

Our Firm Foundation

The Seventh-Day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

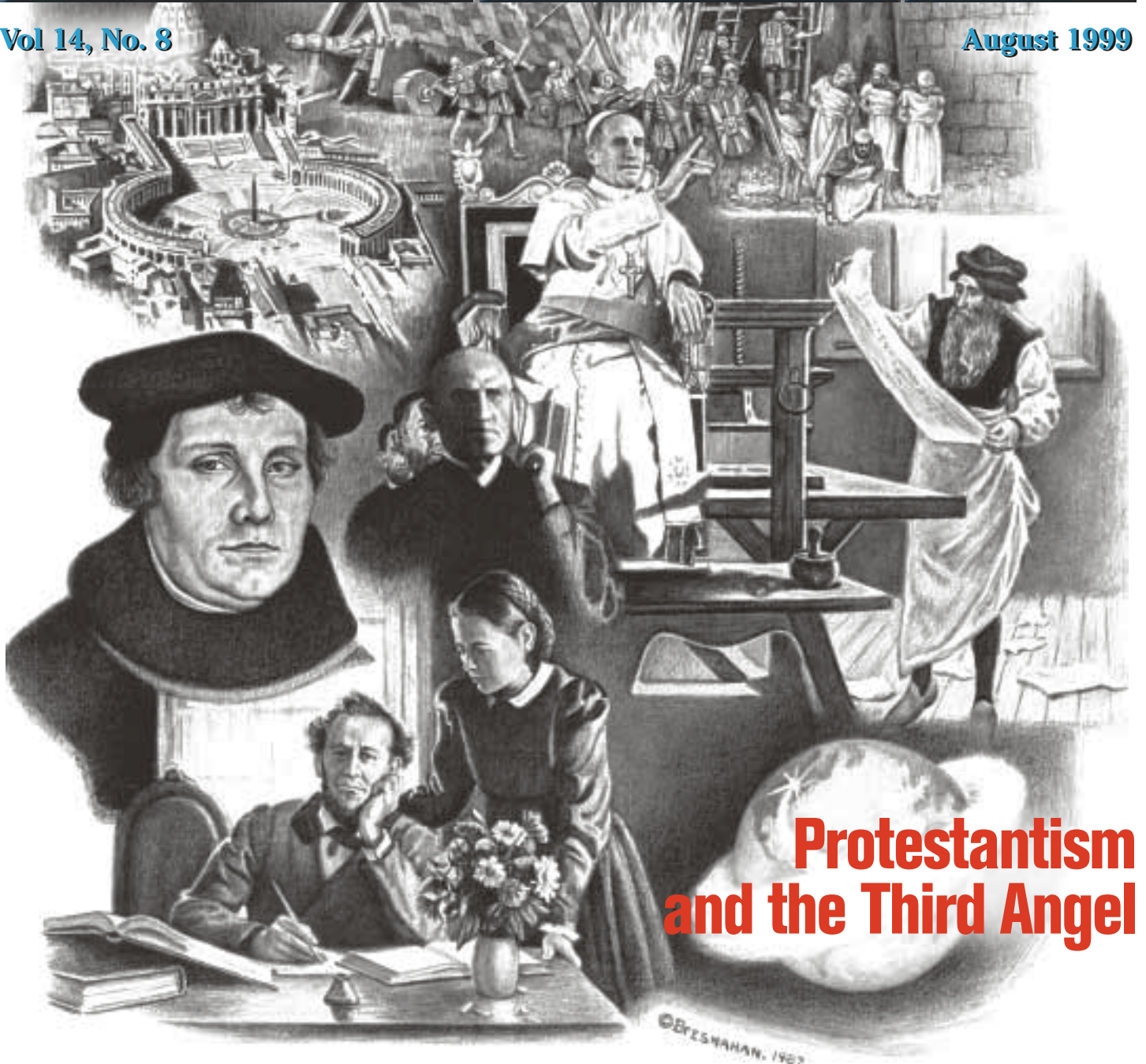
The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary

Vol 14, No. 8

August 1999



**Protestantism
and the Third Angel**

Christ's Closing Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary / Protecting Your Frontal Lobe

One Day Closer to the Eternal Morning

A morning that will bring an overwhelming surprise to God's people

This morning I am again up early sitting at my desk. The dawn is bringing a new day—one day closer to the eternal morning that will come as an overwhelming surprise to both the wise and the foolish virgins in God's beloved church. Tragically, so few—so very few—are preparing in this climactic hour for that glorious, eternal moment of Christ's coming. So few—so very few—understand God's conditions for their salvation—obedience to all known truth without compromise. The Lord's messenger describes the present situation in these inspired words:

"Unsanctified ministers are arraying themselves against God. They are praising Christ and the god of this world in the same breath. While professedly they receive Christ, they embrace Barabbas, and by their actions say, 'Not this Man, but Barabbas.' Let all who read these lines, take heed. Satan has made his boast of what he can do. He thinks to dissolve the unity which Christ prayed might exist in His church. He says, 'I will go forth and be a lying spirit to deceive those that I can, to criticize, and condemn, and falsify.' Let the son of deceit and false witness be entertained by a church that has had great light, great evidence, and that church will discard the message the Lord has sent, and receive the most unreasonable assertions and false suppositions and false theories. Satan laughs at their folly, for he knows what truth is.

"Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan. If doubts and unbelief are cherished, the faithful ministers will be removed from the people who think they know so much. 'If thou hadst known,' said Christ, 'even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto

thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.' Luke 19:42." *Testimonies to Ministers*, 409–410.

What has happened to our ministry, our leaders, our laity? Are we not repeating the tragic history of the ancient church? See *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 75–76, 94, 99–100, 163.

Every wind of doctrine is now blowing through our churches. In some churches we hear the sounds of a rock band playing "celebration" music. In other churches, strange fire echoes and re-echoes from the sacred desk. A satanic gospel reaches the ears of our people, sending them back to their homes to prepare for destruction, while the time for the close of their probation and the close of probation for the church and for the world—all—draw closer and closer. The prophet foretold that this great apostasy called the Omega was coming. Indeed it is here! See *Selected Messages*, book 1, 163–205; *ibid.*, book 2, 36–37.

Today Ellen White is considered by many in our church to be a nice, little, old lady who made her contributions to our church in the nineteenth century. However, they feel that we do not need her now as we enter into the twenty-first century because we have such intelligent, well-educated, up-to-date scholars to advise us in this our new and different culture!

Remember, the very last deception is to make of none effect the *Testimonies* of the Spirit of God. See *Selected Messages*, book 1, 48; *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 672–680.

The end is now much nearer than when we first believed. Read *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 455–456.

May we now make a daily preparation by study and prayer that we may be found ready on that great day!

Ron Spear—Co-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.

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Protestantism and the Third Angel

Philip Garber

ARE WE as Seventh-day Adventists to be Protestants, or are we unsure that this is our prophetic calling? What is our message?

The answer is found in Revelation 14:9–12. Our prophetic calling is to warn the world about the beast, his image and his mark. But in order to give this prophetic message we must positively understand about who is the beast and what is his mark that the Bible so plainly warns us against.

In our world today the *professed* Protestants are capitulating to the

Roman Catholic Church. If the Protestant churches were half awake they would realize that Rome is about to undo all that Protestantism has accomplished throughout its history.

Should we sit idly by, unconcerned about whether or not the truth of Protestantism falls beneath the onward conquest of the Papacy? No—a thousand times no! We should understand that, “the Reformation did not, as many suppose, end with Luther. It is to be continued to the close of this world’s history.” *The Great Controversy*, 148.

The Bible and Protestantism

Perhaps the reason we today do not have the fervent dedication of the Reformers is because we do not appreciate the Holy Scriptures as our forefathers did, who at the risk of all earthly goods valued the Bible above life itself. Their dedication has given to us the Scriptures as a “Blood-bought Book.” “How much the world owes to these men, posterity will never know.” *The Great Controversy*, 61. The Bible was to them the presence and voice of Christ.

Yet there are many today who are eagerly grasping for the multitudinous editions of the resurrected Latin Vulgate version of the Bible, which is merely masquerading under new names, such as the *New International Version*, *New American Standard Version*, and so on, while the “Blood-bought Book,” (the Received Text from which the King James Version was taken) receives the contempt and calumny of the world’s great men. I pray that we will not do dishonor to the faithful souls who endured so much to give us the pure Word of God, and by our indifference to that Word today, insult Christ, the Author.

Protestant Understanding of the Antichrist

While there were subjects upon which the Reformers could not agree, there was one that they stood united upon—namely, that in the pope, as the representative head of the Papacy, is the antichrist of Bible prophecy. Luther stated regarding the Roman pontiff: “I know that the pope is antichrist, and that his throne is that of Satan himself.” *The Great Controversy*, 142 (*D’Aubigne*, b. 6, ch. 9). Many other Reformers could be mentioned who believed the same—Calvin, Cranmer, Knox, Latimer, Ridley, and Wesley, just to mention a few.

How important is it for us today to know who the antichrist is? I believe it is very important! Speaking of this momentous subject, Ellen White said: “Those who become confused in their understanding of the Word, who fail to see the meaning of antichrist, will surely place themselves on the side of antichrist.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7a, 949. So we can clearly see that it is of utmost urgency that we understand this subject.

There has been a plot for years now to rob the Protestant movement of this foundational understanding of prophecy. Let us briefly look at this history:

Because of the Protestant understanding that the pope was the antichrist, the Papacy decided to attempt to undermine this view of prophecy. Rome’s attempts were

finally successful when the Jesuit Ribera in the sixteenth century came up with the futurist interpretation. This new view claimed that the antichrist was to be some supernatural person who would appear in the future and rule for three-and-one-half years. This understanding of prophecy finally became fully accepted by the Protestants in the nineteenth century. Thus, for the most part modern Protestants are screening out the Papacy from detection as the antichrist.

You may ask: We as Seventh-day Adventists are not in danger of becoming confused on this issue, are we? To this we must answer Yes. There is mounting evidence that many of our people are becoming confused and are loosening their prophetic mooring. False futurist teachers of prophecy have arisen from among us to spread their errors, under such names, for example, as Charles Wheeling and Marian Berry, to cite just two. The false principles of prophetic interpretation have proliferated within our ranks.

One such false teacher is Larry Wilson. In his book *The Beasts of Revelation . . . Exposed!*, 16, he writes: “Contrary to what many believe and teach, I do not find the composite beast to represent the Papacy, nor do I find Bible prophecy predicts the Papacy will rule the world during end-times, as Europe was ruled during the Dark Ages.”

In contrast, Ellen White states: “The Scriptures teach that popery is to regain its lost supremacy, and that the fires of persecution will be rekindled through the timeserving concessions of the so-called Protestant world.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7a, 975.

Larry Wilson also states that the mark of the beast “will be either a visible tattoo on the forehead . . . or a tattoo showing the number ‘666’ on the right hand.” *The Beasts of Revelation . . . Exposed!*, 35.

In marked contrast to this statement, the servant of the Lord says: “When the test comes, it will be clearly shown what the mark of the beast is. It is the keeping of Sunday.”

The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 7, 980.

We must beware that we do not fall for just anything that comes masquerading as new light, for as the Spirit of Prophecy says: “These new lights in prophetic lines are manifest in misapplying the Word and setting the people of God adrift without an anchor to hold them.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 104. Certainly this is a solemn warning

“When the test comes, it will be clearly shown what the mark of the beast is. It is the keeping of Sunday.”

that we must heed lest we should at last, like the Jews, flounder upon the rocks of prophetic infidelity.

Jesus has warned us that “if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” Matthew 24:24. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Seventh-day Adventists—Protestants?

One question we must answer is, Are we as Seventh-day Adventists to identify in any way with the Protestant Reformation? Are we a new autonomous movement, or do we trace our lineage back to an earlier age?

From the pen of Inspiration we have a definite answer: “There is just as wide a gulf today between Rome and the Protestantism of Luther, Cranmer, Ridley, Hooper, and the noble army of martyrs, as there was when these men made the protest which gave them the name of Protestants.

“Christ was a Protestant.” And she continues by saying: “The Reformers date back to Christ and the apostles. . . . Luther and his followers did not invent the reformed religion. They simply accepted it as presented by Christ and the apostles.” *Review and Herald*, June 1, 1886.

So we can see clearly that the religion of the Reformers was apostolic in nature. But some may ask, Does this prove conclusively that we as Seventh-day Adventists are to be an extension of the Reformation? Ellen White, writing of the noble stand the Reformed Princes took at

the Diet of Spires of 1529, goes on to answer this question:

“The banner of truth which these Reformers held aloft, God has in this last conflict committed to our hands.” *Atlantic Union Gleaner*, March 8, 1905. Having been given the banner of the faithful Reformers, we bear a tremendous responsibility to further the special truths God has given us in our day. In the light of

this we might well ask, Where are the Protestants in 1999? Especially in the light of current events, there ought to be a chorus of voices raised to proclaim the warning.

Pope’s Apostolic Letter— Wake-up Call for Protestants

In his apostolic letter, *Dies Domini* (*The Lord’s Day*), Pope John Paul II

wrote regarding Sunday, saying that “the Eucharist is the very heart of Sunday.” *Dies Domini*, § 46. This statement should stir up the heart of every true-hearted Protestant.

The Roman Catholic priest believes that in the mass he actually becomes “the creator of his Creator,” that in the words of consecration “the bread is no longer bread, but the body of Jesus Christ,” and that

Has Catholicism Changed for the Better?

IN THE SUMMER 1999 EDITION OF *Spectrum*, Reinder Bruinsma, who is the secretary of the Trans-European Division, made an attack upon the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy teaching regarding the identity of the antichrist.

In an article entitled “Adventists and Catholics: Prophetic Preview or Prejudice?” the author tries to show that Catholicism has changed for the better, but that we as a people have not recognized this “positive change.”

He attacks the writings of Ellen White in regard to Roman Catholicism being the great apostasy of the last days. He states: “Acceptance of her statements in *The Great Controversy* and elsewhere as inspired pronouncements prevented later Adventism from taking another look at contemporary Catholicism while other Protestants were increasingly prepared to do so.” *Spectrum*, Summer 1999, 50.

“Once she codified those views, it became virtually impossible to reevaluate them critically without questioning her prophetic authority.” *Ibid.*

The Scripture plainly points to this apostasy that we are seeing today. Paul writes, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” 1 Timothy 4:1.

“The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. ‘Where there is no vision, the

people perish.’ Proverbs 29:18. Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God’s remnant people in the true testimony.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 78.

Bruinsma goes on to ask the question, “How should the Seventh-day Adventist Church address the changes that have taken place in Roman Catholicism?”

Then he answers: “Although Adventists must strongly disagree with many aspects of Roman Catholic teaching and practice, honesty demands an acknowledgment that in recent decades Roman Catholicism has changed in positive ways in most parts of the world.”

He continues by stating that “there is much spirituality in the Roman Catholic Church of which Protestants can be envious. Furthermore, the Catholic Church has formally accepted the principle of religious freedom. It is not fair to suggest that these and other positive developments are just window dressing. . . .” *Spectrum* Summer 1999, 52.

Sadly, we see today a fulfillment of the words written in the Spirit of Prophecy, “The defenders of the Papacy declare that the church has been maligne’d.” *The Great Controversy*, 563.

Looking more closely at the claim that Rome has now formally accepted the principles of religious liberty, let us look at one of their recent publications to see if Catholicism has really changed. In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*,

published in 1994, we find the current position of the Roman Catholic Church. On page 511 it is stated that “the right to religious liberty is neither a moral license to adhere to error, nor a supposed right to error.” In the final analysis, you have no right to be “wrong,” according to the Roman Catholic Church.

Yes, Rome has put on a fair front in our day. However, Ellen White foresaw that this would happen, and she gave us a clear warning: “The pacific tone of Rome in the United States does not imply a change of heart. She is tolerant where she is helpless. Says Bishop O’Connor: ‘Religious liberty is merely endured until the opposite can be carried into effect without peril to the Catholic world.’ ” *The Great Controversy*, 565.

Those who are honestly searching for the truth would benefit by reviewing the chapter in *The Great Controversy*, entitled “Liberty of Conscience Threatened.” In this chapter Ellen White plainly writes, “Romanism as a system is no more in harmony with the gospel of Christ now than at any former period in her history.” *Ibid.*, 565. Certainly we believe that this is equally true in 1999.

Those who honestly believe the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy can come to but one conclusion, Romanism is the apostasy of the latter day! It is my prayer that God will help His people to resist this delusion, to see behind the facade that Catholicism has presented to the world, and to resist this dangerous foe to religious liberty. □

“in view of the sublimity of their offices the priests are so many gods.” *Dignities and Duties of the Priest*, 32–33, 36. All of this blasphemy regarding the mass, the pope believes is the very heart of Sunday!

The Roman Catholic priest believes that he creates Jesus every time he says the mass, yet the Scriptures teach that “Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many.” Hebrews 9:28. The pope teaches that in the communion service, the bread—Christ—becomes “really” and “substantially” present. *Dies Domini*, § 39. Yet the Scriptures teach that Christ, when instituting the Lord’s Supper as a Memorial, said, “This do in remembrance of me.” 1 Corinthians 11:24.

Should we not bring all beliefs to be tested by the Great Infallible Standard—the Holy Word of God—and regardless of the opinions of pontiffs or worldly great men, adhere only to a “thus saith the Lord”? And shall we not in simple faith trust our souls to Christ and say: “Christ is my priest; His blood is my sacrifice; His altar is my confessional”? *The Great Controversy*, 74.

The pope not only wants Sunday to be kept personally but also in a broader sphere, Pope John Paul II said: “Christians will naturally strive to ensure that civil legislation respects their duty to keep Sunday holy.” *Dies Domini*, § 67.

The pope’s call for Sunday sacredness has not fallen on deaf ears. Many around the world have, with renewed interest, come forward to champion Sunday—this child of the Papacy. Some of the responses have been portentous: “Lawmakers in Poland are pushing for a ban on Sunday shopping in keeping with Pope John Paul II’s wishes.” *The Tacoma News Tribune*, March 12, 1999.

In the United States the Lord’s Day Alliance was thrilled at getting “a helping hand from the pope.” They went on to say that the “pope’s call for Sundaykeeping is encouraging to the Lord’s Day Alliance.” *Sunday*, Fall 1998.

So, while Rome is leading the world captive, are we warning the people regarding the beast power? Soon we will have to stand in the courts of this land to answer for our

faith. We had better know our Bibles and be able to give a “thus saith the Lord”! Yet we know also that in that day the Lord will guide our minds. See Luke 12:11–12.

The dark clouds of persecution can be seen on the horizon. This is especially obvious in light of the recent Apostolic Letter in which the pope said, “Whoever denies a truth which must be believed with divine and catholic faith, or who calls into doubt, or totally repudiates the Christian faith, and does not retract after having been legitimately warned, is to be punished as a heretic or an apostate with a major excommunication.” *Ad Tuendam Fidem*, Canon 1436, § 1.

In light of all the evidence, we certainly should be giving the third angel’s message in no uncertain terms.

Satan’s Deception Regarding Martyrdom

One of Satan’s deceptions that he has foisted upon the remnant people is the concept that somehow we will not have to be martyrs in the last days. A pleasing self-deception rests upon many minds that we will move swiftly through the little time of trouble, and, having reached the great time of trouble without facing martyrdom, we can then rest in the protecting care of holy angels, for we all agree that at that time there will be no more martyrs. We need to relate correctly to a balanced understanding of what is to come.

Revelation 20:4, looking back to that time, speaks of those who were beheaded because they would not worship the beast or receive his mark. Ellen White, speaking of that time, wrote: “Many will be imprisoned, many will flee for their lives from cities and towns, and many will be martyrs for Christ’s sake in standing in defense of the truth.” *Maranatha*, 199.

How does this relate to our topic of Protestantism and the third angel?

In the first place, I believe that we have become spiritually soft and need the spiritual preparation to stand through the trials that are soon to come upon us.

And second, “In these last days we must learn from the experience

of past ages. The confession of faith made by saints and martyrs has been recorded for our benefit.” *Review and Herald*, October 28, 1884. From this we learn that we should study the lives of the martyrs so that we can gain strength and courage for the trials certain to come to us in the future.

On the one hand, we are told that, “God does not give us the spirit of the martyrs today, for we have not come to the point of martyrdom. He is now testing us by smaller trials and crosses. And at times when it seems that the billows of temptation will go over our heads, let us remember that the eye of God is watching over us, and let us be willing to endure all the trials that He sees fit to send.” *Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists*, 233.

In contrast to this statement, we are warned that, “we must now be learning the lessons of faith if we would stand in that time of trouble which is coming upon all the world to try them who dwell upon the face of the earth. We must have the courage of heroes and the faith of martyrs.” *The Upward Look*, 32. The obvious harmony in these statements is that, while, on the one hand, we do not need that special strength of God to sustain us in martyrdom until we are brought to that test, on the other hand, if we are not learning the lessons of faith today, we certainly will not be prepared to stand under the ultimate test which will surely come upon all who dwell on the earth.

Reformation Martyr and Hero—Thomas Cranmer

One hero of the Reformation whom I would like to give honorable mention to is a man by the name of Thomas Cranmer. He was known for his patient study—rather than his brilliancy. Cranmer was instrumental in circulating the Holy Scriptures in England, and through his influence, the Bible was placed in every church in the land. Of course, this brought the opposition of the Romanist clergy.

Cranmer lived under the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, and “bloody

(continued on page 30)



Protecting Your Frontal Lobe

Jeff Wehr

IN HIS EXCELLENT book, *Proof Positive*, Dr. Neil Nedley wrote a chapter entitled “The Frontal Lobe: The Crown of the Brain.” He begins by relating a story about a man named Phineas P. Gage. On September 13, 1848, this young 25-year-old man had a tragic accident. Phineas was a railroad construction foreman in charge of blasting through a mountainous region in preparation for laying down a new railroad line.

The routine was simple: drill a long hole into the rock; fill it partially full with explosive powder;

then cover the powder with sand. A long, tamping iron was next used to pound down on the sand to consolidate the charge. Finally, a fuse was lit to set off the explosion.

On that fateful day everything seemed to be going forward as planned. As usual, the long, hollow hole was drilled; the explosive powder was put in the hole; however, someone forgot to put in the sand.

Phineas began tamping directly over the powder. A spark flew and ignited the powder and a powerful explosion occurred. The 13-pound, one-inch-thick, three-foot-long

tamping iron shot out like a missile. The iron went under his left cheekbone, behind his left eye, through his brain, and then out again.

Amazingly, the traumatic accident did not kill Phineas. In fact, he lived for another 13 years, regaining nearly all of his physical strength. He seemed just as mentally intelligent, and his memory was just as sharp. However, this accident did cost him something.

Before the accident Phineas had been a well-loved and considerate family man as well as a responsible and efficient worker. He was known

as a reverent churchgoer with high morals.

However, after the accident Phineas experienced a terrible moral decline. He became very emotional about things, getting angry quickly. He lost interest in church and spiritual things. He became irreverent and prone to excessive profanity. His company dismissed him because he could no longer responsibly perform his duties.

Phineas' traumatic accident cost him his personality, his moral standards, and his commitment to family, church, and loved ones.

Researchers have concluded that he lost an important area of the front part of his brain—called the frontal lobe. That is the part of the human brain that is responsible for moral reasoning and social behavior.

Dr. Nedley reveals that the brain is divided into several sections, or lobes. Each lobe has one or more specific functions. The frontal lobe (behind the forehead) is the largest lobe of the brain. It is the seat of judgment, reasoning, intellect, and the will. It is the place of spirituality and morality. Therefore, a person with a damaged frontal lobe may look the same, but, if you interact with him long enough, it will usually become apparent that there has been a change in his personality and behavior.

Studies have shown that people with frontal-lobe damage experience a decline in morality, loss of love for family, loss of empathy, and a lack of restraint (leading to boasting, hostility, and aggressiveness). They may also experience restlessness, a lack of foresight, increased fantasizing, and a decreased capability in abstract reasoning.

Diseases caused by frontal-lobe damage include: manic disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, depression, and increased appetite.

Sophisticated brain scans (PET scans) reveal that depressed patients may have a 60 percent reduction in frontal-lobe blood flow. However, there is evidence that if one enhances the activity of the frontal lobe, blood flow to that area will increase, and the depression can be markedly improved and corrected.

When it comes to appetite

control, the frontal lobe plays a critical role. For example, no matter how strong your desire may be for something unhealthful, you can generally suppress that desire if your frontal lobe is functioning optimally. However, the more we compromise our frontal lobe the greater difficulty we have in suppressing such urges. In other words, a healthy frontal lobe helps us to make better lifestyle choices, and a healthy lifestyle protects the frontal lobe.

Therefore, we must ask ourselves a very important question: What are the most common causes of frontal-lobe impairment and what are the principles behind maintaining a healthy frontal lobe?

Alcohol

Alcohol has direct effects on the frontal lobe. Dr. Nedley states, "Several years ago, alcoholics and nonalcoholics were studied by two modern diagnostic tests: magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission topography (PET) scanning. The MRI looks at the actual *structure* of the brain. Among alcoholics, it revealed a striking amount of loss of frontal lobe gray matter. . . . This loss of gray matter indicated an actual loss of brain cells that are involved in critical, frontal-lobe functions.

"PET scanning looks at the *function* of the brain. In this testing, the alcoholics showed a lower glucose metabolism—which indicates less frontal lobe activity. These frontal-lobe-impairing effects are not confined to heavy alcohol users. Adverse effects were seen with those who drank only one alcoholic drink per week. Of course, as alcohol intake increases, there will be a decreased ability to think abstractly and to make the best moral decisions.

"Alcohol also interferes with the development of the fetal brain. It is well recognized that women who use alcohol during pregnancy adversely affect their offspring for life." Neil Nedley, *Proof Positive*, 267–268.

Furthermore, fathers who drink are likely to impair their unborn

children's frontal lobes as well. The free use of wine and liquor leaves to their children the legacy of feeble constitutions, mental and moral debility, unnatural appetites, irritable tempers, and an inclination to vice.

Caffeine

We all know that caffeine has become a very popular drug for an

No matter how strong your desire may be for something unhealthful, you can generally suppress that desire if your frontal lobe is functioning optimally.

early morning lift. Dr. Nedley informs us, "However, a heavy price is paid for this artificial stimulation. . . . Caffeine impinges on the brain's communication system in a number of ways. In exploring these relationships, we need to recall that brain cells talk to one another through chemical interchanges. Nerve cells release chemicals called neurotransmitters (or 'chemical messengers') that are picked up by neighboring cells. . . . Some neurotransmitters cause stimulation of the recipient nerve cell, while others cause depression (similar to the brakes on a car). Caffeine's widespread influence focuses primarily on its ability to affect the levels of two neurotransmitters: acetylcholine and adenosine. Caffeine disrupts the brain chemistry by increasing the level of acetylcholine and interfering with the transmission of adenosine." *Ibid.*, 268–269.

Researchers consistently find that a decrease in brain acetylcholine is associated with impaired mental functioning. When caffeine weakens the power of adenosine to do its work, artificial stimulation and an imbalance is created in the mind.

The effects of caffeine on the brain and on our general health are as follows:

- Interferes with sleep
- Can worsen psychiatric illnesses
- Tends to produce dependency
- Impairs physical and mental performance
- Can contribute to many forms of cancer

- Increases risk of low birth weight in infants born to caffeine-consuming mothers
- Elevates blood pressure
- Can cause palpitations and more dangerous heart rhythms
- Stimulates excess stomach-acid production leading to severe heartburn.
- May increase symptoms of PMS

When tested . . . boys on a low, refined-sugar diet performed the equivalent of one whole letter-grade higher in school.

The Effects of Diet and Nutrition

Research shows that children who are breast-fed have a mental edge that continues for years—if not for a lifetime. Among the advantages appear to be the omega-3 fat found in breast milk. According to studies done with rats, those that received inadequate amounts of omega-3 fats showed learning impairment. The question then arises: Can traditional infant formulas provide adequate amounts of omega-3 fats? The answer is “No.” Supplementing the child’s diet does not seem to make up the omega-3 deficit.

The importance of the right kind of fat is not simply confined to infants. Dr. Coscina and colleagues demonstrated this with two groups of rats. In his experiment both groups of rats were provided with a diet of which 20% of the calories came from fat. However, the fat in one group was based on a vegetable fat (polyunsaturated soybean oil) while the other was a saturated fat (lard). The group which had been provided with the vegetable fat exhibited increased learning skills and abilities compared to those which had been provided with the animal-fat source.

Dr. Bernell Baldwin of Wildwood Health Center in Wildwood, Georgia, suggests that saturated fat from animal products renders the membranes more rigid where brain communication takes place (called synapses); while unsaturated fat from vegetables, seeds, and nuts induces more flexible membranes

that promote more efficient brain communications.

Carbohydrates: Fuel for the Brain

Dr. Nedley informs us that while other parts of the body can make use of fat, protein, or carbohydrates for energy, the brain uses glucose, a

simple carbohydrate, almost exclusively. Because of the brain’s very rapid metabolism, it is in

need of a constant, uninterrupted supply of this simple carbohydrate. Amazingly, our brain, which is only 2 percent of our body mass, accounts for 15 percent of our total metabolism. This means that the brain has a metabolic rate 7.5 times greater than the average body tissue.

Now please note this very important point: Our brain does not have much room to store nutrients. There is approximately a 2-minute supply of glucose available to brain cells. Therefore, for optimal frontal-lobe function, our brain requires blood with a steady and adequate amount of glucose.

Our absolute best source of carbohydrates is fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. Now let me emphasize another very important point: Most animal-based products are completely devoid of carbohydrates. So for excellent mental health, it is important for us to switch to a wholesome vegetarian diet.

So often the typical American breakfast is laced with sugary cereals, refined breads, butter, jam, eggs (which are devoid of carbohydrates), and coffee. A mid-morning snack may include a candy bar and a cola, or donuts and coffee. The lunch menu often includes meat, which is also devoid of carbohydrates, refined bread, fat-fried potatoes (French fries), and a soft drink high in sugar. Supper generally includes a meat item (again, devoid of carbohydrates), a vegetable (finally, a wholesome carbohydrate), refined bread, dessert (more sugar), and milk or coffee. This diet is low in wholesome carbohydrates and is too high in refined sugar. Refined-sugar

products, like candy bars and sugary cereals, are considered a carbohydrate fuel, but they are certainly not “brain food.” In fact, large amounts of sugar have been demonstrated to impair frontal-lobe functions.

One study of 46 five-year-old boys was particularly revealing. Boys with little sugar in their diet had superior attention spans and more accurate responses than their high-sugar consuming peers. When tested, the boys on a low, refined-sugar diet performed the equivalent of one whole letter-grade higher in school.

Our bodies were designed to utilize foods such as fruits and whole-grains in a natural and unrefined state. In their unrefined state these foods help to keep our blood sugar at a fairly constant level. However, when refined, sugary foods enter the digestive system, the blood sugar rises dramatically, and the body reacts as if it were just exposed to a great volume of natural food. In response, the pancreas produces a large amount of insulin. However, the rapid rise in blood sugar is deceptive. Unlike natural plant foods, foods rich in refined sugar tend to be quickly absorbed. The result is that the rapid rise in blood sugar is short-lived. With insulin still present and no more sugar coming in via the digestive tract, the blood-sugar level can plunge.

If a person’s blood-sugar level falls low enough, frontal-lobe functions can suffer due to inadequate fuel supplies. To avoid this unhealthy rapid rise and fall in blood-sugar levels, one should begin each day with a high-quality breakfast that includes a balanced selection of plant sources of nutrition, such as cooked cereal, fresh fruit, and whole-grain breads.

Remember, our frontal lobe is the seat of judgment, morality, spirituality, and the will. We cannot afford to compromise our frontal lobe with poor-lifestyle habits. Please prayerfully consider getting rid of the junk food in your diet. Take the time to learn how to switch over to God’s original diet—namely, fresh fruit, vegetables, whole-grains, nuts, and seeds. See Genesis 1:29.

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to

the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31.

Television

Dr. Nedley introduces the topic of television with a few comments on hypnosis. He informs us that hypnosis, by design, bypasses the frontal lobe as the person is led into a trance-like state.

During this hypnotic state the individual loses beta waves from the brain. Beta-wave activity is an indicator of sound thinking and reasoning involving the frontal-lobe. These beta waves are replaced with alpha waves, during which time we do not critically analyze incoming information. In this hypnotic state, an individual will record information and suggestions without interpretation and without frontal-lobe filtering.

Most Americans have at least one home hypnotist—of course, we are talking about the television set. After only two minutes, our brain waves stay almost entirely in an alpha pattern. This means that while you are watching television, you will gather all kinds of information but with little or no filtering through your frontal lobe, which is the seat of judgment, morality, spirituality, and the will.

Dr. Herbert Krugman, a brain-wave researcher, has reported, “Television is a communication medium that effortlessly transmits huge quantities of information not thought about at the time of exposure.” *Proof Positive*, 281.

Dr. Erik Peper, another influential researcher, wrote, “The horror of television is that the information goes in, but we do not react to it. It goes right into our memory pool and perhaps we react to it later, but we do not know what we are reacting to. When you watch television you are training yourself not to react, and so later on, you’re doing things without knowing why you’re doing them or where they come from.” *Ibid*.

In other words, while someone may not go out and murder someone else after witnessing a murder on television, all those violent acts are recorded in the mind, and they do increase the possibility of violent behavior later on.

Television also increases sexual activity in teens and even in younger children. The more television watched, the lower the age for that first sexual encounter.

Education: Dr. Nedley also tells us that television weakens brain power. One of the greatest concerns in educational circles is that television viewing markedly reduces a child’s interest in reading. There has been a consistent decline in average reading skills since television began to be widespread in the 1950s.

In general, television increases daydreaming and decreases creativity. Dr. Nedley explains that the difference between the two is that daydreaming is nonproductive, because it tends to draw thoughts away from realistic tasks nearby, to dwell upon unrealistic images residing in the memory. Creativity is usually called into play to solve a real-life problem.

One study showed that when television was introduced to a media-isolated town in British Columbia, Canada, both children and adults suffered a 20 percent loss of creativity within two years.

Lifestyle: Television also encourages poor lifestyle habits. Many of the advertisements during children’s programming promote sugar-laden and fatty foods. After watching these “junk food” commercials children begin tugging on their mothers to buy those foods in the supermarket. The combination of television and sugar-laden snacks has had its impact, in that now one out of four kids are becoming obese in America.

Remember, television viewing requires no physical activity, yet the average child watches it 26 hours a week! Interestingly, during television viewing the metabolic rates of children ages 8 to 12 are significantly lower than if these children were just sitting around doing nothing. The lowered metabolism combined with sweets and high-fat foods places children at high risk of obesity. And the more television the child watches, the heavier he or she tends to become.

Spirituality: When we look at an average person’s weekly activities before and after the arrival of television, we notice that they spend less time in church and less time reading their Bible. The reason is

not simply because television steals away hours of their time. Remember, television depresses activity in the frontal lobe, which is the seat of spirituality and morality.

Rock Music Mice

Few people understand the powerful influence that music has on the frontal lobe. “Depending on the type of music, it can either influence the brain beneficially or detrimentally. Music therapists tell us that certain types of music, like rock music with its syncopated rhythm, bypass the frontal lobe and thus escape our ability to reason.” Nedley, *Proof Positive*, 288. Like television, music can also produce a hypnotic effect.

Let me conclude this discussion by relating an experiment using rock music with mice. In this experiment they took 72 mice and ran them through a maze to establish a base time. This base time came out to be 10 minutes. Then they divided the mice up into 3 different groups: One group listened to no music. A second group listened to Mozart. And a third group listened to rock music. After one month the mice were timed as they navigated through the maze again. The mice that listened to no music reduced their time by half. The mice that listened to Mozart did even better. They navigated through the maze in just one minute and thirty seconds. However, the rock-music mice bumped their way through in 30 minutes.

When the researchers examined the brains of the rock-music mice, they “found abnormal branching and sprouting of the nerve cells, and there was also disruptions in the normal amounts of messenger RNA, a chemical crucial to memory storage.” *Ibid*.

Dr. Nedley says that this helps us to understand why rock-music listeners are more likely to use drugs, to engage in extramarital sex, and to consider suicide.

On the other hand, classical music has been demonstrated to help college students learn spatial relationships in geometry. Yet, the

(continued on page 30)

Cookbooks for

Country Life Vegetarian Cookbook \$9.95

100 percent vegetarian recipes that have been tested by the staff of Country Life Restaurants. The fruit of their labors is found within the pages of this book. We heartily recommend it to you! Edited by Diana J. Fleming

Country Kitchen Collection \$11.95

Delicious and nutritious vegetarian recipes showing how to serve high-fiber, low-fat, entirely cholesterol-free dishes. Complete menus given for daily meals as well as for the holidays and special occasions. By Phil and Eileen Brewer

Taste & See \$11.95

Allegry Relief Cooking. Kitchen-tested recipes provide a comprehensive design to cover almost anyone's food allergies and to provide some workable solutions. By Penny King

Are Animal Products Safe?

The Animal Connection \$4.95

The Animal Connection is the culmination of a study extending over the past 20 years. It has 248 references to the ever-growing, scientific literature on the subject of the effects of physical exposure of human beings to diseased animals. It also covers the health effects of the consumption of animal products. This book gives a small, but representative sampling of the available material on this subject. By Agatha Thrash, M. D. & Calvin Thrash, M. D.

Mooove Over, Milk \$9.95

Is it time to put milk out to pasture? This book is a resource of information long overdue. It lets you know the truth of the ills that consuming cow's milk can bring. It provides vital nutritional information, and gives scientific evidence which raises serious questions regarding the consumption of milk.

Don't Drink Your Milk! \$7.95

Doctor Frank Oski points out new and alarming medical facts about the world's most overrated nutrient. Complete with an up-to-date research appendix. By Frank A. Oski, M. D.

Milk Recipes from Nuts & Seeds \$9.95

After many months of research and testing various kinds of nuts and seeds, the author has produced excellent recipes for replacing cow's milk for human consumption. This book is one of a kind! By Edith V. Edwards

a Healthy Diet



Choices \$16.75

Quick and Healthy Cooking. Meals you can make in thirty minutes or less. Bring the natural goodness of fruits, nuts, legumes, and grains together to form delicious, heart-healthy meals that can be made in minutes. These meatless recipes are low in cholesterol and fat, but are loaded with great taste! By Cheryl Thomas Peters, R. D.



More Choices \$16.95

For A Healthy Low-Fat You. The emphasis of this cookbook focuses on achieving and maintaining a permanent, healthy weight. The recipes place special attention on high-flavor, wholesome foods. All recipes are low fat, low cholesterol, including both low-fat dairy and nondairy options, menu planning tips, and nutritional analysis. By Cheryl D. Thomas Peters, Dietitian



My Personal Recipes \$4.00

A variety of eighty-five tried and taste-approved recipes without vinegar, milk, eggs, or dairy cheese. They make limited use of refined foods. By Bonnie Rickabaugh

Nutrition Resources

Counsels on Diet and Foods \$6.95

Decades before people were concerned with the close relationship between diet and health, Ellen White in her writings clearly pointed out the connection between the food we eat and our physical and spiritual welfare. This book has not only served as a textbook in many schools but has, in its own way, left its mark on the general public. By Ellen G. White



Food Allergies Made Simple \$9.95

Whether you are just interested in the subject, or need to have practical answers, *Food Allergies Made Simple* can help you evaluate what foods may cause sensitivities, and the ways to go about eliminating those elements that may be causing the problems. Filled with comprehensive reference material, this book is a definitive source of information on treating and preventing food allergies. By Phylis Austin, Agatha Thrash, M. D. & Calvin Thrash, M. D.



Nature's Perfect Prescription \$9.95

In today's world, garlic has become the focus of modern medical research. Recognized for thousands of years for its amazing curative powers, this bulb is today not only known for its potent bouquet, but is drawing the attention of the scientific world as a potential anti-aging and anticancer agent, as well as an antioxidant, antibiotic, and anti-inflammatory—the list goes on and on! You will want this book as a wonderful guide to understanding this natural prescription. By C. Gary Hullquist, M. D.



Nutrition for Vegetarians \$11.95

Nutrition for Vegetarians addresses the concerns that are prevalent in today's increasingly dangerous dietary world. Learn how to be well and enjoy long life from this classic book on nutrition. An outstanding book that has helped thousands to understand and embrace better health. By Agatha M. Thrash, M. D. & Calvin L. Thrash, M. D.



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Jesuits Rejected in Russia

News Item: “Russia’s Ministry of Justice denied the application of the Jesuit order for official registration under Russia’s controversial law on religion. The rejection made Jesuits the first Roman Catholic entity since the law’s passage in 1997 to be explicitly denied the right to function in Russia.” *World*, May 1, 1999.

A History of the Jesuits From Their Beginning in 1534:

“Throughout Christendom, Protestantism was menaced by formidable foes. The first triumphs of the Reformation past, Rome summoned new forces, hoping to accomplish its destruction. At this time the order of the Jesuits was created, the most cruel, unscrupulous, and powerful of all the champions of popery. Cut off from earthly ties and human interests, dead to the claims of natural affection, reason and conscience wholly silenced, they knew no rule, no tie, but that of their order, and no duty but to extend its power. The gospel of Christ had enabled its adherents to meet danger and endure suffering, undismayed by cold, hunger, toil, and poverty, to uphold the banner of truth in face of the rack, the dungeon, and the stake. To combat these forces, Jesuitism inspired its followers with a fanaticism that enabled them to endure like dangers, and to oppose to the power of truth all the weapons of deception. There was no crime too great for them to commit, no deception too base for them to practice, no disguise too difficult for them to assume. Vowed to perpetual poverty and humility, it was their studied aim to secure wealth and power, to be devoted to the overthrow of Protestantism, and the re-establishment of the papal supremacy.

“When appearing as members of their order, they wore a garb of sanctity, visiting prisons and hospitals, ministering to the sick and the poor, professing to have renounced the world, and bearing the sacred name

of Jesus, who went about doing good. But under this blameless exterior the most criminal and deadly purposes were often concealed. It was a fundamental principle of the order that the end justifies the means. By this code, lying, theft, perjury, assassination, were not only pardonable but commendable, when they served the interests of the church. Under various disguises the Jesuits worked their way into offices of state, climbing up to be the counselors of kings, and shaping the policy of nations. They became servants to act as spies upon their masters. They established colleges for the sons of princes and nobles, and schools for the common people; and the children of Protestant parents were drawn into an observance of popish rites. All the outward pomp and display of the Romish worship was brought to bear to confuse the mind and dazzle and captivate the imagination, and thus the liberty for which the fathers had toiled and bled was betrayed by the sons. The Jesuits rapidly spread themselves over Europe, and wherever they went, there followed a revival of popery.” *The Great Controversy*, 234–235.

Current Application Prophetically: “If the reader would understand the agencies to be employed in the soon-coming contest, he has but to trace the record of the means which Rome employed for the same object in ages past.” *Ibid.*, 573–574.

As we look at the present conflict of the Jesuits with Russia we perceive that either Russia will give in to their demands, or the country will definitely pay a price of perhaps revolution, war or economic boycott. In order for Rome to rule the world as prophecy has predicted, she must so rule the nations that they will do her bidding. We are seeing in these current events the final struggle of national sovereignty pitted against the overall policy of Rome. We know that, as the Bible has predicted, in the end the kingdoms of this earth will give their power

to the beast. See Revelation 17:12–17.

Drug Resistant Viruses Neutralizing Antibiotics

News Item: “Common bacteria are now so resistant to antibiotics that they can kill. . . .

“Faith in the power of antibiotics to cure everything from pneumonia to postnasal drip has resulted in their becoming one of the most commonly prescribed categories of drugs in the United States. More than 133 million courses of antibiotics are prescribed by doctors each year to non-hospitalized patients. . . .

“ ‘But there’s a major downside: Antibiotic resistance is becoming a public-health nightmare.’ A new report by the General Accounting Office, delivered to Congress last week, indicates that antibiotic resistance is increasing worldwide—more kinds of bacteria are becoming resistant and they are resistant to multiple drugs. . . .

“Scientists have known since the dawn of the antibiotic age in the 1940s that the more an antibiotic is used, the quicker it becomes useless. That’s because of natural selection: While most bacteria exposed to the drug are killed, the fittest survive and pass survival traits to their offspring. With continued use of the antibiotic, the resistant bugs proliferate. Bacteria have a broad array of tactics to combat antibiotics’ toxicity, and they can give the genes that control these feats to nearby, even unrelated, bugs.

“Bugs that have become resistant to one antibiotic also seem to find it easier to build resistance to others. . . .

“ ‘We’re facing a serious global problem with antimicrobial resistance now. It affects virtually all of the pathogens we previously considered easily treatable.’ ” *U.S. News & World Report*, May 10, 1999.

Prophetic Perspective: The Lord has given us a special health message which we are told is both the right



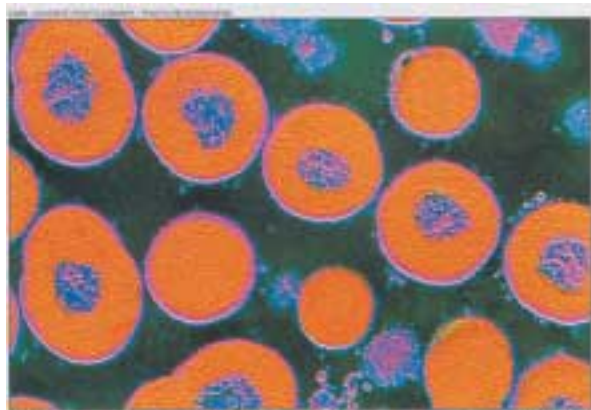
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arm and the entering wedge of the third angel's message. God has given us this message "that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations." Psalm 67:2. Educating our world in regard to true health principles is a very important part of our work.

As the servant of the Lord has said: "The first labors of a physician should be to educate the sick and suffering the very course they should pursue to prevent disease. The greatest good can be done by our trying to enlighten the minds of all we can obtain access to, as to the best course for them to pursue to prevent sickness and suffering, and broken constitutions, and premature death; but those who do not care to undertake work that taxes their physical and mental powers will be ready to prescribe drug medication, which lays a foundation in the human organism for a two-fold greater evil than that which they claim to have relieved." *The Paulson Collection*, 21-22.



COVER STORY

The killers among us

Common bacteria are building resistance to most of the antibiotics on the market. Research into new drugs has languished and the public-health system is faltering. Scientists are struggling to come up with new ways of attack before it's too late.

PAGE 52

Regarding antibiotics, we note from the book *Natural Remedies A Manual*, page 45: "Avoid the use of antibiotics. They kill not only the bad bacteria, but the good as well." We note the fact that even the worldly physicians are now giving a call of alarm in regard to the current danger. Would not the present be a time of special opportunity to share the precious truths on health that we have as a people? We should be doing all we can to teach

the people how to healthfully care for their bodies so that they can escape the many dreaded diseases that are coming upon this world.

We know that in the near future Satan will work in a special way to bring pestilence and disease upon this world—especially just prior to Christ's second coming.

As the messenger to the remnant has written, Satan will do many such things before Jesus' second coming. "While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring *disease* and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts

to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the *pestilence*. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast." *Counsels on Health*, 461. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

To those who dwell "in the secret place of the most High" will come the sacred promise that they need not fear "the pestilence that walketh in darkness . . . neither shall any plague come

nigh thy dwelling." Psalms 91:1, 6, 10.

May we practice the truth that we know today so that when Christ shall come we may "not be ashamed before him at his coming." 1 John 2:28.



NATO—In Search of an Enemy

News Item: At the recent NATO fiftieth anniversary celebration in Washington, D.C., some very interesting comments were made which we will here give in part:

"'Have we got an enemy?'" asked Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres in his opening-day speech. 'I think yes. No longer a country, a system, an ideology. Our enemy is the rejection by so many in the world of the values of the Enlightenment, of reason, as the fundament of behavior in politics. Our enemy is extreme nationalism, *religious fundamentalism*, racism, xenophobia, ethnic cleansing.'

"British Prime Minister Tony Blair, meanwhile, insisted that the alliance was no longer simply about ensuring the security of its members. 'NATO,' he said, 'must have a moral perspective and a conscience. We must be willing to right wrongs and prosecute just causes.'" *World*, May 8, 1999.

Prophetic Perspective: We can hear the roar of the dragon in the preceding statements. Karl Keating in his book *Catholicism and Fundamentalism*,

page 10, gives us the following insight: "But fundamentalism? To embrace it is to reject Catholicism outright, because fundamentalism does not just modify, but discards, the sacramental and liturgical core of Catholicism."

The two main points that we gain from the preceding news statements

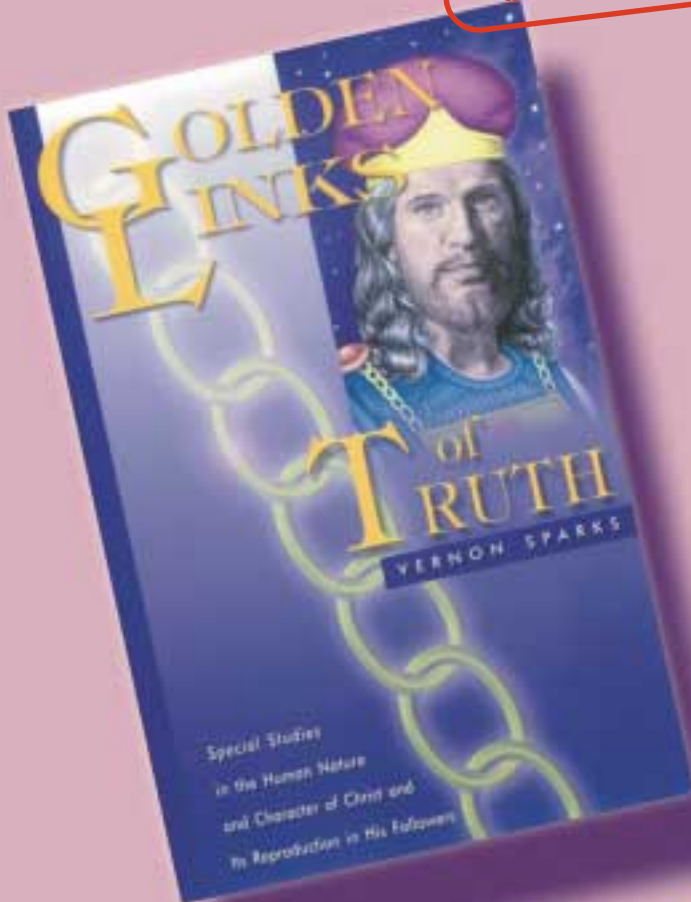
are, first, that any country which upholds its nationalism and stands in the way of the New World Order, will be punished. And, second, and most importantly for Bible Christians, is the threat that fundamentalists (those who reject Rome and believe in the literal truth of the Bible) are considered to be the enemies of NATO.

We can see plainly that NATO is now the military force that will someday soon enforce the enactments of the beast power of Revelation.

May God strengthen and protect His true children, for it is clear that troublous times are just before us. □

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How to Be Saved

One Day at a Time

Marshall Grosboll

TO BE SAVED means to learn to love God and one another as Jesus did in His life on earth. This is a day-by-day process. It is not a natural process, but it is made possible only through the power of the Holy Spirit supplied to us moment by moment when we are abiding in Christ. Although it is undeserved and totally outside of our natural power to secure, God offers this transforming grace to every person on earth. Transforming grace—so essential to salvation—and yet what is it, and how do we get it?

Transforming grace is the day-by-day process of God delivering us from sin and making us more loving like Himself. “And now abide faith, hope, and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13.¹

More important than the understanding of prophecy is love. The apostle Paul said that we could even have the gift of prophecy, but if we did not have love, we would be

“nothing.” Love is more important than good works. Paul said that we could give our bodies to be burned, but if we did not have love, it would do us no good. Love is more important than any theology. For again Paul says that we can “understand all mysteries,” but without love, we are nothing. Love is even more important than faith itself, for we can “have all faith,” and yet without love, we are still “nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:2–3.

The Conditions of Salvation

We are saved by faith in Jesus. It is through faith that we receive the forgiveness of sin and our title to heaven. Our works have nothing to do with earning salvation. It was purchased by Jesus alone, and it is offered to us as a free gift.

However, although the gift is absolutely free, it is not unconditional. Not everyone is going to be saved—only those who meet the conditions. Meeting the conditions

does not earn our salvation in any way, but it does determine who will receive the free gift. The conditions for receiving the free gift are twofold: We must first accept Jesus as our Saviour, and we must then learn to love God and one another as Jesus did. Paul is very clear that unless we obtain this love, our faith is absolutely worthless.

Satisfying a condition is far different from earning salvation. Suppose I were very rich and you were very poor, and, because I really loved you, I gave you a ten-million-dollar check. Now there would be nothing that most of us could do to earn that money, but there would be at least one condition: You would have to go to the bank and cash the check. Is that a condition?—Yes, it is. The gift is good only if it is cashed.

Could you imagine someone saying, “You mean I have to go all the way to the bank to get this money? Well then, it is not a gift. If I have to go to the bank, I’ve earned it.” How preposterous! Yet

some people think that way about the gift of salvation. They illogically overthrow all the conditions of salvation, assuming that such parameters constitute sinful works. Thus they delude themselves into thinking that they are saved unconditionally when they most assuredly are lost.

Jesus plainly stated that at His Second Coming, many will say to Him, “Lord, Lord, we are saved! We

He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His.” *The Desire of Ages*, 25. There is nothing we can do to earn even temporary life on this earth, and it is even more impossible to do anything to earn eternal life. We can neither pay for

our past transgressions nor do a single good work that will merit eternity. Jesus has done both. But there is a condition. Jesus

said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3.

To be born again means to have our characters changed—from characters of selfishness to characters of love. “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” 1 John 4:7–8.

Love is the condition for salvation—love to God and love to man. We cannot receive salvation until we are willing for God to teach us love, and we cannot retain salvation unless this process of learning to love is taking place in our lives. In order to make sure we do not deceive ourselves, Jesus said, “Most assuredly”—absolutely, without exception—“no one can see the kingdom of God without this new birth,” which means that our characters must be changed from characters of selfishness to characters of love.

When a rich man once asked Jesus what he could do to “have eternal life,” Jesus did not tell him to do nothing, but rather He said, “If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” When a lawyer later asked Him what the commandments were, Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these

two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 19:16–17; 22:35–40.

There is no salvation without learning to love. Jesus paid for our salvation, but He is not going to give it to anyone who is unwilling to develop a character that will allow him to fit into the loving and unselfish society of heaven. Love to God means that we willingly and lovingly obey Him. Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commandments.” John 14:15. Love to our fellow men means that we treat them just as we would wish to be treated in their place. This kind of love is manifested in heaven. The standard of love by which we will be judged as to whether we have met the conditions of salvation, is the Ten Commandments as lived out in the life of Jesus. “Love is the fulfillment of the law.” Romans 13:10. “He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” 1 John 2:4. “For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” Romans 13:9.

In Luke, chapter 11, Jesus tells of a man who was once delivered from the slavery of sin. He was delivered from his addictions and bad habits. However, he did not go on from there to develop his character into the image of Jesus. Some time later the evil spirit that had once controlled his life came back to see how his old friend was doing. Lo and behold, he found that the man was the same as when he had left him—free from sin but destitute of the grace of Christ. The evil spirit leaped with joy, and went out and found seven other spirits more evil than himself, and came back and took absolute control of this poor man. So the last state of that man, who had once been saved, was worse than the first.

How to Stay Saved

Thus we can see that salvation is not a process that merely happens once, after which eternal life is forever secure. “People, if saved at all, must be saved day by day, hour by hour.”

“God designs that Christians shall grow continually, grow up unto the full stature of men and women in Christ.”

have done everything in Your name.” But then He will sadly declare to them, “I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Matthew 7:21–23. Somehow, although they believed in Christ and claimed to be saved, they did not meet the conditions. The proof offered was that they were workers of iniquity, or, as the literal Greek says, “They practiced lawlessness.”

There are conditions to salvation which we must all meet day by day. And these conditions are more involved than just cashing a check at a bank. Suppose, in the previous example of giving you a ten-million-dollar check, I stated to you that this was a gift of love, totally free and unmerited—it was my inheritance which I purchased with my own life and which I am now giving to you. But I also stipulated that if you accepted the gift, you must promise me that you will never say anything bad about my kind and loving Father, from whom I inherited the money, or about any of His children whom He loved. Even in this, however, if you should fail at some time, that gift will still be yours if you will just repent and ask forgiveness. Those would be very fair conditions. The gift is still a free gift, which you did not earn; however, you must meet the just and fair requirements.

Jesus died on the cross in order to earn eternal life for us. He “was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves.

Fundamentals of Christian Education, 240. Thus we are told that “Those who accept the Saviour, however sincere their conversion, should never be taught to say or to feel that they are saved.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 155. Salvation is a day-by-day process of becoming more and more like God in love. Salvation is much more than a good beginning. It is a state of being in which we must choose to remain by the grace of God. But, note this, it is not a static state of being. The requirement of salvation is not just that we do not sin—which is what the Jews thought in Jesus’ day. That is what the hermit monks thought during the Dark Ages. But the requirement of salvation is that we must continually become more and more like God in character. If my character is no more like God’s next year than it is this year, I am not availing myself of the grace of Christ and I am not being saved.

“It is our privilege to grow more and more like Him every day. . . . We are to learn in the school of Christ; yet it is manifest that many are satisfied with very limited experience in spiritual things. . . . Christians are to be faithful students in the school of Christ, ever learning more of Heaven, more of the Words and will of God.” *Sons and Daughters of God*, 72.

“God designs that Christians shall grow continually, grow up unto the full stature of men and women in Christ. All who do not grow stronger, and become more firmly rooted and grounded in the truth, are continually retrograding.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 556.

“Man may grow up into Christ, his Living Head. It is not the work of a moment, but that of a lifetime. . . . The growing is a continuous work.” *Ibid.*, 367.

“The want of spiritual growth closes the door to the rich rays of light that shine from Christ. We shall never reach a period when there is no increased light for us.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 403–404.

Jesus said, “For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.” Luke 12:48. If we have been given ten years to develop a character, God requires of us more than if He has given to us just

five years to develop a character.

In the parable of the talents, those who had the talents were strictly required to add unto their resources. The one who failed to do so was considered an unfaithful steward and was considered “wicked and lazy.” The servants of the king were commanded to “cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness” where there was “weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Matthew 25:26–30.

Peter counsels us, saying, “giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.” 2 Peter 1:5–7.

Thus the Christian life is a constant growth—a constant adding to what we already have. And the ultimate goal is to become more loving like God. If this character of love is not being daily developed within us, we are not in a safe relationship with the Lord. We cannot be satisfied with yesterday’s results or yesterday’s characteristics.

That is why Paul said, “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13–14.

Many have wondered why God was so exacting with Moses when he failed at the end of a long and faithful life. It was for the very reason that it was at the end of a long and faithful life that made it so serious. God required more from him at the end of his life than at the beginning. “The fact that Moses had enjoyed so great light and knowledge made his sin more grievous. Past faithfulness will not atone for one wrong act. The greater the light and privileges granted to man, the greater is his responsibility, the more aggravated his failure, and the heavier his punishment.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 420.

Thus, to be saved means that we must continue, on a day-by-day basis, to cultivate more of the character of

Jesus within our lives. We are to become more like Jesus every day. We must become more earnest and anxious to serve God because we love Him more every day, and we must become more kind, courteous, and patient toward our spouses and family members, toward our church members, and toward our fellow men and women every day.

This growth in grace is accomplished only by spending time with Jesus every day, and by allowing His Spirit to come into our lives to fashion us into the image of Jesus. This is the true purpose of devotions. We need to know more about true theology and prophecy, but the first and most important purpose of prayer and Bible study is to become more like Jesus.

“It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit. If we would be saved at last, we must learn the lesson of penitence and humiliation at the foot of the cross.” *The Desire of Ages*, 83.

As we kneel each morning to devote our lives to God for that day, and as we open the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy to feed upon His Word, our first and primary objective must be to have our lives and characters changed. The purpose of our Bible study and prayer must be to develop characters like Jesus. We are not only to be intelligent Christians, but also loving Christians. This comes by daily spending time with Jesus at the foot of the cross, and then, out of love for Christ, utilizing the divine power that He imparts to us to “refuse the evil and choose the good.” Isaiah 7:15. □

The late Marshall Grosboll was the director of Steps to Life Ministries at the time this article was written.

REFERENCES:

- ¹ Bible quotations are from either the King James or the New King James Version.

The Way of Salvation

How to mark your Bible and know God's Word better

WE PRESENT THIS STUDY with the desire that it will encourage you, our readers, to pursue a deeper examination of God's Word. The warning has been given us that "none but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict." *The Great Controversy*, 593–594. It is our suggestion that you use this study personally, in group settings, or with your family. We also encourage you to add other Scriptural references to this study as you proceed in your own personal, careful scrutiny of God's Word.

THE EDITORS

Bible Marking Directions

1. In this month's study our Bible marking key letters are **WS**, which represent "**The Way of Salvation.**"
2. On the blank flyleaf at either the beginning or end of your Bible, write in the key letters followed by the first Scriptural text. This month's beginning entry would appear as follows: **WS Matthew 19:16.**
3. Then turn to the first reference and in the margin near it write the second reference. Then turn to the second reference and in the margin near it write the third reference, and so on to the end of the lesson. When you come to the last reference write "**End WS.**"

1WS Matthew 19:16.

The supreme question before every person in this world is, What must I do to have eternal life? Eternal life in God's kingdom is worth more than all this world. See Matthew 16:26. If we lose an eternal home in heaven, we have lost everything.

2WS Revelation 21:27.

Nothing that defiles can enter into God's city, and since sin is what defiles (see Jeremiah 16:18; Ezekiel 37:23; James 3:6), that means we must get rid of every sin before we can be ready for a home in heaven.

3WS John 3:3.

In addition to having all our sins forgiven, we must be born again—have a change of heart and be converted. See Matthew 18:3.

4WS Hebrews 5:9.

Eternal salvation will be given only to those who obey Jesus. See Jeremiah 38:20. So it takes three things to make a sinner right with God and fit him for a home in the heavenly kingdom:

1. The pardon or forgiveness of all his sins—which is *justification*. See Luke 18:13–14.
2. Being born again, or the new birth—which is *regeneration*. See Titus 3:5.
3. Obedience to all of God's requirements each day through the indwelling of Christ in his heart by

the Holy Spirit—which is *sanctification*. See 1 Peter 1:2.

This brings up six important questions:

1. How can I have my sins forgiven?

5WS Psalm 32:5.

God forgives our sins on three conditions—**repentance, confession** (see Proverbs 28:13), and **faith in the Lord Jesus as our personal Saviour and Sin Bearer**. See Acts 20:21.

Repentance is accompanied by a godly sorrow, which leads us to the turning away from all that we know is wrong. It is produced in the heart by the Holy Spirit and will be given to everyone who yields to the convicting, drawing power of the Holy Spirit. See Acts 5:31. Confession is to be specific (see Leviticus 5:5); we are to confess the very sins of which we are guilty.

2. How can I know that all my sins are forgiven this minute?

6WS I John 1:9.

Simply by complying with God's condition for repentance and confession. We must then believe that we are pardoned, and thank God for forgiveness.

7WS Psalms 51:7, 10.

Along with our prayer for pardon, we must ask God to give us a clean heart—a new life from above.

3. How can I obtain this new heart and really be born again?

8WS John 1:12-13.

Receive Jesus into your heart, and you will be born again. Surrender your will to Him, and Jesus will create in you a new heart.

4. How can I know that I have been born again and have a new heart?

9WS 2 Corinthians 5:17.

The supreme proof of the changed heart is a changed life. The old habits of sin have passed away, and we live in the newness of life unto God. The things that we once did not care for—such as reading the Bible, going to church, praying,

working for other souls—we now love; and the worldly things we once loved, we now do not care for.

10WS Ezekiel 11:19-20.

God gives us a new heart so that we can obey His precepts. If you purpose to do just what God commands, you have a new heart.

5. How can I live a true Christian life?

11WS Galatians 2:20.

Living a true Christian life is being so totally surrendered to Jesus that He can live His life in you each day. This is the only way anyone can live a true Christian life.

After receiving that new heart, we are to invite Jesus to live in our heart every day, working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight.

Our part is to abide in Him by **surrender, consecration, prayer, and feeding on His Word**; then He will abide in each of us every day. See John 15:4-6.

6. How can I know that I am living the true Christian life?

12WS I John 3:24; 2:3-4.

By a daily life of obedience to His commands because you love Him so very much. □

Adapted from *Helps to Bible Study* by J. L. Shuler



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The Sanctuary Doctrine

Cultic or Biblical?

Part 7

Kevin D. Paulson

IN AN EFFORT to provide answers for those persons with honest questions about the Biblical faithfulness of the Seventh-day Adventist sanctuary doctrine, we are continuing in this article to respond to arguments by one Dale Ratzlaff and his recent book, *The Cultic Doctrine of Seventh-day Adventists*.¹

What defiles the heavenly sanctuary? Who is being judged in the judgment spoken of in Revelation 14:7? We will look at these questions, and more, in this part of our study.

The Sanctuary, Blood, and Defilement

Ratzlaff, like Ford, disputes the historic Adventist assumption “that the sanctuary on the Day of Atonement was cleansed from defilement occasioned by the confession of sin and ministration of blood. (Though Numbers 19:13, and so forth, confirms that the sanctuary was defiled when a person sinned,

regardless of whether confession was made. In most cases, blood never went into the sanctuary.)”²

No one denies, of course, that the earthly sanctuary was defiled by actions other than the penitent confession of sin. One example, among many we could cite, was the occasion when Aaron’s sons offered strange fire in the sanctuary after its consecration. See Leviticus 10:1–2.

But this in no way negates the sanctuary’s defilement by the record of confessed sins.

Ratzlaff misleads his readers by saying that “in most cases, blood never went into the sanctuary.”³ It is true that if a ruler or one of the common people sinned, the blood of the sin offering was not taken into the sanctuary, but was instead placed on the horns of the altar in

the courtyard. See Leviticus 4:22–30. By contrast, if a priest or the entire congregation sinned, the blood was indeed taken into the sanctuary. See verses 3–17.

One might guess that more sins were committed by individuals and rulers than by priests or the congregation as a whole. Yet Ratzlaff fails to consider that on those occasions when blood was not used to transfer sin into the sanctuary, this transfer took place through the eating of the flesh of the sacrifice. The following passage makes this clear:

“And Moses diligently sought the goat of the sin offering, and, behold, it was burnt: and he was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, the sons of Aaron which were left alive, saying, Wherefore have ye not eaten the sin offering in the holy place, seeing it is most holy, and God hath given it you to bear the iniquity of the congregation, to make atonement for them before the LORD? Behold, the blood of it was not brought in within the holy place: ye should indeed have eaten it in the holy place, as I commanded.” Leviticus 10:16–18.

The holy place, in this passage, clearly refers to the first apartment of the sanctuary, since we have already seen that the blood of those sin offerings which did not go into the first apartment was placed on the horns of the altar of burnt offering in the courtyard. The blood of all sin offerings was brought within the courtyard, either through the victim’s initial slaying or the mediation of its blood on the horns of the altar of burnt offering. Thus the only sin offerings which the above verses could be talking about are those whose blood did not go into the first apartment of the sanctuary. In such cases, the flesh of the sacrifice was to be eaten by the priests in the first apartment.

In other words, when the blood of a sin offering was not taken into the sanctuary, the flesh was eaten there. In either case, the transfer of sin was effected. The fact that the eating of this flesh involved the transfer of sin is clear from the above passage, for two reasons: (1) Moses stated to Aaron’s sons the significance of this ritual, declaring that “God hath given it you to bear

the iniquity of the congregation” (Leviticus 10:17); and (2) this eating of sacrificial flesh is stated to be required only for those sin offerings whose blood did not enter the holy place (see verse 18). Clearly, this service signified, as surely as the ministry of blood, the transfer of sin to the sanctuary.

Ratzlaff again follows the script of other sanctuary critics by accusing Adventists of teaching that Jesus’ blood defiles the heavenly sanctuary.

In his own words:

“The Bible, contrary to the theology of the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary and the investigative judgment,

consistently teaches that blood **cleanses** rather than defiles.”⁴

Earlier he quotes a statement by Ellen White whose plain words he seems not to comprehend. Here is the entire statement as quoted by Ratzlaff:

“As the sins of the people were anciently transferred, in figure, to the earthly sanctuary **by the blood of the sin-offering**, so our sins are, in fact, transferred to the heavenly sanctuary **by the blood of Christ**. And as the typical cleansing of the earthly was accomplished by the removal of **the sins by which it had been polluted**, so the actual cleansing of the heavenly is to be accomplished by the removal, or blotting out, of the sins which are there recorded.”⁵

Ratzlaff then goes on to say:

“The Bible, however, states that it is not blood which defiles the sanctuary, but sin.”⁶

Obviously, he fails to understand the Ellen White statement he just quoted, for she says clearly and precisely the same thing—that it is not the blood which defiles, but the **sin** which the blood transfers. She speaks of how “the typical cleansing of the earthly [sanctuary] was accomplished by the removal of the **sins** by which it had been polluted.”⁷ The blood transfers the sin to the sanctuary, thus making it necessary for the sanctuary to be cleansed by removing the record of these sins.

Let me illustrate. Every day I take

a shower as a means of physical cleanliness. The water transfers the dirt and impurities from my body to the shower. But is it the water that makes the shower dirty? Of course not. It is the dirt transferred by the water from my body to the shower. So, once every week or two, the shower needs to be cleaned—not because the water made it dirty, but because the impurities transferred to it from my body makes it dirty.

“As the sins of the people were anciently transferred, in figure, to the earthly sanctuary by the blood of the sin-offering, so our sins are in fact, transferred to the heavenly sanctuary by the blood of Christ.”

The same is true with the blood of Christ, our sins, and the heavenly sanctuary.

“That Your Sins May Be Blotted Out”

Ratzlaff attacks the historic Adventist belief that sins are forgiven but not blotted out until a person passes the test of the investigative judgment.⁸ He quotes a list of passages, mostly from the Old Testament, which either describe a sinner’s plea for God to blot out his sins or God’s promise to do so. See Psalm 51:1–2, 9; Isaiah 43:25; 44:22; Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 8:12; 1 John 1:9.⁹ Commenting on these verses, Ratzlaff states:

“As was pointed out above, the terms ‘blot out,’ ‘wash,’ and ‘cleanse’ are used synonymously when referring to forgiveness. It is clear from these Bible references that this takes place at the **point** of repentance and forgiveness.”¹⁰

Yet the fact is that none of these verses state exactly **when** sin is to be blotted out. They simply entreat God either to blot out sin or indicate His ability and desire to do so. We must remember that especially the Old Testament verses listed above were written in the context of the Hebrew sanctuary service, in which it was recognized that the final cleansing from sin each year took place on the Day of Atonement. See Leviticus 16:30. Even the verses from Isaiah, which speak of this blotting out

either as something already done or about to be done (see Isaiah 43:25; 44:22), must be understood in the sanctuary framework. Isaiah's Jewish readers certainly understood when the yearly blotting out of sin took place. Moreover, God's actions are often depicted in Scripture as presently occurring—when in fact they simply describe His power to perform these acts, and His eventual plan to do so. Psalm 46:9 declares of

all his holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3:19–21.

Notice that Acts 3:19 calls for repentance "that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing **shall come** from the presence of the Lord." For Peter to speak of these "times of refreshing" in the future tense is significant, especially in view of the Pentecostal outpouring that was then in progress. If Peter had simply said "when the refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord," one might be justified in thinking this just referred to individuals receiving the Holy Spirit, as in Acts

Ratzlaff's statement that "it is Babylon (rather than God's people) which endures the judgment, as the later of chapters of Revelation also testify," is especially hard to reconcile with Revelation 18:4 . . .

God: "He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth." Obviously, this has not happened yet, though one day it will.

Ratzlaff disputes Ellen White's use of Peter's appeal to the Jews on the Day of Pentecost regarding the blotting out of sin, saying it has nothing to do with a future investigative judgment.¹¹ The verse Ellen White refers to is Acts 3:19:

"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."

Some, like Desmond Ford, have tried to explain this verse as simply being a repetition of Acts 2:38, in which Peter declared, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."¹² But Acts 3:19 uses decidedly different language, giving clear evidence that the event being described will occur at the end of time—not immediately when Peter was talking. Let us look at Acts 3:19 in context:

"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

2:38. However, instead Peter says, "when the **times** of refreshing **shall come.**" The time of Pentecostal refreshing had already come.

Obviously, Peter is talking about a future time. (All emphasis supplied.)

Peter tells us when this time will come when he speaks of how, in the time frame of this future "refreshing," God "shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things." Verses 20–21. This clearly is not referring to the presence of Christ imparted by the Holy Spirit after His ascension (see John 14:18), but to the return of Christ to earth at "the times of restitution of all things," until which time heaven must receive Him.

The picture becomes even clearer with Peter's statement that this future time of "restitution of all things" had been "spoken by the mouth of all his [God's] holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3:21. This undoubtedly refers, among other things, to Enoch's prophecy of Jesus' second coming, spoken nearly at the dawn of human history:

"Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints." Jude 14.

Clearly, Acts 3:20–21 is a description of the human Christ who ascended to heaven and will return to earth at the end of time. It is in this period when "the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." Verse 19.

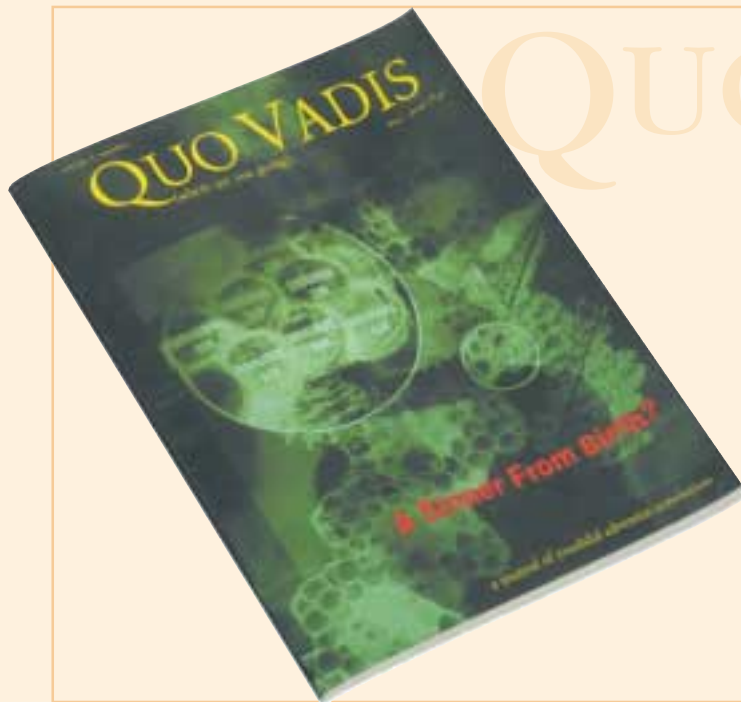
Ellen White is thus in full harmony with the context of this verse when she equates this final "refreshing from the presence of the Lord" with the end-time latter rain,¹³ at which time the sins of the saints will be blotted out when the investigative judgment passes from the dead to the living.

"The Hour of His Judgment"

Ratzlaff strikes at the core of the Adventist evangelistic proclamation—the three angels' messages of Revelation 14—by challenging the Adventist belief "that Revelation 14:7 has to do with the same investigative judgment of the sins of the saints (though John never uses the word **crisis** other than in a negative sense—for unbelievers, and though the next verse tells us that it is Babylon which endures the judgment, as the later chapters of Revelation also testify)."¹⁴

Our discussion of issues in the book of Daniel, demonstrated from both Scripture and history that the end-time antichrist (the little horn in Daniel and Babylon in Revelation) is a professedly Christian power. Just as all Israelites, including the unfaithful (see Leviticus 23:27–30), were judged on the ancient Day of Atonement, so all who have professed God's name in the Christian era (including those who are in fact His enemies) will be judged in the end-time Day of Atonement. This is what the opening of books in Daniel 7 is all about (see verses 9–10), and why Daniel is assured that at the end "thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book" (Daniel 12:1).

Ratzlaff's statement that "it is Babylon (rather than God's people) which endures the judgment, as the later chapters of Revelation also testify,"¹⁵ is especially hard to reconcile with Revelation 18:4, where we find the call, "Come out of her, my people" directed at God's people who until then have been part of Babylon. Revelation 18 goes on to say, as Babylon endures the seven last plagues, that "in one hour is thy judgment come." Verse 10. This, too, is part of the antitype of the ancient Day of Atonement, in which God's professed people who failed to afflict their souls were cut off from Israel. See Leviticus 23:29–30.



QUO VADIS

QUO VADIS (the Latin phrase for “Where are you going?”) is published by Seventh-day Adventist young adults for the purpose of promoting the distinctive doctrines, prophetic messages, and lifestyle of Seventh-day Adventism as set forth in the Scripture and the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy. This journal is especially aimed for the youth of more mature age.

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Moreover, Ratzlaff is just plain wrong when he says that the Greek word **krisis** (at times translated either as “judgment” or “condemnation”) is always used by John in a negative sense, for unbelievers only.¹⁶ Several chapters prior to Revelation 14, we find this passage:

“And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.” Revelation 11:18.

The language here is very similar to that in Revelation 14, which commands men and women to “fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come.” Verse 7. Revelation 11 likewise speaks of God rewarding “them that fear thy [His] name,” declaring also that “thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged.” Verse 18. It is obvious from this verse that wicked people are not the only ones being judged here, since it speaks of God giving His reward “unto [His] servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name.”

The Greek word for “judge” in Revelation 11:18 is the verb *krino*—

no doubt related to the noun *krisis*, which is translated “judgment” in Revelation 14:7. *Krino* is also used in Revelation 20:12–13, which speaks of the judgment of the dead following the millennium. It is obvious here too that this is not merely a judgment of the wicked, since the book of life is specifically listed as one of the books being opened. See verse 12. Ratzlaff’s claim that this word is always used by John in a negative sense, with reference only to unbelievers, is simply not true.

The entire theme of Revelation is to challenge God’s professed people to pass the scrutiny of God’s judgment. “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” Revelation 3:21. Only the overcomers are rewarded in the messages to the seven churches (see Revelation, chapters 1–3); only the overcomers are assured that their names will not be blotted out of the book of life (see Revelation 3:5; Exodus 32:32–33; Daniel 12:1). Put these verses together with the revealed timing of the final judgment of God’s saints in Daniel (see chapters 7–9), Revelation, chapters 11 and 14, on the hour of God’s judgment, the call in Revelation, chapter 18, for God’s people to leave Babylon and thus be

judged with the righteous (see Revelation 11:18), and it becomes clear that the message of Revelation 14:7 is exactly what Seventh-day Adventists hold it to be.

In a future article we will address issues in Ratzlaff’s book relative to Ellen White, William Miller, and other aspects of Adventist history and belief. □

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Christ's Closing Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary

Ellen G. White

AS FORESHADOWED in the type, and foretold in the Scriptures, Christ, at the time appointed, entered the Most Holy Place of the temple of God in heaven. He is represented by the prophet Daniel as coming at this time to the Ancient of days: "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came"—not to the earth, but—"to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him." Daniel 7:13.

This coming is foretold also by the prophet Malachi: "The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come

to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts." Malachi 3:1. The coming of the Lord to His temple was sudden, unexpected, to His people. They were not looking for Him *there*. They expected Him to come to the earth, "in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel." 2 Thessalonians 1:8.

Shortly after the fulfillment of some of the signs that the Saviour foretold would be seen before His second coming, there took place throughout the Christian world a

great religious awakening. Students of prophecy came to the conclusion that the time of the end was at hand. In the book of Daniel they read: "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Daniel 8:14. Thinking that the earth was the sanctuary, they understood that the cleansing foretold in Daniel 8:14 represented the purification of the earth by fire at the second coming of Christ. Searching the Scriptures for further light, and comparing this prophetic period with the records of historians, they learned that the twenty-three hundred days extended

to the year 1844.

This was the foundation of the great Advent movement of 1844. The falling of the stars in 1833 gave added force to the proclamation of the message of a soon-coming Saviour. Through the labors of William Miller and many others in America, of seven hundred ministers in England, of Bengel and others in Germany, of Gausson and his followers in France and Switzerland, of many ministers in Scandinavia, of a converted Jesuit in South America, and of Dr. Joseph Wolff in many Oriental and African countries, the Advent message was carried to a large part of the habitable globe.

But the people were not yet ready to meet their Lord. There was still a work of preparation to be accomplished for them. Light was to be given, directing their minds to the temple of God in heaven; and as they should by faith follow their High Priest in His ministration there, new duties would be revealed. Another message of warning and instruction was to be given to the church.

Says the prophet: "Who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: and he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness." Malachi 3:2-3. Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above, are to stand in

the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort, they must be conquerors in the battle with evil. While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God's people upon earth. This work is more clearly presented in the messages of Revelation 14.

When this work shall have been accomplished, the followers of Christ will be ready for His appearing. "Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years." Malachi 3:4. The church which our Lord at His coming is to receive to Himself will be "a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing" (Ephesians 5:27), "fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners." Song of Solomon 6:10.

Besides the coming of the Lord to His temple, Malachi also foretells His Second Advent, His coming for the execution of the judgment, in these words: "And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger

from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts." Malachi 3:5. Jude refers to the same scene when he says, "Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds." Jude 1:14-15. This coming, and the coming of the Lord to His temple, are distinct and separate events.

The passing of the time in 1844 was followed by a period of great trial to those who still held the Advent faith. Their only relief, so far as ascertaining their true position was concerned, was the light which directed their minds to the sanctuary above. Some renounced their faith in their former reckoning of the prophetic periods, and ascribed to human or Satanic agencies the powerful influence of the Holy Spirit which had attended the Advent movement.

Another class firmly held that the Lord had led them into their past experience; and as they waited and watched and prayed to know the will of God, they saw that their great High Priest had entered upon another work of ministration, and, following Him by faith, they were led to see also the closing work of the church. They had a clearer understanding of the first and second angels' messages, and were prepared to receive and give to the world the solemn warning of the third angel of Revelation 14. □

The Southern Watchman, January 24, 1905.



The Sanctuary \$3.50

James White, pioneer and writer of the infant Seventh-day Adventist movement, writes from an exclusively Biblical standpoint, showing the perfect harmony of the Scriptures on the subject of the heavenly sanctuary. This book is a must for those who would be grounded against the many winds of doctrine that are blowing today. By James White.

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A Letter of Encouragement

A n o n y m o u s

The following letter was written from one Christian Brother to another in a spirit of love and encouragement. While we are not acquainted with the recipient, the author has shared it anonymously for the encouragement of anyone who may also be going through trials and discouraging circumstances. — Editors.

MY DEAR BROTHER AND
SISTER IN CHRIST,

Over the past several days a strong burden has been upon me that I should write to you a letter of encouragement. Yet what can I say? I know very little of your circumstances, but word has come to me that you have been going through a very difficult period of trials in your life.

I do not know why, but as I pray for you, the words of Jesus to Simon Peter keep coming to my mind: "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath

desired to have you that he may sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." Luke 22:31-32. What a glorious assurance to know that in our fiercest temptations and bitterest trials Jesus is interceding with the Father in our behalf that our faith will fail not! And through this experience He still sees in us the raw material from which He can fit us to be able to strengthen our brethren.

Over the past number of years I have gone through a devastating illness that shook me to the roots of my own Christian experience. We all have heard about the shaking that is to take place in the church. Often the tendency has been to think of the shaking in a general or corporate sense. However, recently I have come to realize that this shaking is a necessary experience that, in one way or another, must come personally to each one of us. I praise God that through this trial I have come

to a new appreciation of His care and plan for us. May I share with you a few of the passages that have been a source of sustaining hope and encouragement for me?

I assure you that, as a very slow learner, it took me longer than I like to admit to discover the truth that, "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4. Of equal importance was the discovery of the reality that the trials that come to us are "for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness." Hebrews 12:10. Only now can I affirm that in the middle of the battle when the dark night of apparent abandonment is almost overwhelming, it is true as we have been promised, "If received in faith, the trial that seems so bitter and hard to bear will prove a blessing." *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessings*, 10.

I believe that receiving such an experience in faith depends upon our ability to grasp the bigger picture from God's perspective. Here it is:

"The trials of life are God's workmen, to remove the impurities and roughness from our character. Their hewing, squaring, and chiseling, their burnishing and polishing, is a painful process; it is hard to be pressed down to the grinding wheel. But the stone is brought forth prepared to fill its place in the heavenly temple. Upon no useless material does the Master bestow such careful, thorough work. Only His precious stones are polished after the similitude of a palace." *Ibid.*

"He does not show us trials and conflicts and leave us without help to fight the battles. But He tells us that God has His angels that minister unto those who shall be heirs of salvation. Round about His throne are thousands and thousands and ten times ten thousands of angels.

"What is their work? It is to do the bidding of Jesus Christ their Master. And what do they do? They tell you that Christ chose you, that heavenly angels are with you, and they remain with you. You can have but little strength to war against principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places, but here is One who points you to the help Heaven sent, that every soul, however strong or weak, . . . may be [victorious]." *Reflecting Christ*, 356.

"God does not prevent the plottings of wicked men, but He causes their devices to work for good to those who in trial and conflict maintain their faith and loyalty. Often the gospel laborer carries on his work amid storms of persecution, bitter opposition, and unjust reproach. At such times let him remember that the experience to be gained in the furnace of trial and affliction is worth all the pain it costs. Thus God brings His children near to Him, that He may show them their weakness and His strength. He teaches them to lean on Him. Thus He prepares them to meet emergencies, to fill positions of trust, and to accomplish the great purpose for which their powers were given them. . . .

"Through trial and persecution the glory—the character—of God is revealed in His chosen ones. The believers in Christ, hated and persecuted by the world, are educated and disciplined in the school of Christ. On earth they walk in narrow paths; they are purified in the furnace of affliction." *Ibid.*, 357.

"God would not have us remain pressed down by dumb sorrow, with sore and breaking hearts. He would have us look up and behold His dear face of love. The blessed Saviour stands by many whose eyes are so blinded by tears that they do not discern Him. He longs to clasp our hands, to have us look to Him in simple faith, permitting Him to guide us. His heart is open to our griefs, our sorrows, and our trials. He has loved us with an everlasting love and with loving-kindness compassed us about." *Ibid.*, 364.

My dear Brother and Sister, Jesus is interceding with the Father in your behalf. I am praying for you. "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry." Hebrews 10:35–37.

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Romans 8:18.

Yours in that blessed Hope,
(signed)



Daily Thoughts From the Pen of Inspiration \$8.50

THIS SPIRAL-BOUND, PERPETUAL CALENDAR will be a nice addition to your desk, or window sill, or wherever you choose. Each day has a beautiful, encouraging quotation from the pen of Ellen G. White. You are sure to be blessed! Also, be sure to share one with a friend. Because the calendar is perpetual, it can be used year after year. Send for yours today.

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Protestantism and the Third Angel

(continued from page 7)

Mary.” It was during “bloody Mary’s” reign that Cranmer was imprisoned for his faith. The judges had only two questions for the unfortunate prisoner. The first: In the communion is the bread literally Christ’s flesh, or is it merely bread? “Flesh” or “bread” was the question asked, and, according to the answer, so was the verdict. The second: Do you believe in the supremacy of the pope?

Cranmer, who was by nature rather timid, was induced to sign recantations of his faith—finally numbering six in all. In return the Romanists had promised to spare his life, but secretly they were determined to carry out his execution anyway.

On the 21st of March, 1556, Cranmer was escorted in procession to St. Mary’s Church, where the papal prelate, Dr. Cole, having given a sermon on the mercy and justice of God, introduced Cranmer that he might repeat his retraction before the assembled congregation.

However, Cranmer was now under strong conviction from the Holy Spirit regarding his great wrong in denying his faith, and he determined to fully throw himself upon the mercy of his Saviour, and to stand boldly for his Lord:

“The old man kneeled in prayer, and then exhorted the people, concluding with the following words:

“ ‘Now I come to the great thing that so much troubleth my conscience, more than anything which I ever did or said in my whole life; and that is the setting abroad of writings contrary to the truth, and which now here I renounce and refuse as things written with my hand contrary to the truth which I thought in my heart, and which were written for fear of death, to save my life if it might be; and that is all such bills and papers which I have written or signed with my hand since my degradation, wherein I have written many things untrue. And forasmuch as my hand offended,

writing contrary to my heart, my hand shall first be punished therefor; for when I come to the fire, it shall be burned first. And as for the pope, I refuse him as Christ’s enemy, and Antichrist, with all his false doctrine.’

“This speech so contrary to what was expected, filled the priests with rage, and Cole cried out, ‘Stop the heretic’s mouth, and take him away!’

“Soon he was dragged to the stake, and bound with a chain; and when the fire was kindled, he thrust his right hand into the flame, as he had promised, and with eyes lifted up to heaven, exclaimed, ‘Oh, this unworthy right hand!’ ” *Heroes and Heroines*, 153–154.

Thus, Thomas Cranmer, although he perished in the fires of persecution, is in the eyes of Jesus a conqueror. In his weakness, Cranmer prayed for strength, and Christ answered his prayer.

“True prayer brings power. Prayer has ‘subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire’—we shall know what this means when we hear the reports of the martyrs who were burned for their faith.” *Signs of the Times*, June 18, 1902.

The martyrs believed that even life itself was not to be secured at the price of a falsehood. They would rather suffer, and ultimately go to a martyr’s death, than to surrender the truths of God.

As we today are on the verge of a tremendous crisis, we should gather courage from the faithful martyrs and Reformers of yesteryear.

“It is souls like Luther, Cranmer, Ridley, Hooper, and the thousands of noble men who were martyrs for the truth’s sake, who are the true Protestants. They stood as faithful sentinels of truth, declaring that Protestantism is incapable of union with Romanism, but must be as far separated from the principles of the Papacy as is the east from the west.” *Signs of the Times*, February 19, 1894.

The Present Test for Seventh-day Adventists

We are soon to enter into deadly warfare with the beast power and we shall need a faith that many do not now have, or who are too indolent to obtain. May we realize the seriousness of preparing to meet the crisis!

Today we have come to a critical crisis in the church of God. While far too many of our leaders are willing to surrender our prophetic message, some even denying that the pope is the antichrist, the faithful should raise the standard of the third angel’s message, and with renewed strength from on high, proclaim the truth with power. When we come to the day that a Seventh-day Adventist pastor is willing to lead out in an ecumenical service with the pope, such as the one that recently took place in St. Louis, then we have truly come to a great crisis. In view of this apostasy, may each of us be among the faithful people who will, with fervent fidelity, refuse to compromise the faith.

May it not be said of our generation that we were the people who surrendered the truth of Protestantism! □

Protecting Your Frontal Lobe

(continued from page 11)

best music for frontal-lobe improvement and nobility are Christian melodies.

Dear reader, unplug the television set and spend precious time with your family and with our Saviour Jesus Christ. Do not allow the wrong kind of music to depress your frontal lobe. Let us all consecrate our minds to Christ as our first work in the morning.

The frontal lobe is the crown of the brain. We have the blessed opportunity to honor God by ennobling the seat of judgment, morality, spirituality, and the will. This we must do if we would be strong against delusions in these last days. Therefore, let us choose that whatsoever we eat, or drink, or whatsoever we do, we will do all to the glory of God and have our frontal lobe sanctified unto God. □



I am sending my renewal for the next year. We just cannot be without your magazine. It gets better each year, and the articles are never out of date, but always applicable. We enjoy the new look, but the previous one was good, too. *JG, South Dakota*

The Lord bless you in all your endeavors for reaching the world field with the good news of the gospel. Time is really short, and there is so much ungodliness in the world today. People need to know the truth and where they stand in God's eyes. Thank you for being so concerned about spreading the truth and message of God's love.

WD, California

Our school wishes to acknowledge the receipt of your gift offered to them. The staff and the entire student body wish to render their sincere thanks to you for the 12 Bibles sent to them. We were all happy when the parcel was delivered to us from the post box. We pray that God will help you in all that you do, especially by sending the Word of God across the world.

Only a few of us are Adventist in the school, but most of our colleagues accompany us to church on Saturdays, and on every Wednesday all of us come together for worship on the compound.

Please, we need some pictures of most of the things that happened and were written in the Bible, such as king Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the metal man, Daniel's dream about the four beasts and many others. We are therefore requesting that you send us some picture rolls that contain such pictures to help us teach our friends about God's message for mankind.

Please pray for us that God will help us send His message to those who need to hear. *AA, Ghana*

I would like to assure you that your literature has been used very

effectively. In the first place, it is passing through the proper hands which value it best. I am a Seventh-day Adventist. Besides strengthening me, I have distributed some of the literature to non-Adventist believers. We now have more than ten Bible students—three Hindus, four Roman Catholics, and the rest a various other denominations.

The most effective materials are *Bible Readings, Earth's Final Warning, Behold He Cometh, Rome's Challenge, Rome's Arraignment of Sabbath-Breakers, and The Lord's Day and a National Sunday Law*. If only these could be translated into Kiswahili, a large number of Tanzanians could be involved. *PK, Tanzania*

"The SDA Church is a fallen church." "By keeping the Sabbath you are simply Judaizing." "Your pastors are fallen ministers." These are the negative statements that are being spoken about our church.

I am an inexperienced, newly converted SDA Christian, hearing half-truths on certain subjects of the church. Please assist me with any spiritual study helps that can strengthen me. *PM, Malawi*

I have benefited so much from your publications. I would like to show my appreciation for the work that you are doing to lift up Jesus through *Our Firm Foundation*. God bless you.

Furthermore, I am requesting you to send me even a single copy of *Our Firm Foundation*. Currently I don't have funds to order from you, so please assist me in learning more especially in these last days.

I am also sharing the message with the Assemblies of God and others at my office and home place. They do understand the Sabbath, but still have not decided to be baptized. I know that Jesus will call them, and they will come out from Babylon. *AA, Tanzania*

I am writing this letter to thank God for your ministry and to plead for spiritual help.

I have been a pastor in the Seventh-day Adventist church for 21 years. I am not educated—haven't even been to high school. The Lord called me "from the plow" as it were. The only language I understand and read besides my own is English. So you can see how much help I get from your ministry, since I don't have any theological background. I used to hear pastors quoting the Spirit of Prophecy very much when they preached, but no more now—so the standards are down.

Our Firm Foundation has helped me a lot as well as the other books which I bought from Hope International. Thank you for sending *Our Firm Foundation* free. Please keep it coming. Whenever possible I will send a donation. I will be very thankful if you can send me some of your back issues.

I am sure there are some friends who would not mind parting with their old books [listed]. Books that build our faith are very scarce here except the Spirit of Prophecy. Most of the books are that of another order, which one wonders how they go through our presses!

MM, South Africa

I read *Our Firm Foundation*, especially the article entitled "Why I am a Seventh-day Adventist," with regret. Regret because we have been unable to preach or proclaim the Word of God in the right way as Adventists.

Truly, we have compromised the true message with the message of this world; hence we have lost the agenda of our presence as Adventists.

I attribute this problem to the shortage of Spirit of Prophecy books, so that the Word of God cannot be preached accordingly.

May God richly bless those who tirelessly broadcast His Word uncompromisingly. *RS, Zambia*

Have a letter to share?

contact editor@hopeint.org or see page 2 for our mailing address.



California Camp Meetings!

Do you sense the nearness of Christ's return? Are you seeking to do all you can to prepare yourself, your family, and others for the crisis just ahead? Do you find encouragement as you fellowship with others who like you are striving to serve the Lord with all their hearts?

If your answer is Yes, then please plan now to join us in fellowship and worship.

September 16–19, 1999

Angelus Oaks

—Camp Morning Star, Barton Flats, Hwy. 38.

Speakers include: Ron Spear, Jeff Wehr, Dr. Lorraine Day, Colin Standish, and John Davis.

Lodging in rental cabins is available at Camp Morning Star. The fee is \$5.00 per person per night. Tent and RV spaces are available across the way at San Gorgonio Campground at \$15.00 per camp site which holds up to 8 people.

September 23–26, 1999

Angwin

—formerly Calistoga, will be held at the Angwin Village Church on Circle Drive.

Speakers include: Ron Spear, Jeff Wehr, Danny Vierra, Tom Kopko, Colin Standish, and John Davis.

Contact Hope International for the locations and prices for tent and RV camping, available dorm rooms, and motels.

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