

Our Firm Foundation

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary

Volume 16, Number 7

July 2001

The Last Crisis

THE INDESTRUCTIBLE DESTROYED

Special Spirit of Prophecy Issue!

The Great Need of the Holy Spirit

The Perils of the Last Days

The Obedient Approved of God

Why the Lord Waits

Can I know how I stand before God?

How can I receive the Holy Spirit in latter-rain power?

What are the prophetic signs of the crisis ahead, and how can I be ready to meet it?

What has delayed the Second Coming?

Are you anxious to know the answers to these questions? We believe and pray that this special issue of *Our Firm Foundation* will be a help and encouragement to you. Let us know if you need additional copies to share with your family, friends, or church family.

You may have already noticed that all of the feature articles are from the pen of Ellen G. White. Are we, as a people, neglecting the gift of prophecy today? Are we hesitant to present the messages of Ellen White, fearful of inciting prejudice against our message, simply to prove that our beliefs are based on “the Bible and the Bible alone”? If your answer is Yes, perhaps you will be encouraged to know that this problem was first met almost 150 years ago—before the Seventh-day Adventist Church was even formally organized.

In November of 1855, a general conference of believers convened in the newly erected church in Battle Creek, Michigan, U.S.A. At that meeting James White recorded that there were “remarks and confessions relative to the evident departure of the remnant from the spirit of the message, and the humble, straightforward course taken by those who first embraced it. Strong desires were expressed, and fervent prayers were offered to Heaven, for the return of the spirit of consecration, sacrifice, and holiness once enjoyed by the remnant.”¹

Arthur White notes, “Somehow the sense swept over them that this may have been the result of neglect on the part of the church in its relation to the visions. To avoid prejudicing those they hoped to reach with the third angel’s message through the *Review and Herald*, they had published none of the visions in

the paper for nearly five years, and only twice had James White referred to the visions in his articles or editorials.”²

Now those attending the conference were convicted that they had been neglecting God’s gift of prophecy. They voted “That Joseph Bates, J. H. Waggoner, and M. E. Cornell be appointed to address the saints on behalf of the conference, on the gifts of the church.”³

We believe you will be encouraged by reading the following report by Elders Bates, Waggoner, and Cornell, published in the December 4, 1855, issue of the *Review and Herald*.

Harvey Steck, Managing Editor

To the dear saints scattered abroad, *Greeting*:

In view of the present low state of the precious cause of our blessed Master, we feel to humble ourselves before God and confess our unfaithfulness and departure from the way of the Lord, whereby the spirit of holiness has been grieved, our own souls burdened, and an occasion given to the enemy of all righteousness to rejoice over the decline of faith and spiritually amongst the scattered flock. . . .

We are well aware that these gifts [of the Holy Spirit], together with the tongues of angels, and laying down of our lives, would profit us nothing without charity, or the fervent love of God; but we are once exhorted to “follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts.” 1 Corinthians 14:1.

Dear Brethren and Sisters in Christ, while we have professed to stand upon the Word, and walk in “the whole counsel of God,” we feel to confess that we, as a people, have not obeyed the above divine injunction, nor have we appreciated the glorious privilege of claiming the gifts which our blessed Master has vouchsafed to His people; and we greatly fear that we have grieved the Spirit by neglecting the blessings already conferred upon the church. . . .

We have also, in our past experience, been made to rejoice in the goodness of our God who has manifested His care for His people by leading us in His way and correcting our errors, through the operations of His Spirit; and the majority of Sabbathkeepers in the Third Angel’s Message, have firmly believed that the Lord was calling His church out of the wilderness by the means appointed to bring us to the unity of the faith. We refer to the visions which God has promised to the remnant “in the last days.” . . .

The question does not so much seem to be whether the gifts are subjects of promise and expectation; but whether we are willing to bear the reproach of the position we have taken. We think the Scriptures are definite on this point; and while we would shrink from needlessly exciting the prejudices of the world against us, we dare not shrink from our duty when plainly made known through the Word. Nor do we, as some contend, exalt these gifts or their manifestations, above the Bible; on the contrary, we test them by the Bible, making it the great rule of judgment in all things; so that whatever is not in accordance with it, in its spirit and its teachings, we unhesitatingly reject. But as we cannot believe that a fountain sends forth at the same place sweet water and bitter, or that an evil tree brings forth good fruit, so we cannot believe that that is of the enemy which tends to unite the hearts of the saints, to lead to meekness and humility and holy living, and incites to deep heart-searching before God, and a confession of our wrongs. As having such a tendency we recommend to your candid consideration the contents of the book entitled *Experience and Views*,⁴ believing them to be agreeable to the Word of God, and the spirit of the gospel.

Dear Brethren, while we hold these views as emanating from the divine Mind, we would confess the inconsistency (which we believe has been displeasing to God) of professedly regarding them as messages

Continued on page 6

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


Executive Editor: Ron Spear
 Administrative Editor: Bill Humeniuk
 Managing Editor: Harvey Steck
 Layout & Design: Kevin Patterson

Subscription Information

Prices for the annual subscription are listed below. Although we strive to keep them as low as possible, if your finances cannot meet the requested amount, please send whatever you can. We want this material to be available to all. If you wish to give a donation to assist in providing subscriptions for those whose funds may be limited, send your gift marked "Subscription Assistance" to the address below. Your donation is tax deductible.

United States: US \$18.75
Canada and Mexico: US \$23.75
Overseas (surface mail): US \$23.75
 Please inquire for overseas air rates.
Large Print Edition: US \$45
Audio subscription: (2 cassettes per month) US \$60 per year. For foreign subscriptions, please inquire regarding postage.

Hope International publications may be obtained from the following source:

 **Hope International**
 P.O. Box 940
 Eatonville, WA 98328 USA

Phone: (360) 832-6602
 Mon–Thurs: 8:30am–5:00pm
 Fri: 8:30am–12:00pm PST
Fax: (360) 832-3720
Email: office@hopeint.org
Web: http://www.hopeint.org

Shipping Information

For all products advertised in this publication (unless otherwise noted):

- Add 10% shipping plus US \$3 handling.
- For destinations outside the USA, add 15% shipping plus US \$4 handling.
- If actual shipping charges are greater, you will be billed the difference.

Washington residents: Please add an additional 7.8% sales tax.

All money received must be in US funds drawn on US banks.

Copyright © 2001 Hope International

Front cover background image: © PhotoDisc;
 Composition: Kevin Patterson
 All other art is used with permission or is
 © Hope International, unless otherwise noted.

4 The Last Crisis
 Ellen G. White
The fast-fulfilling signs of the times forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.

8 The Great Need of the Holy Spirit
 Ellen G. White
The promise of the Holy Spirit is not comprehended as it should be.

13 Pray for the Latter Rain
 Ellen G. White
"Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain."

16 The Perils of the Last Days
 Ellen G. White
Night, dark and portentous, is enclosing the Christian world.

21 Why the Lord Waits
 Ellen G. White
Because we are not laboring together with God

24 The Obedient Approved of God
 Ellen G. White
How am I standing before God as a professed follower of Christ?

28 Paul Appeals to Caesar
 Ellen G. White
We are to experience trials similar to those of Paul.

departments

Defending the Faith	7
News Watch	19
The Garden of the Heart	27
Letters to the Editor	31

The Last Crisis

THE INDESTRUCTIBLE DESTROYED

Ellen G. White

We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.

The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.

The condition of things in the world shows that troublous times are right upon us. The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the near future. Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are taking the lives of men, women, and little children. Men have become infatuated with vice, and every species of evil prevails.

The Indestructible Destroyed

The enemy has succeeded in perverting justice and in filling men's hearts with the desire for selfish gain. "Justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter." Isaiah 59:14. In the great cities there are multitudes living in poverty and wretchedness, well-nigh destitute of food, shelter, and clothing; while in the same cities are those who have more than heart could wish, who live luxuriously, spending their money on richly furnished houses, on personal adornment, or worse still, upon the gratification of sensual appetites, upon liquor, tobacco, and other things that destroy the powers of the brain, unbalance the mind, and debase the soul. The cries of starving humanity are coming up before God, while by every species of oppression and extortion men are piling up colossal fortunes.

On one occasion, when in New York City, I was in the night season called upon to behold buildings rising story after story toward heaven. These buildings were warranted to be fireproof, and they were erected to glorify the owners and builders. Higher and still higher these buildings rose, and in them

the most costly material was used. Those to whom these buildings belonged were not asking themselves: "How can we best glorify God?" The Lord was not in their thoughts.

I thought: "Oh, that those who are thus investing their means could see their course as God sees it! They are piling up magnificent buildings, but how foolish in the sight of the Ruler of the universe is their planning and devising. They are not studying with all the powers of heart and mind how they may glorify God. They have lost sight of this, the first duty of man."

As these lofty buildings went up, the owners rejoiced with ambitious pride that they had money to use in gratifying self and provoking the envy of their neighbors. Much of the money that they thus invested had been obtained through exaction, through grinding down the poor. They forgot that in heaven an account of every business transaction is kept; every unjust deal, every fraudulent act, is there recorded. The time is coming when in their fraud and insolence men will reach a point that the Lord will not permit them to pass, and they will learn that there is a limit to the forbearance of Jehovah.

The scene that next passed before me was an alarm of fire. Men looked at the lofty and supposedly fire-proof buildings and said: "They are perfectly safe." But these buildings were consumed as if made of pitch. The fire engines could do nothing to stay the destruction. The firemen were unable to operate the engines.

I am instructed that when the Lord's time comes, should no change have taken place in the hearts of proud, ambitious human beings, men will find that the hand that had been strong to save will be strong to destroy. No earthly power can stay the hand of God. No material can be used in the erection of buildings that will preserve them from destruction when God's appointed time comes to send retribution on men for their disregard of His law and for their selfish ambition.

There are not many, even among educators and statesmen, who comprehend the causes that underlie the present state of society. Those who hold the reins of government are not able to solve the problem of moral corruption, poverty, pauperism, and increasing crime. They are struggling in vain to place business operations on a more secure basis. If men would give more heed to the teaching of God's Word, they would find a solution of the problems that perplex them.

Signs of the End

The Scriptures describe the condition of the world just before Christ's second coming. Of the men who by robbery and extortion are amassing great riches, it is written: "Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you." James 5:3-6.

But who reads the warnings given by the fast-fulfilling signs of the times? What impression is made upon worldlings? What change is seen in their attitude? No more than was seen in the attitude of the inhabitants of the Noachian world. Absorbed in worldly business and pleasure, the antediluvians "knew not until the flood came, and took them all away." Matthew 24:39. They had Heaven-sent warnings, but they refused to listen. And today the world, utterly regardless of the warning voice of God, is hurrying on to eternal ruin.

Men looked at the lofty and supposedly fire-proof buildings and said: "They are perfectly safe." But these buildings were consumed as if made of pitch.

The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecy of the eleventh chapter of Daniel has nearly reached its complete fulfillment. Soon the scenes of trouble spoken of in the prophecies will take place.

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

"Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come. . . . The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered. How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate." Joel 1:15, 17-18. "The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate

tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men." Verse 12.

"I am pained at my very heart. . . . I cannot hold my peace, because thou has heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled." Jeremiah 4:19-20.

"I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo,

they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down." Verses 23-26.

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

There Is a Remnant

Not all in this world have taken sides with the enemy against God. Not all have become disloyal. There are a faithful few who are true to God; for John writes: "Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12. Soon the battle will be waged fiercely between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. Soon everything that can be shaken will be shaken, that those things that cannot be shaken may remain.

Satan is a diligent Bible student. He knows that his time is short, and he seeks at every point to counterwork the work of the Lord upon this earth.

It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when celestial glory and a repetition of the persecutions of the past are blended. They will walk in the light proceeding from the throne of God. By means of the angels there will be constant communication between Heaven and earth. And Satan, surrounded by evil angels, and claiming to be God, will work miracles of all kinds, to deceive, if possible, the very elect. God's people will not find their safety in working miracles, for Satan will counterfeit the miracles that will be wrought. God's tried and tested people will find their power in the sign spoken

guished by their efforts to tear down the Creator's memorial and to exalt the institution of Rome. In the issue of the conflict all Christendom will be divided into two great classes, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and those who worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark.

Although church and state will unite their power to compel all, "both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond" (Revelation 13:16), to receive the mark of the beast, yet the people of God will not receive it. The prophet of Patmos beholds "them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over

It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when celestial glory and a repetition of the persecutions of the past are blended.

of in Exodus 31:12-18. They are to take their stand on the living Word: "It is written." This is the only foundation upon which they can stand securely. Those who have broken their covenant with God will in that day be without God and without hope.

Distinguishing Sign

The worshipers of God will be especially distinguished by their regard for the fourth commandment, since this is the sign of God's creative power and the witness to His claim upon man's reverence and homage. The wicked will be distin-

the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God" (Revelation 15:2), and singing the song of Moses and the Lamb.

Fearful tests and trials await the people of God. The spirit of war is stirring the nations from one end of the earth to the other. But in the midst of the time of trouble that is coming—a time of trouble such as has not been since there was a nation—God's chosen people will stand unmoved. Satan and his host cannot destroy them, for angels that excel in strength will protect them. ✠

Testimonies, vol. 9, 11-18.

Continued from page 2

from God, and really putting them on a level with the inventions of men. We fear that this has resulted from an unwillingness to bear the reproach of Christ, (which is indeed greater riches than the treasures of earth), and a desire to conciliate the feelings of our opponents; but the Word and our own experience have taught us that God is not honored, nor His cause advanced, by such a course. While we regard them as coming from God, and entirely harmonizing with His written Word, we must acknowledge ourselves under obligation to abide by their teachings, and be corrected by their admonitions. To say that they are of God, and yet we will not be tested by them, is to say that God's will is not a test or rule for Christians, which is inconsistent and absurd. . . . ✠

References:

- ¹ *Review and Herald*, December 4, 1855.
- ² See Arthur L. White, *Ellen G. White: The Early Years*, 326-327.
- ³ *Review and Herald*, December 4, 1855.
- ⁴ Now published in *Early Writings*.

In behalf of the Conference,

JOSEPH BATES
J. H. WAGGONER
M. E. CORNELL



"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed. And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God." Exodus 31:12-18.



Receiving the Holy Spirit

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

1RS: Acts 1:8.

Jesus promised that the disciples would receive power to witness after the Holy Ghost fell upon them. Though they had been with Jesus for more than three years, they had not received the Holy Spirit. Let us look at what hindered them from receiving Him, and what they did to receive Him. From this we can learn what is hindering us from receiving the Holy Spirit, and what we can do in order to receive Him.

2RS: Luke 11:13.

As long as Christ was physically with them, the disciples felt no need of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, they failed to ask. Could it be that we are failing to ask for the Spirit, and therefore we, too, are hindered from receiving Him? See James 4:2.

3RS: Luke 22:24.

During the Last Supper, the disciples argued and bickered about who should be the greatest. Each one wanted that coveted position of being at Jesus' right hand in His kingdom. Stubborn pride closed their hearts to the workings of the Spirit.

4RS: Matthew 26:14–15.

Judas loved money more than he loved his Master. We know from Ellen White that Judas had helped himself to the disciples' meager resources, for he was the treasurer and was in charge of the money. See John 13:29. If we love money more than Jesus, our lives will betray Him. We cannot have the Holy Spirit when we allow the love of mammon to hold sway in our lives. See Matthew 6:24. If this is our experience, we have the spirit of Satan. See John 13:2.

5RS: Matthew 26:33–35.

Peter was overconfident. He thought he knew more than Jesus. But he learned the hard way that Jesus was right after all, and he really did not know his own heart. When we become confident and trust in the arm of flesh—be it our arm, or anyone else's—we will fall just as surely as did Peter. See Jeremiah 17:5.

6RS: John 18:36.

The fact that the disciples were arguing over who would be the greatest in Christ's kingdom showed that they really did not understand His mission. They thought that His mission was to establish an earthly kingdom. They did not realize that He had come, not to be a conquering King, but to be a suffering Lamb. Do *we* understand His mission? He came to save us *from* our sins (see Matthew 1:21), not *in* our sins.

7RS: Luke 9:23.

The disciples had not experienced Calvary. They did not know what it meant to bear the cross. Until we understand what Calvary means to us, and are willing to bear our crosses after Christ, we cannot receive the Holy Spirit and the latter rain.

8RS: Romans 8:1–5.

We must be freed from the condemnation of sin and the power of sin—justified and sanctified. This process of getting sin out of our lives prepares us to receive the Holy Spirit in His fullness. Then we are prepared to receive the latter rain.

9RS: Philippians 2:5–8.

We should spend more time contemplating Christ—His love, and

His sacrifice for us. When we have the mind of Christ, we will be fit to receive the Holy Spirit.

10RS: Luke 11:9–10.

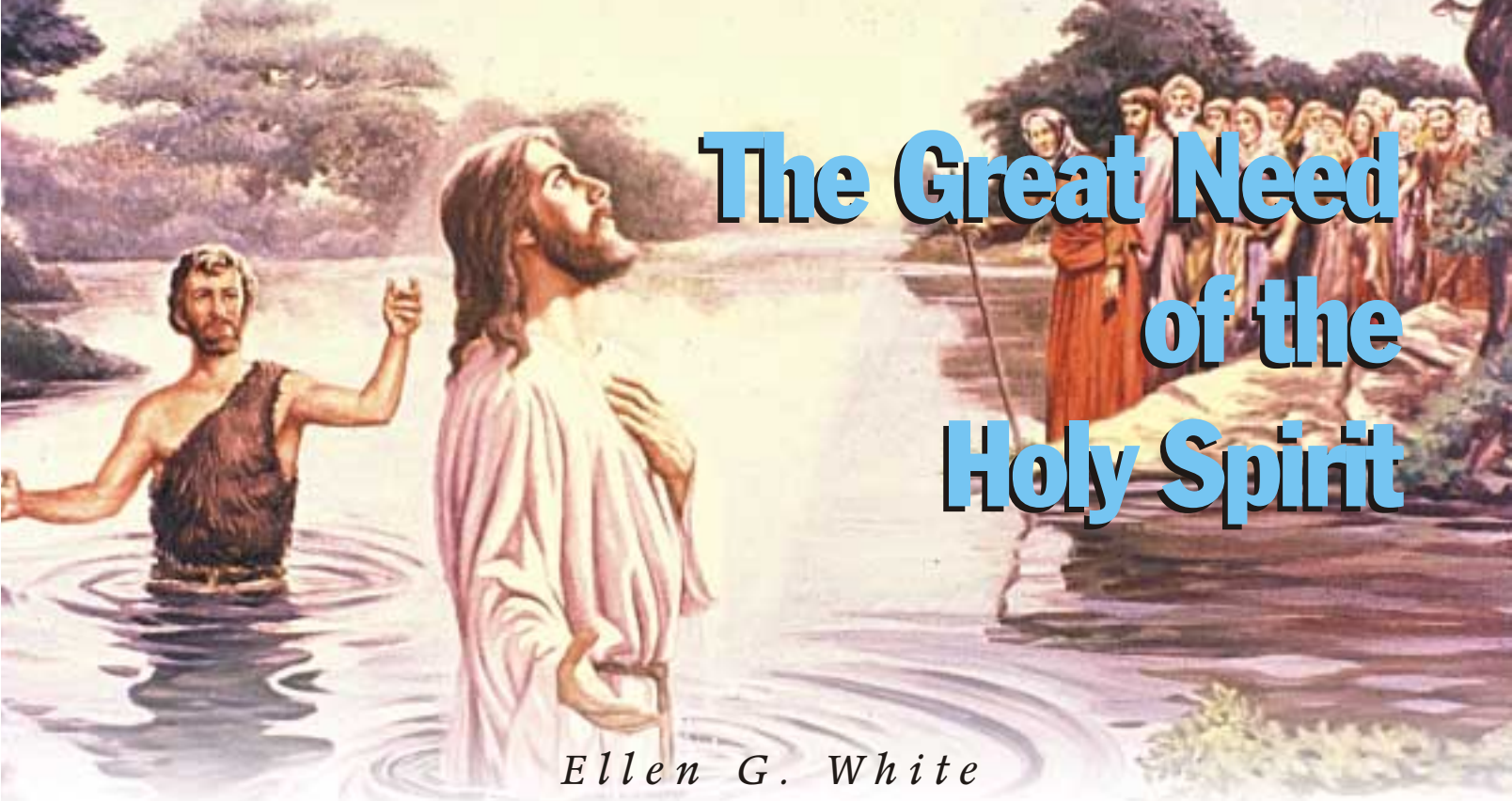
When we have complied with the conditions set forth in the Word of God, then we can ask in faith, believing that God will answer and send us the Holy Spirit. Then we can be enabled to finish the work—and then Jesus can come! ✨

We present this study with the desire that it will encourage you, our readers, to pursue a deeper examination of God's Word. "None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict." We encourage you to expand 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 RS, which represent "Receiving the Holy Spirit."
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: "Receiving the Holy Spirit," 1RS: Acts 1:8.
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 RS."



The Great Need of the Holy Spirit

Ellen G. White

Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8. God has left nothing undone that could in any way work for the recovering of man from the toils of the enemy. He poured upon the disciples the Holy Spirit, in order that they might be enabled to cooperate with divine agencies in reshaping and remodeling human character. Of the Holy Spirit Jesus said, "He will reprove ["convince," margin] the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 16:8. The Holy Spirit is not only to sanctify but to convict. No one can repent of his sins until he is convicted of his guilt. How necessary, then, it is that we should have the Holy Spirit with us as we labor to reach fallen souls. Our human abilities will be exercised in vain unless they are united with this Heavenly Agency.

Men have fallen low, they are sunk in depths of sinful degradation, and it is because of a lack of knowledge, of the want of connection with vitalizing truth, and because they are contaminated by the corrupting influence of error. In

the work of saving men, men and angels are to work in harmony, teaching the truth of God to those who are unlearned therein, in order that they may be set free from the bonds of sin. Truth alone can make men free. The liberty that comes through a knowledge of truth is to be proclaimed to every creature.

Our Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the angels of heaven are all interested in this grand and holy work. To man has been given the exalted privilege of revealing the divine character by unselfishly seeking to rescue man from the pit of ruin into which he has been plunged. Every human being who will submit to be enlightened by the Holy Spirit, is to be used for the accomplishment of this divinely conceived purpose. Christ is the Head of His church, and it will glorify Him the more to have every portion of that church engaged in the work for the salvation of souls.

Lift Up Jesus

Our Saviour is to be more distinctly recognized, and acknowledged as the all sufficiency of His church. He alone can perfect the faith of His people. There is to be no wrestling for the supremacy among us, no exalting of self. No, brethren,

let us lift up Jesus, and we shall reap a rich harvest. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32. Lift Him up, then; exalt the Holy One; proclaim Him "the desire of all nations" (Haggai 2:7), the "chiefest among ten thousand" (Song of Solomon 5:10), the One "altogether lovely." Verse 16. Let every church of every clime take hold with an intense interest to help advance the cause. And while you labor for your own locality, pray for the general prosperity and upbuilding of the church throughout the vast harvest field.

There is more joy in heaven over one sinner that repents, than over the ninety and nine who suppose they need no repentance. See Luke 15:7. When we hear of the success of the truth in any locality, let the whole church join in songs of rejoicing, let praises ascend to God. Let the name of the Lord be glorified by us, and we shall be inspired with greater zeal to become workers together with God.

The Lord urges us to fulfill the injunction, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. But we need to leave more room for the working of the Holy Spirit, in order that

laborers may be bound together and may move forward in the strength of a united body of soldiers. Let all remember that we are “a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.” 1 Corinthians 4:9. Therefore each one should inquire with meekness and fear, What is my path of duty?

Complete Devotion to God's Service

Entire consecration to the service of God will reveal the molding influence of the Holy Spirit at every step along the way. When apparent impossibilities arise in your path, present the ever-ready, complete efficiency of the Holy Spirit before your unbelieving heart, that it may shame away your over-cautious spirit. When your faith is weak, your efforts feeble, talk of the great Comforter, the Strength of Heaven. When you are inclined to doubt that God is working by His Holy Spirit through human agents, remember that God has used the church and is using it to the glory of His own name. If men will not obstruct the way, God will move upon the minds of many more to engage in active service for Him.

Christ's prayer to His Father in behalf of His followers was not in the interest of a few; it embraced every believer in the Son of God. “Neither pray I,” said Christ, “for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” John 17:20-21. The words of this prayer are very precious. Notice what follows: “And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.” Verses 22-23.

Of all persons on the earth the true Christian is the one that the world has the most need of. But while they remain in the world, they

are not to be of the world. The Saviour prayed: “I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil.” Verse 15. The religion of the Bible is to be revealed in this world, in order that souls may be led to discern Christ, the Light of the world. As light is revealed, by following that Light we may escape from all darkness; for He has said, “He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” John 8:12. The

But we need to leave more room for the working of the Holy Spirit, in order that laborers may be bound together and may move forward in the strength of a united body of soldiers.

rays of the Light of life shining from the Lord Jesus enable humanity to pick their ground, to wage successful warfare, and triumph over the powers of darkness. This glorious Light reveals the abundant entrance into the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Walking in its beams we find ready admittance there.

The great General is not only leading a few soldiers; but the Captain of the Lord's host is leading the armies of both Heaven and earth to battle; they are marching on to a glorious victory. Every soldier is to put on the whole armor of God, and fight courageously, realizing that he is battling in full view of the invisible universe. If the Lord's army will obey orders, they will find themselves influenced by the Holy Spirit to work the works of God. The battlefield is glorified with the light shining from the cross of Calvary.

United Workers

The prayer of Christ; “that they also may be one in us,” should be responded to by every Christian. Each one should show an example of holy devotion, of unreserved consecration, to His service. They should be models of self-denying, self-sacrificing laborers, after the

example of Jesus, that God may be glorified on the earth, and that, beholding the love which binds the believers together, the world may realize that God has sent His Son to save them from their sins; and that, believing, many souls may be sanctified through the truth.

The promise of the Gift of the Holy Spirit is not comprehended as it should be. The privileges to be enjoyed through its acceptance are not appreciated as they might be. God desires that His church shall

lay hold by faith upon His promises, and ask for the power of the Holy Spirit to help them in every place. He assures us that He is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than parents are to give good gifts unto their children. See Luke 11:13.

Since it is possible for everyone to have the heavenly unction, “ye need not that any man teach you” (1 John 2:27), there is no excuse for shunning responsibilities. No duty should be unwelcome, no obligation evaded. “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally.” James 1:5. Place more confidence in “Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.” 1 Corinthians 1:30.

Unbelief

The work of God is retarded by criminal unbelief in His power to use the common people to carry forward His work successfully. Because men cannot see every step forward distinctly marked out before them, they question, doubt, and hesitate, under the plea of caution. They will not walk by faith, but move by sight alone. O that frail man would realize that it is the

General of the armies of Heaven that is leading and directing the movements of His allies on earth.

We Need Power

Christ Himself is the renewing Power, working in and through every soldier by the Agency of the Holy Spirit. Every individual is to become an instrument in His hands to work for the salvation of souls. Not one who desires to labor for the Master is to be refused a place, if he is a true follower of Christ. Everyone has his responsibilities to bear in the cause of Christ. The efficiency of the Spirit of God will make effective the labors of all who are willing to submit to His guidance. Therefore, how careful every officer in the

of righteousness is to be exalted. The Spirit of God is moving upon men's hearts, and those who respond to its influence will become lights in the world. Everywhere they are seen going forth to communicate to others the light they have received as they did after the descent of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. And as they let their light shine, they receive more and more of the Spirit's power. The earth is lighted with the glory of God.

A Sad Picture

But O, sad picture! those who do not submit to the influence of the Holy Spirit soon lose the blessings received when they acknowledged the truth as from Heaven. They fall

His wisdom because they did not feel the need of the wisdom from above. This wisdom, "first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy" (James 3:17), is contrary to their disposition. They have not the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, with which the believer in Jesus should be adorned. They do not represent the meek and lowly Carpenter of Nazareth. They set aside as of little value that which God has said "is . . . of great price." 1 Peter 3:4.

God has not appointed any man guide, nor made any man conscience for another; therefore let human hands be withheld from restraining His servants who feel the burden to enter His vineyard to labor. Let God work with His own chosen agents by His Holy Spirit. No human being is to sit in judgment upon his brother.

Neither are any to feel that they can handle roughly the precious pearls for which Christ gave His life. The pearl, the precious human pearl, was found by Christ. Let man be warned; be careful how you treat the Lord's "peculiar treasure." Psalm 135:4. All discourtesy, all pain, all neglect, which these souls suffer at your hands, is charged against you as inflicted upon Jesus Christ. They are not to be treated in a lordly, commanding manner.

Laws and rules are being made at the centers of the work that will soon be broken into atoms. Men are not to dictate. It is not for those in places of authority to employ all their powers to sustain some, while others are cast down, ignored, forsaken, and left to perish. But it is the duty of the leaders to lend a helping hand to all who are in need. Let each work in the line which God may indicate to him by His Holy Spirit. The soul is accountable to God alone. Who can say how many avenues of light have been closed by arrangements which the Lord has not advised nor instituted? The Lord does not ask permission of those in responsible positions when He wishes to use certain ones as His

How careful every officer in the Lord's army should be that he does not interpose the commandments and rulings of men between the soldier and his Captain.

Lord's army should be that he does not interpose the commandments and rulings of men between the soldier and his Captain. "Without me," says Christ, "ye can do nothing." John 15:5. If the officers abide not in Christ, they can do nothing. How careful, how humble, should every soul be that is enrolled in the Lord's army; how meek and free from self-sufficiency should all His officers prove themselves to be.

The end of all things is at hand. God is moving upon every mind that is open to receive the impressions of His Holy Spirit. He is sending out messengers that they may give the warning in every locality. God is testing the devotion of His churches and their willingness to render obedience to the Spirit's guidance. Knowledge is to be increased. The messengers of Heaven are to be seen running to and fro, seeking in every possible way to warn the people of the coming judgments, and presenting the glad tidings of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. The standard

into a cold, spiritless formality; they lose their interest in perishing souls: they have left their first love. See Revelation 2:4. And Christ says unto them, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." Verse 5. He will take His Holy Spirit from the church, and give it to others who will appreciate it.

There is no greater evidence that those who have received great light do not appreciate that light, than is given by their refusal to let their light shine upon those who are in darkness, and devoting their time and energies in celebrating forms and ceremonies. Thoughts of the inner work, the necessary purity of heart, are not entertained. The absence of harmony with God becomes apparent. The light grows dim, goes out; the candlestick has been removed. There is much exercising of man-made authority by those to whom God has not given

agents for the promulgation of truth. But He will use whom He will use. He will pass by men who have not followed His counsel, men who feel capable and sufficient to work in their own wisdom; and He will use others who are thought by these supposedly wise ones to be wholly incompetent. Many who have some talent think that they are necessary to the cause of God. Let them beware lest they stretch themselves beyond their measure, and the Lord shall leave them to their own ways, to be filled with their own doings. None are to exercise their human authority to bind minds and souls of their fellow men. They are not to devise and put in practice methods and plans to bring every individual under their jurisdiction.

Those who know the truth are to be worked by the Holy Spirit, and not themselves to try to work the Spirit. If the cords are drawn much tighter, if the rules are made much finer, if men continue to bind their fellow laborers closer and closer to the commandments of men, many will be stirred by the Spirit of God to break every shackle, and assert their liberty in Christ Jesus.

Act Like a Christian

If men would act toward their fellow men as to those whom Christ loves, if they would obey the commandment to "love thy neighbour as thyself" (Matthew 22:39), there would be sweet harmony among the brethren. How much better it would be if those who claim to be Christians would behave like Christians. How much better it would be if all would cease speaking of their own good works and ways, indulging their self-esteem; refrain from the putting forth of the finger, imagining evil, and using their influence to weaken, oppress, and destroy. If men will not come to the terms made by the leading workers, they will not entertain them, they do not care what results may follow their injustice. With them it is rule or ruin. God has not appointed any man to do such work. And no human being shall be permitted to prescribe my liberty or intrench upon the perfect

freedom of my brethren, without hearing my voice lifted in protest against it.

God will move upon men of humble position in society, men who have not become insensible to the bright rays of light through so long contemplating the light of truth, and refusing to make any improvement or advancement therein. Many such will be seen hurrying hither and thither, constrained by the Spirit of God to bring the light to others. The truth, the Word of God, is as a fire in their bones, filling them with a burning desire to enlighten those

perseverance, and courage, many will surmount these obstructions and walk out into the glorious light.

Almost unconsciously barriers have been erected in the strait and narrow way; stones of stumbling have been placed in the path; these will all be rolled away. The safeguards which false shepherds have thrown around their flocks will become as naught; thousands will step out into the light, and work to spread the light. Heavenly intelligences will combine with the human agencies. Thus encouraged, the church will indeed arise and shine,

The Lord does not ask permission of those in responsible positions when He wishes to use certain ones as His agents for the promulgation of truth. But He will use whom He will use.

who sit in darkness. Many, even among the uneducated, now proclaim the words of the Lord. Children are impelled by the Spirit to go forth and declare the message from Heaven. The Spirit is poured out upon all who will yield to its promptings, and, casting off all man's machinery, his binding rules and cautious methods, they will declare the truth with the might of the Spirit's power. Multitudes will receive the faith and join the armies of the Lord.

Many of those who are professedly followers of the Lord at the present time do not submit themselves to the guidance of His Spirit, but try to harness up the Holy Spirit, and drive it in their way. All such must abandon their self-sufficiency, and yield themselves unreservedly to the Lord, that He may work out His good pleasure in and through them.

The seven last plagues are about to descend upon the disobedient. Many have let the gospel invitation go unheeded; they have been tested and tried; but mountainous obstacles have seemed to loom up before their faces, blocking their onward march. Through faith,

throwing all her sanctified energies into the contest; thus the design of God is accomplished; the lost pearls are recovered. Prophets have discerned this grand work afar off, and have caught the inspiration of the hour, and traced the wonderful descriptions of things yet to be.

Our Duty Now

Our people have had great light, and yet much of our ministerial force is exhausted on the churches, in teaching those who should be teachers; enlightening those who should be "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14); watering those from whom should flow springs of living water; enriching those who might be veritable mines of precious truth; repeating the gospel invitation to such as should be scattered to the uttermost parts of the earth communicating the message of Heaven to many who have not had the privileges which they have enjoyed; feeding those who should be in the byways and highways heralding the invitation, "Come; for all things are now ready." Come to the gospel feast; come to the supper of the Lamb; "for all things are now ready." Luke 14:17.

Now is the time for earnest wrestling with God. Our voices should join with the Saviour's in that wonderful prayer: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10. Let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Many may ask, "Who is sufficient for these things?" 2 Corinthians 2:16. The responsibility rests upon every individual. "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God." 2 Corinthians 3:5. The scheme of salvation is not to be worked out under the laws and rules specified by men. There must be no fixed rules; our work is a progressive work, and there must be room left for methods to be improved upon. But under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, unity must and will be preserved.

All the revelations of the past bring added responsibilities upon the workers in these last days. The past, present, and future are linked together. We must learn lessons from the experiences of other ages. If there are any of our brethren who think that they have devised plans by

living a practical, Christian life. We are to be united to one another in the bonds of Christlike love. This is the path marked out for all. By



following in it, without boasting, without self-exaltation, we may satisfy the high claims of God upon us.

If any are inclined to boast of their superior talents, let them bear in mind that these talents are another's, only lent to them for a season, and that if they are not employed in the Lord's work, they will be taken from them. Make no boasts of your extensive knowledge and influence.

agent in the divine similitude. The life that is hid with Christ in God is revealed through men.

We are now living in the closing scenes of this world's history. Let men tremble with the sense of the responsibility of knowing the truth. The ends of the world are come. Proper consideration of these things will lead all to make an entire consecration of all that they have and are to their God. There should be no boasting, no seeking for the highest places; but all should be ambitious to do with fidelity, with an eye single to the glory of God, the sacred work which it is our exalted privilege to engage in.

The eye should not be so constantly looking to man, studying the plans which men devise; but rather seeking for a knowledge of the plans which are determined by the Source of all wisdom. Then there will be no danger of having plans for work contaminated by flowing through impure human channels. Look to God; pray to God; wait and watch and pray to God; work for God.

The weighty obligation of warning a world of its coming doom is upon us. From every direction, far and near, calls are coming to us for help. The church, devotedly consecrated to the work, is to carry the message to the world: Come to the gospel feast; the supper is prepared, come. The weak must not now trust in finite men if they would be as David, and David as the angel of the Lord. If we have ever importuned God, wrestling for His blessing as did Jacob, let it be now. God calls to the church to arise and clothe herself with the garments of Christ's righteousness.

Crowns, immortal crowns, are to be won. The kingdom of heaven is to be gained. A world, perishing in sin, is to be enlightened. The lost pearl is to be found. The lost sheep is to be brought back in safety to the fold. Who will join in the search? Who will bear the light to those who are wandering in the darkness of error? ❀

Review and Herald, July 16, 1895; *ibid.*, July 23, 1895.

Now is the time for earnest wrestling with God. Our voices should join with the Saviour's in that wonderful prayer: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

which they can secure a monopoly of any line of God's work, they are released from all such burdens.

Individually we form a part of the great whole, fulfilling our part in the scenes foreseen long ages ago. In the counsels of God a place was assigned to every person, and each one is to devote his entire ability, his influence, the energy of his whole being, in an earnest endeavor to discharge the responsibility laid upon him. It is the duty of every human intelligence to put into daily practice the instructions of Christ in the seventeenth chapter of John by

The great plan of redemption connects every man with his fellow laborer. The influence of the past helps to mold the work of the present, and that in its turn enables us to lay hold of the work, line after line, upon which we may carry on the future work. All these agencies have a close relation, not only to time, but to the endless ages of the future, reaching into eternity.

Let man now cease to trust in man. While they should respect God's plan for unity of action, let all remember that the Holy Spirit is molding and fashioning the human

Pray for the Latter Rain

Ellen G. White

“Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain.” Zechariah 10:1. “He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain.” Joel 2:23. In the East the former rain falls at the sowing time. It is necessary in order that the seed may germinate. Under the influence of the fertilizing showers, the tender shoot springs up. The latter rain, falling near the close of the season, ripens the grain, and prepares it for the sickle.

The Lord employs these operations of nature to represent the work of the Holy Spirit. As the dew and the rain are given first to cause the seed to germinate, and then to ripen the harvest, so the Holy Spirit is given to carry forward, from one stage to another, the process of spiritual growth. The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the work of God’s grace in the soul. By the power of the Holy Spirit the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character. We are to be wholly transformed into the likeness of Christ.

The latter rain, ripening earth’s harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of Man. But

unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection.

A Heart Work

The work that God has begun in the human heart in giving His light and knowledge, must be continually going forward. Every individual

It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

There is to be “first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.” Mark 4:28. There must be a constant development of Christian virtue, a constant advancement in Christian experience. This we should seek with intensity of desire, that we may adorn the doctrine of Christ our Saviour.

Many have in a great measure failed to receive the former rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by the latter rain. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. They are making a terrible mistake.

must realize his own necessity. The heart must be emptied of every defilement, and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit.

It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now. Then the human agent had only to ask for the blessing, and wait for the Lord to perfect the work concerning him. It is God who began the work, and He will finish His work, making man complete in Jesus Christ. But there must be no neglect of the grace

represented by the former rain. Only those who are living up to the light they have, will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.

At no point in our experience can we dispense with the assistance of that which enables us to make the first start. The blessings received under the former rain are needful to us to the end. Yet these alone will not suffice. While we cherish the blessing of the early rain, we must not, on the other hand, lose sight of the fact that without the latter rain, to fill out

We Must Ask

“Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain.” Do not rest satisfied that in the ordinary course of the season, rain will fall. Ask for it. The growth and perfection of the seed rests not with husbandman. God alone can ripen the harvest. But man’s cooperation is required. God’s work for us demands the action of our mind, the exercise of our faith. We must seek His favors with the whole heart if the showers of grace are to come to us. We should improve every opportunity of placing ourselves in the channel of blessing.

Christ has said, “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst.”

And we must ourselves receive of the living water. Let us, with contrite hearts, pray most earnestly that now, in the time of the latter rain, the showers of grace may fall upon us. At every meeting we attend, our prayers should ascend that at this very time, God will impart warmth and moisture to our souls. As we seek God for the Holy Spirit, it will work in us meekness, humbleness of mind, a conscious dependence upon God for the perfecting latter rain. If we pray for the blessing in faith, we shall receive it as God has promised.

Two Olive Trees

The continual communication of the Holy Spirit to the church is represented by the prophet Zechariah under another figure, which contains a wonderful lesson of encouragement for us. The prophet says: “The angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, and said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: and two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? . . . Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. . . . And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? . . . Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.” Zechariah 4:1-4, 6, 12, 14.

From the two olive trees, the golden oil was emptied through golden pipes into the bowl of the candlestick, and thence into the golden lamps that gave light to the sanctuary. So from the holy ones that stand in God’s presence, His Spirit is imparted to human instru-

As we seek God for the Holy Spirit, it will work in us meekness, humbleness of mind, a conscious dependence upon God for the perfecting latter rain. If we pray for the blessing in faith, we shall receive it as God has promised.

the ears and ripen the grain, the harvest will not be ready for the sickle, and the labor of the sower will have been in vain. Divine grace is needed at the beginning, divine grace at every step of advance, and divine grace alone can complete the work.

There is no place for us to rest in a careless attitude. We must never forget the warnings of Christ, “Watch unto prayer.” 1 Peter 4:7. “Watch and pray always.” See Luke 21:36. A connection with the Divine Agency every moment is essential to our progress. We may have had a measure of the Spirit of God, but by prayer and faith we are continually to seek more of the Spirit. It will never do to cease our efforts. If we do not progress, if we do not place ourselves in an attitude to receive both the former and the latter rain, we shall lose our souls, and the responsibility will lie at our own door.

Matthew 18:20. The convocations of the church, as in camp meetings, the assemblies of the home church, and all occasions where there is personal labor for souls, are God’s appointed opportunities for giving the early and the latter rain.

But let none think that in attending these gatherings, their duty is done. A mere attendance upon all the meetings that are held will not in itself bring a blessing to the soul. It is not an immutable law that all who attend general gatherings or local meetings shall receive large supplies from Heaven. The circumstances may seem to be favorable for a rich outpouring of the showers of grace. But God Himself must command the rain to fall. Therefore we should not be remiss in supplication. We are not to trust to the ordinary working of Providence. We must pray that God will unseal the fountain of the water of life.

mentalities that are consecrated to His service. The mission of the two anointed ones is to communicate light and power to God's people. It is to receive blessing for us that they stand in God's presence. As the olive trees empty themselves into the golden pipes, so the heavenly messengers seek to communicate all that they receive from God. The whole heavenly treasure awaits our demand and reception; and as we receive the blessing, we in our turn are to impart it. Thus it is that the holy lamps are fed, and the church becomes a light bearer in the world.

Receive to Share

This is the work that the Lord would have every soul prepared to do at this time, when the four angels are holding the four winds, that they shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. There is no time now for self-pleasing. The lamps of the soul must be trimmed. They must be supplied with the oil of grace. Every precaution must be taken to prevent spiritual declension, lest the great day of the Lord overtake us as a thief in the night.

Every witness for God is now to work intelligently in the lines which God has appointed. We should daily obtain a deep and living experience in the work of perfecting Christian character. We should daily receive the holy oil that we may impart to others. All may be light bearers to the world if they will. We are to sink self out of sight in Jesus. We are to receive the Word of the

Lord in counsel and instruction, and gladly communicate it. There is now need of much prayer. Christ commands, "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17); that is, keep the mind uplifted to God, the Source of all power and efficiency.

We may have long followed the narrow path, but it is not safe to take this as proof that we shall follow it to the end. If we have walked with God in fellowship of the Spirit, it is because we have sought Him daily by faith. From the two olive trees, the golden oil flowing through the golden pipes has been communicated to us. But those who do not cultivate the spirit and habit of prayer cannot expect to receive the golden oil of goodness, patience, long-suffering, gentleness, love.

The dispensation in which we are now living is to be, to those that ask, the dispensation of the Holy Spirit. Ask for His blessing. It is time we were more intense in our devotion. To us is committed the arduous, but happy, glorious work of revealing Christ to those who are in darkness. We are called to proclaim the special truths for this time. For all this the outpouring of the Spirit is essential. We should pray for it. The Lord expects us to ask Him. We have not been wholehearted in this work.

What can I say to my brethren in the name of the Lord? What proportion of our efforts has been made in accordance with the light the Lord has been pleased to give? We cannot depend upon form or external

Those who do not cultivate the spirit and habit of prayer cannot expect to receive the golden oil of goodness, patience, long-suffering, gentleness, love.

Everyone is to keep himself separate from the world, which is full of iniquity. We are not to walk with God for a time, and then part from His company, and walk in the sparks of our own kindling. There must be a firm continuance, a perseverance in acts of faith. We are to praise God, to show forth His glory in a righteous character. No one of us will gain the victory without persevering, untiring effort, proportionate to the value of the object which we seek, even eternal life.

machinery. What we need is the quickening influence of the Holy Spirit of God. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." Pray without ceasing, and watch by working in accordance with your prayers. As you pray, believe, trust in God. It is the time of the latter rain, when the Lord will give largely of His Spirit. Be fervent in prayer, and watch in the Spirit. ✨

Review and Herald, March 2, 1897.

The Spirit of Prophecy Library



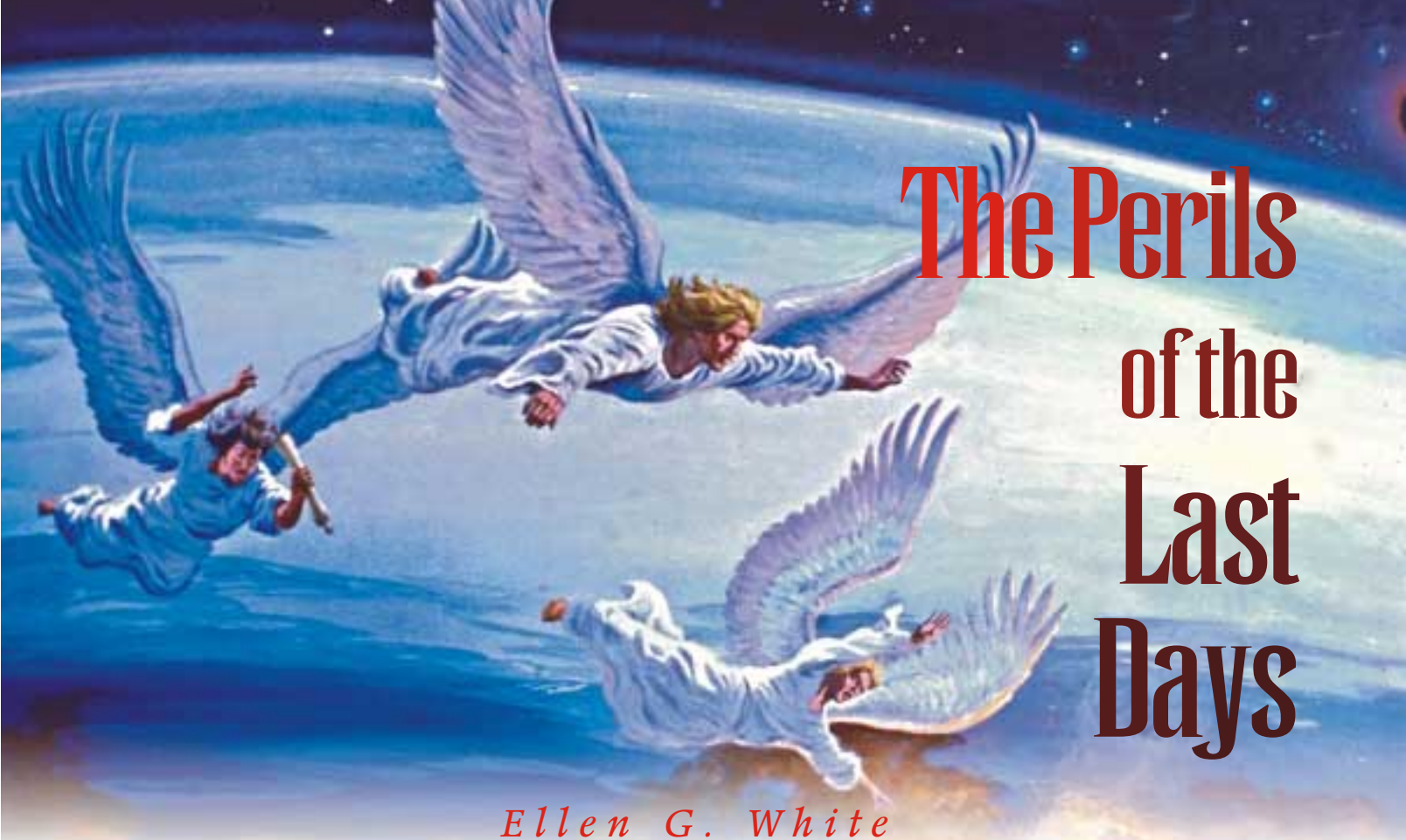
Now is the time to have the Spirit of Prophecy at your fingertips. This hardcover three-volume set contains 52 of the "little red books." A "must have" for the serious Bible student. Inspired counsel for those awaiting the second coming of Jesus.

Regular Catalog Price \$149.95

**SALE PRICE UNTIL
JULY 31st - \$129⁹⁵**

Catalog # **BEWE-SPL3-1**

See page 3 for shipping and sales-tax information.



The Perils of the Last Days

Ellen G. White

“As it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.” Luke 17:26-30.

Christ sees the wickedness on the earth today. He sees that the sins of Noah’s and Lot’s time are being repeated. What terrible revelations of crime are being made! Everything seems to be stirred with an intense activity from beneath. Excitement is continually kept up. Feasting, buying, and selling, are brought into the churches. The watchman cries, “The morning cometh, and also the night.” Isaiah 21:12. The night symbolizes prevalence of error,

misinterpretation and misapplication of Scripture. Every species of delusion is now being brought in. The plainest truths of God’s Word are covered with a mass of man-made theories. Deadly errors are presented as the truth to which all must bow. The simplicity of true godliness is buried beneath tradition.

The Immortality of the Soul

The doctrine of the natural immortality of the soul is one error with which the enemy is deceiving man. This error is well-nigh universal. But who told men that they would not die? Who told them that God has reserved a portion of His universe where the wicked are to suffer through the ceaseless ages of eternity, without a particle of hope?—It was the serpent. God said that sinners would die. Satan declares that they will not die. Many believe the oft-repeated lies of the serpent to be genuine truth. They echo his words when they assert that God has ordained that sin shall be immortalized in a place of torment.

This is one of the lies forged in the synagogue of the enemy, one of the poisonous drafts of Babylon. “All nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” Revelation 18:3-4.

Sunday Sacredness

Another false doctrine is that the first day of the week is the Sabbath of the Lord. By traditions received from the Roman Catholic Church, the fourth commandment of the Decalogue is made of none effect. By their acceptance of a spurious sabbath, men have dishonored God, and have honored the usurper, who thought to change times and laws. Many dangerous errors have been brought in to get rid of the true Sabbath. Men have taken the side of the great rebel, and rather than

accept the Word of God just as it reads, have placed themselves in a net of heresy. Satan is bringing the churches and the world into corrupt harmony upon this point.

Night, dark and portentous, is enclosing the Christian world. Apostasy from God's commandments is evidence of this night—deep, dark, and apparently impenetrable. Systems that make the truth of God of none effect are cherished. Men are teaching for doctrine the commandments of men, and their assertions are taken as truth. The people have received man-made theories. So the gospel is perverted and the Scripture misapplied. As in the days of Christ, the light of truth is pushed into the background. Men's theories and suppositions are honored before the Word of the Lord of Hosts. The truth is counteracted by error. The Word of God is wrested, divided, and distorted by higher criticism. Jesus is acknowledged, only to be betrayed by a kiss. Apostasy exists, and will enclose the world till the last. Its hideous character and darkening influence will be seen in the maddening drafts dealt out from Babylon.

But before the Lord punishes men for their iniquity, He sends them messages of warning. Before He visits them with His judgments, He gives them a chance to repent. He remembered the sins of the Noachian world, but He did not punish them without warning them. For one hundred and twenty years this warning was sounding in their ears; but they did not repent. The last year of their probation found them more stubborn and defiant than ever. "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. . . . And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth." Genesis 6:5, 12-13. The inhabitants of Sodom, also,

perished by fire, which was rained upon them from Heaven, because they turned from God, and corrupting themselves, filled the earth with their polluted wisdom.

Had these men placed themselves under the control of the Spirit of God, had they cooperated with the heavenly intelligences, what a world of beauty and happiness we would now look upon! Had these long-lived, mentally strong men been vitalized by the Holy Spirit, they would have been a power for God.

Man can be exalted only by laying hold of the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour. The finest intellect, the most exalted position, will not secure heaven. Satan had the highest education that could be obtained. This education he received under the greatest of all teachers. When men talk of higher criticism, when they

there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." 2 Peter 2:1-2. The leaven of false doctrine will be accepted in preference to the truth. "Beware," writes Paul, "lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Colossians 2:8.

Who Is Your Leader?

Under whose banner are we standing? Where are we? and what is Christ to us? By our course of action we decide our own destiny. By the society we choose,

Before the Lord punishes men for their iniquity, He sends them messages of warning. Before He visits them with His judgments, He gives them a chance to repent.

pass their judgment upon the Word of God, call their attention to the fact that they have forgotten who was the first and wisest critic. He has had thousands of years of practical experience. He it is who teaches the so-called higher critics of the world today. God will punish all those who, as higher critics, exalt themselves, and criticize God's Holy Word.

The world's Redeemer warned His disciples against the false teaching which was and would continue to be the greatest obstacle to the progress of the truth. "There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets," He said, "and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before." Matthew 24:24-25. And Peter writes: "There were false prophets also among the people, even as

we determine what influences shall mold our character. If we choose the world, earthly influences make their imprint upon our minds, and though we may not realize it, we sink lower and lower; for if we do not grow in grace, we must deteriorate.

It makes every difference with the future eternal well-being of men whether they follow God's way or their own way. Their way may be entirely wrong. Are there many paths to heaven? If so, man may take any path that suits his fancy. But there is only one true way. Christ said to His disciples: "Whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:4-6.

The Lord will uplift us if we will consent to be uplifted. He who recognizes God in Christ, who receives Christ as the world's Redeemer and his personal Saviour, enters in at the door. He does not climb up some other way. Of all such it is written, "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." John 1:12. The truth, the light, the life, shining into our hearts, sanctifies and elevates us. What greater elevation can earth present? What greater honor can earthly potentates bestow? Man is taken from his degradation, cleansed from moral defilement, and made an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ. His life is hid with Christ in God, and when He who is life shall appear, he also will appear with Him in glory. This glory will be revealed at the second appearing of Christ. Then the saints will be exalted indeed. They will sit with

Christ on His throne, and with Christ they will judge the world.

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand." Romans 13:12. The end is near. Soon the Lord will come, with ten thousand of His saints (see Jude 1:14); and Satan's system, which has destroyed so many that Christ came to save, will be broken up. Despotism is now seeking to obtain a foothold in every clime, but its day will soon be ended. "For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. . . . Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her." Revelation 18:5, 8.

Satan is in controversy with Christ, and with all who follow in His footsteps. This conflict will continue until the voice is heard, saying, "It is done." Revelation 21:6. "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is right-

eous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. 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 22:11-14.

"The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. . . . Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:10, 17-18. ✠

Review and Herald, March 16, 1897

Final Conflict

Between Truth & Error



This book contains a selection of 18 chapters from *The Great Controversy*. It is perfect for handing out to a lost world! Beautiful full-color cover with an eye-catching design. It illuminates the final problems of the crisis soon to break upon an unsuspecting world!

Final Conflict
White, Ellen G.
Paperback

Price: \$1.50 each
Catalog # **BEWE-FCON-1**

Regular Price: \$65.00 per case

Sale Price: \$45.00 per case (65 books per case)
Catalog # **BEWE-FCON-65**



Sale ends July 31.

See page 3 for shipping and sales-tax information.

Ecumenism and Politics

News Item: Pat Robertson's "political activism spawned a revolutionary ecumenical bond between Catholics and evangelical Protestants over political issues that now have become central to both major parties. . . .

"In a brilliant stroke, Robertson took advantage of the political commonality that was growing among Evangelicals and Catholics and turned political incentives into an ecumenical revival. As [Ralph] Reed notes, 'After centuries of distrust and theological disagreements, Catholics and Protestants are beginning to reflect on what unites them rather than what divides them.'

"He emphasized the specific values that united them: abortion, school prayer, vouchers, direct government funding of faith-based organizations, and abolishing the marriage and death tax penalties. These values formed a platform for what has become one of the most potent political forces in America's history."

At the time of the Republican National Convention in August of 2000, Pat Robertson lashed out at the Supreme Court, saying that we should "throw off the shackles of this dictatorship that's been imposed on us" and that Republicans must elect a "righteous president" so that "righteous judges will be appointed."

The morning after Bush's acceptance speech as the Republican nominee, Ralph Reed had organized a prayer breakfast for Bush and Cheney. The keynote speaker was Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua. In his address, Bevilacqua blasted out against the principle of separation of church and state, while Bush and Cheney said nothing.

Every day Protestants and Catholics draw closer in finding commonality. "A survey conducted by the Catholic Campaign for America in 1995 found that Ameri-

can Catholics not only shared the pro-life platform with Evangelicals, but with them also favored school prayer, voucher initiatives, and government funding of faith-based institutions. . . .

"Jerry Falwell estimated that nearly one-fourth of the Moral Majority's members were Roman Catholics." *Gleaner*, January 2001, 7-9.

Prophetic Perspective: While Protestants and Catholics draw ever closer together, ecumenism itself is blending with nationalism. The result will be "civil religion." When religious faith is meshed with civil law, idols are born. The National Sunday Law will be the "civil religious" idol in the last days. Once the idol is erected, religion and patriotism will be confused. It is this kind of confusion that Satan himself is now creating in this country.

There will very soon be a confused religious zeal fueled by a confused sense of national patriotism. Hence, when the economy collapses, the desire to return to temporal prosperity will be linked with Sunday observance. At such a time, religious powers will so control the civil power, that the authority of the state will "be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends." *The Great Controversy*, 443.

Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington

News Item: "Seven cardinals and President Bush presided over the March 22 ceremony and ribbon-cutting that marked the grand opening of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington." *Catholic News Service*.

At a reception the evening before, President Bush stated, "All of you [Bishops and Cardinals] are part of the 'great commission' and the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, which we will dedicate tomorrow, will bring this message to generations of Americans in this capital of our nation. The best way

to honor Pope John Paul II, truly one of the great men, is to take his teaching seriously; is to listen to his words and put his words and teachings into action here in America. This is a challenge we must accept." *The White House News*.

Prophetic Perspective: Not long ago, in 1998, John Paul II presented his famous "Dies Domini," in which he made his appeal for Sunday sacredness. Will President Bush seriously consider those words of Pope John Paul II?

"The Word of God plainly declares that His law is to be scorned, trampled upon, by the world. . . . The professed Protestant world will form a confederacy with the man of sin, and the church and the world will be in corrupt harmony.

"Here the great crisis is coming upon the world. The Scriptures teach that popery is to regain its lost supremacy, and that the fires of persecution will be rekindled through the time-serving concessions of the so-called Protestant world. In this time of peril we can stand only as we have the truth and the power of God." *Selected Messages*, book 2, 367-368.

We need to keep our eyes open to the steady trend of events now taking place in the fulfillment of prophecy.

Columbine and Church/State Issues

News Item: "April 20 marks the two-year anniversary of the massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado." "Since the infamous massacre, America has been rethinking the role of religion in the public square." *Christianity Today*, April 2, 2001, 55.

"The First Amendment's Establishment Clause—'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof'—is at the root of the church-state dilemma. Those who

contend that religious expression in tax-supported places violates the Constitution base their argument on the first half of this provision. Those who assert that religious expression in such venues is constitutionally protected make their point using the second half.

"This debate has been made more acute by what happened at Columbine High School. Jeffrey Rosen argues in a *New York Times Magazine* essay ('Is Nothing Secular?' Jan. 30, 2000) that the 'strict separationism' that dominated the nation's courts from the early 1970s to the late 1980s found its defining moment in 1971, when the Supreme Court heard *Lemon v. Kurtzman*. Leo Pfeffer, chief lawyer for the American Jewish Congress's Commission on Law and Social Action, successfully argued that it was unconstitutional for 'public funds to be channeled to faith-based schools and charities.' For nearly two decades after the decision, religious symbols or expressions were strictly forbidden in public places on the same principle.

"By the late 1980s, however, things had begun to change. The so-called culture wars had politicized the values debate, creating more pronounced divisions between conservatives and liberals. Explicit lines were drawn in the sand, as 'pro-life' and 'prochoice' forces squared off. The moral fabric of the culture was fraying, and this brought together religious groups that had been alienated from one another, namely Protestants and Catholics." *Ibid.*, 57.

Prophetic Perspective: The pendulum has been swinging from no religious symbols in public buildings to tax support for faith-based institutions. The Columbine massacre has raised two essential questions: First, Do we need God back in the public schools? And second, How does a nation heal itself of senseless violence and gross immorality without introducing legislation in a higher law, namely, the Ten Commandments?

As our old world waxes worse and worse, and immorality and violence seem out of control, religious leaders and lawmakers increasingly consider religious solutions through the state. Some argue that the Columbine shooting would never have happened if the Ten Commandments had been posted in the school. But posting the Ten Commandments in public schools will accomplish nothing if the Ten Commandments are not lived out in the home and in the local church.

From now on we will hear more and more about religious solutions through the state. However, civil religion will not change the sinful human heart. Only the everlasting gospel can solve the social and cultural ills of our day.

Evangelicals Promote Catholicism

News Item: "A Catholic journalist (*12/00 First Things*) says Charles Colson and Billy Graham pay more attention to the writings of [Pope John Paul II] and take them to heart more readily than do some dissenting Catholic priests and theologians. He says 'Pat Robertson for a time was sending copies of the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** as a gift to friends, while some Catholics view the **Catechism** as oppressive and authoritarian. It could even be argued that Campus Crusade and Prison Fellowship have done more to advance the Church of Mary than entire theology departments of some Catholic universities.'" *The Christian News*, March 19, 2001, 3.

Prophetic Perspective: One hundred years ago, mainline popular preachers were not endorsing the views of the pope. Instead, they were warning their congregations of the papal threat. Even fifty years ago there was still an animosity between Catholics and Protestants. However, as predicted, Protestants and Catholics have

joined forces. And, furthermore, it was prophesied that Protestants would do the most to reach across the gulf to shake hands with the Catholic power.

Queen Elizabeth and Pluralism

News Item: "In her annual Christmas message last year, Queen Elizabeth II spoke of her Christian faith, saying, 'For me the teachings of Christ, and my own personal accountability before God, provide a framework in which I try to live my life.' Sadly, though, the Queen did not stop there. She went on to say that 'the Bible, the Koran and the sacred texts of Jews and Hindus, Buddhists, and Sikhs are all sources of divine inspiration.'" *The Christian News*, March 12, 2001.

Prophetic Perspective: Pluralism teaches that everyone is basically right. Yet in this pluralistic age—the era of gray areas—Sabbathkeepers will not be tolerated. This intolerance to God's commandment-keeping people will be in direct contradiction to pluralism's profession. Therefore, pluralism cannot be equated with tolerance. It is best equated with the lack of conviction.

Anyone who teaches that it does not matter what music you listen to, has no conviction about music and spirituality. Anyone who teaches that any gospel is just fine, has no conviction about the everlasting gospel. Anyone who teaches that we can periodically go out and eat in restaurants on Sabbath, has no conviction about Sabbathkeeping. What the world needs is a people of conviction—a people who are as true to principle as the needle is to the pole. But in the end, the overpowering forces of spiritualism to deceive, the impact of hard times, and the influence of coercive religious and civil leaders, will lead the masses of the world to array themselves against the people of God. So much for "pluralistic tolerance." ✠



Have a news item of interest?

contact newswatch@hopeint.org

To mail or fax us a copy, see page 3

Why the Lord Waits



Ellen G. White

The blessing of God cannot come upon those who are idlers in His vineyard. Professed Christians who do nothing, neutralize the efforts of real workers by their influence and example. They make the grand and important truths they profess to believe appear inconsistent, and cause them to have no effect. They misrepresent the character of Christ. How can God let the showers of His grace come upon the churches that are largely composed of this kind of members? They are of no manner of use in the work of God. How can the Master say to such, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant . . . enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:21), when they have been neither good nor faithful? God cannot speak a falsehood.

The power of the grace of God cannot be given in large measure to the churches. It would dishonor His own glorious character to let streams of grace come upon the people who will not wear the yoke of Christ, who will not bear His burdens, who will not deny self, who will not lift

the cross of Christ. Because of their slothfulness they are a hindrance to those who would move out in the work if they did not block up the way.

Selfishness Reproved

God calls not for an empty charity that is but a name, but for liberal, open-handed charity. The liberality of God demands that His people render to Him His own in tithes and gifts and offerings. There are many who possess an empty benevolence, who make no retrenchments, practice no self-denial or self-sacrifice. They leave that for someone else to do; but God calls for men who, through faith and prayer, will give themselves to the work; who will study, who will plan, and unite with their plans, self-denial and self-sacrifice. This is the only kind of liberality that is after the order of Christ, and which will redound to the honor and glory of God. Until this benevolence is brought into active exercise, God's blessing cannot come upon His people in its fullness and power.

Every truly converted soul will be intensely desirous to bring others from the darkness of error into the marvelous light of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be laborers together with God. When we have entire, whole-hearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God.

God cannot pour out His Spirit when selfishness and self-indulgence are so manifest; when a spirit prevails that, if put into words, would express that answer of Cain—"Am I my brother's keeper?" Genesis 4:9. If the truth for this time, if the signs that are thickening on every hand, that testify that the end of all things is at hand, are not sufficient to arouse the sleeping energy of those who profess to know

the truth, then darkness proportionate to the light which has been shining will overtake these souls. There is not the semblance of an excuse for their indifference that they will be able to present to God in the great day of final reckoning. There will be no reason to offer as to why they did not live and walk and work in the light of the sacred truth of the Word of God, and thus reveal to a sin-darkened world, through their conduct, their sympathy, and their zeal, that the power and reality of the gospel could not be controverted.

corresponding works, He gave His most scathing rebukes. To the Pharisees He said, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." Matthew 23:23. The mercy and love of God will flow forth from the lips of those in whose hearts abide the mercy and love of God. "Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty

Philippians 2:13. There should be thousands fully awake and in earnest in the work of God, who should be bright and shining lights. There should be thousands who know the time in which we are living, and who wait not to be urged, but who are constrained by the power of God to diffuse light, to open to others the truth that is so distinctly revealed in the Word of God.

Time Is Running Out

There is no time to lose. Men and women should be ministering in unenlightened communities in regions beyond. After they have awakened an interest, they should find the living preacher who is skillful in the presentation of the truth, and qualified to instruct families in the Word of God. Women who have the cause of God at heart can do a good work in the districts in which they reside. Christ speaks of women who helped Him in presenting the truth before others, and Paul also speaks of women who labored with him in the gospel. But how very limited is the work done by those who could do a large work if they would! There are families that have means which they could use for God's glory in going to distant lands to let their light shine forth in good works to those who need help. Why do not men and women engage in the missionary work, following the example of Christ?

But we can say nothing more than to repeat what has been said. Instruction has been given, but how few have acted upon it! How few have been sufficiently interested to go without the camp bearing the reproach of Christ! God calls for personal effort from those that know the truth. He calls for Christian families to go into communities that are in darkness and error, to go into foreign fields, to become acquainted with a new class of society, and to work wisely and perseveringly for the cause of the Master. To answer this call, self-sacrifice must be experienced.

If those who have had great light will not respond to the invitation to become laborers with God, then God will take and use those who have had far less light and much fewer opportunities.

It is not the ministers alone, but the laymen, who are not contributing all that they can to persuade men, by precept and example, to accept the saving grace of Christ. With skill and tact, with wisdom received from above, they should persuade men to behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world. See John 1:29. When the hearts of the believers are warm with the love for God, they will do a continual work for Jesus. They will manifest the meekness of Christ, and display a steadfast purpose that will not fail nor be discouraged. God will use humble men to do His work; for there is a large vineyard calling for laborers. "Why stand ye here all the day idle?" Matthew 20:6.

Held Responsible for Light Received

Christ pronounced a woe upon the cities and the people who had been favored with His labors, who had witnessed His gracious works, and listened to His gracious words, and had failed to repent. To those who made a great profession of godliness while failing to bring forth

works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee." Matthew 11:20-24.

If those who have had great light will not respond to the invitation to become laborers with God, then God will take and use those who have had far less light and much fewer opportunities. Those who will work out their own salvation with fear and trembling will realize that it is God that worketh in them, to will and to do of His own pleasure. See

While many are waiting to have every obstacle removed, souls are dying without hope and without God in the world. Many, very many, for the sake of worldly advantage, for the sake of acquiring knowledge of the sciences, will venture into pestilential regions, and will go into countries where they think they can obtain commercial advantage; but where are the men and women who will change their location, and move their families into regions that are in need of the light of the truth, in order that their example may tell upon those who shall see in them the representatives of Christ?

The Macedonian cry is coming from every quarter of the world, and men are saying, "Come over . . . and help us" (Acts 16:9), and why is there not a decided response? Thousands ought to be constrained by the Spirit of Christ to follow the example of Him who has given His life for the life of the world. Why decline to make decided, self-denying efforts, in order to instruct those who know not the truth for this time? The chief Missionary came to our world, and He has gone before us to show us the way in which we should work.

No one can mark out a precise line for those who would be witnesses for Christ. Those who have means are doubly responsible; for this means has been entrusted to them of God, and they are to feel their accountability to forward the work of God in its various branches. The fact that the truth binds souls by its golden links to the throne of God, should inspire men to work with all their God-given energy, to trade upon their Lord's goods in regions beyond, disseminating the knowledge of Christ far hence among the Gentiles.

Many to whom God has entrusted means with which to bless humanity, have let it prove a snare to them, instead of letting it prove a blessing to themselves and others. Can it be that the property that God has given you shall be permitted to become a stumbling block? Will you let His entrusted means, which has

been given you to trade upon, bind you away from the work of God? Will you allow the trust which God has reposed in you as His faithful steward, serve to lessen your influence and usefulness, by keeping you from being laborers together with God? Will you permit yourself to be detained at home, in order to

and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." James 3:17-18.

What can the universe of heaven think of those who profess to believe that Jesus Christ is the world's only hope of salvation, when they do so little to make Him known to those

Will you be content to enjoy the comforts of your home, and not try to tell perishing souls how they may obtain the mansions Christ has gone to prepare for those who love Him?

hold together the means which God has entrusted to you to put into the bank of heaven? You cannot plead that there is nothing to do; for there is everything to do. Will you be content to enjoy the comforts of your home, and not try to tell perishing souls how they may obtain the mansions Christ has gone to prepare for those who love Him? Will you not sacrifice your possessions, in order that others may obtain an immortal inheritance?

What are the principles of the law of God? "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and . . . thy neighbour as thyself." Matthew 22:37-39. Every soul that obeys the first four commandments, will obey the last six commandments, and make manifest what is the duty of man to his fellow men. He will manifest tender, pitying love toward everyone for whom Christ has died. He will consecrate himself to be a missionary, to be a laborer together with God. All who have the Spirit of Christ are missionaries; for they derive zeal and energy from the chief Missionary. They will have the wisdom that comes from God, which is neither a blind impetuosity nor a cold, calculating Phariseeism, but springs from trust in God. "The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality,

who are in the darkness of error? In the great day when every case is decided for eternity, how enormous will seem the guilt of those who have failed to warn their associates in probationary time of the doom that awaits those who neglect so great salvation. What a revelation will then be made of what professed Christians might have done, and did not do! How many souls will they see that might have been saved through their instrumentality had they been laborers together with God!

Many who profess to love God seem to be enclosed in an icy atmosphere, and the love of Christ has never melted their souls. The Lord Jesus says, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the LORD of hosts." Malachi 3:10-12. ❀

Review and Herald, July 21, 1896.



The Obedient Approved of God

Ellen G. White

“**T**o him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.” Revelation 2:7. “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 22:14.

Let the solemn question come home to everyone who is a member of our churches, How am I standing before God as a professed follower of Christ? Is my light shining forth to the world in clear, steady rays? Have we as a people who have taken vows of dedication to God, preserved our union with the Source of all light? Are not the symptoms of declension and decay painfully visible among the Christian churches of today?

Spiritual death has come upon many who should be examples of zeal, purity, and consecration. Their practices speak more loudly than their professions, and witness to the fact that some power has cut the cable that anchored them to the eternal Rock, and they are drifting without chart or compass.

The True Witness desires to remedy the perilous condition in which His professed people are placed, and He says: “I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.” Revelation 2:4–5.

Christ will cease to take the names of those who fail to turn to Him and do their first works, and will no longer make intercession for them before the Father. He says, “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” Revelation 3:15–17. Yet the case of those who are rebuked is not a hopeless one; it is not beyond the power of the great Mediator. He says: “I counsel thee to buy of me

gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.” Verse 18.

Though the professed followers of Christ are in a deplorable condition, they are not yet in so desperate a strait as were the foolish virgins whose lamps were going out, and there was no time in which to replenish their vessels with oil. When the bridegroom came, those that were ready went in with him to the wedding; but when the foolish virgins came, the door was shut, and they were too late to obtain an entrance. See Matthew 25:1–12.

Lukewarm, But Not Hopeless

But the counsel of the True Witness does not represent those who are lukewarm as in a hopeless case. There is yet a chance to remedy their state, and the Laodicean message is full of encouragement; for the backslidden church may yet buy the gold of faith and love, may yet have the white robe of the righteousness of Christ, that the shame of

their nakedness need not appear. Purity of heart, purity of motive, may yet characterize those who are half-hearted and who are striving to serve God and Mammon. They may yet wash their robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. See Revelation 7:13-14.

Today the question is to come home to every heart, Do you believe in the Son of God? The question is not, Do you admit that Jesus is the Redeemer of the world? and that you should repeat to your soul and to others, "Believe, believe, all you have to do is to believe"; but, Do you have practical faith in the Son of God, so that you bring Him into your life and character until you are one with Him?

Many accept of the theory of Christ, but they make it manifest by their works that they do not know Him as the Saviour who died for the sins of men, who bore the penalty of their transgression, in order that they might be brought back to their loyalty to God, and through the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour, might find acceptance with God in their obedience to His law. Christ died to make it possible for you to cease to sin, and sin is the transgression of the law.

Jesus counsels you to have your eyes anointed with spiritual eye salve, in order that you may discern the fact that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked, that you may exercise repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. See Revelation 3:17-18.

The plan of salvation is not half discerned. It is made altogether too cheap a thing, and men do not take in the fact of how great an act of condescension it is on the part of Omnipotence to stoop to unite the Divine with the human, to impart the Holy Spirit to the repenting transgressor of His holy law. God became man, clothing His Divinity with humanity, and thus humanity has been elevated in the scale of moral value with God. But how great was the condescension of the Father and the Son to consent to the

working out of the plan of salvation to save the transgressors of Heaven's exalted law!

How great is the spiritual blindness of men who declare that this great condescension on the part of God in giving His only begotten Son, was to abolish the law of God, and to make its precepts of no effect. Calvary is the unanswerable argument for the immutability of the law of God; for could one of its precepts have been altered to meet man in his fallen condition, the Son of God need not have suffered death for a guilty race. The professed Christian world is indeed in need of eye salve, that they may see. Like

and yet they presume to take the name of Jesus upon their lips, and talk of being saved by His grace. Such teaching tends to enfeeble the moral tone of the church, and true godliness is banished while a miserable, heartless, outward form of godliness remains. Such come under the rebuke of Christ when He says, "I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. . . . Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Verses 15-17.

Many accept of the theory of Christ, but they make it manifest by their works that they do not know Him as the Saviour who died for the sins of men.

David they should pray, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." Psalm 119:18.

Wherever there has been a departure from God, there must be a returning to Him, and a doing of the first works. Jesus says, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." Revelation 3:19. In order to repent, it is necessary to examine the life and character by the great standard of righteousness, that the peculiar sins which have dishonored God and have been an offense to Him, may be discovered. That which has quenched the first love must be forsaken, whether it has been pride, sensuality, or the turning of the grace of God into lasciviousness.

An Empty Profession

Those who make a profession of being Christians, that is, Christlike, and who yet live a life of sin, cast dishonor upon the truth of God. Many of this class trample upon the law of God, and teach others that its precepts are not binding,

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20. Paul asks, "Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" (Romans 6:1), and answers, "God forbid." Verse 2. Again he asks, "Do we then make void the law through faith?" and answers, "God forbid: yea, we establish the law." Romans 3:31. God's will is expressed in His holy law, and Jesus says, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 7:21.

The law of God is the standard by which character is to be measured, and he whose life is in harmony with that law is worthy to be trusted, but of what value is the testimony of a man whose life and teaching contradict the law of Jehovah? He then measures himself by his own finite standard, and may claim for himself as much as does the pope of Rome; but in the light of the detector of sin, his character may

be wholly wanting. He may claim great spiritual riches, and think that he is in need of nothing, and may boast of the grace of Christ, but at the same time may have turned that precious grace into lasciviousness. This spurious character of religion is on the increase, and many whose hearts are carnal prate of the grace of Christ, while at the same time they openly blaspheme the name of the God of heaven by casting contempt upon the law of God, which rebukes their inconsistent course and detects their unchristlike character.

It is not the grace of Christ that makes void the law of God. Christ declared, "I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." John 15:10. To those who are making void the commandments of



1 John 2:3-5. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned [transgressed the law], we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My

might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:4-8), not the royal law that points out what is sin. "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God." Verse 10. "He that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us." Verse 24. "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world [overcomers do not unite with the world in transgression of the law of God]: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:2-4.

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." Revelation 3:21. These are the words of our Substitute and Surety, the divine Head of the Church, Himself the mightiest of conquerors. He points His disciples to His own life, to the tests He bore, to His self-denials and struggles and sufferings, and marks out the path of obedience for their feet through ridicule, contempt, scorn, mockery, rejection, and shameful death. Suffering and humiliation He bore in order to prove obedient to the law of God, to magnify the law and make it honorable; and He lays down the conditions that must be met by those who would inherit eternal life.

Victory can come alone through faith and obedience, through following in His footsteps. The work of overcoming is not confined to the martyrs. We, too, are to engage in the conflict in these days of subtle temptation to worldliness, to self-confidence, pride, covetousness, and immorality; and to the overcomers will be given a crown of life and glory. ✠

Review and Herald, August 28, 1894.

Christ's white robe of righteousness will never cover any soul that is found in sin unrepented of and unforsaken.

God, the True Witness says, "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear." Revelation 3:18. Christ's white robe of righteousness will never cover any soul that is found in sin unrepented of and unforsaken. "Sin is the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:4. Therefore those who are trampling upon the law of God, and teaching others to disregard its precepts, will not be clothed with the righteousness of Christ. Jesus came not to save people *in* their sins, but *from* their sins.

"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him."

little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 1:8-10; 2:1.

Our Advocate

We need an advocate with the Father, because it is the Father's law which we have broken, and we need to repent of our transgression, and return to our allegiance to God.

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he



Reverence, Respect, and Gratitude

“**R**everence . . . is a grace that should be carefully cherished. Every child should be taught to show true reverence for God.”
Child Guidance, 99.

Reverence is respectfully honoring and submitting, not only to the parent, but also to the will of God. Let us look at some ways that we can cultivate this vital character trait in our children.

A Quiet Home Atmosphere

One of the greatest ways we can cultivate reverence is to have an atmosphere of quietness in the home. Here is some interesting counsel: “Teach your children that they must be subordinate to [your] law. Do not allow them to think that because they are children, it is their privilege to make all the noise they wish in the house.” *Ibid.*, 97.

If you have known children from a home where there is much noise, confusion, and loud talking, you have probably noticed that it is very difficult to train those children to be reverent and respectful. If we want our children to be reverent and respectful, then we need to create an environment that encourages that very trait.

Our children can still be joyous and enthusiastic, but they should not be allowed to run wildly through the house, screaming and laughing boisterously, because it creates a nerve agitation that wears away the spiritual disposition of the child—and even of the parent.

Do Not Allow Laxness

In the same chapter in *Child Guidance*, we have been told that laxness in parental discipline encourages disrespect. The sin of disrespect lies at our own door if we are indulging our children by

passing over their disrespect, disobedience, or unthankfulness. We have found that children who have little responsibility in the home and an overabundance of free time, naturally become more disrespectful and less reverent.

Teach Respect in Speech

If we desire our children to be respectful, we must teach them by example. We should always speak to them in a respectful way and teach them to answer back respectfully.

Never allow your child to speak one disrespectful word to you. Does this training come automatically?—No, it requires perseverance and patience.

For example, perhaps you are working on a homeschool lesson with your child. His temper is sparked, and he says, “Mother, I did it right; this book is wrong. There is a problem.” He begins to go on and on in a disrespectful way. It is vital at this point to be conscious of our need of, and connection to, the living power of Christ. When we recognize that something is going wrong with our child, the solution is staying in Christ and reestablishing his surrender to Him. Human methods fail when undirected and unempowered by Him. Now we need to stop the child from speaking with the wrong attitude and talk about why it is wrong. Then we should have our child restate what he wanted to say in a respectful manner.

Draw Respect by Your Conduct

How we present ourselves in the home—in our deportment, dress, and even our posture—can help to encourage proper respect and

reverence. When my husband and I learned this, and began to be conscious to carry ourselves thoughtfully, our children soon started to treat us in the very way that we were conducting ourselves. You will find your children much happier as they learn to respect and reverence you, as a part of their surrender to God.

Respecting Others’ Property

Many parents do not understand the importance of teaching children to respect the property of others. If my children were to come to your house, they would understand, because of my teaching, that the only things they may touch are what you give them permission to touch or what you ask them to get for you.

We have seen many parents allow their children to have free access to someone else’s home—opening cupboards, drawers, or closets. This is wrong.

If we allow such un-Christian habits to develop, we will destroy respect for other people and their property. This may lead to an even more serious problem—stealing.

As a young adult, I knew a girl whose parents never restrained her or taught her respect for other people’s property. On one occasion I invited her to join me at a girlfriend’s home. The next day my girlfriend called me and said, “Alane, I am missing such and such.”

I said, “You are?”

“Yes, and I think the girl you brought over with you took it. I had it in the bathroom drawer, and she is the only one who went into that room.”

Later we found the evidence. This young lady had taken things

Continued on page 30

Paul Appeals to Caesar

Ellen G. White

The governor appointed in the place of Felix, was Porcius Festus, a far more honorable ruler. He had a higher sense of the responsibility of his position, and, refusing to accept bribes, he endeavored to administer justice. Three days after his arrival at Caesarea, Festus went up to Jerusalem. Here he was speedily importuned by the Jews, who lost no time in presenting their accusations against Paul. The long imprisonment of Paul had not softened their malignant hatred, nor shaken their determination to take his life. They urged that he should be tried by the Sanhedrin, and requested that he be immediately sent to Jerusalem. Although this request was so plausible, it concealed a deep-laid plot. They were resolved not to leave him even to the decision of the Sanhedrin council, but to summarily dispose of the case by murdering him on the way.

At Caesarea, Festus had already met the popular clamor against Paul, but at Jerusalem the demand for his death was not merely the cry of the mob. A deputation of the most honorable personages of the city, headed by the high priest, formally presented the request concerning Paul, not doubting that this new and inexperienced official could be

molded at pleasure, and that to gain their favor he would readily grant all that they desired.

But Festus was not a man who would sacrifice justice to gain popularity. The Jews soon found that they were dealing with one who more resembled a Gallio than a Felix. With keen insight he penetrated the motive that prompted their request, and courteously declined to send for Paul. He stated, however, that he himself would soon return to Caesarea, and that he would there give them a fair opportunity to prefer their charges against him.

This was not what they wanted. Their former defeat was not forgotten. They well knew that in contrast with the calm bearing and forcible arguments of the apostle, their own malignant spirit and baseless accusations would appear in the worst possible light. Again they urged that Paul be brought to Jerusalem for trial. But Festus answered decidedly that whatever their practice might be, it was not the custom of the Romans to sacrifice any man's life merely to gratify his accusers, but to bring the accused face to face with his accusers before impartial witnesses, and to give him an opportunity to defend himself. God in His providence

controlled the decision of Festus, that the life of the apostle might be preserved.

Finding their purposes defeated, the Jewish leaders at once organized a powerful deputation to present their accusations at the court of the procurator. After a stay of eight or ten days in Jerusalem, Festus returned to Caesarea, and the next day took his seat at the tribunal to hear the case. The Jews, on this occasion being without a lawyer, preferred their charges themselves. The trial was a scene of passionate, unreasoning clamor on the part of the accusers, while Paul with perfect calmness and candor clearly showed the falsity of their statements.

The Jews repeated their charges of heresy, treason, and sacrilege, but could bring no witnesses to sustain them. They endeavored to intimidate Festus as they had once intimidated Pilate by their pretended zeal for the honor of Caesar. But Festus had too thorough an understanding of the Roman law to be deceived by their clamor. He saw that the real question in dispute related wholly to Jewish doctrines, and that, rightly understood, there was nothing in the charges against Paul, could they be proved, that would render him worthy of death, or even imprison-

ment. Yet he saw clearly the storm of rage that would be created if Paul were not to be condemned or delivered into their hands.

He looked with disgust upon the scene before him—the Jewish priests and rulers, with scowling faces and gleaming eyes, forgetting the dignity of their office, eagerly reiterating their accusations, in tones that grew louder and louder until the tribunal rang with their cries of rage. Heartily desiring to end it all, he turned to Paul, who stood calm and self-possessed before his adversaries, and asked if he was willing to go to Jerusalem under his protection, to be tried by the Sanhedrin.

This would virtually transfer the matter from Roman to Jewish jurisdiction. Paul knew that he could not look for justice from that people who were by their crimes bringing down upon themselves the wrath of God. Like the prophet Elijah, he would be safer among the heathen than with those who had rejected the light from Heaven, and hardened their hearts against the truth. When his life had been imperiled by the wrath of his enemies, it was heathen magistrates that had been his deliverers. Gallio, Lysias, and even Felix, had not hesitated to proclaim his innocence—while every Jewish tribunal had condemned him, without proving his guilt.

Paul was weary of strife, weary of the fierce reiteration of charges, again and again refuted, and as often renewed. His active spirit could ill endure the repeated delays and wearing suspense of his trial and imprisonment. How repulsive to him had been the daily contact with the coarse, idle, unprincipled soldiery, the frequent sounds of contention, and the rumors of strife and bloodshed between Jew and Gentile. He had nothing more to hope for from Jewish priests or rulers; but as a Roman citizen he had one special privilege, he could appeal to Caesar, and for a time, at least, his enemies would be kept at bay.

To the governor's question, Paul made answer, I stand at Caesar's

tribunal. Here, and not before the Sanhedrin, I ought to be judged. Turning to the procurator, he appealed to him directly: "Even you, Festus, are convinced that no charges have been sustained against me. I have never in any respect wronged the Jews. If I have committed any crime, it is not against them, but against the emperor; and if found guilty, I do not refuse to die. But if the accusations they bring against me cannot be proved, no one can give me into their power as a favor. I appeal unto Caesar."

Festus knew nothing of the conspiracies of the Jews to murder Paul, and he was surprised at this appeal to Caesar. It was not flattering to the pride of the Roman procurator, that the first case brought before him should be thus

meet. In the great crisis through which they are soon to pass, they will become better acquainted with the experience of Paul. Among the professed followers of Christ, there is the same pride, formalism, vain-glory, selfishness, and oppression, that existed in the Jewish nation. Before the warfare shall be ended and the victory won, we as a people are to experience trials similar to those of Paul. We shall encounter the same hardness of heart, the same cruel determination, the same unyielding hatred.

Men professing to be representatives of Christ will take a course similar to that taken by priests and rulers in their treatment of Paul. All who would fearlessly serve God according to the dictates of their own conscience, will need

We as a people are to experience trials similar to those of Paul. We shall encounter the same hardness of heart, the same cruel determination, the same unyielding hatred.

referred to higher authority. However, the words of the apostle put a stop to the proceedings of the court. Felix held a brief consultation with his counsel, and all agreeing that the appeal was legally admissible, he said to the prisoner: "Hast thou appealed unto Caesar? unto Caesar shalt thou go." Acts 25:12. This was said in a tone and manner which seemed to imply that Paul little knew what an appeal to Caesar meant.

End-time Applications

Once more the hatred born of Jewish bigotry and self-righteousness had driven the servant of God to turn for protection to a heathen ruler. It was the same hatred that forced the prophet Elijah to flee for succor to the widow of Sarepta; that constrained the heralds of the gospel to proclaim their message to the Gentiles. It is the same spirit that the people of God in this age have yet to

moral courage, firmness, and a knowledge of God and His Word, to stand in that evil day. Persecution will again be kindled against those who are true to God; their motives will be impugned, their best efforts misinterpreted, their names cast out as evil. Then will it come to pass, as foretold by Christ, that whoever shall seek to destroy the faithful, will think that he is doing God service. Then Satan will work with all his fascinating power, to influence the heart and becloud the understanding, to make evil appear good, and good evil. Then it is that he is through his agents to "shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matthew 24:24.

God would have His people prepared for the soon-coming crisis. Prepared or unprepared, we must all meet it. Only those whose characters are thoroughly disciplined to meet

the divine standard will be able to stand firm in that testing time. But when enemies shall be on every side, watching them for evil, the God of heaven will be watching His precious jewels for good. When secular rulers unite with the ministers of religion to come between God and our conscience, then those who cherish the fear of God will be revealed. When the darkness is deepest, then the light of a noble, Godlike character will shine the brightest. When every other trust fails, then it will be seen who have an abiding trust in God.

The stronger and purer the faith of God's people, and the firmer their

determination to obey Him, the more will Satan stir up the rage of those who claim to be righteous, while they trample upon the law of God. In that coming emergency, rulers and magistrates will not interpose in behalf of God's people. There will be a corrupt harmony with all who have not been obedient to the law of God. In that day, all timeservers, all who have not the genuine work of grace in the heart, will be found wanting. It will require the firmest trust, the most heroic purpose, to hold fast the faith once delivered to the saints. ✨

Sketches from the Life of Paul, 246–257.

Continued from page 27

that were not hers—because she had been allowed free access to other people's private possessions.

In our home, each person has respect for the personal privacy of the others. In fact, we each even put our own clothes away so everyone can be assured of the privacy of his own drawers. It really helps to build self-respect and dignity when we help our children respect another person's property and when we properly respect their property.

Each of the principles we have studied is a practical way that you can help your children cultivate the precious character trait of reverence. And as your children learn to reverence and respect you, they will also learn to reverence and respect the God who made them.

Cultivating Gratitude

Gratitude is recognizing, appreciating, and acknowledging the things that others have done for us. We are told in 1 Chronicles that this was the sole duty of some of the priests who served in the sanctuary. It was their responsibility, every morning and evening, to recognize, appreciate, and thank God for what He had done for the children of Israel. This certainly must be an important trait that God wants us to cultivate in our families.

The first step in cultivating gratitude and all of the other character traits we have been studying, is to practice them ourselves. Children learn best by example. They will do what we do far more readily than what we say, if the two do not agree. As we cultivate these traits in our hearts, the natural byproduct will be that they will begin to develop in the hearts of our children.

Express Gratitude to God

Morning and evening worship is the easiest place to begin. Each prayer should include expressions of gratitude for the blessings we receive from the Lord. In our home, we talk openly about our thankfulness to God. Before we leave to drive anywhere in our vehicles, we pray and ask for God's protection, and we are learning to offer up a prayer of thankfulness for safety before we get out of the vehicle when we arrive home—especially after long trips. I often think of these words of David: "Be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." Psalm 100:4–5. It is His love, goodness, mercy, and truth that has made our family so happy.

Cultivating a thankful attitude in our prayers is essential, but it is also

important to express thankfulness in our conversations with each other. Be specific about how God has cared for and blessed you personally through the day. Your gratitude to God will lift up the hearts of your loved ones as well.

Express Gratitude to Your Children

Thanking our children is a practical way to cultivate thankfulness in them. We can thank our children for a job well done—even if it is their regular responsibility. One of my children does the breakfast dishes every day, one does the supper dishes, and one sweeps the floor. Often I will share something like this, "Thank you for doing a good job. The counters look really great today!" "Josiah, it was beautiful the way you left the sink! It is so shiny—thank you." Showing gratitude and appreciation—even in the little things—is important. All of us like to know that we are appreciated; it encourages us to continue to reach out and serve other people, and do our best for God.

Give Unexpected Rewards

Another way we can cultivate gratitude and thankfulness in our children is to give them simple rewards, unexpectedly. From time to time we do something special with them, or allow an extra privilege, to show our appreciation for them. It might be extra free time to read or to play the piano, or by letting our children choose what they would like for a meal, or by letting them choose what they want to do during recreational time. These simple rewards do not cost anything, but they will help to cultivate thankfulness and gratitude in our children's hearts toward us and toward God.

Some of the most far-reaching blessings come from the simplest beginnings, like saying "Thank you, I really appreciate you!" Just secretly try to express gratitude today—every opportunity you have—and see what happens. It is a simple yet powerful way to help win and keep your child's heart. ✨

letters to the editor

Have a letter to share?

contact editor@hopeint.org or see page 3 for our mailing address.



Thank you so much for the February tape [of the month] you sent. We want you to know we appreciate the message. This is the first one we have received from you. We will be looking forward to the next one.

JG, South Dakota

From Overseas

Peace be with you!

The year 2000 passed fast, and the people of God as a church did not change so much, but it seems that they are in a deep sleep, while a few are fighting to do something while there is still time.

I write you from Finland; in the world here many changes took place, as maybe you know. The Lutheran Church made peace with the Catholic Church—no more differences.

My brothers at Hope International, it is *tragic* what is taking place among us. We keep sin beside us, and we are not even ashamed. We just hope others don't see it. Sad, but true.

Sadly, very, very few realize the reality in trying their best to come out from Babylon. We live in that time when E.G. White said it will be the test of every Christian that when the majority will be against you, you should stay strong on the side of Jesus.

The time is coming when we will not be able to write to each other, or even to meet on Sabbath in our churches. And then it will be seen the real faithful ones, but till that time we need to work, to tell the people the truth about the God of the Bible.

I wish you the faith of Jesus and the patience of the saints.

AI, Finland

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to you for the end-time messages in your magazine, *Our Firm Foundation*. Words cannot express my delight as I unearth some basic Biblical truth through your magazine. I would therefore be most grateful if you could enlist me on your mailing list for a regular subscription to *Our Firm Foundation* magazine.

Also, as a result of my persistent ill health, a friend of mine who is an Adventist and a vegetarian has advised me to opt for vegetarianism. After careful consideration, I hope it is the best option. Unfortunately, I have no knowledge or useful literature in this field. I wish to request for useful literature on vegetarianism and dieting.

Counting on your love and concern.

EB, Ghana

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the very informing publications you sent me. The books went a long way to help us and the brethren here. The leaflets were distributed and they have raised much interest in many people who want to study prophecy. Currently I am having a group of eight students whom I am studying prophecy with in my home.

The economic hardships in our country are a clear testimony that prophecy is being fulfilled.

Thank you for your generosity. I now have a better understanding of God's providence. May God bless you abundantly.

God bless you, I say once more. I hope we will meet on the sea of glass and share the experiences of this life.

JD, Zimbabwe

Praise the Lord! I have really enjoyed reading the materials you have sent me including *Our Firm Foundation*. I am so grateful and I believe God will continue to bless you so much for the good articles you write and provide through these reading materials. Thank you very much for being so kind in assisting those who are unable to afford a subscription.

This year I have received six issues of *Our Firm Foundation*, for January to June. It is my hope that if funds are available, you will send me the July to December issues. If possible, please send me a few copies of *Dateline Sunday Law* to distribute to my non-Adventist friends.

Thank you so much and may God bless you ever so abundantly!

PI, Kenya

Lift up the gospel trumpet, loud let it ring, in order for the inhabitants of the land to marvel at the love, mercy, and patience God has on His sinful people.

I am a young evangelist with a determination to preach Christ and Him crucified. I am asking for any assistance you can offer to help me spread the gospel. At the moment, I am struggling with the small amount of literature I have. I am also asking for some books to help me spiritually.

May God bless you as you continue to do that which pleases His will.

MM, Botswana

Greetings in the name of our Creator and Redeemer of all mankind, our Lord Jesus Christ!

My heart goes out with profound gratitude to God for your great end-time work. When I became a Seventh-day Adventist in 1998, the Lord graciously led me to be acquainted with your publication and ever since, it has been for me a steady growth in the knowledge, understanding, and experience of present truth as it is in Christ Jesus. What more can I say than to echo the words of David in Psalm 115:1: "Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake." Amen.

I received the package you sent me last September. May the good Lord continue to expand your frontiers of sanctified influence in your steadfast resolve to follow the Lamb wheresoever He goes. See Revelation 14:4.

In this vein, I solicit your continued assistance to my ministry of the Word. I pray for the Lord's providential leading even as I labor in His vineyard, now in self-supporting lines. The Lord's Word stands pledged that a short work will He make upon the earth. See Romans 9:28. Relent not in your prayers for God's faithful work around the world as I continue by His grace to do the same.

May God abundantly bless, strengthen, uphold, and sustain you in your service for Him. Amen!

CO, Nigeria

Theocracy

By Ron Spear

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Eatonville, WA
Permit No. 8

**Introductory Sale
Special Pricing!**
offer ends July 31

Before sin entered the universe, all created beings were under God's rule and immediate direction—a theocracy. Lucifer introduced another form of rulership, based upon pride and the will of a rebel leader.

Never have more Christians placed their faith in church leaders and pastors than today. This is Satan's ploy to derail God's last-day message. Let us arise and follow God and His Word alone. Such is the call of *Theocracy*.

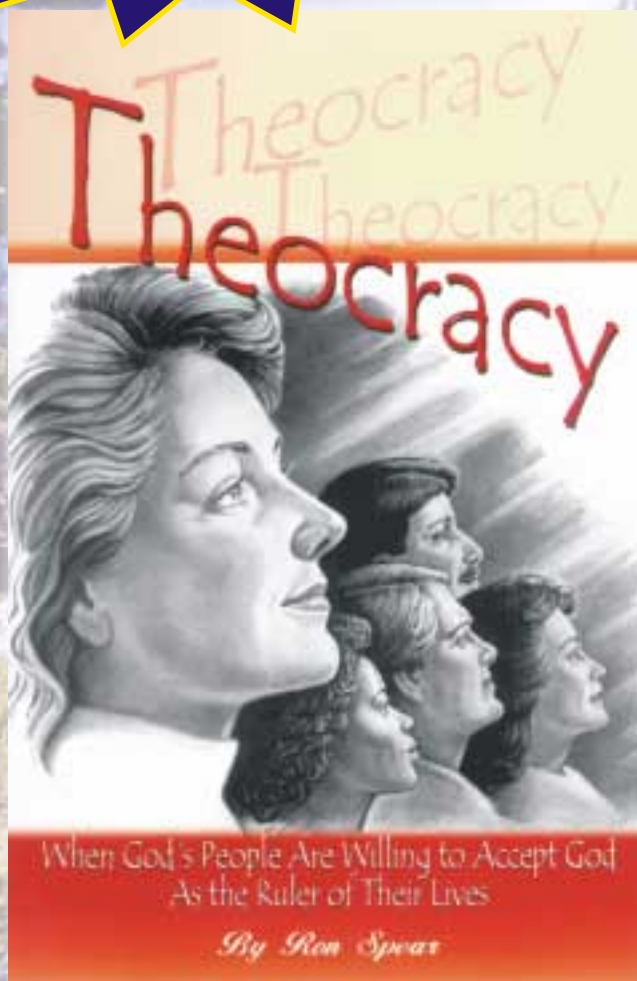
In this book Ron Spear presents compelling evidence that it is now time—long overdue—that we turn once more to God and place ourselves under His theocratic form of leadership.

Who is the ruler of your life—our infinite God, or finite man?

Regular Price: \$8.00 each

Sale Price: \$5.75 each

Catalog # **BESR-THEO-1**



Theocracy

Spear, Ron

Paperback, 96 pages

Offer ends July 31.

See page 3 for shipping and sales-tax information.

"The Lord of heaven is to be the Leader and Guide and Counselor of His people. His institutions are to be managed under His theocracy. His people are to act as a chosen people, a people who are to do a sacred and an unselfish work." Review and Herald, April 14, 1903.

Hope International

P.O. Box 940

Eatonville, WA 98328

Change Service Requested

