



# *Our Firm* Foundation

## The Danger Of *Silence*

Volume 17, Number 4

April 2002

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary

# Winds of Doctrine

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15.

God has spoken in the Scriptures and in the Spirit of Prophecy in the plainest language upon every subject which is necessary for our salvation. Only the careful students of the Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy will be able to understand and experience the truth.

In every generation, Satan has produced idle speculation about things of which nothing is said in the Word of God. In the days of the apostles, the most foolish heresies were presented as truth, and history has been, and will continue to be repeated until the great controversy between good and evil is ended.

Today, we see that Satan has come down to the faithful and obedient remnant people with great wrath, for he knows that he has a very short time. Every wind of doctrine is now blowing in Adventism. Fanaticism is again spreading all around the world. Those who are

spiritually weak, who are not well grounded in truth, accept error in the place of truth because error is clothed in a new garment, which they believe is a wonderful truth newly discovered. If this garment of error is put to the test, the covering is stripped away and the nakedness of error is revealed. Those who allow their minds to wander into and dwell upon non-salvational issues are often caught up into fanatical movements which erode, and finally destroy, their spiritual perception. Many then ride their hobbyhorse until criticism engulfs them, and they go out into spiritual darkness.

**None need be deceived if they will be students of the Word and the Spirit of Prophecy.** Let us remember that the track of truth lies close to the track of error, and only the Holy Spirit can teach us the difference:

“The track of truth lies close beside the track of error, and both tracks may seem to be one to minds which are not worked by the Holy Spirit, and which, therefore, are not

quick to discern the difference between truth and error.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 202.

“The godly need not be deceived if they are students of the Scriptures and obedient to follow the plain path marked out for them in the Word of God.” *Review and Herald*, April 15, 1875.

God commands His remnant people to search the Scriptures:

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” John 5:39.

“All who join the ranks of Sabbathkeepers should become diligent Bible students, that they may know the pillars and groundwork of the truth. They should study prophetic history, which has brought us down point by point to where we are at the present time.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 10, 171.

Let us all be Bereans in this final hour: “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

1 Thessalonians 5:21. ✠

Ron Spear, Executive Editor

---

## An Apology and Correction

We would like to apologize for confusion caused by one of the illustrations on page 15 of the February 2002, issue of *Our Firm Foundation*. On that page was a Bible study entitled, “Baptism for the Dead.” Below this study were two illustrations of baptism, one of which was an illustration depicting a female minister baptizing a child. While the study does deal with an unbiblical concept of baptism, it has no connection whatsoever to the issue of female pastors. The illustration in question was not given adequate consideration, and we realize in retrospect that it should not have been included. (It was drawn for an issue of *Our Firm Foundation* published years ago regarding the issue of ordaining women pastors.)

We assure our readers that our positions on both baptism and female pastors are consistent with Bible-based historic Adventism and have not changed. Hope International does not support the ordination of women pastors or elders, nor the baptism of young children who do not have an adequate comprehension of the step they are taking. The illustration in question is not consistent with our position on these matters, and its use would only be appropriate in connection with an article dealing with these specific issues.

We thank you for your understanding and continued support as we strive to uphold the true standards of Bible doctrine, and also to maintain the quality and reliability of our publications. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,  
Hope International Design and Editorial Departments

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 per year  
**Canada and Mexico:** US \$23.75 per year, shipping included.  
**Overseas (surface mail):** US \$23.75 per year, shipped quarterly. Overseas via air mail is US \$60 per year.  
**Large Print Edition:** US \$45 per year  
**Audio subscription:** (2 cassettes per month) US \$60 per year. For foreign audio and large print 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–5:30pm  
Fri: 8:30am–12:30pm 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 State residents:** Please add an additional 7.8% sales tax.  
**All money received must be in US funds, drawn on US banks.**

Copyright © 2002 Hope International

Artwork and photos in this publication are the property of their respective owners, and are used with permission. Other items are © Hope International.  
Cover photo: © EyeWire

**4** The Danger of Silence  
Hal Mayer  
**Why do good people remain mute and not protest in the face of compromise?**

**8** Eradicating Terrorists?  
Bob Jorgensen  
**How can we win the war on terrorism? Would you recognize a potential terrorist if you met him?**

**16** The Sanctuary Truth  
John Korponay  
**What a privilege to experience this unique truth and share it with others!**

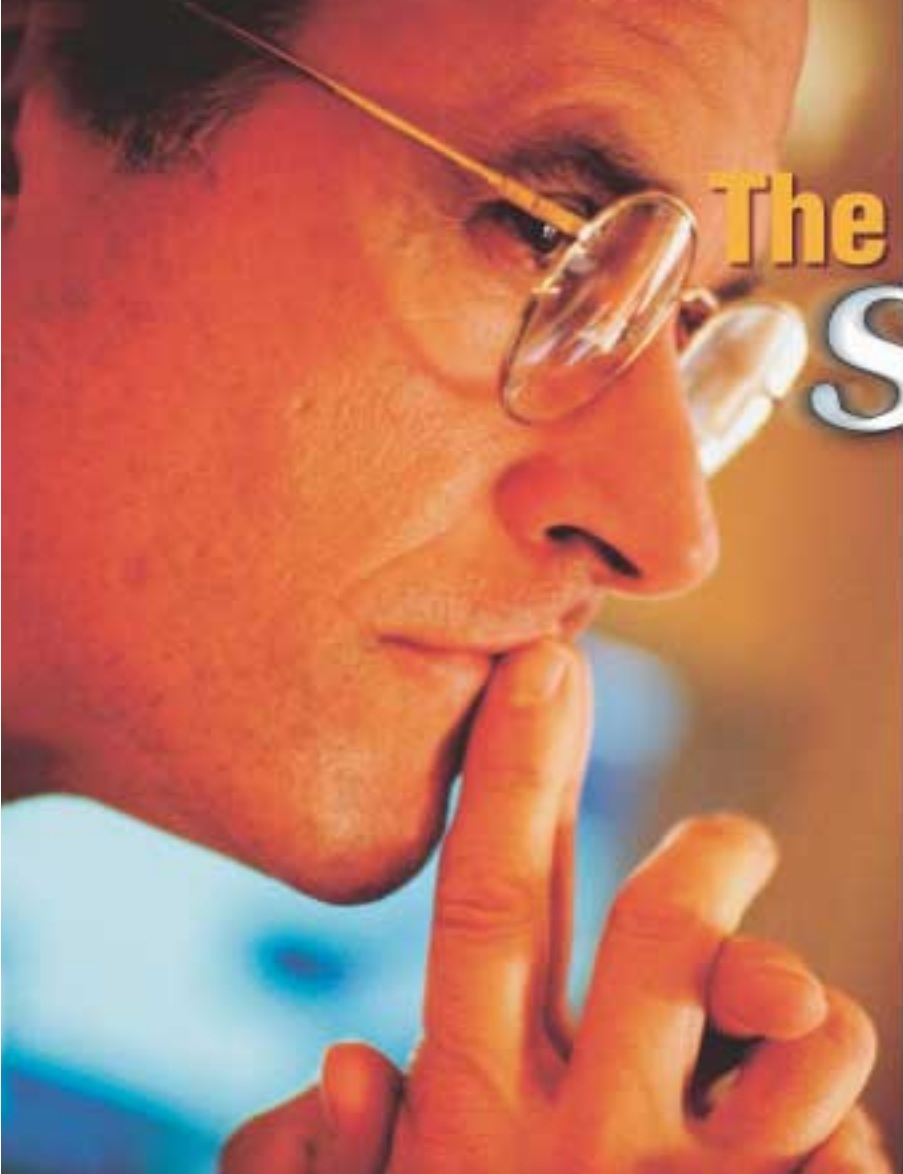
**20** Danger of Light Becoming Darkness  
Ellen G. White  
**The King of the universe is waiting to bestow heavenly treasures upon you. How will you use them?**

**24** The Testing of Character  
Ellen G. White  
**King Saul—an example of how God proves our trust in Him**

**28** The Sound of Music  
Clark A. Floyd  
**Could my choice of music affect my salvation?**

## departments

News Watch .....	14
Defending the Faith .....	19
The Garden of the Heart .....	22
Letters to the Editor .....	31



# The Danger Of Silence

Hal Mayer

remain silent in the face of persistent attempts by Satan to undermine the truth among Seventh-day Adventists. One of the key reasons is *fear*, which has many facets. Here are just a few of them:

## Fear's Facets

### 1. Opposing the Lord's

**Anointed**—Many good people are afraid to disagree with church leaders. They think that in doing so, they would be offending God, and so they do not want to “touch the Lord’s anointed.” But this is a misapplication of David’s words. David was being urged to do Saul physical harm. Those urging it were justifying breaking the commandments of God on the basis that David would be defending truth and his own divine appointment as Israel’s future king. The basic argument was that David would be justified in killing Saul because of the good that would result. David rightly refused, but protested to Saul in the morning against Saul’s persecution of David and his men.

Opposing church leaders’ opinions or actions is not wrong when they are directly in conflict with the inspired counsel. In fact, faithful members must oppose them if they are to remain faithful watchmen on the walls of Zion, and avoid the condemnation from the Lord addressed to the unfaithful watchmen.

**2. Reputation**—Many good people do not protest against error because they are concerned about their reputations. They know that

**H**ave you ever wondered why there remains a deafening silence among the faithful in many of our churches when church leaders urge that we support an unbiblical doctrine or practice? Why do good people remain mute and fail to protest when compromise arises? As I have watched our church steadily lose her doctrinal bearings over the years, and the resultant onrushing torrent of iniquity, all self-justified by unsanctified leaders, I have wondered, Why are there so few members who are willing to raise their voices in alarm and protest? In the light of Biblical history, it makes no spiritual sense for those who love truth to keep their voices muted as error marches forward among God’s people. What makes us so prone to silence—so prone to “playing Possum”?

Ellen G. White wrote, “My message to you is: No longer consent to listen without protest to the perversion of truth. Unmask the pretentious sophistries which, if received, will lead ministers and physicians and medical missionary workers to ignore the truth. Everyone is now to stand on his guard. God calls upon men and women to take their stand under the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 196.

Why do we not heed the counsel of God’s prophet? If only all the good people around us were vigilant and standing on their guard, it would be difficult for the devil to push his agenda through men who do not believe the truth, but serve in holy office.

I believe there are a number of reasons why good men and women

church leaders, whether pastors or local elders, have a way of twisting genuine concerns and responding with (frequently false) accusations of being critical, unsupportive, and of causing schisms. Often pastors will (wittingly or unwittingly) use other good people to make those accusations. Counteracting those accusations is not easy. We remind those who make these accusations that it is a matter of truth or principle—not a matter of attitude. Yet even this does not always turn the accusations away.

Do not forget that these very accusers are the ones doing the criticizing of God's faithful messengers, whether they be lay members, faithful pastors or self-supporting workers. Jesus "made himself of no reputation" (Philippians 2:7), and, in fact, suffered more than we will ever suffer. What is more important, our reputation with pastors and other church members, or our reputation with God?

**3. Peer Pressure**—Many good people fear peer pressure from fellow church members. Often it is much easier to go with the flow of collective opinion than to step out from the crowd and be different. We do not normally want to be different. Yet being different is what the Adventist faith is all about. We are called to be a peculiar people. See Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9. The natural tendency is to conform in an ever-widening circle of pressures. There is pressure from our close friends and family, then from our local church, then from the world church, then from the ecumenical movement, and so on. Peer pressure will always be applied to those who want to stand for truth.

**4. Fear of Being Marginalized**—Many good pastors and members who believe the truth, have a fear of being marginalized by the Conference or by their pastor (in the case of members). Pastors may think that if they protest against something that they believe is wrong in the Conference, their Conference president will think that they are not supportive of him, and will send them to some small district out in the middle of

nowhere, or hold up his ordination, or maybe worse—dismiss him from Conference employment. Members may fear that protest will lead to losing their position or office in the local church—or even to church discipline.

While it is possible that these things could, and often do happen, is that a reason to remain silent? Most of the protestors of the past were alone and/or were disciplined. Take Jeremiah or Isaiah, for example. Both were disciplined in their day for their plain speaking. Elijah had to hide in the wilderness to avoid church and civil discipline. He could have complained that he was being marginalized for three years during the famine; yet later he became the center of influence on

Spirit of Prophecy and find the answer, and seek counsel from truth-loving friends. While being respectful and Christlike, do not be silenced by liberal pastors who have been "highly educated." They are not likely to know the truth because they have, most likely, been taught error. Stick with the inspired reasoning—not human reasoning.

### Beyond Fear

There are reasons beyond fear why good people remain silent:

**1. Creeping Compromise**—Error often creeps up subtly, and it is not usually recognized until it is well on its way to being deeply rooted. Everything is going along smoothly. There is good (so-called) "unity" in your church. Then suddenly some-

---

*Often it is much easier to go with the flow of collective opinion than to step out from the crowd and be different. We do not normally want to be different. Yet being different is what the Adventist faith is all about.*

---

Mount Carmel. Far from being marginalized, God elevated him to the most important and powerful force in the nation at that time, much to Jezebel's distress. God may not do this in every case, but, nonetheless, we should be faithful and leave the consequences and results with God.

**5. Fear of Being Discredited**—Many good people are afraid of being discredited. Some are not as polished as others in their speech and are not as able to make quick responses to questions or accusations. This gives them the fear of approaching subjects related to truth and error because they feel they will be challenged, and then they will not have good answers to the questions that are raised.

Remember, truth lovers can always say that they do not have an immediate answer, but that they will get back with an answer to the person with the challenging question. Then go to the Bible and to the

one recognizes that there is a departure from the truth, and he raises his voice in concern. Controversy erupts, and all the usual bells and whistles go off (i.e. shouts of "criticism," "disunity," "schism," and so forth), and pious accusations are made against the one who raised the concern ("you need to work for unity," "please don't be so critical of others").

Some people are too quick to jump to conclusions, and they begin to accuse the one who has raised the concern of being a legalist, or a fanatic, or too narrow-minded, or living in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and so forth, rather than checking into the Word of God for themselves to find out if the concern raised has any spiritual basis. Under these conditions, good people are often hesitant to oppose error because they often think that their protest will only make matters worse.

Of course, there may be times when things will get worse, but

when souls are at stake, we need to be reminded of the statement made by Ellen White: "If unity could be secured only by the compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war.

"Well would it be for the church and the world if the principles that actuated those steadfast souls [early church believers] were revived in the hearts of God's professed people. There is an alarming indifference in regard to the doctrines which are the pillars of the Christian faith." *The Great Controversy*, 45-46.

**2. Neglect of Study**—Here is an even more serious one. Good people frequently remain silent because they feel that they have not studied the issue from the Bible and the

necessary research so that we know what we believe and why.

**3. Theological "Inferiority"**—Often good people are made to feel inferior to the "theologians"—even if they have thoroughly studied the issues of truth and error in question. Tragically, with the push for the accreditation of our colleges many years ago, and the current fanaticism to make them all universities, we have put ourselves on a treadmill that is a galling yoke, and very destructive of the truth.

Accreditation requires that many professors have advanced degrees, which in turn are earned at seminaries and universities not at all in harmony with our faith, thus causing much error to come into the

and as authoritative in the church, who founded the ecumenical Romeward-bound movement.

More than anything, we need Bible students who can, by the grace of God, confound the theologians as Jesus did in His day when they said of Him, "How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?" John 7:15. He had not been to their seminaries to study theology; He had studied the Word only.

**4. A Silent Witness**—Many good people remain silent because they falsely think that they can influence those in error quietly—by their godly example. This is dangerous, because those in error often do not know that they are in error unless there is some attention drawn to it. However, if they have a strong passion about the error they believe, they may have an agenda (as is often the case with pastors and other church leaders), and will continue to push their agenda—in spite of the godly example. In fact, they will often use those godly examples in the service of promoting their error—all unwittingly—to the person who is trying to influence them by his godly example. Even those who may not have an "agenda" are, nevertheless, passively promoting error (even unintentionally) and need the opportunity to have it pointed out to their unenlightened minds. Error must be exposed.

**5. "At least they are coming to church"**—Many good people hear excuses that they do not know how to answer, so they remain silent. For example: "Oh, drama (rock music, sports, or whatever) is not so bad. We need this to keep the youth (or new converts, or whoever) in the church (or school)." Tragically, this excuse is far too often used to foist error upon the church—and with baleful results. Why in heaven or on earth would something that God has forbidden, actually serve a good purpose? In reality, these things lead all who engage in them further away from God.

Take the celebration churches, for example. At the start they were large and full on Sabbath morning. However, after a while, what

---

*When we become Christ's, then we enter the school of Christ and must discipline ourselves to do the necessary research so that we know what we believe and why.*

---

Spirit of Prophecy, and, therefore, are not qualified to address the matter. Moreover, many are not having regular devotions and personal study time in which to pursue research on a given topic. Further, they may not know how to do so. How tragic!

Even good, long-standing Seventh-day Adventists have lost the Bible study ethic. We may read it devotionally, but we do not dig for truth, and research the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy for light concerning the issues confronting God's church today.

Some good people are not even sure what the truth is, so it is hard for them to express their concerns when they are not really sure what the Bible teaches. This is a dangerous state of affairs. Faithful people must be faithful students. "School" is not over upon graduation from high school or college. It is only beginning, for life is a school indeed. When we become Christ's, then we enter the school of Christ and must discipline ourselves to do the

ministry and into our institutions of learning. This also translates into practical apostasy in other institutions and churches as the ripple effect widens over time. We have developed an intellectual snobbery that has made many feel inferior to the "theologians" who have "studied," and thus who supposedly know better than the rest of us what is truth.

Bible students should not fear theologians, for they most likely know more of the truth than the most decorated and scholarly professor, unless the professor has humbled himself and come to the Scriptures himself as did Luther, Calvin, Huss, or other reformers, whom he so often reveres. Even if the pastor has his master's or doctor's degree, it does not mean that he has the truth.

In fact, it has been the "theologians" who have brought in the greatest amount of error among God's people in the past. It was actually theologians who had rejected the Bible as the truth of God

happened to them? – They have often dwindled in attendance, and some have even disbanded. Faithful people should not let excuses stand in the way of exposing error for what it is. Point them to the statements in the Word of God or the Spirit of Prophecy, and if they will hear, then you have gained the higher ground. If they will not hear, then you have delivered your soul from the condemnation reserved for silent watchmen. See Ezekiel 33:7-8.

**6. Criticism of the truth** – Many good people hear criticisms of the truth that they do not know how to answer: “The old (teaching or practice) is boring,” or, more subtly, “It doesn’t meet our needs, or the needs of the people.” These pathetic rationalizations of error often reveal something more devastating: those who profess the truth are not really living it, and thus are misrepresenting it.

Of course, the entertainment syndrome, and other factors, have also had their influence. All these things combined have played a role. But criticisms of the truth are not sufficient reason to bring in error or compromise. Let us live the truth and proclaim the truth with power. That is what will make sense to people who are truly searching for light and for the understanding of God’s will, whether they be Seventh-day Adventists or not.

**7. The Pain of Conflict** – Another reason is that conflict is painful, and many people are hesitant to be around the tension that naturally associates with it. While it is true that some may be called to open confrontation (in a Heaven-approved way), others may be called to approach the matters in question one-on-one with those in error.

Whatever method God has called you to, you must faithfully fulfill that responsibility to work with those in error with compassion and kindness. Yes, there may be tension from time to time, but God will give you strength for those times, and a sweet Christian spirit will go far toward reducing painful tension.

**8. Hypocrisy** – One final tragedy is that many good people who

remain silent are still in sin and do not recognize the error when it arises. Thus they cannot raise their voices in protest. Furthermore, if they could, they would face the guilt of feeling like a hypocrite.

Brethren and sisters, we need, by the grace of God, to come up higher on the path of moral worth. How can we effectively oppose error and apostasy in our church when we

refused to give the warning.

“So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine

---

*How can we effectively oppose error and apostasy in our church when we ourselves are living in known conflict with God’s revealed will?*

---

ourselves are living in known conflict with God’s revealed will? We must get on our knees and plead with God for victory, and then take the necessary steps to resolve our own departures from God’s counsel.

**The Danger**

You may be able to think of other reasons why good people remain silent when error or compromise arises in God’s church. The danger of silence is that the leaders in error and compromise – whether they are in the ministry or whether they are laymen – just go right on without any spiritual accountability to the people. The problem does not go away; it just gets larger – destroying the message and mission of our Seventh-day Adventist Church. God requires spiritual accountability. Yet all too often the faithful souls in God’s church hesitate to hold themselves and their leaders up to their God-given responsibilities and make them accountable to the Word of God.

Today our church is in deep trouble with the Lord. We are not following His counsel in education, health care, publishing, or in ministry. Soon the judgments of God are going to fall upon the world and upon all those who profess to be His people, but who have not been faithful to the truth, including those who knew the truth but who have

hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.” Ezekiel 33:7-9.

May God make us faithful watchmen. ✨

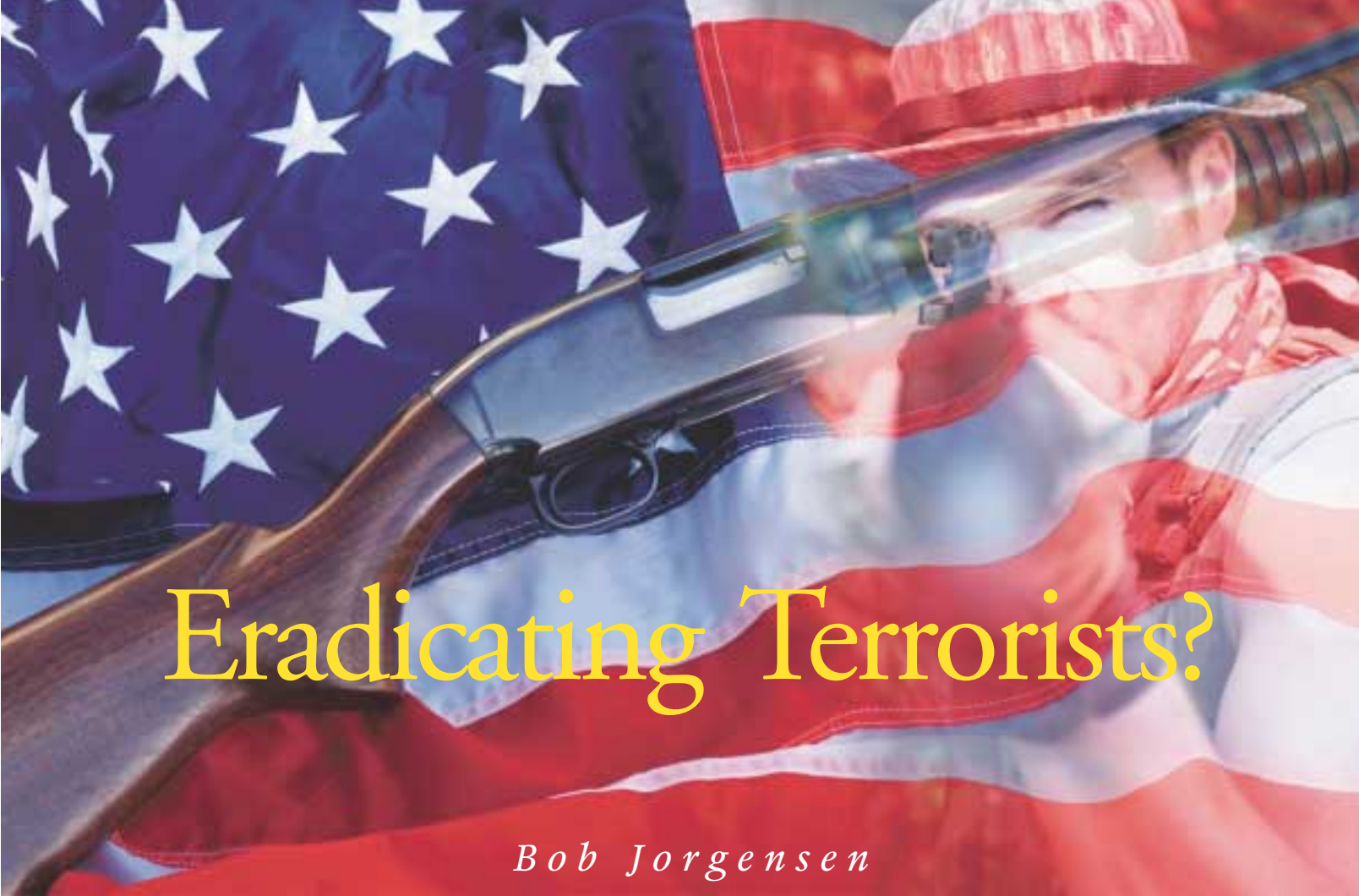


**Must We Be Silent?**  
*Koranteng-Pipim, Samuel*

Designed to defend sound biblical teaching by countering the false teachings so prevalent in the church today. “Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God.” Testimonies, vol. 3, 281.

Paperback, 640 pages, 2001

**Price: \$19.95**  
Catalog # BEKS-MWBS



# Eradicating Terrorists?

*Bob Jorgensen*

**T**uesday, September 11, 2001, is a day that will certainly be remembered by this generation. The events of that fateful day have caused many people to wonder what goes on in the mind of a terrorist. The government of the United States has declared war on terrorism and terrorists. However, it might be easier to fight a war on terrorism, than on terrorists.

To identify terrorism we need only to identify actions and results. Dictionaries define terrorism as the use of acts of terror or violence to coerce or intimidate people, often for ideological or political reasons. We often use the term in a broader sense to refer to acts of violence or crime that have no logical rationale behind them. Some people engage in terroristic acts simply because they enjoy doing something violent. It is appropriate to put forth efforts to apprehend, and bring to justice, those who are responsible for acts of terrorism. However, it is much more difficult to identify a person who might be a terrorist, but

who has not yet committed an act of terrorism. It is even more difficult to ascertain how a person might think, and whether he would indeed become a terrorist who would commit acts of terrorism in the future, such as we saw on September 11.

In our haste to stamp out terrorists, we should not forget that big-scale terrorists often grow from small-scale terrorists. Acts of terrorism are daily occurring in a wide variety of ways that we often overlook, and have perhaps ceased to see as being actual acts of terrorism. Throwing a brick through a window is an act of terrorism. Phone threats are acts of terrorism. Injuries purposely done to people, or damage deliberately done to property – these are all acts of terrorism. Of course, the events of September 11 were glaringly outstanding acts of terrorism. Yes, we are anxious to prevent such heinous acts of terrorism from happening again, but there are several points that, in our haste, we may easily overlook:

## **I. Danger of Overreacting**

While many of us in America may have great concern in our hearts for the possible acts of terrorism that could take place, there is also deep concern in the hearts of many of us that in a time of great trauma and emotional reaction we could be in danger of overreacting.

To declare that we are going to wage war on terrorists until we have stamped them out, is to run a great risk of embarking upon a modern-day “witch hunt,” which would inevitably result in the destruction of innocent lives. In our pain we can easily develop a hasty attitude of “shoot first and ask questions later.” To carry out the stated intention of eliminating terrorists requires assessing the motives and possibilities of individuals’ characters and lives. This process could be endless – and eventually ruthless.

We are in exceedingly grave danger of criminalizing race, religion, or ethnic background as the



breeding place of terrorists, and then persecuting or purging those with such an identified background. Terrorists come from all walks of life, all denominations, all races. The great danger is that some group of people with sufficient power will identify minority groups, or segments of society with less power or influence, as being a threat to society, because some members or renegades from that group may have conducted or committed terroristic activities.

Because some militant Islamics have committed acts of terrorism, we might be in danger of concluding that all Islamics are dangerous and could be potential terrorists.

From Tuesday, September 11, 2001, through Thursday, September 13, firebombs damaged Islamic mosques, and Hindu and Sikh temples in the U.S. A man attempted to run down a Pakistani woman with his car, claiming to be “doing this for my country.” Another man awaits trial on the charge of murdering Balbir Singh Sodhi, a 49-year-old gas station owner and father of three, who was shot to death while doing some landscaping work outside of his business.<sup>1</sup>

But these incidents were not the only indication of unreasonable reactions spurred by heated emotions. The danger of overreacting was illustrated by the poll conducted recently by Sierra College Research Institute. The researchers found that *a third of New Yorkers favored internment camps for Arabs.*<sup>2</sup>

Yet, it must not be forgotten that some of the greatest terrorists of all time have arisen from within the Catholic religion (for example, read the history of the St. Bartholomew massacre when the presiding pontiff struck a special medal to commemorate the cruel murder of thousands of Protestants). Should we then conclude that all Catholics are potential terrorists to be confined and strictly guarded or eliminated?—Certainly not! No doubt some people with backgrounds such as Methodists, Baptists, Mormons, Presbyterians, or Seventh-day Adventists have also committed acts

of terrorism. Does this then make any of those religions the spawning ground of antisocial terrorism?

If we allow ourselves to overreact, if we are willing to sell out too many of our freedoms in the effort to reach the elusive goal of “security,” we could eventually become the most despotic and oppressive nation of all time. Every principle of freedom provided by our Constitution could eventually be traded for “security,” and yet in reality our “security” would be an illusion because we would not know when *we* might be the next subjects of surveillance as potential terrorists because of our religion, race, or background. The effort to eradicate terrorists with this approach could be a serious mistake.

in certain religions or ideologies. People exhibiting some of the prescribed suspicious characteristics would need to be carefully monitored and watched, or possibly eliminated, for the sense of the security of the majority. This could conceivably become a second Inquisition, in which everyone is urged to be an informer on his brother and neighbor. Then no one would know who might mysteriously disappear next.

This approach fails to recognize that terroristic seeds of thought may lie dormant in the hearts of even the best of us. Thoughts of jealousy, envy, anger, hatred, revenge, malice—these are all seeds of terroristic thoughts and motives. Our mental and emotional programming

---

*Preventing terrorism by figuring out how terrorists think, and then catching and confining or eliminating all potential terrorists, is a vastly more monumental task than any of us can possibly comprehend.*

---

## **2. A Task Beyond Comprehension**

Preventing terrorism by figuring out how terrorists think, and then catching and confining or eliminating all potential terrorists, is a vastly more monumental task than any of us can possibly comprehend. Identifying a potential terrorist might be more difficult than we think.

Can we identify with certainty those who have seeds of terrorism lying in their hearts? For example, if a government were to *really* accomplish this goal, it would be necessary to perceive the development of children and identify those with potentially “errant” habits of thinking, and then guard against, or eliminate, such individuals. Otherwise, they could eventually become terrorists, who could wreak devastation.

Terrorists could most likely develop from certain types of people, certain races, or from those involved

develops from the early moments of life, even during our prenatal period, and is affected by family relationships, education, religion, diet, entertainment, exposure to news, and many other factors. All of these can have their degree of influence in the making of a terrorist.

Some terrorists are not recognized as such because they carry on their activities in a more politically acceptable way. Others are more visible because their acts of terrorism are so very obvious or bizarre. When an obscure and little-known individual hijacks an airplane it is an act of terrorism. We have no problem recognizing it. Yet, if a public agency hijacks a home and takes away the children because their education is more conservative or religious than the local public school offers, or, their lifestyle is not considered “normal” by the soda pop, hamburger, and TV generation, that action is not perceived to be terrorism. Such terroristic activities may

even be publicized as “rescuing” the “victims” from “abusive parents.”

We could even note that quite a number of well-known individuals down through history have engaged in terrorism. In fact, some have led whole nations into terroristic activities. We are all, doubtless, familiar with the terroristic activities of Alexander the Great, Adolf Hitler, and many others. Even in our own United States, citizens have sometimes had terroristic experiences at the hands of agencies apparently endeavoring to prevent the practice of health treatment by practitioners whom they have decided to label as “unorthodox.” Remember, there do not have to be violent deaths in order for actions to constitute terroristic activities.

home, or those who come from abroad?

### 3. Entertainment

To really deal with the making of a terrorist we must carefully evaluate the process of entertainment and education. Let us first look at entertainment:

In reality, all entertainment has an educating influence. It is a well-known fact that certain types of music, and entertainment, teach and breed violence, and acts of what we can call terrorism. At a rock concert, a man was deliberately harassed, then stabbed, and resolutely “protected” from any assistance until he died. I would classify this as terrorism. The music, and its accompanying environment, spawned this

acts of violence and 15 murders a week.”<sup>5</sup> Of course, the numbers today are significantly higher. Is it possible that we can overlook the connection between viewing so much violence and the rapid increase of violent crime in our country? Many children and youth arraigned for violent crimes of murder and aggression have stated that they got their ideas from television. Between 1989 and 1990 alone, the number of youth arrested for murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault increased by 16 per cent!<sup>6</sup>

An extensive, long-term study conducted by Dr. Centerwall, of the University of Washington, showed that TV is directly responsible for 10,000 homicides, 70,000 rapes, and 700,000 injurious assaults each year!<sup>7</sup>

As long ago as 1972, a government report on television and violence suggested the connection between childhood TV viewing with its routine violence, and future aggression and criminal acts.<sup>8</sup> More recently, numerous studies and books have shown some of the devastating effects of viewing violence on TV, shows on videos, and arcade games.<sup>9</sup> Almost all video-machine games operate on the principle of “destroy, or be destroyed.”

Most TV programming, even for little children, contains numerous depictions of violence. One shocking incident shows the terrible results: A little boy around 6 years old, watching a cartoon show, saw “stars” circling the head of a cartoon character who was hit on the head in an act of violence. A little later he found a baseball bat and with it hit his 4-year-old sister on the head (killing her), but he was puzzled because he did not see any “stars” flying around her head.

*The Buffalo News*, in 1988, reported that at that time *TV programming had 55 times more violence than real-life experience!*<sup>10</sup> In the past ten years since the book was written, we have not seen a decrease in the violence. In one example of the typical — often sexual — violence of

---

*Many children and youth arraigned for violent crimes of murder and aggression have stated that they got their ideas from television.*

---

Surely we are appalled at the terroristic events of that Tuesday in September — because there were many deaths and injuries. Yet, if we consider that a vast number of innocent victims are killed every day by abortion, we must ask ourselves which acts of terrorism are worse, the ones that happen unexpectedly, or, the ones that are publicly condoned and sponsored? Evidently it is easy for most of us to overlook the fact that the systematic slaughter of American lives through abortion vastly outnumbers all deaths due to wars and other terroristic activities in America’s history.

Perhaps we have become accustomed to the fact that there are thousands of deaths every year due to drunk driving. There were approximately 17,000 in the year 2000 — 17,000 deaths of mostly innocent men, women, and children. The terroristic attacks of September 11 killed some 3,000 people. Which terrorists should we be most afraid of — those we are developing at

activity. Many similar incidents could be cited.<sup>3</sup>

In 1989, an attractive and caring young Yale graduate was brutally attacked and gang raped in New York City’s Central Park by more than 30 youngsters (most of them under 16). They attacked her with a pipe, then hacked her skull and thighs with a knife, and pounded her face with a brick. Mary McGrory, writing in the *Washington Post*, April 30, 1989, said, “Obviously, their parents, their schools, did not tell them about the golden rule. Television, with its verbal and physical violence, its depiction of sex as an instantly available right, its boorish hosts and witless guests, certainly didn’t teach them.”<sup>4</sup> Tragically, this kind of terrorism is not an unusual, one-time occurrence. Why did it take place?

George Will wrote in 1991, that: “For more than a generation, the fundamental act of American fun — watching television — has involved, for the average viewer, seeing 150

movie entertainment, a young girl was raped with the end of a broom handle. A mother with her small daughter had been watching the TV show, but she turned it off at that point. A few days later a group of boys, who had also watched the show raped the small daughter with a beer bottle.<sup>11</sup>

We must ask the question: Who are the real criminals in such terrorism? Are they *the boys* who engaged in acts rolemodeled for them on TV, or on videos viewed in their living rooms? Or are they *the Hollywood producers and actors who taught the boys* what to do and how to do it, planting the seeds of violence in their minds? A long-term study by researchers at the University of Illinois showed that people who had regularly watched TV violence at eight years of age were consistently more prone to acts of violence (“terrorist” activities) by the time they were 30 years old.<sup>12</sup>

The plot of one TV show involved a bomb threat on an airplane, with the passengers held as hostages. Despite a vigorous protest from the Air Line Pilots’ Association, it was aired on national television. Before the show was over, airlines started receiving bomb threats. Within one week eight airlines had received such bomb threats. Five years later the same film was shown in Australia with similar results. One airline eventually ended up paying a half-million-dollar ransom to protect the 116 passengers on a flight to Hong Kong. We rightly condemn the terrorists who conduct these bomb threats, but do we do anything about the *terrorists* who educated and inspired them to do it by means of television?

A chilling fact that should galvanize us into action is described in the book, *Plug-in Drug* by Marie Winn. In more recent years, a new breed of criminals has surfaced: twelve-year-old muggers who prey on the elderly, casually torturing and murdering their helpless victims, often for very small gains; youths assailing a bicyclist in a park and beating him to death with a

chain before making off with his bicycle; children breaking into an apartment and stomping on an elderly man, or drowning a woman in her bathtub.

The common factor characterizing the present wave of child criminals who kill, torture, and rape, seems to be a form of emotional detachment that *allows them to commit unspeakable acts of brutal and violent crime with a complete absence of normal feelings – such as guilt or remorse*. And the media entertainment has been largely, if not almost solely, responsible for training them this way. Here, truly, is the education of a terrorist. Now the question is: *Will we focus our attention on attacking the terrorists overseas, while ignoring the promotion and education of terrorists here at home?*

A true and upright use of religion produces citizens with upright moral standards. There is a restraining power in their convictions of right and wrong that regulates their behavior and actions. The more knowledge they gain the more useful they are because they use that knowledge within the framework of their principles of proper conduct. Correct principles of conduct keep a person acting in a civil manner toward his neighbor, and society, at all times.

The government has the responsibility to maintain outward civil conduct in society. There are those who do not have the controlling inward conviction of moral principle to regulate their civil conduct. All such persons are potential terrorists. Any person who has the controlling

---

*To the extent that any of us are liable to lose the controlling power of moral conviction, we are potential terrorists.*

---

Friends, if we are *really serious* about diminishing terroristic activities, we must start by eliminating the entertainment shows that contain violence. Even the great publicity given to acts of violence on the news spawns a certain interest in some minds to commit acts more horrendous in order to gain greater publicity. *We will show a terrible blindness if we spend billions on looking overseas for terrorists while we continue to spend billions on entertainment that breeds terrorists here at home.*

#### **4. Education and Religion**

It is a fact that the majority of “terroristic” acts have been carried out in the name of religion (consider the Crusades, the persecutions of the Waldenses, and so on). It is an axiom of moral law that to the extent that something can serve a good and upright purpose, to the same extent, when it is abused, misused, and perverted, it can serve an evil and destructive purpose.

power of moral convictions and then loses that inward principle of control, is a potential terrorist. To the extent that any of us are liable to lose the controlling power of moral conviction, we are potential terrorists.

Some people lack the strength of conviction to keep them from drinking alcohol, and under its influence commit atrocious acts of “terrorism.” Yet, little is being done to stop this breeding ground of terrorism. The civil government must use the “sword” to punish incivility and to place a restraint through fear upon those who lack inward moral restraint. As long as people behave in a civil manner toward their fellow man, no one has a right to punish or restrain them because of what it is supposed that they *might* think, or become, or do in the future. The government’s role in preventing “terrorism” consists to a large degree in placing penalties upon “terrorism” that are severe enough

to place a healthy fear in the hearts of those who lack moral principle.

Using different methods of defense is also a preventive measure. We prevent damage from rain by making a watertight roof, rather than analyzing every cloud, and then blowing up the ones that might drop rain. Otherwise we would end up chasing every cloud.

Some of our methods of prevention for defense *may* involve tighter security in transportation, the elimination of terrorist training facilities, and so forth. But the method of prevention that might endeavor to detect all who are *likely* to engage in potential acts of terrorism could easily end up going too far. The civil government cannot safely assume the role of identifying those religions or groups that are *likely* to be dangerous, or of trying to regulate them beyond the bound-

with the power of modern science to destroy, will in the end accomplish its own destruction. Without the presence of a great directing moral force, intelligence will either not be developed, or if it be developed, will prove self-destructive.

“In education the whole being must be taken into consideration. It is not enough to train the hand, the eye, to quicken the perception of sense, develop the quickness of the intellect, and leave out of consideration the building of the character, the aspiration of the soul.

“We do not need more material development, we need more spiritual development. We do not need more knowledge, we need more character. We do not need more government, we need more culture. We do not need more law, we need more religion. We do not need more of the things that are

Around the end of the nineteenth century, 80% of the population lived out in the country and 20% in the cities. By the late 20th century, 80% of the population lived in the cities and 20% lived out in the country. Some statistics now indicate that as little as 2% of the population are growing the food and agricultural fiber produced in the United States. This makes the majority of the population very dependent for food, fiber, and sustenance upon others. The sustaining of most of the population has become an extremely fragile and vulnerable process.

We can diminish the likelihood of terrorism by diminishing the large population centers that are attractive targets for terroristic activities. Encouraging people to move out of the cities into places where they have enough land to grow food, if necessary, would greatly increase the true strength and ability of our people to avoid many liabilities of city living, and to weather the inevitable ups-and-downs of economic cycles.

About one hundred years ago an author with deep insight wrote, “Keep out of the cities. . . . Educate our people to get out of the cities into the country, where they can obtain a small piece of land, and make a home for themselves and their children. . . . Ere long there will be such strife and confusion in the cities, that those who wish to leave them will not be able.” *Country Living*, pages 10-11.

## Summary

Let us be exceedingly careful that we do not think that because persons with an Islamic background committed acts of terrorism, therefore we must be suspicious of all Muslims; let us not think that because some terrorists are of Arab descent, all people of Arab lineage are likely to be terrorists.

Our government should appropriately punish *acts* of terrorism, but we must carefully consider the far-reaching implications of trying to identify and eradicate “*terrorists*.”

Especially must we guard against the gross irresponsibility of thinking

---

*Educate our people to get out of the cities into the country, where they can obtain a small piece of land, and make a home for themselves and their children.*

---

aries which govern all civil relations. As soon as the government takes sides for or against any religion, intolerance and religious persecution are sure to result.

It is upon the churches that a great weight of responsibility rests for the education of correct principles of moral rectitude. Many years ago a president of the United States said:

“It was not education that founded religion, but it was religion that founded education. It was beside the place of worship that there grew up the school.

“This important fact cannot be ignored in our development of education. Without its spirit either civilization will fall of its own weight, and that deep, abiding wisdom which supports society will cease to exist, or we shall have a type of mind keen in intelligence, but greedy and cruel, which, armed

seen, we need more of the things that are unseen. It is on that side of life that it is desirable to put the emphasis at the present time. If that side is strengthened, the other side will take care of itself. It is that side which is the foundation of all else. If the foundation be firm the superstructure will stand.”<sup>13</sup>

The churches bear a responsibility to do for society what the civil government cannot do—namely, to educate our citizens in principles of morality in such a way that there is the inward restraint of noble and upright principles of thought and action.

## 5. The Urban Trend

Perhaps the disaster of September 11, 2001, should be a wake-up call to Americans, and to the rest of the world, that congregating together in cities is not the best plan. Cities are prime targets for terrorism.

that in punishing innocent people we would be getting back at those who have committed terroristic crimes, for in doing so we would be committing one of the most heinous of terroristic crimes—that of wrongfully depriving others of their inalienable rights of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” simply in the name of wanting to feel a greater sense of “security” for ourselves.

One of the features of America’s strength and nobility has been its haven of freedom, and liberty of conscience, regardless of race, creed, or ethnic background. Our Constitution has sustained the great principle of freedom displayed in the right of a person to be considered “innocent until proven guilty.” What a tragedy it would be if we were to discard these important principles of liberty in the pursuit of those whom we might classify as “terrorist” because of race, religion, or background. It might be that the greatest terroristic threat begins much closer to home than we think. ✨

References:

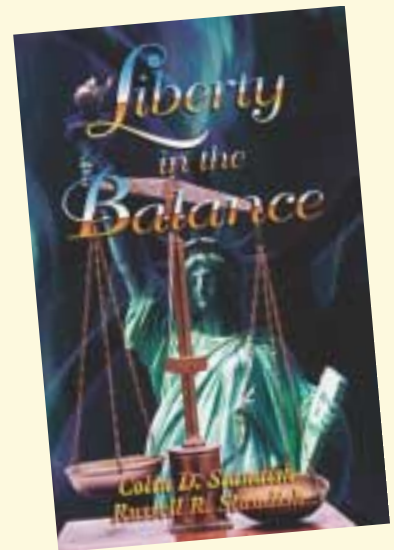
- <sup>1</sup> “When Evil Confronts Us . . . How Should We Respond?” *SIGNS* Special Issue, published by Pacific Press Publishing Association, 11.
- <sup>2</sup> See Washington Post article found on their website ( <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/nation/specials/attacked/A3472-2001Oct28.html> ).
- <sup>3</sup> Reported in “The Satanic Roots of Rock ‘n Roll” by Donald Phau, *The New Federalist*, July 27, 1989. This was one of many incidents described, and which took place during the performance of the Rolling Stones’ “Sympathy for the Devil.”
- <sup>4</sup> *Remote Controlled*, 93.
- <sup>5</sup> *Washington Post*, February 14, 1991.
- <sup>6</sup> *Remote Controlled*, 98.
- <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 99.
- <sup>8</sup> See *Television and Growing Up: The Impact of Televised Violence*, Report to the Surgeon General from The Surgeon General’s Scientific Advisory Committee on Television and Social Behavior, January 19, 1972. Note especially that on pages 201–202, the definition of violence is broadened to include the experience of the victims of violence, even when such violence is accomplished through bureaucratic or institutional activities.
- <sup>9</sup> For documentation of some of these see Joe Wheeler, *Remote Controlled*, Review & Herald Publishing Company, 1993.
- <sup>10</sup> See *The Television Time Bomb*, 34.
- <sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, 35.
- <sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, 30.
- <sup>13</sup> Calvin Coolidge (1925), *America’s Great Need for Education*, 74–75.

## Liberty in the Balance

Standish, Colin D.  
Standish, Russell R.

Hartland Publications

Prophecy foretells a time when the civil and religious liberties we now enjoy will be wrenched from those who are determined to serve God and obey His commandments. This book shows just how close we are living to that day. We live in a time when the powers of darkness are working behind the scenes to restrict the freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Read and recapture the clarity of thinking that gave America its truest freedoms. Prepare yourself to engage in the battle to preserve religious liberty.



Paperback, 263 pages, 1998

Price: \$12.95  
Catalog # BESC-LIBA

See page 3 for shipping and sales-tax information.

## Sunday's Coming!

Reid, G. Edward

Omega Productions

The final countdown has begun! It is time to get a vision of our God—high and lifted up above this world. This book will strengthen your confidence in the prophetic record and make your understanding of prophecy real and permanent. Clearly, current events in the United States reveal that *Sunday's Coming!*



Paperback, 251 pages, 1996

Price: \$14.95  
Catalog # BERG-SCOM

See page 3 for shipping and sales-tax information.

## Learning From Babylon?

**News Item:** Professor of psychology at the Graduate School of Psychology, Fuller Theological Seminary, Evangelical Presbyterian minister,

Professor of preaching at Fuller Theological Seminary,  
Pastor of William and Mary Hart Presbyterian Church,

Minister for the Society of Friends Plymouth Congregational Church, Word Publishing,  
John Knox Press,

Advertising for Professional Growth Seminars, "Pulpits on Fire": "Hear the Word well-handled by men and women known for dynamic, life-changing preaching. Discover again how great preaching can rebuild a nation, a community and a congregation." *Ministry*, January 2002.

**End-time Perspective:** What do all of the above ministers of other denominations, professors from non-Seventh-day Adventist schools, non-Seventh-day Adventist publishers and advertising have in common? A few things: 1) They all appear in the January 2002, issue of *Ministry* magazine, the main organ of the Ministerial Department of the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church, to help inspire pastors in our churches; 2) They are all non-Seventh-day Adventist except for the "Pulpits on Fire" Seminars, sponsored by *Ministry* magazine; however, even the seminar speakers are mostly non-SDA; 3) A large portion of the magazine is made up of articles by the ministers and professors listed.

It is a very sad and alarming day when we, who have the true doctrines of Scripture, and have been given the commission to call people

out of Babylon, invite teachers and preachers from Babylon (though they may be there unwittingly), to inspire and teach us. The titles of two of the articles in the magazine, "Preaching Christian Doctrine," and, "Preaching with Freedom," illustrate the point.

In the book review section all the recommended reading is by non-SDA writers. It is even stated regarding one book: "While Adventists who have a unique understanding of eschatology may find some of the interpretations of the Apocalypse and the last-day events not to their liking, there is plenty of background material even here as to be of critical usefulness for biblical preaching. For example, the study of the seven churches has much to offer to our preaching on the subject."

The Scripture says that by beholding we become changed. See 2 Corinthians 3:18. This is another evidence showing the change within our church that indicates that we are repeating the history of Israel of old in their apostasy.

We are not just in the time of the end, but at the end of time. There will not be another denomination. The Lord will use those who have been drinking His pure and clean water of life—not imbibing the wine of Babylon. He will pour out His Spirit upon them, enabling them to finish proclaiming the warning message.

## Harry Potter—Good or Bad?

**News Item #1:** "The most obvious problem, of course, is the author's use of the symbol-world of the occult as her primary metaphor, and occultic activities as the dramatic engine of the plots. It presents these to the child reader through attractive role models, such as Harry and Hermione, who are students of

witchcraft and sorcery. This has the potential of lowering a child's guard—both subconscious and spiritual—to actual occult activity, which is everywhere and growing. . . ."

"Wholesome fantasy, regardless of how wildly imaginative it may be, reinforces the moral order of the universe in a child's mind. Corrupt fantasy undermines it. The Potter world is corrupt fantasy with a little cosmetics. The cosmetics are the 'values' woven into the tale by the author.

"In modern culture, we have all become accustomed to eating a certain amount of poison in our diet; indeed, most of us no longer even recognize the poison.

"I believe that's why many educators and parents simply don't recognize the scope of the problem with the Potter books. . . ."

"Most urgently, we must recognize that the nature of the spiritual war in which we are all immersed is changing rapidly, entering a new phase of intensity."

Source: *National Catholic Register*, December 16–22, 2001, from an article entitled "Michael O'Brien: Beware the Danger of Harry Potter."

**News Item #2:** "These stories were never intended for children under age 7. If your child *must* read the books, be sure to read them to him/her. Stop and discuss what you are reading. Ask, 'Is this glorifying Jesus, or the other guy?'"

"Author Sally Pierson Dillon offers the following recommendations for parents or leaders who face decisions about these books:

• **Remember who the enemy is, and who the enemy ISN'T:** Harry Potter is NOT the enemy. . . . Satan is the enemy.

• **Know who is at risk:** Young people who are curious, dissatisfied, bereaved, psychically inclined, rebellious, credulous, or even conformists can be at risk from reading this material. . . .

• **Get your facts straight:** *Harry Potter* is NOT a 'Satanist' book or one that teaches witchcraft. *Harry*



## Have a news item of interest?

contact [newswatch@hopeint.org](mailto:newswatch@hopeint.org)

To mail or fax us a copy, see page 3

Potter IS a book that glamorizes the supernatural. (Many other widely sold books—past and present—do this as well.)”

“• **Don’t be intimidated by the occult:** [1 John 4:4, NIV quoted]. . . .

“• **Put on your armor** before studying about these issues.”

*Christianity Today*, January 10, 2000, is quoted, saying, “Rowling’s series is a *Book of Virtues* with a preadolescent funny bone. Amid the laugh-out-loud scenes are wonderful examples of compassion, loyalty, courage, friendship, and even self-sacrifice. No wonder young readers want to be like these believable characters.”

Source: “Dealing with Harry Potter: Fight or Flight” in the *Children’s Leader*, Spring 2001, published by the Children’s Ministries Department, North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists.

**End-time Perspective:** As you read the above quotations, you will notice that one is from Catholics, and the other from Seventh-day Adventists. We are just about overwhelmed at the contrast between what the followers of the beast power, who see the danger, are saying, and how we, who are supposed to be sounding a clear note of warning, are actually muting and mitigating the warnings of danger. However, Ellen White gives clear warnings regarding this issue:

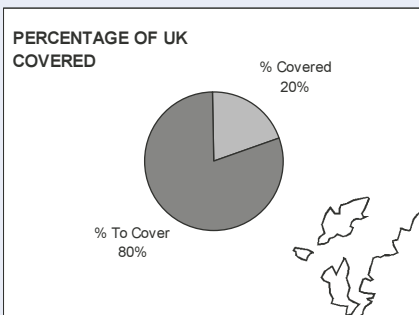
“As spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. . . .

“The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguish-

able. Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them, and Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism.” *The Great Controversy*, 588.

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel’s message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side.” *Ibid.*, 608.

Let us pray for eyesalve and repent of our blindness—individually and corporately—before it is too late. ❀



## SENDING THE TRUTH TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

**Advent Books** in England is working to offer every home in the UK the opportunity to receive *The Great Controversy* and Bible studies *totally free*. This is being done by bulk mailing millions of leaflets to people’s homes.

### Work completed so far:

- **5.3 million** homes covered (20% of the United Kingdom)
- **7300** requests for *The Great Controversy*
- **3200** people wanting Bible studies by mail
- Help for people wanting to keep the Sabbath and find a church to worship in
- Reaching backslidden SDAs

Praise God for the work done so far, BUT there is a greater work to be done: **about 20 million** more homes still need to be covered!

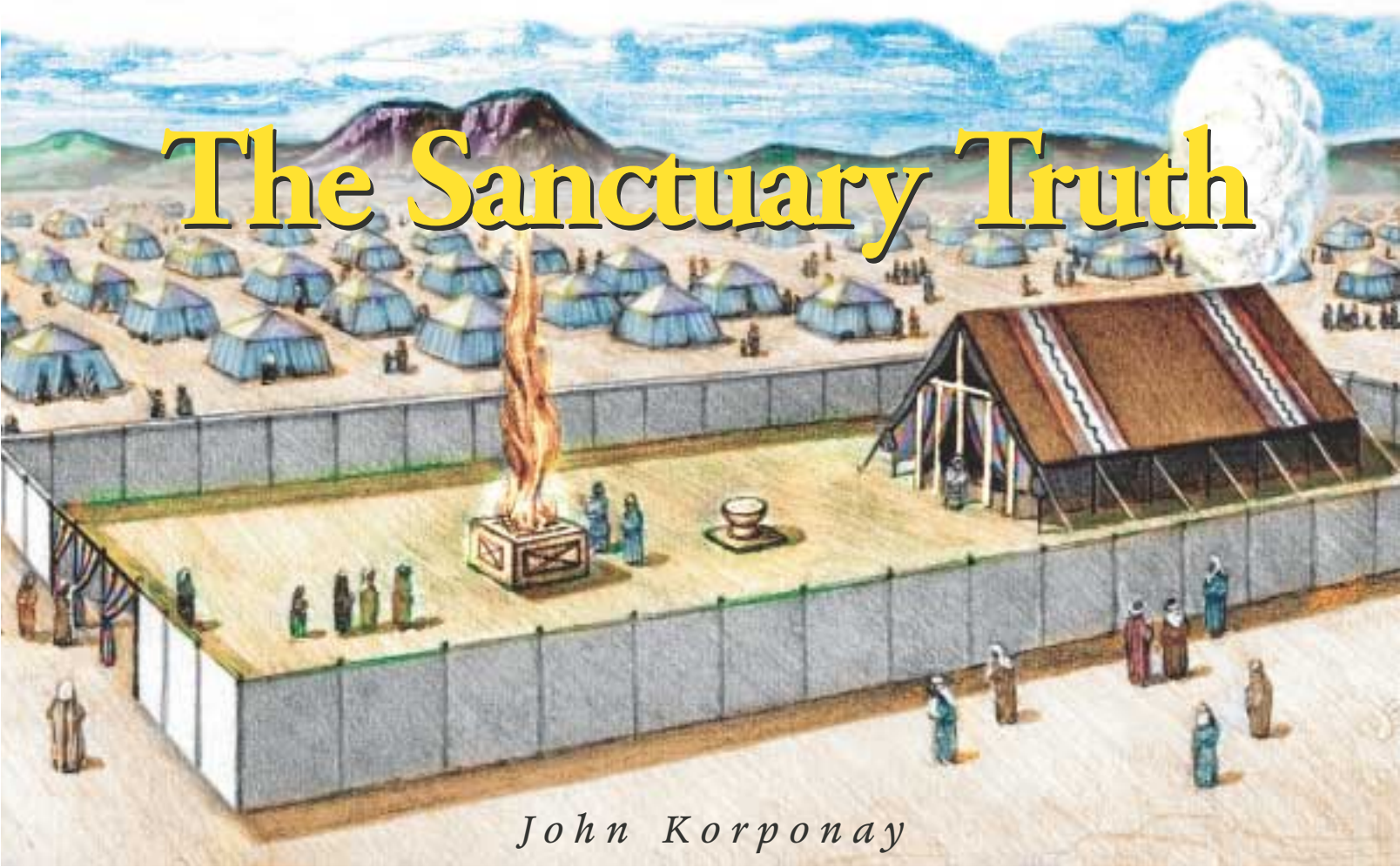
### HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can sponsor leaflets to be bulk mailed to entire neighbourhoods. **Just \$75.00 can send leaflets to 1000 homes, reaching 2000 – 3000 souls!**

If you have any queries, please contact:  
[adventbooks@clara.net](mailto:adventbooks@clara.net)  
 Or phone: +011-44-116-277-1665

Although Hope International is not directly sponsoring this worthy project, we want to let you know that a great work is being done in the United Kingdom by Advent Books. **If you have a burden for England, you may send a donation to Hope International marked “Advent Books,” and we will forward it on to Advent Books.**

# The Sanctuary Truth



*John Korponay*

“**T**ruly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart. But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.” Psalm 73:1-3. Just as David wondered and agonized over the seeming unfairness of the apparent success of the sinful lifestyles of those around him, many other discouraged believers through the ages have also agonized over the apparent victory of evil over good.

But in verse 17 the psalmist tells us how he discovered the answer to his agony of soul: “Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.” He went into the sanctuary of God’s presence and gained the understanding he needed to keep his trust firmly in the Lord. “But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.” Verse 28.

Centuries later, when God’s earthly sanctuary was destroyed in the time of Daniel, and evil seemed to have total control of even God’s

place of worship, God revealed to one of His most trusted servants the exact time when the sins that defiled God’s sanctuary would finally be taken care of, bringing in the final triumph of righteousness: “Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” Daniel 8:13-14.

In the September 2001 issue of *Our Firm Foundation*, an article entitled “1844: Is It Biblical?” was published showing how we have established the exact dates involved in the 2300-year prophecy, and showing how the word of prophecy has come true in history. Let us now take a closer look at the cleansing of the sanctuary.

When we look at the Jewish church in Jesus’ day, we see a great ignorance of the issues involved in

the sanctuary services. The services were performed every day, but the people lost sight of what they represented—the issues of sin, cleansing, and righteousness.

It was because of the people’s unwillingness to let go of this world and what it offers, that their minds became clouded, which resulted in compromise after compromise with it. Their definition of darkness and light was not God’s definition, for popularity with peers had blinded their discernment. “And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. . . . He came unto his own, and his own received him not.” John 1:5, 11.

So it happened, as God foretold through Isaiah in chapter 53, that they decided that the pure, holy, Sin-bearer was the sinful One, and not themselves: “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.” Verse 4. They rejected the very One they needed for salvation and deliverance. Yet God, through His amazing grace, gave them another chance to



have a place in His kingdom. This chance was given them at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

We are familiar with the history that followed this great illumination, and how Satan tried to choke it out. But again, God, by His great grace, caused light to shine during the Reformation era so that those who were in ignorance of God's power to save, would be given knowledge. The reformers preached and taught the forgiveness of sins, and God's acceptance of the penitent sinner through His righteousness—all by faith in God and His promises. This aspect of our salvation is all symbolized in the outer court and holy-place ministry of the sanctuary service.

An Israelite who realized that he had disobeyed one of God's commandments came to the sanctuary bringing the specified animal for a sin offering. He then confessed his sin over it, symbolically transferring his sin to it. The animal's blood was shed in the place of his own so that he could receive forgiveness.

These sins were not removed from the sanctuary during the year; they remained until the great and solemn Day of Atonement. That day was designated by God to be used to cleanse the sanctuary of all the sins that had been collected there during the year. It is also very interesting to note that there was preparation required for that day. For nine days before, the "feast of blowing of trumpets" signaled that the sacred year was about to close, and that all of the sins from the past year that had accumulated in the sanctuary would be finally cleansed away on the approaching Day of Atonement. It was to be the most solemn, sacred Sabbath of the year.

Let us note the two requirements that were to be participated in by the *whole* congregation on that day, on pain of death: one was to afflict your soul; the other was to do no secular work: "For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in

that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people." Leviticus 23:29–30.

Even the under and outer clothing of the priest had to be of a sacred, holy kind, according to God's direction. See Leviticus 16:4.

After the great disappointment of 1844 the realization that the cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven had begun, brought comfort and courage to the believers. It also helped clarify the nature of the warning message to be given to Babylon and its sister churches.

## Rest From Your Own Works

Brothers and sisters, are you living in the attitude of the Day of Atonement, afflicting your soul, resting from your own works and realizing that it is very possible that your probation could close at any time?

The rest that the Israelites were commanded to observe on that day needs to be observed by us every day. We can do this by not concentrating on getting ahead of others, getting a better job, building a bigger

---

*Are you living in the attitude of the Day of Atonement, afflicting your soul, resting from your own works and realizing that it is very possible that your probation could close at any time?*

---

## You Are the Temple of God

Another very important aspect of the sanctuary and the temple of God needs to be brought in here. According to Paul and Jesus, the temple of God, in a mysterious way, is also in us: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." 1 Corinthians 3:16–17. When Jesus was here, He referred to His body as the temple of God: "But he spake of the temple of his body." John 2:21.

As *we* are brought into union with God, we need to realize that *we* become a sanctuary for Him. The work that is going on in the heavenly sanctuary must also take place within us, for *we* represent God's sanctuary here on earth.

The Lord declared through the prophet Isaiah, "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." Isaiah 57:15.

house; on what, when, and where to entertain ourselves; or on worrying if our retirement nest egg is big enough to keep us in comfort. These are just a few of the worries that the average, worldly minded person cannot rest from. But we are not supposed to be of this world. We may have a security and a rest that the natural man does not know about, if we have "ceased from our own works" (see Hebrews 4:10), and have stopped making "provision for the flesh" (Romans 13:14).

When we look at Jesus and trust Him every day during the week, then the seventh-day Sabbath will become a delight, because according to the commandment we do not have to talk of worldly goals, plans, and pleasures. See Isaiah 58:13. This is the only way that the seventh-day Sabbath becomes the seal inwardly and outwardly for the members of the church of God—truly entering into God's rest physically, mentally, and spiritually.

## Afflict Your Soul

The second requirement on the Day of Atonement necessary in order for us to participate in it is not as pleasant for us to fulfill as

the first, but it is very necessary to break Satan's hold upon us, especially as we near the day of our redemption. The Israelite was to afflict his soul by examining his life throughout the past year, and in the present. Ours must not be merely a casual or superficial examination, but one that goes deep—so deep that it hurts—to find the idols of distrust, dishonesty, selfishness, and pride that are hiding in our hearts.

Notice that in Hebrews 4, after telling us to enter into God's rest (as on the Day of Atonement), Paul warns us that we must prepare for a day of accounting: "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing

admit it and repent quickly while we still have an Advocate with the Father. Repent with a repentance that need not be repented of, following the example of Peter and the other disciples. See 2 Corinthians 7:10.

Do not be afraid to discover the truth, because it will come out—either now by your will, or later by God's will when it will be too late. The unrepentant soul will find no shelter from the wrath of God: "And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth." Revelation 16:1.

Pray and work with God to recover your first-love experience: "Nevertheless I have somewhat

*Do not be afraid to discover the truth, because it will come out—either now by your will, or later by God's will when it will be too late.*

asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Hebrews 4:12-13.

God's people were directed to "afflict" their souls, emphasizing the seriousness and vital importance of examining their motives and thoughts. The only difference for us now is that we should not be waiting for a certain day to come: "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Corinthians 6:2. *Now* is the time to cooperate with the Holy Spirit. *Now* is the time to know whether we are truly in love with Christ, or if we are just doing a great job of acting.

Where is your heart? Who really has it? God forbid that it is like Lot's wife's—still in Sodom—or like the Israelites'—still in Egypt. But, if it is,

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.

These two elements—resting from our own works and afflicting the soul on account of sin—these are the practical applications of the sanctuary truth that the churches of Babylon have rejected ever since 1844. What a unique privilege and responsibility is upon us to live and share this truth that no other church believes, much less teaches! The warning message of the third angel must be sounded, so that those deceived ones who are in darkness may be saved.

We are to live daily in the fear and love of God, waiting with eager expectation for His appearing, working with Him for the salvation of those around us. May the Lord help us. ❀

## Scripture Memory Tools for Children

from

*Thy Word Creations*

Teach Scripture to your children with these fun tapes and books. Each one comes with an interesting audio cassette and a companion book, with full-color illustrations. Help your children fix God's Word in their minds!

Illustrated Paperback Books with Audio Cassette

**Only \$12.95 Each!**

**Choose from the following available titles:**

**1 Corinthians 13**  
Catalog # **AETW-1C13**

**The Beatitudes**  
Catalog # **AETW-BEAT**

**Isaiah 53**  
Catalog # **AETW-IS53**

**The Lord's Prayer**  
Catalog # **AETW-LPRA**

**Psalms 139**  
Catalog # **AETW-P139**

**Psalms 23**  
Catalog # **AETW-PS23**

**Psalms 91**  
Catalog # **AETW-PS91**

**The Ten Commandments**  
Catalog # **AETW-TCOM**

**The Temptations of Jesus**  
Catalog # **AETW-TOJE**

See page 3 for shipping and sales-tax information.

## Christ's Human Nature

### How to mark your Bible and be ready to share your faith

“Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

1 Peter 3:15. We need to be able to give an answer for our faith. Marking your Bible can give you the edge you need. It takes work, but the rewards are worth all the effort.

We pray that you will be blessed by these studies. As you mark them, may you be encouraged to spend more time in God's Word and to search out the hidden things of God. Always be sure to look for opportunities to share them with others.

The Editors

#### Bible Marking Directions

- On a blank page in the front or back of your Bible, write the study title, the code, and the first reference. This month's entry would appear as follows: **Christ's Human Nature, CHN1: Genesis 3:15.**

- Turn to the first verse and write the comment (if you wish to use the comments), and the next reference in the margin near it. If the comment is long, you can write it at the top or bottom of the page, with an asterisk or the code of the study to refer you to it.

- Turn to the next text and repeat the process until you reach the end. Beside the last text, write “**End CHN.**”

- Go through the study to check for broken links.

- Share the study with someone!

With “every wind of doctrine” blowing in Adventism today, we must be grounded in truth and prepared to defend it as thrusts come from every direction. Last month we looked at the Divinity of Christ; this month we study Christ's human nature.

#### **CHN1: Genesis 3:15.**

God promised Adam and Eve that He would send “the seed of the woman” to rescue us from our enemy.

#### **CHN2: Philippians 2:7.**

Jesus was made in the likeness of men.

#### **CHN3: Romans 1:3.**

God's Son Jesus Christ was made flesh.

#### **CHN4: Romans 8:3.**

He was made in sinful flesh just as we are.

#### **CHN5: Galatians 4:4–5.**

He was subject to the law just as we are.

#### **CHN6: Hebrews 2:11, 14–18.**

Jesus was “tempted like as we are” because He was “made like unto his brethren.”

#### **CHN7: Mark 2:28.**

Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, referred to Himself as “the Son of

man,” thereby identifying Himself with us.

#### **CHN 8: Hebrews 4:15–16.**

As the Son of man, Jesus had no advantage over us — we, too, can live victoriously over sin by the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### **CHN9: Matthew 1:21.**

Jesus came to save us from our sins.

#### **CHN10: John 8:34–36.**

The Son of God and of man can make us free from sin — from transgressing against the law.

#### **CHN11: I John 3:4–5.**

Jesus was manifested to take away our sins.

#### **CHN12: Titus 2:11–14.**

Jesus gave Himself to redeem us from iniquity, and to purify a people unto good works.


#### **CHN13: Hebrews 5:8–9.**

Jesus was our Example of obedience.

#### **CHN14: Romans 8:2–6, 13.**

As Jesus conquered sin by combining human nature with His divine nature, we can receive through Him power to live a life of righteousness by combining our human nature with His divine nature. ✨

For more information on Bible marking, or for a greater selection of studies, go to <http://www.biblemarking.com> or refer to “Mark Your Bible!” in the August 2001 issue of *Our Firm Foundation*.



# Danger of Light Becoming Darkness

*Ellen G. White*

**T**he Lord has condescended to give you an outpouring of His Holy Spirit. At the camp meetings, and in our various institutions, a great blessing has been showered upon you. You have been visited by the heavenly messengers of light and truth and power, and it should not be thought a strange thing that God should thus bless you. How does Christ subdue His chosen people to Himself?—It is by the power of His Holy Spirit; for the Holy Spirit, through the Scriptures, speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the hearts of men.

Before His crucifixion, Christ promised that the Comforter should be sent to His disciples. He said: “It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. . . . When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall

he speak; and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.” John 16:7–8, 13–14.

This promise of Christ has been made little enough of, and because of a dearth of the Spirit of God, the spirituality of the law and its eternal obligations have not been comprehended. Those who have professed to love Christ, have not comprehended the relation which exists between them and God, and it is still but dimly outlined to their understanding. They but vaguely comprehend the amazing grace of God in giving His only begotten Son for the salvation of the world. They do not understand how far reaching are the claims of the holy law, how intimately the precepts of the law are to be brought into practical life. They do not realize what a great privilege and necessity are prayer, repentance, and the doing of the Words of Christ. It is the office of the Holy Spirit to reveal to the mind the character of the consecration that God will accept. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit, the soul is

enlightened, and the character is renewed, sanctified, and uplifted.

Through the deep movings of the Spirit of God, I have had opened before me the character of the work of the visitation of the Spirit of God. I have had opened before me the danger in which souls would be placed who had been thus visited; for afterward, they would have to meet fiercer assaults of the enemy, who would press upon them his temptations to make of none effect the workings of the Spirit of God, and cause that the momentous truths presented and witnessed by the Holy Spirit, should not purify and sanctify those who had received the light of Heaven, and thus cause that Christ should not be glorified in them.

The period of great spiritual light, if that light is not sacredly cherished and acted upon, will be turned into a time of corresponding spiritual darkness. The impression made by the Spirit of God, if men do not cherish the sacred impression, and occupy holy ground, will fade from the mind. Those who would advance in spiritual knowledge

must stand by the very fount of God, and drink again and again from the Wells of salvation so graciously opened unto them. They must never leave the Source of refreshment; but with hearts swelling with gratitude and love at the display of the goodness and compassion of God, they must be continually partakers of the living Water.

O, how much this means to every soul—"I am the light of the world (John 8:12);" "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger [for anything more satisfying]; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:35). To come to this condition means that you have found the Source of light and love, and have learned when and how you may be replenished, and may make use of the promises of God by continually applying them to your souls.

"But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not." Verse 36. This has been literally fulfilled in the cases of many; for the Lord gave them a deeper insight into truth, into His character of mercy and compassion and love; and yet after being thus enlightened, they have turned from Him in unbelief. They saw the deep movings of the Spirit of God; but when the insidious temptations of Satan came in, as they always will come after a season of revival, they did not resist unto blood, striving against sin; and those who might have stood on vantage ground, had they made a right use of the precious enlightenment that they had, were overcome by the enemy. They should have reflected the light that God gave to them upon the souls of others; they should have worked and acted in harmony with the sacred revealings of the Holy Spirit; and in not doing so, they suffered loss.

Among the students the spirit of fun and frolic was indulged. They became so interested in playing games that the Lord was crowded out of their minds; and Jesus stood among you in the playground, saying, O that thou hadst known, "even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy

peace!" Luke 19:42. "Ye also have seen me, and believe not." Yes; Christ revealed Himself to you, and deep impressions were made as the Holy Spirit moved upon your hearts; but you pursued a course by which you lost these sacred impressions, and failed to maintain the victory. "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37. You began to come to Christ, but you did not abide in Christ. You forsook Him, and the realization you had had of the great favors and blessings He had given you, was lost from your heart.

tian will be filled with cheerfulness and peace, because he lives as seeing Him who is invisible; and those who seek Christ in His true character have within them the elements of everlasting life, because they are partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruptions that are in the world through lust. Jesus said, "This is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlast-

---

*The period of great spiritual light, if that light is not sacredly cherished and acted upon, will be turned into a time of corresponding spiritual darkness.*

---

The question of amusement occupied so large a place in your minds, that after the solemn visitation of the Spirit of God, you entered into its discussion with such great zeal that all barriers were broken down; and through your passion for games, you neglected to heed the Word of Christ: "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation." Mark 14:38. The place that should have been occupied by Jesus was usurped by your passion for games. You chose your amusements instead of the comfort of the Holy Spirit. You did not follow the example of Jesus, who said, "I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." John 6:38.

The minds of many are so bewildered with their own human desires and inclinations, and they have been so in the habit of indulging them, that they cannot comprehend the true sense of the Scriptures. Many suppose that in following Christ they will be obliged to be gloomy and disconsolate, because they are required to deny themselves the pleasures and follies that the world indulge in. The living Chris-

ing life: and I will raise him up at the last day." Verses 39-40.

All spiritual life is derived from Jesus Christ. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God." John 1:12. But what is the sure result of becoming a child of God?—The result is that we become laborers together with God. There is a great work to be done for your own soul's salvation, and to qualify you to win others from unbelief to a life sustained by faith in Christ Jesus.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me [with a casual faith?—No, with an abiding faith that works by love and purifies the soul] hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life. . . . I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. . . . Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. . . . It is the spirit that

**continued on page 23**



# Faithfulness

*This month we share with you the next in a series of articles that discuss how we can cultivate Christian character traits in the hearts of our children. "The Garden of the Heart," in the February 2001 issue of Our Firm Foundation, laid the foundation for this series. It is available upon request.*

*The Editors*

**A** faithful person is one who fulfills his responsibility, is trustworthy, and acts from principle. Faithfulness is more than a child obeying because his parents have asked him to do a certain thing. A child who has learned to be faithful will do the right thing—even when his mother and father are not with him. Faithfulness at its most basic level is our faith connecting us with God to accomplish whatever we need to do.

Can you think of any characters in the Bible who were faithful?—There are many: the little maid, Joseph, Daniel, Samuel, Esther and David. These stories are not simply history. They were given to us that we might learn important lessons for our lives. When you read the story of Joseph to your child, take the opportunity to explain to him how Joseph was faithful in all the aspects of his life. Then take it the next step, and ask, "Now, how can you be faithful today? How can you be faithful like Joseph, or David, or the little maid?"

## Teach Faithfulness in Little Things

Faithfulness is fulfilling your responsibility, but it also goes deeper than that. It is being trustworthy, knowing what is right, and then doing it—even when others are not watching. We find an important

principle in Luke 16:10: "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much."

What is "the least" for a young child?—It might be clearing their bowl from the table. That is a little thing, but when the child learns to cheerfully put his bowl where it belongs, he is ready to practice the same faithfulness in a larger task. It includes not only the act, but the attitude in carrying it out.

## Do Not Excuse Your Child

Encouraging faithfulness in our children requires time and patience on the part of the parent. I may need to have my child rewrite a word she put on the paper because it was not very neat. I may have to call my child back to rewash a dish that is still dirty. When our children have not been thorough, faithfulness calls them back to finish the job. Let us not find ourselves getting into the habit of saying, "Oh, that is good enough, I will do the rest for you."

We must be careful that we do not teach our children to be slothful because we grow tired of the protracted effort, or are too preoccupied to give them the guidance they need. Lack of faithfulness in this area leads to handicaps that our children should not go through life with—such as not being able to read well, spell very well, structure sentences in a letter, or prepare a wholesome, well-balanced meal. What a blessed opportunity we have as parents to show, teach, and train our children on how to be faithful in all aspects of real, everyday life!

## Give Greater Responsibilities

As children grow older we can continue to cultivate faithfulness in

them by giving them more, and larger, responsibilities. These responsibilities can even be motivators for them. Our family lives in Montana, where it is very cold in the winter. Wood is the fuel we use to heat our home, cook our meals, and heat our water, therefore, it is a vital necessity for our lifestyle. We often go out together as a family to gather wood. Our son, Josiah, loves to go! As he has grown older, he has become very interested in his father's chainsaw. He wanted to learn how to run the chainsaw, and then, of course, he began asking to have his own saw.

We told Josiah, "You must be faithful in all that you do, so that we know we can trust you with a chainsaw. We want to know that when you have a chainsaw you will be obedient and never operate it without your father's presence, permission, or guidance." This was a strong incentive for Josiah, and when he was thirteen, we did get him a chainsaw. He has proven himself to be very trustworthy, safe, and reliable, and now he runs the chainsaw independently. So does this mean that every thirteen-year-old should have a chainsaw?—Certainly not! Only after a child has learned to be faithful, and has proven himself to be trustworthy in his other responsibilities, should such a trust be given to him. Josiah has learned to be faithful, and so, now we can trust him with this bigger responsibility.

In the book, *Christ's Object Lessons*, 360, we find this wonderful commentary on what the results of faithfulness in the small things will be: "By *faithfulness* in little duties, we are to work on the plan of addition, and God will work for us on the plan of multiplication. These littles

will become the most precious influences in His work.

“Let a living faith run like threads of gold through the performance of even the smallest duties. Then all the daily work will promote Christian growth. There will be a continual looking unto Jesus. Love for Him will give vital force to everything that is undertaken. Thus through the right use of our talents, we may link ourselves by a golden chain to the higher world. This is true sanctification; for sanctification consists in the cheerful performance of daily duties in perfect obedience to the will of God.” What blessed words of encouragement these are for us to faithfully cultivate faithfulness in our children and youth! ❖

Next month we will discuss how to cultivate generosity.



### **Cultivating Christian Character in Children**

*Waters, Alane*

In this series Alane presents the important role of the parent as the gardener of the heart. Then 18 different character qualities are discussed, showing some of the common pitfalls, as well as how to practically plant and cultivate the right seeds of character.

Set of 6 Audio Cassettes  
**Catalog # AEWA-CCCI**

Only **\$24!**

See page 3 for shipping and sales-tax information.

### **continued from page 21**

quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.” John 6:47-48, 51, 53-54, 63-65.

When Jesus spoke these words, He spoke them with authority, assurance, and power. At times He manifested Himself in such a way that the deep movings of His Spirit were sensibly realized. But many who saw and heard and participated in the blessings of the hour, went their way, and soon forgot the light He had given them.

The treasures of eternity have been committed to the keeping of Jesus Christ, to give to whomsoever He will; but how sad it is that so many quickly lose sight of the precious grace that is proffered unto them through faith in Him. He will

impart the heavenly treasures to those who will believe in Him, look to Him, and abide in Him. He thought it not robbery to be equal with God, and He knows no restraint nor control in bestowing the heavenly treasures upon whom He will. He does not exalt and honor the great ones of the world, who are flattered and applauded; but He calls upon His chosen, peculiar people who love and serve Him, to come unto Him and ask, and He will give them the bread of life, and endow them with the water of life, which shall be in them as a well of water springing up unto everlasting life.

Jesus brought to our world the accumulated treasures of God, and all who believe upon Him are adopted as His heirs. He declares that great shall be the reward of them who suffer for His name’s sake. It is written, “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9. ❖

*Review and Herald*, January 30, 1894.



### **Morning's Trumpet**

*Walton, Lewis R.*

“We enjoyed the good life and dozed in front of the television. But on September 11, 2001, we heard *Morning's Trumpet.*”

On that morning, Adventist law student Richard Walton was in his apartment only a few blocks from the Pentagon. Suddenly an airliner filled his window, crashed through a tree just outside, and roared eastward. And then there was a ball of fire. . . .

In a single hour, our lives were changed forever, and you didn't have to be an Adventist to see that; *everyone* did. The message is clear: it is time to take the Second Coming very seriously.

This book is a wake-up call that fearlessly challenges the status quo. It may disturb some. It won't leave you bored!

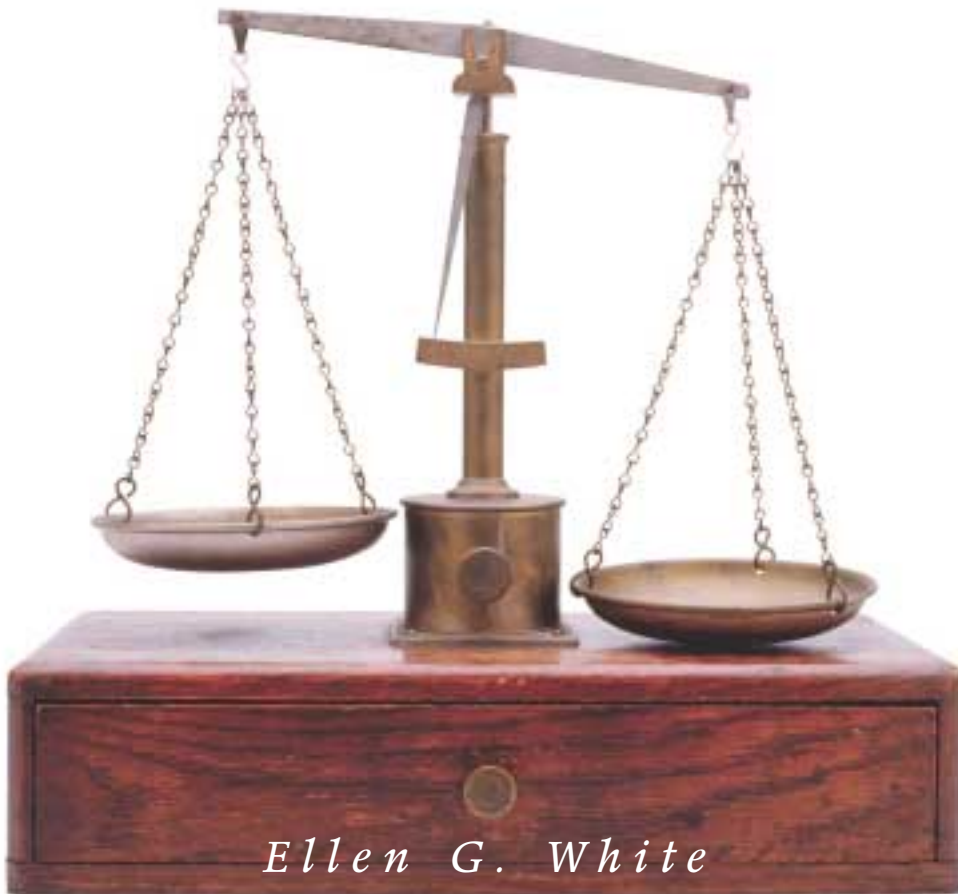
Paperback, 160 pages, 2001

**Price: \$10.95**  
**Catalog # BEWL-MTRU**

See page 3 for shipping and sales-tax information.



# The Testing of Character



*Ellen G. White*

**S**aul made an appearance of great conscientiousness and devotion, as he stood before the army of Israel, offering up a sacrifice to God. He represented himself before the people as one who was unwilling to engage in battle with the Philistines, without seeking the help of Heaven, but his heart was filled with distrust, and his apparent piety was, in reality, only unbelief and disobedience. He had been directed by the prophet of God that when he was brought into just such circumstances of trial he should wait until seven days had expired, and that at the termination of the days appointed, Samuel would come unto him, and offer the sacrifice, and tell him what he should do to honor God and save Israel, but Saul had failed to bear the test that God had permitted to come upon him, and he resolved to offer the sacrifice himself, and wait no longer for the priest ordained of God to perform the sacred service.

The king beheld the Philistines arrayed for battle. He saw his own

soldiers filled with alarm, and his ranks thinning with frequent desertions, and, instead of trusting in the Word of God, and waiting patiently for His salvation, he became faithless and discouraged. In the hope of again rallying his scattered troops, he was willing to violate the direction of God, and offer an offering before the Lord, that he might have the approval of the people, and gather them to his side to war against the enemy.

The prophet had declared that the Lord would reveal what course the king should pursue when the seven days were ended; but he did not wait for the arrival of the man of God, but took the matter into his own hands. If he had but waited in faith and patience and rested in the promise of God, what lessons of trust might have come down to inspire us as the result of his life and experience! What a help he might have been to Israel, if he had but stood the test in that hour of trial! He might have revealed the work of the Spirit of God in his

heart. Through him might have been manifested the power and willingness of Jehovah to bless His waiting people. If he had fulfilled the conditions upon which the help was promised, the Lord would have wrought a marvelous deliverance for Israel, with the few who were loyal to the king. But the religious service, performed in unbelief and in direct opposition to the commandment of God, only served to weaken his hands, and to place him beyond the help that God was so willing to grant him.

There are many who are pursuing this very course today. They refuse to believe and obey the commandment of the Lord, and yet they persevere in offering up to God their formal services of religion; but there is no response from the Spirit of God to such a service. There is no inward work upon the heart, no reformation in the life, no transformation in the character. Outward ordinances must not be considered of value, unless they are in accordance with the expressed will of



God. The Lord cannot manifest His power to deliver, no matter how zealous men may be in their observance of religious ceremonies, if they persist in willful disobedience to His Commandments.

Those who are placed in positions of trust, will be subjected to different tests, that their loyalty and trustworthiness may be proved by their course of action. The test may be a simple one, but it will be sufficient to decide whether or not the man's spirit is under the control of the Spirit of God. It will be made manifest whether or not he will choose to carry out his own will and his own ideas, or the will of God as the Supreme Guide of his actions. All our actions are weighed. Their moral worth is estimated. It is known whether or not we are loyal to God, whether or not we are leading those connected with us to love and fear God, or through the natural defects of our characters, unaided by the grace of God, we are leading those who look to us for an example into crooked paths, away from the fear of God, away from the counsel He gives through His appointed servants. If we are indifferent to the instruction given through the agencies of God, our hearts will become hardened, the light ordained for our correction will appear as darkness, and we will become agents in leading others into unbelief and rebellion.

Adam was tested in a very simple matter, but his failure to endure the test opened the flood-gates of woe upon our world, and with every disobedience to God are involved consequences of fearful import and disaster. The action of the king before Israel lessened the significance of the sacrificial service, and robbed the priesthood of its sacredness before their eyes. If the king could, with unconsecrated hands, perform this holy rite, why could not the people do the same? If he thought best to perform this service, it must be the right thing to do, and they felt perfectly safe in following the example of one so exalted as the king. Those who occupy positions of honor and

responsibility, should be exceedingly careful to walk circumspectly and humbly before the Lord, that they may not become stumbling blocks to those who are influenced by their life and example.

The greatest trials that have come upon the church have been brought about through the agency of those who were its professed friends, and who had been placed in positions of trust and sacred responsibility. Our most sanguine expectations have been frequently disappointed. We have followed our best judgment in selecting men for places of trust, and they have failed time and again, when the

responsibilities that their position in nowise warrants, and for which God has not ordained them.

When circumstances are so shaped that character is tested and developed, you should seek fervently for the help of God that you may be delivered from evil. If you walk humbly before God, you will not follow your own will, but will have a teachable spirit, and will submit to instruction and correction. If you steadfastly adhere to the Word of God and follow in His way, you will not imperil others nor in the least degree seek to turn their minds away from the warnings, reproofs, and instructions which God sends

---

*The greatest trials that have come upon the church have been brought about through the agency of those who were its professed friends.*

---

test was brought to bear on their characters. They have exhibited weaknesses of which they gave no previous indication. They are not what they appeared to be before they were placed in the position. How often have we finite beings been led to repent that we have used our influence toward promoting men who afterwards have given no evidence of their devotion to God's Word and work.

We have often inquired, What has made this great change in these men? What was it that led Saul to presume upon his exaltation to dishonor God by unbelief and disobedience?—It was self-sufficiency and an evil heart of unbelief. It was when Saul was little in his own sight that God chose him to be ruler over Israel, but when he lost his spirit of simplicity and humility, he was not the man for the place, and his authority was taken from him. Those who turn from their humility and begin to exalt self, are filled with the most unaccountable infatuation and self-deception in regard to their own qualifications. Like Saul, they begin to assume

through His servants; but if you fail to obey the Word of God, even in the most perplexing circumstances, you make it manifest that you cannot be trusted in times of peril. Like Saul, you will follow your own judgment. You will not humble your soul before God, and make supplication, and lead those connected with you to look to God with all their hearts for the help He has promised to give in times of need.

The Lord will work for those who put their trust in Him. Precious victories will be gained by the faithful. Precious lessons will be learned. Precious experiences will be realized that will be of the greatest advantage in times of trial and temptation. Those who will give all the glory to God, not taking credit to themselves, will be trusted with more and more of the blessing of God. The Lord will be magnified by those who honor Him in the midst of the people. The trial that has been borne with patience, the test that has been met with faithfulness, will prove them worthy of responsibility, and God will make them agents to carry out His will. They will be

made stewards of His grace, as honored servants of God.

The conflicts of earth, in the providence of God, furnish the very training necessary to develop characters fit for the courts of Heaven. We are to become members of the royal family, the sons of God, and "all things work together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28), and submit themselves to His will. Our God is an ever-present help in every time of need. He is perfectly acquainted with the most secret thoughts of our heart, with all the intents and purposes of our souls. When we are in perplexity, even before we open to Him our distress, He is making arrangements for our deliverance.

Our sorrow is not unnoticed. He always knows much better than we do, just what is necessary for the good of His children, and He leads us as we would choose to be led if we could discern our own hearts and see our necessities and perils, as God sees them.

But finite beings seldom know themselves. They do not understand their own weaknesses, and when reproof comes, and cautions are given, when they are rebuked, or even advised, they think that they are misjudged and unjustly treated. God knows them better than they know themselves, and He understands how to lead them. But when He undertakes to guide them in ways which seem mysterious to

them, because of their blindness and lack of faith, they rebel, and bring upon themselves unnecessary grief and trouble. They have prayed to the Lord for light and guidance, and the Lord answered them as He did Jacob, and, like Jacob, they do not discern that it is the hand of the Lord leading them in a way contrary to their own choosing. If we will trust Him, and commit our ways to Him, He will direct our steps in the very path that will result in our obtaining the victory over every evil passion, and every trait of character that is unlike the character of our divine Pattern. ❄

*Signs of the Times, May 25, 1888.*

# Project USA

"The Law of God" ad project is going forward beyond our expectations. I believe God has poured out His approval and blessings on this particular outreach project; and, we at Hope International are excited and overjoyed at the response! Now, three months since it began, we have received over 700 requests for the book *Final Conflict*, along with Bible studies; and the requests continue to come in daily.

We recently ran the ad in Miami, Florida. Praise the Lord, we had over 75 requests in about 10 days!

As we were describing the responses to our ads in different areas of the U.S. during a recent meeting, one dear brother who was listening joined in the excitement and pledged \$10,000 toward this project.

Brothers and Sisters, the funds are slowly coming in, but they should be coming in faster. The three angels' messages are slowly covering America, and Christ's righteousness is being reflected through His law. What an exciting time to be alive! Are you excited about what God can do through these *Ten Commandment* ads that are reaching millions? So far, we have reached about three million people, but we still have 304 million to go. All we can do is sow the seed. Will you help Hope International accomplish this enormous task?

With our magazine *Our Firm Foundation*, we are nurturing and strengthening our Seventh-day Adventist brothers and sisters; however, we need to "Go forward" (see *The Acts of the Apostles*, 220) with our outreach program and reach these millions. The latter rain will soon fall, and what a joy it will be to meet those who were brought to salvation through this outreach effort. Please ask the Lord what He would have you lay on the altar, and join us.

## "The Law of God" Brochure

Our brochure on "The Law of God" is finally ready, and we are excited about the final product!

The cost to send this colorful tract out, including postage, will be about 20¢ each. This would go to *every home* in a given ZIP code area, which will be an excellent tool to uplift the Law of God – perhaps even more effective than the newspaper ads.

You may order the brochures to give out in person:

- 1-49 brochures: 20¢ each
- Packets of 50: \$5 per packet (10¢ each)
- Cases of 500: \$40 per case (8¢ each)
- 5000 or more: Please inquire.

If you need a free sample of this mailer, please contact us and we will be happy to send you one.



Catalog # TEHI-LOGO

# The Final Conflict Between Truth and Error

Does anyone have the authority to change God's Law?



## THE LAW OF GOD



### As Given by God

"I am the Lord, I change not."—Malachi 3:6.

Jesus is the Truth.—John 14:6.

God's Law, His Commandments are Truth.—Psalm 119:142, 151.

God's Word is Truth.—John 17:17.

### The Path to Life—Truth

~ I ~

I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

~ II ~

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

~ III ~

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

~ IV ~

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

~ V ~

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

~ VI ~

Thou shalt not kill.

~ VII ~

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

~ VIII ~

Thou shalt not steal.

~ IX ~

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

~ X ~

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Source: Exodus 20:2-17 (God's Holy Word)

### As Changed by Man

"And he shall . . . think to change times and laws."—Daniel 7:25.

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."—Proverbs 16:25.

### The Path to Destruction—Truth Mixed With Error Traditions of Men Replacing the Commandments of God

~ I ~

I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt not have strange gods before Me.

Note: Observe that the second commandment as found in the Bible is left out.

~ II ~

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

~ III ~

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

Note: Observe that the seventh day, Saturday, is ignored, and the observance of the first day, Sunday, is taught in its place. Jesus said, "Howbeit it was he who was teaching me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men. . . . Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition."—Mark 7:7, 9.

~ IV ~

Honour thy father and thy mother.

~ V ~

Thou shalt not kill.

~ VI ~

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

~ VII ~

Thou shalt not steal.

~ VIII ~

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

~ IX ~

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife.

~ X ~

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods.

Note: Observe that the tenth commandment is divided into two parts in order to make up for having omitted the second commandment.

Source: Man (See chapters 10-12 in the free book offered below.)

- The Law of God is holy, just, and good. It cannot be improved upon. Judgment is pronounced upon those who continue to knowingly teach others, by word or example, to break God's law. (See Romans 7:12 and Matthew 5:17-19.)
- God's commandments are eternal and cannot be changed. They stand fast forever and ever. (See Psalm 111:7-8.)
- "Sin is the transgression of the law." (1 John 3:4)
- "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23.
- "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23.

Dear Reader,

Jesus lived, suffered, and died to redeem us. He gave His life on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins of breaking His commandments. As you look at God's perfect, unchanging law and see your sins, flee to the risen, interceding Saviour now while mercy still lingers. Tell Him you are deeply sorry for the way you have failed Him and that you don't want to continue in your sins anymore. Trust Him for forgiveness and for power to live a new life pleasing to Him. (Read 1 John 1:8-9.)

Jesus is coming again very soon!  
Now is the time to prepare to meet Him in peace.

We are in the judgment hour—don't delay!

Yes! Please mail me the **Free** 158-page book entitled *Final Conflict Between Truth and Error*.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me Lessons 1 & 2 of your **Free** Bible Course by mail.

Please send me the **Free** *Parables of Prophecy* Computer CD, loaded with Bible study resources as well as the Bible course mentioned above. (Minimum requirement: Windows 95)

Submit your request online at [www.creation14.org/finalconflict](http://www.creation14.org/finalconflict), or fill in the information requested, and mail to:

FINAL CONFLICT  
P.O. Box 948, Dept. A  
Eatonville, WA 98328



# The Sound of Music

Clark A. Floyd

Charles Wesley wrote the song, “Jesus, Lover of My Soul,” in 1740. “Most probably it was prompted by the deep spiritual change that Wesley had undergone, a year or two earlier. His brother, John, objected to the word ‘lover’ as being too familiar for a human to apply to Divinity. As a result, it was excluded from the Methodist hymn books before 1779, but not Anglican.”<sup>1</sup>

This particular hymn was Ellen White’s favorite hymn,<sup>2</sup> and of the two tunes offered in the old *Church Hymnal*, the first, number 401, was her favorite tune. In her counsel to a depressed middle-aged woman, Ellen White related a dream that she had experienced, “I was going through a garden and you were by my side. You kept saying, ‘Look at this unsightly shrub, this deformed tree, that poor stunted rosebush.

This makes me feel bad, for they seem to represent my life and the relation I stand in before God.’ ”

Ellen White continued, “I thought a stately form walked just before us and said, ‘Gather the roses and the lilies and the pinks, and leave the thistles and unsightly shrubs, and bruise not the soul that Christ has in His choice keeping.’ ” *Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, 807.

Ellen White had this same dream three times in a row in one night. She counseled this woman quite extensively concerning her negative attitudes, ending with these words: “Read the following lines and appropriate the sentiment as your own:

“Other refuge have I none,  
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;  
Leave, O leave me not alone!  
Still support and comfort me;

All my trust on Thee is stayed,  
All my help from Thee I bring;  
Cover my defenseless head  
With the shadow of Thy wing.

“Plenteous grace with Thee is found—

Grace to pardon all my sin;  
Let the healing streams abound,  
Make and keep me pure within;  
Thou of life the Fountain art,  
Freely let me take of Thee;  
Spring Thou up within my heart,  
Rise to all eternity.” *Ibid.*, 810.

Of course, the above lines are verses two and four of the hymn, “Jesus, Lover of My Soul.” As demonstrated, lyrics can be very important in spiritual as well as in secular music, either for the positive—as in this hymn—or for the negative.

However, the positive aspect of good lyrics can be overridden by the

music attached to those lyrics. Improper musical elements found in rock music, “including ‘Christian’ rock, are volume, repetition and beat. It is a music designed not to be heard, but to be felt, to be drowned in . . . stimulating people physically rather than elevating them spiritually.”<sup>3</sup>

In the same book just quoted, Dr. Bacchiocchi reports an experience that illustrates how the music can override the lyrics: “I was invited to speak at a church where a rock band of four young men led out in the singing. Something surprising happened when they led out in the singing of ‘Amazing Grace.’ It was not long before the whole congregation was in a swinging mood. Some even stepped out of the pews and started dancing on the aisles. It was evident that the way the band was playing the hymn with the typical rock beat had caused the people to forget the words of the hymn, which are not an invitation to dance but to reflect on the amazing grace of God ‘that saved a wretch like me.’”<sup>4</sup>

We are told to “be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8. Satan knows the effects of music, for he “had led the heavenly choir.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, 28.

Dear reader, your choice of the music you listen to—whether in church, in your car, or in your home—can have a decided consequence upon your eternal salvation. If we do not take this matter seriously, we shall be deceived, for the Bible says that if it were possible, the very elect will be deceived. See Matthew 24:24.

“A genuine love for the truth and diligence in obeying all the instructions God has given for these last days will prove to be the only protection against the delusions of the enemy, the seducing spirits, and the doctrine of devils.”<sup>5</sup>

Daniel mentions that on the Plain of Dura, “all kinds of musick” was used at two different times to encourage those gathered to worship the golden image. “The summons of

the Three Angels’ Messages to come out of spiritual Babylon, by rejecting its false worship, could also well include the rejection of the music of Babylon. Soon the whole world will be gathered for the final showdown in the antitypical, apocalyptic Plain of Dura and ‘all kinds of musick’ will be played to lead the inhabitants of the earth to ‘worship the beast and its image’ (Revelation 14:9).”<sup>6</sup>

And note what is said in Revelation 18 in regard to this final fall of spiritual Babylon: “And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee.” Verse 22. Music definitely plays an important role in last-day events.

beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make right decisions. And this is called the moving of the Holy Spirit.

“The Holy Spirit never reveals itself in such methods, in such a bedlam of noise. This is an invention of Satan to cover up his ingenious methods for making of none effect the pure, sincere, elevating, ennobling, sanctifying truth for this time. Better never have the worship of God blended with music than to use musical instruments to do the work which last January was represented to me would be brought into our camp meetings. The truth for this time needs nothing of this kind in its work of converting souls. A bedlam of noise shocks the senses

---

*Your choice of the music you listen to—whether in church, in your car, or in your home—can have a decided consequence upon your eternal salvation.*

---

In speaking of the young people of her day, Ellen White said, “They have a keen ear for music, and Satan knows what organs to excite to animate, engross, and charm the mind so that Christ is not desired. The spiritual longings of the soul for divine knowledge, for a growth in grace are wanting.

“I was shown that the youth must take a higher stand and make the Word of God the Man of their counsel and their Guide. Solemn responsibilities rest upon the young, which they lightly regard. The introduction of music into their homes, instead of inciting to holiness and spirituality, has been the means of diverting their minds from the truth.” *The Adventist Home*, 407–408.

In another vision Sister White was shown that “the things . . . described as taking place in Indiana . . . would take place just before the close of probation. Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. There will be shouting, with drums, music, and dancing. The senses of rational

and perverts that which if conducted aright might be a blessing. The powers of satanic agencies blend with the din and noise, to have a carnival, and this is termed the Holy Spirit’s working. . . . No encouragement should be given to this kind of worship.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 36–37.

“Music was made to serve a holy purpose, to lift the thoughts to that which is pure, noble, and elevating, and to awaken in the soul devotion and gratitude to God. What a contrast between the ancient custom and the uses to which music is now too often devoted! How many employ this gift to exalt self, instead of using it to glorify God! A love for music leads the unwary to unite with world lovers in pleasure gatherings where God has forbidden His children to go. Thus that which is a great blessing when rightly used, becomes one of the most successful agencies by which Satan allures the mind from duty and from the contemplation of eternal things.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 594.

"It was a Sabbath afternoon in 1915 at Ellen White's Elmshaven home in northern California. Several weeks earlier on February 13, Mrs. White had broken her hip. From then on she was confined to bed or to a wheelchair. She was now past her 87th birthday. For more than 70 years she had been used by God to bring messages of hope and encouragement as well as correction and reproof.

"On this particular Sabbath not long before her death, Ellen White listened in silence as her family and some friends sang around her bedside. Someone began to sing, 'There's a land that is fairer than day. . . .' As the others picked up the words, they noticed that Mrs. White was also trying to join them. In her weak, trembling voice they heard her sing in little more than a whisper, 'We shall sing on that beautiful shore the melodious songs of the blest, and our spirits shall sorrow no more, not a sigh for the blessing of rest.'

"To those present it almost seemed that in anticipation Ellen White was already singing with the angel choir. A few days later she spoke her last words to her son, W.C. White, 'I know in whom I have believed.'"<sup>7</sup>

Dear reader, what a blessing music can be when used properly! "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

1 Corinthians 2:9. You will not want to miss heaven because of the misuse of music. "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

1 Corinthians 10:31. ✨

#### References:

- <sup>1</sup> *Companion to the SDA Hymnal*, 477.
- <sup>2</sup> Ellen G. White Estate, *Legacy of Light*, under this hymn title.
- <sup>3</sup> *The Christian and Rock Music*, edited by Samuele Bacchiocchi, 15.
- <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 15-16.
- <sup>5</sup> Editors, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, 501; see also *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 401; *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 298; *Testimonies to Ministers*, 475.
- <sup>6</sup> Bacchiocchi, *ibid.*, 169.
- <sup>7</sup> *Legacy of Light*, under "There's a Land that Is Fairer than Day."

## We Need Your Help!

In the year 2001, Hope International received \$8,800 from our faithful donors to subsidize the cost of free *Our Firm Foundation* subscriptions to those individuals who request it. Praise the Lord for your generosity!

Unfortunately, the cost to send out free magazines far and away exceeds the amount of the donations we receive for that purpose.

We receive frequent requests from Africa and other poverty-stricken parts of the world, and we are continuing to support our brethren overseas with free subscriptions while we search out and implement the most economical means to deliver the magazines to them. We also receive occasional requests from those in the United States who have a very limited income.

However, we have had to reevaluate our policy of providing free subscriptions within the United States, due to increasing needs for outreach and because of our need to continue to control our budget. During the next three months we have requested those who are receiving a free subscription in the United States to either (1) do everything possible to pay at least part of the subscription cost, if not the full amount, or else (2) let us know if they cannot pay but would appreciate continuing to receive the magazine.

In many cases these readers have shared with us that *Our Firm Foundation* is their only spiritual food. How can we deny these requests? Please help us make *Our Firm Foundation* available to everyone who sincerely reads and appreciates it. Send your monthly contribution marked "**Subscription Assistance.**"

The 1972 Autumn Council of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (held October 14-19 in Mexico City), voted guidelines for a Seventh-day Adventist Philosophy of Music. In those guidelines, they listed the following principles to guide us in our selection of music for the church.

"The music should:

"1. Bring glory to God and assist us in acceptably worshipping Him (see 1 Corinthians 10:31).

"2. Ennoble, uplift, and purify the Christian's thoughts (see Philippians 4:8; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 594).

"3. Effectively influence the Christian in the development of Christ's character in his life and in that of others (see *Manuscript 57*, 1906).

"4. Have a text which is in harmony with the scriptural teachings of the Church (see *Review and Herald*, June 6, 1912).

"5. Reveal a compatibility between the message conveyed by the words and the music, avoiding a mixture of the sacred and the profane.

"6. Shun theatricality and prideful display (see *Evangelism*, p. 137; *Review and Herald*, November 30, 1900).

"7. Give precedence to the message of the text, which should not be overpowered by accompanying musical elements (see *Gospel Workers*, pp. 357-358).

"8. Maintain a judicious balance of the emotional, intellectual, and spiritual elements (see *Review and Herald*, November 14, 1899).

"9. Never compromise high principles of dignity and excellence in efforts to reach people just where they are (see *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 143; *Evangelism*, pp. 137-138).

"10. Be appropriate for the occasion, the setting, and the audience for which it is intended (see *ibid.*, pp. 507-508)."

The full text of these guidelines was printed in the September 2000 issue of *Our Firm Foundation*, 20-23.

# letters to the editor

## Have a letter to share?

contact [editor@hopeint.org](mailto:editor@hopeint.org) or see page 3 for our mailing address.



Your publication has helped us *tremendously*. Our walk with the Lord is now becoming very *personal*, and we are leaving the trappings of “churchianity,” and are awakening to our *true* condition! May God prosper your ministry!  
RG, Tennessee

Hello at Hope! You know, with what is going on around us in Adventism, in and out of the sister churches of the GC of SDA, with the latest report concerning Hope, et’al, I found that the problems it presented were nothing compared to what I’ve been running into more and more. While the GC seems to be dealing more with Administrative things, such as, who one should pay their tithe to; who can be ordained, and by whom; and, who can baptize; I’ve been dealing with people who want to return to the former semi-Arian position of Adventism, or who want to make feast days a test, or to bash SDAs for giving any notice to Christmas. Yet, I find no mention of this in the ongoing “debate.” It’s as if these people are sneaking into the side door of the church to spread their heresy and are remaining unnoticed. The damage to the church has got to be significant. My question is, Why is this so? Why has it seemed that you have been singled out, while we hear nothing about all these others? The GC deals with the mild issues while the hot issues go unnoticed.

It’s with all this in mind that I just wanted to drop a note to all of you at Hope to let you know that you’re doing a great job. I appreciate reading your magazine when I get it, and I have a goodly sum of reading material published by you that has added greatly to my understanding. God bless you.  
KW, Arizona

I look forward to your monthly tapes. Wish they were 2 hours long!

I was so happy to be at your camp meeting in Angwin. I missed out on seeing Ron Spear and Bill Hughes. However, Bill Humeniuk and Jesse Ramirez were so kind to me and gave wonderful messages. Thanks again!

Hope all is going well with the *Our Firm Foundation* staff. Blessings to all.

VK, California

### From Overseas

Kindly please send to me Seventh-day Adventist Christian literature of any sort. The burden of evangelistic zeal weighs heavily upon my soul. I would use it through sharing it with those around me who are perishing.

ZM, Zimbabwe

I would like to express my deepest and heartfelt condolences to you and all the American community for the horrendous terrorist attack that caused mass death of fellow citizens.

I am glad to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the parcel, which you mailed to me, containing Bibles, booklets, and some very inspiring magazines. By sending this gift, you have helped not just me, but many thirsty and hungry souls who I am shepherding. I heartily appreciate all the help and support you are according me as I engage in this home-to-home gospel evangelism.

There is still a lot of spiritual work that needs to be done here. And this can best be accomplished through spiritual books and literature. So now, I am humbly requesting more copies of the Bible, Spirit of Prophecy books, *Our Firm Foundation* magazines, and any other spiritual literature that you can send to keep advancing the gospel work here.

Please keep helping me to reach many more souls that are still languishing in Satan’s bondage and to draw them to Jesus for salvation. We ought to devote ourselves wholly to the Lord so He can use us to reach many with the great good news (the gospel)! Time for our Lord’s Second Advent is very close. May God help us to remain faithful as we take His Word to the world.

CN, Kenya

As a young Adventist of twenty-one years of age, I have now entered my senior secondary school. I have to preach to my friends and people who are in need so that when God comes

the second time we can be saved from our sins. The God of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has helped bring 18 people to the church and 12 people have been baptized.

I am facing some troubles in my family. My parents are not Adventists. They go to the Roman Catholic church. So, when I am going to school they refuse to give me money to buy even a pen to write in the school. So please, when you are praying, pray for me and my family.

Please send me some Bibles and books for my people that I brought to the church, because they have not money to buy Bibles. Also, please send some other publications that will be helpful. Once again I ask, please remember me, my parents and the people whom God helped me to bring to the church that they stand firm for the second coming of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God Who takes the sin of the world away.

I will continue to pray for your publications to assist many people to see light and the path of Jesus. May God continue to bless you and your workers.

EB, Ghana

Thank you for your love and care for our evangelistic work here in India, which you have shown by sending a bag of educational materials.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

BM, India

*We receive many requests for literature from Africa and other impoverished parts of the world. If only half of what these letters describe is true, there is an almost limitless need for truthfilled literature in most of these countries. Each piece of literature we send is often read by several people. We try to help as many as we can; however, our limited finances keep us from responding to many of the pleas for help. If you are impressed to help send free literature, please mark your donation “Literature Assistance.”*

—The Editors

# Make a New Start

## With 4 Great New Health Books from Hope International

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



### Tastefully Vegan

McLane, Kathryn, R.N. / McLane, Gerard, Dr. P.H.

*Tastefully Vegan* is a cookbook with a new approach to creative vegetarian cooking. It contains examples of beautifully planned vegetarian meals organized to help you easily and quickly plan and prepare delicious, no-cholesterol meals in your home. This cookbook is divided into twelve sections, each representing a different theme for vegetarians today who enjoy a wide variety of flavors. There is an assortment of entrée, vegetable, bread, salad and dessert recipes from which to select an entire meal and save precious time. There are over 440 recipes included to help you create your own favorite combination of delicious and Healthy meals any time of the year.

Spiral-Bound, 395 pages, 1995

**Price: \$21.95**

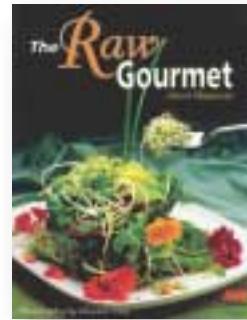
**Catalog # BEMK-TVEG**

### The Raw Gourmet

Shannon, Nomi

This is a complete guide to one of the world's fastest-growing nutrition and health movements—the living foods diet. Learn how fresh, non-cooked fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds and grains can boost your vitality without making any sacrifices to your palate.

Try exotic dishes like Chili Rellenos, Spinach Mousse and Vegetable Nori Roll-Ups. Or, on a more familiar note, serve up a living foods version of old favorites like pizza, paté and soup. Whatever you choose, this book will bring a rich variety of flavors and textures to your table and offer everything your body needs to stay healthy and vigorous.



Paperback, 215 pages, 1999

**Price: \$24.95**

**Catalog # BESN-RGOU**



### Simply Vegan

Wasserman, Debra

*Simply Vegan* is more than just a cookbook. It is a guide to a non-violent, environmentally sound, humane lifestyle. Over 160 vegan recipes that can be prepared quickly.

Paperback, 214 pages, Third Edition, 1999

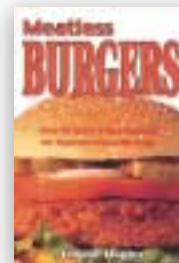
**Price: \$10.95**

**Catalog # BEWD-SVEG**

### Meatless Burgers

Hagler, Louise

*Meatless Burgers* contains the answer to the health concerns associated with traditional burgers. Serving up delicious burgers without meat is easy and offers a wide variety of flavors and textures from which to choose. Hundreds of different beans, grains, and vegetables can be combined to make tender, juicy, tasty, and satisfying burgers that are low in fat and high in fiber. There are combinations to suit every taste. Some of these recipes go beyond attempting to taste and look like traditional burgers, into realms of exciting new combinations of ingredients to add variety and interest to your everyday meals.



Paperback, 91 pages, 1999

**Price: \$9.95**

**Catalog # BEHL-MBUR**

Hope International  
P.O. Box 940  
Eatonville, WA 98328  
Change Service Requested



See page 3 for shipping and sales-tax information.