

On September 8, 2013, Brother Evald Pedersen opened the cooking class with a welcome to the audience and a prayer. Sister Wendy was the first cooking demonstrator. She presented delicious Gluten Burgers that were easy and nutritious. Her second recipe was a Sunflower Seed Almond Roast, a good protein addition to any menu.

Sister Franziska Pedersen greeted the audience and introduced a Vegan Cheese and Broccoli Soup that captivated the audience. Her second recipe was a Tofu Egg Salad Spread. It was reported that the recipe had a similar taste to real eggs, but minus the cholesterol. She also made a Garlic-Dill dressing which was added to the Tofu Egg Salad to give it a smooth texture for spreading.

Sister Linda Kolyn asked the audience if they wanted a health lecture first or the cooking demonstration, and the audience chose the health lecture.

Sister Linda gave a very insightful Power Point on nutrition based on the Colour Code. This was an eye-opening lecture to many in the audience who were surprised to discover how having a variety of colourful foods in our diet can keep us healthy and disease free. We learned to recognize good fats versus bad fats,

antioxidants to keep us cancer-free, along with management of food groups to maintain a healthy diet. The audience was also given information on foods that help fight inflammation and arthritis. There were testimonials from Sister Linda and others on the blessings of a vegan diet.

She continued explaining how to cook an Almond/Cashew Loaf in a crockpot and its benefits. She also showed how to make her Rice Pudding, with wholesome products. Sister Linda introduced a cinnamon substitute, explaining to the audience that cinnamon is an irritant to the stomach. Everyone was pleased with what they had heard and witnessed in the healthful vegetarian cooking class.

Brother Evald talked of the benefits of juicing and samples of a juice mixed with carrots, beets and celery

was given to the audience.

After a question and answer session, a prayer for the offering of the food was said before the audience was allowed to partake of the recipes demonstrated. We all thoroughly enjoyed the healthy vegan food on offer at the end of the cooking class, but the best part was the fellowship of those seeking for health, together.

Maurine Gerald



Gluten Burgers

1 cup Gluten Flour Mix all dry ingredients in a bowl.
1 cup Oats Add oil and soy sauce.
¼ cup Wheat Germ Add hot water last and mix well.
¼ cup Soy Flour Cook on Stove with non-stick
1 tsp. Garlic Powder skillet.
2 tsp. salt No oil required.
1 small onion chopped
¼ cup oil
¼ cup soy sauce
1 ½ cup hot water

Sunflower Seed Almond Roast

1 cup Almonds, ground
½ cup Sunflower Seeds, ground Mix dry ingredients first.
½ cup Oats, blended Add juice and oil last.
1 medium raw Potato, shredded Place in casserole dish.
1 small Onion, chopped fine Bake at 350 for 45 minutes.
1 tsp. Salt
1 cup Tomato Juice
1 Tbsp. Oil

Rice Pudding

2 cups cooked brown rice Combine all in a
2/3 cup raisins casserole dish.
1 - 13.5 oz can coconut milk Cover and bake at 350 F
½ tsp. cinnamon substitute* for 1 hour.
1 tsp. vanilla
2 Tbsp. maple syrup

Cinnamon substitute

1 part cardamom Mix Well.
3 parts coriander Bottle and label.

Cinnamon is a mild gastric irritant.

Vegan Cheese And Broccoli Soup

7 cups water 2 cups cashews, rinsed
1 Tbsp. salt ¼ cup nutritional yeast
4 tsp. onion powder ½ tsp. garlic powder
½ tsp. dill weed ½ cup red peppers
3-4 cups broccoli florets (lightly steamed).
Blend cashews with 1-2 cups of water until smooth. Add remaining ingredients to the blender (except broccoli). Blend well and pour into pot, add steamed broccoli and heat until warm.

Oat Crackers

3 cups oats
2 cups whole wheat flour
½ cup of each, wheat germ and bran
2 tsp. salt
2/3 cup oil
1 cup water

Mix wet and dry ingredients separately, then combine together. Roll out 1/8" thick onto oiled or parchment paper covered cookie sheet. Score. Bake at 350 F for 25 - 30 minutes.

Tofu Egg Salad Spread

2 cups medium firm Tofu (mashed)
6 Tbsp. Garlic-dill Dressing (see below)
4 Tbsp. celery, finely diced
4 Tbsp. green onions, finely chopped
1 tsp. of each, onion powder, salt
½ tsp. each, garlic powder and turmeric
and nutritional yeast

Combine all ingredients. If it seems too dry for you, add more garlic-dill dressing and adjust seasonings to taste.

Note: For a personal touch, add any of your favourites, such as: olives, pickles, red sweet pepper, or any other seasoning of your preference.

Garlic-Dill Dressing

1 cup fresh, drained (Regular) Tofu
3 Tbsp. lemon juice Blend all ingredients.
1 clove garlic (medium) Adjust seasonings to
½ tsp. salt taste.
2 tsp. dill weed

Note: If needing a sweet dip or dessert topping, omit garlic and dill. Add honey and vanilla to taste.

Almond/Cashew Loaf For Crockpot/Slow Cooker

¾ c. raw almonds or cashews, washed
1 ½ cups rice, almond milk or coconut milk
¼ cup dried onions or one onion, diced
2 cups cooked brown rice
2 Tbsp. soy sauce
½ tsp. salt
1 or 2 cloves fresh garlic minced or chopped
2 Tbsp. dried [or 4 Tbsp. fresh] parsley
½ tsp. celery seed
1 ¼ cups quick oats
1 cup water

Mix ingredients in a bowl. Coat the crockpot with coconut oil and pour the mixture into it. Cook on high for 2 to 2 ½ hours or on low heat all day.

CHILDREN'S CORNER



The Doctor's Cow

(part 2)

Five years after that eventful night when the cow died due to the young man's mistake, Harry stood on the doctor's front porch, a youth of eighteen, bidding good-bye to the two who had been more to him than father and mother. He was going to college in the West, where he could work his way, and in his trunk was a high-school diploma, and in his pocket a "gilt-edged recommendation" from Dr. Layton.

"God bless you, my boy! Don't forget us," said the doctor, his voice husky with unshed tears as he wrung the strong young hand that had been so helpful to him in the busy years flown by.

"Forget you, my more than father!" murmured the young man, not even trying to keep the tears out of his eyes. "No matter how many years it may be before I see you again, I shall always remember your unfailing kindness to me. And can I ever forget how you saved me for a higher life than I could possibly have lived if you had set me adrift in the world again for leaving that barn door unfastened, and killing your cow? As long as I live, I shall remember that great kindness, and shall try to deserve it by my life."

"Oh my dear, Harry," said the doctor, "that was nothing but common humanity!"

"Uncommon humanity," corrected the youth. "Good-bye, Mrs. Layton. I shall always remember your kindness, too. You have been like a mother to me."

"You have deserved it all, Harry," said the doctor's wife, and there was a tear in her eye, too, which was an unusual sight, for she was not an emotional woman. "Today I can see that it was not such a great calamity to lose Brindle just as we did, for Daisy is a finer cow than her mother was, and there has not been another chance since to get as good a heifer."

"So it was a blessing in disguise, after all, Harry," laughed the doctor. "As for you, you have been a blessing undisguised from that day to this. May the Lord bless and prosper you! Write to us often."

Four years passed, and in one of the Western States a young college graduate stepped from his pedestal of oratorical honours to take a place among the rising young lawyers of a prosperous new town that was fast developing into a commercial center.

"I am doing well, splendidly," he wrote Dr. Layton, after two years of hard work, "and one of these days I am coming back to make that promised visit."

But the years came and went, and still the West held him in its powerful clutch. Success smiled upon his pathway, and into his life entered the sweet, new joy of a woman's love and devotion, and into his home came the happy music of children's voices. When his eldest boy was eight years old, he had a successful business that provided a comfortable living for his family.

"And now, at last," he wrote Dr. Layton, "I am coming east, for that long-promised visit. And how is the family cow?"

The doctor replied briefly but gladly:

"So you are coming at last, my boy! Well, you will find us in the same old house, —a little the worse for wear, perhaps,—and leading the same quiet life. No, not exactly the same, though it is quiet enough, for I am growing old, and the town is running after the new, young doctors, leaving us old ones in the rear, to trudge along as best we can. There isn't any 'family cow' now, Harry. Daisy died long ago and we never got another, for I am getting too old to milk, and there never seemed to come along another boy like the old Harry, who would take all the barn-yard responsibility on his

shoulders. Besides, mother is crippled with rheumatism, and can hardly get around to do her housework, let alone to make butter. We are not any too well off since the Union Bank failed and I have had to help pay the depositors' claims. But we have enough to keep us comfortable, and much to be thankful for, most of all that our famous son is coming home for a visit. Bring your wife, too, and the children, all five of those bright boys and girls,—bring them all! I want to show them the old stall in the barn, where, twenty-five years ago, I picked their father up in my arms early one spring morning as he lay fast asleep on the neck of the old cow, over whose expiring breath he had nearly broken his poor little heart."

And a blessed visit it was when the two finally met each other again after so many years. "Yes, father, of course it has paid to come down here. I would not have missed it for all the world."

"It does not seem possible that it is twenty years since I stood here, saying good-bye when I started West. By the way, do you remember what you told me that memorable night when the lamented Brindle laid down her life because of my carelessness, and her own gluttony? I was standing at the horse's head, and you were sitting in your buggy, there at the carriage steps, and I said I wished you would horsewhip me, instead of treating me so kindly. I remember you reached over and tickled my neck with the lash playfully, and told me there was no use in thrashing a fellow who was all broken up, anyway, over an accident."

The doctor laughed as he held his arms more closely about the shoulders of Harry's two eldest boys; while "Grandmother Layton," with little Ted in her lap, was dreaming again of the little form that had long, long ago been laid in the graveyard on the hillside.

"Yes, yes," said the doctor, "I remember. What a blessed thing it was I did not send you off that day the old cow died," he laughed through his tears.

"Blessed!" echoed Mrs. Layton, putting down the wriggling Ted. "It was providential. You know, Harry, I was not so kind-hearted as John in those days, and I thought he ought to send you off. But he declared he would not, even if you had cost him two cows. He said that if he

did it might cost the world a man. And so it would have, if all they say you are doing out West in your work is true."

"I do not know about that," he said modestly. "I am of the opinion that he might have saved more of a man for the world; but certain it is, he saved whatever manhood there was in that boy from going to waste by his noble act of kindness. But what I remember most, father, is what you told me, there at the carriage step, that when I became a rich man, I could pay you for that cow. Well, I am not exactly a rich man, for I am not in my place of employment only for all the money I can get out of it. However, I am getting a better income than my leaving that barn door open would justify any one in believing I ever could get by my brains; so now I can pay that long-standing debt without inconvenience. It may come handy for you to have a little fund laid by, since the Union Bank is failing, and so much of your other funds went to pay the poor depositors of that



defunct institution. It was just like you, father, to be honest and not to hide your assets, as so many of the people did, by putting all their property in their wife's name. So, since you made one investment twenty-five years ago that has not seemed to depreciate in value very much,—an investment in a raw young boy who did not have enough forethought to fasten a barn door,—here is the interest on

what the investment was worth to the boy, at least a little of it; for I can never begin to pay it all. Good-bye, both of you, and may God bless you."

When the dust of the departing carriage had filtered away through the morning sunlight, two pairs of tear-dimmed eyes gazed at the slip of blue paper in Dr. Layton's hand,—a check for five thousand dollars.

"We saved a man that time, sure enough!" murmured the old doctor softly.

Is this not what God does for you when you have made a mistake? He does not cast you off and send you away; rather He freely forgives you when you are sorry and repent, and then gives you a second chance because He can see the value in you. He sees your talents and wants to help you to develop them. What will you give to God in return?



MENDOZA
ARGENTINA

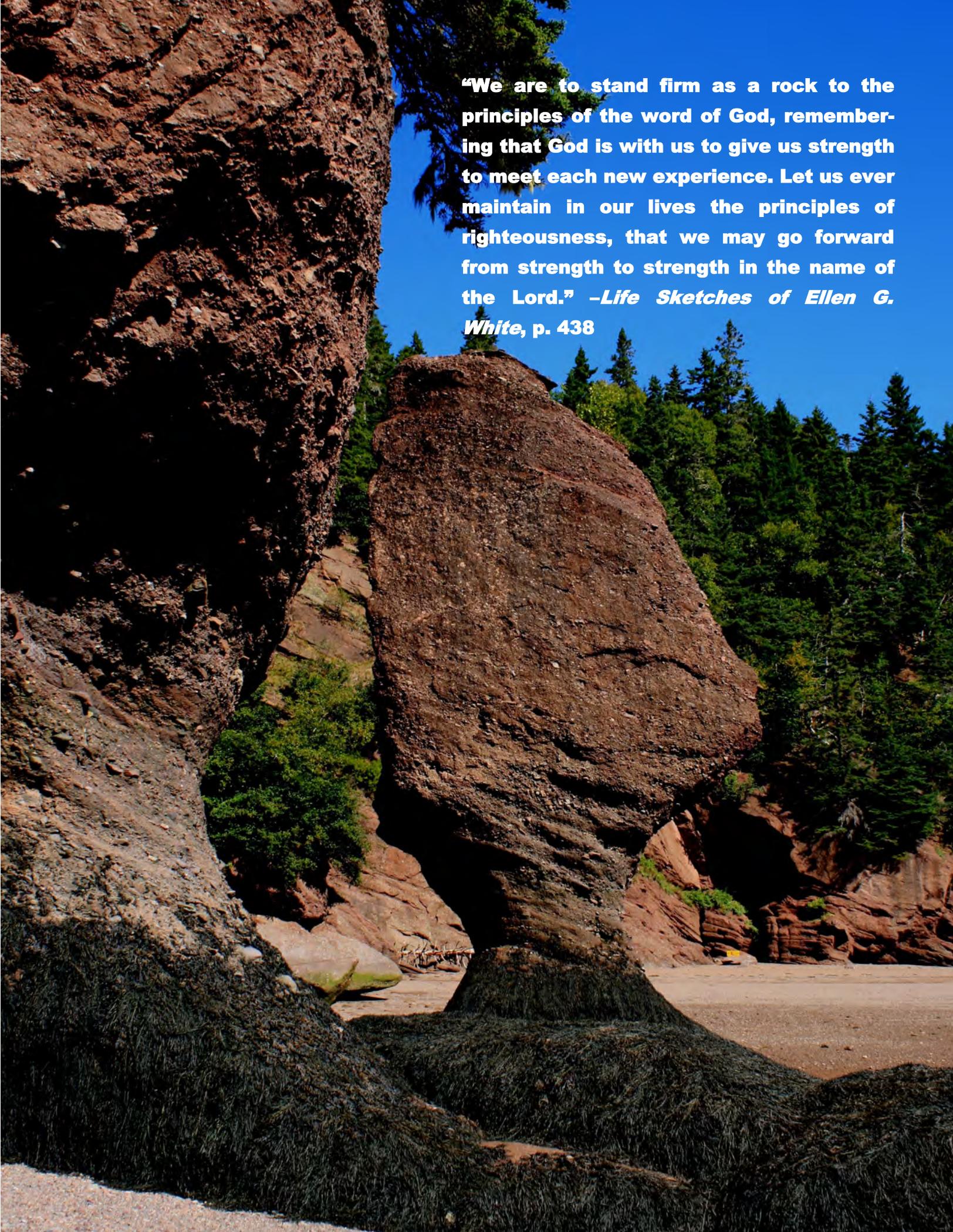


CHIRE CHURCH, ETHIOPIA



**Youth
Conference,
Maine, USA
August 2013**





“We are to stand firm as a rock to the principles of the word of God, remembering that God is with us to give us strength to meet each new experience. Let us ever maintain in our lives the principles of righteousness, that we may go forward from strength to strength in the name of the Lord.” -*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p. 438