

Our Firm Foundation

Volume 15, Number 2

February 2000



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NEW LIFE**

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The Impregnable Shield

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary

Time to Wake Up!

This morning again I am up early 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. Sadly, so few—so very few—in this momentous hour are preparing for that eternal moment. So few—so very few—understand God’s condition for their salvation—undivided loyalty to Christ, evidenced by uncompromising obedience to all known truth.

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. . . .

“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?

Every wind of doctrine is now blowing through our churches. We hear the rock bands playing “celebration” music as we enter the doors and even sometimes the parking lots of some of God’s churches. Tragically, at times even the sacred desk echoes and re-echoes strange fire, a satanic gospel reaching the ears of our people, preparing them for the destruction that will follow the close of probation for the church and the world. Are we not now seeing the great apostasy, called the Omega, that was foretold by our prophet and recorded in *Selected Messages*, book 1, 163–205?

Our prophet was shown the music with drums and dancing “just before the close of probation”:

“It is impossible to estimate too largely the work that the Lord will accomplish through His proposed vessels in carrying out His mind and purpose. The things you have described as taking place in Indiana, the Lord has shown me would take place just before the close of probation. Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. There will be shouting, with drums, music, and dancing. The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make right decisions. And this is called the

moving of the Holy Spirit.

“The Holy Spirit never reveals itself in such methods, in such a bedlam of noise. This is an invention of Satan to cover up his ingenious methods for making of none effect the pure, sincere, elevating, ennobling, sanctifying truth for this time. Better never have the worship of God blended with music than to use musical instruments to do the work which last January was represented to me would be brought into our camp meetings. The truth for this time needs nothing of this kind in its work of converting souls. A bedlam of noise shocks the senses and perverts that which if conducted aright might be a blessing. The powers of satanic agencies blend with the din and noise, to have a carnival, and this is termed the Holy Spirit’s working.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 36–37.

The deadly lethargy of the world is now paralyzing the senses of many of us—leaders, pastors, and laity. The end is now much nearer than when we first believed. Wake up, friends and enemies of the truth, before it is too late!

May God help us now to make daily preparations by study and prayer that we may be found worthy on that great day! ✨

Ron Spear—Executive Editor

About Hope International...

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

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

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NEW MILLENNIUM— NEW LIFE

Matthew Hohnberger

Time has passed and many in Christendom are focused on the coming of Christ—more than ever before! Even the world is turning its eyes to see what will happen. Will Jesus come? But are we ready for His return? Are we prepared for what may come before us in this new millennium? Or are our lives so full of duties that the Lord is crowded out? If the things of this world crowd Him out of our lives now, how do we expect to suddenly have room for Him when He comes?

The start of a new year is often marked with new resolutions, new directions, and new decisions. We now face the turn of a millennium. What an opportunity to make a new

resolve—one that will make a difference in our lives, marriages, friendships and the world—something that will mark well a new millennium! “How long halt ye between two opinions?” 1 Kings 18:21. Are you ready to let Jesus crowd out everything else in your life? It is the devoting of ourselves to the preparations needed for the union of the Bridegroom with His bride that is required. Before marriage, much time is needed for the couple to be together in order for love to grow, and for the communication skills to develop so strongly that nothing and nobody can separate them. A bonding must occur that is stronger than steel.

This is not something that just happens. It requires time, effort, union, communion and commitment. Are you ready and willing to give your personal relationship with God the elements needed to grow? If you were willing to give them for a human union, how much more so should you be willing to give them for a heavenly one!

It now lies within our breasts to give all and to give up all. The key word is commitment. We have a choice to be either wise or foolish virgins. The call went forth, “Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.” Matthew 25:6. That same call is ringing down through the ages to

us today. Arise and trim your lamps for the marriage supper of the Lamb is near—even at the door! Yet the question that comes bounding back is, How do I?—“Not by might, nor by power, *but by my spirit* saith the LORD of hosts.” Zechariah 4:6. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.) It is an attitude of, “I can of my own self do nothing.” It is in and through Christ alone that we are enabled to prepare and make way for the Bridegroom. Knowledge alone is not enough. Once we realize our condition, we must act upon that knowledge. This will first require *time*.

God gave every one of us time, and because He is fair He gave us all the same amount of time. It is in this area that Satan has done a masterful job of separating us from Christ. He has us running, sprinting, and spinning faster and faster until we are dizzy, distracted and confused. He has done his job at the head of the stream diverting and stealing our time. He knows that if he is successful with those tactics, he then has us at his disposal. When a battle is underway and the enemy has gained ground, we must regroup and attack back in the most vital area. The area of time is where our affront is needed most.

After years of pursuing what our present society would call the “American Dream”—fun, fame and fortune—Solomon said in the end: “All is vanity.” Ecclesiastes 1:14. So we must put away the useless and cling to the useful. We need time with God, submitting ourselves in prayer to listen, hear, and then follow His guidance implicitly. It takes *dedicated* time—not something that can be rushed over, pushed through, or fit in. That means everything else must revolve around our time with God.

The cry goes out, “But this is fanatical!” The reply of the Reformers of old was, “I’d rather be called a fanatic by thee and a friend by He.” This is what was required in my own life.

My parents jumped off the “roller coaster” seventeen years ago. While growing up I thought I would never get pulled into riding

such a torture machine. However, as the years developed into two decades I started a business of my own selling country and wilderness properties, while at the same time teaching people how to live a slower lifestyle. Could I get caught in the rat race by doing this?—Yes, indeed! Satan’s plan works so well! I became so absorbed in becoming successful and helping others that

hand seen. In the moment I relied upon Him in faith, trusting that He had the answer that was needed. This is what makes the difference between a wise and foolish virgin. “The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth; but they have not yielded

In this new millennium, in this new year, will you resolve to commit yourself to a new life, which will utterly transform your marriage, family and friendships?

I left God out. Oh, I had my prayers and studies in the morning and family worship morning and evening. I had the form of godliness, but I had no real power. When there is no power or electricity, the lights go out! I had no oil in my lamp. It was a scary thought to think that I had become a foolish virgin. But knowledge alone is only half of the equation. I needed to do something about it—something radically different!

When I boiled it all down, time with my best friend Jesus was what was needed most. So I dedicated myself to spending that needed time with Him. I scheduled that time into my day and allowed nothing to take it from me. I typed up a card for myself and placed it on my desk at the office where I would notice it often throughout the day. It said, “*Qualify, Prioritize, Delegate and Achieve Balance.*” And with God’s help, that is exactly what I did. In the beginning, nothing radical happened. I did not become an Enoch, Moses or Paul overnight—no, a long way from that. However, I made a decision for the right and acted upon it.

It is incredible how God works! The stress I had been under began to evaporate. The problems and difficulties I faced on a daily basis began to dissolve—because I was connected and listening to the One who had the power and solutions for my every trial. It was imperceptible, and only in hindsight was God’s

themselves to the Holy Spirit’s working. They have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and permitted their old nature to be broken up . . . They do not know God. They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 411.

Today we as Christians are dead—fast asleep! We desperately need new life—a transformed life—which is found only in Christ Jesus. The vital decision now rests upon our shoulders. Will we let the light of His glory—His character—shine forth in us, thus lighting the path to the Bridegroom’s home, to the city of God, to the marriage supper of the Lamb? It is our choice. What is your decision?

In this new millennium, in this new year, will you resolve to commit yourself to a new life, which will utterly transform your marriage, family and friendships? Perhaps you are saying, “I will be the only one!” Christ’s reply is, “I walked this world alone for you. I went to the cross alone for you and I did it all out of love—voluntarily for you and you alone.” How can we reject what Jesus has done for us? Let us not run or move out of fear or emotion but by the direction of His Spirit alone. This direction will be found only through spending time with Him. If we act out of fear or emotion, it will in time fizzle out, die and end in failure. Deep commitment is required.

My decision is to live by principle—whatever the cost. God and I will control and operate my life. Sounds simple?—Not in the least! Nowadays people’s lives are dictated by circumstances. Everything in life is designed to keep us distracted, busy and pushed, so we have no time to trim our lamps and receive a fresh supply of oil. Let me share with you what I had to do:

important than having a home out in the country? Has winning souls for Heaven taken the place of winning my children’s souls for eternity? Priorities. What is most important in your life?

Moses was faced with similar questions. He was called by God to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. But was leading them out of Egypt more important than gaining

side I know I will find the solution and gain the victory. This matter is very individualistic. Everyone has different talents, personalities, strengths and weaknesses, but we are all given the same amount of *time*. Rightly used, miracles will be forthcoming. Take your situation to the Lord. Lay it before Him and ask for His advice. “Lord, what is the *balance* for me between work and rest, fruitless activity and productivity? In each situation, are work or family needs greater? Lord, what are Your priorities for me? Are You laying this on me? Should I do this myself or delegate it to someone else?” God, our personal Friend, is anxiously waiting—yes, longing—to help us. Seek Him and He will be found. See 2 Chronicles 15:2; Jeremiah 29:13.

God saw that it was more of a priority to place Moses in the wilderness herding sheep for forty years to teach him the important lesson of maintaining a vital connection with Him than immediately freeing Israel from slavery.

First, I had to *qualify* whether the situations that crossed my path were from God or man. Then, I had to make the tough decisions: Who are the best people to work with and devote my time to? Do they have the funds needed? Are they serious? How soon are they going to buy? Is what they are looking for out there? Should they be directed to another area? Or should I direct them to another broker?

You will have to answer similar questions when you are faced with projects, tasks, situations and decisions: What activities and tasks will I engage in? Do I have the time to fill this need? Do I have the skills to rightly accomplish this project? Remember, if we try to do everything, our Christian experience will putrefy—like I was told as a boy: “It is better to finish a few things well and completely, than to do many things partially.” Qualifying is not easy, but it is an absolute necessity.

Second, I had to decide who and what were my *priorities* in life. For me it was my God, my family, my job and then relationships. This order then had to be followed as firmly as the needle to the pole. Ask yourself, Is God first and foremost in my life? Is time with my friends more important than time with my God and my family? Should my business or job have higher priority than communication time with my spouse? Is having a higher paying job in the city more

victory over his temper? God saw that it was more of a priority to place Moses in the wilderness herding sheep for forty years to teach him the important lesson of maintaining a vital connection with Him than immediately freeing Israel from slavery. God is the same today as He was in Moses’ day. He is more interested in character development than in work—such as church activities or estate development.

At times this will require *delegating*. For me it meant giving work to my secretary, or having my clients meet me at my house instead of me running unnecessarily to them. Sometimes it meant involving my clients in screening a home or property before I went out with them.

The same can be done in your home. Are you a “Martha”—running and doing everything—while the children play? Delegate things to them. Give them jobs and responsibilities. Involve them in the running of the home or the completion of a project. Let one fold the laundry while another one sweeps the floor and you wash the windows. Be a servant, but be a wise one. Ask God what He would have you do. Do not just talk to Him in the morning and then go about your day. Keep Him by your side, communicating with Him about everything.

And finally, achieve *balance*. This is the hardest of all! I am still striving to find it, but with God by my

When we as a people do this, and gain an experience such as Enoch, Moses, and Paul had, the call will go forth to God’s people: “Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.” Luke 14:23. God is preparing His workers, and when the time comes, they will spring up from all over! People will say, “Where did they come from?” In Jesus’ day they came from the humble Galilean hills, the wilderness areas, the secluded retreats. Just so today—God’s army will come forth prepared to finish the work. Why?—Because it will be composed of those who will have committed their lives one hundred percent to the moment-by-moment leadership of Jehovah.

Do you want to be one of God’s chosen people?—Then start by seeking directions from the One who has infinite wisdom. Start today! Do not put it off. Begin *now*, and you will one day hear “as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.” Revelation 19:6–7.

Let us all choose to experience a new life now and for all the millenniums to come! ✨



Love Among Brethren

Ellen G. White

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”
Philippians 4:8.

The dealings of God with His people often appear mysterious. His ways are not our ways, nor His thoughts our thoughts. Many times His way of dealing is so contrary to our plans and expectations that we are amazed and confounded. We do not understand our perverse natures; and often when we are gratifying self, following our own inclinations, we flatter ourselves that we are carrying out the mind of God. And so we need to search the Scriptures, and be much in prayer, that, according to His promise, the Lord may give us wisdom.

Our work is aggressive. We are to be awake and discerning as to the devices of Satan, and to press the triumphs of the cross of Christ. While Satan is planting his dark banner among us, perhaps even in our families, we should not be indifferent and inactive. But though we have an individual work and an individual responsibility before God, we are not to follow our own independent judgment, regardless of the opinions and feelings of our brethren; for this course would lead to disorder in the church. It is the duty of ministers to respect the judgment of their brethren; but their relations to one another, as well as the doctrines they teach, should be brought to the test of the law and the testimony; then, if hearts are teachable, there will be no divisions among us. Some are inclined to be disorderly, and are drifting away

from the great landmarks of the faith; but God is moving upon His ministers to be one in doctrine and in spirit.

Brethren sometimes associate together for years, and they think they can trust those they know so well just as they would trust members of their own family. There is a freedom and confidence in this association which could not exist between those not of the same faith. This is very pleasant while mutual faith and brotherly love last; but let the “accuser of the brethren” gain admittance to the heart of one of these men, controlling the mind and the imagination, and jealousies are created, suspicion and envy are harbored; and he who supposed himself secure in the love and friendship of his brother, finds himself mistrusted and his motives misjudged. The false brother forgets his own human frailties, forgets his

obligation to think and speak no evil lest he dishonor God and wound Christ in the person of His saints, and every defect that can be thought of or imagined is commented upon unmercifully, and the character of a brother is represented as dark and questionable.

There is a betrayal of sacred trust. The things spoken in brotherly

and exaggerated until a man is made an offender for a word. Their motto seems to be, "Report, . . . and we will report it." Jeremiah 20:10. These talebearers are doing the devil's work with surprising fidelity, little knowing how offensive their course is to God. If they would spend half the energy and zeal that is given to this unholy work in examining their own hearts,

truth; every defect of character must be overcome, or it will overcome us, and become a controlling power for evil. Commence without a moment's delay to root out every pernicious weed from the garden of the heart; and, through the grace of Christ, allow no plants to flourish there but such as will bear fruit unto eternal life.

Cultivate whatever in your character is in harmony with the character of Christ. Cherish those things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report; but put away whatever is unlike our Redeemer. Selfishness is cherished to an extent that few realize; guard against it at all times and in all places. Do not excuse yourself in any error. If you have one objectionable trait which you find it difficult to subdue, do not talk of your weakness that others must bear with. Do not soothe your conscience with the thought that you cannot overcome the peculiarities that deform your character, nor listen to Satan's suggestion that they are not very grievous. There is no way by which you can be saved in sin. Every soul that gains eternal life must be like Christ, "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners." Hebrews 7:26. The followers of Christ must shine as lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.

Some seek to control their surroundings, thinking that if they are placed in favorable positions, the bad traits in their character will not be developed. But God orders our surroundings, and He will place us where we shall have test after test, to prove us and to reveal what is in our hearts. Again and again we shall be brought into strait places, that it may be known whether we are indeed crucified with Christ or full of self-love. How will this proving, testing process end with each of us? The prince of darkness will put forth all his power to retain us in his possession; but we have a Mighty Helper.

Self-love will prompt to a much better opinion of self than the Word of God will warrant, for "the heart is deceitful above all things, and

If Satan can employ professed believers to act as accusers of the brethren, he is greatly pleased; for those who do this are just as truly serving him as was Judas when he betrayed Christ.

confidence are repeated and misrepresented; and every word, every action, however innocent and well-meaning, is scrutinized by the cold, jealous criticism of those who were thought too noble, too honorable to take the least advantage of friendly association or brotherly trust. Hearts are closed to mercy, judgment, and the love of God; and the cold, sneering, contemptuous spirit which Satan manifests toward his victim is revealed.

The Saviour of the world was treated thus, and we are exposed to the influence of the same malicious spirit. The time has come when it is not safe to put confidence in a friend or a brother.

As in the days of Christ spies were on His track, so they are on ours now. If Satan can employ professed believers to act as accusers of the brethren, he is greatly pleased; for those who do this are just as truly serving him as was Judas when he betrayed Christ, although they may be doing it ignorantly. Satan is no less active now than in Christ's day, and those who lend themselves to do his work will represent his spirit.

Floating rumors are frequently the destroyers of unity among brethren. There are some who watch with open mind and ears to catch flying scandal. They gather up little incidents which may be trifling in themselves, but which are repeated

they would find so much to do to cleanse their souls from impurity that they would have no time or disposition to criticize their brethren, and they would not fall under the power of this temptation. The door of the mind should be closed against "they say" or "I have heard." Why should we not, instead of allowing jealousy or evil surmising to come into our hearts, go to our brethren, and, after frankly but kindly setting before them the things we have heard detrimental to their character and influence, pray with and for them? While we cannot love and fellowship [with] those who are the bitter enemies of Christ, we should cultivate that spirit of meekness and love that characterized our Master—a love that thinketh no evil and is not easily provoked.

This is a matter that rests between God and our own souls. We are living amid the perils of the last days, and we should guard every avenue by which Satan can approach us with his temptations. A fatal delusion seizes those who have had great light and precious opportunities, but who have not walked in the light nor improved the opportunities God has given them. Darkness comes upon them; they fail to make Christ their strength, and fall an easy prey to the snares of the deceiver. A mere assent to the truth will never save a soul from death. We must be sanctified through the

desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9. God's Word is the standard that we must all reach. It is unsafe to consult feeling or trust to our own heart; for the wise man declares, "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool." Proverbs 28:26. And yet how prone we are to trust this deceptive heart, and have confidence in our own goodness!

Church membership will not guarantee us Heaven. We must abide in Christ, and His love must abide in us. We must every day make advancement in the formation of symmetrical character. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:48. As God is perfect in His sphere, so are we required to be perfect in ours. There is a great work before us individually to reach this high standard, and some have scarcely learned their ABCs in the school of Christ. Our attainments will be just in accordance with the efforts we make, our character just what we choose to make it; for through the divine aid promised us, we can overcome. Jesus knows our frame; "he remembereth that we are dust." Psalm 103:14. In pitying tenderness, He will give us the help and strength we need.

Our souls have been purchased at an infinite cost, and we should value them according to this standard. Let us shun the first approach to the world's heedless, irreverent, and ungodly ways; but let us diligently cultivate the pure principles of the gospel of Christ—the religion, not of self-esteem, but of love, meekness, and lowliness of heart. Then we shall love our brethren, and esteem them better than ourselves. Our minds will not dwell on the dark side of their character; we shall not feast on scandal and flying reports. But "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise," we shall "think on these things." ❀

Review and Herald, June 3, 1884.

Christianity & the Church

BOOKS FOR TODAY



Evangelicals & Rome

by David W. Cloud

This book covers the history and apostasy of Evangelical Christianity since the 1940s. Has the Roman Catholic Church really changed? Exposes the true nature of the ecumenical movement. *Evangelicals & Rome* details the reuniting of Protestant churches and Rome through a variety of popular Christian organizations. Just published in 1999, this book is excellent for anyone who wishes to understand the rapid fulfillment of end-time prophecy!

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by Vernon Sparks

In these last days of Earth's history, God has brought through a remnant of His people. The Bible tells us that this church of Laodicea will have great turmoil, but in the end she will be reunited with her Lord. The author examines many of the problems related to organization and authority that have arisen in the Adventist church—both in leadership and laity. Then, drawing from the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, he addresses these issues in a clear and effective manner.

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The Investigative Judgment

Jeff Wehr



It is one thing to have our names on the church rolls; however, it is quite another thing to stand before God in the judgment. The Bible says, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” 2 Corinthians 5:10.

Some Adventists teach that only Christ’s life comes into review when our names come up in the judgment, irrespective of how we live our lives. However, the Bible does teach that our words and deeds are examined:

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. . . . Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” Revelation 22:12, 14.

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were

judged every man according to their works.” Revelation 20:12–13.

“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.” Matthew 16:27.

There is no suggestion in these verses that we are saved by our works—we are definitely *saved* by faith through grace. However, it is clear that we are *judged* by our works. In other words, did we follow Jesus after we accepted Him as our Saviour? Did we rely upon Him as our strength and our salvation? Did we walk with God? Were we mere admirers of Jesus, or did we become true followers of Jesus? Were we willing to battle against our fallen nature by the power of God, or did we simply give in to our natural lusts and pleasures?

In the book *The Great Controversy*, there is a whole chapter dedicated to the investigative judgment. Let us now receive the light God has given us on this most important subject:

Our Characters Are Judged

After quoting the judgment scene described in Daniel 7:9–10, Sister White wrote, “Thus was presented to the prophet’s vision the great and solemn day when the

characters and the lives of men should pass in review before the Judge of all the earth, and to every man should be rendered ‘according to his works.’ ” *The Great Controversy*, 479.

What will pass in review when God opens the books for the judgment? On that solemn day our “characters” and “lives” will pass in review “before the Judge of all the earth, and to every man should be rendered ‘according to his works.’ ” Even though we are saved by faith through grace, God judges our characters to see who is worthy to receive eternal salvation:

Sister White wrote, “The books of record in heaven, in which the names and the deeds of men are registered, are to determine the decisions of the judgment.” *Ibid.*, 480.

The record of all our deeds defines the kind of faith that we possessed during our lifetime on this earth. Did we have an active and living faith whereby we grew in Christ day by day, or did we have an intellectual faith that failed to surrender all to Christ?

Again, she writes, “Our acts, our words, even our most secret motives, all have their weight in deciding our destiny for weal or woe. Though they [our good and evil

words and deeds] may be forgotten by us, they will bear their testimony to justify or to condemn." *Ibid.*, 486–487.

Now notice in the book *The Desire of Ages* where it is clearly stated that Christ's life will not be investigated instead of our own when we are judged: "In that day [the judgment] Christ does not present before men the great work He has done for them in giving His life for their redemption. Rather, He presents the faithful work they have done for Him. To those whom He sets upon His right hand, He will say: 'Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.' Matthew 25:34–36. But those whom Christ commends know not that they have been ministering unto Him. To their perplexed inquiries He answers, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.' Verse 40." *The Desire of Ages*, 637.

The Book of Remembrance

"'A book of remembrance' is written before God, in which are recorded the good deeds of 'them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.' Malachi 3:16. Their words of faith, their acts of love, are registered in heaven. Nehemiah refers to this when he says: 'Remember me, O my God, . . . and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God.' Nehemiah 13:14. In the book of God's remembrance every deed of righteousness is immortalized. There every temptation resisted, every evil overcome, every word of tender pity expressed, is faithfully chronicled. And every act of sacrifice, every suffering and sorrow endured for Christ's sake, is recorded." *The Great Controversy*, 481.

It is a wonderful thing that God records all the good deeds of His professed followers. Even though we are not saved by our good deeds,

we should desire to fill up volumes with our good deeds, not for the purpose of earning salvation—that we can never do—but to bring honor and glory to God. In addition, our good deeds bring us into contact with our fellow man, providing us with opportunities to share the love of Christ. Yet always remember, without God we cannot perform

ever, here we are told that unfulfilled duties, "wasted moments," and "unimproved opportunities" are also brought into the judgment. This should impress our hearts that Christ must be our All In All—all day long. We need a daily plan to walk with God, or else we will lose precious time allotted to us for fulfilling the duties that God has

"In the book of God's remembrance every deed of righteousness is immortalized. There every temptation resisted, every evil overcome, every word of tender pity expressed, is faithfully chronicled."

the good deeds that we would desire. Even the desire to perform these deeds must come from Heaven! Again, our only safety is in Christ as our Saviour, Example, Life, and Strength.

Heaven Records the Good and the Bad

While there is a record of our good deeds, there is also a record of our sins. By our words and deeds we will be either justified or condemned, for they are the measure of our faith. Jesus said: "That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Matthew 12:36–37.

Sister White wrote, "Every man's work passes in review before God and is registered for faithfulness or unfaithfulness. Opposite each name in the books of heaven is entered with terrible exactness every wrong word, every selfish act, every unfulfilled duty, and every secret sin, with every artful dissembling. Heaven-sent warnings or reproofs neglected, wasted moments, unimproved opportunities, the influence exerted for good or for evil, with its far-reaching results, all are chronicled by the recording angel." *Ibid.*, 482.

Typically, we think only about our good deeds and sinful thoughts and acts as being recorded. How-

given to us and for improving our opportunities to serve Him and to help our fellow man.

She writes further, "In the judgment the use made of every talent will be scrutinized. How have we employed the capital lent us of Heaven? Will the Lord at His coming receive His own with usury? Have we improved the powers entrusted us, in hand and heart and brain, to the glory of God and the blessing of the world?" *Ibid.*, 487.

Obviously, Heaven places no value upon a mere profession of faith. Faith must work by love. Every kind deed and every loving act performed through the love of Christ in the heart is acceptable to God. Every talent and every widow's mite dedicated to further His kingdom, which springs from a love for God and man, will be rewarded.

Tragically, too many of God's professed people have exhausted their money, time, and talents on display and self-indulgence. Seldom have their energies been devoted to prayer, to the searching of God's Word, "to humiliation of soul and confession of sin." *Ibid.*, 488.

The Law of God

"The law of God is the standard by which the characters and the lives of men will be tested in the judgment. Says the wise man: 'Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into

judgment.’ Ecclesiastes 12:13–14. The apostle James admonished his brethren: ‘So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.’ James 2:12.

“Those who in the judgment are ‘accounted worthy’ will have a part in the resurrection of the just. Jesus said, ‘They which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the

against me, him will I blot out of my book.’ Exodus 32:33. And says the prophet Ezekiel: ‘When the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity. . . All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned.’ Ezekiel 18:24.

“All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of

been examined and their cases already decided.

Confess, Watch, and Pray

The Bible says, “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” Proverbs 28:13. When we fail or refuse to repent of our sins, we not only have unconfessed sins on our record to condemn us in the judgment, but Satan taunts Christ and the holy angels with our unsanctified lives. We do indeed cast reproach upon God when we profess to be a Christian but refuse to daily live as a Christian.

It is most important, if you would retain your name in the book of life, that you now, in these closing moments of probationary time, afflict your soul before God with a deep sorrow for sin and with heartfelt repentance. Soon—very soon—each of our names will come up before the Lord in the judgment of the living. Jesus said, “Watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.” Mark 13:33. And again, “If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.” Revelation 3:3.

Dear friends, do not grow weary of watching unto prayer. “Watch ye therefore: . . . lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.” Mark 13:35–36. Your whole eternal destiny hinges on making things right with God. Have you confessed every known sin? Are you willing to let go of cherished sins that are robbing you of your joy and peace with God? Do you desire to be clean before God? Will you open your heart to Him and be willing to be led of God? Will you spend a thoughtful hour each day in the contemplation of the life of Christ and in His Word? Will you choose to commune with God each day? O friends, the judgment is real! Are you ready?

Yet always remember, Jesus said, “My grace is sufficient for thee.” 2 Corinthians 12:9. Take His yoke, dear friends, and learn of Him. Know that He careth for you and will give you faith and grace needed to overcome any and all besetments—unrepented or cherished sin—in your life. Now is the time! Believe, believe, believe! ❀

It is most important, if you would retain your name in the book of life, that you now, in these closing moments of probationary time, afflict your soul before God with a deep sorrow for sin and with heartfelt repentance.

resurrection from the dead, . . . are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.’ Luke 20:35–36.” Ibid., 482.

Because the saints are “accounted worthy” does not mean that they have earned anything. Their names come up in the judgment, and God reviews their lives to see if they are safe to save. Have they allowed Him to write His law upon their hearts and minds? Have they surrendered all? Have they repented and confessed their sins? Did they desire to be cleansed from sin? Have they given their whole heart to Him?

What Will Be Blotted Out?

“As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of all who have believed on Jesus come in review before God. Beginning with those who first lived upon the earth, our Advocate [Jesus Christ, see 1 John 2:1] presents the cases of each successive generation, and closes with the living. Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names rejected. When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the book of God’s remembrance. The Lord declared to Moses: ‘Whosoever hath sinned

Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven; as they have become partakers of the righteousness of Christ, and their characters are found to be in harmony with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out, and they themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life.” Ibid., 483.

Who Is Being Judged Now?

“At the time appointed for the judgment—the close of the 2300 days, in 1844—began the work of investigation and the blotting out of sins. All who have ever taken upon themselves the name of Christ must pass its searching scrutiny.” Ibid., 486.

The judgment begins with Adam and Eve and then it proceeds to every professed believer throughout the ages. The righteous dead will not be raised until the judgment of both the living and the dead is completed. However, those who have died since 1844 and who have had a part in the proclamation of the three angels’ messages, will be raised in a special resurrection to see Jesus come back to earth in a cloud of angels. Afterwards, Jesus will call forth the rest of the sleeping saints and He will reward them also with eternal life.

While the wicked must stand before God in the judgment of condemnation, the saints will not be present when their own names come up. Their life record will already have

The Seal of the Living God

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, attentive scrutiny of God's Word.

The Editors

Bible Marking Directions

1. In this month's study our Bible marking key letters are SG, which represent "The Seal of the Living God."
2. On the blank flyleaf at either the beginning or the end of your Bible, write in the key letters followed by the first Scriptural text. This month's beginning entry should appear as follows:
1 SG Revelation 7:1-3.
3. 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 SG."

1SG: Revelation 7:1–3.

In these last days God has sent a special message to all the world. Heavenly angels are holding the winds of strife and war, until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. After this sealing, the nations will gather for the last great battle—Armageddon.

2SG: 1 Kings 21:8.

The seal of Ahab represented the power of the kingdom of Israel. So today, the seal of any nation is the sign of its authority. In the realm of deity, the seal of God is the sign of the authority of Jehovah's Kingdom.

3SG: Psalm 96:5.

The Lord Jehovah is identified as the only true God, in contrast to false gods, by the fact that He is the Creator of all. See also Jeremiah 10:10–12. Since the authority of Jehovah as the only true God is based on His Creatorship, the seal of God must be the sign of God as the Creator.

4SG: Isaiah 8:16.

According to this text, the seal of God must be found somewhere within the law of God.

Based on this evidence, we must look for the seal of God—which must point to God as the Creator—within the Ten Commandments.

5SG: Exodus 31:16–17.

The seventh-day Sabbath is the sign of God as the Creator. We find that "sign" and "seal" are synony-

mous words in Scripture. See Romans 4:11. God appointed the seventh-day Sabbath to stand as the sign of His creative power by the fact that He made the world in six ordinary, twenty-four hour days.

6SG: Exodus 31:13.

To save a man from sin takes the same divine power as it did to create him originally. The seventh-day Sabbath, the sign of Christ as the Creator of the world, becomes also the sign of Christ as man's only Saviour and Sanctifier from sin. The Sabbath is not only the sign of Christ as the Creator, but it is also the sign of Christ as the Re-creator of fallen man. The power that created the world can create a new heart in us. Praise God! See also Ezekiel 20:12.

7SG: Exodus 20:11.

On the seals used by the kings or presidents of countries you will see three things: the ruler's name, the title of the one in authority, and the dominion over which the sovereign reigns. In the law of God the fourth commandment is the only one of all the Ten Commandments which contains the name, the title and the territory of the Law-giver. In the Sabbath commandment we find: (1) God's name—"LORD" (His name is known as "Jehovah" in most of the English-speaking world, but in Hebrew its spelling is "YHWH," with its exact pronunciation unsure). (2) His title is Creator God, and His authority is shown by the fact that He created all things. (3) The dominion over which He rules is "heaven and earth."

Thus we have in the fourth commandment the three necessary elements for the seal of God—His name, His title and His dominion.

8SG: Exodus 12:13.

Anciently, when the Lord was about to strike Egypt with the tenth plague, God instructed Israel to strike the blood upon the side posts of their doors. This blood was a symbol of the atoning blood of Christ. As Israel needed the blood of the lamb upon their doors to protect them from the angel of death, so today we need the blood of Christ upon our lives to protect us from the seven last plagues. None but those who have this sealing blood will escape the plagues of God.

9SG: Revelation 14:1.

The Father's name represents His character. See Exodus 34:5-7. Those who receive the seal of God on their foreheads will be those who surrender all to do Christ's will—so that their hearts and minds will be brought into conformity with the character of God.

10SG: Ezekiel 9:1-11.

Those who are mourning over their own sins and the degradation around them, will be the ones who will receive the seal or "mark" of God. "The sanctuary" represents the true church of God. "The ancient men" are the professed spiritual guardians of the people, but who, having betrayed their sacred trust, will be the first to fall in the judgments of God. Today is the day of spiritual preparation, when we have an opportunity to perfect our characters in the blood of the Lamb. ✠

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



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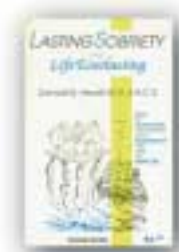
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False Evangelical Theories About the Antichrist

Jesus spoke at length in Matthew 24 regarding false ideas about His second coming (see verses 4–5; 24–27), warning His disciples to be on guard against counterfeits. Both Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy are clear that if we wish to avoid deception in

the last days, we must be careful students of God's Written Counsel. In Ellen White's words:

"Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures."¹

"Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive."²

Not only the Scripture but the Spirit of Prophecy writings will also be our safeguard:

"Men may get up scheme after scheme, and the enemy will seek to seduce souls from the truth, but all who believe that the Lord has spoken through Sister White, and has given her a message, will be safe from the many delusions that will come in these last days."³

If this principle applies to counterfeits of the coming of Christ, it must also apply to counterfeits of the coming Antichrist. Inspiration is clear regarding how Christ will come,

and it is equally clear about how the Antichrist has already arisen and will return to power. Ellen White speaks of how the Christian "has a chart pointing out every waymark on the heavenward journey, and he ought not to guess at anything."⁴ What Inspiration predicts about the forces arrayed against God in the last days is just as important as the predictions of how God will defeat those forces.

Many theories abound in contemporary Christian circles regarding the coming New World Order, just as many theories exist regarding the manner of Christ's second coming. And just as we know that not every theory about Christ's coming is true, neither is every theory true which we might hear about the coming New World Order.

One crucial point needs to be clarified from the start. Faithful Adventists have properly rebuked some of their brothers and sisters for seeking doctrinal and church-growth guidance from the fallen churches of Babylon. Yet some of those who rightly rebuke these practices have themselves employed

the literature of evangelical Christianity to define, for example, the errors of the New Age movement, presumed threats to Christianity in contemporary society, and the nature of the coming New World Order. But as we will see, what many Christians teach regarding the end-time Antichrist and the powers they believe are at work against God bear little resemblance to what Scripture and God's prophet Ellen White teach on these subjects.

Certainly it is not our place to dispute the sincerity of those still in Babylon, nor to question their willingness to live in harmony with what God has thus far shown them. But it is no safer for us to seek popular Christian guidance on the nature of the coming crisis than it was for the writers of *Questions on Doctrine*, or the current advocates of Celebration worship, to seek Babylon's guidance on those and other matters. "To the law and to the testimony" (see Isaiah 8:20) must remain our watchword in all things spiritual.

What the Inspired Evidence Teaches

The existence of an end-time Antichrist power arrayed against God and to His people is clearly taught in the pages of Scripture. The books of Daniel and Revelation chart the rise and fall of history's great powers, culminating in the rise of the ultimate persecuting power symbol-

people during this time, as evidenced by their continuation of the forms and ceremonies of God's worship. See Isaiah 1:11–15; Jeremiah 7:4.

This point is clarified further as Ellen White portrays the internal conquest of America by the apostate forces of the last days:

“Let the principle once be established in the United States that

oppressing Christians and forcing “secular humanism” down everyone's throat. Conservative Christians are constantly told that a secular conspiracy has captured the American government, one which seeks to forbid Christians to share their faith in public and to home-school their children in private. Such fears, none of them completely unjustified, lend themselves to the belief that the Antichrist system of the last days will be a secular, overtly anti-God movement determined to destroy Christianity. While Soviet Communism was a great world power, people with these beliefs had a field day!

What follows is not intended as a criticism of anyone's political or social views. The present writer wishes only that the reader see the clear contrast between where evangelical Christians see the primary threat to religious liberty in the last days, and where God in His Written Counsel has told us this threat will come from.

Perhaps the most articulate summary of the conservative evangelical perspective on the New World Order was written some years ago by evangelical talk-show host Marlin Maddoux, in his book *America Betrayed*.⁸ Describing what he thinks will be the ultimate “humanist takeover” of the world, Maddoux writes:

“The Bible teaches that in the end-time there will be a one-world government headed up by one powerful ruler—the Antichrist. This worldwide anti-God movement is propelling the nations toward the end as foretold by the ancient prophets generations ago.”⁹

Without citing any Biblical support, Maddoux defines this “anti-God” movement as being humanism, Communism, socialism, feminism, environmentalism—with the presumed desire of these movements to abolish national boundaries, and various other political views that he does not happen to agree with.¹⁰

After quoting Revelation 13:16–18, which speaks of the coming decree against buying and selling—as well as the mystic number 666—Maddoux declares:

The final persecution of God's people will take place through the popular churches gaining the upper hand over the secular powers, not through the secular powers gaining the upper hand over the churches.

ized by the little horn in Daniel 7 and 8, the first beast of Revelation 13, and the harlot of Revelation 17. The man of sin described in 2 Thessalonians, chapter 2, points to the same apostate system. The combined evidence of Scripture and history compels us to identify this power as being the Roman Papacy.

Revelation further describes the end-time apostate coalition as a threefold union standing in opposition to God and His people in the final moments of the great controversy. See Revelation 16:13–14. Ellen White depicts this threefold union as Catholicism, apostate Protestantism, and spiritualism.⁵

What is clear from the inspired evidence is that this end-time apostate power will not only be religious, but will be professedly Christian in nature. The language of 2 Thessalonians, chapter 2, points to this fact when it states that the prophesied man of sin will establish himself “in the temple of God” (verse 4), a term used elsewhere by Paul in reference to the church. See 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:19–21. When Revelation 17 describes this apostate system as a whore, it harkens back to Old Testament verses which speak of how the “faithful city” (God's professed church) has become a harlot. See Isaiah 1:21; Jeremiah 3:1. It is clear from these passages that Israel did not cease professing to be God's

the church may employ or control the power of the state; that religious observances may be enforced by secular laws; in short, that the authority of church and state is to dominate the conscience, and the triumph of Rome in this country is assured.”⁶

This statement is crucial for several reasons, but its primary significance for our discussion is the prediction that when the image to the beast will be established in America, the church will take over the government—and not the other way around. We read that the principle will be established “that the church may employ or control the power of the state; that religious observances may be enforced by secular laws.”⁷ Thus, according to the predictions of God's prophet, *the final persecution of God's people will take place through the popular churches gaining the upper hand over the secular powers, not through the secular powers gaining the upper hand over the churches*. This feature of Adventist prophetic understanding sets us totally apart from the prophetic expectations of most evangelical Christians, as our discussion will demonstrate.

What Other Christians Teach

Visit the nearest Christian bookstore, or tune in to Christian talk radio, and you will commonly read or hear dire warnings of how “Big Brother Government” is

“Unwittingly, I’m sure, the humanists have laid out the plans that, when completed, will serve as the fulfillment of that ancient prophecy. . . . This is a system based on the philosophy of Karl Marx, not our American free enterprise system. The humanists are calling for a socialistic, worldwide economic system (with an all-powerful government ruling class) that would control all aspects of the economy. God foretold it generations ago, and man, in his rebellion, is rushing headlong toward Armageddon.”¹¹

At the close of his book, Maddoux offers his solution to America’s problems:

“I believe there will arise in this nation a large number of talented, moralistically sound, lucid, and courageous men and women who will enter the political arena—with all its heat and controversy—to take the leadership of this nation and guide it back into the mainstream of moral, financial, and political sanity.

“The most important people in bringing about a spiritual revival in this nation could very well be those elected officials who will fill the offices in our state capitals, the House of Representatives, and the Senate of the United States.

“While our ministers and spiritual leaders can ‘call for action,’ those elected officials can *act!*”

“We can turn a nation back to God.”¹²

If this is starting to ring some bells, it should!

A similar document was handed to me several years ago by, regrettably, a fellow Adventist, who seemed enthusiastic in her support of this literature. The document in question is a right-wing political newsletter which promotes the economic, political, and social agenda of the Religious Right.¹³ I found it deeply troubling that the sister who gave me this newsletter is otherwise a very strong believer in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. I find it hard to see how any faithful Seventh-day Adventist could read this kind of material and not see that it espouses the very philosophy that will one day—according to Inspiration—result in the persecution of God’s saints.

The newsletter in question, after stating its view of America’s current problems, urges Christians and other conservatives to take over the political process:

“In America, the great majority of good men and women (including Christians) have been doing nothing for 30 or 40 years as the socialists and destroyers of our Constitution and traditional way of life have

“To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law.”¹⁸

Ironically, those Christians talking the most about the dangers of the coming New World Order seem to be doing the most to establish the New World Order—just as Inspiration defines it! While they point to Antichrist in the American public school system, Hollywood,

Ironically, those Christians talking the most about the dangers of the coming New World Order seem to be doing the most to establish the New World Order as Inspiration defines it.

marched into power almost unopposed.

“Opposition to the socialists will not come from the top down—it will come from the bottom up—from the grass roots, from within that great silent majority who outnumber the socialists about 50 to 1, if they would simply wake up and flex their collective political muscle.”¹⁴

In sharp contrast to the words of Jesus (see Matthew 26:52), the newsletter concludes by advising Christians to stockpile firearms and ammunition.¹⁵

The Contrast

It is not hard to see how the conservative evangelicals quoted above have turned the Bible prophecy of the coming New World Order completely upside down!

The summons to political involvement by conservative Christians in the above statements represents precisely what Inspiration foretells about the coming Antichrist system! Notice also that one of these statements predicts that the conservative Christian revolution in America “will not come from the top down—it will come from the bottom up—from the grass roots, from within that great silent majority.”¹⁶ This is exactly how Ellen White says the mark of the beast will be enforced in America:

“Rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance.”¹⁷

and the United Nations, Scripture points to Antichrist as the professed Christian Church itself. See 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 17. The intimate Catholic-Protestant harmony now seen in the American Religious Right gives every evidence of being a fulfillment of these divine predictions.¹⁹

A clear example of how leading Christian spokesmen have missed the mark on this issue of the coming Antichrist can be seen in the actions of Pat Robertson, who some years ago wrote a book warning Christians about the coming New World Order.²⁰ Yet Pat Robertson, through his founding and leadership of the Christian Coalition, has done more than possibly any other American Christian leader to nurture the forces identified by Inspiration as the end-time apostate movement. In 1994 Robertson was one of the evangelical luminaries who signed the joint declaration, “Evangelicals and Catholics Together,” which espoused an ecumenical Christian political agenda and was heralded by such headlines as, “Catholics, evangelicals join hands.”²¹ (They could have added, “across the gulf!”)²²

Conclusion

Evangelical Christians have been looking for the wrong Antichrist for years. From Billy James Hargis and Hal Lindsey to Pat Robertson and Tex Marrs, the accusing finger has pointed conveniently away from the Christian fold—

to atheistic Communism, secular humanism, and other ideas and movements of similar nature. But the Word of God still points the finger of prophetic identity right back at the Christian Church!

Too many Christians, even some Adventists, are overly obsessed with the threat of secularism. (Secularism in this context is defined as overt disbelief in the

The Bible says little about the threat of overt secularism, other than to call one who denies God's existence a fool. See Psalm 14:1; 53:1. In reality, the secular mind will not have a chance in the last days, with all the miracles and supernatural events which will take place at that time. Little wonder that when Jesus spoke of the lost at the end of human history, He did not speak of those

views are on the right track. But we cannot join them in promoting ideas and theories which Inspiration contradicts.

The apostle writes: "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." 2 Corinthians 11:14-15. The problem with most Christian theories about the coming New World Order is that they assume Satan will be robed in darkness.

Seventh-day Adventists must cling to the evidence of Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy which anticipate far greater subtlety on the adversary's part. God's people must take care that they are able to say with the apostle concerning Satan's deceptions: "We are not ignorant of his devices." 2 Corinthians 2:11. ✠

As the final events draw near, Satan will multiply his counterfeits and decoys regarding many prophesied events and issues.

fundamentals of religion.) Recent surveys in America give evidence that the secular threat so many Christians talk about may indeed be overrated. A study by the City University of New York in 1991 showed that at least 90 percent of Americans identify with some religious organization.²³ A 1994 poll published in *USA Today* revealed that 59 percent of Americans consider religion "very important" in their lives, and that 66 percent attend religious services at least once a month.²⁴ A few months earlier, an article in *Christianity Today* disclosed that at least 45 percent of Americans attend church or synagogue at least once a week.²⁵ In an address before the National Press Club in October 1994, Christian Coalition leader Ralph Reed stated that according to studies he was aware of, 80 percent of Americans believe Scripture to be the infallible Word of God.

In the light of this evidence, perhaps it would be more accurate to describe the moral chaos of American culture as the product of religious hypocrisy rather than secularism. Quite obviously, we have millions of professed Christians who claim to believe in the moral absolutes of the Bible, yet who fail to live up to them. And when we consider how many Christians believe that their salvation cannot be lost through sinful behavior, it is not hard to understand why so many are living accordingly.

who refused to acknowledge Him, but rather of those who acknowledged Him as Lord while refusing to obey Him. See Matthew 7:21-23. Paul describes the same condition as dominant in the last days, when after listing the many evils which will exist in the world at that time, he adds: "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." 2 Timothy 3:5. In other words, overt godlessness will not be God's great enemy as history closes, but rather, a form of godliness which denies God's power for obedience.

As the final events draw near, Satan will multiply his counterfeits and decoys regarding many prophesied events and issues. We may be tempted to take seriously certain theories about the New World Order simply because these theories are promoted by people with whom faithful Adventists seem to have much in common. For example, many of these people home-school their children, advocate country living, study their Bibles daily, and believe Jesus is coming soon. But Inspiration is clear that Satan's counterfeits always closely resemble the genuine. In Ellen White's words: "The path of error often appears to lie close to the path of truth," yet "after a while the two are seen to be widely separated."²⁶ If possible, we must try to win such persons from the delusions they hold about the coming Antichrist. Our love and Christian concern must ever go out to them, for indeed many of their

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- ² *Ibid.*, 625.
- ³ White, *Selected Messages*, book 3, 83-84.
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- ⁵ *Ibid.*, 588; *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 451.
- ⁶ White, *The Great Controversy*, 581.
- ⁷ *Ibid.*
- ⁸ Marlin Maddoux, *America Betrayed* (Shreveport, LA: Huntington House Inc., 1984).
- ⁹ *Ibid.*, 45.
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Waiting for Christ

D. Hildreth

This article was printed in the

Advent Review and

Sabbath Herald,

February 12, 1861.

It was noted that D. Hildreth

wrote from Crane's Grove, Illinois.

“O BROTHER be faithful,
soon Jesus will come, For whom we
have waited so long.” [*S.D.A. Hym-
nal*, 602.]

Many have waited long for the
return of their Lord and Master.
Some have been discouraged
because He did not come as soon as
they expected, and have given up
their hope. Others are still waiting,
and as things written aforetime were
written for our learning, that we
through patience and comfort of the
Scriptures might have hope (see
Romans 15:4), let us now examine
the Word on this point, and see if
the Scriptures will not afford
comfort and encouragement to us
who are waiting for Christ's coming.

It is only about thirty years
since the Advent doctrine was first
promulgated; [but] we see that
many righteous and faithful men
have had to wait long for the
fulfillment of their expectations:

1. **Noah**—The longsuffering of
God waited an hundred and twenty
years for the antediluvians to reform,
in which time Noah warned them
faithfully, and built an ark to save his
family. See 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:15;
Genesis 6:3.

2. **Abraham**—It was twenty-five
years from the time God promised
Abraham to make of him a great
nation till Isaac was born. See
Genesis 12:2, 4; 21:5. Why did the
Lord defer His promise so long? See
Hebrews 6:15.

3. **Moses**—It was eighty years
from the time Moses understood
that he was to lead the children of
Israel from Egypt into the Promised
Land until he brought them to the

plains of Moab, and then he was not
permitted to go over Jordan, but
died on mount Nebo. See Acts 7:23–
36; Deuteronomy 32:48–50; 34:5–7.

4. **Daniel**—The reader at first
sight might suppose that the events
recorded in the book of Daniel
transpired in a short space of time;
but instead of this being the case,
they cover a period of about seventy
years. In the third year of the reign
of Belshazzar, king of Babylon,
Daniel had the vision of the ram
and he-goat, which was not fully
explained to him till the first year of
Darius the Median, fifteen years
afterward. See Daniel 8:1; 9:1. That
was a long while to wait for the
explanation of a vision.

We have now seen the patience
which others have been called upon
to exercise, and shall we mourn
because our hope is deferred? We
ought not; for we are the very
people who are to have patience.
See Revelation 14:12. We see that
when great events have transpired
the people of God have had timely
warning and quite a space of time
elapsed before the accomplishment
of God's purpose; and as His ways
are equal (see Ezekiel 18:25), we
may expect that He will deal with us
as He has with others in time past.
Hear what James says: “Be long
patient [margin] therefore, breth-

ren, unto the coming of the Lord.
Behold, the husbandman waiteth for
the precious fruit of the earth, and
hath long patience for it, until he
receive the early and latter rain. Be
ye also patient; stablish your hearts:
for the coming of the Lord draweth
nigh.” James 5:7–8. Be long patient
for the coming of the Lord, even as
the husbandman waits for the fruit
of the earth. “Stablish your hearts.”

If there is a time in the history
of man when the heart needs to be
established it is just prior to the
great events of the second coming of
Christ. There are those who are
great and mighty, who fear nothing;
but the thrilling, penetrating notes
of the last great trump will make
them fear and quake. If the fingers
of a man's handwriting on the wall
made Belshazzar tremble, what will
the kings and mighty men do when
the Son of God appears in all the
terrible majesty of His Father? It
needs boldness, meekness and faith
to prepare the heart to stand in that
awful day. See Hebrews 4:16; Acts
4:13. Remember, the fearful and
unbelieving are found outside of the
city. See Revelation 21:8. “And the
Lord direct your hearts into the love
of God, and into the patient waiting
for Christ.” 2 Thessalonians 3:5. Are
we waiting patiently, or are we
waiting because we are obliged to?
Are we waiting and watching, or are
we asleep? It may do to sleep while
waiting for a friend; but it will not
do in this case. See Matthew 24:48–
51; Revelation 3:3. God grant that
we may all be of that number who
through faith and patience inherit
the promises. See Hebrews 6:12. ❖

*If there is a time in the history of
man when the heart needs to be established it is
just prior to the great events of the second coming of Christ.*

Supreme Court Should Allow Church And State To Cooperate, Says Bishop

News Item: “A Roman Catholic bishop has urged six members of the U.S. Supreme Court and top government officials to allow greater cooperation between church and state.

“Speaking at the annual ‘Red Mass’ at St. Matthew’s Cathedral in Washington, D.C., Oct. 3, Bishop Raymond Boland of Kansas City, said both church and state seek similar goals in areas like education, social services and health care and ‘we have much to learn from each other.’” *Church & State*, November 1999.

Prophetic Perspective: The following quotations show the influence Rome will use to bring about the triumph of Romanism in this land:

“Let the principle once be established in the United States that the church may employ or control the power of the state; that religious observances may be enforced by secular laws; in short, that the authority of church and state is to dominate the conscience, and the triumph of Rome in this country is assured.

“God’s Word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare. She is silently growing into power. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in the churches, and in the hearts of men. She is piling up her lofty and massive structures in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated. Stealthily and unsuspectedly she is strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is already being given her. We shall soon see and shall feel what the purpose of the Roman element is.

Whoever shall believe and obey the Word of God will thereby incur reproach and persecution.” *The Great Controversy*, 581.

“The Catholics bid the Protestants to go forward, and issue a decree that all who will not observe the first day of the week, instead of the seventh day, shall be slain. And the Catholics, whose numbers are large, will stand by the Protestants. The Catholics will give their power to the image of the beast. And the Protestants will work as their mother worked before them to destroy the saints.” *Spalding and Magan’s Unpublished Manuscript Testimonies by Ellen G. White*, 1–2.

Pope’s Holy Land Trip Confirmed

News Item: “Pope John Paul II will visit the Holy Land in March 2000, despite fears that the long-anticipated trip would be cancelled because of a row between Muslims and Christians in Nazareth.

“A Vatican official, Archbishop Crescenzo Sepe, gave the first official confirmation that the visit would go ahead at a press conference unveiling the Vatican’s updated schedule for the millennium celebrations.

“The Israeli Foreign Ministry welcomed the announcement.

“‘It’s a very important visit. We all hope that this visit is going to reinvigorate and support the spirit of peace and reconciliation between religions and the peoples of the Middle East,’ said a Foreign Ministry spokesman Effie Ben-Matityahu.

“The visit will take place at the end of March, and is expected to take in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth.” *BBC News*, November 17, 1999.

Prophetic Perspective: We are seeing interesting developments. Satan, through his representative the Pope, is preparing the world for a great deception. Because the world and the church look to Jerusalem as such a sacred place, Satan could use this papal visit to

personate Christ, thus furthering his own deceptive purposes.

But in addition to this possibility, we might ask the question, How should we look at the significance of the “holy land”?

“How many there are who feel that it would be a good thing to tread the soil of old Jerusalem, and that their faith would be greatly strengthened by visiting the scenes of the Saviour’s life and death! But old Jerusalem will never be a sacred place until it is cleansed by the refining fire from Heaven. The darkest blot of guilt rests upon the city that refused the light of Christ. Do we want to walk in the footsteps of Jesus? We need not seek out the paths in Nazareth, Bethany, and Jerusalem. We shall find the footprints of Jesus by the sickbed, by the side of suffering humanity, in the hovels of the poverty-stricken and distressed. We may walk in these footsteps, comforting the suffering, speaking words of hope and comfort to the despondent. Doing as Jesus did when He was upon earth, we shall walk in His blessed steps. Jesus said, ‘If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.’ Matthew 16:24. When the sin-cursed earth is purified from every stain of sin; when the Mount of Olives is rent asunder, and becomes an immense plain; when the holy city of God descends upon it—the land that is now called the Holy Land will indeed become holy. But God’s cause and work will not be advanced by making pilgrimages to Jerusalem. The curse of God is upon Jerusalem for the rejection and crucifixion of His only begotten Son. But God will cleanse away the vile blot.” *Review and Herald*, June 9, 1896.

“I am told that before finishing the life of Christ I ought to visit Jerusalem, the holy land. What made it holy? The Majesty of heaven clothed His divinity with humanity, and dwelt upon our earth. He was despised and rejected of men; in Jerusalem He was crucified by wicked hands. I have not the slightest inclination to visit Jerusalem, to see



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where it is thought probable that Jesus trod, where He may have labored, and where He may have been crucified. The means which might be expended thus I would prefer to treasure, that I may point souls to the Saviour risen from Joseph's tomb, and proclaiming, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' John 11:25. I can trace His footprints in the sure word of prophecy, and can obtain a better idea of His works and of His ways, than I could by visiting Jerusalem, defiled with unholy feet and unholy deeds. I could not expend money to visit these places when the living interests of Christ's kingdom are to be presented to the people." *The Paulson Collection*, 137.

Catholics and Evangelicals Urged To Work Together for Change

News Item: New York—"Charles Colson, who served time for Watergate crimes and today is head of Prison Fellowship, said in a New York address that evangelicals and Catholics should come together to work for change in society.

"Christian faith is more than the personal conversion that evangelicals emphasize or the liturgical worship emphasized by Catholics," he said.

"It is 'a world view,' and seeing Christianity from that perspective 'enables us to work together for Christian unity in a way that would not otherwise be possible,' he said.

"Colson, a Southern Baptist, gave the annual Erasmus Lecture Nov. 3 sponsored by the Institute on Religion and Public Life in New York.

"For several years he and Father Richard John Neuhaus, president of the institute, have led a dialogue of evangelicals and Catholics.

"Introducing Colson, Father Neuhaus said the dialogue had 'the promise of changing the religious face of America' and even 'of the world.'" *National Catholic Register*, November 21-27, 1999.

Prophetic Perspective: This ecumenical meeting was well named "the annual Erasmus Lecture," for today, as in the days of the Reformation, there are those who are unwilling to stand unswervingly for truth and principle.

Ellen White, commenting on the unwillingness of Erasmus to reveal his personal convictions of duty, had this to say:

"The timid and time-serving Erasmus, who with all the splendor of his scholarship failed of that moral greatness which holds life and honor subservient to truth." *The Great Controversy*, 216.

Likewise, today we are seeing a surrender of Bible truth for the purpose of advancing the ecumenical agenda.

U.N.: Open Bethlehem To Jubilee 2000 Pilgrims

News Item: New York—"The United Nations has called on Israel to allow 'free access' to Bethlehem during next year's Great Jubilee. The U.N.'s General Assembly took the action November 11 in a unanimous vote. . . .

"The U.N. resolution calls for guarantees of free movement and unconditional access to holy places by pilgrims of all nationalities.

"The General Assembly also recognized Bethlehem as the birthplace of Jesus Christ." *National Catholic Register*, November 28-December 4, 1999.

Prophetic Perspective: Here we are seeing the U.N. calling for the rights of religious pilgrimages. Is not this agency being used in fulfillment of prophecy? Revelation 17:13 states that "these have one mind." And are we not seeing this confederacy of nations uniting under the auspices of the U.N. carrying out the agenda of Rome?

U.S. National Security Agency Monitoring Telephone Calls

News Item: "The US National Security Agency has designed and patented a new technology that

could aid it in spying on international telephone calls. The NSA patent, granted on 10 August, is for a system of automatic topic spotting and labelling of data. The patent officially confirms for the first time that the NSA has been working on ways of automatically analyzing human speech.

"The NSA's invention is intended automatically to sift through human speech transcripts in any language. . . .

"Schneier said, 'The technology could have far-reaching effects on the privacy of international phone calls.'

"If it works well, the technology makes it possible for the NSA to harvest millions of telephone calls, looking for certain types of conversations,' he said.

"The NSA declined to comment on the patent. As a general policy, the agency never comments on its intelligence activities.

"Yaman Akdeniz, director of Cyber-Rights & Cyber-Liberties UK, warned that with the new patent and a proposed AT&T and BT joint venture, which will allow US law enforcement agencies to tap the new communications network: 'We might have a picture in which all British communications are monitored by the NSA.' . . .

"Everyone's overseas phone calls are or may soon be tapped, transcribed and archived,' he [Julian Assange, a cryptographer] said." *Independent News*, November 15, 1999.

Prophetic Perspective: The above news report certainly makes us wonder whether our constitutional rights are being infringed. For all we know, communications we have had via phone, fax, or e-mail may already have been monitored. In the light of the following counsel, it would be wise to refrain from making unguarded statements:

"The time will come when unguarded expressions of a denunciatory character, that have been carelessly spoken or written by our brethren, will be used by our en-

emies to condemn us. These will not be used merely to condemn those who made the statements, but will be charged upon the whole body of Adventists. Our accusers will say that on such and such a day one of our responsible men said thus and so against the administration of the laws of this government. Many will be astonished to see how many things have been cherished and remembered that will give point to the arguments of our adversaries. Many will be surprised to hear their own words strained into a meaning that they did not intend them to have. Then let our workers be careful to speak guardedly at all times and under all circumstances. Let all beware lest by reckless expressions they bring on a time of trouble before the great crisis which is to try men's souls." *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, 69.

Health and the Last Days

HIV Hits 50 Million

News Item: "More than 50 million victims have now been infected with the HIV virus, according to the latest UN and World Health Organization figures.

"More than 16m have died from Aids-related illnesses.

"The UNAIDS 'epidemic update' reveals that despite concerted prevention efforts in developing countries, the increase in infections continues.

"Deaths from aids reached a record 2.6m in the past year—2.2m died in 1998—and an estimated 5.6m adults and children were infected." *BBC News*, November 23, 1999.

Superbug Death Toll Rises

News Item: "Hong Kong's medical authorities are on the alert for further cases involving a powerful strain of antibiotic-resistant 'superbug' which has now killed four in the former colony.

"Vancomycin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (VRSA) is particularly dangerous if caught by those who are already weak or ill.

"Most antibiotic-resistant infections can be treated using vancomycin, a well-established, powerful drug used only as a last resort by doctors.

"However, VRSA appears to have developed some level of immunity to even this final line of defence." *BBC News*, November 4, 1999.

U.S.D.A. Seeks to Slaughter 365 Sheep

News Item: "The Agriculture Department wants to slaughter 365 sheep under quarantine at two Vermont farms because they may have come in contact with mad cow disease.

"Controversy over the sheep's fate underscores policy makers' continuing wariness over the family of degenerative brain afflictions believed to be spread by oddly shaped proteins called prions.

"There has never been a case of mad cow disease, known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE, reported in the United States, but at least 16 people died in England in 1996 from a similar disease, apparently after eating contaminated beef.

"And while alarm has subsided over the possibility that cows contract BSE from feed derived from sheep brains, unease lingers over whether sheep can carry BSE for years after ingesting feed derived from contaminated beef." *Washington Post*, November 15, 1999.

Action Urged on Medical Mistakes in U.S.

News Item: "Many medical errors, which are blamed for up to 98,000 deaths a year in the United States, could be prevented, according to a report.

"The Institute of Medicine describes the rate of mistakes as 'stunningly high' and calls for a series of measures to tighten up medical practice.

"It points to a series of causes for the errors, from poor handwriting on prescriptions and similar sounding drug names to doctors struggling to keep up with latest developments and not facing regular checks on their competence.

"Different studies have put the number of deaths caused by medical error in the US each year at between 44,000 and 98,000 and the report estimates the cost at \$8.8bn a year." *BBC News*, November 30, 1999.

Prophetic Perspective: We have been warned that these things were coming. The prophet told us that because of man's sin and Satan's affliction of man, disease would come upon the populous cities and thousands would perish by the pestilence. See *The Great Controversy*, 589–590.

As for the animal creation we have been told:

"Disease in cattle is making meat eating a dangerous matter. The Lord's curse is upon the earth, upon man, upon beasts, upon the fish in the sea; and as transgression becomes almost universal, the curse will be permitted to become as broad and as deep as the transgression." *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 411.

And, finally, what a responsibility rests upon us as a people for all the light we have available upon health reform! Certainly this knowledge should be used to educate those around us about God's simple remedies, so that our neighbors do not go down needlessly to an untimely grave.

"The Lord has given some simple herbs of the field that at times are beneficial; and if every family were educated in how to use these herbs in case of sickness, much suffering might be prevented, and no doctor need be called. These old-fashioned, simple herbs, used intelligently, would have recovered many sick who have died under drug medication." *Selected Messages*, book 2, 294. ✨

Brassica Oleracea Capitata

A common vegetable shows remarkable healing potential

Looking at the title, you are probably wondering, “Do I eat that?” Although the name may seem imposing, it is nothing more than the lowly cabbage—a food you have probably eaten since childhood.

The modern-day cabbage was developed from wild cabbage, which was brought to Europe from Asia by bands of roving Celtic people. The cultivation of cabbage spread across Europe because it not only survived in cooler climates, but also yielded a better “per-acre” harvest than other crops.

Cabbage kills bacteria and viruses and boosts the immune system to fight against such things. It has excellent levels of vitamin C, iron, potassium, and calcium.

Perhaps cabbage is best known for its cancer-fighting ability. Eating just one serving of cabbage a week may reduce your likelihood of getting colon cancer by 60%. A study conducted in Japan in 1986

discovered that those who consumed the most cabbage had the lowest death rate from all cancers.

Cabbage contains chemicals that help in the prevention of cancer: *indoles* help to prevent cancer cell formation; *dithiolthiones* suppress the activation of cancer-causing substances.

If you suffer from stomach ulcers, cabbage may be a valuable asset to your recovery. Dr. Garnett Cheney, a professor at the Stanford University of Medicine, found that guinea pigs given fresh cabbage juice did not develop stomach ulcers even when fed ulcer-causing substances. Dr. Cheney also tested this by giving one quart of cabbage juice daily to 55 people suffering from ulcers. All but three felt better, and the normal healing time was reduced by 83%.

Another benefit of cabbage is its high fiber content. Cabbage contains both soluble and insoluble fiber, which aids in the digestion and elimination of food. Fiber also helps to lower blood cholesterol,

stabilize blood sugar levels, and prevent constipation.

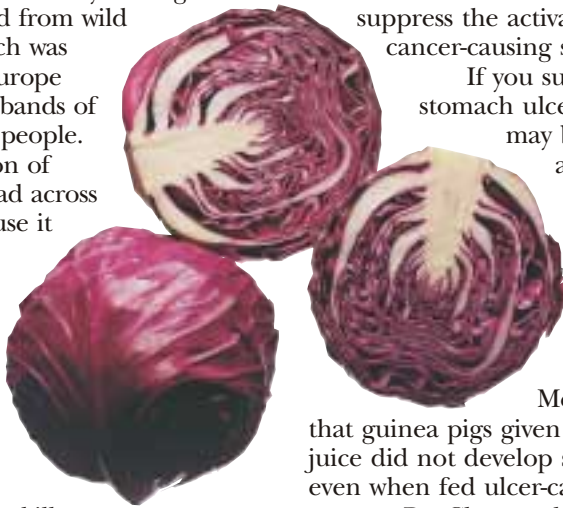
One of the best ways to use cabbage for medicinal purposes is to juice it. You may consider combining the juice with carrot or celery to make it more palatable. Cabbage juice has been used in the treatment of colon cancer with good results. It is also helpful for heartburn, ulcers, and other stomach problems.

Cabbage juice and cabbage salad are two of the healthiest ways to prepare cabbage. Cooked cabbage will give some beneficial nutrients, but many of the cancer-fighting anti-oxidants are lost in the cooking process.

The best type of cabbage is the fresh spring and summer cabbage. Fall is less effective, and winter is the least effective. Make sure that your cabbage appears fresh and crisp, with no evidence of worms or decay.

Cabbage is a powerful food that will aid in making and keeping you healthy; consider incorporating cabbage as a part of your healthy lifestyle. ✨

References in this article were taken from *RX Prescription for Cooking and Dietary Wellness*, by Phyllis A. Balch, CNC & James F. Balch, MD and from *The Complete Book of Juicing*, by Michael T. Murray, ND.



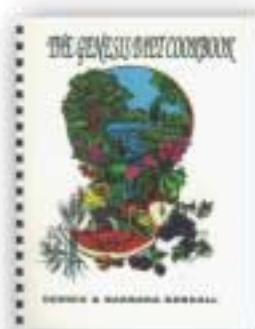
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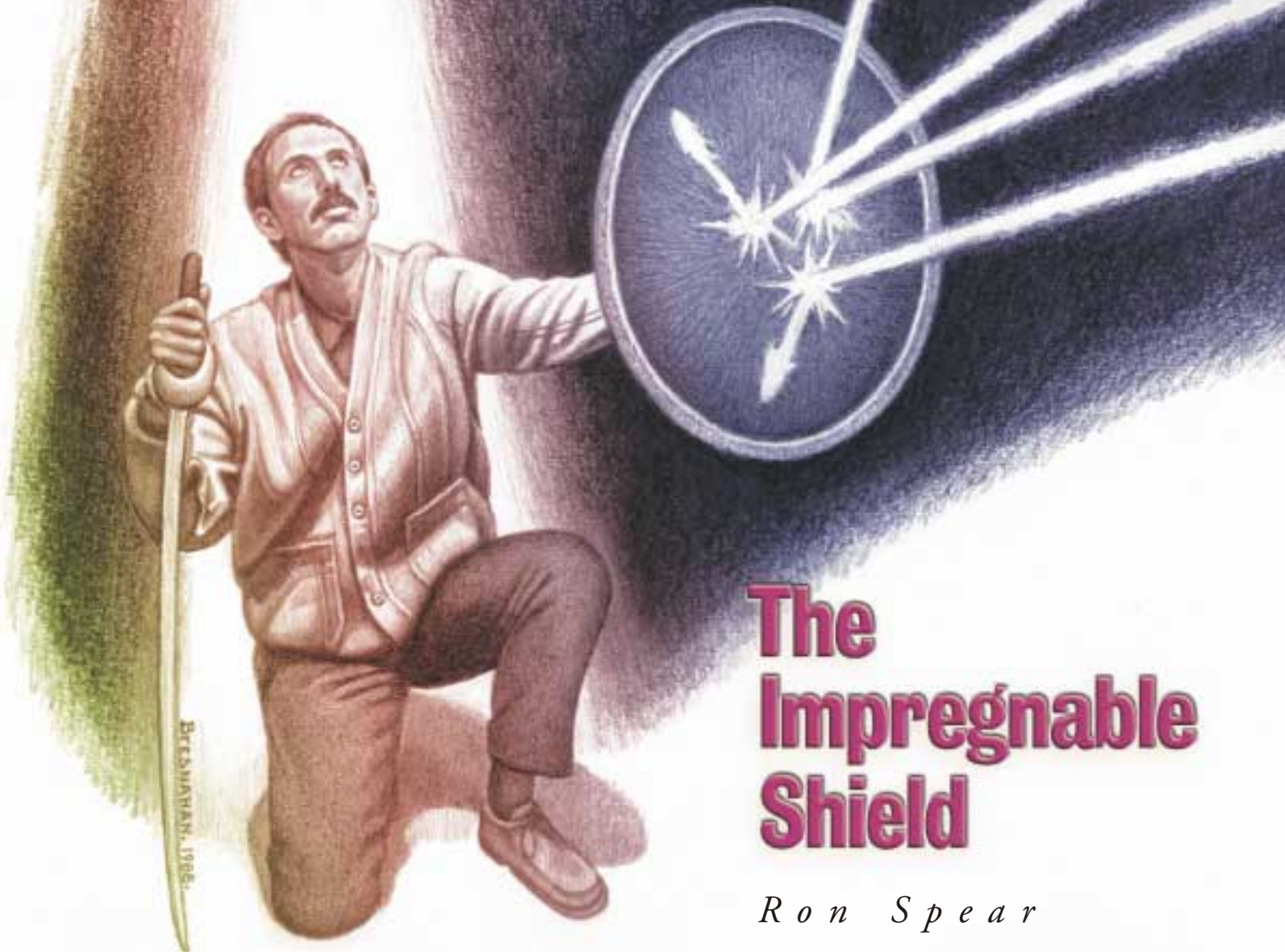
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The Impregnable Shield

R o n S p e a r

Many Christians in every generation have sought after peace of the soul. Luther, as well as many like him, thought climbing the stairs in Rome on his knees, and punishing his body in a lonely monk's cell, would bring peace to his soul.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Isaiah 26:3. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1.

God's Word says that only justification by faith in God will bring peace to the soul. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17. Then how is one justified?—When he is so sorry for sin that he is willing to be made willing to stop sinning by the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." 2 Corinthians 7:9–10.

In man's sorrow for sin he gives his will to God, and God justifies him. The Holy Spirit now has control of his mind, thoughts, and life and holds him fast in that relationship as long as he is willing to surrender.

"It is for you to yield up your will to the will of Jesus Christ; and as you do this, God will immediately take possession and work in you to will and to do of His good pleasure. Your whole nature will then be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ, and even

your thoughts will be subject to Him. You cannot control your impulses, your emotions, as you may desire; but you can control the will, and you can make an entire change in your life. By yielding up your will to Christ, your life will be hid with Christ in God and allied to the power which is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from God that will hold you fast to His strength; and a new life, even the life of living faith, will be possible to you. But your will must cooperate with God's will, not with the will of associates through whom Satan is constantly working to ensnare and destroy you.

"Will you not without delay place yourself in right relation to God? Will you not say, 'I will give my will to Jesus, and I will do it now,' and from this moment be wholly on the Lord's side?" *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 514.

Immediately God places His hedge about us. It is an impregnable shield which Satan can never penetrate, and, as long as we stay in this wonderful protection, we will not sin. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." 1 John 3:9.

Let us read from Inspiration: "So far from making arbitrary requirements, God's law is given to men as a hedge, a shield. Whoever accepts its principles is preserved from evil. Fidelity to God involves fidelity to man. Thus the law guards the rights, the individuality, of every human being. It restrains the superior from oppression, and the subordinate from disobedience. It insures man's well-being, both for this world and for the world to come. To the obedient it is the pledge of eternal life; for it expresses the principles that endure forever.

"Christ came to demonstrate the value of the divine principles by revealing their power for the regeneration of humanity. He came to teach how these principles are to be developed and applied." *Education*, 76–77.

"What a God is our God! He rules over His kingdom with diligence and care, and He has built a hedge—the Ten Commandments—about His subjects to preserve them from the results of transgression. In requiring obedience to the laws of His kingdom, God gives His people health and happiness, peace and joy. He teaches them that the perfection of character He requires can be attained only by becoming familiar with His Word." *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 454.

Then by continuously giving our will to God moment by moment, we can never be tempted above our ability to resist. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Corinthians 10:13.

In this beautiful relationship God's righteous law becomes our

impregnable shield and Satan can never defeat us. Praise the Lord!

"When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature. The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress,

"Christ presents before us the highest perfection of Christian character, which throughout our lifetime we should aim to reach. . . . Concerning this perfection Paul writes: 'Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after. . . . I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.' Philipians 3:12, 14. . . .

Our Saviour does not require impossibilities of any soul. He expects nothing of His disciples that He is not willing to give them grace and strength to perform.

which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan." *The Desire of Ages*, 324.

What is God's standard of righteousness, and what is our part in God's plan of saving our souls from sin? Some say we are not to strive to keep His law.

Let us remember that there are only two groups of people in the world: those who follow the narrow way to eternal life and those who follow the broad way to damnation. "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matthew 7:13–14. "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." Luke 13:24.

Those who are depending on Jesus to do it all and are sitting complacently in the other seat to let Jesus drive them through the pearly gates will be disappointed. "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:22–23.

"How can we reach the perfection specified by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ—our Great Teacher? Can we meet His requirement and attain to so lofty a standard? We can, else Christ would not have enjoined us to do so. He is our righteousness. In His humanity He has gone before us and wrought out for us perfection of character. We are to have the faith in Him that works by love and purifies the soul. Perfection of character is based upon that which Christ is to us. If we have constant dependence on the merits of our Saviour, and walk in His footsteps, we shall be like Him, pure and undefiled.

"Our Saviour does not require impossibilities of any soul. He expects nothing of His disciples that He is not willing to give them grace and strength to perform. He would not call upon them to be perfect if He had not at His command every perfection of grace to bestow on the ones upon whom He would confer so high and holy a privilege. He has assured us that He is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children.

"Our work is to strive to attain in our sphere of action the perfection that Christ in His life on the earth attained in every phase of character. He is our example. In all things we are to strive to honor God in character. In falling day by day so far short of the divine requirements, we are endangering our soul's salvation. We need to understand

and appreciate the privilege with which Christ invests us, and to show our determination to reach the highest standard. We are to be wholly dependent on the power that He has promised to give us." *That I May Know Him*, 130.

Inspiration says: "With the great truth we have been privileged to receive, we should, and under the Holy Spirit's power we could,

did all the overcoming. Man must do *his* part; he must be victor on his own account, through the strength and grace that Christ gives him. Man must be a coworker with Christ in the labor of overcoming, and then he will be partaker with Christ in His glory.

"The Saviour overcame to show man how he may overcome. All the temptations of Satan, Christ met

compass eternity—are to be understood in their bearing on the daily life. Every act, every word, every thought, is to be in accord with these principles.

"No other science is equal to that which develops in the life of the student the character of God. Those who become followers of Christ find that new motives of action are supplied, new thoughts arise, and new actions must result. But they can make advancement only through conflict; for there is an enemy who ever contends against them, presenting temptations to cause the soul to doubt and sin. There are hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil that must be overcome. Appetite and passion must be brought under the control of the Holy Spirit. There is no end to the warfare this side of eternity. But while there are constant battles to fight, there are also precious victories to gain; and the triumph over self and sin is of more value than the mind can estimate." See also *The Ministry of Healing*, 453–454.

The devil's counterfeit righteousness is being preached in the pulpits today, and thousands are accepting it to their destruction. May God have mercy on our souls!

"Even one wrong trait of character, one sinful desire, persistently cherished, will eventually neutralize all the power of the gospel. Every sinful indulgence strengthens the soul's aversion to God. The man who manifests an infidel hardihood, or a stolid indifference to divine truth, is but reaping the harvest of that which he has himself sown. In all the Bible there is not a more fearful warning against trifling with evil than the words of the wise man that the sinner 'shall be holden with the cords of his sins.' Proverbs 5:22.

"Christ is ready to set us free from sin, but He does not force the will; and if by persistent transgression the will itself is wholly bent on evil, and we do not *desire* to be set free, if we *will* not accept His grace, what more can He do? We have destroyed ourselves by our determined rejection of His love. 'Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.' 'To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not

While there are constant battles to fight, there are also precious victories to gain; and the triumph over self and sin is of more value than the mind can estimate.

become living channels of light. We could then approach the mercy seat; and seeing the bow of promise, kneel with contrite hearts, and seek the kingdom of heaven with a spiritual violence that would bring its own reward. We would take it by force, as did Jacob. Then our message would be the power of God unto salvation. Our supplications would be full of earnestness, full of a sense of our great need; and we would not be denied. The truth would be expressed by life and character, and by lips touched with the living coal from off God's altar. When this experience is ours, we shall be lifted out of our poor, cheap selves, that we have cherished so tenderly. We shall empty our hearts of the corroding power of selfishness, and shall be filled with praise and gratitude to God." *Sons and Daughters of God*, 30.

"Will man take hold of divine power, and with determination and perseverance resist Satan, as Christ has given him example in His conflict with the foe in the wilderness of temptation? God cannot save man against his will from the power of Satan's artifices. Man must work with his human power, aided by the divine power of Christ, to resist and to conquer at any cost to himself. In short, man must overcome as Christ overcame. And then, through the victory that it is his privilege to gain by the all-powerful name of Jesus, he may become an heir of God and joint-heir with Jesus Christ. This could not be the case if Christ alone

with the Word of God. By trusting in God's promises, He received power to obey God's commandments, and the tempter could gain no advantage." *Ibid.*, 156.

We have something to do if we are to be saved in God's kingdom. What is it?—To strive with mind and body to reach the great goal of righteousness. In our intensive search for it we must express the same spiritual violence as Jacob did. He clung to Christ as the day was breaking, with the cry from his soul wearied by the night's wrestling, "I will not let you go, except thou bless me." Genesis 32:26.

Let us not forget that righteousness by faith is the science of holiness. Ellen White beautifully portrays this truth in *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, page 20:

"There is a science of Christianity to be mastered—a science as much deeper, broader, higher, than any human science as the heavens are higher than the earth. The mind is to be disciplined, educated, trained; for men are to do service for God in ways that are not in harmony with inborn inclination. Often the training and education of a lifetime must be discarded, that one may become a learner in the school of Christ. The heart must be educated to become steadfast in God. Old and young are to form habits of thought that will enable them to resist temptation. They must learn to look upward. The principles of the Word of God—principles that are as high as heaven and that

your hearts.’ 2 Corinthians 6:2; Hebrews 3:7–8.” *Steps to Christ*, 34.

Justification and sanctification can never be experienced in the life while one is practicing known sins or neglecting known duties. God says so.

“But while God can be just, and yet justify the sinner through the merits of Christ, no man can cover his soul with the garments of Christ’s righteousness while practicing known sins, or neglecting known duties. God requires the entire surrender of the heart, before justification can take place; and in order for man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience, through active, living faith that works by love and purifies the soul.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 366.

“We are preparing to meet Him who, escorted by a retinue of holy angels, is to appear in the clouds of heaven to give the faithful and the just the finishing touch of immortality. When He comes He is not to cleanse us of our sins, to remove from us the defects in our characters, or to cure us of the infirmities of our tempers and dispositions. If wrought for us at all, this work will all be accomplished before that time. When the Lord comes, those who are holy will be holy still. Those who have preserved their bodies and spirits in holiness, in sanctification and honor, will then receive the finishing touch of immortality. But those who are unjust, unsanctified, and filthy will remain so forever. No work will then be done for them to remove their defects and give them holy characters. The Refiner does not then sit to pursue His refining process and remove their sins and their corruption. This is all to be done in these hours of probation. It is *now* that this work is to be accomplished for us.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 355.

By practicing the presence of Jesus moment by moment, by continual submission to God’s will, by faithful daily obedience to God’s law, we retain Christ’s robe of righteousness; we are surrounded by His impregnable fortress, His righteous law. This relationship produces the character of Jesus and the keys to the kingdom.

“‘When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.’ Mark 4:29. Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He

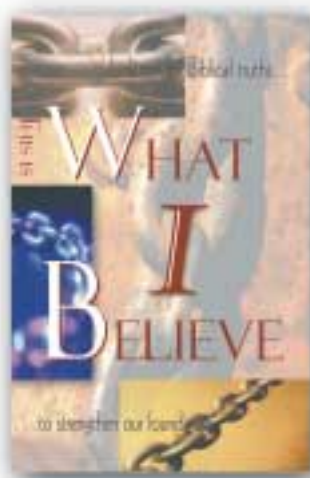
Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 69.

By practicing the presence of Jesus moment by moment, by continual submission to God’s will, by faithful daily obedience to God’s law, we retain Christ’s robe of righteousness; we are surrounded by His impregnable fortress,

will come to claim them as His own.

“It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” See 2 Peter 3:12, margin.

Perfect peace can only be found in full surrender of the life each moment of the day, and, in this relationship, perfect love casteth out all fear. See 1 John 4:18. ✠



This Is What I Believe

by Ron Spear

Recently, Elder Ron Spear received a request to meet with a committee at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to answer questions regarding his beliefs and his manner of work in the world field. Elder Spear saw this invitation as an opportunity to share more than 20 of his convictions regarding the true gospel and how our church has in many ways followed the example of rebellious Israel of old.

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Serving God Fervently

Ellen G. White



“Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.” Romans 12:11.

There are many who will bring into their business much tact, and skill, and zeal, and talent, but they do not feel the necessity of bringing all this, and with greater intensity, into the service of God. While they should be fervent in spirit in the service of God, they should not be slothful in business; they should not permit temporal and earthly things to so absorb all the powers of mind which God has given them that they will not manifest diligence in His service. The reason why there is not more spiritual strength and power with the little companies of believers that compose our churches in different places, is because the business cares of life are made their first and highest object, and absorb their time and their thoughts.

Brethren and sisters, this should not be thus, because of the greatness of the subject of present truth. God speaks in His Word to man. It is truth revealed, to be carried as a light that burneth into the darkened chambers of the mind, bringing order out of that which was to the mind confusion. It is truth revealing the darkness of error. The truth should be exalted in every mind. And where there are small companies in different places, who have accepted the truth, it is important that you who help compose their number should make their devotional services full of life and intensely interesting. There are many who do not seem to feel that spirituality must have food to give it sinew and muscle; that man must live “by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4. The Word of God “liveth and abideth for

ever.” 1 Peter 1:23. It must be brought into the life, and then earnestness will be brought into the religious service. Everyone should feel that he is responsible to God for all the talent He has given him, and that he should use these entrusted talents to God’s glory. Every true Christian is a missionary. While in this world, we are to consider ourselves in active service for the Master; and we should make this message of present truth which God has sent into our world of the highest importance. There are those who have an understanding of the Scriptures theoretically, and yet the religious meetings under their charge are spiritless and of no vital interest to the worshipers. God has given us tact; and if we have any power of influence, let us bring this power into active service for Him.

There are precious gems of truth revealed in the Word of God which should awaken the deepest interest in the minds of all Bible believers. Then let him who opens the Scriptures cultivate fervency of spirit, that he may draw minds near to the Author of the Word; and if there is a spirit of fervency encouraged in our hearts, we will not only have tact to interest others, but our own souls will be kept alive, our own hearts will feel the quickening influences of the life of His Word. Everyone who is brought into the service of Jesus Christ should seek to his very utmost to present the truth as it is in Jesus. There will be diligence to bring zeal and earnestness into his work. The Lord wants us to learn the trade of serving Him in the most acceptable manner. The one who is engaged in the work of putting up buildings, has to learn the carpenter's trade; and if he is a faithful worker, not slothful in business, he will show continual increase of knowledge, and a perfection in his work. Will our Heavenly Father be pleased with work done in His service in a careless, indolent manner? We must educate ourselves to do the very best work for our Master.

When I first felt the burden for souls, I was a little past fourteen years of age; but, oh! how I pleaded with God to know what I could say to my young associates that they might be led in the right way! I felt that I must have success; that I must do the work for the Master, and God would give me wisdom. When I was sixteen years old I commenced active labor in public. I felt that I must meet my work in the Judgment, and that the manner in which I did this work would be registered in the books of heaven. I wrestled and agonized with God that He would give me wisdom, that His work might not be marred in my hands, but be acceptable. For more than forty years I have been engaged in active work for my Master, and today I feel in just as much need to seek God for wisdom to present the truth to others as I did when I was sixteen years old. And every time I attempt to speak to the people, I feel deeply that I have not done the work as perfectly as it should have

been done. I am deeply humbled because I do not reflect more light, and I plead with God that He will give me more grace, more wisdom, that I may do His work with greater completeness.

And this should be the anxiety of every worker, to reach a higher standard. We shall never graduate in this life, but should keep every power upon the stretch for more knowledge. You do not want to

their attention, and instruct them in the ways of the Lord.

There was a general superintendent of Sabbath schools, who, while addressing a Sabbath school upon one occasion, was very dry, lengthy, and uninteresting. A mother asked her daughter of ten years if she enjoyed the exercise, and also, What did the minister say? Said the little girl, "He said, and he said, and he said, and he didn't say anything."

The very work that is essential for everyone who receives the present truth, is to aim at perfection of character, and thoroughness in winning souls to Christ.

labor in such a spiritless way that the people will go to sleep under your words, but you want to bring earnestness and fervency into your prayers, and into your Bible readings, and into your preaching, that you may leave the impression that the sacred truths you are presenting to others are to you a living reality. Whatever you do for Jesus, seek with all your powers to do it with earnestness.

Never feel that you have attained to the highest point, and can therefore rise no higher. I often feel agony of spirit as I look over the wide field, and see so few to do the missionary work and open the Word of God to those who are in darkness. The very work that is essential for everyone who receives the present truth, is to aim at perfection of character, and thoroughness in winning souls to Christ. Be determined that you will advance and improve in your work, and then you will be continually progressing; for those who have received this light feel that they must bring more of the Spirit of Christ into their own life and character as they advance, else they cannot bring it into the lives of others. And you can make the most of every opportunity while in conversation with your friends, to make your words a blessing to them. Set your mind to the task, that you may present the truth in a manner to interest them. Seize the most interesting portions of Scripture that you can bring before them, come right to the point, and seek to fasten

Now we do not want any such account of our labor as that. We want the very best of training for the work that we can possibly have ourselves, so that we can make a success in teaching others the things that we have learned. We see the world is spreading out its attractions and allurements in this city, and how difficult to engage the attention of lovers of pleasure! The mania for pleasure is taking nearly the whole world; and if we become careless, and say the most commonplace things in the most uninteresting manner, we cannot expect to succeed in interesting the people and winning souls to the truth.

It is the duty of everyone who embraces the truth to be thoroughly converted and in earnest. Whether he is called to be a preacher or a colporteur, or in whatever branch he is to work, he should feel that he must bring into the work all the fervency, earnestness, and zeal he can command. It is your duty to prove yourselves true soldiers of Jesus Christ, that you may bring under the banner of Prince Immanuel many faithful soldiers who will be an honor to the cause of God. I hope that every one of us will feel that we are responsible to bring all our strength of intellect into the Master's service here, so that the religion of Jesus Christ will be exalted. We have the greatest truth and hope that were ever given to our world, and the greatest faith; and we want to represent this in its

exalted character to the world. We do not want to assume the attitude as though we were passing through the world begging pardon of the world because we venture to believe this precious sacred truth; but we want to walk humbly with God, and conduct ourselves as though we were children of the Most High God, and, although feeble instruments, as though we were handling most

came. "Look! ye." And again I looked intensely over the world, and I began to see jets of light like stars dotted all through this darkness; and then I saw another and another added light, and so all through this moral darkness the star-like lights were increasing. And the angel said, These are they that believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and are obeying the Words of Christ. These are the

your soul every moment? It is for you to say every moment, The Lord lives, and because He lives I shall live also.

Brethren and sisters, are we Christians? Are we transformed by the grace of God? Do not let unbelief come into your minds because you do not feel at all times all that assurance that you are a child of God. If you have committed sins, repent of them, confess them, and then believe that God hears you, and come to His arms, and do not let your lips utter one word of unbelief. If we "sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 2:1. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. I have had my soul frequently weighed down like a cart beneath sheaves, but I have not allowed my lips to utter one word of discouragement, fearing I might cast a shadow upon the lives of others. I could bear the testimony of truth that Jesus has died for me. I will magnify Him, and I will not dishonor God with my lips. I will trust Him in the shadow as well as in the light.

May the Lord help every individual here to realize his accountability to God. I want to represent the religion of Jesus Christ as it is. Why, you are to feel that you are the most favored of all people upon the face of the earth. You are not to feel that you are the meanest of creation because you believe the truth. People may look upon you and despise you because you will not go with them in the path of transgression; but you must feel that you are the children of God, highly honored of Him. With divine light let His praise be in your heart and upon your lips, and God will look upon you with favor, and you can keep your soul lifted up, triumphing in God. You can say, I love Jesus because He first loved me. He will save me because He has bought me with an infinite price. Then let us move right forward and upward, in the path that is cast up for the ransomed of the Lord to walk in, rejoicing at every step. ✨

Review and Herald, July 26, 1887.

I looked intensely over the world, and I began to see jets of light like stars dotted all through this darkness; and then I saw another and another added light, and so all through this moral darkness the star-like lights were increasing.

important and interesting subjects, higher and more exalted than any temporal, worldly themes.

If Jesus is abiding in the heart, we will speak of Him with tearful eyes and trembling lips. We are to carry the power of the Highest with us; show that we have a connection with God. Those who attempt to open the Scriptures to others, should make the most of their God-given abilities. They should grow continually in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. They should be in earnest, and seek to progress in all their work. They should have a sense of the responsibility resting upon them, and remember that their words and their works are a savor of life unto life or of death unto death. It is the very Spirit and life of Jesus that we should have with us continually. Says the Great Teacher: "I give unto them eternal life; . . . neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." John 10:28. Nothing can separate the living Christian from the living God. Are we Christians?

Would that every one of you could have a view that was presented to me years ago. When in my very girlhood the Lord saw fit to open before me the glories of heaven. I was in vision taken to heaven, and the angel said to me, "Look!" I looked to the world as it was in dense darkness. The agony that came over me was indescribable as I saw this darkness. Again the word

light of the world; and if it were not for these lights, the judgments of God would immediately fall upon the transgressors of God's law. I saw then these little jets of light growing brighter, shining forth from the east and from the west, and from the north and from the south, and lighting the whole world. Occasionally one of these lights would begin to grow dim, and others would go out, and every time that this occurred there was sadness and weeping in heaven. And then some of these lights would grow brighter and brighter, and increase in brilliancy; and their light was far reaching, and many more lights were added to it. Then there was rejoicing in heaven. I saw that the rays of light came directly from Jesus, to form these precious jets of light in the world.

If you once would get the understanding that you are the light of the world, you would feel that a great responsibility rested upon you. Every jot and tittle of this light in the world was reflected from Heaven; and I entreat of you who have a part to act in the work of God, not to feel satisfied until you bring all the power God has given you in trust into the work. You may have discouraged feelings and be despondent, but that should not lead you to neglect God's work. Can you expect anything else when Satan is trying to bring all the darkness around you possible, to surround



We appreciate the dedication you all have in proclaiming the Third Angel's Message. May God continue to bless you. *HP, Wisconsin*

God bless each of you dear people. My mother receives your magazine and we do appreciate the spiritual words we read.

May God continue to give you good health and may His guiding hand be over you and your families' lives. *KS, Colorado*

Your wonderful gem of wisdom with Jesus' wisdom has been coming for several years to me. Your pearl with its Christ-centered messages and articles have helped me to gain understanding and knowledge with our loving Father's and Savior's Word. I have been so very blessed and thankful to our loving Redeemer for this precious magazine. It first came as a gift subscription and later my husband, who is not in the faith of Jesus as yet, agreed to pay for the subscription after I asked him if he would like to.

I have thoroughly appreciated receiving this beautiful magazine telling of the Lord's Word and His Way, the Truth—the way to our eternal home and life with Him in the heavenly Eden! *EN, Maryland*

From Overseas:

Thanks very much for your second parcel sent to me. All the materials sent to me are in good use for my own personal salvation, my family and the people around my area. Once again, thanks! You are doing a good job. Really, my heart is moved by your publications. The file and its materials therein shall be in good use preparing many Christians for heaven. *SS, Malawi*

I am a Seventh-day Adventist who attends a little company which has recently been established. The members are therefore still new in the faith, and

are desperately in need of spiritual enrichment. The biggest problem we face is the lack of spiritual reading material. On behalf of my fellow church members, I am therefore kindly requesting Bibles, Spirit of Prophecy books and any other religious material that would enhance our spiritual standing.

Your generosity towards this cause is to be appreciated gratefully. May God bless you richly. *HK, Zimbabwe*

Thank you indeed for the few books I received in June, 1997. Those books have played great roles in my spiritual growth—especially *Will the Real Seventh-day Adventist Please Stand Up* by Ron Spear. The Lord has chosen me as an elder in our chapel. But we are still hungry and thirsty for spiritual diets such as Spirit of Prophecy Library, Sabbath Tracts and literature for the school, of which 95% are Sunday keepers. *DS, Sudan*

I am from Romouia but I am established in Finland. . . . I have seen some of your publications and they are not only important and very interesting but must be shared with our friends, relatives, neighbors, and all the people as soon as it is possible while still the gates of heavenly grace are opened. He is waiting for us! Therefore, I will ask you kindly in the name of the Lord to help me in Finland to spread the Gospel of Christ with all means possible. God bless you! Sincerely your brother in Christ. Amen. *AE, Finland*

I am glad to write for you this letter and may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you in this time of probation. I am 24 years old, a student in Hungary. I need a help from you sir. I am a Seventh-day Adventist young man. Since childhood I have read your magazine and I was very much impressed with the message I found inside. My interest was to read the Word of God to

strengthen my faith and hope while we are waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. But I have not found any books to read. I will be very happy for help with the following books: *The Bible Study Companion Set, Daniel and Revelation Commentary, Life-Giving Secrets.*

Since I do not have any money to pay for these books please try to help me. My desire is to read God's message and grow spiritually on this earth of darkness. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. *PO, Hungary*

Greetings to you and all the brothers and sisters in the sweet and loving name of Christ our soon coming King! It is a joy to write you this letter which I hope will reach you in good condition!

I thank you so much for your one box of gospel materials which reached me in good condition, of which I am glad of having a such wonderful gift. The books are very rich for spiritual growth. My people are glad to read such wonderful books. I placed those once in our library.

The books stayed long on the way, you posted it on December 10th, 1996, then it reached me in good condition on May 13th, 1999—almost two years and five months later! The fault is not with you people, rather it is the Nigerian Government. There was a ship at our old capital city of Lagos which was not unloaded because of Nigerian postal services. Then it was last month when they started to offload them because of the handing over of the government into civilian rule after many years in military rule in Nigeria.

I thank you for the labor you took to see that these books reached me. I hereby request you to send us many copies of inspiration books and Bibles. Almost three fourths of the people here have no Holy Bible. Help us with this great task. *WO, Nigeria*

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Are you a health conscious SDA who is trying to use the 'entering wedge' to reach an unsaved neighbor or friend? Perhaps you are searching for additional instruction on *how* to apply the eight laws of health to treat your immediate family. Maybe you are already actively involved in medical missionary work and need a short course that *goes beyond* the basics. Well, look no further. This new Hope International health seminar is for you!

Pricing Information

The cost of this class is \$350.00, for we are bringing in a larger number of instructors to enable you to learn from a broad spectrum of those who have been out in the field. This will cover all expenses of the class, except for the cost of the textbooks. We are asking for a tuition deposit of \$150.00 per person. If you should need to cancel prior to March 1, we will refund to you \$100.00 cash or allow \$150.00 credit to be applied to a seminar at a later date. If you need to cancel after March 1, no refund will be available; however, the \$150.00 may still be applied toward a seminar at a later date.

Meet Your Instructors

David Musudole

David is an evangelist and medical missionary worker from the Fiji Islands. He is the founder of Shiloh Health and Education Center, where he educates and treats cancer patients according to God's true science of natural healing.

Bert Leverett

Bert is currently a Bible worker and health and temperance leader in Southern California. He has been a co-instructor for the last four Hope International Medical Missionary Seminars.

John Skeete

John and his wife Windy counsel and treat people with a variety of health challenges both in their community and around the world. John's main emphasis is the strong spiritual connection between the medical missionary and the Great Physician.

Windy Skeete, N.D., M.H.

Windy is co-founder and administrator of The Temple Restored Ministry. Since completing coursework to become a Doctor of Naturopathy and Master Herbalist, she has worked with clients who have had a wide range of health problems.

Course Schedule

Registration: Sunday, March 26, 2000, at 5:00 pm

Monday

8:00-8:50 The Moral Purpose of Illness
9:00-9:50 Anatomy/Physiology
10:00-12:00 The Natural Approach to Colds and Flu
1:00-2:50 Toxemia and Natural Detoxification
3:00-5:00 Little-Used Hydrotherapy Techniques
7:00-8:30 Group Project/Study Period

Tuesday

8:00-8:50 Emotional and Mental Factors of Healing
9:00-9:50 Anatomy/Physiology
10:00-12:00 The Natural Approach to Heart Disease
1:00-1:50 The Rationale of Juice Therapy
2:00-2:50 Survey of Oxygen Therapies
3:00-5:00 Protocols for Parasitic Infections
7:00-8:30 Group Project/Study Period

Wednesday

8:00-8:50 Spiritual Networking
9:00-9:50 Introduction to Patho-Physiology
10:00-12:00 The Natural Approach to Diabetes
1:00-2:50 Medicinal Fever Baths
3:00-4:50 Full-Body Clay Poultices
7:00-8:30 Group Project/Study Period

Thursday

8:00-8:50 Medical Missionary Work in the Third World
9:00-9:50 Introduction to Patho-Physiology
10:00-12:00 The Natural Approach to Cancer
1:00-2:50 Simple, Natural Emergency Procedures
3:00-5:00 "How Healing Becomes a Crime"
7:00-8:30 Group Project/Study Period

Friday

8:00-8:50 Steam Inhalation Therapies
9:00-12:00 Group Presentations

Sabbath

9:30-10:50 Sabbath School
11:00-12:15 Sermon
5:00-7:00 Vespers/Graduation

Hope International
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Change Service Requested