

# Our Firm FOUNDATION

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March 1998

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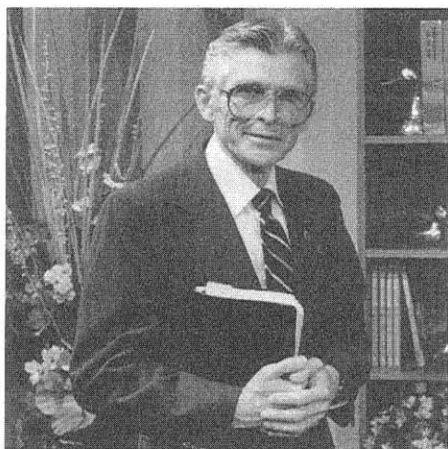
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# Editorial

**W**HAT does it mean to be justified by faith? While climbing Pilate's staircase on his knees in Rome, Martin Luther was startled by a voice quoting Romans 1:17: "The just shall live by faith." Suddenly, he fled from the scene, and returned to Wittenberg—a changed man! From that moment on he began a war against the false doctrines of the Papacy—and started a revival and reformation that spread throughout Europe and England.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church was raised up by God to complete that Reformation begun by Luther, Swingly, Knox, and the Wesleys. Romans 1:17 was the spark that began the Reformation: "The just shall live by faith." It is the same spark that is now needed to complete the Reformation. Satan has taken this text and distorted it to say that the only thing you have to do to be justified is to believe.

Listen to God speak to us on this important subject of faith—saving faith that justifies the soul and brings pardon to our names on the books of heaven:

"You will hear the cry 'Only believe.' Satan believed and trembled. We must have a faith that works by love and purifies the heart. The idea prevails that Christ has done all for us, and that we can go on transgressing the commandments and will not be held accountable for it. This is the greatest deception that the enemy ever devised. We must take our position that we will not violate the commandments at any cost, and be in that spiritual condition that we can educate others in spiritual things." *Selected Messages*, book 3, 153.

What part does the Ten Commandment Law have in man's justification and pardon from sin?

"We believe that we must keep that law or we will not be saved in the kingdom of heaven. The transgressor cannot be saved in the kingdom of glory. It is not the law that

sanctifies anyone, nor saves us; that law stands and cries out, 'Repent that your sins may be blotted out.' And then the sinner goes to Jesus, and as the sinner promises that he will obey the requirements of the law, He blots out their guilty stains and sets them free, and gives them power with God." *Ibid*; see also *ibid.*, book 1, 393-394.

"Pardon and justification are one and the same thing. . . . Thus man, pardoned, and clothed with the beautiful garments of Christ's righteousness, stands faultless before God." *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, 1070.

What is the faith of Jesus referred to in Revelation 14:12? "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Let us see what Paul has to say about this faith: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20.

Again God speaks to us:

"Genuine faith will be manifested in good works; for good works are the fruits of faith. As God works in the heart, and man surrenders his will to God, and cooperates with God, he works out in the life what God works in by the Holy Spirit, and there is harmony between the purpose of the heart and the practice of the life. Every sin must be renounced as the hateful thing that crucified the Lord of life and glory, and the believer must have a progressive experience by continually doing the works of Christ. It is by continual surrender of the will, by continual obedience, that the blessing of justification is retained.

"Those who are justified by faith must have a heart to keep the way of the Lord. It is an evidence that a man is not justified by faith when his works do not correspond to his profession. James says, 'Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?' James 2:22.

"The faith that does not produce good works does not justify the soul. 'Ye see then

how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.' James 2:24. 'Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.' Romans 4:3." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 397.

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." 1 Corinthians 2:16.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5. "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17.

The new creature of 2 Corinthians 5:17 is the new birth experience of John 3:1-3. It is the mind of Christ working in the soul which develops a love relationship with Christ—inspiring loving obedience to all known truth and a continual searching of the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy for more truth. Complete obedience to all known truth without compromise is the test of our discipleship, and our qualification to join the society of heaven and to inherit eternal life.

The mind of Christ produces the faith of Christ working daily in the life experience which makes the sinner into a saint—and a powerful witness. Then God can trust these saints with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. The loud cry of Revelation 18 will be a spontaneous reaction from the last generation of God's faithful and loyal people. God is now searching over all the earth for these obedient people. The latter rain is on its way! The loud cry will soon sound! Probation is about to close for the church and for the world! May God give us now the saving faith of Jesus. It is our greatest need. Then revival and reformation will soon follow. See *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 126.

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." 2 Peter 1:10.

**Ron Spear—EDITOR**

It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of *Our Firm Foundation* to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days that yet remain of this world are few, and what we do we must do quickly. We must boldly proclaim the historic truths of Adventism that place us on so firm a foundation in the midst of this troubled world.—EDITORS

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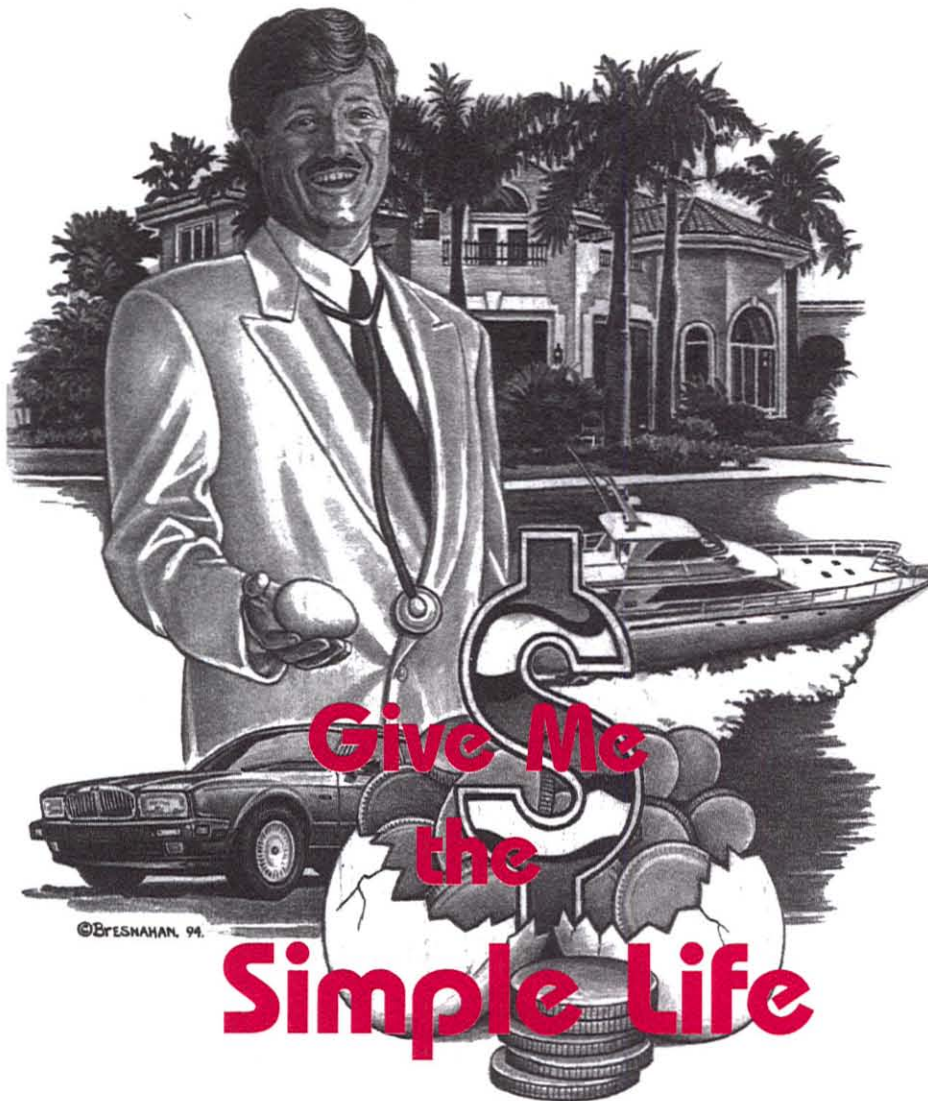
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Hope International is a special ministry assisting in the God-given work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We believe this Remnant Church of Bible prophecy has been brought into existence by the calling of the Lord, and we look for its final triumph in purity at the second coming of Christ. That the church does not now perfectly reflect the will of our Lord is cause for sorrow, but not for discouragement. The Word of God stands pledged that all within her borders will be sifted and tried, and though the greater portion will fail the test, there will yet remain a remnant to honor the Lord by their obedience to all His commands. Therefore, Hope International urges upon all the duty of supporting the Seventh-day Adventist Church in every way possible, insofar as is consistent with the principles of the government of God and the leading of His Holy Spirit upon the heart.

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## Give Me the Simple Life

**T**HE greatest threat for today's Christian is not gross evil. The devil is just as capable of killing the soul by a life of compulsive frenzy.

Let us imagine Satan calling a worldwide convention. In his opening address to his evil angels he says, "We can't keep the Christians from going to church. We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth. We can't even keep them from conservative values. But we can do something else. We can keep them from forming an intimate, abiding experience in Christ. If they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken. So let them go to church; let them have their doctrines; let them have their conservative lifestyles; but let's steal their time, so they can't gain that experience in Jesus Christ. This is what I want you to do, angels—dis-

tract them from getting ahold of their Saviour."

"How shall we do this?" shout his angels.

"Keep them busy in the nonessentials of life and invent unnumbered schemes to occupy their minds," he answers. "Tempt them to spend—spend and borrow—borrow. Convince the wives to go to work, and the husbands to work six or seven days a week, ten to twelve hours a day, so they can afford their expensive lifestyles. Keep them from spending time with their children. As their family fragments, soon their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work."

"Overstimulate their minds so that they can't hear Jesus talk to them. Entice them to play the radio or cassette player whenever they drive, and to keep the TV, the VCR and their CDs going constantly in their homes.

And see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays music constantly."

"Fill their coffee tables with magazines and newspapers. Pound their minds with the news twenty-four hours a day. Invade their driving moments with billboards. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail—sweepstakes, mail order catalogues, and every kind of newsletter and promotion offering 'free' products, services, and false hopes."

"Even in their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return from their recreation exhausted, disquieted and unprepared for the coming week. Don't let them go out in nature. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, concerts and movies instead. And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences and unsettled emotions."

"If you can't stop them from being involved in soul-winning, crowd their lives with so many good causes that they have no time to seek power from Christ. Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family unity for the good of the cause."

It was quite a convention in the end! And all the evil angels went eagerly to their assignments, causing Christians everywhere to get busy, busy, busy, rushing here and there.

Has the devil been successful at his scheme? You be the judge. The bottom line is that most of us are not living simple lives. Our lives are too congested. The whole system is overstimulated.

Twelve years ago, that was my life. However, God impressed my wife and me to simplify our lifestyles to save our family from spiritual death. It took drastic measures for us. We sold our 3,000-square-foot house and our five vehicles, and got out of debt. We and our two small boys moved into a 960-square-foot log home in the mountains, and learned to simplify our lives. We heat with wood, cook on a wood cook stove, and grow and preserve much of our food. I took in just enough work as a wilderness real estate agent to provide for my family and allow time for my speaking and counseling ministry. Today, even though I no longer sell real estate, I must constantly evaluate the demands of the ministry against the needs for our spiritual development.

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*Jim Hohnberger, of Restoration International, writes from Polebridge, Montana, and has dedicated his life full-time to reaching all people with the practical gospel.*

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**Jim Hohnberger**

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## Busy Is Not Better

I recently overheard this conversation in a post office, "Irene, I haven't seen you in years. How are you doing?"

"Oh busy, busy, busy. . . ."

Have you heard that? It almost seems as if we are not important people unless we are busy.

The lady responded, "That's great!"

No, it isn't! I wanted to preach a sermon in the post office. We are too stressed out, friends. We are too pushed—too rushed. We run too fast!

I want to share a recent letter from a pastor's wife:

"I have come to the conviction that I need to slow down, get on a schedule, and spend more time in prayer and in the Word of God. . . . I realize that my husband is not going to join me in this resolution. Nevertheless, I need to be committed alone. I understand the concept of good, better, best. I surely want to choose the best.

"I feel trapped right now. My schedule is so tight with conducting cooking schools, being Sabbath School teacher and leader, personal ministries leader for basically two churches, Ingathering coordinator for two churches, Health and Temperance leader, Community Services helper, Vacation Bible School leader and teacher for two churches, newsletter and sometimes bulletin editor, plus going every single month for state conference meetings with my husband. I also attend seminars for personal ministries leaders, and six other ministerial meetings a year with my husband, plus church board meetings because I have all these offices in the respective churches.

"As I am writing this to you it seems crazy to me in light of the work of sanctification that needs to be done in my own life. . . . What do I quit? Where do I start? My life is a constant chase after unfinished tasks and upset people."

A wise Christian wrote, "The Lord never compels hurried, complicated movements. Many gather to themselves burdens that the merciful heavenly Father did not place on them. Duties He never designed them to perform chase one another wildly. God desires us to realize that we do not glorify His name when we take so many burdens that we are overtasked and, becoming heart weary and brain weary, chafe and fret and scold. We are to bear only the responsibilities that the Lord gives us, trusting in Him, and thus keeping our

hearts pure and sweet and sympathetic." *My Life Today*, 81.

Who put those burdens on the pastor's wife?—She just picked up everyone's expectations. God did not place them on her.

Listen to what God promises His people: "For thus saith the Lord God, the

"Louise, I prayed for this for ten years. I don't have to get on my knees any longer. I've watched your life. I've seen what's been happening. It's already an answer to my prayer. I'll pick you up at the train station. Come."

When Louise came she had bleeding ulcers, pre-cancerous cells, anemia, and

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## If we are going to find that living, vital connection with Jesus Christ, we must quiet our lives. We must simplify.

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Holy One of Israel; **In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.**" Isaiah 30:15. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.) We need to return and find our rest, to find that connection with God. When we experience that quietness and confidence, we will know that God is with us every moment and every second of the day. If we are going to find that living, vital connection with Jesus Christ, we must quiet our lives. We must simplify. But the text ends with a sad commentary, "and ye would not." However, that does not have to be said about you and me. We can choose God's rest.

### Less Is More

I had just finished speaking at a series of meetings when a lady handed me a note that read, "Call your sister, immediately!"

Why would Louise search for me in another state and send me a message like that, I wondered. Within five minutes I was dialing my sister. Her husband answered the phone. "Praise God you called! Your sister wants to talk to you!"

"What's up, Joe?"

"I can't tell you, Jim. I'll let Louise tell you."

Louise was in tears, "Jim, I'm so thankful you called. I just came from the doctor's office. He told me to make up my last will and testament. He said I'm a basket case. Can I come and stay with you for a month? I need help."

"Yes, come."

"You're sure? Don't you want to pray about it? You pray about everything, Jim."

was close to a nervous breakdown. She was forty-six years old, and her hands couldn't stop shaking. Her eyes had that faraway look. I took her up to our little mountain home.

What had happened to my sister? We were raised in the same home, in the same family. However, she got caught up in the American—I'm not going to say "dream"—but myth! My sister was working fourteen hours a day, six to seven days a week, leaving her children behind, trying to find that dream home, and furnish her place with dream furnishings. Necessity started controlling her. It was destroying her! It took a doctor to wake her up!

The modern American dream is a myth! But the myth doesn't exist only in America. It exists in Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, Europe, Japan, Brazil—and all over the world! People are caught up, and it's destroying their lives.

Our whole family began to minister to her, and she became one with us in our daily routine. She had worship with us in the morning, and in the evening. She sang with us. She walked with us. She ate our diet, played pick-up sticks and dominos with the boys at night, and joined in our family reading time.

My wife, a nurse, ministered to her in the health areas, and her anemia improved. As she slowed down, a desire for God was reborn in her heart. At the end of thirty days, she told me, "You know, Jim, I can summarize my stay with your family in three words: **less is more.**"

These words summarize a sermon I could not preach in an hour. You see, we

had a smaller home than she did. We had less furnishings, less clothes, less in our garage, less of everything that the world offers, but we had more than the world could ever give. We had love in our home. We had companionship. We had time for one another. That is why she said, "Less is more." I wish that commentary could be said in every one of our homes.

The message is **simplify, simplify, simplify.**

### The Excess Is Killing Us

I was visiting my parents recently, and I went for a long walk through my childhood neighborhood. As I walked, God began to

It's quite a sermon, isn't it? If you could live in one of those new subdivisions with the 3,000-square-foot homes and the three or four vehicles in the driveway, and listen to the family interact, what would you see? A happy family gathered together? Would you see a difference between that and grandma's home? Is there more happiness in modern society? Is there more peace? Do you think they are living the simple life?

Is our excess just in the sizes of our homes?—No. What about our shoes? Our clothes? Dishes? Vehicles?

When we are out speaking we often stay with families. One of our hosts had fifty pairs of shoes—under her bed, in her closet, just everywhere!

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**We had less furnishings, less clothes, less in our garage, less of everything that the world offers, but we had more than the world could ever give.**

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speak to me, "Jim, I want to show you the progression that Satan is making in this world." And as I looked at those simple homes, about 1200–1300 square feet, they all had what kind of garages?—One-car garages. No extras. That was in the 1950s.

And then my parents sold that home during the 60s, and moved into a newer section of town. As I walked through that area, the houses had grown to 1,600–2,000 square feet. Nice homes! What size garages did they have?—Two-car garages.

And then the Lord said, "Jim I want you to take a little longer walk." So I went to the new subdivision in that community, and what size do you think the homes were?—3,000–5,000 square feet. And what size were the garages?—Three and four-car garages.

And the Lord told me to go on a longer walk. "Go where your grandparents lived." I walked into that neighborhood, and I was astonished! All those old homes had big, covered porches. Why you could have meetings on those front porches! Why did all those old homes have porches?—Because they didn't have TV sets. When the father came home at night, the family would all go out on the porch and talk. The children would play while grandma would knit. And the family would just sit and talk.

At one place, I thought my hosts had company. They had four vehicles—a vehicle for this, a vehicle for that. Wait a minute. Four vehicles for what? They had to be paid for, maintained, and washed once a week. That takes a lot of time and money. I'm not downgrading the people. Rather it's the system. Before we moved, we had five vehicles.

Another home we visited was about 4,500 square feet, with a huge kitchen, six different sets of dishes—one of which was "just to match the drapes." This poor woman bought dishes to match the drapes! We had an opportunity to see her closet. I counted thirty dresses, thirty-five skirts, thirty-nine blouses, and I'm not going to tell you how many shoes.

Once I counted twenty-five pairs of tennis shoes—Nikes—in a young boy's closet. Have we lost our minds, friends? Do we need to simplify? Think about your closets.

When we moved from our 3,000-square-foot home, we held a rummage sale. Some of you could be wealthy holding a rummage sale. We made \$10,000! That was twelve years ago. Talk about excess! We needed the simple life.

The devil has this whole world on a train going faster and faster—to perdition. And he won't stop that train to let

anybody off, because he knows that when you have time to think and reflect, that would allow the opportunity to draw close to God. I praise God that we got off the train twelve years ago! "For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength."

### Keep It Simple

"Well," I can almost hear someone saying, "the simple life is hard and dull, Jim."

Right out our backdoor we see elk and moose. We can pet the deer. One day I was putting clothes on the line when a huge buck put his nose in my back pocket. Now that is a little bit of heaven! Isn't that better than Disneyland? And when you get close to nature, you get close to nature's God.

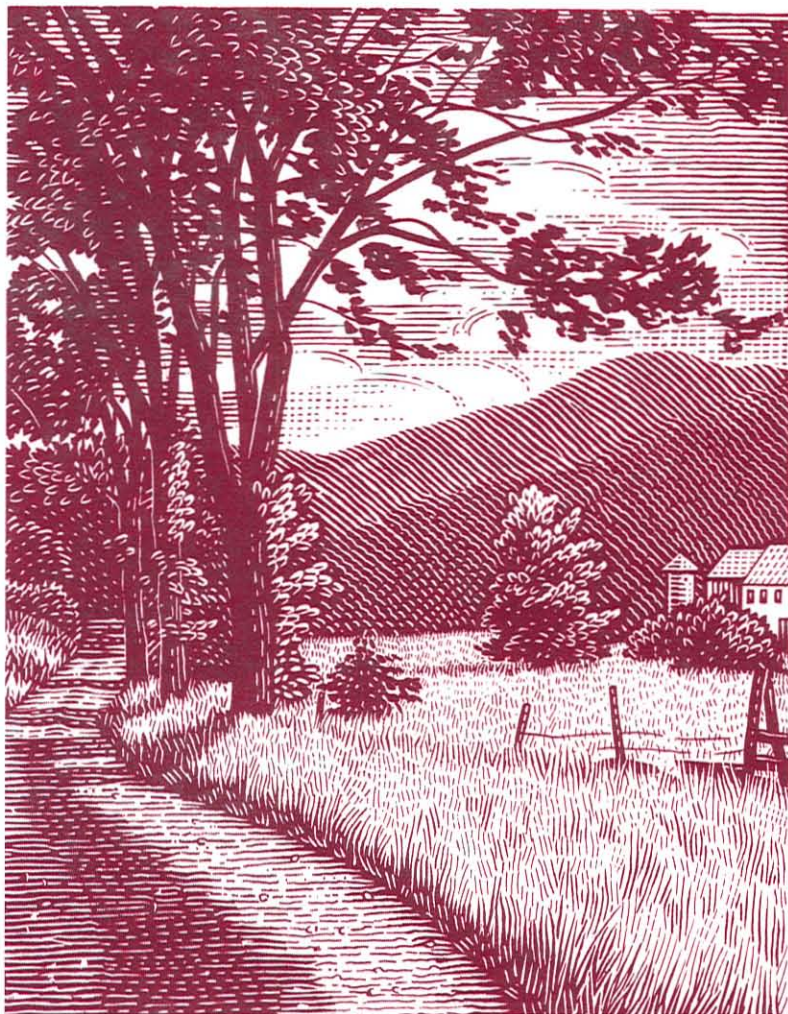
My boys are never bored. All we have to do is say, Yes. Yes, you can go back-packing, canoeing, and cross-country skiing. Yes, you can go mountain-climbing, rappelling, and you can go track down that moose. Yes, you can go exploring in the backwoods. Yes, yes, yes. And yes, we'll go with you. Children in the other environment are told, No, no, no—and then rebellion sets in.

By the way, **simplicity is a stern discipline.** But this is not a new sort of legalism, if it is done with Christ. It also helps us to find Christ and bring Him into our marriages and into our families. It is not just some new reform that we all follow, thinking that we are the saved ones because we live the simplest lives in the world.

**Christ lived a simple life,** friends. He is our Pattern, isn't He? He is our Timeless Example. The utter simplicity of Christ's life can be found in one verse: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man." Luke 2:52. We have just summarized thirty years of Christ's life. The silence of the Scriptures about His early life teaches an important lesson: The more quiet and simple the life, the more free from artificial excitements, the more in harmony with nature, the more favorable it is to physical, mental and spiritual strength. Again, **less is more.** The thirty quiet and simple years prepared Christ for the three and one-half busy years.

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?—Get off that train and follow Christ's example. He promises, "And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." Isaiah 32:18. □

# Out of the Cities



**EGW:** The gospel is a wonderful simplifier of life's problems. Its instruction h e e d e d would make plain many a perplexity and save us from many an error. It teaches us

to estimate things at their true value and to give the most effort to the things of greatest worth—the things that will endure. This lesson is needed by those upon whom rests the responsibility of selecting a home. They should not allow themselves to be diverted from the highest aim. Let them remember that the home on earth is to be a symbol of and a preparation for the home in heaven. Life is a training school, from which parents and children are to be graduated to the higher school in the mansions of God. As the location for a home is sought, let this purpose direct the choice. Be not controlled by the desire for wealth, the dictates of fashion, or the customs of society. Consider what will tend most to simplicity, purity, health, and real worth. *The Ministry of Healing*, 363.

**Editors:** It sounds as if you are advocating a rural or country home as the ideal for the family. Would you please expand on this?

**EGW:** Life in the cities is false and artificial. The intense passion for money getting, the whirl of excitement and pleasure seeking, the thirst for display, the luxury and extravagance, all are forces that, with the great masses of mankind, are turning the mind from life's true purpose. They are opening the door to a thousand evils. Upon the youth they have almost irresistible power. *Ibid.*, 364.

Instead of dwelling where only the works of men can be seen, where the sights and sounds frequently suggest thoughts of evil, where turmoil and confusion bring weariness and disquietude, go where you can look upon the works of God. Find rest of spirit in the beauty and quietude and peace of nature. Let the eye rest on the green fields, the groves, and the hills. Look up to the blue sky, unobscured by the city's dust and smoke, and breathe the invigorating air of heaven. Go where, apart from the distractions and dissipations of city life, you can give your children your companionship, where you can teach them to learn of God through His works, and train them for lives of integrity and usefulness. *Ibid.*, 367.

**Editors:** What are the evils that you see as being sufficient cause for Seventh-day Adventists to consider a move out of the cities?

**EGW:** One of the most subtle and dangerous temptations that assail the children and youth in the cities is the love of pleasure. Holidays are numerous; games and horse racing draw thousands, and the whirl of excitement and pleasure attracts them away from the sober duties of life.

**T**HERE is an ongoing discussion among Adventists concerning the question of city life and ministry. Are we to leave the cities? How will we know if and when to go? Would a migration of God's people from the densely populated suburbs to the sparsely populated rural areas hinder the work of spreading the gospel to the masses? Can a good Christian withstand the influences of city life?

In an attempt to answer these and many other pertinent questions concerning the Christian home and witness, we have sought divinely inspired counsel from Ellen G. White, author of numerous books and articles dealing with the Christian home.

**Editors:** Sister White, there are a multitude of problems facing the Seventh-day Adventist family today: entertainment, dress, diet, theology, discipline, and where to live, to name just a few. What do you see as the solution for our complex challenges?

Ellen G. White

Money that should have been saved for better uses is frittered away for amusements.

Through the working of trusts, and the results of labor unions and strikes, the conditions of life in the city are constantly becoming more and more difficult. Serious troubles are before us; and for many families removal from the cities will become a necessity. *Ibid.*, 364.

**Editors:** Are there other dangers that you see besides the moral corruption and temptations?

**EGW:** The physical surroundings in the cities are often a peril to health. The constant liability to contact with disease, the prevalence of foul air, impure water, impure food, the crowded, dark, unhealthy dwellings, are some of the many evils to be met.

It was not God's purpose that people should be crowded into cities, huddled together in terraces and tenements. In the beginning He placed our first parents amidst the beautiful sights and sounds He desires us to rejoice in today. The more nearly we come into harmony with God's original plan, the more favorable will be our position to secure health of body, and mind, and soul. *Ibid.*, 365.

**Editors:** Are there some Biblical examples of the benefits of country living that could be a help to us?

**EGW:** So with the great majority of the best and noblest men of all ages. Read the history of Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph, of Moses, David, and Elisha. Study the lives of men of later times who have most worthily filled positions of trust and responsibility, the men whose influence has been most effective for the world's uplifting.

How many of these were reared in country homes? They knew little of luxury. They did not spend their youth in amusement. Many were forced to struggle with poverty and hardship. They early learned to work, and their active life in the open air gave vigor and elasticity to all their faculties. Forced to depend upon their own resources, they learned to combat difficulties and to surmount obstacles, and they gained courage and perseverance. They learned the lessons of self-reliance and self-control. Sheltered in a great degree from evil associations, they were satisfied with natural pleasures and wholesome companionships. They were simple in their tastes and temperate in

their habits. They were governed by principle, and they grew up pure and strong and true. When called to their lifework, they brought to it physical and mental power, buoyancy of spirit, ability to plan and execute, and steadfastness in resisting evil, that made them a positive power for good in the world. *Ibid.*, 366.

**Editors:** You have given quite a number of warnings about dwelling in the cities. Other than the story of the notori-

ous dwellers in Sodom and Gomorrah, what Biblical basis do you have for such counsel?

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**Give your children the Word of God as the foundation of all their education. This is full of beautiful lessons, and if pupils make it their study in the primary grade below, they will be prepared for the higher grade above.**

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ous dwellers in Sodom and Gomorrah, what Biblical basis do you have for such counsel?

**EGW:** When the children of Israel were gathered out from among the Egyptians, the Lord said: "For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. . . . And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you. And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons forever." Exodus 12:12, 22-24. The blood upon the lintel of the door symbolized the blood of Christ, who alone saved the first-born of the Hebrews from the curse. Any one of the children of the Hebrews who was found in an Egyptian habitation was destroyed.

This experience of the Israelites was written for the instruction of those who should live in the last days. Before the overflowing scourge shall come upon the dwellers of the earth, the Lord calls upon all who are Israelites indeed to prepare

for that event. To parents He sends the warning cry: Gather your children into your own houses; gather them away from those who are disregarding the commandments of God, who are teaching and practicing evil. Get out of the large cities as fast as possible. Establish church schools. Give your children the Word of God as the foundation of all their education. This is full of beautiful lessons, and if pupils make it their study in the primary grade below, they will be prepared

for the higher grade above. *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 194-195.

**Editors:** Your statements ring with a sense of urgency. Is there imminent physical danger for those living in or near the cities?

**EGW:** "Out of the cities, out of the cities!" This is the message the Lord has been giving me. The earthquakes will come; the floods will come; and we are not to establish ourselves in the wicked cities, where the enemy is served in every way, and where God is so often forgotten. The Lord desires that we shall have clear spiritual eyesight. We must be quick to discern the peril that would attend the establishment of institutions in these wicked cities. We must make wise plans to warn the cities, and at the same time live where we can shield our children and ourselves from the contaminating and demoralizing influences so prevalent in these places. *Life Sketches*, 409-410.

**Editors:** It is said that you were shown specific disasters that would come upon some of our cities. Could you please share what you saw?

**EGW:** While at Loma Linda, California, April 16, 1906, there passed before me a most wonderful representation. During a vision of the night, I stood on



an eminence, from which I could see houses shaken like a reed in the wind. Buildings, great and small, were falling to the ground. Pleasure resorts, theaters, hotels, and the homes of the wealthy were shaken and shattered. Many lives were blotted out of existence, and the air was filled with the shrieks of the injured and the terrified.

The destroying angels of God were at work. One touch, and buildings so thoroughly constructed that men regarded them as secure against every danger, quickly became heaps of rubbish. There was no assurance of safety in any place. I did not feel in any special peril, but the awfulness of the scenes that passed be-

immense ball of fire falling among some beautiful mansions, causing their instant destruction. I heard someone say, "We knew that the judgments of God were coming upon the earth, but we did not know that they would come so soon." Others said, "You knew? Why then did you not tell us? We did not know." On every side I heard such words spoken. . . .

I seemed to awake from sleep but was not in my home. From the windows I could behold a terrible conflagration. Great balls of fire were falling upon houses, and from these balls fiery arrows were flying in every direction. It was impossible to check the fires that were kindled, and many places were being

would be the next city to suffer. This is not true. The morning after the earthquake, I said no more than that "the earthquakes will come; the floods will come;" and that the Lord's message to us is that we shall "not establish ourselves in the wicked cities."

Not many years ago, a brother laboring in New York City published some very startling notices regarding the destruction of that city. I wrote immediately to the ones in charge of the work there, saying that it was not wise to publish such notices; that thus an excitement might be aroused which would result in a fanatical movement, hurting the cause of God. It is enough to present the truth of the Word of God to the people. Startling notices are detrimental to the progress of the work.

Under date of August 9, 1903, I further wrote regarding this sensational report:

"How comes the word that I have declared that New York is to be swept away by a tidal wave? This I have never said. I have said, as I looked at the great buildings going up there, story after story, "What terrible scenes will take place when the Lord shall arise to shake terribly the earth! Then the words of Revelation 18:1-3 will be fulfilled."

The whole of the eighteenth chapter of Revelation is a warning of what is coming on the earth. But I have no light in particular in regard to what is coming on New York, only that I know that one day the great buildings there will be thrown down by the turning and overturning of God's power. From the light given me, I know that destruction is in the world. One word from the Lord, one touch of His mighty power, and these massive structures will fall. Scenes will take place the fearfulness of which we cannot imagine.

But I have sent cautions to the brethren working in New York, saying that these flaming, terrifying notices should not be published. When my brethren go to extremes, it reacts on me, and I have to bear the reproach of being called a false prophet. . . .

The destroying angels are today executing their commission. Death will come in all places. This is why I am so anxious for our cities to be warned. *Review and Herald*, July 5, 1906.

**Editors:** Do we have any hope that conditions will ever stabilize or improve for city dwellers?

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**Do not consider it a great deprivation, that you must go into the hills and mountains, but seek for that retirement where you can be alone with God, to learn His will and way.**

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fore me I cannot find words to describe. It seemed that the forbearance of God was exhausted, and that the judgment day had come.

The angel that stood by my side then instructed me that but few have any conception of the wickedness existing in our world today, and especially the wickedness in the large cities. He declared that the Lord has appointed a time when He will visit transgressors in wrath for persistent disregard of His law. . . .

Throughout the following day I pondered the scenes that had passed before me, and the instruction that had been given. . . .

On April 18, two days after the scene of falling buildings had passed before me, I went to fill an appointment in the Carr Street Church, Los Angeles. As we neared the church, we heard the newsboys crying, "San Francisco destroyed by an earthquake!" With a heavy heart I read the first hastily printed news of the terrible disaster. *Ibid.*, 407-409.

**Editors:** Are there any other scenes that were of particular importance?

**EGW:** Not long ago a very impressive scene passed before me. I saw an

destroyed. The terror of the people was indescribable. *Maranatha*, 25.

**Editors:** What was the magnitude of the destruction? Was it as extensive as the devastation of Sodom and Gomorrah?

**EGW:** Strictly will the cities of the nations be dealt with, and yet they will not be visited in the extreme of God's indignation, because some souls will yet break away from the delusions of the enemy, and will repent and be converted, while the mass will be treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath. *Ibid.*

**Editors:** On the subject of imminent destruction, people frequently dwell on the sensational, and generate rumors. It has been circulated that you at one time were predicting the destruction of New York City by a tidal wave. Does this have any basis in fact?

**EGW:** Since the San Francisco earthquake, many rumors have been current regarding statements I have made. Some have reported that while in Los Angeles, I claimed that I had predicted the San Francisco earthquake and fire, and that Los Angeles

**EGW:** Light has been given me that the cities will be filled with confusion, violence, and crime, and that these things will increase till the end of this earth's history. *Testimonies*, vol. 7, 84.

**Editors:** It sounds as though you are suggesting that every God-fearing Seventh-day Adventist is to make plans to leave the cities. Practically speaking, how can our people know *when* and *how* to leave, and what they can do in the meantime?

**EGW:** More and more, as time advances, our people will have to leave the cities. For years we have been instructed that our brethren and sisters, and especially families with children, should plan to leave the cities as the way opens before them to do so. Many will have to labor earnestly to help open the way. But until it is possible for them to leave, so long as they remain, they should be most active in doing missionary work, how-

ever limited their sphere of influence may be. As they yield their talents and their all to God to be used as He may direct; as they live out their consecration by engaging in practical missionary work wherever opportunity affords, God will bless them with wisdom and discretion, and in His own way and time He will make it possible for them to place themselves where they will not be surrounded constantly with the contaminating influences of modern city life. *Review and Herald*, September 27, 1906.

**Editors:** If we leave the cities, won't they be left in a vacuum of darkness—largely unworked and unwarned?

**EGW:** The cities are to be worked from outposts. Said the messenger of God, "Shall not the cities be warned? Yes; not by God's people living in them, but by their visiting them, to warn them of what is coming upon the earth." *Maranatha*, 184.

**Editors:** In summary, Sister White, what do you feel is at the heart of God's message to us in regard to our need to get out of the cities?

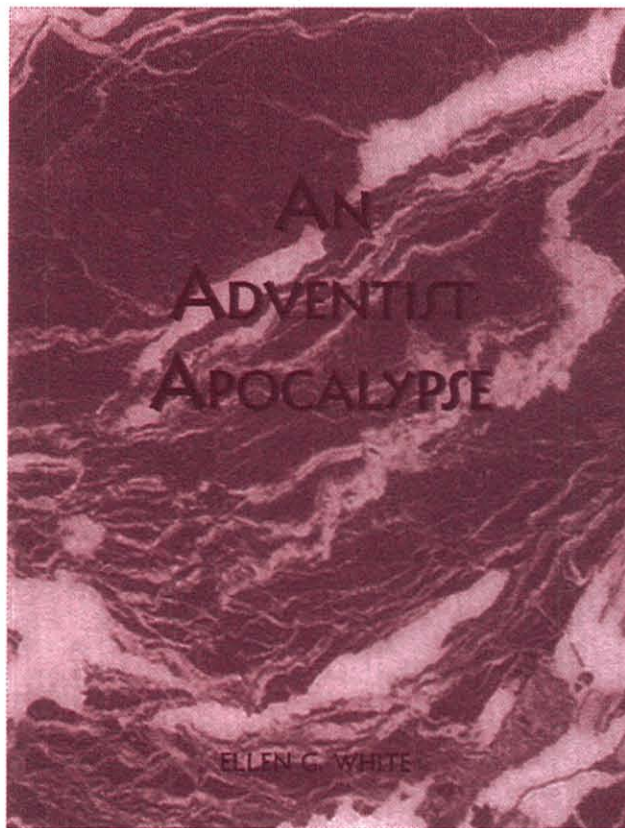
**EGW:** Who will be warned? We say again, "Out of the cities." Do not consider it a great deprivation, that you must go into the hills and mountains, but seek for that retirement where you can be alone with God, to learn His will and way. . . .

I urge our people to make it their lifework to seek for spirituality. Christ is at the door. This is why I say to our people. "Do not consider it a privation when you are called to leave the cities and move out into the country places. Here there await rich blessings for those who will grasp them. By beholding the scenes of nature, the works of the Creator, by studying God's handiwork imperceptibly you will be changed into the same image." *Selected Messages*, book 2, 355-356. □

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# The Deadly Wound Is Healed

States to the kingdom of Italy, no pope had set foot outside the Vatican from 1870 to 1929; however, things changed with the signing of the Lateran Treaty. Among other things, the kingdom of Italy guaranteed the international sovereignty of the Holy See, giving it absolute and sole jurisdiction over the Vatican State. This territory was composed of a mere 108 acres. The words chosen for the San Francisco *Chronicle* report were most remarkable! These included “healed the wound of many years” and “healing the wound which had festered since 1870.” These very words paralleled the words that were used in Scripture almost two thousand years before in the prophecy of the revival and renaissance of the Papacy.

“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his *deadly wound was healed*: and all the world wondered after the beast.” Revelation 13:3. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

Revelation, chapter 13, provides dramatic insight into the final efforts of the antichrist power to deceive the world and coerce all its inhabitants into obeying his edicts. It offers evidence that the Papacy would dominate the Christian world for 1260 years. See “The Medieval Reign of the Papacy,” *Our Firm Foundation*, February 1998. This period ended in 1798 when General Berthier, of Napoleon’s army, conquered the various Italian states, and eventually took the reigning pope, Pius VI, prisoner to northern Italy and then back to southern France, where he died in August 1799. This act inflicted the deadly wound that was prophesied in Revelation 13:3. At that time, few foresaw the future revival of the Papacy because of its complete destruction.

In the year 1797, the Directoire (revolutionary government of France) had commissioned Joseph Bonaparte (brother of Napoleon), who was already in Rome, to make plans that, upon the death of the sickly Pius VI, no new pope would be elected. The Directoire saw the Papacy as the irreconcilable enemy of the French Republic. To the dismay of the French leadership, Pius VI survived and recovered from his illness. Had Pius VI died in 1797, as seemed certain, the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, which told of the 1260-year medieval rule of the Papacy, would have proven wrong by one year. Biblical prophecy is accurate to the very year.

On arrival in Rome in 1798, Berthier’s officers demanded that Pope Pius VI surrender his temporal power. When he refused, he was dragged from the altar, his rings were removed from his fingers, and he was taken prisoner. With the death of Pius VI, in August 1799, and Napoleon’s declared determination that no successor would be elected, it was almost universally believed that the Papacy had come to its final and irreversible end. One correspondent even wrote the obituary of the Papacy.

However, the sure word of Biblical prophecy had predicted that the deadly wound would be healed. That healing has been a long and slow process, but it began surprisingly early. Shortly after the death of Pius VI, the French Revolutionary forces had serious catastrophes, and troops had to be withdrawn from southern Italy. Taking advantage of this situation, the cardinals met and elected Barnabas Chiarominti as Pope Pius VII on March 14, 1800, only six and one-half months after the pope’s death; thus began the re-establishment of the Papacy.

**T**HE San Francisco *Chronicle*, Tuesday, February 12, 1929, exploded with the headlines, “Mussolini and Gasparri Sign Historic Roman Pact . . . Healed Wound of Many Years.” It was hardly likely that the correspondent and the editors of the San Francisco *Chronicle* had any concept of the significance of the dramatic event that they were reporting. The previous day, February 11, 1929, Cardinal Gasparri (representing Pope Pius XI) and Benito Mussolini (representing King Victor Emmanuel III) signed the Lateran Treaty.

When the nation of Italy was reunited in 1870 by Garibaldi, no temporal kingdom was allotted to the Papacy. In fact, the Papal States were forcibly wrenched from the Vatican’s control and ceded to the kingdom of Italy. This festering sore left a major rift between the Italian monarchy and the Papacy. As a protest against the decision of the Italian monarchy to cede the Papal

Surprisingly, Napoleon soon became reconciled to the fact that most of the French citizens supported the Roman Catholic Church. Therefore, he signed a concordat with the Catholic Church, declaring that the state acknowledged the Catholic Church as the religion of France, and called for the loyalty of the bishops to the state. On December 2, 1804, Pope Pius VII reluctantly traveled to Paris in order to crown Napoleon as the emperor of France in the Notre Dame Cathedral. However, Napoleon took the crown from

nal Pacelli, he had been papal nuncio to Nazi Germany. He was greatly suspicious, during World War II, of being sympathetic to the Nazi and Fascist causes. It was still an era of contention between many Protestants and Roman Catholics. We cannot forget our maternal grandfather, John Bailey (of northern Irish Protestant heritage), and his unwavering bigotry against Roman Catholicism. He was an avid reader of *The Rock*, a weekly paper put out by anti-Catholic Protestants, who reported

cratic nomination as the 1928 presidential candidate. But Smith, a Roman Catholic, was overwhelmingly defeated by the Republican, Herbert Hoover. Anti-Catholic feelings clearly governed the voters' decision at that time. Some predicted that no major party would be foolish enough to again field a Roman Catholic presidential candidate.

However, little more than 30 years later, the ecumenical climate was so favorable, and Pope John XXIII had so modified the papal image, that John Kennedy, a Roman Catholic, not only received his party's endorsement but won the presidency. Since then, the relationship between the Papacy and Washington has shown dramatic improvement. American presidents now commonly visit the pope. In the 1980s Protestant Ronald Reagan utilized the growing popularity of the Papacy to his political advantage. He correctly perceived that he could enhance his reelection prospects by meeting with Pope John Paul II, in Fairbanks, Alaska, in 1984. A few decades earlier, such a meeting would have almost certainly doomed his reelection prospects; further, President Reagan engendered remarkably little opposition to his move to reestablish full diplomatic relations with the Papacy for the first time since the 1860s.

In the latter part of the 1980s, we witnessed even greater evidences of the revival of papal influence. For decades, the relentless advances of atheistic communism, which had engulfed almost half the population of the world, had seemed like an irresistible force that threatened to envelop the whole planet. Communism's advances were so spectacular that most people overlooked the steady resurgence of the Papacy. Only those who continued to diligently search the sure Word of scriptural prophecy were not deluded. They were brave enough to declare that it was not communism but Catholicism that would be the major "player" in the events that would culminate in the return of Jesus.

The latter part of the 1980s left the world spellbound with the rapidity of the changes which occurred in both the political and religious worlds. As communism was being dismantled in Eastern Europe, the religious world was relentlessly pursuing union, not only among Protestant denominations but, even more significantly, between Catholics and Protestants. The stage was being set for the great final test of loyalty to God.

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**The influence of the medieval Papacy was, for the most part, confined to the sphere of Europe; however, today the neo-papal power is asserting its mighty influence over the whole earth!**

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the surprised pontiff and crowned himself as emperor. Today, the Vatican museum displays the magnificent pair of eight-foot-tall porcelain candlesticks that were used during the coronation ceremony which followed Napoleon's assumption of the title of emperor. Napoleon offered them as a gift to the restored Papacy. Step by painful step, the Papacy began its rise until the Lateran Treaty of 1929 was signed. From that point onward, the power and influence of the Papacy experienced steady growth. More recently, that growth has been dramatic!

We are living during the time when the Papacy is being restored to even greater power than it exercised during the Middle Ages. The influence of the medieval Papacy was, for the most part, confined to the sphere of Europe; however, today the neo-papal power is asserting its mighty influence over the whole earth! "And all the world wondered after the beast."

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Revelation 13:8.

"And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth." Revelation 17:18.

As lads growing up, my brother Colin and I well-remember Pope Pius XII (successor to Pius XI). As Cardi-

every excess of the Roman Catholic Church.

Many years later, when I was a physician in Sydney, I happened to have the editor of *The Rock*, Mr. Campbell, as one of my patients. I mentioned our grandfather's loyalty to his paper. The editor bitterly reported that in the 1940s this paper had a weekly circulation of 40,000 copies, but that it had dropped by the 1970s to a monthly paper with a circulation of about 2,000. Then, with strong emotion, he added, "It's all the fault of those 'ecumaniacs.'" Times had certainly changed!

The suspicion that Pope Pius XII engendered was especially strong in the allied nations. At that time, it was easy to distrust the Papacy and the Roman Catholic Church. After the death of Pius XII, in 1958, the College of Cardinals unexpectedly chose the 76-year-old Cardinal Roncalli as Pope John XXIII. Many expressed the view that he would be an interim pope until the cardinals could agree upon a more suitable younger man. But John XXIII, in four and one-half short years, changed the face of Catholicism. His Vatican II Council altered the image of the Papacy from one of intrigue and suspicion to that of love and social justice. The impact of this change was more obvious in the United States than in most countries. Just prior to the Lateran Treaty, Al Smith had accepted the Demo-

## All that Dwell Upon the Earth Shall Worship Him

In the religious world, the ecumenical movement is gaining great momentum. Emphasis is placed upon both organic union and spiritual union. An organic union is the physical union of two or more churches into a single church body. Many such unions have already been formed, including the United Methodist Church of America, the United Church of Canada, the Uniting Church of Australia, and the Church of South India. Well-known church leaders indicate that they will not be satisfied until all Christian churches are united into one body.

Of course, this goal has many impelling aspects. The United Christian Church, it is believed, will present a wonderful power to modern Christianity and to the non-Christian world in the most persuasive manner; however, an examination of almost all uniting churches reveals signs of impotency, membership loss, and stagnation.

It is not hard to understand the reason for the failure of the architects of these united churches to fulfill their expectations. In 1986 Colin attended the sixth International Congress for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependencies that was held in Nice, France. At the banquet, which was held at the conclusion of the congress, he was seated next to a minister of the Uniting Church of Australia. During their conversation, Colin inquired concerning the nature of the doctrinal agreements that the Methodists, Presbyterians, and Congregationalists (which formed the Uniting Church) had made. The clergyman asserted that they had united on New Testament Christianity, not on doctrine. Pressing the issue a little further, Colin asked, "What common basis did the freewill Methodists find for unity with predestinarian Presbyterians?" The minister admitted that he had never given thought to the issue, although he had been a Methodist minister before this union took place. Later, he sent Colin a copy of the articles of Uniting. A review of these articles did not reveal one single belief upon which the consolidated church had been established.

In 1977 I had had a similar experience. As Deputy Medical Superintendent of the Austin Hospital, in Melbourne, I supervised the chaplaincy. Graham Gibbens, a Presbyterian minister, was the senior chaplain. When asked con-

cerning the major doctrinal difference between the Presbyterians and Methodists, in relation to their proposed union in that year, Graham replied, "You know, I've never given it any thought." One wonders how John Knox (founder of the Presbyterian Church), John Wesley (founder of the Methodist Church), and the nonconformists of England (who established the Congregationalist Church) would have reacted to this careless attitude toward Biblical doctrines.

The ecumenical movement and the World Council of Churches have determined to de-emphasize doctrine. Many have naively accepted the proposition that "it is not doctrine we need, but Christ," without realizing that every doctrine of the Scriptures is a dynamic revelation of Christ. How can anyone preach the doctrine of the Incarnation without including the Babe of Bethlehem who became man's Redeemer? How can anyone preach concerning the fate of man in death without preaching of the One who is the Resurrection and the Life? How can anyone preach baptism outside of the context of the One who renews His life to us? How can anyone preach about the heavenly high priestly ministry of Christ without preaching about the One

After his visit with the pope, Robert Runcie, archbishop of Canterbury and primate in the Anglican Church in Great Britain, urged all Christians to recognize the pope as the leader of all Christians.

"Archbishop Robert Runcie, the head of the Anglican Church who is discussing unification with the Roman Catholic Church, called for Christians to accept the pope as the common leader, presiding in love." Charlottesville *Daily Progress*, October 1, 1989.

This call was not given without protest from a small vocal group of determined Protestants.

"Robert Runcie suggested, at the weekend in Rome, that Christians throughout the world should accept the pope as universal primate. This has aroused Protestant anger." Singapore *Straits Times*, October 3, 1989.

Many are confidently predicting the reunification of the two largest churches in the world—the Church of England and the Church of Rome—by the year 2000. If this happens, the Reformation will have come full circle. The Anglo-Catholic movement within the Church of England, which began in the 1820s at Oxford University, will finally have triumphed.

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who is our Sacrifice, Judge, High Priest, Mediator, Advocate, and Intercessor? How can anyone preach the law of God without revealing the One who is the very transcript of His character? With the elimination of truth and doctrine, our faith becomes empty; and our knowledge of Christ minimal. A new nondoctrinal approach to religion leaves the adherents weak, ignorant, uncertain, and an easy prey for the archdeceiver.

Surely, the ecumenical movement is a device of the enemy of souls to prepare a people to be partners in the eternal, destructive "game" of Satan instead of rising to shine for Christ. In the year 1989, leading Christian representatives made some remarkable pronouncements.

This is very significant because Bible prophecy predicted that, at the end-time, almost everyone in the world will give allegiance to the Papacy. John referred to the Papacy, using the symbol of the beast:

"And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and *all the world wondered after the beast.*" Revelation 13:3.

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Verse 8.

"The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bot-

tomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is." Revelation 17:8.

Mainline Protestantism in the United States—including Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Methodists, Lutherans, and Episcopalians—has been the controlling backbone of American society and politics, but it has experienced a strong reversal in the last 30 years. *Time* magazine, May 22, 1989, reported that, since 1965, the United Church of Christ (Congregationalist) had shrunk 20 percent;

Baptist Conference—representing the two largest denominations in the United States—is even more significant than reports of the events within the Church of England and the mainline Protestant churches in the United States. The Associated Press reported what the joint communiqué stated:

"We not only confessed, but experienced *one Lord, one Faith, and one Baptism.*" *Williamson Daily News*, August 26, 1989.

It is impossible to imagine how Southern Baptist theologians could experience one Lord with a church that claims that the pope is another god on earth. It is certainly impossible to un-

"The wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." Isaiah 35:8.

The missionary endeavors of the future will be quite significantly hindered if the report's following statement is accepted:

"Both sides admitted past unfairness to each other, with predominantly Roman Catholic countries discriminating against South Baptist missionaries, and the latter laboring among Catholics without respecting their faith. Such *competition and conflict in missionary work* can become a stumbling block to those who have not heard the gospel." *Williamson Daily News*, August 26, 1989.

Undoubtedly, many sincere Southern Baptists were alarmed by this report. Evangelical Anglicans are also deeply concerned by the plea of Archbishop Runcie for closer ties with the Papacy. But, in these actions, the discerning Christian will see that the time has come when all Christians, who do not give supreme homage to Christ and the Bible, will eventually give their allegiance to the Papacy; thus fulfilling the unerring prophecy that all the world will wonder after the beast. While a casual perusal of this joint declaration may seem good in many ways, it will eventually lead the Southern Baptists to diminish and ultimately eliminate all work for the salvation of Catholic Church members. Thus Southern Baptists will not be able to give that final call by God's elect to His precious saints who are still members of the Roman Catholic Church.

"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 18:4-5.

The *U.S. News and World Report* magazine, January 15, 1990, addressed another new phenomenon in the United States—the growing trend of Protestants, even Evangelicals, to move toward liturgical, ritualistic, ceremonial, and sacramental forms of religion. This movement apparently is a reaction against the informal, often irreverent, forms of worship that have arisen out of the Pentecostal and other charismatic movements. Ritualistic worship has appealed to some who are weary of listening to tame, bland sermons of repetitious themes in many mainline

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**Every conceivable perversion of truth has found support, in some way or another, from the scholars. There is hardly a theological training school throughout the world that is committed to the teaching of the pure faith of Jesus.**

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Presbyterians, 25 percent; the Episcopal Church, 28 percent; Methodists, 18 percent; and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 43 percent. Together, they had a net loss of 5.2 million members. Meanwhile, the **growth** of American Roman Catholicism, 16 percent in the same period, is quite significant.

*Time* magazine also reports that Sunday School participation in the mainline Protestant churches has dropped 55 percent in the past two decades. This woeful omen is most frightening for these mainline Protestant churches which were once the powerful standard makers of American society. The following quote from Professor Richard Mouw, of the nondenominational Fuller Theological Seminary in California is the most striking statement from the article: "If there is an establishment voice today, it is that of Roman Catholicism. The Catholics are the calm, dignified, authoritative voices." Richard John Neuhaus, a Roman Catholic priest converted from the Lutheran Church, supports this view in a book which he authored with claims that this is the *Catholic moment* in America.

The report of the 10-year dialogue between Roman Catholic theologians and theologians who represent the Southern

derstand how a church, which has so strongly proclaimed salvation by faith, can confess to having spiritual union in faith with a church that has steadfastly adhered to salvation by faith *and* works (the keeping of the seven sacred sacraments). Finally, we are puzzled about how a church which practices adult baptism by immersion could compromise this one and only form of Bible baptism with the Roman Catholic baptism—infant sprinkling—which is a satanic counterfeit of true baptism. How could Southern Baptist theologians so pervert the faith of their fathers?

The newspaper further reported that "the Southern Baptists and Roman Catholics generally have been regarded as doctrinally far apart, but their scholars find that they basically agree." *Ibid.* Here we can discern the peril of entrusting doctrinal decisions to a few theologians or scholars. Every conceivable perversion of truth has found support, in some way or another, from the scholars. There is hardly a theological training school throughout the world that is committed to the teaching of the pure faith of Jesus. As in Jesus' day, it is the common folk who value pure Biblical truth; and the oracles of God have been entrusted to them.

churches. The rituals of the Orthodox churches have often been practiced as a refreshing alternative. Such a movement will surely be able to accommodate itself to the Roman Catholic form of sacramentalism.

This thrust toward one-world religion envisages the encompassment of far more sects than Christendom. In 1988, Dr. Robert Runcie gave the Sir Francis Younghusband Memorial Lecture at Lambeth Palace (home of the archbishop of Canterbury) for the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the World Congress of Faiths. He ominously quoted the words of the late Sir Francis: "All the centuries that the Spirit of God has been working in Christians, He must also have been working in Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, and others." Dr. Runcie then commented that dialogue enabled people of various religions "to share the sustaining insights and transforming treasures of their faith, and to recognize an affinity of the human heart in the fellowship of the Spirit." The archbishop's reflection on a visit to India was even more disconcerting:

"... [He arrived with] the certainties of an encapsulated Western Christianity but came away realizing that there are new ways of thinking about God, Christ, and the world. He spoke of his experience of God among the Hindus of Madras, "where gods and goddesses take hundreds of different forms and images. The sheer diversity of the divine was disconcerting. God somehow seemed greater than Western monism. . . . We have lost something that other faiths may help to restore to us." *The Sentinel*, vol. 42, no. 4, spring 1989.

Those who do not accept God's commission to urge Christians to forsake apostate religions will themselves be found among that huge ecumenical group who receive the seven last plagues that are cited in Revelation 16. Myriads of formal Christians will be lost in spiritual Babylon. But God will have a remnant who will give God's final invitation to the world.

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17. □

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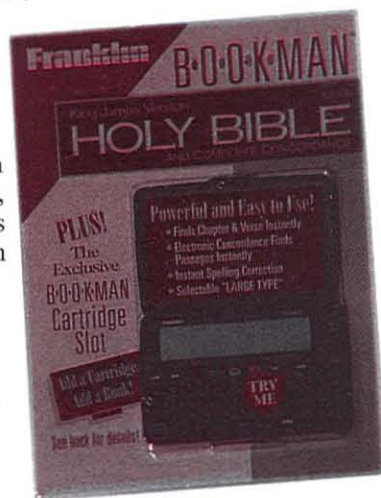


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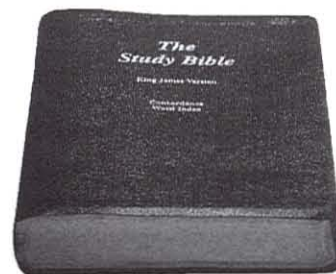
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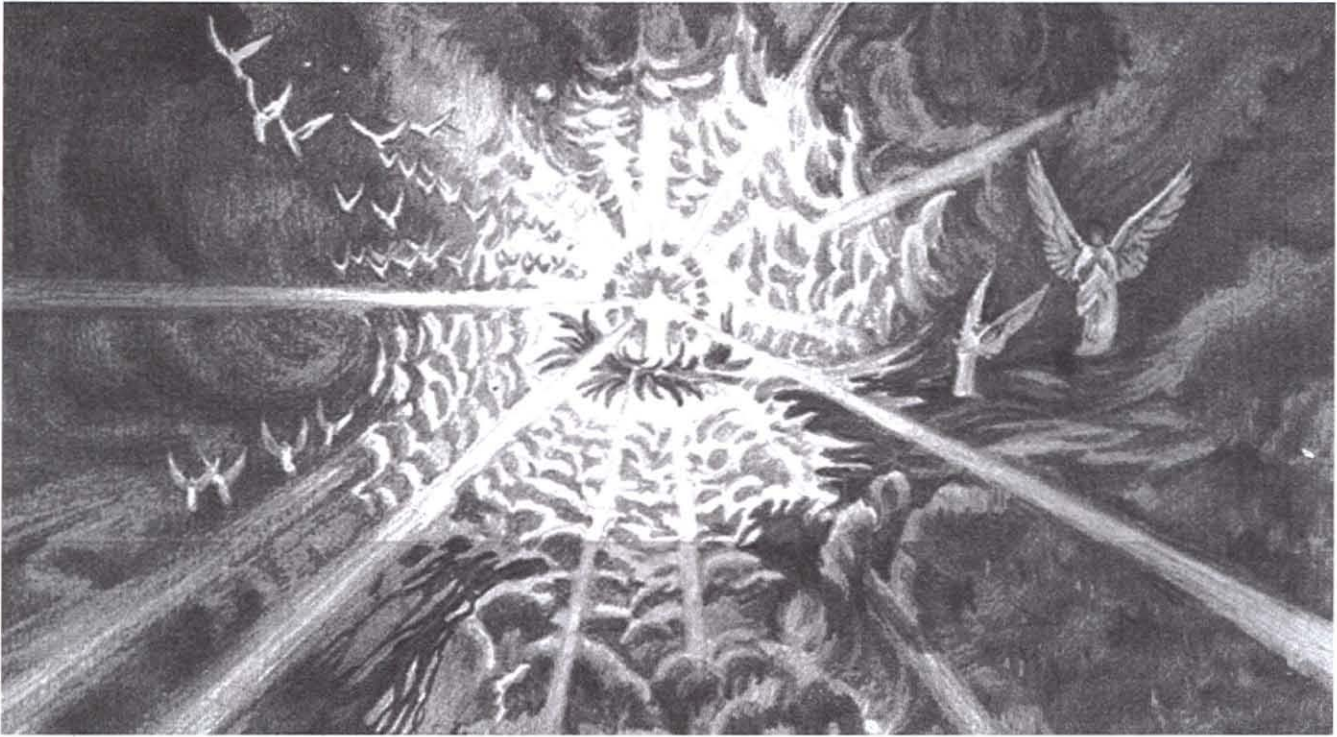
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## Seventh-day Adventists: Ready for the Advent?

**T**HE outstanding spiritual leaders of all the ages have been inspired by one great desire, and that is to see the end of sin, suffering, and death, ushered in by the second coming of Jesus and God's Eternal Kingdom of peace. There is a long list of such spiritual leaders from the Old Testament to the New Testament, and on through the long midnight darkness of the Middle Ages, the 1260-year reign of the Papacy, including the Reformation. To name them would fill a volume—the major prophets of the Old Testament: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Job, and Enoch. In the New Testament we have the disciples—Paul, Peter, James, and John. History is full of great champions for truth and reformation—Wycliff, Luther, Huss, Jerome, Knox, Bunyan, Wesley and a host of others. They were all adventists. The central theme of their preaching and writing was to hasten the second coming of Jesus to our world, to bring an end of sin and death.

All the angels of heaven are adventist—yes, Seventh-day Adventist. All heaven is keeping God's sacred Holy Day.

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” Acts 1:9–11.

Jesus is a Seventh-day Adventist. He is the Creator of our world. He, with the Father, is the Author of our seventh-day Sabbath.

“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.” Genesis 2:1–3.

Are we preparing for His soon coming by keeping the Sabbath according to Isaiah 58:13–14?

“If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.”

### Looking for the Second Advent

From the days of eternity God designed the plan of salvation, and has inspired His messengers to proclaim it throughout all of the ages. The universe is filled with adventists—myriads of them! The galaxies of God's creation as witnesses of the sin problem of this fallen planet—human, angelic, and Divine—are anxiously waiting for the end of the great controversy.

Jesus has declared in John 14:1–3: “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it

Ron Spear



were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

Peter declared, in Acts 3:19-21: “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.”

Inspiration gives these words of promise and comfort—heaven’s balm:

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it come to pass, that when it is come to pass, ye might believe.” John 14:27-29.

For over one hundred years by the printed page and by the preaching from our pulpits, Seventh-day Adventists have espoused to the world the glorious promise of the soon return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He will come again soon!

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

We now have the overwhelming evidence that we are the final generation—with a special message of warning to a dying and confused world.

Fifty times after Pentecost, Christ’s return was predicted in the Scriptures. It is the central theme of the gospel. Yet, we now see in this strategic hour that the church has lost its fervor, its love for truth, and its faith in that great promise, “I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14:3.

### Hope for the Sorrowing

For more than one hundred years we Seventh-day Adventists have been burying our dead—weeping at the graves of

those we love as they are lowered into the silence of the tomb—and looking forward to the moment when at the sound of His voice, the Life-Giver will return our loved ones and friends to our bosom.

My wife and I wept and grieved over the death of our son in the battles of Vietnam. We sorrowed when his son, our grandson, was laid to rest beside him in the grave. Both our parents are resting in the grave. And now we are in our midseventies, and we also must look to the grave—unless Jesus comes soon!

“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us

that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. . . . And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite

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**We have lost our first love for truth and for the soon return of Jesus. The love of the world has overwhelmed us. It is well past time to buy of Jesus gold tried in the fire—His faith, and His love.**

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the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:55-58.

What a promise we have, when Jesus’ voice at His coming bursts the tombs of His beloved saints! It will be a triumphant moment as He descends with a trumpet and a shout of command! As the General of the angelic hosts, He addresses His army, His charioteers, His horsemen, and with His voice reaches His waiting saints. The inspired picture is revealed in Revelation 19:1, 5-8, 11-16:

“And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God. . . . And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted

the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” See also Matthew 24:31-35; 25:31-34.

What has happened to God’s chosen people in this awesome hour called **the end**? Why are we so complacent, so indifferent to God’s call to repent, to confess our love for our Lord to the world in a loud cry? How could we misunderstand the conditions of our salvation so clearly defined in the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy?

We have lost our first love for truth and for the soon return of Jesus. The love of the world has overwhelmed us. It is well past time to buy of Jesus gold tried in the fire—His faith, and His love. See *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 233-235.

The condition of Laodicea has destroyed our fervor for truth. Our spiritual eyesight has been dimmed by our love of material things. We are wretched, poor, blind, and spiritually naked, and we do not even know our spiritual condition. See Revelation 3:14-22. What a tragedy!

“But notwithstanding their willful ignorance, they are not left by the Lord without added warning and counsel.” *The*

*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 963.

This Laodicean condition has paralyzed the church's energies. It has cut the nerve of our missionary effort. Our love for Christ and His soon return should now stimulate our daily efforts to witness spontaneously to our relatives, neighbors, and friends that probation is soon to close for the human race. It should daily stimulate us to study the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy. It should daily drive us to our knees in prayer for our own souls and the souls of others.

The beautiful truths and promises found in Titus 2:13-15 will revitalize our missionary zeal to give Bible studies and our earnest desire to be sure that we are in harmony with God's message to His beloved last-day church without compromise:

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee." Titus 2:13-15.

If the mighty truths of the three angels' messages and the sanctuary message get into our very souls, they will transform us into Christlikeness of character and loving obedience to all known truth. It will revolutionize our ideals, ambitions, recreation, appetite, dress, all of our thoughts, and activities—including our television watching. We will be under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Yes, then Pentecost will be a reality! The latter rain will come with mighty power only upon those who are seekers for the truth and are obedient to it.

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matthew 5:6.

Remember, those who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer the devil's wrath and be persecuted. See 2 Timothy 3:12. However, if you are faithful to the end, you will receive a crown of life. See Revelation 2:10.

Ready or not, Jesus is coming soon. Are you ready now—today—to meet Him? □

# UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Evangelism & Revival Department  
of Hope International  
presents these upcoming meetings:

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## MARCH

- Eatonville, WA** ..... **March 1-7**  
Medical Missionary Training Seminar  
Life Abundant Missionary Institute
- Puyallup, WA** ..... **March 28**  
Edgewood Grange Hall  
1806 Meridian East
- Milton-Freewater, OR** ..... **March 28**  
Senior Center  
311 N. Main

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## APRIL

- Eatonville, WA** ..... **April 20-24**  
Spring Week of Prayer  
Hope International
- Eatonville, WA** ..... **April 25**  
Life Abundant Missionary Institute

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## MAY

- Portland, TN** ..... **May 21-24**  
1099 Wattwood Hollow Road
- Puyallup, WA** ..... **May 23**  
Edgewood Grange Hall  
1806 Meridian East
- Milton-Freewater, OR** ..... **May 23**  
Senior Center  
311 N. Main

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## AUGUST

- Eatonville, WA Camp Meeting 1998** ..... **August 4-9**

Look for our "Upcoming Meetings" announcements in future issues. If you need more information please call Hope International, (360) 832-6602, and ask to speak to someone in the Evangelism and Revival (E&R) Department.

# The Truth As It Is in Jesus

## Part 1

**T**HE Word of God is to be our spiritual food. "I am the bread of life:" Christ said; "he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." John 6:35. The world is perishing for want of pure, unadulterated truth. Christ is the Truth. His words are truth, and they have a deeper significance than appears on the surface, and a value beyond their unpretending appearance. Minds that are quickened by the Holy Spirit will discern the value of these words. When our eyes are anointed with the holy eyesalve, we shall be able to detect the precious gems of truth, even though they may be buried beneath the surface.

Truth is delicate, refined, elevated. When it molds the character, the soul grows under its divine influence. Every day the truth is to be received into the heart. Thus we eat Christ's words, which He declares are spirit and life. The acceptance of truth will make every receiver a child of God, an heir of heaven. Truth that is cherished in the heart is not a cold dead letter—but a living power.

Truth is sacred, divine. It is stronger and more powerful than anything else in the formation of a character after the likeness of Christ. In it there is fullness of joy. When it is cherished in the heart, the love of Christ is preferred to the love of any human being. This is Christianity. This is the love of God in the soul. Thus pure, unadulterated truth occupies the citadel of the being. The words are fulfilled, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you."

Ezekiel 36:26. There is a nobleness in the life of the one who lives and works under the vivifying influence of the truth.

It is needful for all who are working in the cause of God to ponder these things, that they may guard against self-sufficiency. The Lord is dishonored when those who profess to serve Him reveal a character that is a denial of their faith. We are not to trust in self; for the Lord leaves those who are self-sufficient to their own human wisdom. All desire for self-exaltation places the human agent where the Holy Spirit cannot work with him. In no case can the Holy Spirit cooperate with the methods and plans of self-sufficient men. It is not for any to seek to be great preachers, wonderful evangelists. All who believe the truth, who understand the dignity and elevated character of the message they bear, will hide in Christ, realizing that their security and efficiency come from God. They will not live selfish lives; for the truth is elevating, refining, and sanctifying in its influence.

I know, and am afraid as I realize, that with hundreds, religion is a cold, formal thing. Many professed Christians will lose the eternal life that is within the reach of all. I cannot forbear to tell you in the name of the Lord that you are not on safe ground unless the truth teaches you your danger, bringing you every day closer to Christ in character. Many poor souls are puffed up with pride and self-importance. If they do not change this position, they will be tempted still more

strongly to display their supposed qualifications and powers. Every provision has been made for them, but they have no hungering nor thirsting after righteousness. There is no room in the heart for the Spirit of God.

Many are supposed to be converted who will not stand the stress of trial and temptation. Under difficulty the test of God's Word shows them to be faithless, envious, jealous, full of evil surmisings. Many, many, are stony-ground hearers. They have no depth of spiritual experience. They do not apply the truth to the heart and conscience. Self, with all its unsanctified elements, is alive, revealing attributes that strengthen evil instead of repressing it. There is a lack of pure-toned piety; and this lack makes them weaklings in the army of the Lord, when they might be giants if they were but willing to be truly converted.

Our lack of faith and the absence of the love and respect due to all the children of God, detract from our influence, and make our labors of none effect. When the power of the Holy Spirit is appreciated and felt in the heart, far less of self will be exhibited, and far more of the feeling of human brotherhood will be revealed. Our part is not to exhibit self, but to let the Holy Spirit work in us. Thus, self-deceived men and women may be rescued from delusion.

All, high or low, if they are unconverted, are on one common platform. Men may turn from one doctrine to another. This is being done, and will

be done. Papists may change from Catholicism to Protestantism; yet they may know nothing of the meaning of the words, "A new heart also will I give you." Accepting new theories, and uniting with a church, do not bring new life to anyone, even though the church with which he unites may be established on the true foundation. Connec-

reveals its beauty to the mind, that its transforming power may be seen in the character.

Unless a man is renewed in the spirit of his mind by the power of the Holy Spirit, he will become restless and dissatisfied, because he has not died to self. Only in Christ can we find true rest. "Come unto me," he cried, "all ye that

hearts, and seek the kingdom of heaven with a spiritual violence that would bring its own reward. We would take it by force, as did Jacob. Then our message would be the power of God unto salvation. Our supplications would be full of earnestness, full of a sense of our great need; and we would not be denied. The truth would be expressed by life and character, and by lips touched with the living coal from off God's altar. When this experience is ours, we shall be lifted out of our poor, cheap selves, that we have cherished so tenderly. We shall empty our hearts of the corroding power of selfishness, and shall be filled with praise and gratitude to God. We shall magnify the Lord, the God of all grace, who has magnified Christ. And He will reveal His power through us, making us as sharp sickles in the harvest field.

God calls upon His people to reveal Him. Shall the world manifest principles of integrity that the church does not maintain? Shall a selfish ambition to be first be shown by the followers of Christ? Shall not the principles cherished by them be unselfish, laid upon the True Foundation, even Christ Jesus? What material shall we bring to this Precious Foundation, that there may no longer be antagonism but unity in the church? Shall we build with worthless material—wood, hay, stubble? Shall we not rather bring the most precious material—gold, silver, precious stones? Shall we not distinguish sharply between the chaff and the wheat? Shall we not realize that we must receive the Holy Spirit in our hearts, that it may mold and fashion the practical life? Shall we not strive to discern the meaning of the atonement of Christ?

We are living in perilous times. In the fear of God I tell you that the true exposition of the Scriptures is necessary for the correct moral development of our characters. When mind and heart are controlled by the Holy Spirit, when self is dead, the truth is capable of constant expansion and development. When the truth as it is in Jesus molds our characters, it will be seen to be truth indeed. As it is contemplated by the believer, it will grow brighter, shining with its original beauty. It will increase in value, quickening and vivifying the mind, and subduing selfish, unchristlike coarseness of character. It will elevate our aspirations, enabling us to reach the perfect standard of holiness. □

*Review and Herald*, 02-14-99

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## O that all who shall read these lines would search their hearts as with a lighted candle, and define, if they can, what true conversion is.

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tion with a church does not take the place of conversion. To subscribe the name to a church creed is not of the least value to anyone if the heart is not truly changed.

This question is a serious one, and its meaning should be fully realized. Men may be church members, and may apparently work earnestly, performing a round of duties from year to year, and yet be unconverted. They may write in defense of Christianity, and yet be unconverted. A man may preach pleasing, entertaining sermons, yet be far from Christ as regards religious experience. He may be exalted to the pinnacle of human greatness, yet never have experienced the inward work of grace that transforms the character. Such a one is deceived by his connection and familiarity with the sacred truths of the gospel, which have reached the intellect, but have not been brought into the inner sanctuary of the soul.

We must have more than an intellectual belief in the truth. Many of the Jews were convinced that Jesus was the Son of God, but they were too proud and ambitious to surrender. They decided to resist the truth, and they maintained their opposition. They did not receive into the heart the truth as it is in Jesus. When truth is held as truth only by the conscience, when the heart is not stimulated and made receptive, only the mind is affected. But when the truth is received as truth by the heart, it has passed through the conscience, and has captivated the soul with its pure principles. It is placed in the heart by the Holy Spirit, who

labour and are heavy laden, 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 unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30. And again he says: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23. "For without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5. Without Christ we can do nothing correctly, anymore than could Cain. Of what advantage is any system of religion to one who has not been transformed in character by the Holy Spirit's power?—It is saying without doing; it is a profession of faith without works.

O that all who shall read these lines would search their hearts as with a lighted candle, and define, if they can, what true conversion is. The Lord never created man to lord it over his fellow man. This propensity has been indulged to the wreck and ruin of humanity. The souls of those who have indulged themselves in this are cast in a mold that Satan himself has made to fashion their characters. Every soul carries his credentials with him. By his actions he shows whether he is under the power of the Holy Spirit, or whether he is striving to climb over his fellow men to rule or to ruin.

With the great truth we have been privileged to receive, we should, and under the Holy Spirit's power we could, become living channels of light. We could then approach the mercy seat; and seeing the bow of promise, kneel with contrite

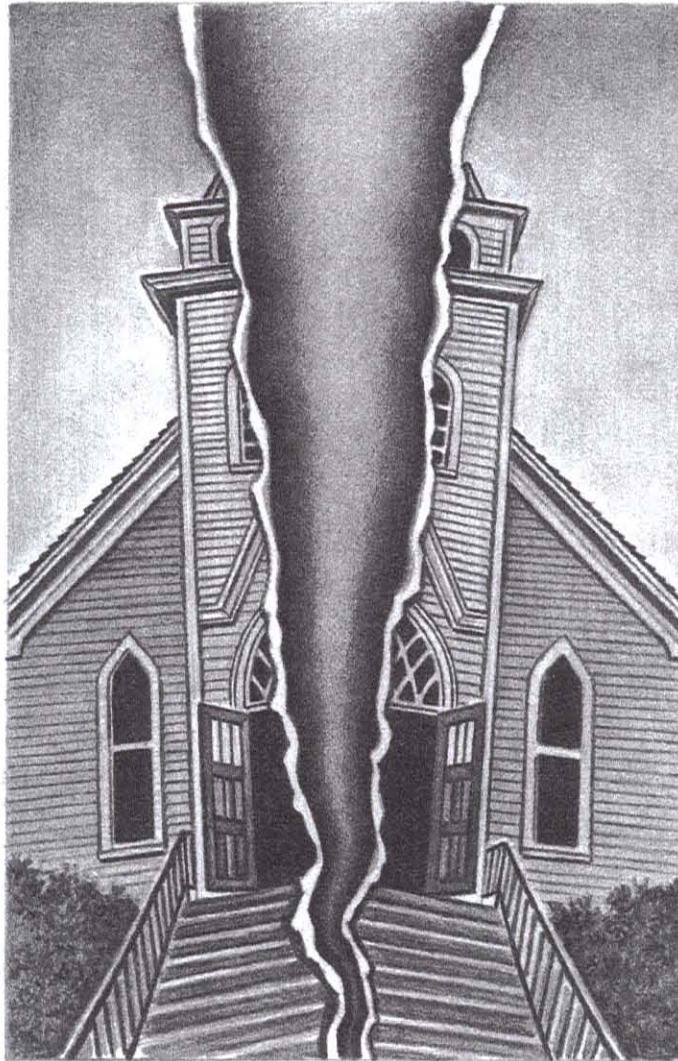
In Part one we dealt with the denial of two major truths of our faith. Now we will look at the denial of four additional truths that have inevitably led us into sin and unrighteousness. We will then look at practices that have been brought into God's Church that are pagan in origin.

### 1. The Sanctuary Message

**N**O message has been more distinctive of the Seventh-day Adventist faith than the High Priestly ministry of Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary above. Part of this sanctuary message is the solemn judgment-hour message which is part of the everlasting gospel. It presents a call to every human being to prepare his or her life for the return of Jesus Christ. Surely no one can lay claim to being an authentic Seventh-day Adventist who does not believe and preach this precious message. Rather than diminishing the ministry of Christ on Calvary, which some suggest, it greatly enhances His ministry as He offers the blood of His sacrifice in the final atonement for all of God's faithful people. Some S.D.A. ministers today deny the final atonement in the heavenly sanctuary. They deny the blotting out of sin. They even deny that there is a sanctuary in heaven—let alone a two-apartment sanctuary.

Yet it is the sanctuary message that brings great understanding to the salvational principles of God. David said plainly, "Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary." Psalm 77:13. It was David's understanding of the sanctuary that allowed him to realize that the prosperity of evildoers need not be coveted, "Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end." Psalm 73:17.

Great assistance comes to God's people from the sanctuary: "Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion." Psalm 20:2. But in New Testament times it is from the books of Hebrews and Revelation that we es-



## The Dividers of Israel, Part 2

tablish the great High Priestly ministry of Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary. It is truly amazing that a doctrine that consumed so much of the Old Testament, especially in the book of Leviticus, and the prophetic utterances of Daniel, and in the New Testament the whole book of Hebrews and significant portions of the book of Revelation, can be ignored not only by Christians of other faiths but by some ministers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Listen to the clear words of Paul, "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heav-

ens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount." Hebrews 8:1-5.

Take note of the words of John the Revelator, "And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail." Revelation 11:19. This message is especially relevant to the end time for the preparation of God's people to stand in the day of judgment.

Many fear the judgment for the same reason that Felix feared it—because they are unrighteous and intemperate: "And as he 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. But to those who love Jesus and have surrendered their life to Him, the judgment message is a saving message, for they know that their wonderful High Priest will stand up for them in the judgment.

The judgment is truly fearful for those who have not accepted Jesus and will stand alone in the judgment. For God's faithful remnant it is the most glorious, encouraging message that they can hear, for they know that if they had to stand alone they would be lost for eternity. However, as Jesus raises His nail-pierced hands and pleads His blood for His faithful people, their salvation is assured. Why is it that in so many of our churches,

members sadly report that from one year to another their minds are not directed through the services of the church to this central pillar of our faith?

## 2. Sabbath Observance

Equally important to faithful Seventh-day Adventists is the holy, sacred Sabbath day. This day acknowledges that God is our Creator and Re-creator, and that Christ is Lord and Sovereign in our lives. God sanctified the Sabbath day as a day free from secular pursuit and com-

It is not uncommon to observe children and youth playing games on the Sabbath. Leaders of churches have taken the young people on all kinds of excursions in secular pursuits. Others, in the name of doing good on the Sabbath, have thought it appropriate to mow the lawns of the needy and to paint the houses in deprived neighborhoods, when indeed if they were truly in earnest about helping others, they would surrender some of their secular time—Sundays, for example—to do these very noble works. To excuse such breaking of the Sabbath

in the power of Christ to help them resist both the temptations and the deceptions of Satan. These deceivers seek evangelistically to bring others to their eternally destructive beliefs. They are not satisfied to jeopardize their own eternal salvation but seek to lead others to join their rebellion: “The apostate is never at rest, except as he obtains sympathy and support by inducing others to follow his example.” *The Great Controversy*, 505.

In a desperate attempt to destroy the integrity and the credibility of faithful Seventh-day Adventists, they declare that those who have hope for Christ’s victory in their life are perfectionists, legalists and fanatics. Sadly, many church members are led to fear God’s faithful people because the voices of those making such proclamations are often the voices of men who hold high office in God’s remnant church. But such false teachers ignore the clearest promises of Scripture. Here is just a small sample of what God has promised to those who surrender their life to Jesus: “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.” Jude 24. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9. “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31. “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.” Hebrews 7:25. “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” Titus 2:11–14.

These false teachers choose to confound perfection of character with perfectionism. Yet Ellen White clearly proclaims the power of Christ to bring each of His precious children to perfection of Christian character while denouncing perfectionism, which she defines as a concept of holy flesh. The doctrine of perfection wholly eschews the concept of holy flesh but embraces the divine principle of holy character.

**The apostate is never at rest, except as he obtains sympathy and support by inducing others to follow his example.” *The Great Controversy*, 505.**

mon work, “And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all the work which God created and made.” Genesis 2:3.

“But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates.” Exodus 20:10.

Isaiah pointed out that it was not to be a day for secular pleasure, “If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.” Isaiah 58:13–14. Jesus declares Himself to be Lord of the Sabbath, “Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.” Mark 2:28.

Yet frequent reports that come to my ears, as well as some experiences that I have seen with my own eyes, tell me that the prophecy of Sister White is being fulfilled: “The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 205.

on the basis that Jesus said it was “lawful to do good on the sabbath day” (Mark 3:4) is to ignore the principle that it is one thing to do good on the Sabbath day that cannot be postponed to another day—for example, ministering to the sick or perhaps fighting a fire that threatens to destroy a neighbor’s home. It is entirely another thing to do that on the Sabbath which could readily be undertaken on a secular day of the week. If we are not willing to sacrifice some of our own time to help those who are in need, let us not desecrate God’s holy day.

## 3. Victorious Christian Living

It comes as no surprise that those who disregard the sanctuary message and the investigative judgment, lightly treat the Sabbath, and insidiously undermine the Inspiration of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, also boldly proclaim that God’s people will continue to sin until Jesus comes.

The foregoing cardinal truths of God’s remnant church are bastions against liberalism, antinomianism (the concept that it is impossible to keep God’s law), and carnal security. Many of them appear to be looking for a crossless religion in order to sustain their acceptance of deep apostasy.

Some find it necessary to fiercely malign those faithful believers who have faith

In a desperate effort to confuse their hearers and readers, some of these teachers claim to take the high road and define sin as every limitation and imperfection of humanity, denying the plainest words of Scripture, which the servant of the Lord has said is the only definition of sin: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:4. Christ lived a perfect life, and, through His life, those who day by day submit their lives to Him have the divine power, united with their fragile faith, to resist the fiery darts of the evil one.

At Christ's coming, the awful realization will be clearly manifested that these false shepherds have been fighting against God. Too late, the people will realize that such leaders have led them to destruction—while professing to guide them to heaven and the earth-made-new. See *The Great Controversy*, 655–656.

#### 4. Christ's Fallen Human Nature

Perhaps no truth that God has entrusted to the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been more under assault from those who would undermine the faith of God's chosen ones than the truth that Jesus took upon Himself our fallen, or sinful, nature. Never mind that at least forty times Sister White has endorsed this Biblical view while never once suggesting that Jesus had an unfallen, or sinless, nature. Never mind that the Bible consistently refers to Jesus as having sinful flesh—the nature of fallen humanity.

There are those who boldly contradict the Words of Inspiration, claiming that Jesus had a nature parallel to that of Adam before his fall—that is, an unfallen, or sinless, nature. Once making this false assumption, it is just a small step to declare that no human being can have victory over sin because we do not have the nature of Jesus, and therefore cannot be consistently victorious as He was.

There are those who claim that the doctrine of Christ's humanity is not important and that those who believe that Christ took upon Himself our fallen nature are obsessed with this belief. Instead, it is probably preached too little by those who believe in the condescension of Jesus to take upon Himself our fallen nature. It has been my observation that many who claim that we should be silent on this topic are very quick to preach their false under-

standing that Christ took unfallen human nature.

But the Bible many times emphasizes the fallen nature of Jesus. It is certainly plainly referred to by Paul, "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh."

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**Let us not neglect to understand that the erosion of these great Biblical truths has been the basis of the sharp spiritual and moral decline within the ranks of God's church.**

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Romans 8:3. This is consistent with Paul's opening description of the humanity of Jesus, "Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh." Romans 1:3.

Paul also emphasizes that Jesus was made under the law just as we are made under the law, "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Galatians 4:4–5.

Indeed, Paul further emphasizes Christ's humanity, giving it a clear enunciation of why Jesus had to be tempted in the same way that we are tempted, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Hebrews 4:15. How could we trust Him as our heavenly High Priest, how could we trust Him to be our faithful Judge if He did not understand the infirmities that we as human beings have?

But it is in Hebrews, chapter 2, that we have been given the clearest understanding in the Scriptures of why Jesus had to take upon Himself our fallen nature, "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of

Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted." Hebrews 2:14–18. It will be

noted that for six reasons Jesus took our fallen nature:

1) so that He could die for us; with an unfallen nature He could not have died and taken upon Himself the sins of the world;

2) so that He has the right at the end of time to destroy Satan who is the originator of death;

3) so that He might deliver His people from their lifelong bondage;

4) so that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest;

5) so that He may reconcile His people to God; and

6) so that He may be able to succor those who are tempted.

So important is this topic that the servant of the Lord has reminded us, "The humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. It is the golden chain that binds our souls to Christ, and through Christ to God." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 244.

#### Who Has Split the Church?

Let us not neglect to understand that the erosion of these great Biblical truths has been the basis of the sharp spiritual and moral decline within the ranks of God's church. It is amazing that so many Seventh-day Adventists have failed to discern the link between the vigorous attempts to undermine the vital truths of God's message with the alarming decline in the piety of God's people.

The time has come that those responsible for the sabotage of God's message must be declared to be the troublers of

Israel, that they are dividing and splitting God's people. We acknowledge that there are those at all levels of the church who are faithfully following God's sure Word and seeking to enlighten God's people with the everlasting gospel, but we must warn our people against those who would destroy the very fabric of this church and seek to bring disunity and disharmony into the ranks of God's people. Only when God's children jointly return to the faith of Jesus will His chosen ones seek after righteousness, and through righteousness be united one with the other.

I ask the question, Who has split the church?—Surely it is those who have gone to fellowship with the fallen churches of Babylon who have divided Israel. In embracing the ecumenical movement the leaders in the Northern and Southern German Unions have thought nothing about the grave division that it has brought in among their membership. This is true in other nations also where we have sought to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. Undoubtedly, the faithful members, who have fought so nobly against those who have betrayed our faith, will be declared to be the troublers of Israel. But thank God that there are those who will fight against these treasonous decisions.

Who are the dividers in the North American Division who are openly defying the Word of God and the decision of the 1995 General Conference Session in which the world field opposed the ordination of women to the gospel ministry? Are they not the dividers of Israel? Who are those educators who have defied the counsel of the Lord that identifies sports as "a species of idolatry, like the idols of the nation"? *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, 350. Rightly, in 1989 at the Annual Council, the Biblical and Spirit of Prophecy principles led the Council to require all educational institutions to cease their participation in inter-scholastic sports. In defiance of this action and the Words of Inspiration, many institutions have continued to indulge in this idolatry. They are the dividers of Israel.

Those who have no regard for the sacredness of the worship of God, ignoring the Biblical injunction to "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness," have desecrated the sanctuaries of the Lord by introducing the pagan-inspired, celebration worship style, mimicking the worship form of the Pen-

tecostals and other charismatics. They are the dividers of Israel.

Many faithful members have had to turn away from these churches in anguish and tears. The dividers of Israel have brought drama—theatrics—into God's sacred church against the plainest Testimonies of Inspiration:

"We must be guarded, for Satan is determined, if possible, to intermingle with religious services his evil influence. Let there be no theatrical display, for this will not help to strengthen belief in the Word of God. Rather, it will divert attention to the human instrument." *Selected Messages*, book 2, 23-24.

Many of God's faithful children have had to turn away, and many others have been driven out of the churches by the dividers of Israel. Yet, these churches were raised up to promote truth and righteousness.

In many parts of God's vineyard, those who recognize that their bodies are

Because the very fabric of unity has been broken by these troublers of Israel, it has become the common practice to use autocratic, papal power to try to enforce a false unity built upon compromise and conformity. The divisions that are in God's remnant church today result primarily from unfaithful shepherds who feed not the sheep, and the sheep are left, all too often, failing to study God's Word for themselves, and therefore are wandering aimlessly toward eternal destruction. Thus the consequences of the work of these dividers in Israel is to do the work of Satan, leading men and women to surrender their eternal heritage in the earth-made-new for eternal destruction and oblivion.

Doctrinal divisions in the Seventh-day Adventist Church are not simple niceties of argumentation. They are the difference between life and death. Shame within the ranks of God's people is evidenced by the minuscule number of those

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**Many of God's faithful children have had to turn away, and many others have been driven out of the churches by the dividers of Israel. Yet, these churches were raised up to promote truth and righteousness.**

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the temple of the Holy Ghost and seek to honor God by observing true health reform principles, have been spurned and denounced as fanatics. This has especially been true in areas of Africa and the South Pacific Island nations. Yet, are those faithful ones the troublers of Israel, or is it those who seek after the flesh pots of Egypt?

There are others who proclaim that the moderate drinking of alcohol is not inconsistent with a people whom God has chosen to usher in the reign of eternal life.

Today, even among some minister's wives in western countries, we see those who set an example in unfaithfulness in dress—in particular, wearing earrings, necklaces, and immodest dress—thus bringing dishonor to the name of God. They are the troublers of Israel—they are the dividers of God's chosen remnant church.

There is a tragic consequence of this widespread apostasy and worldliness.

who are rising up to declare plainly the truths of God's Word, and to warn against the satanic errors that are flooding into our ranks. Surely today is the day of reformation.

#### **A Call to Mobilize**

My call is for all of God's faithful people to mobilize their moral sensibilities, their God-given responsibilities, and their spiritual courage and fortitude to fight against the deadly assault by men and women at all levels of our work. To remain silent in this time of spiritual crisis is to be traitors to God and to the people for whom Jesus died. The time has come to throw off our cowardice, our timidity, our fearfulness and our weakness and allow God to fortify us with His power, so that in the grace of Jesus, armed with His faith and with the sure Word of Scripture, we will truly fight the good fight of faith, so that without fear



or favor we will meet head-on those who are seeking to destroy the very foundations of our faith.

God will have a people. He has promised a remnant. It is important to recognize that Satan is not making war on the whole of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, because most members are under the deceptive, apostate banner of Satan. Thus John declares, "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17.

You will notice that Satan's war is against the remnant, and the remnant are those who keep the commandments of God and have the Spirit of Prophecy. See Revelation 12:17, 19:10. My challenge to every reader is to shake off the shackles that have kept us bound from confronting the dividers of Israel and to unmask their nefarious work in God's remnant church, while still loving these enemies of truth. Let us pray for the divine wisdom and discernment of Christ that we might do the work that He has called us to do for the salvation of our precious fellow church members. □

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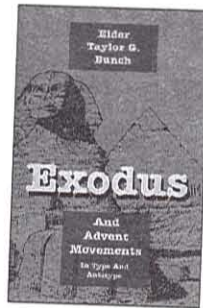
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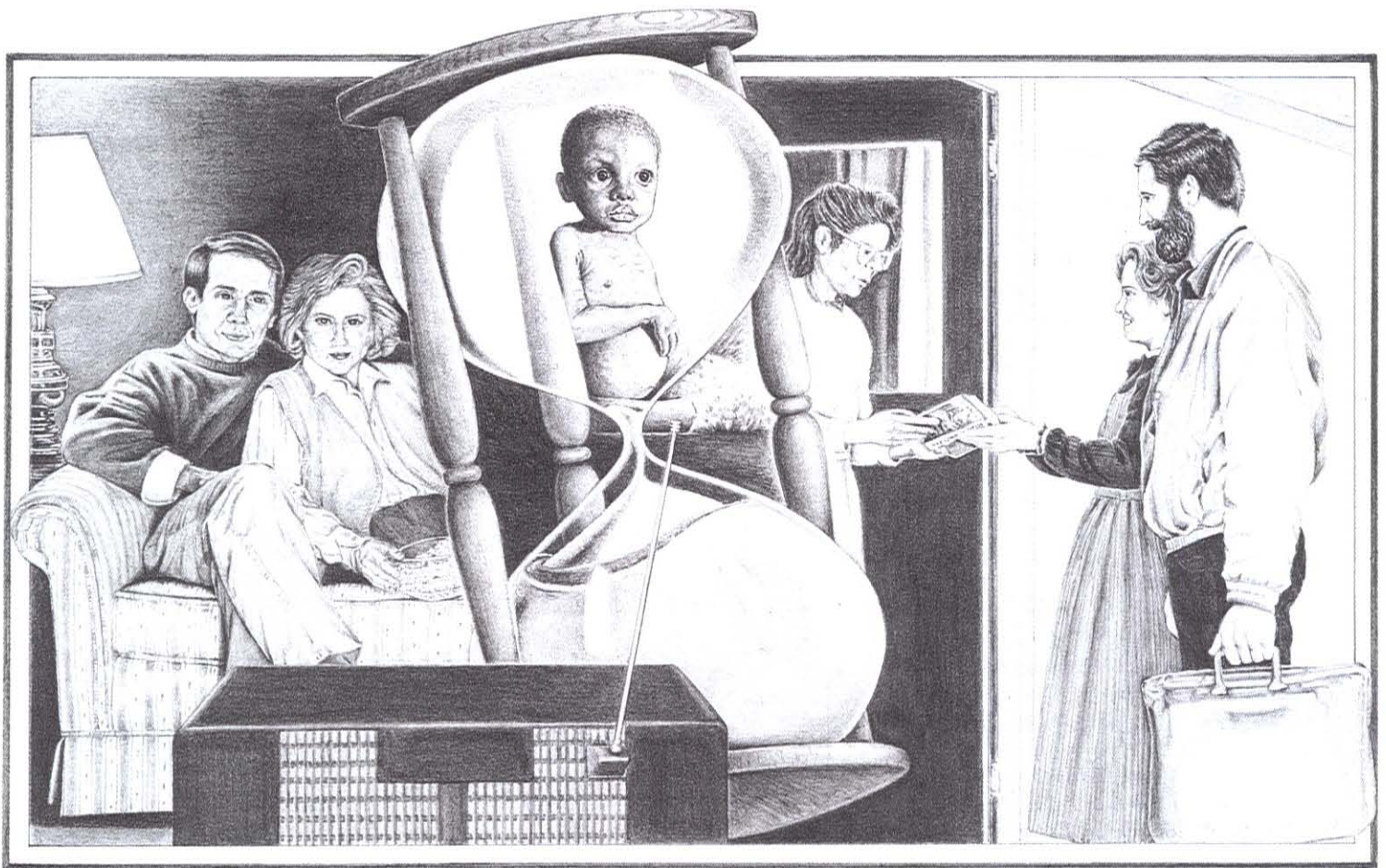
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## The Time of the End

**T**HE Lord is soon to come. Wickedness and rebellion, violence and crime, are filling the world. The cries of the suffering and the oppressed rise to God for justice. In the place of being softened by the patience and forbearance of God, the wicked are growing stronger in stubborn rebellion. The time in which we live is one of marked depravity. Religious restraint is thrown off, and men reject the law of God as unworthy of their attention. A more than common contempt is placed upon this holy law. David in his time saw the wickedness of the last days. He saw the law of God's kingdom trampled under foot, and in righteous indignation he exclaimed, "It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void thy law." Psalm 119:126.

Men are now passing the boundary line, and the Lord is permitting the enemy to do his will. We hear of floods, of earthquakes, of storms by land and on the sea, blotting out hundreds of lives in a moment of time; but the end is not yet. The tread of the Lord will be heard upon

the land and upon the water. For His own honor's sake, God is now about to repress iniquity. He will soon, very soon, vindicate the claims of His law.

The final overthrow of all earthly dominions is plainly foretold in the Word of Truth. In the prophecy uttered when sentence from God was pronounced upon the last king of Israel, is given the message:

"Thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: . . . exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him." Ezekiel 21:26-27.

The crown removed from Israel passed successively to the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. God says, "It shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him."

That time is at hand. Today the signs of the times declare that we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Everything in our world is in agitation. Before our eyes is fulfilling

the Saviour's prophecy of the events to precede His coming: "Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. . . . Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." Matthew 24:6-7.

The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the strained, restless relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they realize that something great and decisive is about to take place—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis.

Angels are now restraining the winds of strife, until the world shall be warned of its coming doom; but a storm is gathering, ready to burst upon the earth, and when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.

Ellen G. White

“Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate. . . . The mirth of tabrets ceaseth, the noise of them that rejoice endeth, the joy of the harp ceaseth.” Isaiah 24:1, 5–6, 8.

“I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down.” Jeremiah 4:23–26.

“Alas, for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.” Jeremiah 30:7.

“Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.” Isaiah 26:20.

To us who are standing on the very verge of the fulfillment of these great scenes, of what deep moment, of what living interest, are these delineations of the things to come—events for which, since our first parents turned their steps from Eden, God’s children have watched and waited, longed and prayed!

At this time, before the great final crisis, as before the world’s first destruction, men are absorbed in the pleasures and the pursuits of sense. Engrossed with the seen and the transitory, they have lost sight of the unseen and the eternal. For the things that perish with the using, they are sacrificing imperishable riches. Their minds need to be uplifted, their views of life broadened. They need to be aroused from the lethargy of worldly dreaming.

A moment of respite has been graciously given us of God. Every power lent us of Heaven is to be used in doing the work assigned us by the Lord for those who are perishing in ignorance. The warning message is to be sounded in all parts of the world. There must be no delay. The truth must be proclaimed in the dark places of the earth. Obstacles must be met and surmounted. A great work is to be done, and this work has been entrusted to those who know the truth for this time.

Now is the time for us to lay hold of the arm of our strength. The prayer of David should be the prayer of pastors and laymen: “It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void thy law.” Let the servants of God weep between the porch and the altar, crying, “Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach.” Joel 2:17. God has

Erelong we shall understand what that night means. The Spirit of God is being grieved away from this earth. The nations are angry with one another. Widespread preparations are being made for war. The night is at hand. Let the church arouse and go forth to do her appointed work. Every believer, educated or uneducated, can bear the message.

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**He who marshals the stars in order in the heavens, whose word controls the waves of the great deep—the same infinite Creator will work in behalf of His people, if they will call upon Him in faith.**

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always wrought in behalf of His truth. The designs of wicked men, the enemies of the church, are subject to His power and His overruling providence. He can move upon the hearts of statesmen; the wrath of the haters of His truth and His people can be turned aside, even as the waters of a river could be turned, if thus He ordered it. Prayer moves the arm of Omnipotence. He who marshals the stars in order in the heavens, whose word controls the waves of the great deep—the same infinite Creator will work in behalf of His people, if they will call upon Him in faith. He will restrain all the forces of darkness, until the warning is given to the world, and all who will heed it are prepared for His coming.

God’s people should make mighty intercession to Him for help now. And they must put their whole energies into the effort to proclaim the truth during the respite that has been granted. As they consecrate themselves unreservedly to God’s service, a convincing power will attend their efforts to present the truth to others, and light will shine into many hearts. My brethren and sisters, sleep no longer on Satan’s enchanted ground, but arouse, and call into requisition every resource for the proclamation of the message of mercy. The last warning is to be given “before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.” Revelation 10:11.

My heart is often burdened because so many who might work are doing nothing. They are the sport of Satan’s temptations. Every church member who has a knowledge of the truth is expected to work while the day lasts; for the night cometh, wherein no man can work.

Eternity stretches before us. The curtain is about to be lifted. What are we doing, what are we thinking of, that we cling to our selfish love of ease, while all around us souls are perishing? Have our hearts become utterly callous? Can we not see and understand that we have a work to do in behalf of others? My brethren and sisters, are you among those who having eyes, see not, and having ears, hear not? Is it in vain that God has given you a knowledge of His will? Is it in vain that He has sent you warning after warning of the nearness of the end? Do you believe the declarations of His Word concerning what is coming upon the world? Do you believe that God’s judgments are hanging over the inhabitants of the earth? How, then, can you sit at ease, careless and indifferent?

Every day that passes brings us nearer the end. We are one year nearer the judgment, nearer eternity, than we were at the beginning of 1905. Are we also nearer to God? Are we watching unto prayer? Another year of the time granted us for labor has rolled into eternity. Every day we have been associating with men and women who are judgment-bound. Each day may have been the dividing line for some soul. Each day someone may have made the decision which will determine his future destiny. What has been our influence over these fellow travelers? What effort have we put forth to bring them to Christ?

Those with whom we associate day by day need our help, our guidance. They may be in such a condition of mind that a word in season will be sent home by the Holy Spirit as a nail in a sure

place. Tomorrow some of these souls may be where we can never reach them again. May God help us to work while the day lasts.

Unmistakable evidences point to the nearness of the end. The way must be prepared for the coming of the Prince of Peace. Let not our church members complain because they are so often called upon to give. What is it that makes the frequent calls a necessity? Is it not the

all parts of the world. My brethren and sisters, confess and forsake your selfishness, and bring to the Lord your gifts and offerings. Bring Him also the tithe that you have withheld. Come confessing your neglect. Prove the Lord as He has invited you to do. "I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you

destitute of the heavenly treasure. Seek to push the triumphs of the cross, seek to enlighten souls, labor for the salvation of your fellow beings, and your work will abide the trying test of fire.

"If any man's work abide . . . he shall receive a reward." 1 Corinthians 3:14. Glorious will be the reward bestowed when the faithful workers gather about the throne of God and of the Lamb. When John in his mortal state beheld the glory of God, he fell as one dead. He was not able to endure the sight. But when the children of God have put on immortality, they will "see him as he is." They will stand before the throne, accepted in the Beloved. All their sins have been blotted out, all their transgressions borne away. Now they can look upon the undimmed glory of the throne of God. They have been partakers with Christ in His sufferings, they have been workers together with Him in the plan of redemption, and they are partakers with Him in the joy of seeing souls saved in the kingdom of heaven, there to praise God through all eternity. □

*Review and Herald*, November 23, 1905.

## Not all can go as missionaries to foreign lands, but all can do the work waiting for them in their own neighborhood; and all can give of their means for the carrying forward of foreign missions.

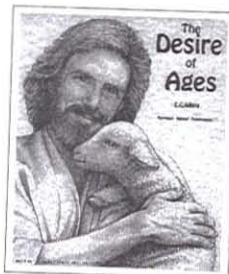
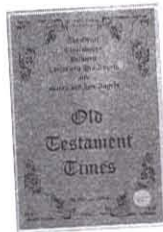
rapid increase of missionary enterprises? Shall we by refusing to give, retard the growth of these enterprises? Shall we forget that we are laborers together with God? From every church, prayers should ascend to God for an increase of devotion and liberality. My brethren and sisters, do not plead for retrenchment in evangelical work. So long as there are souls to save, our interest in the work of soul saving is to know no abating. Not all can go as missionaries to foreign lands, but all can do the work waiting for them in their own neighborhood; and all can give of their means for the carrying forward of foreign missions.

There are new fields to be entered, and we must have your help. Shall we ignore the commission given us, and thus forfeit the fulfillment of the promise accompanying the commission? Shall the people of God become careless and indifferent, and refuse to give of their means for the advancement of His work? Can they do this without severing their connection with Him? They may think thus to economize; but it is a fearful economy that places them where they are separated from God.

Let the Lord's people pay a faithful tithe, and let them, also, from parents to children, lay aside for the Lord the money that is so often spent for self-gratification. The Lord has made us His stewards. He has placed His means in our hands for faithful distribution. He asks us to render to Him His own. He has reserved the tithe as His portion, to be used in sending the gospel to

blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land." Malachi 3:11-12.

My brethren and sisters, it is too late to devote your time and strength to self-serving. Let not the last day find you



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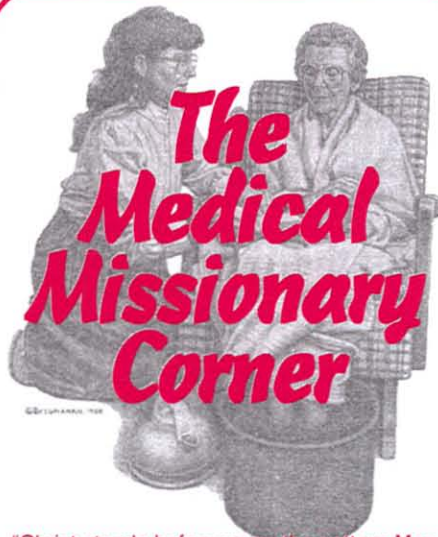
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## Disease and Its Causes Part 18

by Ellen G. White

SOME receive the idea that in order to carry out that separation from the world that the Word of God requires, they must be neglectful of their apparel. There is a class of sisters who think they are carrying out the principle of nonconformity to the world by wearing an ordinary sunbonnet, and the same dress worn by them through the week, upon the Sabbath, when appearing in the assembly of the saints to engage in the worship of God. And some men who profess to be Christians view the matter of dress in the same light. These persons assemble with God's people upon the Sabbath, with their clothing dusty and soiled, and even with gaping rents in their garments, which are placed upon their persons in a slovenly manner. This class, if they had an engagement to meet a friend honored by the world, by whom they wished to be especially favored, would exert themselves to appear in his presence with the best apparel that could be obtained; for this friend would feel insulted were they to come into his presence with their hair uncombed, and garments uncleanly and in disorder. Yet these persons think that it is no matter in what dress they appear, or what is the condition of their persons, when they meet upon the Sabbath to worship the great God. They assemble in His house, which is as the audience chamber of the Most High, where heavenly angels are in attendance, with but little respect, or reverence, as their persons and clothing indicate. Their whole appearance typifies the character of such men and women.

The favorite theme of this class is pride of dress. Decency, taste, and order they regard as pride. And according to the dress of these mistaken souls will be their conversation, their acts, and their deal. They are careless, and often low in their conversation at their homes, among their brethren, and before the world. The



"Christ stands before us as the pattern Man, the great Medical Missionary—an example for all who should come after."  
*Loma Linda Messages, 61.*

dress and its arrangement upon the person is generally found to be the index of the man or the woman. Those who are careless and untidy in dress are seldom elevated in their conversation, and possess but little refinement of feeling. They sometimes consider oddity and coarseness humility.

The followers of Christ are represented by Him as the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Without the saving influence of Christians, the world would perish in its own corruption. Look upon the class of professed Christians described, who are careless in their dress and person; loose in their business transactions, as their dress represents; coarse, uncourteous, and rough in their manners; low in their conversation; at the same time regarding these miserable traits as marks of true humility and Christian life. Think you that if our Saviour were upon earth, He would point to them as being the salt of the earth and the light of the world?—No, never!

Christians are elevated in their conversation; and although they believe it to be sin to condescend to foolish flattery, they are courteous, kind, and benevolent. Their words are those of sincerity and truth. They are faithful in their deal with their brethren and with the world. In their dress they avoid superfluity and display; but their clothing will be neat, not gaudy, modest, and arranged upon the person with order and taste. Especial care will be taken to dress in a manner that will show a sacred regard for the holy Sabbath and

the worship of God. The line of demarcation between such a class and the world will be too plain to be mistaken. The influence of believers would be tenfold greater if men and women who accept the truth, who have been formerly careless and slack in their habits, would be so elevated and sanctified through the truth as to observe habits of neatness, order, and good taste in their dress. Our God is a God of order, and He is not in any degree pleased with distraction, with filthiness, or with sin.

Christians should not take pains to make themselves gazingstocks by dressing different from the world. But if, in accordance with their faith and duty in respect to their dressing modestly and healthfully, they find themselves out of fashion, they should not change their dress in order to be like the world. But they should manifest a noble independence, and moral courage to be right, if all the world differs from them. If the world introduces a modest, convenient, and healthful mode of dress, which is in accordance with the Bible, it will not change our relation to God or to the world to adopt such a style of dress. Christians should follow Christ, and conform their dress to God's Word. They should shun extremes. They should humbly pursue a straightforward course, irrespective of applause or of censure, and should cling to the right because of its own merits.

Women should clothe their limbs with regard to health and comfort. They need to have their limbs and feet clad as warmly as do men. The length of the fashionable dress is objectionable for several reasons:

1. It is extravagant and unnecessary to have the dress of such a length that it will sweep the sidewalks and streets.

2. A dress thus long gathers dew from the grass, and mud from the streets, which makes it uncleanly.

3. In its bedrabbled condition it comes in contact with the sensitive ankles, which are not sufficiently protected, quickly chilling them, and is one of the greatest causes of catarrh and of scrofulous swellings, and endangers health and life.

4. The unnecessary length is an additional weight upon the hips and bowels.

5. It hinders the walking, and is also often in other people's way.

There is still another style of dress that will be adopted by a class of so-called dress reformers. They will imitate the opposite sex as nearly as possible. They will wear the cap, pants, vest, coat, and boots, the last of which is the most sensible part of the costume. Those who adopt and advocate this style of dress, are carrying the so-called dress reform to very objectionable lengths. Confusion will be the result. Some who adopt this costume may be correct in their views in general upon the health question, but they could be instrumental in accomplishing vastly more good if they did not carry the matter of dress to such extremes.

In this style of dress God's order has been reversed, and His special direction disregarded. "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment; for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God." Deuteronomy 22:5. This style of dress God would not have His people adopt. It is not modest apparel, and is not at all fitting for modest, humble females who profess to be Christ's followers. God's prohibitions are lightly regarded by all who would advocate the doing away of the distinction of dress between males and females. The extreme positions taken by some dress reformers upon this subject cripple their influence.

God designed there should be a plain distinction between male and female dress, and has considered the matter of sufficient importance to give explicit directions in regard to it; for the same dress worn by both sexes would cause confusion, and great increase of crime. The apostle Paul would utter a rebuke, were he alive, should he behold females professing godliness with this style of dress. "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." 1 Timothy 2:9-10. The mass of professed Christians utterly disregard the teachings of the apostles, and wear gold, pearls, and costly array.

God's loyal people are the light of the world and the salt of the earth; and they should ever remember that their influence is of value. Were they to exchange the extreme long, for the extreme short dress, they would, to a great extent, destroy their influence. Unbelievers, whom it is

their duty to benefit, and seek to bring to the Lamb of God, would be disgusted. Many improvements can be made in the dress of women in reference to health, without making so great a change as to disgust the beholder.

The female form should not be compressed in the least with corsets and whalebones. The dress should be perfectly easy, that the lungs and heart may have healthy action. The dress should reach somewhat below the top of the boot, but should be short enough to clear the filth of the sidewalk and street, without being raised by the hand. A still shorter dress than this would be proper, convenient, and healthful for women when doing their housework, and especially for those women who are obliged to perform more or less outdoor labor. With this style of dress, one light skirt, or at most two, is all that is necessary, and that should be buttoned to a waist, or suspended with straps. The hips were not formed to bear heavy weights. The heavy skirts worn by females, their weight dragging down upon the hips, have been the cause of various diseases, which are not easily cured, because the sufferers seem to be ignorant of

the cause that produced them, and continue to violate the laws of their being by girding the waist and wearing heavy skirts, until they are made lifelong invalids.

Many will immediately exclaim, "Why, such a style of dress will be old-fashioned!" What if it is? I wish we could be old-fashioned in many respects. If we could have the old-fashioned strength that characterized the old-fashioned women of past generations, it would be very desirable. I do not speak unadvisedly when I say that the way in which women clothe themselves, together with their indulgence of appetite, is the greatest cause of their present feeble, diseased condition. There is but one woman in a thousand who clothes her limbs as she should. Whatever may be the length of the dress, women should clothe their limbs as thoroughly as do men. If the limbs and feet are kept comfortable with warm clothing, the circulation will be equalized, and the blood will remain healthy and pure, because it is not chilled nor hindered in its natural passage through the system.

*Review and Herald*, January 30, February 6, 1900. □

## The Man Who Couldn't Be Killed

by Stanley Maxwell

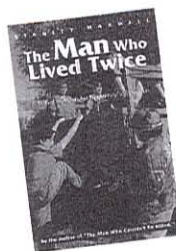
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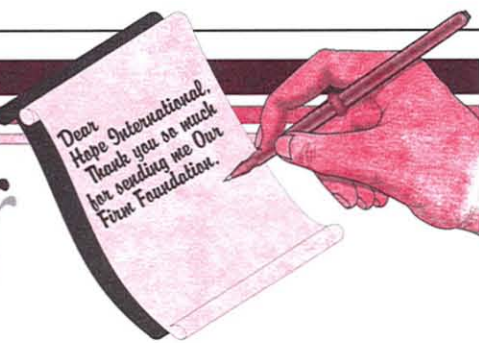
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# Letters to the Editor



Dear Sir,

I would like to thank you for the material which you sent to me. I am really enjoying the material on 1888 message. I hope through this, God is going to bless me and to enable me to spread the message.

I have a prison ministry and many prisoners are coming to the Gospel of Christ. Every Saturday we have church services there and every Sunday afternoon we have a Bible study.

May the God of Heaven bless you abundantly for what you did for me, and may your loving kindness and sacrifices be richly blessed to keep on the good work.

Yours faithfully, *RM, Botswana*

To whom it may concern:

It's such a blessing to know you all care and see to us getting the SDA message in the books you carry! I am very thankful for the Lord's love in each of your hearts.

You're in my prayers! *RN, Tennessee*

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for the Literature that you sent to me. It was unbelievable that you reached here through the books that you sent me! Your Gospel has reached my place. The books I was longing to read are now in my hands to prepare for Christ coming.

Don't get tired. We need all reading materials that can save the whole of Zimbabwe through Adventists. Please keep on sending me more material.

God bless you all. *RN, Zimbabwe*

Dear Brethren,

It was a wonderful day when I received the parcel which traveled hundreds of miles under the Lord's care before reaching me here in Sudan! It was as if I received manna from Heaven, but indeed it is manna to us here in this country! We are hungering for this food. These books will save a lot of souls here, through circulating among those we are giving Bible studies, and also those members within our church who are weakened by new theology.

We don't have anything to contribute to you for the running of that task you are carrying, but through faith in prayer you will finish the work. Let the fellowship of the Holy Spirit continue to help you in running that work for the soon coming of our Lord Jesus.

Yours in Christ, *ES, Sudan*

Dear staff and supporters,

Last month ago, I was special called by the Chinese people. They all invited me to stay at their village for one or two months because they all are interested to hear about the love of Jesus Christ. And also, they would like to know more about the words of God.

At present time I am very busy in my ministry. I reached here just a few days ago. On day time I teach the Chinese young people about the creation work of God, Gospel songs, and English speaking. They all accept me very warmly and are hospitable. They offer me food and lodging. They all are very happy and glad for my arrival here. So now I am trying my best to win the lost souls. I do believe that God's Holy Spirit is pouring upon the Chinese people here.

During the time I am efforting here, I have gladly received a big box parcel from you. I cannot express to you how I am glad to receive these valuable books. I thank you so much for your kind sending and generous supports for our new vast mission field.

May the Lord bless you all and your good ministries around the world abundantly.

Very faithfully yours, *LB, China*

To whom it may concern:

I believe you are still striving to reach the unreached in all corners of the earth. I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the wonderful job that you are doing, though some may not appreciate it. Do not be discouraged because Christ rejoices to see souls whom He died for coming to Him. I really enjoy your magazines very much! I've read several of them which I got from my friends and I find them very enlightening.

Yours in Christ. *AC, Zimbabwe*

Dear ones in Christ,

I am a boy, seventeen years of age, attending a Roman Catholic Junior Secondary School.

At first I was a sinner and did not know that there was a Saviour some where. I want to say that with the great help from Jesus Christ, I have been able to repent from my sins.

My aim for writing this letter is that I want you to help me become a perfect Christian, so that when Christ comes I can also give Him a good account. So I am appealing to you to give me a Bible that contains preachings that will help me to become a perfect Christian.

May God bless you and make your ministry great as you are helping others with the propagation of the gospel.

*NM, Ghana*

Dear Sirs,

Thank you very much for the wonderful messages I have received from your magazine *Our Firm Foundation*.

Thanks to God for He has used Hope International to spread the end time message, especially through the gifts you sent me. It has made me to know the true Sabbath of God, being vegetarian, and the 1888 messages.

May God bless you. *DA, Kenya*

Dear in Christ,

Thank you for the parcel of Bibles you posted me last year. It was good to hear of the way that the Lord is blessing your work!

It is my hope we shall study the gospel and spread the last message, so we still need your help because of the many souls who still haven't heard the last message. So I still appeal to your ministry for more Holy Bibles and any other help.

*OA, Ghana*

To the Editor:

Thank you for the *Our Firm Foundation*. I have not been able to subscribe but you have been faithful in sending it to me and it is such a blessing to me!

I am 91 so probably won't be needing it very much longer, but want you to know that I read and appreciate them.

*EP, California.*

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