



Our Firm Foundation

The Test at Capernaum

Volume 17, Number 10

October 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



A Call To Live and Preach Present Truth

“Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.” Colossians 1:25-29.

The gospel—Christ in you, the hope of glory—is to be made manifest in God’s remnant people in this final hour. This gospel is to be made manifest in our daily relationships in the home and workplace. This is the experience of the third angel’s message. It is a call to worship God in soul, mind, and body. It is the Holy Spirit’s call to warn us of the judgment of the living soon to come. It is a call to holy living, that we may be counted perfect in Christ Jesus. It is the law and the gospel revealed in the character.

“If we would have the spirit and power of the third angel’s message, we must present the law and the gospel together, for they go hand in hand. As a power from beneath is stirring up the children of disobedience to make void the law of God, and to trample upon the truth that Christ is our righteousness, a power from above is moving upon the hearts of those who are loyal, to exalt the law, and to lift up Jesus as a complete Saviour. Unless divine

power is brought into the experience of the people of God, false theories and ideas will take minds captive, Christ and His righteousness will be dropped out of the experience of many, and their faith will be without power or life.” *Gospel Workers*, 161-162.

This great mystery of the gospel, not understood by the world and the Evangelical churches, is to be revealed now by God’s faithful, obedient saints.

“Ministers are to present Christ in His fullness both in the churches and in new fields, that the hearers may have an intelligent faith. The people must be instructed that Christ is unto them salvation and righteousness. It is Satan’s studied purpose to keep souls from believing in Christ as their only Hope; for the blood of Christ that cleanseth from all sin is efficacious in behalf of those only who believe in its merit, and who present it before the Father as did Abel in his offering.” *Ibid.*, 162.

The majority of our ministers, leaders, and laity have lost sight of this great message. False theories have come among our churches, and every wind of doctrine is now blowing.

“The same disobedience and failure which were seen in the Jewish church have characterized in a greater degree the people who have had this great light from heaven in the last messages of warning. Shall we, like them, squander our opportunities and privileges until God shall permit oppression and persecution to come upon us? Will the work which might be performed in peace and comparative prosperity be left undone until it must be performed in days of darkness, under the

pressure of trial and persecution?” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 456-457.

As in the time of the Jews, we have lost sight of the gospel:

“In the time of the Saviour, the Jews had so covered over the precious jewels of truth with the rubbish of tradition and fable, that it was impossible to distinguish the true from the false. The Saviour came to clear away the rubbish of superstition and long-cherished errors, and to set the jewels of God’s Word in the framework of truth. What would the Saviour do if He should come to us now as He did to the Jews?—He would have to do a similar work in clearing away the rubbish of tradition and ceremony. The Jews were greatly disturbed when He did this work. They had lost sight of the original truth of God, but Christ brought it again to view. It is our work to free the precious truths of God from superstition and error. What a work is committed to us in the gospel!” *Review and Herald*, June 4, 1889.

It is now the responsibility of every Seventh-day Adventist pastor, leader, and layman to experience the real gospel—to live and preach present truth—or we will suffer the same fate as the ancient church.

“We need to beware lest we suffer the same fate as did ancient Israel. The history of their disobedience and downfall has been recorded for our instruction, that we may avoid doing as they did. It has been written ‘for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.’ 1 Corinthians 10:11. If we pass by these cautions and warnings, developing the same traits of character developed by the Israelites, what excuse can we plead?” *Ibid.*, July 10, 1900. ❀



It is the mission of Hope International and the editors of *Our Firm Foundation* to clearly present Christ and His truth. The days remaining for this world are few, and we must work 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 H. Patterson

Our Firm Foundation is a monthly publication of:



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 Pacific Time

Fax: (360) 832-3720
Email: office@hopeint.org
Web: <http://www.hopeint.org>

Subscription Information

We strive to keep our subscription prices as low as possible. We want this material to be available to all. If your finances cannot meet the requested amount, please send whatever you can. Those desiring to assist in providing subscriptions for individuals with limited funds should send a gift marked "Subscription Assistance" to the address above. Your donation is tax deductible.

United States: US \$18.75 per year
Canada and Mexico: US \$23.75 per year
Foreign (Surface Mail): US \$23.75 per year, (shipped quarterly)
Foreign (Air Mail): US \$60.00 per year
Large Print Edition: US \$45.00 per year
Audio Edition: US \$60.00 per year
Foreign Audio and Large Print Editions:
 Please inquire regarding postage.

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 illustration: © Joe Maniscalco

4

The Test at Capernaum

Michael Snyder

"Are we seeking loaves and fishes? Or are we hungering and thirsting for righteousness?"

9

"Mickey Mouse" Money

Leola Rosenvold

Is our Christian experience genuine, or is it as worthless as counterfeit currency?

13

The Remnant Church: Not Forsaken

Ron Spear

An important lesson from the Exodus

16

Baptism of Fire

Bill Humeniuk

"He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."

20

Priorities

Alane Waters

Is the kingdom of heaven truly my first priority?

24

"God So Loved the World"

Ellen G. White

As we look to Calvary, seeing what sin has done, how can we live any longer therein?"

28

Constant Attainment Essential to Christian Life

Ellen G. White

Keys to effectively presenting the Word of God to others

departments

Defending the Faith	23
Newswatch	26
Letters to the Editor	31

The Test at Capernaum

Michael Snyder

Amid the rolling hills by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus and His disciples sought solitude and rest. The disciples had just returned from their first missionary tour. They were weary from their labors and Jesus desired to teach them many things about the experiences they had recently passed through. But “when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities.” Matthew 14:13.

As Jesus viewed the masses seeking Him out, His heart was moved with compassion and He “went forth, and . . . healed their sick.” Verse 14. Soon thousands of people had gathered. They stood intently listening, hungering for the words of mercy that flowed from His lips. Evening was coming and though Jesus had labored all day without food or rest, He would not withdraw from the multitude. Jesus knew that His days of ministry were short. So He labored on.

Miracle of the Loaves

The disciples urged Him to send the people away since it was supertime. But Jesus answered,

“They need not depart; give ye them to eat.” Verse 16. This was a test of faith for the disciples. Would they trust God to supply all their need?

Andrew said, “There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?” John 6:9. That was all the donations the ministry could possibly solicit at that moment of need. The disciples probably thought, “We should tell the people that our budget is a little short so we can’t help them right now.”

But Jesus directed the disciples to seat the crowd in orderly groups to be served. They had faith enough to obey. Then “looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.” Matthew 14:19. Jesus gave to the people all that He had.

“In full reliance upon God, Jesus took the small store of loaves; and although there was but a small portion for His own family of disciples, He did not invite them to eat, but began to distribute to them, bidding them serve the people. The

food multiplied in His hands; and the hands of the disciples, reaching out to Christ Himself the Bread of Life, were never empty. The little store was sufficient for all. After the wants of the people had been supplied, the fragments were gathered up, and Christ and His disciples ate together of the precious, Heaven-supplied food.” *The Desire of Ages*, 369–370.

There was plenty to go around—enough to feed 5,000 men and their families. Then 12 baskets of leftovers were taken up and distributed again. Notice the simplicity of the fare. Notice the abundance. And today we are so afraid to give something away, something so simple as offerings or donations, because we do not think there is enough to go around. But this short event was just the first in a series leading to the acceptance or rejection of Christ by all present.

Crown Him!

“Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.” John 6:14. Was it not wonderful

that they finally believed in Him as the Messiah? But was He really the kind of Messiah the Jews thought He was?

“All day the conviction has strengthened. That crowning act is assurance that the long-looked-for Deliverer is among them. The hopes of the people rise higher and higher. This is He who will make Judea an earthly paradise, a land flowing with milk and honey. He can satisfy every desire. He can break the power of the hated Romans. He can deliver Judah and Jerusalem. He can heal the soldiers who are wounded in battle. He can supply whole armies with food. He can conquer the nations, and give to Israel the long-sought dominion.” *Ibid.*, 377.

Is this not just like Adventism today? God sent us a Savior who “was made in the likeness of men” (Philippians 2:7) and became “sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). He died the death of a cursed sinner; He died unto sin and lives unto God, “leaving us an example, that ye [we] should follow his steps.” 1 Peter 2:21. He was resurrected and ascended into heaven to minister for us in the heavenly sanctuary. He pleads His blood for us that we may be forgiven. He reveals our sins that we may repent and confess them. He gives us grace that we might overcome even as He overcame. See Revelation 3:21. He is soon to complete the work of the investigative judgment and the sealing of His saints. How many Seventh-day Adventists know and follow this Jesus?

Most Adventists have been led to look to a savior who did not come in fallen flesh like their own. They believe that their inherited sinful nature is sin in itself, and, therefore, Jesus was somehow different, or else He could not have lived a sinless life. They are seeking a savior that forgives again and again and again—not the One that calls them to “go, and sin no more.” John 8:11. They believe that Christ’s ministry and atonement

was finished at Calvary, and therefore, they do not follow Him into the Most Holy Place where the books are opened in judgment. They follow a savior that does not have enough grace to provide victory over sin but will somehow miraculously change their characters, and not just their bodies, “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye” from bad to good at His coming. See 1 Corinthians 15:52. However, they are following a false christ and will be disappointed to wake up in the second resurrection.

The Jews of old followed Christ because He fed them with loaves and fishes. They loved to listen to His gracious words; but they would not conform their lives to

sent the multitudes away.” Matthew 14:22.

“They had left Jesus with dissatisfied hearts, more impatient with Him than ever before since acknowledging Him as their Lord. They murmured because they had not been permitted to proclaim Him king. They blamed themselves for yielding so readily to His command. They reasoned that if they had been more persistent they might have accomplished their purpose.” *Ibid.*, 380.

Instead of spending time talking about the multiplication of the bread and the other miracles Christ had wrought in their behalf, they murmured and complained that their plans had been foiled.

We want to partake of the loaves and fishes; but just like the Jews, we completely miss the lesson Christ intended the loaves and fishes to teach.

His teaching. Today, we do the same thing. We come and listen to good sermons, but our lives are not changed. We want to partake of the loaves and fishes; but just like the Jews, we completely miss the lesson Christ intended the loaves and fishes to teach. Our minds are set on our own agenda—to sit at the right hand and at the left in His earthly kingdom. See Matthew 20:20–23.

Foiled Plans

“Consulting together, they agree to take Him by force, and proclaim Him the king of Israel. The disciples unite with the multitude in declaring the throne of David the rightful inheritance of their Master.” *Ibid.*, 378. “When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.” John 6:15. “And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he

Jesus had told them to collect the leftovers that nothing should go to waste. They did pick up the bread crumbs, but they failed to pick up the spiritual crumbs. How many times, after the Lord has worked great miracles in behalf of the Seventh-day Adventist movement, do we focus instead on how our selfish ambitions were foiled in contending for the greatest position?

“Unbelief was taking possession of their minds and hearts. Love of honor had blinded them. They knew that Jesus was hated by the Pharisees, and they were eager to see Him exalted as they thought He should be. To be united with a teacher who could work mighty miracles, and yet to be reviled as deceivers, was a trial they could ill endure. Were they always to be accounted followers of a false prophet? Would Christ never assert His authority as king? Why did not He who possessed such power reveal Himself in His true character, and make their way less

painful? Why had He not saved John the Baptist from a violent death? Thus the disciples reasoned until they brought upon themselves great spiritual darkness. They questioned, Could Jesus be an impostor, as the Pharisees asserted?" Ibid.

Grumbling and murmuring against God, the disciples set out for the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Likewise, we have left meetings of great blessing—even with miracles attending them—murmuring about each other and our missed opportunities to advance our agenda. My email box after past meetings testifies to the fact. And soon we will find ourselves in just as serious and life-threatening a predicament as the disciples did.

We who believe the same fundamental truth must put away our selfishness and fanaticism, develop a deep desire for soul-winning, and get back to preaching the real three angels' messages.

The Storm

Most of the disciples were fishermen; they spent their whole lives on the sea. They knew the weather patterns. But they were so absorbed in themselves that they missed the warnings. So, among us are many experts on Adventist doctrines, prophecy, and issues. Can we be so busy ruminating and murmuring that we do not recognize the warnings? Are we so stuck on ourselves that we do not see the gathering clouds? Do we not realize that a storm such as never was in the history of this world is about to burst upon us?

"Their thoughts were stormy and unreasonable, and the Lord gave them something else to afflict their souls and occupy their minds." Ibid.

Perhaps we need a storm to cause us to work together. We all believe we are called—yet do our fruits prove us? There is too little

contending for the faith and too much contending with each other. *Who is the greatest?*

We who believe the same fundamental truth must put away our selfishness and fanaticism, develop a deep desire for soul-winning, and get back to preaching the real three angels' messages. Simple obedience to the law of God coupled with a heart full of His love will bring us into unity. We are so worried about ourselves and our "missed opportunities" that we cannot trust each other.

This is a testing time that leads to the great Sabbath test and the seal of God. As we pass or fail our tests now, we will be prepared to likewise pass or fail the final test. We must stop our self-destructive behavior and begin to prepare for

the great time of trouble. We need the Holy Spirit now.

"A violent tempest had been stealing upon them, and they were unprepared for it. It was a sudden contrast, for the day had been perfect; and when the gale struck them, they were afraid. They forgot their disaffection, their unbelief, their impatience. Everyone worked to keep the boat from sinking." Ibid.

Notice that working together does not mean that everyone else will submit to our individual agenda. God sent a storm in order for the disciples to work together *according to His agenda*. They worked to keep the boat from sinking. The saving of their own lives was foremost in their minds. But soon they realized that even these efforts were not sufficient.

"Until the fourth watch of the night [midnight] they toiled at the oars. Then the weary men gave themselves up for lost. In storm and darkness the sea had taught

them their own helplessness, and they longed for the presence of their Master." Ibid., 381.

We will never survive the storm without utter reliance on God. We need the Master.

"Jesus had not forgotten them. The Watcher on the shore saw those fear-stricken men battling with the tempest. Not for a moment did He lose sight of His disciples. With deepest solicitude His eyes followed the storm-tossed boat with its precious burden; for these men were to be the light of the world. As a mother in tender love watches her child, so the compassionate Master watched His disciples. *When their hearts were subdued, their unholy ambition quelled, and in humility they prayed for help, it was given them.*" Ibid. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

Jesus will not forget us either. The storm is coming. We are as unprepared as the disciples were. And when our pride and self-sufficiency is drowned in the tempest and we cry out for help, God will rescue us.

Jesus appeared, walking on the water and the disciples thought it was a ghost. They were so overcome with fear that they did not even recognize their Savior. "Terror overpowers them. The hands that have grasped the oars with muscles like iron let go their hold. The boat rocks at the will of the waves; all eyes are riveted on this vision of a man walking upon the white-capped billows of the foaming sea." Ibid.

Jesus kept walking as if He would pass them by. Finally they recognized Him and begged for His help. Jesus came, and as soon as He stepped into the boat the storm stopped and the boat landed safely on shore. Will we recognize Jesus when He answers our cry for help? How long will we struggle at the oars before we invite Christ into the boat?

The Lesson of the Loaves

Jesus and the disciples stepped onto the shore of Gennesaret, an

agricultural area that surrounded Capernaum. Soon the people found out where they were and followed. The disciples recounted the story of the storm and of Christ walking on the water and stilling the tempest. But many hoped to receive from Jesus' own lips an account of the miracle. They questioned, "Rabbi, when camest thou hither?" John 6:25.

Jesus would not tell stories merely to gratify curiosity. He directed their thoughts back to the motives of their own hearts: "Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled." Verse 26.

Not unlike Adventism today. The people came to Jesus seeking temporal blessings – we come just to hear a good sermon. Jesus fed them anyway, but He hoped that they would see the spiritual truth in the loaves and fishes. We hear that a well-known speaker is in town, so we go to be fed. But after they are gone, we do not come; we do not labor for souls; we do not spend time in prayer; we do not contribute sacrificially to the cause.

Jesus called the people to loving obedience. "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you." Verse 27.

They responded, "What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?" Verse 28. "They had been performing many and burdensome works in order to recommend themselves to God; and they were ready to hear of any new observance by which they could secure greater merit. Their question meant, What shall we do that we may deserve heaven? What is the price we are required to pay in order to obtain the life to come?" Ibid., 385. They missed the point that the "meat" is a gift!

Could we Adventists be seeking heaven in the same way? Have we been performing many and burdensome works in order to earn merit with God? We pay tithe when we can "afford" it, seek a

higher educational degree for influence, eat a near-raw-food diet, participate in the latest nutritional-supplement fad, contrive long dissertations on the evils in the world, move people with greater sensational ideas on world events and conspiracy theories, and generally add requirements to people that God has not asked. Are we asking, "What further knowledge can I attain to that will earn me recognition?"

Why do we make the work of God so complicated? Jesus simply said, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." Verse 29.

Are we waiting for the Sunday law to pass? Are we waiting for the latter rain to fall? These signs will come, but then it will be too late for those who have known the truth yet put off personal surrender and character development.

A rabbi mockingly questioned, "What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?" Verse 30. After all the miracles that Christ had done – and they still asked for a sign! After all that God has done for the Seventh-day Adventist movement, and for you and me personally, we are just as full of unbelief. We do not accept the Savior that God has sent. We do not believe that we each can and must overcome sin. We do not each give Him our whole heart in loving obedience. We are still asking God for signs, to prove Himself to us.

"An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it." Matthew 12:39. "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." Luke 16:31. Will we be just as stubborn? How long will we cherish our errors and selfishness? Are we waiting for the Sunday law to pass? Are we waiting for the latter rain to fall? These signs will come, but then it will be too late for those who have known the truth yet put

off personal surrender and character development.

No Turning Back

The discussion went on as recorded in John, chapter 6. Jesus portrayed the deepest and most wonderful truths of how to be saved by abiding in Him. But the Jews kept raising prejudice by their caviling questions, refusing to consider anything but their expectations of a temporal Messiah. Jesus knew that the truths He was sharing would bring a crisis, but He did not back down. He finally declared, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his

blood, ye have no life in you." Verse 53. The Jews responded, "This is an hard saying; who can hear it?" Verse 60.

"From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him." Verse 66. Those who sought Jesus only for the loaves and fishes forsook Him that day. They chose to harden their hearts in unbelief, revealing their true character.

"The test was too great. The enthusiasm of those who had sought to take Him by force and make Him king grew cold. This discourse in the synagogue, they declared, had opened their eyes. Now they were undeceived. In their minds His words were a direct confession that He was not the Messiah, and that no earthly rewards were to be realized from connection with Him. They had welcomed His miracle-working power; they were eager to be freed from disease and suffering; but *they would not come into sympathy with His self-sacrificing life*. They cared not for the mysterious spiritual kingdom of which He spoke. *The*

insincere, the selfish, who had sought Him, no longer desired Him. If He would not devote His power and influence to obtaining their freedom from the Romans, they would have nothing to do with Him." Ibid., 391.

Are we seeking loaves and fishes? Or, are we hungering and thirsting for righteousness? Do we believe in the true Savior that God has sent? Or, are we still seeking a false christ that will make us comfortable in our sins? Will we pass the test?

matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side." *The Great Controversy*, 608.

Why did so many fail the test? — "Because they were too vain and self-righteous to receive reproof, too world-loving to accept a life of humility, many turned away from Jesus. Many are still doing the same thing. Souls are tested today as were those disciples in the synagogue at Capernaum. When truth is brought home to the

Jesus turned to the twelve disciples and put the test question to them, "Will ye also go away?" Verse 67.

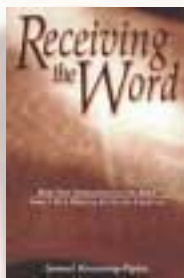
Peter answered, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." Verses 68–69. Even though they still did not understand His mission and ministry, they chose to follow. "Compassionate Redeemer, who in the full knowledge of the doom that awaited Him, tenderly smoothed the way for the disciples, prepared them for their crowning trial, and strengthened them for the final test!" Ibid., 394.

How will we answer the test question? Will we take up the self-denying work now? The final test of our faith is just before us. Every physical, emotional, and spiritual weapon will be used against us. Time is very short. We cannot afford to wait for another sign and be lost. We cannot put off the Holy Spirit. Let us not seek for loaves and fishes, or drift fraught with selfishness and murmuring on the Sea of Galilee. Let us seek the true Savior that can take away our sins and strengthen us for the final test. ❄

Jesus turned to the twelve disciples and put the test question to them, "Will ye also go away?"

"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

heart, they see that their lives are not in accordance with the will of God. They see the need of an entire change in themselves; but they are not willing to take up the self-denying work. Therefore they are angry when their sins are discovered. They go away offended." *The Desire of Ages*, 392.



Receiving the Word

Samuel Koranteng-Pipim
Berean Books

Discover what it means to be a Bible-believing Adventist. In a time when liberal, historical-critical approaches to Inspiration are being widely taught and accepted, faithful students of God's Word must be prepared to meet these issues, and defend the authority and relevance of Scripture and the inspired writings of Ellen G. White. This book also offers answers and direction to young people who have been confused by doubts and skepticism introduced by their pastors and teachers. An in-depth and thorough look at the issues shaking Adventism today.

Paperback, 368 pages, 1996

Regular Price: \$10.95

Sale Price: \$9.50

Catalog # BEKS-RWOR

Get it Now for Only \$9⁵⁰ !

Sale ends November 1.

See page 3 for shipping and sales-tax information.

“Mickey Mouse” Money

Leola Rosenvold

Often people declare that “because works of obedience in law-keeping are ongoing all during sanctification, sanctification cannot, therefore, be a free gift.” These words are echoed from person to person. But this is a misconception—an error!

We need only to answer the question: Are man’s works of obedience a payment made to God to purchase his salvation?—Isaiah knew that the answer to this question should be, “NO!” for he wrote that man’s works of righteousness are of no more value than are “filthy rags.” Isaiah 64:6. Dare we offer Heaven “filthy rags” as a payment?—Man’s works are like “Mickey Mouse” money—imitation currency. They have no intrinsic value! Christ’s blood alone can purchase the salvation of any man. And on His cross, He has already paid the price for the salvation of every man, woman and child in the world today. And man’s obedience, man’s good works, even during sanctification, do not add one “mite” to the purchase price!

“Mickey Mouse” Money

During World War II, my husband entered Manila, Philippines, immediately after the Japanese occupation army was driven out. He found thousands of worthless Japanese occupation

currency bills, that the GI’s called “Mickey Mouse” money, blowing about the streets of the city like the proverbial leaves of autumn. My husband scooped up a few of them as souvenirs.

Spiritually speaking, apart from the merits of Christ, man’s works are of no more value than was that “Mickey Mouse” money blowing about in Manila in 1945!

No amount of laundering of “counterfeit currency” will validate “counterfeit spiritual gems” in the sight of Heaven. Man-made theories not based upon the Bible are all worthless currency. Someday when truth is liberated (separated from error) at the coming of the heavenly King with His army, false theories will be thrown to the wind to be blown about the streets of Babylon, having been revealed as the valueless, erroneous, counterfeit “gems” which they were!

Christ Alone

Christ alone can make man’s works of value. Remember, this is true even of man’s works performed during sanctification!

“[Christ’s] blood *alone* can purify us, His blood *alone* can cleanse our sin, and wash us white from transgression. His righteousness *alone* will the Father look upon and accept in our behalf; for with His righteousness we shall be

righteous as He is righteous. We shall not have our *own righteousness, it is worthless*. It is of no use to go about to establish our own righteousness, for we have none to establish.” *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, 969. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

The good news of salvation includes sanctification as well as justification. Sanctification is (1) from God, (2) by grace alone, and (3) a free gift! Praise the Lord!

There is, however, something for us to *do* in order to receive the *free* gifts of justification and sanctification.

Gems That God Has Joined Together

Man’s good works cannot purchase salvation; nevertheless, there is another aspect to consider. Read carefully the following passages:

“While good works will not save even one soul, yet *it is impossible* for even one soul to be saved without good works.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 377.

“We are *not* saved by the works of the law, yet we cannot be saved without obedience. . . . He does not save us by law, neither will He save us in disobedience to law.” *Signs of the Times*, July 21, 1890.

Does this truth surprise you? Perhaps not, if you already under-

stand that obedience is not a payment for, but a *condition of*, salvation!

In *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 89, this truth is further established: "Some may say it is exalting our own merits to expect favor from God through our good works. True, we cannot buy one victory with our good works; yet we cannot be victors without them. The purchase which Christ recommends to us is only complying with the conditions He has given us."

Are there really conditions?—Yes, there are! The inspired Word further explains, "Faith is not our Saviour. It *earns* nothing." *The Desire of Ages*, 175. Yet *faith* is the *condition* of receiving salvation. See

plucked from the "string of heavenly jewels," called "conditions." Consider the following parable:

A wealthy American man had a talented young niece named Alice who lived in France. She was being reared under the very poorest and most meager circumstances. She had nothing at all to merit his favor. Yet, after his death, it was discovered that in his will he had bequeathed all of his wealth to Alice. However, he had also stated some specific *conditions* which she must first fulfill in order to receive her inheritance. She must be 21 years of age, must have completed at least two years of college, and must travel to America in order to receive the bequest.

realized. But it was only after she had met all the *specified conditions* that she was able to gratefully receive her inheritance. Her joy was complete!

Did all of Alice's strenuous efforts, her personal self-denials and the sacrifices she had made, *earn* her inheritance?—Certainly not! Her uncle's wealth was a free gift to her. She had merely fulfilled his *specified conditions*. And she had been most happy to do so.

Her uncle had shown great wisdom. For through the fulfillment of the conditions, Alice had gained experience, age, and a strong, symmetrical character that gave her wisdom and discernment in handling her new wealth. During her lifetime, it became more and more apparent that her work of preparation enabled her to truly appreciate and use his gift wisely.

God's Bequeathed Gift To Men

Likewise, Christ has bequeathed or "willed" all the riches of Heaven to undeserving men—to us! We are just as undeserving as was Alice to receive her uncle's wealth. Yet we are promised the following:

"We may be poor in temporal things, but we are rich in the treasure that endures forever. We have the deeds to an immortal inheritance, the title papers to a life that measures with the life of God." *Signs of the Times*, June 17, 1903.

The Giver of our immortal inheritance understands what "conditions" are necessary for us to fulfill, to ensure our everlasting happiness. Our inheritance includes living with Jesus in that beautiful city, the New Jerusalem, which God describes in Revelation, chapters 21 and 22—a city that sparkles with a variety of gems of most beautiful colors. Through His prescribed conditions, God wants us to develop beautiful, sparkling characters.

Just as Alice had to meet the conditions specified in her uncle's will, clearly, God wants us to understand the fact that "there is no such thing in the Word of God as *unconditional* election." *The*

Obedience is not our sanctifier or our Saviour, yet it is written, "God's law is His standard of character . . . Obedience to this law is the condition of gaining salvation."

Selected Messages, book 1, 366. We can also recognize that *obedience* is not our sanctifier or our Saviour, yet it is written, "God's law is His standard of character . . . Obedience to this law is the *condition* of gaining salvation." *Pacific Union Recorder*, June 19, 1902.

Countless Bible verses present these same conditions, but we will cite only a few:

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Revelation 22:14.

"If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land." Isaiah 1:19.

"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." 1 John 2:17.

Briefly stated, the conditions are "faith" and "obedience."

A Parable—Alice

It is important for us to truly understand the gem of truth,

What did she do? Complain?—NO! As soon as she was aware of the conditions, though only 16 years old, she began to fulfill them. Enthusiastically, she searched for and found a job. It was necessary for her to work *very hard* and to save every bit of money possible to enable her to finish secondary school and attend college, as well as to save the money for her trip to America.

While other young people her age enjoyed parties, socials, swimming, skating, and other forms of entertainment, she must work and study! But all this she was willing to do! Alice soon observed that she thoroughly enjoyed both her job and her schoolwork. Complying with the conditions was not a burden to her, but a pleasure!

When she became 21 and had met the other specified conditions, she immediately made arrangements to travel abroad. Her trip was most pleasurable. At last she reached the shores of the United States of America. Her goal was

Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 6, 1114. In other words, there is no such thing as the unconditional reception of our immortal inheritance. In His will, God has written out for us His instructions—His conditions. Please read very carefully the two passages that follow:

“God has made every provision to bring salvation within our reach, but He will not thrust it upon us against our will. He has laid down *conditions* in His Word, and we should diligently, interestedly, with heart and mind, set about the task of learning these *conditions*, lest we make some mistake and fail to secure our *title* to the mansions above.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 543.

Our preparation includes not only being *forgiven* for our sins—our title to heaven—but also being *fitted* for receiving our inheritance: “We should know what we must *do* to be saved. . . . We must meet the *conditions* laid down in the Word of God or die in our sins. We must know what moral changes are essential to be made in our characters, *through the grace of Christ*, in order to be *fitted* for the mansions above.” *Ibid.*, 535.

In the above passage, let us especially notice the words “through the grace of Christ.” God has made the specified conditions in His “will” readily available to all. They are to be fulfilled, not through our own power alone, but “through the grace of Christ.” How good is our God! In mercy He not only clearly specifies what His conditions are, but also how we can fulfill them. Therefore, let us “set about the task of learning what these conditions are.” Should we fail to do this, and lose our eternal inheritance, we will be without excuse, for “the conditions of eternal life are made so plain in God’s Word that *none need err*, unless they choose error rather than truth because their unsanctified souls love the darkness rather than the light.” *Review and Herald*, August 25, 1885. Over and over again the Word reveals that: “We are to give ourselves to

Christ, to live a life of willing obedience to all His requirements . . . All His gifts are promised on *condition* of obedience.” *God’s Amazing Grace*, 180.

Justification and Conditions

What? Are there conditions for receiving justification as well as sanctification?—According to the inspired Word, there are conditions. In the year 1893, Ellen White wrote a letter to one of our prominent ministers. In his sermons he had been telling his congregations that there are no conditions. She reproved him with these words: “There are *conditions* to our receiving *justification* and sanctification, and the righteousness of Christ.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 377.

Already, we have noted that repentance and faith are the

nature, so in grace; there can be no life [justification] without growth [sanctification].” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 65.

If through neglect we lose our justification, we are no longer sanctified; if we do not maintain our sanctification, we are no longer justified. These two sparkling gems of salvation—justification and sanctification, faith and obedience—are tied together in an *inseparable* union! As pronounced at weddings, “What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder!” Matthew 19:6. God has joined together two pairs of sparkling gems of truth: faith and obedience, justification and sanctification. To comply with the condition of obedience one must have faith; to be sanctified, one must be justified.

“The conditions of eternal life are made so plain in God’s Word that none need err, unless they choose error rather than truth because their unsanctified souls love the darkness rather than the light.”

conditions for receiving justification. See *ibid.*, 390. After we are justified, is it possible for us to lose our justification?—Yes, it is! The Word of Inspiration makes it plain that if we would retain our justification, we must meet the *condition* of continual obedience.

“The believer must have a progressive experience by continually doing the works of Christ. It is by continual *surrender* of the will, by continual *obedience*, that the blessing of justification is *retained*.” *Ibid.*, 397.

The apostle James establishes this same truth when he says in James 2:20, “Faith without works is dead.” It follows that justification without sanctification is also dead:

“The germination of the seed represents the beginning of spiritual life [justification], and the development [growth] of the plant is a beautiful figure of Christian growth [sanctification]. As in

Complying With the Conditions

When we learn what the conditions are, what shall we do? Complain?—No! No! As Alice fulfilled her uncle’s conditions, let us earnestly begin to follow God’s instructions. Through the grace of Christ, we will be enabled to cheerfully and enthusiastically meet His specified conditions, for “Jesus came that we might *obey* as well as receive; but we must *believe* in Him, and receive, in order to obey.” *Review and Herald*, September 27, 1892. Soon we will discover, as did Alice, that complying with the conditions will be the most joyful experience in our lives, bringing to us peace, happiness, and the assurance of salvation.

Let us pause to realize that Alice’s inheritance was for an earthly lifetime only. However, the inheritance bequeathed by God to

us is a gift to be treasured throughout all eternity!

Beware of Satan's Errors!

While God is anxious for us to know that there are conditions, and to know what they are, and how we can fulfill them, our enemy Satan is not. He is constantly endeavoring to deceive men so that they will lose their inheritance. He shouts to them, "There are no conditions!" Or, he asserts, "God cannot require obedience as a condition of salvation, for that would establish a system of legalistic works!" Satan would have the members of God's church and of the worldly churches accept his lie that "believe, believe, only believe" is all we need to do to receive our everlasting inheritance.

not allow yourself to be deceived. Rather, listen to the voice of the Lord as He cries out, "Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?" Ezekiel 33:11.

How To Answer Satan's Errors

The best way to answer or to expose Satan's erroneous statements concerning salvation and obedience, is for us to quote such divinely inspired statements as the following: "Salvation" cannot "be secured *without* obedience to the law of God." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 124. Indeed, "perfect obedience to all the commandments of God is *essential* for the salvation of souls." *Review and Herald*, January 7, 1896.

Works of obedience are so *essential* to our salvation that *not even one soul can be saved*, or "enter

A Fitness for Heaven

Just as Alice gained knowledge and character development through her works of self-denial and her struggles, so will our characters be developed through the fulfillment of God's conditions of salvation, so that we can reflect our Saviour's lovely character, not only on this earth, but in our inherited home—even for eternity!

God knows that unless men, women, and children are fitted for heaven, they would not only be miserable in its environment, but they would rebel and bring sin into heaven once more. So the Lord pleads:

"Are we willing to comply with the conditions? Will we obey God and keep His commandments? Will we be doers of the Word and not hearers only?" *Faith and Works*, 42.

Jesus pleads with us further, "I love you, and I want *you* to have a home with Me in the New Jerusalem that I am preparing just for you, and you, and you, and you!" Do cooperate with Him! ✨

Satan's agents depreciate faith and then make works appear as altogether unessential and obedience as immaterial.

What would happen if faith and obedience were not conditions of salvation?—Evil in heaven would make our home there a very unhappy place. Terrorists in heaven would bring insecurity into our eternal home.

We are warned against Satan's schemes:

"It is Satan's studied effort to divert minds from the hope of *salvation* through *faith* in Christ and *obedience* to the law of God." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 387.

"Satan is constantly trying to make the salvation of the soul an indifferent matter—that man has but little to *do* to secure this priceless treasure." *The Youth's Instructor*, August 31, 1887.

Satan's agents depreciate faith and then make works appear as altogether unessential and obedience as immaterial. See *Faith and Works*, 31. Satan will tempt you to brush works of obedience aside, labeling them as a system of legalism! But do

in through the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:14) without good works! It is an impossibility! See *Selected Messages*, book 1, 377.

This article was adapted from chapters 7 and 8 of the book entitled *Sparkling Gems of Truth*, which may be ordered from Hope International. See ad below.



Sparkling Gems of Truth

Leola Rosenvold
Rosenvold Publishing

Some of God's sparkling jewels are to be found deep in the mines of His Word. Others may lie near the surface. Many neglect the serious study necessary for growth in grace.

The string of heavenly gems is left buried beneath all the mundane things we feel are so important, but which in the light of eternity are mere rubbish.

This book was written to stimulate youth and adults alike to study and to experience the beauty of God's truth. The stories will touch your heart, and the truths will bring conviction to your soul.

Paperback, 139 pages, 2002
Catalog # **BERL-SGOT**

Now Only \$10!

See page 3 for shipping and sales-tax information.

The Remnant Church: Not Forsaken

Ron Spear

The Seventh-day Adventist remnant church is the spiritual counterpart of Israel. As God did not forsake Israel in Egypt or in its wilderness wanderings, so God has not forsaken His remnant church in this crisis hour.

We are under God's divine rebuke—as was Israel for their rebellion. Even though Israel murmured and rebelled against God, yet God's untiring love for fallen humanity was expressed in His great patience—and even in His rebukes and His wrath for their disobedience:

“Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words.”
Deuteronomy 33:3.

“For he said, Surely they are my people, children that will not lie: so he was their Saviour. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.” Isaiah 63:8-9.

Even during Israel's treacherous retreat toward Egypt (see Numbers 14:4; Acts 7:39)—and then while they wandered in the wilderness for almost 40 years under God's divine rebuke—God still loved them. He continued to be their Leader. For 40 years, God (Jesus)

watched from the pillar of fire by night, and the cloud by day. Let us remember it was by His divine leadership that He led them back into the wilderness because of their rebellion. He was with them the entire 40 years.

“For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the LORD thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing.” Deuteronomy 2:7; see also Acts 13:18.

“And gavest them bread from heaven for their hunger, and broughtest forth water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and promisedst them that they should go in to possess the land which thou hadst sworn to give them. But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments, and refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.” Nehemiah 9:15-17.

“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the

cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”
1 Corinthians 10:1-4.

Separate Into a New Movement?

Because of rebellion in the Exodus movement, the church could not immediately enter into their Promised Land. Let us remember that God did not start a new movement because of Israel's apostasy. He had faithful leaders—Moses and Joshua—but he did not start another movement under their leadership. These two godly leaders could have separated and invited all who would be faithful to God to join a new movement, but because of their love for the erring professed people of God—God's church—they refused to follow their human heart.

Moses was tested, but because of his great love for his people, he told God that if He destroyed these rebellious people, it would be a terrible demonstration to the heathen nations. He told God, If you will not forgive them, blot my name also out of the book of life. See Exodus 32:32.

Both Moses and Joshua, along with the many other faithful Israelites, remained with the original movement. The faithful people and leaders were willing to patiently wait in the wilderness with the rebels. They believed that God would fulfill His promises to His people and lead them into the Promised Land.

Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and the 250 leaders attempted to start a new movement and go directly into Canaan. Their destruction was God's answer to their attempt. The people's only hope in the wilderness was to stay with the original organization—the original movement—which was under divine rebuke for their rebellion. God had led them out of Egypt, and He was still leading.

because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: but because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations." Deuteronomy 7:6–9.

Truly, we are a rebellious people like Israel. Have we followed God's directions given to us by our prophet?—No. There seems to be nothing that we are doing that God would approve of. But for

it; but now murderers. Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them."

As was Israel, many of us today suffer from an honest self-deception, indicated by the statement in Revelation 3:17: "Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."

"The message to the church of the Laodiceans is a startling denunciation, and is applicable to the people of God at the present time. . . . What greater deception can come upon human minds than a confidence that they are right when they are all wrong! The message of the True Witness finds the people of God in a sad deception, yet honest in that deception. They know not that their condition is deplorable in the sight of God. While those addressed are flattering themselves that they are in an exalted spiritual condition, the message of the True Witness breaks their security by the startling denunciation of their true condition of spiritual blindness, poverty, and wretchedness. The testimony, so cutting and severe, cannot be a mistake, for it is the True Witness who speaks, and His testimony must be correct." *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 252–253.

But there is hope for those who are honestly deceived, for "every truly honest soul will come to the light of truth." *The Great Controversy*, 522. Those who are honest will accept the rebuke and repent of their lukewarmness and reform their lives.

Christ's Supreme Regard

"Enfeebled and defective, needing constantly to be warned and counseled, the church is nevertheless the object of Christ's supreme regard. He is making experiments of grace on human

*For the very same reason that the Lord loved rebellious Israel,
He still loves modern Israel—the rebellious Seventh-day
Adventist Church—His remnant church.*

The Advent Movement

Now, let us remember that in 1888 God attempted to take the church out of its Laodicean situation—the wilderness experience—and prepare them for the heavenly Canaan. The 1888 message embraced an experience of righteousness by faith that was designed to give Christ complete possession of His church and no longer keep Him outside the heart's door of His people.

In spite of our rejection of this Laodicean message and the righteousness by faith experience, Christ loves His rebellious remnant people above all people on the earth:

"For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you,

the very same reason that the Lord loved rebellious Israel, He still loves modern Israel—the rebellious Seventh-day Adventist Church—His remnant church.

As Israel was under divine rebuke, the remnant church is under divine rebuke.

The Laodicean Message Is a Love Message

God has sent this message to His remnant: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." Revelation 3:19.

The Laodicean message is a soothing message compared to the rebuke to the ancient church found in Isaiah 1:19–23: "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in

hearts and is effecting such transformations of character that angels are amazed and express their joy in songs of praise. They rejoice to think that sinful, erring human beings can be so transformed.

“As the third angel’s message swells into a loud cry, great power and glory will attend its proclamation. The faces of God’s people will shine with the light of heaven. . . . Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on the merits of the Saviour. God would send every angel in heaven to the aid of such a one, rather than allow him to be overcome.” *Testimonies*, vol. 7, 16–17.

“God has a people in which all heaven is interested, and they are the one object on earth dear to the heart of God. Let everyone who reads these words give them thorough consideration, for in the name of Jesus I would press them home upon every soul.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 41.

“Although there are evils existing in the church, and will be until the end of the world, the church in these last days is to be the light of the world that is polluted and demoralized by sin. The church, enfeebled and defective, needing to be reprovved, warned, and counseled, is the only object upon earth upon which Christ bestows His supreme regard.” *Ibid.*, 49.

Divine Leadership For the Remnant

The Laodicean church is not a fully rejected and forsaken church. It is still the object of Christ’s supreme affection because it is the best that God has on earth. The movement started by James and Ellen White, and our pioneers is still God’s church, though it is presently under divine rebuke for its apostasy. There is no evidence in Scripture or the Spirit of Prophecy that God will start another movement.

This apostasy has progressed to such a level, in more places than

we would like to think, that faithful church members are being disfellowshipped while standing up for truths that the whole church was proclaiming until very recently. Others have been forced to fellowship in home churches or rented facilities so that they do not have to be part of the new celebration-type of worship or listen to error being taught in and out of the pulpits of our churches. “Then they

step off the foundation that God has established. We cannot now enter into any new organization; for this would mean apostasy from the truth.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 389–390.

The Shaking Continues Until the Church Is Purified

In the 1913 General Conference session, Ellen White made this inspired statement:

The movement started by James and Ellen White, and our pioneers is still God’s church, though it is presently under divine rebuke for its apostasy.

that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.” Malachi 3:16.

Let us remember, God is not leading stray offshoots. The church militant is not the church triumphant. The gospel net draws in bad fish as well as good fish. The tares and wheat grow together until the harvest. See *Testimonies to Ministers*, 52–61; *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 72–73; *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 690.


“Those who know the waymarks that have pointed out the right path, are to be regarded as workers of the highest value. They can speak from personal experience, regarding the truths entrusted to them. These men are not to permit their faith to be changed to infidelity; they are not to permit the banner of the third angel to be taken from their hands. They are to hold the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end.

“The Lord has declared that the history of the past shall be rehearsed as we enter upon the closing work. Every truth that He has given for these last days is to be proclaimed to the world. Every pillar that He has established is to be strengthened. We cannot now

“I am encouraged and blessed as I realize that the God of Israel is still guiding His people, and that He will continue to be with them, even to the end.” *Life Sketches*, 437–438. See also *Testimonies to Ministers*, 22–23, 51, 58–61; *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 417–418.

Let us now carefully, prayerfully consider the remnant church’s history from 1888 until now. We have been in rebellion, apostasy, and insubordination to God’s plans and orders (see *Evangelism*, 696; *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 67–68, 250–251; *The Desire of Ages*, 36, 311–312). Yet, as Israel was still God’s church in the wilderness under divine rebuke, the Seventh-day Adventist Church—the remnant church under divine rebuke—is *still God’s church*.

Even after the terrible rejection of the Laodicean message of righteousness by faith in 1888, Ellen White went to her grave holding to the waymarks that God had given through her ministry and that of the pioneers, knowing that though the church was under divine rebuke, it was still the apple of God’s eye. His hand was still on the wheel of providence. Like Moses, Ellen White understood the love of God and His patience for the church in the wilderness. The remnant church would not be forsaken. ✨



Baptism of Fire

Bill Humeniuk

I was born in Canada to Catholic parents who had recently moved from the Ukraine. Because of convenience and the language barrier, we frequently attended the Russian Orthodox Church. Since we were Ukrainian, Pastor Demchuck, a Ukrainian Seventh-day Adventist minister, visited us frequently when I was a boy. Our family became Adventists, and a few years later, I was also baptized into the faith. I believed in the Sabbath particularly, but as the years went by, I drifted away from the faith, attending church frequently, but without a real connection with my God. Worldliness, self, and the flesh captivated and absorbed my heart. For years—yes, many years—I felt a tugging at my heart, but never really understood why.

Looking back, I can see how the Holy Spirit never let go of me, and around 1990, I attended a series of meetings that deeply impressed my heart. I then had a question before me: “What shall I do—surrender, or continue on with my old lifestyle?” It was not very long before I made a decision to follow my Lord. Then beginning to study the Word of God, the Spirit of Prophecy, and other

material, I began to grow by leaps and bounds by God’s grace! It is a long story, but I was absolutely amazed at how God had worked on my heart and put up with me for those past 30 years! He was persistent with me, and I never had peace until I finally decided to follow Jesus. What a battle and struggle ensued! But I gained victories through prayer, study, learning from my mistakes and failures, associating with godly Seventh-day Adventist friends, attending camp meetings at Hartland and Hope International, and by the deep love and grace of God.

I felt I was totally back on track, “not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal

even this unto you.” Philippians 3:12–15. I kept *pressing on*, daily growing, reaching forth toward the mark for the prize of the *high calling* of God in Christ Jesus. The power of the gospel succeeded in me through study, prayer, and the influence of godly friends.

Then one day, several months ago, I read these two statements:

“I speak to our leading brethren, to our ministers, and especially to our physicians. Just as long as you allow pride to dwell in your hearts, so long will you lack power in your work. For years a wrong spirit has been cherished, a spirit of pride, a desire for preeminence. In this Satan is served, and God is dishonored. *The Lord calls for a decided reformation. And when a soul is truly reconverted, let him be rebaptized. Let him renew his covenant with God, and God will renew His covenant with him.* My brethren, show true repentance for departure from God. Let angels and men see that there is forgiveness of sin with God. *Extraordinary power from God must take hold of Seventh-day Adventist churches.* Reconversion must take place among the members, that as God’s witnesses they may testify to the authoritative

power of the truth that sanctifies the soul. *Renewed, purified, sanctified*, the church must be, else the wrath of God will fall upon them with much greater power than upon those who have never professed to be saints." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 7, 262. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

"Those who have been baptized can claim the help of the *three great Worthies of heaven* to keep them from falling, and to reveal through them a character that is after the divine similitude. This is what we claim to be—followers of Jesus. We must be molded and fashioned in accordance with the divine pattern; and *if you have lost your Christlikeness*, my brethren and sisters, *you can never, never come into communion with God again until you are reconverted and rebaptized. You want to repent and to be rebaptized*, and to come into the love and communion and harmony of Christ. Then you will have spiritual discernment which will enable you to see those things that are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. There is enough to contemplate regarding heavenly things, to fill every heart and mind, every congregation that is in the land, with rejoicing and praise and thanksgiving to God." *Sermons and Talks*, vol. 1, 366.

The Holy Spirit pricked my heart, my mind, and my whole being so deeply that I, too, asked the Lord as the men asked Peter, "What shall we (I) do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized. . . and ye shall receive *the gift of the Holy Ghost*." Acts 2:37-38. The Holy Spirit had gently directed me to the Spirit of Prophecy, touched my heart, and convicted me to be rebaptized.

I deeply longed for the gift of the Holy Spirit because I also long for the latter rain; and you cannot receive the latter rain until you have the early rain—the gift of the Holy Spirit. I also longed to renew my *covenant* with God, and His covenant with me.

A message by Mark Finley, of *It Is Written*, prompted me to study

in-depth the function of the Holy Spirit. I came to see that it is time for me to be filled with the Holy Spirit, the early rain, so that I can receive the latter rain.

I began to study what God longs to do for His people, especially for this final generation in preparation for the *crisis* and to be *fitted* for translation. Following are some of the things that I discovered:

If God's people would recognize this fact—that the Holy Spirit changes our lives and prepares us for the latter rain—how quickly would the work be finished and Jesus would return!

Matthew 3:11, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."

John the Baptist did not even feel worthy to be in the presence of Jesus. Because John had the abiding presence of Jesus, he recognized that Jesus baptized with the Holy Spirit and with fire. If God's people would recognize this fact—that the Holy Spirit changes our lives and prepares us for the latter rain—how quickly would the work be finished and Jesus would return!

The Presence of the Lord

But what does this fire do? What does it have to do with the baptism of the Holy Spirit?—First of all, fire represents the *presence of the Lord*. Exodus 3:2-6 describes Moses' encounter with the burning bush, which was on fire but not consumed. And, the Lord spoke from the midst of the bush and requested Moses to take off his shoes for he was on holy ground, in the presence of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the great "I AM." God assures Moses, "My presence shall go with thee." Exodus 33:14.

Also, notice God's presence with Israel by cloud during the day

and by fire at night. See Exodus 40:38. God longs to be with His people—that His people may abide in Him and He with us. God assures us that wherever we are, whatever may befall us, or whatever we may do in the Lord, His abiding presence is with us. Moses and the children of Israel beheld the token of God's presence in the fire. Had Israel responded to God's presence and leading they would

have entered the land of Canaan and remained securely under the shadow of His wings. There is safety with God.

In Acts 2:1-4 tongues of fire fell upon each apostle, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. As a result, about 3,000 were baptized in one day. See Acts 2:38-41. The baptism of the Holy Spirit changes lives in the presence of the Lord. God is waiting to baptize His people with fire, which is His very presence, to prepare us for the loud cry—and His coming.

Purifying the Character

The second point about the meaning and function of fire is found in Malachi 3:2-3: "But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: and he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness."

Notice that God's fire purges and purifies the character unto righteousness. Fire also tries "every man's work of what sort it is." 1 Corinthians 3:13. God is cleansing, purifying, and purging His church—His people.

Part of this purging will be the sifting and shaking of the church. The professed people of God, unless they are purified of self, the flesh, and the world, will be shaken out. God wants our lives to be as pure as gold. When it is all over and probation closes, what works will be recorded by each of our names? Will they be works of faith and love in Christ Jesus, or of self? Remember, fire will either cleanse and purge all our works of the flesh and present us without guile and fault before the throne of God, following the Lamb whithersoever He goeth—or the unquenchable fire will destroy us with our works of the flesh. See Revelation 14:4-5; Matthew 3:11-12.

Revelation 3:18 says, “I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich.” Also 1 Peter 1:7: “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious

“Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 69.

“God requires perfection of His children. His law is a transcript of His own character, and it is the standard of all character.” *Ibid.*, 315.

“Moral perfection is required of all. . . . We need to understand that imperfection of character is sin. . . . [We] must strive for perfection of every organ of the body and quality of the mind.” *Ibid.*, 330.

“Christ has given us no assurance that to attain perfection of character is an easy matter. . . . A noble character is earned by individual effort through the merits and grace of Christ. God

It is a requirement and our heavenly Father longs to purify us that we may be present with Him for eternity. As did the father of the prodigal son, He is watching with a longing heart for us to reach that high standard, which we can and we will—if we combine our will with His will. Then we will reach true sanctification, which consists in the cheerful performance of daily duties in perfect obedience to the will of God. See *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 360. God’s highest ideal for His children, His church, will be reached. Then the church will be able to go on to eternity.

Purging Our Conversation

Lastly, fire does something else that we *all* desperately need: it purges all criticism, complaining, murmuring, and gossip from among us. We observe this wrong or that error, an inconsistent lifestyle among our people, leaders, or ministries, and immediately we become critical. How often do we truly sigh and cry and pray for the abominations that do occur? God proposed to do something to our tongues, “for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.” Matthew 12:34.

Isaiah 6:1-7 says, “In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: and he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo,

Do you feel that you are being tried? Are you experiencing difficulties, problems, pain, or hurts? Jesus is preparing you for the riches of heaven.

than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” Notice that God is testing our faith and love (gold), that it may be tried with fire until it is 100 percent pure gold, and not until then will we be found unto praise, honor, and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

Do you feel that you are being tried? Are you experiencing difficulties, problems, pain, or hurts? Jesus is preparing you for the *riches* of heaven. Do not give up. Plead for grace and strength to endure this trying process. When it is all over and we are spending eternity with Jesus and you look back, it will all appear as nothing. It will be well worth it.

Notice the level to which God is calling each of us:

gives the talents, the powers of the mind; we form the character. It is formed by hard, stern battles with self.” *Ibid.*, 331.

“Be ambitious, for the Master’s glory, to cultivate every grace of character.” *Ibid.*, 332.

“As the will of man cooperates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent.” *Ibid.*, 333.

My people, fire is trying, it is painful, but he who endures to the end will be saved. See Matthew 24:13. It is a step-by-step journey in the refining process so that Jesus’ character will be totally and completely manifested in His people—His church. Please, please read *Christ Object Lessons* pages 330-333. It has encouraged me to such a degree that by God’s grace, I desire to reach that *mark* set before us—perfection of character in Christ.

this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged."

In verse 3 God promises that His glory is with us. Then, as we behold the holiness, majesty, and awesomeness of His glory (His character), we recognize our exceeding sinfulness and our need of cleansing our lips and tongues. The Lord of hosts then sends an angel with a live coal of fire off the altar to touch our lips and to purge our sins that proceed out of our mouths. This is an internal purification. Then our lips will praise and worship God and plead for our people, our church, our wayward friends and relatives. It will totally change our lifestyle of service and witnessing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Promise of Power

"For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. . . . But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:5, 8.

Are you ready for this? Are you ready to be a witness for the Lord, to proclaim the loud cry, and to face the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation?

How about it, my dear people in the Lord? Do you desire, do you hunger and by God's grace strive for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire?

God does not want to just sprinkle us with the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire. He desires to *immerse* us in the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the fire of His presence. His cleansing

fully sanctified for the crisis ahead before His coming. But it will take diligence to make our calling and election sure. See 2 Peter 1:5-10.

I love the way Peter through Inspiration says that "if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." Verses 10-11. What a promise!

Please join me in this renewal of our covenant with God. This needs to be our priority. Let absolutely nothing hinder you from

God does not want to just sprinkle us with the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire. He desires to immerse us in the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the fire of His presence.

power will purge our tongues with a hot coal from off the altar. He calls us to be "holy in all manner of conversation" and conduct, to be "holy; for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:15-16. Then we will be dedicated, consecrated, and

this "everlasting kingdom," even if you also need to join me in rebaptism. Let us go forward and be baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire. And what a day it will be when we finally enter into the joy of the Lord's physical presence! ✠



The Great Second Advent Movement

J. N. Loughborough
Adventist Pioneer Library

This is a book giving the spiritual roots of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Does Bible prophecy foretell the formation of a unique end-time church? Does one church have a special message that prepares for Christ's coming? Why should this book continue to be republished? Surprising answers to these questions are found in the pages of this classic publication.

Paperback, 572 pages, 1992

Regular Price: \$11.95

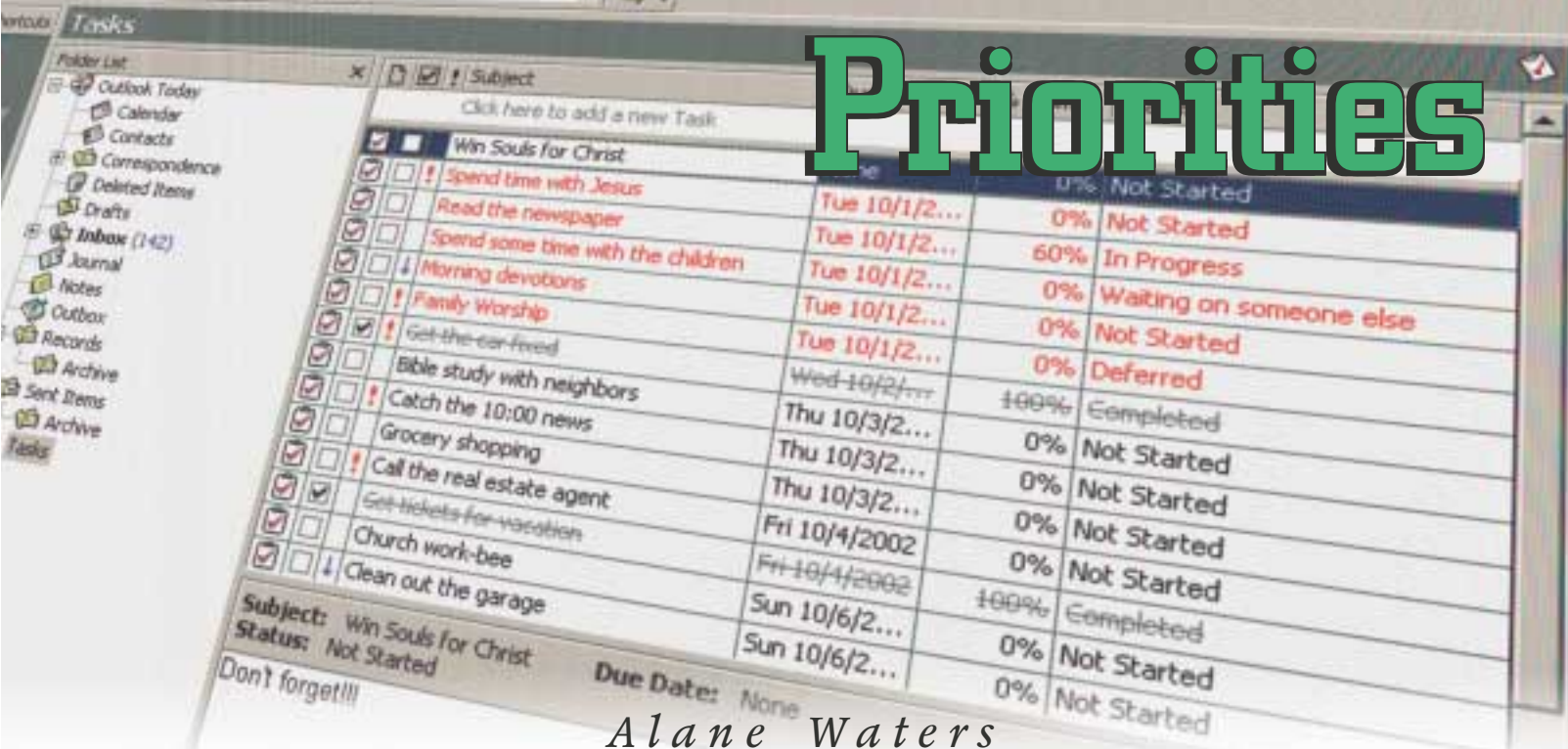
Sale Price: \$9.50

Catalog # BELJ-GSAM

Get it Now for Only \$9⁵⁰ !
Sale ends November 1.

See page 3 for shipping and sales-tax information.

Priorities



Alane Waters

Priorities—each day we live with the priorities we have actively made or passively accepted. Often our priorities end up being a combination of both. All of us make choices about what we consider important. Sometimes something becomes a priority without any intention on our part—like an emergency. Whether by a well-thought intention or an easygoing “I’ll take what life gives me,” every day reveals what gets the priority in our lives.

Here are some of the questions that my husband and I ask ourselves and continue to evaluate: “Is my life going the direction God wants?” “Am I experiencing joy and peace with my present choices?” “Does my family experience real happiness?” “What is the first of my daily priorities—is it temporal advantage only, or preparing for eternity?” Stop and read these questions again. You may have different questions or word these another way, but really think about them and answer them honestly in your own heart.

Isn't It Funny

Some time ago, we received a newsletter in the mail with a short article titled, “Isn't It Funny.” The

title caught my attention, and I read the following:

“Isn't it funny how big \$20 looks when you take it to church, but how small when you take it to the supermarket!

“Isn't it funny how much effort it takes to read a chapter from the Bible every day, but how easy it is to read the paper!

“Isn't it funny how much sacrifice it seems to spend an hour worshiping God, but so easy to spend an hour watching TV!

“Isn't it funny how easy it is to talk to your friend about your views on politics, but how hard it is to speak about your faith in Christ!

“Isn't it funny how difficult it is to work a special meeting at church into your schedule, but how easy it is to work in a social function!

“Isn't it funny how easy it is to teach your children how to play football, or your grandchildren to knit, but how difficult to teach them to pray, grow spiritually and obey the gospel!

“Isn't it funny how easy it is to talk on the phone for hours, but how difficult it is to have anything to say after two minutes with God!”

So, how does that strike you? Does it portray the reality of your

Christian experience? Think about it for a moment. You may not read the paper or watch TV, discuss politics or play football, but you know if the Spirit of God is speaking to your heart. You see, this author has some genuine insight into what is really happening in the lives of professing Christians today. And what is so accurately described becomes funny, because it vividly illustrates the weakness of human nature. So, it becomes easy to laugh at it and miss the simple message to our hearts.

As I read through it, I thought, “This writer is right on target, but isn't it sad!” *You see, we have lost the most important priorities in life as Christians.* Our vision has become narrow, our focus temporal. It is not funny, it is sad! It is a reality, and it is tragic!

I know about the experience that the writer depicts above. My life was controlled by the urgency of the moment. Oh yes, I had priorities, but what one desires and how one lives are all too often opposite. I had time every week to spend hours on the telephone. I had time to study to advance my professional career, to run to the store, or go to my husband's ball games. I had time to pick up some

extra shifts at work, or read magazines, but I did not have time (or should I say, I did not take time) to develop a personal relationship with God, to study to know His will for my life, or to talk with Him.

He was out there somewhere, and even though I *said* my priority was to prepare for His return, my day-to-day life was being consumed by the circumstances of the moment without a thought of the impact on my spiritual well-being, much less of the realities of eternity.

But praise God, that has changed for me, and it can change for you, too—not next year, not next week, not when there is time, or a more convenient season, but now—right at this very moment. God calls out to us, “To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” Hebrews 4:7. If this is your desire, then read on as I share with you how He has made, and continues to make, the most important difference in my life.

Putting Christ First

First, God helped me to see that I needed to start thinking in terms of the eternal and not the temporal. If I said I desired to be in heaven with God for an eternity, why did I find it so hard to spend time with Him here? When I began to re-evaluate my life—not for temporal advantages, but for eternal advantages—what a difference it made in my priorities! My focus was no longer just getting through each day and meeting each obligation, but rather, evaluating whether or not my plans had any value at all.

I started putting Him into the first part of my day, rather than trying to fit Him in somewhere, because you and I both know from experience that we just never seem to get the time. God entreats, “*Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*” Matthew 6:33. That is it! Do you see it? Seek Him and His righteousness that we can be like Him. I had been seeking to be a Christian, but had not

understood that I needed to seek for His righteousness, not a man-made replica.

I started spending one-half-hour-a-day, not just reading through a chapter in the Bible or a daily devotional while my mind was busy racing through the “have tos” of the day, but reading slowly *with my mind fully applied* to the words written. Wow! What a difference that made. I found a growing desire to have Jesus become my Lord and Companion. I sensed that His Presence was with me and began to recognize His “still, small voice” in my thoughts.

obeying your request; you need to follow through with her.” “The more carefully you manage your money, the less your husband has to work to provide a living.”

All my priorities began to change—from the influence of putting God first. Now I was motivated to spend more time every morning, getting direction, encouragement, and energy for the needs in the day ahead. My time grew to more-than-two-hours every morning. I saw principles I had never seen before. I understood things I had never understood before. I was falling in love

If I said I desired to be in heaven with God for an eternity, why did I find it so hard to spend time with Him here?

These are just a few of the many promptings He gave me: “You don’t need to spend so much time talking to your friend; spend time with your children.” “The extra shift at work isn’t worth the time you will miss out from your children.” “You don’t really need to spend so much time running around, hurrying the children and becoming intense. You need to stay home and get yourself and your children on a schedule and slow down your life.”

As I gave time to God, He multiplied the blessings in my life. I started to spend one-hour-each-morning. That meant that I had to get up earlier. It had been easy to squeeze in one-half-hour without much change in my rising time, but to make it an hour required me to choose to get out of bed earlier because *I chose Him first*. I began to spend more time with Him in prayer, seeing my real condition and need of help, asking Him to call often to my heart in the day. His promptings became more frequent and specific. “Don’t say that to your husband; it isn’t necessary.” “Your child is not

with Jesus, and allowing Him to be a real, personal Saviour to me, to keep me from my natural, selfish desires, attitudes, and ways. His impressions upon my heart became even more prevalent. “Don’t allow your headache to make you impatient with your children.” “Fold the sheet neatly, doing your best in all you do, even if it isn’t seen by anyone else.” “Learn to be truly submissive to your husband.”

In every phase Christ was digging deeper into my heart, knowing my greatest weaknesses and desiring to change me *from the inside out*, making my walk with Him one of joy and not drudgery. Everything in my life was affected by fellowship with Him. He challenges, “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13.

Friends, this is the greatest priority of all. If reading the newspaper appeals to us more than reading a chapter from the Bible, we will never have the victory by trying in our own strength to read the Bible. It will become a dry formality, gaining nothing, and

becoming discouraging. We must each choose to give our hearts to Him first. If we are willing, He will put a desire in us for Him, and then He will make the reading of His Word a meaningful communion with Him. He will make it come alive to us and show us how it applies personally and practically in our lives today.

natural heart does not want to see them. The devil comes trying to convince us that we are not really that bad, that it really is not our problem, or that others are just being too critical toward us.

It is the love of self that causes us to be self-defensive and unwilling to choose to allow God to change us. This self-love leaves us

want. It is only through choosing to take Christ at His word, surrendering our hearts to His keeping, and allowing Him to order our lives, that we will find perfect peace and quietude. The way we respond to the circumstances we face in the common occurrences of life is simply a barometer of our true heart condition. It is a call to examine our real priorities.

At the beginning of the new year I again recommitted myself to seek after the only thing that really matters—a new life in Christ. He is the desire of my heart, and I will continue to make Him the One and first priority of my life. *When He is in that rightful first place, all other needs and wants will be prioritized in Him.*

Today—just today—we have the opportunity to choose Christ, to put Him first, for we have no guarantee of tomorrow. What will you choose? Where are your priorities? Will your life with Christ become your priority? The choice is mine; the choice is yours! ✨

The way we respond to the circumstances we face in the common occurrences of life is simply a barometer of our true heart condition. It is a call to examine our real priorities.

As we each choose to make Christ first in our lives, *making Him our first priority*, we will desire more and more of Him, and less and less of the things that for so long have consumed our lives. He will get to the very root of our self-nature, revealing our greatest weaknesses. They are ugly, and our

with unrest and misery that looks for someone else to blame. If we are not at peace because we are agitated by our thoughts, our feelings, or our emotions, then this unrest is a call to our hearts to come to Christ that we can be made whole and experience the only real peace and true rest that we so desperately



Women: A High Calling

Alane Waters

God has a high calling for women! This set

covers three important areas: our individual Christian life and influence, our calling as wives, and our calling as mothers. Find answers to questions like: "Are we really taking enough time with God?" "Can a 'helpmate' really help her mate?" and "How can I have a happy, Christ-centered home?"

Set of 6 Audio Cassettes

Regular Price: \$24.00

Sale Price: \$19.50

Catalog # **AEWA-WHCA**

Sale Ends November 1!

Restoration International Family Camp Meeting Videos

Loon Lake, WA • June 5–9, 2002

<i>Tape 1</i>	"Who's in Control?"	<i>Tom Waters</i>
	"Embracing the Work"	<i>Sally Hohnberger</i>
<i>Tape 2</i>	"Cultivating Obedience and Self-control"	<i>Alane Waters</i>
	"Love in the Family"	<i>Emily Waters</i>
<i>Tape 3</i>	"Batteries Not Included"	<i>Jim Hohnberger</i>
	"Love Again"	<i>Alane Waters</i>
<i>Tape 4</i>	"Lost & Found"	<i>Jim Hohnberger</i>
	"Getting the Heart"	<i>Sally Hohnberger</i>
<i>Tape 5</i>	"True Leadership"	<i>Tom Waters</i>
	"What's in the Box?"	<i>Waters Family</i>
<i>Tape 6</i>	"Crossing Over"	<i>Jim Hohnberger</i>
	"Woman: A Helpmate"	<i>Sally Hohnberger</i>
<i>Tape 7</i>	"Self-government"	<i>Tom Waters</i>
	"Independent Atoms"	<i>Jim Hohnberger</i>

All Videos are 2 Hour VHS, NTSC Format

Individual videos may be purchased for \$16 each.

Get the entire set for only \$95 plus shipping

Please see page 3 for shipping and sales-tax information.

Our Firm Foundation



Bible Marking

“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:

Promises to Overcomers,

PO1: Revelation 21:7.

- 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 PO.**”

- Go through the study to check for broken links.

- Share the study with others!

The promises to the overcomers are wonderful to contemplate. Let us study how we can be among those who will share in the promised blessings, and then, let us share our hope with those we meet along the highways and byways of life.

Promises to Overcomers

Code: PO

PO1: Revelation 21:7.

Overcomers shall inherit all things.

PO2: Romans 12:21.

They must overcome evil.

PO3: 1 John 5:4–5.

They must overcome the world; they must overcome by faith in Jesus.

PO4: 2 Peter 1:4.

They must overcome by the promises.

PO5: 1 Corinthians 15:57.

Victory comes through Christ.

PO6: Romans 8:37.

They are more than conquerors through Him.

PO7: 1 John 2:25.

Overcomers will have eternal life.

PO8: Revelation 2:7.

They will eat of the tree of life.

PO9: Revelation 2:17.

They will eat of the hidden manna and receive a white stone and a new name.

PO10: Revelation 2:26.

They will have power over the nations.

PO11: Revelation 3:5.

They will be clothed with white raiment.

PO12: Revelation 3:12.

They will be pillars in the temple of God.

PO13: Revelation 3:21.

They will sit with Christ in His throne.

PO14: James 1:12.

They will receive a crown of life.

PO15: Hebrews 10:36–37.

The promises to the overcomers will be fulfilled when Jesus comes.

PO16: Revelation 21:4.

Overcomers will never more have pain, tears, or death. ✠

“God So Loved

the World”

Ellen G. White

“God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16.

Who can measure the love of God?—Angels cannot comprehend it; it is to them a depth of mystery that they cannot fathom. Angels marvel at the divine love manifested for fallen men; but men themselves remain indifferent and unimpressed. Few respond to the love of God. Few appreciate the marvelous love of Christ in His life of suffering, in His death of shame. Behold Him humiliated, mocked, sent from Pilate to Herod, and from Herod to Pilate, condemned, crucified, suspended on the cross, a reproach of men, despised of the people. The sentence of condemnation that was merited by guilty man, angels saw fall upon the innocent Son of God, the loved Commander of their hosts. Well might they be astonished at the love that sustained the Sufferer, Who died that we might live. Paul writes, “God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Galatians 6:14. This should be the language of our hearts also. It is in the cross that our hopes

of eternal life are centered; and as we look to Calvary, seeing what sin has done, how can we live any longer therein? It was our sin that caused the Son of God to humble Himself unto death, even the death of the cross; and in Him dwelt the fullness of the Godhead.

Christ was the Majesty of heaven; and yet behold Him dying in man’s stead. What love is this! “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:6–8.

Well might the angels forsake heaven when Christ was crucified, and behold the spectacle of the cross with sorrow and astonishment. They looked upon a sight never before seen, never to be forgotten. Beholding Him upon the cross revealed to them, as it should to us, the hatefulness of sin. They saw how much it cost to free man from the terrible power of evil. And after this display of divine love, shall man exalt himself? Shall man be lifted up? Shall he robe himself in the filthy rags of his own right-

eousness, and presume to stand before God? Shall he reject the precepts of God, and live in rebellion against the commandments of the Lord?

In the cross is an unanswerable argument as to the immutability of the divine law. Looking to Calvary, we can see how vain are man’s efforts when devoid of Christ’s merit to give them efficiency. The great acquisition to an impenitent world is the cross of Calvary. Paul gloried in the cross, and well he might; for it was here that he humbled himself that he might be lifted up to true greatness. The price paid for his redemption revealed to him the value of his soul. The Son of God had to die for the sins that Paul had committed; the blood shed on the cross was for him, to save him from eternal ruin. The precious blood of Christ was of such value that a full atonement was made for the guilty soul, and this was to Paul his “glory.” It was through the blood of Christ that he had redemption, even the forgiveness of sins.

Paul realized his weakness, and well he might distrust his own strength. Referring to the law, he says, “The commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.” Romans 7:10. He had trusted in the deeds of the law. He says, concerning his own outward life, that as “touching the law” he was “blameless” (Philippians 3:5–6); and he put his trust in his own righteousness. But when the mirror of the law was held up before him, and he saw himself as God saw him, full of mistakes, stained with sin, he cried out, “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” Romans 7:24.

Paul beheld the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. He heard the voice of Christ saying, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6. He determined to avail himself of the benefits of saving grace, to become dead to trespasses and sins, to have his guilt washed away

in the blood of Christ, to be clothed with Christ's righteousness, to become a branch of the Living Vine. He walked with Christ, and Jesus became to him—not a part of salvation, while his own good deeds were another part, but—his all-in-all, the first and last and best in everything. He had the faith that draws life from Christ, that enabled him to conform his life to that of the divine Example. This faith claims nothing for its possessor because of his righteousness, but claims everything because of the righteousness of Christ.

In the gospel the character of Christ is portrayed. As He descended step-by-step from His throne, His divinity was veiled in humanity; but in His miracles, His doctrines, His sufferings, His betrayal, His mockery, His trial, His death by crucifixion, His grave among the rich, His resurrection, His forty days upon earth, His ascension, His triumph, His priesthood, are inexhaustible treasures of wisdom, recorded for us by Inspiration in the Word of God. The waters of life still flow in abundant streams of salvation. The mysteries of redemption, the blending of the divine and the human in Christ, His incarnation, sacrifice, mediation, will be sufficient to supply minds, hearts, tongues, and pens with themes for thought and expression for all time; and time will not be sufficient to exhaust the wonders of salvation, but through everlasting ages, Christ will be the science and the song of the redeemed soul. New developments of the perfection and glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, will be forever unfolding. And now there must be perfect reliance upon His merit and grace; there must be distrust of self, and living faith in Him.

Those who depend upon their own righteousness instead of relying upon the righteousness of Christ, will lose the prize; they will be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary and found wanting. Let everyone who is striving for the precious boon of eternal life

distrust his own strength, and, in much prayer, cast his helpless soul upon Christ. There is too little searching of the Word of God for definite direction in the way of life. The larger number of those who profess to believe on Christ have only superficial ideas as to what constitutes Christian character. A sad awakening will come to such souls sooner or later. The thoughts of these superficial believers are not deep or strong enough to comprehend the work of the atonement, and the relation of that work to their

through faith" (1 Peter 1:5); and even faith is not of ourselves, but it also is the gift of God.

In order to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ, it is essential that you meditate much upon the great themes of redemption. You should ask yourself why Christ has taken humanity upon Himself, why He suffered upon the cross, why He bore the sins of men, why He was made sin and righteousness for us. You should study to know why He ascended to heaven in the nature of man, and what is His work for us today.

Let everyone who is striving for the precious boon of eternal life distrust his own strength, and, in much prayer, cast his helpless soul upon Christ.

own work and life. So terrible a deception has come upon many, so many false ideas have become inwrought in the character, that it seems necessary to tear the whole experience to pieces in order that self-dependence and self-sufficiency may be laid aside, and outward obedience deepened to inward piety and truth. Do not deceive yourself with the idea that your own inherent righteousness will bring you into harmony with God. Do not fail to look upon yourself as a sinner in the sight of God. Do not fail to look upon Jesus lifted up upon the cross; and as you look, believe and live; for by faith in the atoning sacrifice you may be justified through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Believe that you are forgiven, that you are justified, not in transgression and disobedience, but in submission to the will of God. If through faith you lay hold of the righteousness of Christ, then be not careless of your thoughts, your words, your works. Study much, and pray that as Christ has shown you the way, he may by his grace keep you in the way. For we are "kept by the power of God

If thoughts of Christ, His work and character, are cherished, you will be led to sink deep the shaft of truth, and you will be enabled to come into possession of precious jewels of truth. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to you. As you meditate upon heavenly things, and walk with God, as did Enoch, you will lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset, and will run with patience the race set before you. We think that we are familiar with the character of Christ, and we do not realize how much is to be gained by the study of our glorious Pattern. We take it for granted that we know all about Him, and yet we do not comprehend His character or mission. If we neglect to search the Scriptures, which testify of Him, we shall be led from the truth into the error of the wicked one. Our building must be founded upon the Rock Christ Jesus or it will not stand the test of the tempest. ❀

Signs of the Times, November 24 and December 1, 1890.



Post Christianity, Great Britain, and Europe

News Item: “During our recent creation tour with Ken Ham, we were all swept up in a huge, unexpected media frenzy! In the humanist furor that was directed against a private school, AiG [Answers in Genesis Ministries] and Bible-believing Christians . . . even the Prime Minister became involved!

“You know that here in Britain the Church and Christian influence have waned significantly over the decades. For years, we have prayed that the Lord would open ministry doors for our Answers in Genesis office here in Leicester – and they have been slowly but steadily opening, praise God!

“On the first day of the Leicester Creation Conference, BBC radio interviewed Ken and me. The first question the reporter asked came as a surprise to both of us: ‘Mr. Ham, were you shocked that your visit has sparked a controversy that reached the House of Commons?’

“Consider just some of the headlines from our world-renowned newspapers (*The Guardian, Times, Daily Mail, Daily Telegraph, Sunday Times, Sunday Telegraph, Observer, Independent, Scotsman, Sunday Sun*):

- US Creationists on mission to Britain
- Young Earth Creationists teach bad science and worse religion
- Creation theory is creeping into UK schools. Should we be worried? Yes, says science.
- Bishop calls for new check on Creation school
- Storm over teaching of creationism at school
- Retreat into the cocoon of fundamentalist religion

“These are just a few samples of the headlines across Britain! Not only this, but leading evolutionists such as Professor Richard Dawkins of Oxford University, Professor Steve Jones from London University and vocal humanist groups also became very publicly involved.

“So how did a seminar at a rented school auditorium spark all this? I’ll let the anti-creationist newsletter of the British Humanist Association (of which Richard Dawkins is Vice President) share part of the story: ‘This weekend, a creationist conference is taking place at City Technology College Emmanuel College in Gateshead. The conference includes Ken Ham, the Australian creationist living in the United States and involved in having a creationist museum built in the state of Kentucky.’

“The *Guardian* newspaper picks up the story here: ‘A conference at the school this weekend stars the head of Answers in Genesis, a leading proponent of American creationist Christianity, which has, until now, failed to gain ground on this side of the Atlantic.’

“Another newspaper reported: ‘The creationist lobby has become increasingly notorious in the U.S., but until recently it has been relatively weak in Europe. The Anglican and Catholic hierarchies have accepted evolution as fact, with the Pope saying [evolution] was “more than just a hypothesis.”’

“Several articles, commentaries, editorials and letters to the editor appeared in various papers – most of which vehemently attacked those who take Genesis literally, and mocked Bible-believing Christians. The strong anti-Christian sentiment surprised many in our AiG-supporting churches, who had not fully realized to what extent Britain had not just rejected Christianity, but was passionately against it.

“The school whose auditorium was rented happened to be one of

the ‘faith schools’ set up by a previous British government. The religious group that helps fund the Gateshead school is also represented on the governing board, and thus has a say in the school’s educational philosophy. This happens at other schools, too; for example, as one newspaper reported, ‘Ibrahim Hewitt, of the Association of Muslim Schools, said his members’ schools (including six state-funded ones), taught children about Darwin, because they had to, but they also taught a different, Koranic [i.e. from the Koran] view.’ (By the way – has there been any furor across Britain because some of these schools teach children Islamic doctrine? No, but if it’s Christian instruction . . . !)

“As if it were a heinous crime for Christians to influence education in any way, one report stated: ‘Fundamentalist Christians who do not believe in evolution have taken control of a state-funded secondary school in England. In a development which will astonish many British parents, creationist teachers at the City Technology College in Gateshead are undermining the scientific teaching of biology in favour of persuading pupils of the literal truth of the Bible.’

“The *Independent on Sunday* reported: ‘Last week scientists, humanists, philosophers and church liberals joined forces to denounce the Emmanuel City Technology College in Gateshead. The school, which is backed by evangelical Christians . . . has presented creationist theories to children as part of their science lessons.’ What a crime! Some students actually heard about creation! ‘This has to be stopped,’ they argued!

“The commotion reached the House of Commons, with Prime Minister Tony Blair being asked about the school during ‘question time’ in Parliament.

“A reporter in the *Times* stated: ‘If Tony Blair was a creationist then

October Health Book Specials

the right response was clear: he should have said so, and resigned at once.' In other words, you can't be a creationist and Prime Minister at the same time—a big no-no! (We don't know Mr. Blair's beliefs on creation.)

"The *Times* article continued: 'We in Britain are hardly on the brink of a national slide into Christian fundamentalist education and . . . the country's youth does not face massive subversion by religious crackpots.' The *Times* article then went on to say, 'So long as the antibodies of common sense are all around (as in Britain they are) early exposure to religion can provide a sort of inoculation, and I would personally encourage bands of hooded nuns, creepy evangelists, bearded rabbis and one-eyed imams to tour our primary schools wailing incantations and scaring the wits out of kids as a living demonstration of the madness of religion.'

"Church leaders also became involved. The Bishop of Oxford was heard on radio and quoted in the newspapers with statements such as: 'This attempt to see the Book of Genesis as a rival to scientific truth stops people taking the Bible seriously. Biblical literalism brings not only the Bible but Christianity itself into disrepute.'

"A reporter in the *Observer* warned the public that this issue of creation being taught to students, 'Raised fears that the fundamentalist doctrines that have polluted US education may now be spreading to Britain.'" Answers In Genesis Ministries News Update, May 2002.

End-Time Perspective: It is apparent that we are facing not only apathy in a post-Christian society but a downright hatred of Christianity.

This situation also illustrates how unexpectedly—and quickly—we can be in the spotlight, giving the whole world opportunity to hear the issues necessary for them to make a final decision for or against God. ✨



Pathways to Health and Happiness

Ellen G. White

Compiled from the Spirit of Prophecy, *Pathways to Health and Happiness* helps you understand and apply the principles of health reform in everyday life. An invaluable resource and guide to better health! Covers the areas of stress management, weight loss, child training, depression, and more!

Paperback
Regular Price: \$5.50
Catalog # BEWE-PTHH

Sale Price: \$4²⁵



To Your Health

Hans Diehl, M.D.

To Your Health is a book written for those who consider themselves healthy, or who have "minor" problems such as high blood pressure, borderline diabetes, high cholesterol or triglycerides, and for those who want to bring their weight under control in a practical way!

Paperback, 203 pages, 1990
Regular Price: \$9.95
Catalog # BEDH-TYHE

Sale Price: \$6⁹⁵



Natural Healthcare for Your Child

Agatha Thrash, M.D., Calvin Thrash, M.D., and Phylis Austin

Provides trustworthy information on the prevention, causes, and treatment of diseases and ailments common from birth through the teenage years.

Paperback, 228 pages, 1990
Regular Price: \$9.95
Catalog # BETA-NHFY

Sale Price: \$7⁹⁵



Mooove Over Milk

Vicki Griffin and Dane Griffin


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

Discover startling evidence about milk and osteoporosis, diabetes, cancer, heart disease, allergies, and more! Includes great dairy-free recipes.

Paperback, 132 pages, 1997
Regular Price: \$9.95
Catalog # BEGV-MOMI

Sale Price: \$7⁹⁵

Sales end November 1. Please see page 3 for shipping and sales-tax information.



Constant Attainment Essential to Christian Life

Ellen G. White

“Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.” Colossians 1:25–29.

In this scripture, instruction is given as to the position of those who are seeking to open the Word of God to others. This work cannot be done negligently. It cannot be undertaken in mere human strength. The work of the ministry has been carried forward altogether too much in our own human

wisdom. We have seemed to think that an understanding of the theory of the truth was sufficient for the work. When we have talked to the people, we have gone over the ground to them, and explained all the lines of truth, and yet we have not brought into it the divine power of the truth to transform the life and character. When the work of God is done mechanically, it cannot be effective in converting souls. Though we have the truth, though our position be so well taken that our enemies cannot controvert it, this is not all that is necessary. There must be a power with our work beyond the mere knowledge of the theory of the truth. We must have divine energy to accompany our human effort.

Paul speaks of the riches of the glory of the mystery that is to be made known to the Gentiles. There are many mysteries in the Word of God that we do not comprehend, and many of us are content to stop our investigation when we have just begun to receive a little knowl-

edge concerning Christ. When there begins to be a little unfolding of the divine purposes to the mind, and we begin to obtain a slight knowledge of the character of God, we become satisfied, and think that we have received about all the light that there is for us in the Word of God. But the truth of God is infinite. With painstaking effort, we should work in the mines of truth, discovering the precious jewels that have been hidden. It is the minister’s privilege to have a constant supply of fresh truth for the people. He should be in such a position that he can bring from the treasurehouse of God not the same thing over and over, but new beauty and new truth.

The Spirit of God will rest upon the diligent searcher for truth. He who desires the truth in his heart, who longs for the working of its power upon the life and character, will be sure to have it. Says the Saviour, “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” Matthew 5:6. When ministers themselves taste and see that the Lord is good, when their minds are filled with thoughts of heaven, then the eternal realities of the unseen world will open to their understanding, and they will be able to present the truth of God, and it will make an impression upon human minds.

Those who seek for more and still more of the Spirit of God, will not be disappointed. They will hold daily communion with God, and divine power will surely attend their efforts as they present the truth. As certainly as the truth is presented in the Spirit of Christ, it will reach the hearts of the people. Brethren, we should not go into the desk unless we have previously devoted some time to wrestling with God in prayer. We should not be satisfied to use the set discourses that we have preached over and over for the last ten, fifteen, or twenty years. We should draw fresh, new matter from the storehouse of God’s Word. We are desirous that the angels of God

may stand by our side when we are in the sacred desk, that God may impress the mind; that there may be glorious unfoldings of the truth; that it may be presented in the demonstration of the Spirit; that it may be meat in due season to the flock of God. It is the special grace of God that makes the sermon effectual. The minister's words will have very little influence upon the people, unless divine enlightenment accompanies them to the hearts of the hearers. We need much more of the Spirit of God than we have had in the past. Brethren, how long are you going to continue to labor without receiving the holy unction from on high?

If you search the Scriptures with a meek and teachable spirit, your efforts will be richly rewarded. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

1 Corinthians 2:14. The Bible should be studied with prayer. We should pray as did David, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." Psalm 119:18. No man can have insight into the Word of God without the illumination of the Holy Spirit. If we will but come into the right position before God, His light will shine upon us in rich, clear rays. This was the experience of the early disciples. The Scriptures declare that "when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing, mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:1-4. God is willing to give us a similar blessing, when we seek for it as earnestly.

The Lord did not lock the reservoir of heaven after pouring

His Spirit upon the early disciples. We, also, may receive of the fullness of His blessing. Heaven is full of the treasures of His grace, and those who come to God in faith may claim all that He has promised. If we do not have His power it is because of our spiritual lethargy, our indifference, our indolence. Let us come out of this formality and deadness.

There is a great work to be done for this time, and we do not half realize what the Lord is willing to do for His people. We talk about the first angel's message, and the second angel's message, and we think we have some understanding of the third angel's message; but we should not be satisfied with our

We should not be satisfied to use the set discourses that we have preached over and over for the last ten, fifteen, or twenty years. We should draw fresh, new matter from the storehouse of God's Word.

present knowledge. Our petitions, mingled with faith and contrition, should go up to God, for an understanding of the mysteries that God would make known to His saints. We should have a realization that unless taught by the Holy Spirit, we shall not rightly comprehend the Bible; for it is a sealed book even to the learned, who are wise in their own conceit. Jesus meant just what He said when He directed His disciples to "search the scriptures." John 5:39. Searching means to compare scripture with scripture, and spiritual things with spiritual. We should not be satisfied with a superficial knowledge. We should search for the hidden treasure concealed beneath the surface, as the merchantman seeks for goodly pearls. Light, great light, will reward the diligent searcher for truth.

There are many who have not taxed their mental powers, and who have no experience in putting to the stretch their utmost ability to find out what is truth. It is not

possible that the Holy Spirit shall fall upon you unless you feel your need, and are more desirous for its descent than you now are. You should realize that you are living upon the very borders of the eternal world, that Christ is coming very soon, and that all heaven is interested in the work that is in progress in fitting up a people for His coming. If ever there was a people that needed to heed the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodicean church to be zealous and to repent before God, it is the people who have had opened up before them the stupendous truths for this time, and who have not lived up to their high privileges and responsibilities. We have lost

much in not living up to the light of the solemn truths which we profess to believe.

Isaiah had a wonderful view of God's glory. He saw the manifestation of God's power, and after beholding His majesty, a message came to him to go and do a certain work. He felt wholly unworthy for the work. What made him esteem himself unworthy? Did he think himself unworthy before he had a view of God's glory?—No; he imagined himself in a righteous state before God; but when the glory of the Lord of hosts was revealed to him, when he beheld the inexpressible majesty of God, he said, "I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a living coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: and he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and

thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged." Isaiah 6:5-7. This is the work that as individuals we need to have done for us. We want the living coal from off the altar placed upon our lips. We want to hear the word spoken, "Thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged."

If you are content to think and to preach in one narrow channel, you will not advance in understanding, nor know the depth and grandeur of the truth. If you desire to understand the mysteries of God, you must search the Scriptures. There is nothing that will develop the intellect like wrestling with the great problems of truth revealed in God's Word. You may keep your mind in constant medi-

framework of truth. What would the Saviour do if He should come to us now as He did to the Jews?—He would have to do a similar work in clearing away the rubbish of tradition and ceremony. The Jews were greatly disturbed when He did this work. They had lost sight of the original truth of God, but Christ brought it again to view. It is our work to free the precious truths of God from superstition and error. What a work is committed to us in the gospel! An angel's pen could not portray all the glory of the revealed plan of redemption. The Bible tells how Christ bore our sins, and carried our sorrows. Here is revealed how mercy and truth have met together at the

pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matthew 5:17-18. Christ was the originator of the law; and the blindness of the Pharisees is an illustration of how people who claim great light and knowledge can misunderstand and misrepresent the work of God. Glorious truths have been buried out of sight, and have been made lusterless and unattractive by error and superstition. Jesus reveals the light of God, and brings forth the beautiful radiance of the truth in all its divine glory. The minds of the honest are filled with admiration. Their hearts are attracted in holy affections toward Him who brought forth the jewels of truth and displayed them to their understanding.

The Jews understood some portion of the truth, and taught some part of the Word of God; but they did not comprehend the far-reaching nature of the law of God. Christ swept away the rubbish of tradition, and displayed the real kernel and heart of the purposes of God. When He did this, they became exasperated beyond control. They circulated false reports from one town to another that Christ was destroying the work of God. But while Jesus did away with the old forms, He reinstated the old truths, placing them in the framework of truth. He matched and joined them together, making a complete and symmetrical system of truth. This was the work our Saviour did; and now what shall we do? Shall we not work in harmony with Christ? Shall we be ruled by hearsay? Shall we let our own imaginings hide from us the light of God? We are to read attentively, to hear understandingly, and to teach others also the things we have learned. We must be constantly hungering for the bread of life, constantly seeking for the living water and the snow of Lebanon, that we may be able to lead the people to the living, cooling waters of the Fountain of truth. ❀

Review and Herald, June 4, 1889.

If you desire to understand the mysteries of God, you must search the Scriptures. There is nothing that will develop the intellect like wrestling with the great problems of truth revealed in God's Word.

tation and prayer, even when your hands are busy. The truth of God is a treasure that is of more value than everything else in the world. Its priceless value is illustrated by the parable of Christ, concerning the man who found a treasure in a field, and he went and bought that field, that he might plow every part of it, and search out all the treasure that it contained. The blessed Bible, the field that contains the treasure, the garden of God, is open to you. Search the Scriptures; dig in the mines of truth until the precious jewels that have been hidden there for ages shall be brought out, and you can present them to the people.

In the time of the Saviour, the Jews had so covered over the precious jewels of truth with the rubbish of tradition and fable, that it was impossible to distinguish the true from the false. The Saviour came to clear away the rubbish of superstition and long-cherished errors, and to set the jewels of God's Word in the

cross of Calvary, how righteousness and peace have kissed each other, how the righteousness of Christ may be imparted to fallen man. There infinite wisdom, infinite justice, infinite mercy, and infinite love were displayed. Depths, heights, lengths, and breadths of love and wisdom, all passing knowledge, are made known in the plan of salvation.

When the scribes and Pharisees saw that Christ did not reverence their forms and traditions, they accused Him of contempt for the law and the prophets. But Christ did not show the least contempt for the old truths. Because He did not work in the same narrow forms that they did, they said, "He is come to destroy the law." But there fell upon their astonished ears the words of Christ, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise



Great camp meeting. We really enjoyed the meetings and the fellowship with everyone. We still talk about it. What a blessing! Keep up the good work for the Lord. You are in our prayers.

ML, Washington

Please send me a one-year subscription to *Our Firm Foundation*. This is the best magazine—for Christ and His spiritual kingdom—we have ever seen. I am sending a \$— check to help with the cost. Thanks so much.

DS, Virginia

Thank you for the book *Steps to Christ*. I have devoured the wealth of information it contains as I was truly searching for some guidance to help me remain focused on walking the true path of a Christian. I cannot thank you enough! I will cherish this particular book.

I could use a Bible of my own, but, the next book I would like to read by E. G. White is *Patriarchs and Prophets*, unless there is another book you feel I should read first. Out of the many faiths I have searched through, SDA is the only one which fills my heart with understanding of God's Word.

Again, thank you for the wonderful Bible Studies and books you've sent to help me better know our heavenly Father, and walk in His loving light! Not only do I agree to work through the provided Bible studies, but I will share them with my family and friends. They are so clear and precise in understanding. I shall also think of you in my prayers.

MB, Oregon

I am delighted with the contents of your inspiring magazine. I eagerly read the May issue and found it extremely informative. I had a problem with people claiming the church to be Babylon. It has been eternally resolved.

It couldn't be clearer. I fully understand now what Babylon in this century depicts. Thanks very much.

I am a Seventh-day Adventist who seeks divine guidance daily. Thank God for the Holy Scriptures and Ellen White. The article concerning her writings reinforced my belief in the Spirit of Prophecy.

It was while attending the — church that I was introduced to your magazine by Brother —. Since then it has proved to be what it is called, a firm foundation for me. I know what I believe. Thank you for your ministry.

Every SDA on this planet should be reading this magazine as it will help to reaffirm our strong faith in who we are and the God we exalt, honor and obey.

Please accept this contribution of \$— toward the promotion and dispersal of *Our Firm Foundation*. We will remain grounded on Christ the solid Rock until He comes.

RG, Florida

I just want to say THANK YOU for your wonderful magazine and the work you are doing. I can assure you that God is working with His church in — as every week I see more and more members have a desire to reflect the character of Christ and seek to do His will. The work of revival and reformation is taking place, though many are rejecting it. Please continue to remember us in your prayers. I make as many copies of your articles as I can and share them with pastors and church leaders.

Last year you provided me with subscription assistance. Thank you so much. I will be paying for my subscription in full this year, as soon as my social security check comes. Praise God for His blessings! Please do not cancel.

LC, Oklahoma

Thanks so much for your publications—they keep us uplifted in Christ. Please use the enclosed money for support for your ministry.

RN, New Mexico

From Overseas

What can I say? No one can read your *Our Firm Foundation* and Will

the Real SDA Stand Up without feeling overwhelmed by the reviving and straight message you present, which is hardly found elsewhere in our beloved churches. How much more is it to attend personally your preachings? In your June 2002 magazine, I see that we are invited to attend your July camp meeting in Eatonville; however, I cannot afford the ticket and required documents.

Satan is striving to destroy your work by wallowing you in the mire of false accusations. However, be of good cheer, he will never be able to keep the rain from raining. Many are behind you by earnest prayers for the blessed achievement of the work of those who will inherit the kingdom of heaven.

AH, Burundi

Currently I am receiving multi-copy (5) issues of *Our Firm Foundation*, which I distribute to our members. They have been an inspiration to me, and my members have appreciated receiving such truth-filled literature. It is very rare today to find publishers who are firm and focused "as a needle is to the pole"—this I say because most have taken the course of publishing "pleasant" truth instead of the "present" truth—the three angels' messages. May God continue to bless this magazine in awakening our people from the Laodicean slumber.

Through God's grace I am able to preach to people about the Sabbath and other end-time crucial issues in trains on my way to school every weekday. I would appreciate if you could donate a large quantity of small pamphlets about: the Sabbath, Sunday, the beast, etc. These can become valuable to my ministry since I will distribute to those interested after each and every message I deliver upon each topic. Whenever you receive literature donations from fellow blessed Adventists do consider my request. I believe that God has many ways of hastening this gospel to the world, though at present most seem to be reluctant when it comes to investing upon this work. May the Lord continue to bless all who sacrifice for this work.

CM, South Africa



Hope International Camp Meeting 2002

Audio and Video Cassettes

21 Sermon Treasures for the Last Days!

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

Everyone who came to the Hope International camp meeting in Eatonville this year knows what a tremendous blessing it was. Many said it was the best camp meeting in years. While different speakers met different needs in people's lives, the dominant theme was recognizing end-time events and getting ready for our Lord's soon return.

For those who were unable to attend, we would like to share the blessings with you through the audio and video tapes that are now available.

Speaker /

Tape # Message Title

Maurice Berry

- 1 "The Issue in the Great Controversy"
- 2 "The First Angel's Message"
- 3 "Daniel and the Second Angel's Message"
- 4 "Abomination of Desolation"

Cody Francis

- 5 "Where are the Elijahs?"

Bill Humeniuk

- 6 "The American Diet"
- 7 "Africa Mission Story"
- 8 "Baptism of Fire"

Dr. Sung Min Im

- 9 "Are We Safe Without Health Reform?"
- 10 "How to Cleanse Our Body and Spirit"

Sheldon Parrett

- 11 "Two Rails, One Track"
- 12 "Fearing God Through The Sanctuary"
- 13 "The Third Angel's Message"

Ron Spear

- 14 "Prepare to Meet Thy God"

Colin Standish

- 15 "Witnessing to the Children of Rome"
- 16 "The Army of the Lord"

Russell Standish

- 17 "Twenty Pieces of Silver"
- 18 "Sound an Alarm in My Holy Mountain"

Roundtable

(Ron Spear, Colin Standish, and Russell Standish)

- 19-21 "The Controversy Ended," Parts 1-3

Audio Cassettes: \$3 ea. Set of 21 Audios: \$57
Video Cassettes: \$10 ea. Set of 21 Videos: \$160

See page 3 for shipping and sales-tax information.

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

