



*Our* Firm  
Foundation

Hold Fast  
Till I Come

Volume 18, Number 4

April 2003

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary

# Are You a True Sabbathkeeper?



There are five great doctrines that separate Seventh-day Adventists from the churches of Babylon: the sanctuary message, the three angels' messages, the state of the dead, the gift of prophecy, and the seventh-day Sabbath that was instituted at Creation, which is found in the Ten Commandments. Yet we must ask ourselves, Are we really *true* Sabbathkeepers? Do we faithfully keep the Sabbath according to God's direction found in Isaiah 58:

"If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." Verses 13-14.

Sabbathkeeping is not just attending church on Saturday. It is not merely a holiday from work. It is a holy day — and only those who keep it holy will receive the seal of the living God.

Please read *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 349-368, and ask the Lord to show you any way in which you are desecrating the Sabbath.

How does God view Sabbathbreaking? — "And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the

congregation. And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him without the camp. And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses." Numbers 15:32-36.

"During the sojourn in the wilderness the kindling of fires upon the seventh day had been strictly prohibited. The prohibition was not to extend to the land of Canaan, where the severity of the climate would often render fires a necessity; but in the wilderness, fire was not needed for warmth. The act of this man was a willful and deliberate violation of the fourth commandment — a sin, not of thoughtlessness or ignorance, but of presumption.

"He was taken in the act and brought before Moses. It had already been declared that Sabbathbreaking should be punished with death, but it had not yet been revealed how the penalty was to be inflicted. The case was brought by Moses before the Lord, and the direction was given, 'The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp.' The sins of blasphemy and willful Sabbathbreaking received the same punishment, being equally an expression of contempt for the authority of God. . . .

"During the entire forty years in the wilderness, the people were every week reminded of the sacred obligation of the Sabbath, by the miracle of the manna. Yet, even this did not lead them to obedience.

Though they did not venture upon so open and bold transgression as had received such signal punishment, yet there was great laxness in the observance of the fourth commandment. God declares through His prophet, 'My sabbaths they greatly polluted.' Ezekiel 20:13; see also verses 14-24. And this is enumerated among the reasons for the exclusion of the first generation from the Promised Land. Yet, their children did not learn the lesson. Such was their neglect of the Sabbath during the forty years' wandering, that though God did not prevent them from entering Canaan, He declared that they should be scattered among the heathen after the settlement in the Land of Promise." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 409-410.

Today, we are not instructed to punish those who engage in business and worldly entertainment on the Sabbath by stoning them. However, is God any less strict? Has He changed His mind, and His requirements for Sabbathkeeping? — "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips." Psalms 89:34; see also James 1:17.

No, God has not changed. "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." Ecclesiastes 8:11.

Let us renew our commitment today to study diligently how to keep God's Sabbath, for only those who keep the Sabbath in this life as God has directed will receive His seal and approval, and will enjoy Sabbathkeeping for eternity in heaven. ❖



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.

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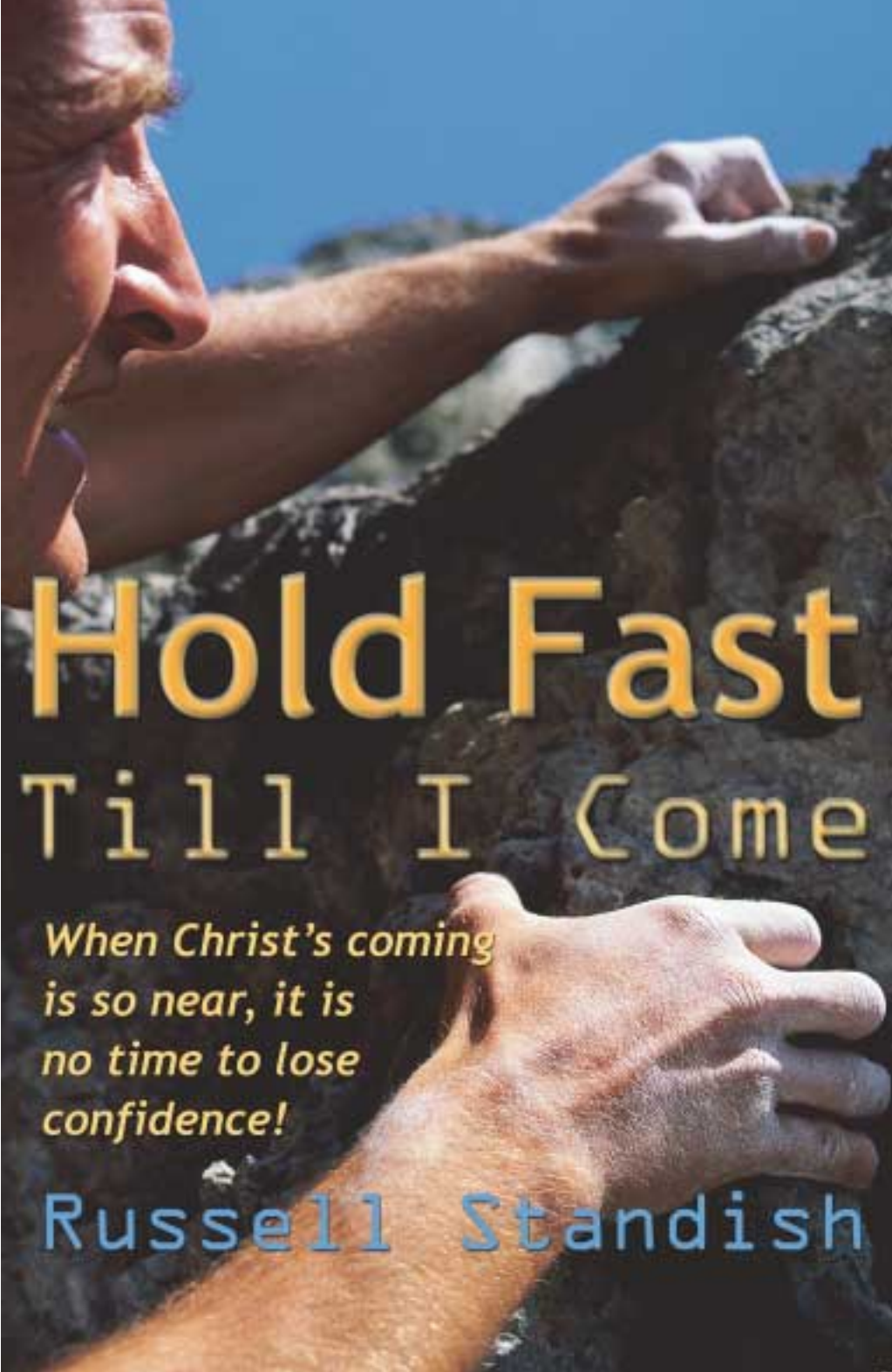
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# Hold Fast Till I Come

*When Christ's coming  
is so near, it is  
no time to lose  
confidence!*

Russell Standish

**P**aul in his writings used the term “hold fast” as he earnestly urged God’s people to continue unto the end. He named four matters that every Christian should hold fast: “Hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21); hold fast “sound words” (2 Timothy 1:13); hold fast thy “confidence” (He-

brews 3:6); and “hold fast the profession of our faith” (Hebrews 10:23).

The apostle John also used these terms. “Hold fast till I come” (Revelation 2:25); “hold fast, and repent” (Revelation 3:3); hold fast “that no man take thy crown” (verse 11).

Today, men work diligently in order to hold fast to their economic

prosperity. They move shares from one company to another seeking to obtain the maximum benefit or, in times of depression, the least loss. Others buy gold, play the money markets, or invest in properties. There is no need to encourage most men and women to hold fast to their financial security.

However, we are different. We are Seventh-day Adventists! We hold fast to that which is good, to sound words, to eternal values. We hold fast our confidence in the truth and our profession of faith. We repent. We hold fast till Jesus comes so that no man may take our crown. This we do because we love our Lord, because we trust Him, because of our great gratitude and faith in Him, and because we want to spend eternity with Him.

When Colin and I were little lads, eleven years old, our mother entrusted us with a task beyond that which she had ever previously asked us to perform. We were given the duty of taking the bus into town to purchase an item for our mother. Of course, this was not the first time we had been sent on such errands, but never before had we been entrusted with such a huge amount of money – a ten-shilling note. Today, Australia no longer uses pounds, shillings, and pence. It uses dollars and cents. The ten-shillings later became one Australian dollar. Today, young people would place very little value in one dollar. However, back in 1944, when we were eleven years old, that ten-shilling note was a massive amount of money and an awesome responsibility. I took control of the note, placed it in my left hand, and held it as tightly as I could. We rode on the bus and eventually came to the appropriate bus stop where we disembarked.

The bus had scarcely driven off when I called out to Colin, “I have left the ten-shilling note on the bus!” I was devastated. I had been determined to keep that note safe and to be ever alert that no one would steal it from me. In a futile effort to recover the money, we began chasing after the bus as fast as our little legs would

carry us. However, there was no way we could catch up to that bus. We retreated to the footpath hardly knowing what we could say to our mother, having lost such a huge amount of money. We knew that our mother could ill afford to lose that money, for it was a goodly proportion of one week's salary in those days.

As we stood there in our perplexity, not knowing what to do, I lifted up my left arm. Seeing that my fist was still clenched, I released my fingers and, lo and behold, there was the ten-shilling note, safe and sound! I had been so nervous about holding fast to that money that I had forgotten I still had it in the palm of my hand.

Oh, how I pray that I will hold fast so energetically to the words of Scripture, to the profession of my faith – that I will hold fast till Christ comes.

### **Cherishing Doubt and Unbelief**

Today, many of us are not holding fast to sound words. Many are fulfilling Sister White's prophecy that the very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. See *Selected Messages*, book 1, 48.

That prophecy is now being fulfilled. It is being fulfilled by the liberals in our church who denigrate the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy, denying their plainest testimonies and damning the writings with faint praise, suggesting that they have perhaps some pastoral value but are not to be trusted as an elucidation of biblical truths. Yet, our pioneers did not relate to the Spirit of Prophecy on merely a pastoral basis. On several occasions when the early Advent believers came to an impasse as they sought to understand key scriptural truths, it was Sister White that God used to enlighten the believers through a vision.

There are other people who are making of none effect the Testimonies in another way. They are in an even more perilous situation, for they claim to believe the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy with their

whole hearts when they never or seldom bother to open one of Sister White's books and prayerfully study it.

There are still others who claim to have the highest interest in the Spirit of Prophecy. They profess to stand as mighty defenders of the purity of her writings; yet, claim that nothing which Sister White wrote after 1881 is of any value, for it has been tampered with by men such as Uriah Smith and Willie White. These people assert that Elder James White protected Sister White's

Sister White wrote was inspired. They do not accept that these writings were tampered with, but they claim that only the writings produced after 1898 are applicable to us in the twenty-first century. Their pitiful reasoning is that in 1898, Sister White, for the first time, suggested that she may not be translated and may see death. Thus, after this date she commenced to write messages applicable to our day. I will not accord the least credibility to any of these denials of the Spirit of Prophecy by a detailed

*Today, many of us are not holding fast to sound words.*

*Many are fulfilling Sister White's prophecy that the very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God.*

writings, but with Elder White's death that protection was removed. Up to the year 1881, Sister White's writings amounted to a very small fraction of her total output.

Sister White was well aware of such claims, but she answered them plainly, stating that nothing went into her writings of which she did not approve.

Other people have selected the year 1884 so that they can include the fourth volume of the Spirit of Prophecy, which was the first edition of what we now know as *The Great Controversy*. They, too, make of none effect the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy. These two classes of people throw out *The Desire of Ages*, *Steps to Christ*, *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, *Ministry of Healing*, *Christ's Object Lessons*, *Prophets and Kings*, and a number of other books. They cast aside the vast bulk of Sister White's *Review and Herald* articles, for of the six volumes of *Review and Herald* articles, not even the first was completed by 1884, let alone 1881.

Then there is another date which has been set – 1898. Some people claim that they believe everything

defense. These people refuse to hold fast to sound words. Irrespective of whether the person regards himself as a liberal or as a conservative, if he holds any of the beliefs cited above, he is fulfilling the plainest words of Sister White's prophecy that just prior to the close of probation her testimonies from God would be made of none effect.

Others have released their hold on their former profession of faith. The numbers who have done this are so great that I am sure they can only be accurately estimated by the records of heaven. Numerous Seventh-day Adventists "testify" that the old messages that they once learned are fruitless; they are stale; and they are unproductive. May God forgive those who make such claims. Others have lost hold of their confidence.

It has become almost a positive matter in some circles to express ifs, buts, and maybes. The *Spectrum* magazine specializes in such discourses, as does the *Adventist Today* magazine. Even the *Ministry* magazine has followed such a course in recent years. This type of writing is widely spread in a

plethora of denominational publications, causing doubt and uncertainty among God's flock.

### **Hold Fast Till I Come!**

What a time it is to hold fast till Jesus comes! No one will stand the test who has forsaken the Word of God. Those who accept the higher criticism approach and the historico-critical approach to Bible study have doomed themselves, if unrepentant, to eternal destruction.

"Faith in a lie will not have a sanctifying influence upon the life or character. No error is truth, or can be made truth by repetition, or by faith in it. Sincerity will never save a soul from the consequences of believing an error. Without sincerity there is no true religion, but sincerity in a false religion will never save a man." *Ibid.*, book 2, 56.

Surely, it is time for every Seventh-day Adventist to echo the words of Job in his affliction:

"My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live." Job 27:6.

We must learn a lesson from men of apostolic times who knew the truth, yet, did not hold fast. One of these men was Demas. He once walked with God's people: "Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you." Colossians 4:14. "Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers." Philemon 1:24.

But Demas did not endure to the end: "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world." 2 Timothy 4:10.

Demas preferred the world, and thus, he did not hold fast. Others who did not hold fast were Phygellus and Hermogenes (2 Timothy 1:15), Hymenæus (2 Timothy 2:17; 1 Timothy 1:20), Philetus (2 Timothy 2:17), and Alexander the coppersmith (2 Timothy 4:14; 1 Timothy 1:20). Are we today to

follow the example of these faithless men?

Let it never be forgotten that those to whom God has given great light, and whom have subsequently rejected it, will be among those who receive the most severe punishment in the judgment.

"And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more." Luke 12:47-48.

Dear brothers and sisters in the faith, may each one of us hold fast till Christ comes. God bless you as you consider these matters and in Christ's strength hold fast till He comes. ✠

Plan Now to Attend. . .

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In recent months, we have been looking into the role of the beast of Revelation, chapter 14, and the religious leaders of the United States. One means that we see being used today to deceive the people into making an image to the beast is the active promotion of “speaking in unknown tongues.” There is a true gift of tongues. How can we distinguish the true gift from the counterfeit?

## Bible Marking

As you mark this study in your Bible, we hope that it will be a blessing to you and that you will be better equipped to give an answer for your faith. See 1 Peter 3:15. Let us pray the Lord of the harvest to give us opportunities to share His truth with others while it is still day.

“Church members are to do evangelistic work in the homes of their neighbors who have not yet received full evidence of the truth for this time. . . . The presentation of the truth, in love and simplicity, from house to house, is in harmony with the instruction that Christ gave His disciples.” *Ye Shall Receive Power*, 147.

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:

#### **Speaking in Tongues,**

**ST 1:** Acts 2:1-11.

- 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 ST.**”

- Go through the study to check for broken links.

- Share the study with others!

## Speaking in Tongues

### Code: ST

#### **ST 1: Acts 2:1-11.**

At Pentecost the apostles were given the ability to speak in the languages of the multitude gathered. Transcending language barriers so that the message can be given and received is the true gift of tongues.

#### **ST 2: Mark 1:23-26.**

Satan and his demons can counterfeit the gift of tongues by speaking through people.

#### **ST 3: John 4:1.**

We must test all things, whether they are of God. Anything that is not in harmony with all of God’s revealed will is counterfeit. See also Isaiah 8:19-20.

#### **ST 4: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 18, 28.**

The Holy Spirit gives His gifts to profit all. However, not all receive the same gifts.

#### **ST 5: Mark 16:17-18.**

Though Jesus said believers would exhibit signs, He did not say that everyone would exhibit *all the same* signs.

#### **ST 6: 1 Corinthians 12:29-13:1.**

Manifesting love is more important than speaking in tongues.

#### **ST 7: 1 Corinthians 14:9-12, 27-28.**

God would have His people edify the church with speech easy to understand rather than speak in an unknown language.

#### **ST 8: Colossians 1:5-6.**

Being able to hear and understand the Word bears fruit to God’s glory.

#### **ST 9: 1 Corinthians 14:14-17.**

Paul says it is unfruitful to pray or speak without understanding.

#### **ST 10: John 16:13-14.**

Jesus says the Holy Spirit will guide us “into all truth.”

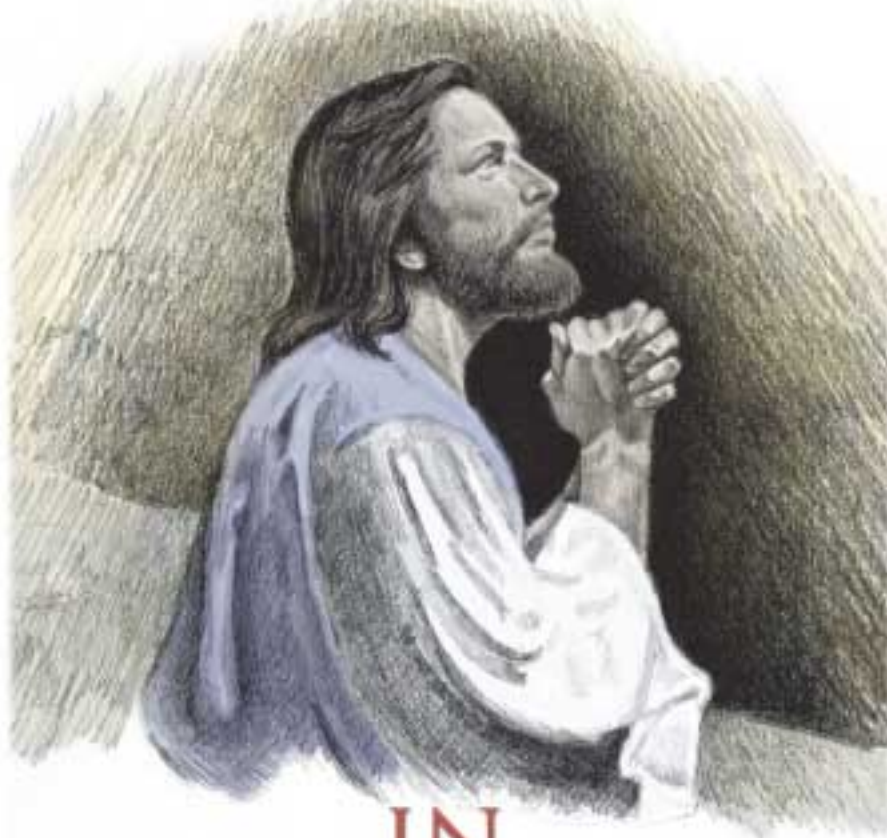
#### **ST 11: Revelation 16:13-14.**

In recent years Protestantism, Catholicism, and Spiritualism have been working together using counterfeit gifts in their efforts to unite the whole world in a great ecumenical movement.

#### **ST 12: Revelation 18:1-5.**

We must sound the warning more and more loudly to all the world to “come out of her, my people.” The judgment-hour message has been entrusted to us. Will we be faithful to our calling?

# PRAYING



# IN GETHSEMANE

HARVEY STECK

**I**n Revelation 14:4 we read that the 144,000 “are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.”

We are looking forward to the day when we will be able to travel with Christ throughout the universe, following wherever He goes. But do we need to wait until we get to heaven to “follow the Lamb”? God has given us the answer:

“We need not wait till we are translated to follow Christ. God’s people may do this here below. We shall follow the Lamb of God in the courts above only if we follow Him here.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 978.

Our trials in the crisis that is about to break upon us will be similar to Christ’s trials at the close of His earthly life in a number of ways, some of which we noted last month:

1. We will go through similar experiences in meeting the opposition that Christ went through.
2. This is a crisis that concerns the whole universe. Heavenly beings were watching to see whether Christ would be victorious, and they will be watching us to see whether the 144,000 redeemed sinners who are partaking of the divine nature can and will gain the victory over Satan.
3. Christ’s experience and ours both have a part in answering Satan’s charges and vindicating the character of God, declaring that He is a God of love and that He has not made unreasonable requirements of His created beings.
4. Jesus had to act upon principle, regardless of whether His disciples were supporting him. Likewise, we must make our choices based upon principle, even if it seems that no one is standing with us.
5. Jesus warned the disciples (and us) of an approaching sifting. See Matthew 26:31–35. In this sifting process, we will either come out victorious as did Christ, or we will fail as did the disciples.

## Gethsemane

We noted that as the disciples followed Jesus into the crisis, they were filled with self-confidence—in spite of the warnings that He had just given them. On their way from the upper room to Gethsemane, Jesus told the disciples the parable of the vine, now recorded in John, chapters 15 and 16. Then He prayed the wonderful prayer of John, chapter 17, interceding for His church that they might have the same type of relationship with God as He did.

When they arrived at Gethsemane, Jesus was anxious that the disciples should share some of His experience in the garden, but the disciples were both self-confident and sleepy, utterly oblivious to what was taking place. However, even if He must take the path alone, Christ knew He must do what was right.

“Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane,



and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep." Matthew 26:36-40. Three times Jesus went to pray, and each time He returned to find His disciples sleeping.

This incident – which took place less than 12 hours before Christ was crucified – has a sobering parallel with the closing events to come in our experience:

"By these sleeping disciples is represented a sleeping church, when the day of God's visitation is nigh. It is a time of clouds and thick darkness, when to be found asleep is most perilous.

"Jesus has left us this warning: 'Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.' Mark 13:35-36. The church of God is required to fulfill her night watch, however perilous, whether long or short. Sorrow is no excuse for her to be less watchful. Tribulation should not lead to carelessness, but to double vigilance. Christ has directed the church by His own example to the Source of their strength in times of need, distress, and peril. The attitude of watching is to designate the church as God's people indeed. By this sign the waiting ones are distinguished from the world and show that they are pilgrims and strangers upon the earth." *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 205.

At midnight, the mob came, but they found Jesus prepared, ready for them. He calmly said: "Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me." Matthew 26:46.

One was praying; the others were sleeping. One believed the prophecies and took action accordingly; the others had their own plan and thought they were prepared for whatever could happen. Into one or the other class each of us falls. In the crisis ahead, we will be facing our "final exam." There will be no second chance to pass. God is looking for a people who will learn to watch and pray as Christ did, that we will not fail. *Now* is the day of salvation; now is the time to learn

weigh His Father's will: "He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done." Matthew 26:42.

Here is an important lesson for us: God *wants* us to submit our desires to Him. We *need* to maintain a spirit of *willing* submission to God's will. We have not learned to pray as Christ prayed until we also are truly praying "Thy will be done."

*One was praying; the others were sleeping.  
One believed the prophecies and took action accordingly;  
the others had their own plan and thought they  
were prepared for whatever could happen.*

from Christ's example how to pass the test.

Will we stay awake, learning to pray as Jesus prayed that we may be prepared to witness as Jesus witnessed – or will we be asleep as were the disciples?

### **Thy Will Be Done**

Please read the chapter entitled "Gethsemane" in *The Desire of Ages*. In it you will see that as Jesus progressed in His prayer, He focused less on letting the cup pass, and more on letting His Father's will be done – and seeking strength for Himself that He might not fail.

Jesus was bearing a burden greater than any of us will ever bear: "The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6. He took your place and mine. He tasted what it is like to be separated from our heavenly Father, doomed to death under the condemnation of the guilt of all of our sins.

It is only natural that Christ's humanity would long for another way, and that He would desire companionship. Yet, Christ kept His higher nature in control over the flesh. He determined that the desires of His humanity would not out-

One poet wrote these lines:

*"All those who journey soon or late,  
Must pass within the garden's gate;  
Must kneel alone in darkness there,  
And battle with some fierce despair.  
God pity those who cannot say,  
'Not mine, but Thine'; who only pray,  
'Let this cup pass,' and cannot see  
His purpose in Gethsemane."*<sup>1</sup>

Friends, have we come to the point that our *whole* desire is for God's will to be done in *our* lives? Do we acknowledge how much we need to grow in this area? Do we pray that *today* we will be faithful in the little tests that are a preparation for the crisis tomorrow?

### **The Hour Has Come**

Before He went to Gethsemane, we have been told, "Jesus knew that his hour was come." John 13:1. How did Christ know that His time had come? He had studied the prophecies of Daniel, chapters 8 and 9, and He knew that His three-and-one-half years of ministry were about up. It was time again for the yearly Passover, and He knew that He was the true Passover Lamb who was about to be slain for our sins.

We should be studying prophecy as well. It is just as important for us

to know the hour that we are living in as it was for Jesus. Today, prophecy tells us that we are in the antitypical day of atonement, and the signs that have been prophesied tell us that Christ is soon to come.

When Christ knew His time had come, he did not wait for anyone to tell Him it was time to pray; He *took Himself* to prayer. Listen to what God says to us today:

draw close to one another. *One member working in right lines* will lead other members to unite with him in making intercession for the revelation of the Holy Spirit. There will be no confusion, because all will be in harmony with the mind of the Spirit. The barriers separating believer from believer will be broken down, and God's servants will speak the same things. The Lord

*Do you think the disciples would have failed to join with Jesus in that great struggle in Gethsemane if they had been joining with Jesus in His earlier prayer experiences?*

"The old standard bearers knew what it was to wrestle with God in prayer, and to enjoy the outpouring of His Spirit. But these are passing off from the stage of action, and who are coming up to fill their places? How is it with the rising generation? Are they converted to God? Are we awake to the work that is going on in the heavenly sanctuary, or are we waiting for some compelling power to come upon the church before we shall arouse? Are we hoping to see the whole church revived? That time will never come.

"There are persons in the church who are not converted, and who will not unite in earnest, prevailing prayer. We must enter upon the work individually. We must pray more, and talk less." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 122.

Are you anxious to start a revival and reformation in your church? Here is how to start — on your knees. Do not wait for others to pray, or you will find yourself repeating the experience of the sleeping disciples. Look at what can happen if you will take the initiative:

"The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place. When this reformation begins, the spirit of prayer will actuate every believer and will banish from the church the spirit of discord and strife. Those who have not been living in Christian fellowship will

will cooperate with His servants. All will pray understandingly the prayer that Christ taught His servants: 'Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.' Matthew 6:10." *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 251. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

### **Agonizing in Prayer**

How does Luke tell us that Jesus prayed? — "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." Luke 22:44. We will never fully grasp the agony that Christ went through there in the garden.

We may not be called to such an agonizing experience that we literally sweat drops of blood, but Paul again exhorts us to learn from Christ's example: "Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin." Hebrews 12:4. If we would be victorious, we, too, must know by experience what it means to agonize in prayer:

"I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads." *Early Writings*, 269.

Do you think the disciples would have failed to join with Jesus in that great struggle in Gethsemane if they had been joining with Jesus in His earlier prayer experiences? — No, I do not think so.

### **How to Pray**

On an earlier occasion, when Jesus "was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." Luke 11:1. The disciples had had many opportunities to pray with Jesus and learn from His example. They spent more than three years in "school," during which time Jesus sought to teach them many lessons in practical Christianity. Now, Gethsemane was the final test. They were showing whether they had learned their earlier lessons.

How important it is that we learn from the disciples' example! We cannot expect to be victorious if we have not learned how to pray.

Here are some principles of effectual prayer that I have gleaned from others, and that I would like to share with you:

**1. Have a place to pray.** Jesus said in Matthew 6:6, "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret." While you can pray anywhere, it will help to have at least one place that you have especially set apart for prayer.

Jesus taught that "private prayer is not to be made public. In secret devotion, our prayers are to reach the ears of none but the prayer-hearing God. No curious ear is to receive the burden of such petitions.

" 'When thou prayest, enter into thy closet.' *Have a place for secret prayer.* Jesus had select places for communion with God, and so should we. We need often to retire to some spot, however humble, where we can be alone with God." *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, 84.

If you do not always have an ideal location for prayer, do not excuse yourself from praying. Let us

remember that Jesus grew up in circumstances that were less than ideal — most likely in a one-room house with His earthly parents and stepbrothers. Wherever we are, we can always breathe a prayer to God, and He will hear us.

**2. Have a time to pray.** You can pray any time of the day, but make sure that you have at least one special time sacredly set aside for prayer. David said, “Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.” Psalm 55:17. See also Psalms 5:3; 141:2.

We can see from these psalms that the evening and morning are especially important times to set aside for prayer. As we teach our children to follow Jesus’ example, let us keep *Education*, 259, in mind: “It was in hours of solitary prayer that Jesus in His earth life received wisdom and power. Let the youth follow His example in finding at dawn and twilight a quiet season for communion with their Father in heaven. And throughout the day let them lift up their hearts to God.”

There are many examples of prayer in the Bible, not the least of which is Daniel, who set aside three times a day to pray to his God: “The Christian can and will find time to pray. Daniel was a statesman; heavy responsibilities rested upon him; yet three times a day he sought God, and the Lord gave him the Holy Spirit. So today, men may resort to the sacred pavilion of the Most High. . . . All who really desire it can find a place for communion with God, where no ear can hear but the One open to the cries of the helpless, distressed, and needy — the One who notices even the fall of the little sparrow. . . .

“If the rush of work is allowed to drive us from our purpose of seeking the Lord daily, we shall make the greatest mistakes; we shall incur losses, for the Lord is not with us; we have closed the door so that He cannot find access to our souls. But if we pray even when our hands are employed, the Saviour’s ear is open to hear our petitions.” *Counsels on Health*, 423-424.

“Few ministers pray all night, as did our Saviour, or devote hours in the day to prayer that they may be able ministers of the gospel and effectual in bringing men to see the beauties of the truth and to be saved through the merits of Christ. Daniel prayed three times a day, but many who make the most exalted profession do not humble their souls before God in prayer even once a day.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 373.

“Why is it that we have so little freedom in prayer? — It is because we have not educated ourselves in the exercises of devotion. If we prayed three times a day, as did Daniel, we should be able to say, ‘I place my hand in the hand of Jesus,

*Lessons*, 140; *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, 102.

If Jesus prayed aloud — and He was tempted more strongly than any of us — then we need not worry about letting the devil hear our prayers. In fact, *Satan actually does not want us to pray aloud*:

“Satan leads many to believe that prayer to God is useless and but a form. He well knows how needful are meditation and prayer to keep Christ’s followers aroused to resist his cunning and deception. By his devices he would divert the mind from these important exercises, that the soul may not lean for help upon the Mighty One and obtain strength from Him to resist his attacks. . . .

*“The Christian can and will find time to pray. Daniel was a statesman; heavy responsibilities rested upon him; yet three times a day he sought God, and the Lord gave him the Holy Spirit.”*

and I will not gratify the enemy by talking doubt. I will not dishonor my Redeemer.’” *Review and Herald*, March 1, 1892.

**3. Learn to pray aloud.** We are exhorted to “*learn to pray aloud* where only God can hear you. Do not offer make-believe prayers, but earnest, feeling petitions, expressing the hunger of the soul for the Bread of Life. If we prayed more in secret, we should be able to pray more intelligently in public.” *Our High Calling*, 130.

Some have wondered, Why should we pray aloud when God can hear our silent prayers just as well? Do we not make it easier for Satan to know where to attack us when we vocally express our struggles to the Lord?

Could it be that the tempter places these questions in our minds at times — to keep us from taking hold of the power of prayer?

Many times Jesus’ disciples discovered Him praying aloud. That is why they asked Him, “Lord, teach us to pray.” See *Christ’s Object*

*Satan is enraged at the sound of fervent prayer*, for he knows that he will suffer loss.” *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 295.

“If the one in danger perseveres, and in his helplessness casts himself upon the merits of the blood of Christ, our Saviour listens to the earnest prayer of faith, and sends a reinforcement of those angels that excel in strength to deliver him. Satan cannot endure to have his powerful rival appealed to, for he fears and trembles before His strength and majesty. *At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan’s whole host trembles.*” *Ibid.*, 346.

We have been told that “prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him.” *Steps to Christ*, 93.

As you develop and cultivate the habit of praying aloud where only God can hear you, you will discover that it will help you realize more vividly that you are truly conversing with God, and it will help you keep

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# *The Religion of* **JEHU**

*Is there salvation in doing  
a work for the Lord  
while we cling to our idols?*

*Bill Humeniuk*

**I**n studying the life of Jehu, the man whom God chose as ruler over Israel, we find a startling revelation of someone who had a great zeal for the Lord and His work; yet, his heart was not truly converted.

We can read about all the zealous works of Jehu in 2 Kings, chapters 9 and 10 – how he killed Joram, Ahaziah, and the notorious Jezebel and her prophets of Baal. The Lord even commended Jehu for his deeds. However, the Word of God is painful, yet true, for, “Jehu took *no heed* to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel *with all his heart*: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin.” 2 Kings 10:31. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted).

There is a lesson here for God’s people to learn, and its application to our lives is vital. Jehu followed all God’s instructions down to the letter. He showed forth zeal unparalleled, but he “took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD.” Yes, King

Jehu accomplished a great work for the Lord, which pleased Him; but the law of God was not written *on his heart*.

How many of us are truly converted? We may work in our church, or in a self-supporting ministry, or even in the mission field, but the question is – are we truly converted in our hearts? Jehu did not let the Spirit of the Lord fill him with love. Even though he *worked for* the Lord, he failed to *walk with* the Lord with all his heart.

“The truly converted soul is illuminated from on high, and Christ is in that soul ‘a well of water springing up into everlasting life.’ John 4:14. . . . He does not consider present convenience; he is not ambitious for display; he does not crave the praise of men. His hope is in heaven, and he keeps straight on, with his eye fixed on Jesus. He does right because it is right, and because only those who do right will have an entrance into the kingdom of God. He is kind and humble, and

thoughtful of others’ happiness. He never says, ‘Am I my brother’s keeper?’ but he loves his neighbor as himself. His manner is not harsh and dictatorial, like that of the godless; but he reflects light from heaven upon men. He is a true, bold soldier of the cross of Christ, holding forth the word of life.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 569.

“There are many whose religion consists in activities. They want to be engaged in, and have the credit of doing, some great work while the little graces that go to make up a lovely Christian character are entirely overlooked. The busy, bustling service, which gives the impression that one is doing some wonderful work, is not acceptable to God. It is a Jehu spirit, which says, ‘Come, see my zeal for the Lord.’ It is gratifying to self; it feeds a self-complacent feeling; but all the while the soul may be defiled with the plague-spot of unsubdued, uncontrolled selfishness.” *Signs of the Times*, November 20, 1884.

How about you and me in our work for the Lord? Are we working with zeal for God without being truly converted? Is it heart work with us? Is it changing our characters into the image of Christ? Or are we in a Laodicean condition (see Revelation 3:14–19), thinking we are all right because we are doing the Lord’s work? — We are rich, increased with goods, and feel we have everything necessary for spreading the gospel and therefore need nothing. Yet, we know not our true condition, our great need for God’s Spirit! Like Jehu, we are doing a great work but the law of God is not written upon our hearts and minds, and our characters remain unchanged.

“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel. . . . I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” Jeremiah 31:31–34.

“Thus it is with everyone who is truly converted. He bears precious fruit, and in so doing walks as Christ walked, talks as He talked, works as He worked, and the truth as it is in Jesus, through him, makes an impression in his home, in his neighborhood, and in the church.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 569.

### Solomon

Another example in Scripture is that of the greatest monarch “that ever sat upon an earthly throne” — King Solomon. He asked God for wisdom, and God granted it to him. God showered upon him blessings in the form of wealth, wisdom, and fame. See 1 Kings 3:7–14. Yet, how sad is the account of Solomon’s life! The Bible says that he turned from serving the Lord and began worshipping idols, along with his seven hundred wives and three hundred

concubines. What a mighty fall for God’s chosen one! See 1 Kings 11:1–9, 33.

“The most renowned of all kings, had separated himself from God, and reared altars to heathen idols. . . . The mightiest ruler on earth had failed in ruling his own spirit. Solomon went down to death a repentant man; but his repentance and tears could not efface from the Mount of Offense the signs of his miserable departure from God. Ruined walls and broken pillars

tions, and wherever the work of God shall be advanced, Satan plans so to arrange circumstances that temptation shall come with overpowering force upon the soul. Not one moment can we be secure only as we are relying upon God, the life hid with Christ in God.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, 1032.

Worldliness, wealth, and fame ruined Solomon. How about you and me? The only One in whom we can put our trust is our Lord Jesus

*Like Jehu, we are doing a great work but the law of God is not written upon our hearts and minds, and our characters remain unchanged.*

bore silent witness for a thousand years to the apostasy of the greatest king that ever sat upon an earthly throne.” *The Health Reformer*, May 1, 1878.

“We look for the character to be established, for principles to be rooted, and they to be beyond the danger of pollution. But the case of Solomon is before us as a beacon of warning. When thou, aged pilgrim, who hast fought the battles of life, thinkest that thou *standest, take heed lest thou fall*.

“How, in Solomon’s case, was weak, vacillating character — naturally bold, firm, and determined — shaken like a reed in the wind under the tempter’s power! How has an old, gnarled cedar of Lebanon, a sturdy oak of Bashan, bent before the blast of temptation! What a lesson for all who desire to save their souls to *watch unto prayer continually*. What a warning to keep the grace of Christ ever in their heart, to battle with inward corruptions and outward temptations.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 21, 383.

“As long as life shall last, there is need of guarding the affections and the passions with a firm purpose. There is inward corruption, there are outward tempta-

Christ, for only He can keep us from falling and present us faultless before the throne.

### Take Heed!

Jesus warns us in Luke 11:35, “take heed” that the light you presently have does not turn into darkness. Follow the *Light*; obey the Light — which is Jesus Christ, “the way, the truth, and the life.” John 14:6. Darkness is gradually stealing upon God’s people in these last days; the darkness of worldliness, selfishness, the flesh, doctrinal errors, and self-ease is sweeping our beloved church. *Take heed!* Now is no time to be at ease, careless, indifferent, or overconfident. “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” 1 Corinthians 10:12.

Jehu did the work of the Lord, but the law of God was not in his heart, therefore he took no heed to walk with God. Can we say he had not the “love of the truth” (2 Thessalonians 2:10) in his heart? — What a tragedy! As we look at our beloved church today we ask, how many of us are “taking heed” to *walk with God*?

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*Some Shall*

# Depart

## From the Faith

*Satan seeks to overthrow the truth through those who claim to believe and practice it.*

**Ellen G. White**

**W**hen the Redeemer of the world walked among men, many who identified themselves with Him as His disciples, afterward forsook Him, and became His bitterest enemies. The Saviour tested their faith, and developed the real characters of the most ardent believers by applying spiritual truths to their hearts. At one time when the multitude were gathered about Him, He uttered a truth revealing the requirements for His service, and the people were offended. Jesus said unto them, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." "Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth

this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him." John 6:53, 60-66.

The Saviour knew the character of those who claimed to be His followers, and His words tested the quality of their faith. He spoke a sacred, eternal truth, regarding the relation that must exist between Himself and His followers. Their

spiritual life must be sustained by assimilating the principles of the truth. They must accept, believe, and act upon the words He uttered, which were spirit and life; and by this means they would become partakers of the divine nature. They must be Christlike, meek and lowly of heart, self-denying, self-sacrificing; they must walk in the narrow path trodden by the Man of Calvary, if they would share in the gift of life, and the glory of Heaven. But the test was too great. They walked no more with Him. They could not hear the saying, nor comprehend the nature of the truth He taught.

As they turned away from the divine Teacher, a different spirit took control of their minds. They could see nothing attractive in Him whom they had once found so interesting. They sought out His enemies, for they were in harmony



with their spirit and work. They carried all kinds of false reports, misinterpreted His words, falsified His statements, and impugned His motives, thus inflaming the passions of men, and confirming them in hatred and unbelief. They sustained their course by gathering up every item that could be turned against Him; and such indignation was stirred up by these apostates that His life was in danger, and He could not walk in Jewry, but went into Galilee. Even His relatives were so influenced that they partook of this bitter spirit of prejudice and unbelief, and thought that He could not be the Messiah. They were dissatisfied with His manner of working, and urged that if He were the Saviour of the people, He should make Himself known by asserting His power, and sustaining His claims. "For," says the inspired Word, "neither did his brethren believe in him." John 7:5. The unbelief of His kindred was most cutting to the heart of Jesus.

What a position was this for the Son of God, the Majesty of heaven! "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." John 1:11. Even His brethren did not believe on Him. But did this prove His mission a failure? Did it destroy His truth and make Him a false teacher, an impostor? Jesus answered His unbelieving brethren as they urged Him to prove His Messiahship before the world, "My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready. The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil." John 7:6-7. "And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people." Verse 12.

There was a division among the people concerning the world's Redeemer. Like seeks like. Like appreciates like, and those who loved truth gave their verdict of the righteousness of Jesus; but wherever evil exists, it leagues with evil for the destruction of the good. Fallen men and fallen angels, by likeness of purpose and principle, will join

in a desperate and determined companionship to resist truth and righteousness. When Satan can induce men, as he induced angels, to unite with him in rebellion, he has them as his allies and associates in every enterprise formed for the seduction of souls from the principles of truth. Whatever disunion there may be among themselves on other matters, the wicked are one in their opposition and hatred of the truth.

The Word of God declares that the followers of Christ will be called upon to endure trials for the sake of

not greater than his Lord. Said the Saviour, "These things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them." John 16:3-4.

In these last days, when iniquity shall abound, and the love of many shall wax cold, God will have a people to glorify His name, and stand as reprovers of unrighteousness. They are to be a "peculiar people" (1 Peter 2:9), who will be true to the law of God, when the

*The workers of iniquity . . . will put light for darkness, and darkness for light, until they will sincerely believe they are servants of God, and doing Him service by persecuting His children.*

truth. Says Paul, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution;" for "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." 2 Timothy 3:12-13. Said our Lord, "These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service." John 16:1-2. With what zeal will the workers of iniquity pursue their Satanic purpose! They will put light for darkness, and darkness for light, until they will sincerely believe they are servants of God, and doing Him service by persecuting His children. It has been so in the conflicts of the past; and in the closing work of God the same spirit will be manifested. Says the prophet, "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17. Jesus was treated as the worst of malefactors, and the servant is

world shall seek to make void its precepts; and when the converting power of God works through His servants, the hosts of darkness will array themselves in bitter and determined opposition. Satan will work with "all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness." 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10. He will employ every device of deception to seduce the souls of men and if "it were possible," he "shall deceive the very elect." Matthew 24:24.

We must put on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand. There will be a constant conflict from the time of our determination to serve the God of heaven, until we are delivered out of this present evil world. There is no release from this war. The work of God for this time cannot be accomplished without arousing opposition, reproach, and calumny.<sup>1</sup> Satan is at enmity with the truth, and he will instigate against its advocates every manner of warfare. His efforts to overthrow the Word of God will not be wholly

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# The High Cost of Our Salvation

*Christ paid a high price.  
What is it worth to you?*



**I**t is beyond the capacity of the human mind to comprehend the high cost that was paid to redeem the human race, paid by a God who could create a world by a word, who designed a human being in His own likeness. See Genesis 1:26; Psalm 33:6-9.

The cross of Christ on Calvary was the supreme payment of the Godhead to recreate a perfect character in those who were willing to be made willing, so that the obedient to God's holy and sacred law could be restored to Eden.

Remember, "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. Our feeble intellect cannot grasp the depths of that wonderful inspired statement. What a God we have! We can never fully understand the love of God for the fallen race. Even after we live a billion years, it will be our study, and our lips will be con-

stantly praising Jesus for His sacrifice.

"In stooping to take upon Himself humanity, Christ revealed a character the opposite of the character of Satan. But He stepped still lower in the path of humiliation. 'Being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.' Philippians 2:8. As the high priest laid aside his gorgeous pontifical robes, and officiated in the white linen dress of the common priest, so Christ took the form of a servant, and offered sacrifice, Himself the priest, Himself the victim. 'He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him.' Isaiah 53:5.

"Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His

righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His. 'With His stripes we are healed.'

"By His life and His death, Christ has achieved even more than recovery from the ruin wrought through sin. It was Satan's purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man; but in Christ we become more closely united to God than if we had never fallen. In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken. Through the eternal ages He is linked with us. 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.' He gave Him not only to bear our sins, and to die as our sacrifice; He gave Him to the fallen race. To assure us of His immutable counsel of peace, God gave His only begotten Son to become one of the human family, forever to retain His human nature. This is the pledge that God will

fulfill His Word. 'Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder.' God has adopted human nature in the person of His Son, and has carried the same into the highest heaven. It is the 'Son of man' who shares the throne of the universe. It is the 'Son of man' whose name shall be called, 'Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.' Isaiah 9:6. The I AM is the Daysman between God and humanity, laying His hand upon both. He who is 'holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners,' is not ashamed to call us brethren. Hebrews 7:26; see Hebrews 2:11. In Christ the family of earth and the family of heaven are bound together. Christ glorified is our brother. Heaven is enshrined in humanity, and humanity is enfolded in the bosom of Infinite Love." *The Desire of Ages*, 25–26.

As the story goes, Napoleon, after his disastrous defeat at Waterloo, met with some of his leading generals to analyze the battle's flawed strategies. In the course of their discussions, the little general pointed at England on the colored map before them and said bitterly, "Except for that red spot I would be master of the world." Satan could say the same thing today — except he would point to a cross on a hill outside the walls of Old Jerusalem. Are you not thankful for that red spot of Calvary that rescued this world from the control of our great enemy?

Jesus lived a perfect life without sin by the power of the Holy Spirit. We, too, can be perfect overcomers by the power of the Holy Spirit. That victory is ours if we will accept Christ's sacrifice for us and His requirements for salvation — obedience to His sacred law by the power of the Holy Spirit.

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." 1 Peter 2:21.

"Although Christ gained a priceless victory in behalf of man in

overcoming the temptations of Satan in the wilderness, this victory will not benefit man unless he also gains the victory on his own account.

"Man now has the advantage over Adam in his warfare with Satan; for he has Adam's experience in disobedience and his consequent fall to warn him to shun his example. Man also has Christ's example in overcoming appetite, and the manifold temptations of Satan, and in vanquishing the mighty foe upon every point, and

first probation ended, and the original offer of eternal life was abrogated. Adam's death and the mortality of his children were the result of his sin of disobedience. However, God in His great love, extended to the human family a second probation. He said to the serpent:

"I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Genesis 3:15.

*If the broken law of God demanded the death of the sinner, how could God uphold His integrity before the universe by giving man a second probation? . . . He Himself would pay the penalty.*

coming off victor in every contest. If man stumbles and falls under the temptations of Satan, he is without excuse; for he has the disobedience of Adam as a warning, and the life of the world's Redeemer as an example of obedience and self-denial, and the promise of Christ that 'to him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.' Revelation 3:21." *Review and Herald*, October 13, 1874.

Christ came to this world knowing that Satan had captured leaders, priests, and church members. The majority were on Satan's side. Jesus knew that the church would reject His ministry, and finally, crucify Him.

All of Adam's descendants received his fallen nature. They could inherit only what their parents had to give. They did not inherit the guilt of Adam (original sin), but only the weakened, sin-loving nature. As a result, "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23; see also Romans 5:12.

In the very moment that Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, their

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." 1 Corinthians 15:22.

A new hope was sent to Adam and Eve with the promise of a Saviour. Jesus offered Himself. He would accept the penalty that the sinner deserved.

The future destiny of every man, woman, youth, and child depends on his willing obedience to all truth without a single compromise.

Today man is offered a second probation during which we may be redeemed from sin. While all mankind will rise from the first death, those who refuse Christ's offer of salvation will then suffer eternal extinction.

This brings us to a very crucial question. If the broken law of God demanded the death of the sinner, how could God uphold His integrity before the universe by giving man a second probation? How could He solve the sin problem forever and vindicate His character of love before the unfallen worlds? — Since His sacred law demanded the death of the sinner, He Himself would pay the penalty. Since God could not die, He lowered Himself to the



human race by accepting the heredity of the fallen race. See Romans 8:3; Philippians 2:5-8; see also *The Desire of Ages*, 49, 117.

Born into poverty, in a dusty manger amid the bleating of sheep and the lowing of cattle, Christ was to walk the roads of Palestine as a peasant, and, without any education from the schools of the rabbi, He became a teacher of righteousness beginning at the age of twelve.

### The Second Adam

Jesus came to our world on a rescue mission. In His victory, He became the second Adam. He now offers His perfect life to all who will meet the conditions set forth by God's great plan.

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to

point where he can gain a foothold; some sinful desire is cherished, by means of which his temptations assert their power. But Christ declared of Himself: 'The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.' John 14:30. Satan could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept His Father's commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage. This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble." *The Great Controversy*, 623.

"In the beginning, God gave His law to mankind as a means of attaining happiness and eternal life. . . . That law of ten precepts of the greatest love that can be presented to man is the voice of God

Word are to serve a certain purpose in His moral government, they are never to be literally fulfilled. But in all His dealings with His creatures God has maintained the principles of righteousness by revealing sin in its true character — by demonstrating that its sure result is misery and death. The unconditional pardon of sin never has been, and never will be. Such pardon would show the abandonment of the principles of righteousness, which are the very foundation of the government of God. It would fill the unfallen universe with consternation. God has faithfully pointed out the results of sin, and if these warnings were not true, how could we be sure that His promises would be fulfilled? That so-called benevolence which would set aside justice is not benevolence but weakness." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 522.

God has promised that sin will not rise up a second time. See Nahum 1:9. There will never be another revolution, for those who are saved will be only those who have been willing to accept God's requirements and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to be obedient to all known truth.

### Conversion Every Day

As we set our eyes upon this high calling, let us remember this encouraging promise:

"If you will seek the Lord and be converted every day; if you will of your own spiritual choice be free and joyous in God; if with gladsome consent of heart to His gracious call you come wearing the yoke of Christ — the yoke of obedience and service — all your murmurings will be stilled, all your difficulties will be removed, all the perplexing problems that now confront you will be solved." *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, 101.

Jesus' loving arms are now extended, and His voice is calling to all who will come: "If you love Me, keep my commandments perfectly," He says, "and I will give you the power to overcome." ❀

*Unconditional salvation is the devil's gospel, and all those who accept it will receive the second death.*

all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:11-14.

Again, what are God's requirements? — "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:48.

"As he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:15-16.

"Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us, we should seek to become perfect in Christ. Not even by a thought could our Saviour be brought to yield to the power of temptation. Satan finds in human hearts some

from heaven speaking to the soul in promise, 'This do, and you will not come under the dominion and control of Satan.' There is not a negative in that law, although it may appear thus. It is *Do and Live*. . . . The standard of character presented in the Old Testament is the same that is presented in the New Testament. This standard is not one to which we cannot attain. In every command or injunction that God gives there is a promise, the most positive, underlying the command. God has made provision that we may become like unto Him, and He will accomplish this for all who do not interpose a perverse will and thus frustrate His grace." *God's Amazing Grace*, 134.

Unconditional salvation is the devil's gospel, and all those who accept it will receive the second death.

"Satan deceives many with the plausible theory that God's love for His people is so great that He will excuse sin in them; he represents that while the threatenings of God's

## Continued from page 15...

confined to the ranks of its avowed enemies; but among those who claim to believe and practice it, "some shall depart from the faith." 1 Timothy 4:1. The impression given by those who have turned away from the doctrines of the Bible, is that the work committed to men for this day will come to a speedy end, and thus they make it manifest that they have esteemed themselves as the very pillars of the truth. "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his" (2 Timothy 2:19); and the work goes on to accomplish the fulfillment of the sure Word of prophecy. The infinite God is the originator and sustainer of His work and His people. The cause of Christ does not stand in the wisdom of man, and it cannot be overthrown by His power. "The Lord knoweth them that are his." He can discern the steadfast souls who stand by faith, who will not be moved from their allegiance to Him and His law. He reads the hearts of His children, and knows those, also, that believe not.

Our work is an aggressive one, and as faithful soldiers of Jesus, we must bear the bloodstained banner into the very strongholds of the

enemy. "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12. If we will consent to lay down our arms, to lower the bloodstained banner, to become the captives and servants of Satan, we may be released from the conflict and the suffering. But this peace will be gained only at the loss of Christ and heaven. We cannot accept peace on such conditions. Let it be war, war, to the end of earth's history, rather than peace through apostasy and sin.

The work of apostasy begins in some secret rebellion of the heart against the requirements of God's law. Unholy desires, unlawful ambitions, are cherished and indulged, and unbelief and darkness separate the soul from God. If we do not overcome these evils, they will overcome us. Men who have long been advancing in the path of truth, will be tested with trial and temptation. Those who listen to the suggestions of Satan, and swerve from their integrity, begin the downward path, and some masterful temptation hastens them on in the way of apostasy, till their descent is marked and rapid. Sins that were once most repugnant, become attractive, and are wel-

comed and practiced by those who have cast off the fear of God and their allegiance to His law. But the most pleasurable beginning in transgression, will end in misery, degradation, and ruin.

We need to be constantly on our guard, to watch and pray lest we enter into temptation. The indulgence of spiritual pride, of unholy desires, of evil thoughts, of anything that separates us from an intimate and sacred association with Jesus, imperils our souls. We must have living faith in God. We must "fight the good fight of faith," if we would "lay hold on eternal life." 1 Timothy 6:12. We are "kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation." 1 Peter 1:5. If the thought of apostasy is grievous to you, and you do not desire to become the enemies of the truth, the accusers of the brethren, then "abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good" (Romans 12:9); and believe in Him who is "able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." Jude 1:24.✠

Note:

<sup>1</sup> slander

*Review and Herald*, May 8, 1888.

## Continued from page 13...

"When you realize the transforming influence of the power of God upon your heart, it will be seen in your life . . . . Until this work shall be wrought . . . [you] will not understand the mystery of godliness." *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 289.

If Jehu had been truly converted, with the Word of God written in his heart, he could have been a saving influence to the children of Israel, rather than leading them back into sin. Just like Jehu, we can be lost — along with those who hear us. As

God's people, what an awesome responsibility we have. *Take heed!*

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip."

"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" Hebrews 2:1, 3.

God's law, when it is written upon our hearts, will cause us to reflect His character. Where do we stand my brethren and sisters? The danger is extremely great in this hour of crises. Even while working for the Lord, we will be constantly

tempted by the devil, with the lusts of this world, to stray from the straight and narrow path. Satan is not a fool, and the only way we can overcome his strategies is by staying closely connected with our Lord and Savior, listening to and obeying all His counsels, for they will keep us from falling.

Time is *so short!* "Hold fast till I come," says Jesus, for "to him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." Revelation 2:25; 3:21. ✠

# The Frogs' Manifesto



## Spiritualism's inroads among us

Patricia Temple

**"My message to you is: No longer consent to listen without protest to the perversion of truth."  
—Selected Messages, book 1, 196.**

**T**here is something so attractive to humanity in the theories and fantasies of spiritism. Even our first mother, before she fell, listened spellbound as Satan presented the first scientific lecture on spiritualism.

He laid the groundwork in what could be called "spiritualism 101" for all the scientific, philosophic, and religious teachers that have poured out their God-defying falsehoods like open sewers into the world ever since.

What were his first assertions? To get deeper insight, go to *Spiritual*

*Gifts and Patriarchs and Prophets*, and read carefully and prayerfully the accounts of the fall.

In this article we will briefly look at his foundational presentation and notice the principles. Remember, all deceptions since that time fall into one of these first categories – understand this, and you will spot erroneous theories that otherwise might fool you.

**Satan's first words were "Yea, hath God said?" Genesis 3:1.**

Here we have the foundation for all the "higher criticism" of the Bible and the writings of the prophets. Did God really say that? Did He

really mean it in that way? Could it not be interpreted differently? Perhaps you are not understanding it in quite the way God meant it. Perhaps God really does not have your best interest at heart at all! Perhaps there really is no personal God anyway; instead, just a nameless, faceless, all-pervading intelligence keeps everything going.

Today, we hear it in the world around us and even from the pulpits of our churches; "We don't have the original autographs." "These new versions based on the work of those wonderful Catholic scholars (who brought us the bloody Dark Ages), are far superior to the old, tested and tried



work of the true 'church in the wilderness' and those people who brought about the Reformation." "You are putting too much emphasis on a text." "We can't really know for sure the will of God in these days. One guess is as good as another." "We have the highly educated doctors of science these days to rely upon." "These ideas were all right for the long-ago past, but now we have such better understanding that we can rise above the Word of God. We don't need the counsel of a stuffy, old-fashioned woman anymore either." "Come on, don't be ridiculous, grow up! Nobody believes that stuff anymore."

Brethren and sisters, *Does* God say what He means and mean what He says? You must answer this for yourself – then you must ponder your answer and see if you *really* believe that! What you decide in your heart of hearts regarding this one statement will change your destiny – forever.

Satan then proceeded to the second "law" of spiritualism, which says:

**"Ye shall not surely die."  
Genesis 3:4.**

With this statement Satan proposed to answer his first question in the negative, "No, you can't put any stock in what God says or seems to say."

"On the contrary, you really are immortal, you can't die. Now, isn't that a wonderful bit of knowledge to ponder. Just think about it. You don't have to live in fear; you can't die anyway. Just do as your 'higher self' indicates. Get rid of this fear of God's threatenings that interfere with your spiritual progress."

So, here was launched the program that led to all the heathen and pagan religions, with their bloody river of countless sacrifices – animal and human – to appease the dead, or the gods of various hells, where the dead were said to be suffering. Here was the foundation for so much human effort and means wasted to provide legacies for dead ancestors, while living descendants often suffered privation and want.

This immortality of the soul doctrine and all its trimmings, learned at the skirts of the great mother whore, has been brought into the modern religions of today and forms the basis of the whole "frog" invasion of the last days of this earth's history. See Revelation, chapter 16.

"The popular ministry cannot successfully resist spiritualism. They have nothing wherewith to shield their flocks from its baleful influence.

be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

First, he states that what he is telling Eve are really the inner secrets of the mind of God, and they are things that God really does not want her to know about; however, he, the clever serpent, is giving her this inside knowledge. Then, he proceeds with the world's first discourse about the gnosis – the hidden knowledge, the enlightenment, the opening of the "inner

*No pagan or new age philosophy exists that does not teach the concept that there is secret knowledge, which raises its possessor far above his fellow beings in ability and wisdom.*

Much of the sad result of spiritualism will rest upon ministers of this age; for they have trampled the truth under their feet, and in its stead have preferred fables. The sermon which Satan preached to Eve upon the immortality of the soul – 'Ye shall not surely die' – they have reiterated from the pulpit; and the people receive it as pure Bible truth. It is the foundation of spiritualism." *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 344.

It is not easy for humans to comprehend eternal death; we have to receive this truth by faith, because even though we see death and feel its dreadful cruelty in our lives as it snatches dear ones from our bosoms, our minds are not able to truly conceive of total death. Why? – Because it was never God's will that any of His creatures die!

Those who try to tell people that death is something to be celebrated, that it is only the doorway to a higher plane of existence and is our friend, are flying in the face of the clearest statements from the Word of God which tell us that death is an *enemy* that will one day be brought to an end!

**"Ye shall be as gods."  
Genesis 3:5.**

Now Satan really gets creative: "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall

eye." No pagan or new age philosophy exists that does not teach the concept that there is secret knowledge, which raises its possessor far above his fellow beings in ability and wisdom. It is this appeal to selfish pride that draws so many into the snares of spiritualism.

Because people as a whole tend to believe in this secret knowledge, it leads them to look to gurus, spiritual masters, psychics, spiritist healers (especially if these people come from some mystical, far-away country), scientists, doctors, and theologians (with lots of important sounding titles) as being of higher authority than the plain Word of God and use their sayings as counsel for their lives rather than the simple "thus saith the Lord."

Next, Satan gives Eve the foundation of modern evolution, "Ye shall be as gods. You are going to evolve, Eve. You will progress to higher and higher planes, and will one day reign with God Himself." Satan offers her the aim of his own heart – to rise up to the level of God, and snatch Him from His throne. He continues, "knowing good and evil."

In other words, you will direct your own course; you will decide for yourself what is right and wrong. You have to throw off the shackles of this God-dependency of yours

and learn for yourself. You cannot progress to higher knowledge as long as you are letting someone else make your decisions for you.

Now, Eve was far superior to us today; her mind was much more capable of quickly grasping the nuances and possibilities in what Satan was telling her. These days Satan has to write whole books to

unpopular these days, both in the world and in the church. The pride of man seems to increase in exact proportion to the abounding iniquity. And this idea of the “godship of man” in spiritualistic philosophies, such as evolution, leads to man playing God to just the degree that his sphere of power allows him to. Some become tyrants

examined until all loyal beings are satisfied that there is total justice in their destruction. At the time of the executive judgment all knees will bow and every tongue confess that God is fair and just.

Telling people that, yes, there is a judgment going on, but not to worry about it, that it does not involve God’s professed people because it is really just God Himself being judged, completely destroys the power of the three angels’ messages to awaken men from fatal slumber, even though we are claiming to preach them!

Remember, it is the temple that is being measured — and the worshippers — not God. “Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.” Revelation 11:1. The courtyard is left out — the wicked world is not being measured here, only those who have professed at some time to be God’s people.

We need to come to grips with the fact that the message the “hour of his judgment is come” (Revelation 14:7) is referring to God as the Judge — not the judged. This is the time referred to in the parable when the King comes in to see the wedding guests. It was not *the King* who was examined.

It is a sobering thought to realize that you are being judged and your eternal life or death rests upon your living a life, through the power of the indwelling Christ, that corresponds to your claim to salvation through having entered into a covenant relation with Christ; yet, the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy tell us this is so.

“The cases of all are pending in the heavenly sanctuary. Day by day angels of God are watching the development of character, and weighing moral worth. In the judgment the question will not be, What profession did you make? but, What have you done for Me? What fruit have you borne to My glory? Now is the time to prepare for the coming of the King.” *The Signs of the Times*, April 12, 1905.

“As a people we are to prepare the way of the Lord. Every iota of

*Satan uses . . . the claim that the investigative judgment is really God being judged by the universe and His created beings.*

get across to us modern folk what he was able to convey to Eve in a sentence or two.

### **The Claims of Spiritualism**

However, God has not left us to drown in the floods of spiritist philosophy poured out on the earth. In the voluminous writings of the Spirit of Prophecy, He has sought to shield us from deception, and has given us inside knowledge into the workings of Satan’s mind. Let us look at this statement that gives us spiritualism’s claims in a nutshell:

“Spiritualism asserts that men are unfallen demigods; that ‘each mind will judge itself;’ that ‘true knowledge places men above all law;’ that ‘all sins committed are innocent;’ for ‘whatever is, is right,’ and ‘God doth not condemn.’ The basest of human beings it represents as in heaven, and highly exalted there. Thus it declares to all men, ‘It matters not what you do; live as you please, heaven is your home.’ Multitudes are thus led to believe that desire is the highest law, that license is liberty, and that man is accountable only to himself.” *Education*, 227–228.

Let us look at these assertions one by one:

**1. “Spiritualism asserts that men are unfallen demigods.”** — The topic of sin and sinners is very

to their families; others destroy whole populations of “inferiors.”

**2. “Each mind will judge itself.”** — Anyone seeking to point out the path to righteousness and warn against the inroads and dangers of sin may quickly be informed that he is being “judgmental” and “critical.”

An interesting phenomenon that Satan uses to water down the powerful message of final judgment that is designed to awaken a world from its death-stupor is the claim that the investigative judgment is really *God* being judged by the universe and His created beings.

Now, I know that there *is* an aspect of God proving His own government to be just and fair in the whole great controversy between Christ and Satan; however, the investigative judgment is *not* for that. The Bible says it is “the time of the dead, that *they* should be judged” (Revelation 11:18); and the living are judged in the “valley of decision” by the choices they make in the final test of authority outlined in the third angel’s message: “Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision” (Joel 3:14).

Any proving of the fairness of God is done in the 1,000 years’ judgment of the lost. Before the wicked are destroyed, the books are

ability God has given us must be put to use in preparing the people after God's fashion, after His spiritual mold, to stand in this great day of God's preparation; and the serious question may be awakened in world-loving hearts, 'What is eternity to us? How will my case stand in the investigative judgment? What will be my lot and place?' . . . There are many who have no intelligent hope, and are running great risk in practicing the very things which Jesus has taught that they should not do, in eating, drinking, and dressing, binding themselves up with the world in a variety of ways. They have yet to learn the serious lessons so essential to growth in spirituality, to come out from the world and be separate. . . . The evidence of discipleship — Christ's likeness in self-denial and cross-bearing — is not discernible by the world or by the universe of heaven." *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 311.

In other words, they do not have on the wedding garment.

**3. "True knowledge places men above all law."** — Satan's purpose from before this world existed has been to do away with God's moral law. He is still actively teaching people that while moral laws may have been good for the infancy of the race (or the church), we no longer need them, since we now have such great knowledge and have outgrown such infantisms.

**4. "All sins committed are innocent."** — Psychology tells us that all people always perform to the very best that they understand to be right. This also gives us the idea that while something may be wrong for you, the same thing may be fine for me, since I see it differently. After all, we each have to decide for our own selves what we think is right for us.

There is no ultimate authority. The very idea of an absolute authority — a clear standard of right and wrong — sends modern man into raging temper tantrums.

**5. "Whatever is, is right."** — Here we find those in the world and in

spiritism who claim that good and evil must exist in balance and some great overall pantheistic intelligence guides the universe so that whatever happens is just what needs to happen. So, it is acceptable when someone violates his neighbor's wife or kills somebody because some superior intelligence sees that it is for the best.

In the church this philosophy is manifested as "Do not point out anyone's sins, even in the kindest way, because God will teach them Himself if He wants them to know that." Also, "Do not do anything to try and warn about the mistakes and sins of the Church's leaders, and do not vote or act to remove them from office for their sins, because God will take care of that in His own good time. After all, He is God and can do as He pleases." The Bible does not hold out any such

*The same loving God that allowed the fury of His wrath against sin to fall upon His innocent Son to open a way of escape for you and me will certainly wipe from His universe those who despise His covenant and refuse to be redeemed.*

sophistries. God does not step in and do what He has placed the responsibility on us to do. If we do not fight against the inroads of wickedness in our families and churches, we are judged as partakers in that wickedness. See *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 265–269.

**6. "God doth not condemn."** — We have among us the "God does not kill" philosophy. This is the same as saying God is a liar and reflects Satan's first premise, "Yea, hath God said?" The world looks upon God as a jolly Santa that promotes fun, frolic, and indulgence, and is so loving that you never have to worry about being lost. They think His threatenings are just to keep us in line. People even make such blasphemous statements as, "Let's face it, God is crazy about us!"

Brethren and sisters, while it is true that God loves each one of us,

that fact will not save us from being destroyed if we fail to take hold of the provisions of salvation in God's chosen way. The same loving God that allowed the fury of His wrath against sin to fall upon His innocent Son to open a way of escape for you and me will certainly wipe from His universe those who despise His covenant and refuse to be redeemed.

**7. "It matters not what you do; live as you please, heaven is your home."** — Spiritualism promises a watered-down, nebulous hereafter to its followers, assuring them of their immortal future. The wickedest of human beings it represents as in heaven, and highly exalted there. Thus, it declares to all men, "It matters not what you do; live as you please, heaven is your home."

Surely we do not have this in the church also! — I regret to say,

Yes. We have people preaching week after week that once your name is on the church books, and as long as you support and obey the leadership, you have no worries; the conference church is the "ark," and everyone in it is assured of eternal life, for all are under the blood, and our salvation was all finished at the cross.

We have those who are preaching that the garment of Christ's righteousness covers all of our sins — past, present, and future — even those that are unconfessed and unforsaken! Further, they say that although we will be sinning until Jesus returns and translates us, we do not need to worry about it, since Jesus will change our characters then.

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# The Immutability



*"The law of God is as immutable as His throne."*

*Ellen G. White*

## *of the Law of God*

**"T**hink not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil." Matthew 5:17.

What a contrast between the words of Christ, and the language of those who claim that He came to abrogate the law of God and to do away with the Old Testament. Our Saviour, who knew all things, understood the wiles of Satan, the snares by which he would seek to entrap the children of men, and so made this positive statement to meet the questioning doubts and the blind unbelief of all coming time.

But there is a law which was abolished, which Christ took "out of the way, nailing it to his cross." Colossians 2:14. Paul calls it "the law of commandments contained in ordinances." Ephesians 2:15. This ceremonial law, given by God through Moses, with its sacrifices and ordinances, was to be binding upon the Hebrews until type met antitype in the death of Christ as the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world. Then all the sacrificial offerings and services were to be abolished. Paul and the other apostles labored to show this, and resolutely withstood

those Judaizing teachers who declared that Christians should observe the ceremonial law.

Christ himself declares that He came not to destroy the law of ten precepts, which was spoken from Sinai. He says, "Verily I say unto you" – making the assertion as emphatic as possible – "till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matthew 5:18. Here He teaches not merely what the claims of God's law had been and were then, but that these claims should hold so long as the heavens and the earth remain.

This testimony should forever settle the question. The law of God is as immutable as His throne. It will maintain its claims upon all mankind in all ages, unchanged by time or place or circumstances. The ritual system was of altogether a different character, and typified the death of Christ as a sacrifice for the broken precepts of the moral law.

"I am not come to destroy," Christ says, "but to fulfil" – to "magnify the law, and make it honourable," as Isaiah, hundreds of years before, had prophesied respecting the Messiah's work. See Isaiah 42:21.

"To fulfil the law." In His own life the Saviour gave the children of men an example of perfect obedience. In His teachings He made clear and distinct every precept of the divine law; He swept away the rubbish of erroneous tradition with which the Jews had encumbered it; He illustrated and enforced its principles, and showed in all its particulars the length and breadth and height and depth of the righteousness required by the law of God.

The Pharisees were dissatisfied with the teachings of Christ. The practical godliness which He enjoined condemned them. They desired Him to dwell upon the external observances of the ceremonial law, and the customs and traditions of the fathers. But Jesus taught the spiritual nature of the law and made clear its far-reaching claims. Love to God and to men must live in the heart and control the life, as the spring of every thought and every action.

There is perfect harmony between the law of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ. "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30), says the great Teacher. The gospel is the good news of grace, or favor, by which man may be released from the condemnation of sin, and enabled to render acceptable obedience to the law. The gospel points to the moral code as a rule of life. That law, by its demands for undeviating obedience, is

continually pointing the sinner to the gospel for pardon and peace.

Says the great apostle, "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." Romans 3:31. And again he declares that the "law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." Romans 7:12. Enjoining supreme love to God, and equal love to our fellow men,

*The most fatal delusion of the Christian world in this generation is, that in pouring contempt on the law of God they think they are exalting Christ. What a position!*

it is indispensable alike to human happiness and the glory of God.

There are persons professing to be ministers of Christ, who declare with the utmost assurance that no man ever did or ever can keep the law of God. But, according to the Scriptures, Christ "took upon himself our nature" (see Hebrews 2:16), and "was made in fashion as a man" (see Philippians 2:8). He was man's Example, man's Representative, and he declares, "I have kept my Father's commandments." John 15:10. The beloved disciple urges that every follower of Christ "ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." 1 John 2:6. All who are in Christ will follow the example of Christ. All who justify the sinner in his transgression of God's law belong to that class of whom our Saviour said, "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:19. They can have no part with Him who came to magnify the law and make it honorable. They are deceiving the people with their sophistry, saying to the sinner, "It shall be well with thee," when God has declared, "The soul that sinneth [transgresseth the law], it shall die." Ezekiel 18:4.

The words of Christ are both explicit and comprehensive. "Whosoever" – minister or layman, wise or ignorant – "shall break one of these least commandments" – willfully or presumptuously, as did Adam and Eve – is included in the condemnation. Breaking one of the commandments makes man a commandment-breaker. "Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and

yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10. No excuse can avail for him who strictly obeys nine of the precepts of God's law, but ventures to break one because it is for his profit or convenience to do so. God demands implicit obedience to all His requirements.

"And shall teach men so." This is a point worthy of careful consideration. Christ foresaw that men would not only break the commandments of God themselves, but would teach others to break them. Some are not content with doing this by example; they defend sin, and pervert the Word of God to justify the transgressor. Such persons will have no part with the people of God. But the greatest guilt rests upon the professed watchmen, who do not hesitate to speak evil of the law, and even to make those who are ignorant of the Bible believe that they are fallen from grace if they keep it. "All we have to do," say they, "is to believe in Christ, come to Christ."

The most fatal delusion of the Christian world in this generation is, that in pouring contempt on the law of God they think they are exalting Christ. What a position! It was Christ who spoke the law from Sinai. It was Christ who gave the law to Moses, engraven on tables of stone. It was His Father's law; and

Christ says, "I and my Father are one." The Pharisees held the reverse of the modern position, but were in just as great an error. They rejected Christ, but exalted the law. And it makes little difference which position is taken, so long as we ignore the true one – that faith in Christ must be accompanied by obedience to the law of God.

While we point the sinner to Jesus as the One Who can take away sin, we must explain to him what sin is, and show him that he can be saved *from* his sins, but not *in* them. He must be made to realize that "sin is the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:4. Paul makes the inquiry,

many years after the death of Christ, "Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." Romans 7:7. Thus Paul exalts the moral law. When this law is practically carried out in everyday life, it is found indeed to be the wisdom of God. It serves to detect sin. It discovers the defects in the moral character, and shows sin to be exceeding sinful, revealing it in all its hideousness. Through obedience to its requirements, Christian character is perfected.

God's law is a copy of His mind and will. The sins forbidden there

could never find a place in Heaven. It was love that prompted God to express His will in the ten precepts of the decalogue. Afterward He showed His love for man by sending prophets and teachers to explain and illustrate His holy law.

God has given man a complete rule of life in His law. Obeyed, man shall live by it, through the merits of Christ. Transgressed, it has power to condemn. The law sends men to Christ, and Christ points them back to the law. ✠

*Signs of the Times*, September 4, 1884.

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### Continued from page 23...

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Many among us are teaching that any attempt that is made to overcome sin, even by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit and the righteousness of Christ, is legalism.

People often talk about living "vibrant Christian lives," and by this they mean not letting standards crimp their style as they indulge all the fashionable and socially polite sinful pleasures the world has to offer.

Brethren and sisters, our God is a consuming fire. He will destroy sin. He is working right now to remove sin from our lives through the ministry of Jesus in the Most Holy Place. All power that we need is available to us now to have all sin eradicated from our lives; however, God does not do this without our cooperation. If we cling to sin and refuse to give it up, we *will* sin until Jesus comes; and we *will* be consumed by the fire of His presence!

**8. "Desire is the highest law."** – Never before has a generation of people been so permeated with self-indulgent attitudes – "Do your own thing." "Indulge your deepest

desires." "Pamper yourself, you deserve it." "Take yourself out for a treat." "Don't let your obligations to others interfere in your life." "You have to be free to live your own life."

This self-indulgence mentality is behind many divorces and the neglect of God-given responsibilities to many family members. But over the decadent clamor, the voice of God still tolls like a bell, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23.

Remember, it was pride and a high "self-esteem" that changed the highest angel into the evil devil.

**9. "License is liberty."** – The philosophy of today tells us that we should never seek to teach or control the lives of our children. They are to be left to choose their own way, because each person has an inside link to all the knowledge of the universe and knows what way is best for himself.

Pray tell then, why does the Bible exhort us to train up our children in the right way? Why does it not say, "Leave them alone and they will grow up in the right way?"

Another variation of the same idea goes like this: "I know I am all right with God in what I am doing,

because if He didn't want me to do this, He would stop me. The fact that He blesses me means that I am just fine the way I am, and I don't need anybody to tell me differently."

"Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." Ecclesiastes 8:11.

**10. "Man is accountable only to himself."** – This concept is similar to the one above, but it causes worldlings to scoff at the church and the idea of a judgment day. While they do not go quite so far as to scoff at there being a judgment, they reason it all away in flowery fantasy. (See Number 2 above.)

### Conclusion

Brethren and sisters, please re-read the passage quoted earlier from *Education*, 227–228, and ponder it carefully. When you hear discourses in which you recognize any of these subtle misleading sophistries, protest if possible, but do not allow yourself or your family to linger. The subtleties of spiritualism quickly put the spiritual mind to sleep, and lingering on enchanted ground can prove fatal. ✠





## For the Love of Money

**News Item:** According to a news item in *Newsweek*, December 2, 2002, the Subaru car company “is now so aware of its lesbian following that tennis icon Martina Navratilova, scorned by marketers in her ’80s heyday because she was openly gay, is now a pitchwoman. . . . Today, the joke is on any corporation that alienates a group that spends about \$452 billion annually.”

**End-Time Perspective:** We can see that in just 20 years, we as a society have accepted sinful lifestyles as “normal.” This is largely due to the love of money and self-gratification through materialism. Let us take Paul’s teaching and council to Timothy very seriously (see 1 Timothy 6:9–11) to save ourselves from this “perverse generation” (Acts 2:40 NKJV).

## Hate Crime?

**News Item:** “A federal hate crimes bill making its way through the Canadian Parliament could signal what’s in store for American Christians should similar efforts succeed in the U.S. An open homosexual and member of the Canadian Parliament is pushing to have sexual orientation added as a protected category in Canada’s genocide and hate crimes legislation. Pro-family groups in that country are raising the alarm that it could well lead to outlawing any criticism of homosexuality. *WorldNetDaily* says there have already been incidents at the provincial level in Canada where people who have done just that paid a high price. For example, a Saskatchewan man recently was fined \$5,000 for buying a newspaper ad that quoted verses from the Bible condemning homosexual

behavior. In addition, two years ago in Ontario, a human rights commission leveled a \$5,000 fine against a Christian businessman who refused to print letterhead for a pro-homosexual group. In a current case in British Columbia, a teacher is facing the loss of his job for making statements critical of homosexuality — even though he made his comments outside the classroom.” *Crosswalk.com*, Religion Today Summary for October 23, 2002.

**End-Time Perspective:** This kind of mindset actually reveals a rebellious spirit and disdain for God’s revealed Word. I wonder when God’s limit of forbearance will be reached, as countries take steps just like Sodom and Gomorrah of old did, causing God’s judgments to be poured out upon them.

## New Home Planned for the “Newseum”

**News Item:** “A stone plaque 65 feet high recording the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution will dominate the front of the new home of the Newseum between the Capitol and the White House. The museum of news is to open in 2006 at a prestigious address along Pennsylvania Avenue. The First Amendment reads: ‘Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.’ Plans for the \$400 million structure were presented at a news conference on Tuesday by Mayor Anthony A. Williams and former Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-NY.” *News Journal*, Wilmington, DE, October 30, 2002.

**End-Time Perspective:** This stone plaque will become more interesting as the nation will enact Sunday laws counter to God’s law and even our own nation’s laws. When we humans seek to do our own will, nothing matters as long as we get what we want.

## Wiretaps Approved to Combat Terror

**News Item:** “A special federal appeals court ruled today that the Justice Department has broad new powers under the antiterrorism bill enacted last year to use wiretaps obtained for intelligence operations to prosecute terrorists. . . .

“ ‘Effective counterintelligence, as we have learned, requires the wholehearted cooperation of all the government’s personnel who can be brought to the task,’ the panel wrote. ‘A standard which punishes such cooperation could well be thought dangerous to national security.’ . . .

“ ‘This is a giant step forward,’ Mr. Ashcroft said at the Justice Department, adding that he would swiftly increase the number of lawyers both at the Federal Bureau of Investigation and in prosecutors’ offices around the country to seek authorization for new wiretaps and surveillance orders to combat terrorism. . . .

“In an unsigned opinion, the appeals court unanimously ruled that Mr. Ashcroft was correct in saying that the USA Patriot Act swept away the distinctions between the intelligence and criminal sides of the national security operations. Even more striking in the court’s ruling was the strong assertion that the restriction that had been observed for two decades was never required.” *The New York Times*, November 19, 2002.

**End-Time Perspective:** A Sunday law to many people still seems impossible; however, as we can see from this ruling, when people sense their security evaporating they will give anything to try to regain it. When the natural mood swings to the realization that the problems in our country and world are too great to solve, and that we are incurring God’s displeasure by not worshiping Him, no law — not even the Constitution — will stop people from trying to appease God. We have been told, “the final movements will be rapid ones,” (*Testimonies*, vol. 9, 11), and we see this ruling as more groundwork being laid for a Sunday law.



# HOPE INTERNATIONAL WINTER CONVOCATION 2003

## VIDEO AND AUDIO TAPES

More than 100 people from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana came to Hope International's Winter Convocation 2003. We praise the Lord for imparting His Spirit and for the truly inspired messages given by Thomas Jackson, Sheldon Parrett, Ron Spear, and Harvey Steck.

On Thursday evening, Harvey Steck laid a solid foundation for the convocation by presenting the reason why "little" sins—be they in health or in other areas—are so significant in God's eyes.

Thomas Jackson focused on how following the eight laws of health is essential to the mental,

physical, and spiritual well-being of God's children. His overall message was the role that good health plays in preparing a people for Christ's soon return.

On Sabbath morning, Ron Spear gave an uplifting presentation on heaven that made all who were present long for that glorious day when Christ will serve His children at the wedding feast.

Sheldon Parrett spoke on the cleansing of the soul temple and related how the health message is connected to the heavenly sanctuary.

### Thomas Jackson

- Tape # 1 "Restoring the Withered Right Arm"
- Tape # 2 "True and False Methods of Healing"
- Tape # 3 "The Creator's Masterpiece:  
The Life in the Cell"
- Tape # 4 "The Role of Health Reform in the  
Plan of Salvation"
- Tape # 5 "The Eight Doctors That Make House Calls"
- Tape # 6 "Wilt Thou Be Made Whole?"

### Sheldon Parrett

- Tape # 7 "Cleansing the Soul Temple," part 1
- Tape # 8 "Cleansing the Soul Temple," part 2
- Tape # 9 "Cleansing the Soul Temple," part 3

### Ron Spear

- Tape # 10 "Preparing for Eternity"

### Harvey Steck

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Continued from page 11...

from getting distracted. You will also realize more quickly when your mind begins to wander onto some sidetrack – and that brings us to our last point:

**4. If the mind wanders, bring it back.** Inspiration says, “If we would develop a character which God can accept, we must form correct habits in our religious life. Daily prayer is as essential to growth in grace, and even to spiritual life itself, as is temporal food to physical well-being. We should accustom ourselves to lift the thoughts often to God in prayer. *If the mind wanders, we must bring it back*; by persevering effort, habit will finally make it easy.” *The Sanctified Life*, 93.

Do not be discouraged if your mind wanders when in prayer. The mind can be trained, and we need to exercise persevering effort to keep our thoughts from going astray or into forbidden paths.

Friends, have you been following the Lamb? Are you learning from Jesus’ example *now*, before you are faced with the final test? The signs around us are certainly telling us that we will face our test very soon. Now is the day of salvation. Now is the time to develop the habit of prayer. Now is the time to be getting down on our knees and pleading with God to show us what we have neglected to do. Now is the time to repent of all of our cherished sins and surrender the throne of our hearts to Christ – fully and forever. ❀

Note:

<sup>1</sup> Ella Wheeler Wilcox, “Gethsemane,” *Kingdom of Love and How Salvator Won*, W.B. Conley, Chicago, 1902.

We recommend the study of Elder W. D. Frazee’s book entitled *Coming Events and Crisis at the Close*, from which many of the insights shared in this article were

gleaned. You may purchase a copy (stock# BEFW-CECA) from Hope International for \$12.95 plus shipping and sales tax (see page 3).



# Now on CD!

## The Desire of Ages

By Ellen G. White



Remember, it is by beholding that we become changed, and our character is determined by what our thoughts are centered upon. Now one of the most important books on the life of Christ is on audio CD, perfect for listening wherever you are.

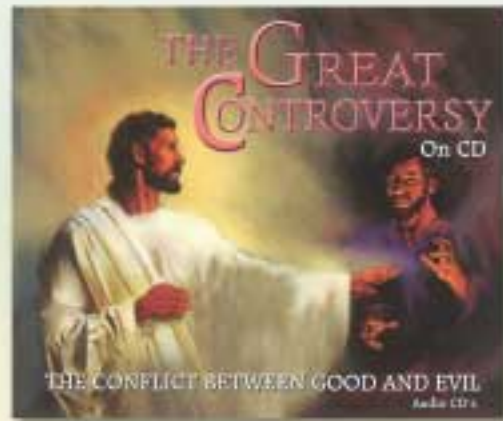
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Fred Volz

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They are His watchmen.

They are accused of being prideful; lovers of themselves. With

names like Huss, Wycliffe, Luther, Bunyan, and Wesley, God has always made sure that His Word would go forward against the tide of compromise. They refuse to be quiet in the face of apostasy or cower from powers and principalities. You know some of them.

They are His watchmen.

They stand on the walls of Zion fully armored, wielding the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. They are ready in season and out of season, always ready to give an answer for the faith that is in them. Some people avoid their company; others depend on the discernment of these faithful firebrands to keep on the lookout for false teachings and misleading fables. These are the defenders of the faith of Jesus Christ.

They are His watchmen.

They are the front-line troops fighting a deadly spiritual war; so try to understand their furrowed brows. If you choose to oppose them with the wisdom of men, you will be defeated, for they speak not of their own but with words given to them from Above. If you try to seduce them with favor or position you will fail, for they are armed with the gift of discernment of spirits and will sense your true intentions. They are the hireling's enemy. They are the false prophet's worst nightmare. If your church does not have them, then your church will fall.

They are your watchmen.

"From the beginning, faithful souls have constituted the church on earth. In every age the Lord has had His watchmen, who have borne a faithful testimony to the generation in which they lived." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 11. ✠



Thanks so much for your magazine—*Our Firm Foundation*. The messages inside are excellent and timely. Please use the enclosed money for your ministry. We thank the Lord for it and for your getting the messages out in the printed pages.

*BN, New Mexico*

I am sorry to be late with my renewal. I do not ever want to be without your magazine. It has truly been a great blessing to me for almost two years now. I use them for my Sabbath sermons since my husband is terminally ill, and I am his constant caretaker. May our Lord continue to encourage you to keep on keeping on. God bless and keep all of you until He comes!

*AH, Georgia*

Enclosed is our donation. Thanks for your ongoing ministry.

*DT, Maine*

I've read *Our Firm Foundation* since the beginning of your publishing—whenever I have been able to get it. I'll thank you better on the sea of glass. I wish everyone could have the magazine.

*IP, Alabama*

God bless you all! My husband and I are still enjoying the blessings we received from the Angwin, CA, and Colton, CA camp meetings. With the audio tapes we can hear the messages again and again.

Enclosed is our donation for your ministry. Thank you all for the blessings that you are to us. You are in our prayers.

*KS, California*

My wife and I have really appreciated the *Our Firm Foundation* magazine. What a joy it is to read the re-

freshing truths and the challenge of giving the final three angels' messages to the world.

We have enclosed the subscription amount for three more subscriptions for our relatives and friends listed below . . .

*RI, Tennessee*

Enclosed is a money order for a one-year subscription to *Our Firm Foundation*. Use the extra wherever needed. Thank you and continue to stand firm, boldly proclaiming the pure SDA truths.

*RB, Oklahoma*

Use this donation as God will guide you. I think you are doing the work which should be done in these last days. We are living in the end-time period, and we should prepare ourselves and others to meet our Lord when He will come. God bless you in all the good work you are doing.

*TS, Idaho*

I like the way the Bible school lessons are put together. Precise would be a good way to describe them, I guess. Right now I am deep into the book *The Great Controversy*. Wow! Thank you. Talk about an eye opener. I'll be re-reading this one often, that much I know for sure!

*GW, Wisconsin*

Thank you for the order of "Law of God" brochures, and thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve our wonderful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in this outreach to lead precious souls to His kingdom. My concern was that those in Canada may not be able to order these vital truths as the small lettering indicates. Thank you for providing for us.

I enclose a small donation to help with the costs of Bible courses or further aids that any searching soul may ask for.

*EK, Canada*

## From Overseas

I'm writing this short letter to thank God for your help. Our prayers are answered that my family can be a part of sharing the three angel's mes-

sages. So now we are starting to distribute books and helping people to understand that Sabbath is the true day of worship. Please pray for me and my wife and our two children. If God is for us who can be against us?

*WH, Vanuatu*

Thank you very much for the spiritual material, books and booklets, that you sent to me. They are necessary materials, not only for me, but also for my brothers and sisters around me. As you spent your capital for the work of God by sending spiritual books, let our Creator send you His abundant blessing from above.

*DA, Ethiopia*

Thank you for sending me so many books. I praise and thank my Lord for answering me through you. I promise that these books will bring souls to Christ. Please keep on sending *Our Firm Foundation* magazines also. May God give you many plans for how to save souls who are still in darkness.

I am a father of two children, but because of loving the work of God, I'm ready to go everywhere. This year, by the grace of our Lord, I will conduct six crusades of three weeks each. Pray for me. As I am writing this letter I have finished my two weeks' crusade. May the Lord guard us faithfully so that we may not lose our beloved heaven.

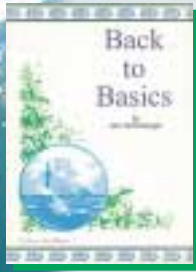
*ES, Tanzania*

We are interested in the writings of Mrs. White. We believe that her writings are important as we prepare for the Lord's coming. The Lord is helping us make some of the lifestyle changes and to see the importance of Sabbath and true Sabbath observance. We long to know the truth, but due to our low financial status, we cannot afford these books. Please let us know how we could acquire these books for the Lord's glory. We pray the Lord will help us in our search for the truth and that He will use us as co-laborers to finish the mighty task of reaching the unreached.

*AM, India*



# Tape Sale



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By Jim Hohnberger

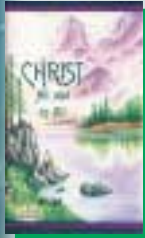
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By Tom Waters

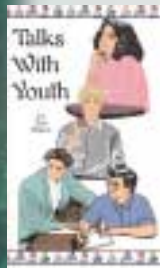
AEWT-STHG

- Are you a real, living Christian, or a “comparative” Christian, only measuring yourself with those around you?
- Could it be that much of our discouragement and failure comes from fighting our battle with self on our terms, not God’s?

God’s practical answers to these questions applied to our individual experience will lead us to renew our commitment with our spouse and turn our hearts to the needs of our children.

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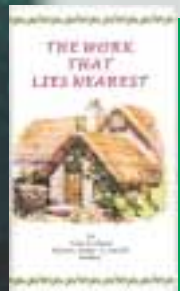
By Tom Waters

AEWT-TWYO

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## *The Work That Lies Nearest*

By Tom Waters

AEWT-WTLN

- Are your children involved in all the daily needs of the home? Are home duties done with diligence, perseverance, and a cheerful attitude?
- Are there simple, practical ways that we can make Sabbath such a delight that each of us will look forward to it as the highlight of the week?

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