

Our Firm Foundation

Raise up the Foundations

Volume 18, Number 5

May 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



Apostasy

How do we define the word apostasy?—The history of the ancient church of the Old and New Testament has the answer—rebellion. Rebellion against God’s orders, His plans, His Word and commandments.

How does such treachery begin?—Our prophet Ellen White gives the answer:

“It is Satan’s plan to weaken the faith of God’s people in the *Testimonies*. Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition. When the *Testimonies*, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 211.

“By giving place to doubts and unbelief in regard to the work of God, and by cherishing feelings of distrust and cruel jealousies, they are preparing themselves for complete deception. They rise up with bitter feelings against the ones who dare to speak of their errors and reprove their sins.” *Ibid.*, vol. 3, 328.

Again, Sister White explains this deadly treachery in these inspired words:

“My soul is made very sad to see how quickly some who have had light and truth will accept the deceptions of Satan, and be charmed with a spurious holiness. When men turn away from the landmarks the Lord has established that we may understand our

position as marked out in prophecy, they are going they know not whither.

“I question whether genuine rebellion is ever curable. Study in *Patriarchs and Prophets* the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. This rebellion was extended, including more than two men. It was led by two hundred and fifty princes of the congregation, men of renown. Call rebellion by its right name and apostasy by its right name, and then consider that the experience of the ancient people of God with all its objectionable features was faithfully chronicled to pass into history. The Scripture declares, ‘These things . . . are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.’ 1 Corinthians 10:11.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 393.

“The light given me has been very forcible that many would go out from us, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. The Lord desires that every soul who claims to believe the truth shall have an intelligent knowledge of what is truth. False prophets will arise and will deceive many. Everything is to be shaken that can be shaken. Then does it not become everyone to understand the reasons of our faith? In place of having so many sermons there should be a more close searching of the Word of God, opening the Scriptures, text by text, and searching for the strong evidences that sustain the fundamental doctrines that have brought us where we now are, upon the platform of eternal truth.” *Ibid.*, 392–393; see also *Testimonies to Ministers*, 409–410.

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

Again, God speaks through His prophet:

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

The faith of Jesus will develop the character of Christ in those who are seeking for truth in the Scriptures and in the Spirit of Prophecy. Then they will be firmly grounded in the pillars of the faith.

Let us remember that rebellion—apostasy—becomes almost incurable once it has taken hold of the conscience. Those who are too busy to seek the great holy relationship that God offers His church in the final generation will be found in apostasy—rebellion—and will be lost for eternity. What a tragedy!

In Christ the believer who is born again does not continue to commit sin, for he is enabled to render perfect obedience through the power of the Holy Spirit.

“Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.” 1 John 3:6–9.

May each of us shun rebellion and seek that holy, victorious relationship with Christ that He offers to you and to me.



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

-Editors

Executive Editor: Ron Spear
 Managing Editor: Harvey Steck
 Layout: Teresa Grosboll

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Hope International
 P.O. Box 220
 Knoxville, IL 61448 USA

Phone: (309) 343-1844
 Monday–Thursday: 8:30am–5:30pm
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Fax: (309) 343-3721
Email: office@hopeint.org
Web: <http://www.hopeint.org>

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Raise up the Foundations of Many Generations

Russell Standish

“God needs . . . men who will no longer sit in silence while Satan has a field day in God’s holy church.”



Prophesying of God’s church today – the Seventh-day Adventist Church – the prophet Isaiah presented God’s command to us:

“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.” Isaiah 58:1.

There are many people in God’s church today who believe that no ministry of reproof is valid. Such people would have despised the words of the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Malachi had they lived contemporaneously with them. Should such individuals have lived in the days of the First Advent, they would have despised the words of reproof of John the Baptist and Christ Himself. Such men and women would ask that God’s

commission to all ordained men be expunged from the Bible.

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.” 2 Timothy 4:1-5.

When I was ordained to the ministry, I solemnly took this vow. I pray that I have not withdrawn

from the command of God to reprove, rebuke, and exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Today, God cries out to His people that we are not to just *whisper* the sins so prevalent in our church; we are to cry aloud, spare not, and earnestly warn God’s people of the peril inherent in continuing in these sins.

There is another high and holy duty that God calls His people to at this time:

“And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.” Isaiah 58:12.

Here, God has placed upon us – especially those who are ordained deacons, elders, and pastors – a number of requirements:

1. Rebuild the old waste places.
2. Raise up the foundations of many generations.
3. Become repairers of the breach.
4. Restore the paths to dwell in.

“Ask for the Old Paths”

What are these paths?—“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.” Jeremiah 6:16.

Today, God requires us to “ask for the old paths, where is the good way.” He requires us to walk in those old paths. However, in defiance of God’s loving command, many people harbor a defiant rebellion against God within their hearts.

None of these requirements would have been placed upon us had it not been for the fact that the old battlements of God have been made waste places, that the foundations of our faith have been battered to the ground, that there are great breaches in the protective doctrinal wall surrounding us as a people, and that these old paths have been permitted to be overgrown with the folly of error and rank evil. Sister White defined the foundations of our faith as the Sabbath, the law of God, the state of the dead, and the sanctuary doctrine. Today, many ministers have taken sledgehammers and battered down these foundations of truth. A great number of the theologians who are now training our pastors despise the sanctuary message. Few of the leaders in God’s church condemn the activities within our colleges. We have become a church of ordained men whom God has aptly described in His prophetic Word:

“His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.” Isaiah 56:10–11.

Learning From Babylon?

We should not be in the least surprised that Satan is doing all in his power to destroy the one object of Christ’s supreme regard. See *The Acts of the Apostles*, 12. God has given to the Seventh-day Adventist Church alone the privilege, the obligation, and the responsibility to protect the law of God and to give the last and greatest message of love to the world—the three angels’ messages. No other church can

Counsels on Sabbath School Work? Do we need to go to the gods of Ekron and follow their faulty, wicked doctrines?

Satan is succeeding in every level and aspect of our church in destroying our doctrines. This is why God directs us to restore the foundations of many generations. Our spiritual forebears, the early Seventh-day Adventist believers, through diligent study of the Word, sincere prayer, and confirmation of the plainest words of the

We should not be in the least surprised that Satan is doing all in his power to destroy the one object of Christ’s supreme regard.

uphold the Sabbath and present the judgment-hour message.

The other churches—be they Roman Catholic or Protestant—have accepted the doctrines of Babylon. Yet today, many of our church leaders are bent on receiving the accolades of the leaders and ministers of the fallen churches of Babylon.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church today is actively ecumenical. In the year 2001, the Avondale College church, with the approval of the leadership of the South Pacific Division, brought out Philip Yancey, a Lutheran, to speak on the vital subject of grace. His message was broadcast over satellite television to more than 180 locations as he preached in the Avondale College church. What a disgrace that we would go to a Lutheran—a member of one of the fallen churches of Babylon, a Sundaykeeper—to discover that which God in His Holy Word and in the Spirit of Prophecy has explained in great detail!

In the year 2002, the South Pacific Division brought out a Southern Baptist to hold seminars designed to tell Seventh-day Adventists how to conduct their Sabbath schools. Do we no longer possess

Spirit of Prophecy, have established the faith on absolutely certain and incontrovertible foundations. Yet, many of our ordained men see it as their beholden duty to batter these foundations to the ground. Our colleges in general are now totally unfit to train young men and women for anything but the service of Satan. I have expressed this matter in the mildest of terms in relationship to the terrible apostasy that prevails in these colleges today.

Have we learned nothing from the times of the First Advent? There was a reason why John the Baptist did not study under the rabbis of his day. God deliberately chose that he not receive the training of those wicked “college professors” at the time of the First Advent. Likewise, Christ did not have His mind polluted and His great purpose derailed by studying under the rabbis.

Those who wish to present the three angels’ messages to the world and the Elijah message within the church should not go to our colleges hoping that somehow an education of studying error will fit them to do a work in the church. John the Baptist accomplished the work God had designed for him as a self-

supporting worker. Do we not have faith anymore that God will use similar people in these last days? Do we think those who are trained by our colleges in apostate doctrines and blasphemous worship forms are better able to take the message of God to the church and the world in these last days? This is a time for a thorough examination of that which is in the minds of many people today.

One 2002 student at Avondale College informed his parents that students could find almost anything they desired at Avondale – drugs,

By these human sophistries, the foundation of our faith has deliberately been destroyed. Seventh-day Adventist college professors today, as has been documented in the *Remnant Herald*,² are appearing on radio stations in Australia telling the world that the old, prophetic interpretations of the book of Revelation are false. Others are declaring to non-believers that our faith in creation is false and that the world was created millions of years ago. We have documented that there are men in high office in the church who desire us to believe that Rome

pillars of the faith. True new light will lead to a deeper understanding of God’s Word and a closer walk with Jesus.

Deceptions Regarding the Godhead

It is a disgrace to self-supporting work that people – denying the plainest words of the Spirit of Prophecy – are stating that Christ has not lived from eternity. Denying the full deity of our Lord, they abrogate His right to be our Sacrifice – our Redeemer. Associated with this doctrine is the concept that the Holy Spirit is not a person. I have challenged these people to produce one clear statement from the Spirit of Prophecy that declares that the Holy Spirit is not a person, or one clear statement that states that there are only two members, or one member of the Godhead. The fact is that the Spirit of Prophecy plainly states that there are three members of the Godhead, and that the Holy Spirit is a person.³

Sister White tells us, “Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should *demand a plain* ‘Thus saith the Lord’ in its support.” *The Great Controversy*, 595. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

God’s Word clearly states that there are three beings in the Godhead, and that Christ is the mighty God, the everlasting Father (see Isaiah 9:6), that He is the Alpha and Omega, that in the beginning He was with God, and He was God (see John 1:1).

In the self-supporting work, we find other evil winds of doctrine as well. One states that if we even reverently use the word “God,” we are insulting God. It is contended that only the name “Yahweh” should be used. Such people imply that the writers of the New Testament, who used the Greek word “Theos,” and the author of the Spirit of Prophecy, who used the English word “God,” were thus insulting God by their usage, albeit in a reverent manner, of the name of Deity in their native language.

There are assertions that the prophetic days mentioned in the

Of course, there will be new light,

but it will not be light that destroys the pillars of the faith.

*True new light will lead to a deeper understanding
of God’s Word and a closer walk with Jesus.*

alcohol, sex. However, there was one thing they would never find there – the Seventh-day Adventist faith.

God has plainly stated that those who take His work throughout the world will not be those who have been trained in literary institutions. See *The Great Controversy*, 606. They will be humble, godly men and women who have been trained by diligent study of the Word under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Battered Foundations

Today, the foundations of our faith are being battered to the ground both in the organized church and in self-supporting work. Workers in the organized church, through our colleges and schools, have introduced the terrible errors of intellectualism, evangelicalism, ecumenism, pluralism, relativism, existentialism, humanism, secularism, hedonism, materialism, Pentecostalism, clericalism, futurism, institutionalism, separationism, paternalism, imperfectionism, criticism, feminism, universalism, and liberalism into our faith.¹

does change, and that it is now safe to be “kinder” in our assessment of the antichrist power.

No wonder we are told that we are to build up the foundation of many generations, for these men have wrought a fearful work against the foundational pillars and truths of God’s holy Seventh-day Adventist Church. May these men repent of their evil work lest the fearful judgments of God come down upon them!

Sister White tells us, “Pride, avarice, selfishness, and deception of almost every kind are in the church.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 210. Deceptions are rife in the organized work, and the self-supporting work is no less at fault. Shame on those who promote these deceptions! Shame on those who listen to and accept the folly of men who know not the truth!

We notice that the prophet Jeremiah does not tell us that we are to seek new paths. Yet, countless thousands of Seventh-day Adventists are chasing around after every little exciting piece of “new light.” Of course, there *will be* new light, *but it will not be light that destroys the*

books of Daniel and Revelation are literal days. There is no plain statement of Inspiration to support such a contention. Others proclaim that anyone whose name is still on a conference roll will be lost eternally. They do not provide us with any divine command for that which is just the imagination of their own minds. Brethren and sisters, let us *demand* from such purveyors of “new light” a plain “thus saith the Lord.”

God is about to send His Holy Spirit in latter-rain power into our midst. The devil undoubtedly realizes this more than we do, for he is an astute student of Scripture and uses Scripture to his own purposes. By so doing, he has invalidated the Holy Spirit in the minds of many people in the denomination and many of those who are accepting a self-supporting mode.

In the denomination, Satan has used wicked men to convince those who are not students of the Word that we cannot overcome sin. Satan is presenting a Holy Spirit who is absolutely impotent to provide power for victory over sin. If true, this error would doom every man and woman in the entire history of this world to eternal destruction, for Revelation, chapter 7, tells us that only those who are servants of God will receive the seal of the living God:

“Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.” Revelation 7:3. Who are these servants of God — “But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.” Romans 6:22.

Here we see that those who are the servants of God, those whom God has promised will receive the seal of the living God, are free from sin. If the Holy Spirit cannot give us freedom from sin through His power, then we are not servants of God and we cannot be sealed. This belief that we cannot fully overcome sin, so rife in our colleges, is a most pernicious one.

On the other hand, those in the self-supporting arena who claim that the Holy Spirit is not a being surely grieve the Holy Spirit, whom we have been told sat down with the Father and the Son in order to design our salvation:

“The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave Themselves to the working out of the plan of redemption.” *Counsels on Health*, 222.

Sister White also tells us, “Our sanctification is the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is the fulfillment of the covenant that God has made with those who bind themselves up with Him, to stand with Him, with His Son, and with His Spirit in holy fellowship. Have you been born again? Have you become a new being in Christ Jesus? Then cooperate with the three great Powers of heaven who are working in your behalf. Doing this you

deny the personage of the Holy Spirit is to deny the personage of God the Father.

The Holy Spirit and Christ have specific, separate functions in our salvation:

“Christ, our Mediator, and the Holy Spirit are constantly interceding in man’s behalf, but the Spirit pleads not for us as does Christ, who presents His blood, shed from the foundation of the world; the Spirit works upon our hearts, drawing out prayers and penitence, praise and thanksgiving. The gratitude which flows from our lips is the result of the Spirit’s striking the cords of the soul in holy memories, awakening the music of the heart.” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 344.

With sorrow, I recognized that there was very little opportunity in 2001 for the Holy Spirit to walk through those grounds.

We notice that with every wind of doctrine — whether it be in our

Remember, the Holy Spirit is as much a person as is Christ. To deny the personage of the Holy Spirit is to deny the personage of God the Father.

will reveal to the world the principles of righteousness.” *Signs of the Times*, June 19, 1901.

In 2001, Colin and I marked the fiftieth anniversary of our graduation from the education course at Avondale College; and I returned for that homecoming. However, I was so grieved by the joking and frivolity in the Friday evening vesper service that I left the vespers early. As I walked through the grounds of Avondale College to return to the place where I was staying, a passage from the Spirit of Prophecy came vividly into my mind:

“We need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds.” *Evangelism*, 616.

Remember, the Holy Spirit is as much a person as is Christ. To

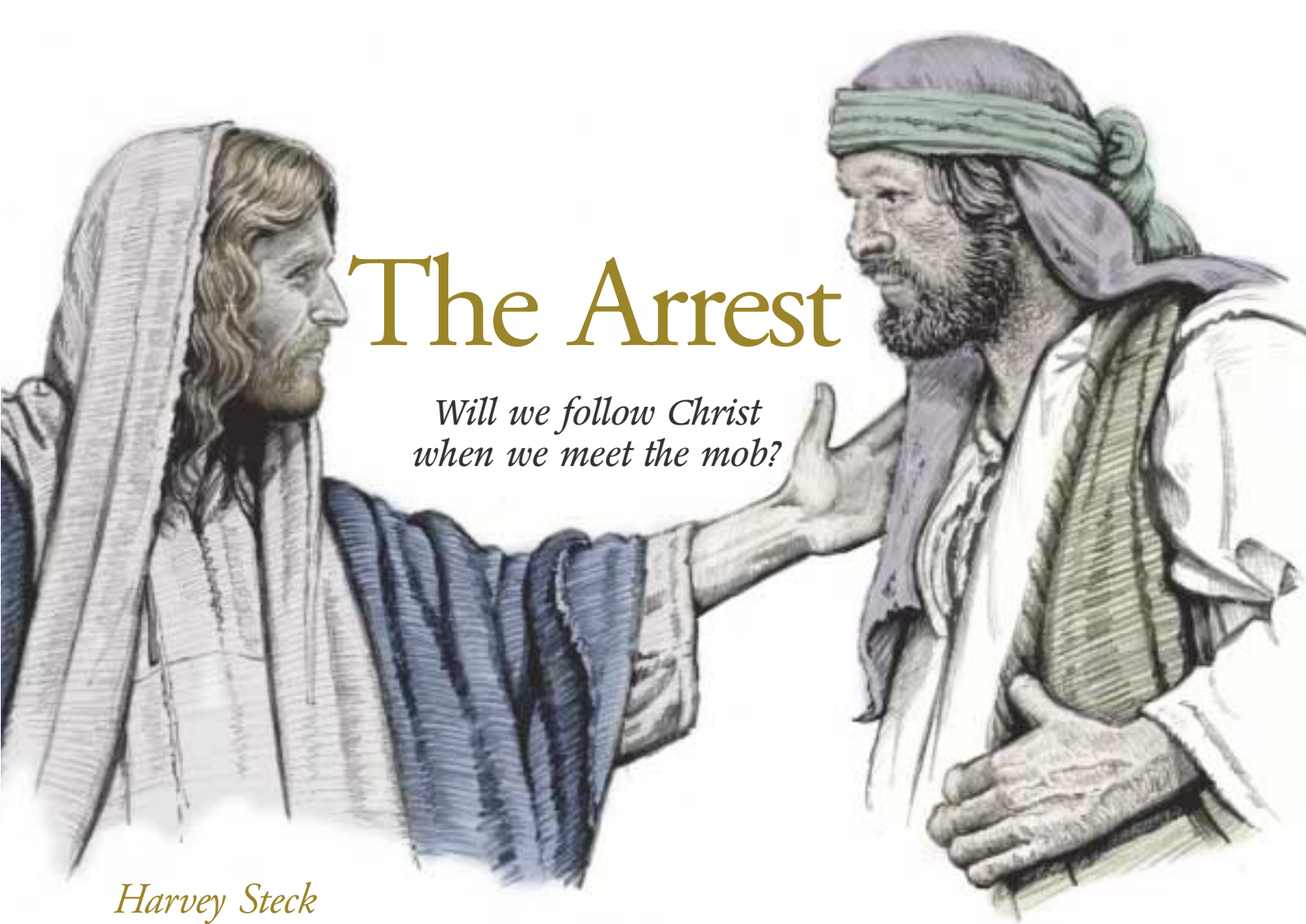
colleges or among self-supporting workers — the Spirit of Prophecy has to be discounted. And the great majority of these people are only too happy to cast aside that mighty body of revelation granted by God through Sister White.

The High Calling of the Ministry

Now, I want to speak to those men in both the denominational and self-supporting work who are ordained to a holy work, either as deacons or as elders or as pastors. These are ordinations which God has directed:

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some,

continued on page 15...



The Arrest

*Will we follow Christ
when we meet the mob?*

Harvey Steck

These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth." Revelation 14:4. In this series we have noted that if we shall one day be one of those who follow Christ wherever He goes, we must begin following Him here and now. Just as there was a crisis that brought Jesus and His disciples to the test, so there is coming the Sunday-law crisis just ahead, which will demonstrate whether our experience has been genuine — whether we have been following Jesus' example.

We noted that just as Jesus took Himself to prayer when He saw the crisis coming, so we must take the initiative to learn how to pray and to develop a habit of prayer that will brace us in the storm ahead.

Sleeping Or Praying?

In Gethsemane Jesus and the disciples each determined by their

choices whether they would pass or fail the tests just ahead. One was praying, and the rest were sleeping:

"Their eyes were heavy. 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.*" *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 205. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

Thank God, not all are sleeping! Others are following Jesus' example:

"I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. . . .

"As the praying ones continued their earnest cries, at times a ray of light from Jesus came to them, to encourage their hearts and light up their countenances. Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless.

They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud." *Early Writings*, 269–270.

It is for you and me to decide which group we will fall into. Will we take the easy way and stay asleep in our self-confident, lukewarm condition until it is too late? Or will we follow Jesus' example in preparing for the crisis ahead?

Now in this study, let us look more closely at the result of Jesus' decision to pray, and the disciples' decision to sleep.

An Angel Brings Power

As Jesus concluded His prayer, Heaven responded immediately: "And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him." Luke 22:43. What was the mission of this angel — was it to relieve Christ of the trial He was

facing? Was there a way out? — Consider this inspired commentary:

“Angels had longed to bring relief to the divine sufferer, but this might not be. *No way of escape was found for the Son of God.* In this awful crisis, when everything was at stake, when the mysterious cup trembled in the hand of the sufferer, the heavens opened, a light shone forth amid the stormy darkness of the crisis hour, and the mighty angel who stands in God’s presence, occupying the position from which Satan fell, came to the side of Christ. *The angel came not to take the cup from Christ’s hand, but to strengthen Him to drink it,* with the assurance of the Father’s love. He came to give power to the divine-human suppliant. He pointed Him to the open heavens, telling Him of the souls that would be saved as the result of His sufferings. He assured Him that His Father is greater and more powerful than Satan, that His death would result in the utter discomfiture of Satan, and that the kingdom of this world would be given to the saints of the Most High. He told Him that He would see of the travail of His soul, and be satisfied, for He would see a multitude of the human race saved, eternally saved.” *The Desire of Ages*, 693–694.

This angel that came down from heaven did not come to prevent Christ from having to suffer persecution, shameful trials, or even the cross. No, he was there to strengthen Christ.

Today, if we are among those described in the passage from *Early Writings* that we read earlier, we will be found pleading with God, not to escape the trials ahead, but for strength to stand faithful. It will be our greatest desire to do our Father’s will. And God will also send us an angel to give us power:

“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.” Revelation 18:1.

When the latter rain is poured out, it will not be to deliver us from our trials. It will be to strengthen us

to stand through the worst trials Satan has ever been allowed to bring upon a people — the time of Jacob’s trouble.

Are you looking forward to the visit of this angel, which will bring latter-rain power to us? Could it be that we have delayed the return of Christ, that we have not received the latter-rain power that we need to finish the work, because we are not praying as Christ prayed? That angel will come to strengthen and empower us only if our highest desires can also be expressed in the

angel who had lately ministered to Jesus moved between Him and the mob. A divine light illuminated the Saviour’s face, and a dovelike form overshadowed Him. In the presence of this divine glory, the murderous throng could not stand for a moment. They staggered back. Priests, elders, soldiers, and even Judas, fell as dead men to the ground.” *Ibid.*, 694.

Jesus and Judas

Notice the characteristics of Jesus and Judas. When Jesus

That angel will come to strengthen and empower us only if our highest desires can also be expressed in the words, “Not as I will, Father, but as thou wilt.”

words, “Not as I will, Father, but as thou wilt.” See Matthew 26:39.

The Arrest

Now, let us see how those who were praying and those who were sleeping responded to the next event in Gethsemane: “And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow, and said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss? When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword? And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.” Luke 22:45–51.

John tells us that the mob fell backward as they approached Jesus. See John 18:3–6. Why? — “As these words were spoken, the

allowed Judas to kiss Him and when He healed the ear of the priest’s servant, He exhibited infinite love and patience; and He showed that He was looking out for others rather than Himself. On the other hand, Judas showed that his character had become stubborn and impenitent — even when Christ’s divinity was supernaturally confirmed.

In the last days some will again follow Jesus’ example, and others will follow Judas’ example. If we are following in Christ’s footsteps, we should expect that some will betray us in the persecution ahead:

“Those who apostatize in time of trial will, to secure their own safety, bear false witness, and betray their brethren. Christ has warned us of this, that we may not be surprised at the unnatural, cruel course of those who reject the light.” *Ibid.*, 630.

“Those who are true to God will be menaced, denounced, proscribed. They will be ‘betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends’ (Luke 21:16) even unto death.” *Prophets and Kings*, 588.

“Some who profess righteousness will, like Judas, betray their

Lord into the hands of His bitterest enemies." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 690.

We are determining right now, by our present experience, whether we will follow Jesus or Judas. Unless we enter into the experience that Jesus had that prepared Him for His last hours, we will not be ready for our last hours, and we will enter into the experience of Judas.

One reason Judas betrayed Christ was because he felt that

Peter Also Offended

As we know, Judas was not the only one who failed in Gethsemane. What did Jesus say to Peter earlier that evening? — "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and *when thou art converted*, strengthen thy brethren." Luke 22:31–32.

numbering Israel. Many who appear today to be solid members of the church will at that time go out from among us.

Jesus told His disciples, "Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me." John 16:32.

There is coming a time when we, too, will stand alone, while others flee. Do we think that we will stand alone in the "final test" if we are not learning to stand alone *now*? If you are facing a test today and it seems that no one is standing with you, thank God for it. If you are faithful today, you will be better prepared for the future.

What about our children — are we teaching them to stand? Or are we doing everything we can to make it easy for them to fit into this world? Are we helping them purchase clothes that go along with the latest worldly fads? Are we allowing them to listen to today's popular music? Are they conforming to peer pressure, or are they learning to stand for principle? Are they prepared to stand alone — when they are separated from their parents? Will they be among the Daniels, Esthers, and Josephs of the last generation, or are we neglecting our duty as parents? "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Galatians 6:7.

A Climactic Time

Are you looking forward to standing alone? Or does the idea of standing alone bring fear to your mind? In the following passage, God has given a warning to the self-confident and a promise to the fearful: "It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when *celestial glory* and a repetition of the *persecutions* of the past are blended. *They will walk in the light proceeding from the throne of God.* By means of the angels there will be constant communication between heaven and earth." *Ibid.*, vol. 9, 16.

*If you are facing a test today
and it seems that no one is standing with you
thank God for it. If you are faithful today,
you will be better prepared for the future.*

Christ had not listened to him, that He had not given due weight to his suggestions and ideas. Now he felt that he would teach Christ a lesson, and Christ would give him the respect that was due. See *The Desire of Ages*, 721. On the other hand, Jesus was disappointed many times with His followers when He sought to teach them vital truths and they refused to accept what He said because it did not agree with their self-serving, preconceived ideas. Jesus gave many instructions that His followers did not carefully follow, but He was not quick to cut them off and to seek revenge. While Judas had allowed himself to become offended and bitter, Jesus was willing to suffer rather than cause others to suffer. Jesus' last miracle was to heal the ear that Peter had cut off in trying to defend Jesus.

Are you tempted to brood, to become offended and bitter, because people do not "listen" to you as they should? If you give in to that temptation, you are in danger of following Judas' example. Instead, let us accept by faith that if God has inspired our ideas, our words, we can let Him worry about who listens to us and how much weight they give to our ideas.

Rather than accepting Christ's warning, Peter was offended — not because of animosity toward Christ, but because he was not converted — and he was not prepared for what was to happen. At first, Peter was zealous to take up his sword and fight for Jesus, but when Jesus refused his "help," he fled with the rest of the disciples. We should see from this example that there is more than one way to be defeated in the test ahead. Some will follow Judas' example, and others will follow that of Peter:

"As trials thicken around us, both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks. Some who are now ready to take up weapons of warfare will in times of real peril make it manifest that they have not built upon the solid rock; they will yield to temptation. Those who have had great light and precious privileges, but have not improved them, will, under one pretext or another, go out from us. Not having received the love of the truth, they will be taken in the delusions of the enemy; they will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and will depart from the faith." *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 400–401.

This is not the time, while we are not in the thick of persecution, to be

This time of celestial glory will be exciting to witness; yet, we are told that the persecutions of the past will be repeated, and that we cannot fully anticipate what is coming: "The 'time of trouble, such as never was,' is soon to open upon us; and we shall need an experience which we do not now possess and which many are too indolent to obtain. It is often the case that trouble is greater in anticipation than in reality; but this is not true of the crisis before us. The most vivid presentation cannot reach the magnitude of the ordeal. In that time of trial, every soul must stand for himself before God." *The Great Controversy*, 622.

In the same chapter of this wonderful volume there are given three simple things we must do to prepare for the time of trouble:

1. Pray: "We should now acquaint ourselves with God by proving His promises. Angels record every prayer that is earnest and sincere. We should rather dispense with selfish gratifications than neglect communion with God. The deepest poverty, the greatest self-denial, with His approval, is better than riches, honors, ease, and friendship without it. We must take time to pray. If we allow our minds to be absorbed by worldly interests, the Lord may give us time by removing from us our idols of gold, of houses, or of fertile lands." *Ibid.*

2. Know God's Word: "Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive. By the Bible testimony these will detect the deceiver in his disguise." *Ibid.*, 625.

3. Overcome as Christ Overcame: "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. . . . 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.

"It is in this life that we are to separate sin from us, through faith in the atoning blood of Christ. Our precious Saviour invites us to join ourselves to Him, to unite our weakness to His strength, our ignorance to His wisdom, our unworthiness to His merits. . . . None can neglect or defer this work but at the most fearful peril to their souls." *Ibid.*, 623.

When these trials come, let us not recoil in fear as did the disciples. Let us follow the Lamb in our "little" trials today, and we will be prepared to respond to the greater trials ahead with the same words that Jesus spoke to Peter: "The cup

"Not all who profess to keep the Sabbath will be sealed. There are many even among those who teach the truth to others who will not receive the seal of God in their foreheads. . . .

"By their lack of devotion and piety, and their failure to reach a high religious standard, they make other souls contented with their position. Men of finite judgment cannot see that in patterning after these men who have so often opened to them the treasures of God's Word, they will surely endanger their souls. Jesus is the only true Pattern. *Everyone must now search the Bible for himself upon his knees before God, with the humble,*

We must take time to pray.

If we allow our minds to be absorbed by worldly interests, the Lord may give us time by removing from us our idols of gold, of houses, or of fertile lands.

which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" John 18:11.

Principles of Prayer

We were told above that "we must take time to pray." In my article last month, we looked at four principles to incorporate into our prayer experience:

1. Have a place to pray. See Matthew 6:6; *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, 84.

2. Have a time to pray. See Psalms 5:3, 141:2; *Education*, 259.

3. "Learn to pray aloud where only God can hear you." *Our High Calling*, 130.

4. "If the mind wanders, we must bring it back." *The Sanctified Life*, 93.

Now, let us add two more aspects to the recipe for effectual prayer:

5. Mix study of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy with your prayer.

Consider this sobering passage from *Testimonies*, vol. 5, in the chapter, "The Seal of God":

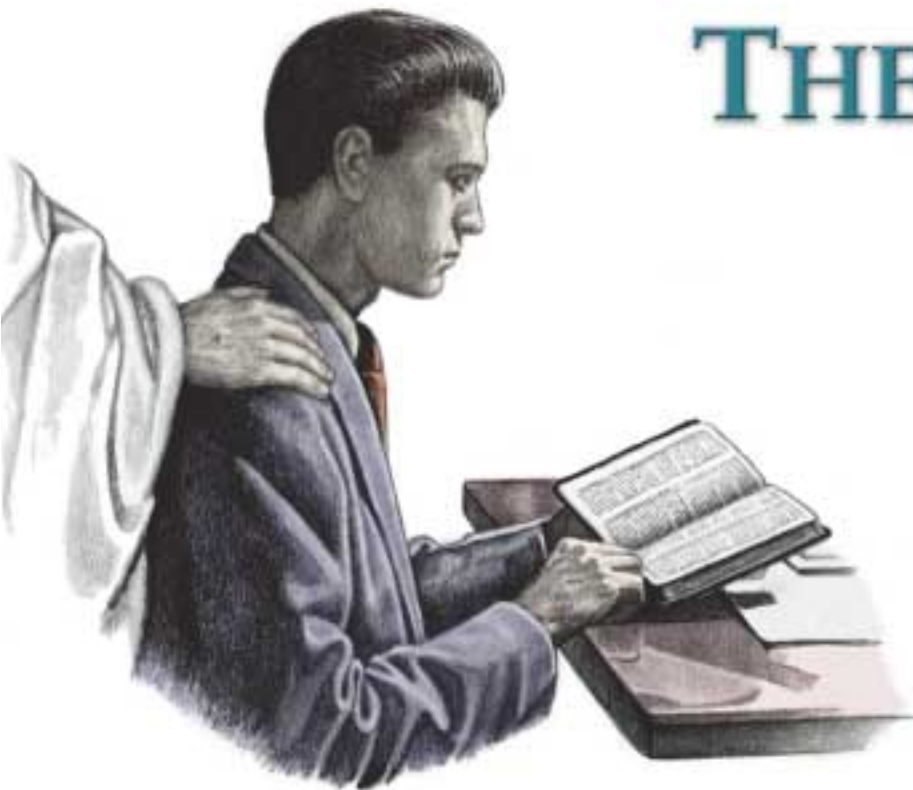
teachable heart of a child if he would know what the Lord requires of him." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 213-214.

6. Mix faith with your prayer.

When you pray, hold God to His promises. Fulfill the conditions for answered prayer, and then trust Him that He loves you and will do that which is best for you. See *Education*, 253. Many times we doubt whether God will really answer our prayer; in so doing we are only repeating the sin of Israel, for we are told that "the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it." Hebrews 4:2.

Jesus has promised us, "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24.

May each of us follow the Lamb today, that we might glorify Him and be prepared to stand alone as the crisis at the close of time draws nigh. ❀



THE WEAPON

Against

Satan's

Delusions

ELLEN G. WHITE

*Our only safety is found in knowing and believing
"every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."*

Satan is continually seeking to influence human minds by his subtle arts. His is a master-mind, given of God, but prostituted with all its noble capabilities to oppose and to make of no effect the counsels of the Most High. He had an advanced experience in his connection with the God of heaven, and he wields his knowledge of the attributes of God in such a way as to misinterpret the divine character. Satan was an apostate, and all who follow in the way of apostasy will work in the same lines of evil. There was a time when Satan was in harmony with God, and it was his joy to execute the divine commands. His heart was filled with love and joy in serving his Creator, until he began to think that his wisdom was not derived from God, but was inherent in himself, and that he was

as worthy as was God to receive honor and power. When he found that he could not be as God, he was filled with rebellion, and would not submit his will to the will of God.

When men apostatize from the truth, many will raise the question, What is the reason this has happened? And when they can find no reason for apostasy, they will be inclined to believe that the apostates have never had a genuine experience in the truth and cause of God, that they were wholly insincere in their professions; but this is not safe reasoning. What was it [that] caused Satan to rebel? Was there any just reason that could be assigned for his sin? The place where sin originated has been pointed out, but the reason for sin cannot be found; for there is no reason for its existence. It is written

of Satan, "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." Ezekiel 28:15. All who apostatize are destitute of any real excuse. Their apostasy will be manifested in rebellion and self-exaltation, as it was seen in the first apostate. Of him it is written, "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness." Verse 17.

The Lord Himself gave to Satan his glory and wisdom, and made him the covering cherub, good, noble, and exceeding lovely. But beauty, wisdom, and glory were bestowed upon God's creature as a gift of love. For like reasons the Lord has bestowed upon human agencies talents of intellect, qualities of mind and character, that they may be able

to fill positions of trust, and glorify their Creator and Redeemer. But, like Satan, men become lifted up in self because of their beauty and wisdom, and pervert their talents, and corrupt their characters, and use their God-given gifts for the glory of self rather than for the glory of God and the good of others. The whole world has been corrupted by the false principles Satan has led men to follow.

Satan works with his arts of infatuation, and weaves a spell about the human mind. The power of spiritual witchcraft steels the heart so that it is not susceptible to heavenly influences, which would counteract the power of the deceptive infatuation. Satan is the root of all deception, the origin of all falsehood, and it was through his witchcraft that the enchanters and sorcerers were bold to withstand Moses, imitating the miracles he wrought. It is Satan who presents the world before the mind in an attractive light, who makes the glories of empires pass before the vision as he did before Christ, promising, "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." Matthew 4:9.

Satan came to Christ in the wilderness of temptation and presented before Him in a magnificent panoramic view the splendors of the kingdoms of the earth, and promised all their power to Christ if He would but assent to the superiority of the prince of evil. Satan pretended to doubt the divinity and mission of Christ, and asked of Him a sign of His authority and power. He had said, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." Verse 3. "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." Verse 6. But at his audacious request that Christ should bow down and worship him, divinity flashed through humanity, and Jesus said, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him

only shalt thou serve." Verse 10. Satan had the evidence he desired in his summary dismissal, and, under the rebuke of Him who was equal with God, he fled from the field of conflict, a conquered foe.

Jesus endured the temptations of Satan in our behalf, that in His name we might come off more than conquerors. But we can overcome only by believing in every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God.

With what awe and reverence and humiliation should we come to the searching of the Scriptures, that we may learn of eternal realities. When the spell of Satan is broken, and the Bible becomes to us the living Word of God, we shall be safe in following our convictions of duty; for if we watch unto prayer, they will be inspired by the Spirit of God. Let everyone study the Bible, knowing that the Word of God is as enduring

The Bible is a divine communication, and is as verily a message to the soul as though a voice from heaven were heard speaking to us.

We must know what is written in order that we may not be defeated by the sophistry and enchantments of Satan. The wily foe will work upon our minds in such a way that he will lead us to follow in the way he has gone, and cause us to dream of greatness, worldly honor, and distinction. If we have been ensnared by his enchanting power, let us in the name of Jesus rebuke his power, and break with Satan without delay. Whatever may be the character of the draught you have taken, in whatever way Satan may have led you to exalt self at the expense of Jesus, through the power of divine grace escape from the delusion, away with the infatuation. We inquire, "Who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth?" Galatians 3:1.

Those who cry unto God for deliverance from the terrible spell that Satan would weave about them will set a high estimate upon the Scriptures. Our only safety is in receiving the whole Bible, not taking merely detached portions, but believing the whole truth. Your feet are upon sliding sand if you depreciate one word that is written. The Bible is a divine communication, and is as verily a message to the soul as though a voice from heaven were heard speaking to us.

as the eternal throne. If you come to the study of the Scriptures in humility, with earnest prayer for guidance, angels of God will open to you its living realities; and if you cherish the precepts of truth, they will be to you as a wall of fire against the temptations, delusions, and enchantments of Satan.

It is the wisdom of God that makes men great. The utterances of men are to be judged, because they are the fruit of human ability, and work either good or evil according to the source from which men draw their inspiration; but the Word of God is able to save your souls, to make you wise unto salvation. The Psalmist says, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalm 119:11. Then let us hide the Word of God in our hearts, that we may "be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Ephesians 6:13. "For 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." Verse 12. ✠

Signs of the Times, September 18, 1893.



John Korponay

A HUMANOID IN THE MANGER

News Item: By the time you are reading this, a human baby has been born as a result of cloning. However, what is so shocking – and what should get our attention – is the assertion in the following quotation about the type of cloning that is being contemplated:

“Under the mantle of research and medical therapeutics, embryo engineering is creating other forms of life with blurry status as human beings. These humanoids would share a common taxonomy: They would all be handmade, asexual in origin, and they’d all develop in the custody of science, not parents. . . .”

“While some fringe groups are determined to push ahead, reputable scientists are developing human clones that will be used only for research. Indeed, last week Stanford University became the first institution of such stature to announce a privately funded effort to make human clones for stem cell harvest. . . .”

The author goes on to say that the injection of human stem cells into an early animal embryo would make a half-man half-animal humanoid:

“The least likely but most unsettling humanoid would be the half-breed, made by cross-species fertilization. In 1994, NIH [National Institutes of Health] scientific advisers said no such studies should be funded, except in the context of testing men for infertility – and even then, only if the fertilized egg were not allowed to develop. Even so, the half-breed is within the realm of biologic possi-

bility.” *U.S. News & World Report*, December 23, 2002.

End-Time Perspective: Through Inspiration God has revealed to us that this type of science was practiced by humanity long before our day and time. As we see, it was for this sin that almost the entire human race was destroyed by the flood:

“But if there was one sin above another which called for the destruction of the race by the flood, it was the base crime of amalgamation of man and beast which defaced the image of God, and caused confusion everywhere. God purposed to destroy by a flood that powerful, long-lived race that had corrupted their ways before him.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, 64. All signs indicate that we are now at the same point of corruption.

SMOOTH MARKETING FOR SUNDAY REST DAY

Unless you are experiencing God’s Sabbath rest on His day that Hebrews 4:1–11 tells us about, sooner or later you will be deceived into entering a rest of your own making. Consider the following:

“TGiS!™ - *Thank God it’s Sunday!*” is an interfaith campaign to help bring Sunday back to the Lord. Initially developed in the Catholic community it is a message intended for all faiths and believers.

“TGiS!™ is a grassroots campaign to bring Sunday back to the Lord. It had its beginning in August, 1998 at the St. Paul, Minnesota based Catholic Aid Association annual convention. Bishop Paul Dudley, in his homily to the delegates attending the convention’s Sunday Mass, eloquently spoke of the importance of Pope John Paul II’s apostolic letter, *Dies Domini*, (Day of the Lord.) At the conclusion of his remarks, Bishop Dudley challenged all to take to heart the call by the Pope to return Sunday to the Lord. Sitting amongst the delegate[s] was Judy Kullman. It was Kullman, in her role as the

association’s vice president of Fraternal, who first brought to mind the phrase, *TGiS!™-Thank God it’s Sunday!*

“Kullman, with help from Karen Callinan, the Catholic Aid Association’s assistant director of Communications, developed a billboard and banner campaign seen throughout Minnesota, and parts of North and South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin. The 75 billboards and 135 banners proclaimed, TGiS!™: ‘The Supreme Day of Faith!’ . . .

“A booklet entitled, ‘Thank God it’s Sunday!’ was written by Kullman and included artwork by Colleen Brennan. . . .

“Key to the continual success of the TGiS!™ campaign is the involvement of others in helping to spread the TGiS!™ message. The TGiS!™ Awareness Kit has been created to help the reader or others interested in returning Sunday to a day of worship and rest. As simply stated by Father James Wolnik, pastor at the Church of the Holy Childhood, St. Paul, Minnesota: ‘First, give God your best and *take the rest of the day for yourself!*’ [Emphasis supplied].” *The Eternal Gospel Herald*, vol. 2, no. 10. (All emphasis in the original except where otherwise noted.)

End-Time Perspective: The last sentence of the above news report sounds very logical to the carnal nature. Only by dying to self daily can we avoid being deceived and ensnared in the enemy’s traps.

NAMES CAN BE DECEIVING

News Item: “The Young Women’s Christian Association is changing its image to ‘empowering women and their families,’ which one YWCA chapter is doing by dispensing birth control pills and condoms to girls and women instead of promoting Christian values as the name would suggest. Crystal McNeal, a spokesperson for the YWCA of Greater Milwaukee,

told *CNSNews.com* that it has been ‘a very, very long time’ since the organization focused on promoting Christian values. ‘Now the focus is on empowering women and their families.’ As evidence of the change, the YWCA of Greater Milwaukee

partnered with Planned Parenthood. *CNSNews.com* reported that McNeal said the YWCA has been practicing a ‘progressive’ approach to women’s health issues, including contraception and abortion, since the feminist movement heated up in

the 1960s and 1970s. She added that the YWCA of Milwaukee has not encountered opposition to its abandonment of its Christian foundation.” *Crosswalk.com*, Religion Today Summaries for November 22, 2002. ✠

Continued from page 7

evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.” Ephesians 4:11.

How often, however, do we recognize the holiness of this work?

“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” Verse 12.

Those who are preaching that we cannot overcome sin – that Christian character perfection is not possible in the power of the Holy Spirit – are unfaithful to their ordination, for their whole purpose ought to be to encourage men and women to find the character of Christ, to encourage the saints to seek Christian character perfection.

There is another duty which today many ordained men ignore: “Till we all come in the *unity* of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.” Verse 13.

A celebration training manual was published by the Church Ministries Department of the Pacific Union Conference in 1991. This manual is entitled *Creative Sabbath Morning Alternatives – Revitalizing Sabbath School and Church*. Brother Vance Ferrell, in his *Waymarks 1097*, has provided excellent documentation that the manual contains deceitful and subtle material designed to convince believers to alter their holy worship style and seek God in the Pentecostal manner as designed by Satan.

Where are the church elders to cry aloud, “Halt!” We need leaders who are men of conscience; men who do not consider their popular-

ity among leadership or among laity; men who will not silence their voices in order to retain their positions in denominational work or within a local church congregation. God is calling for men who will serve Him with faithfulness. It is time for these men to commence rebuilding the great pillars of the faith, clearing the old ways of the terrible apostasy that has been piled upon them. God needs men of unusual qualities today, men who will no longer sit in silence while Satan has a field day in God’s holy church.

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.” Verses 14–15.

Do we want unity? – Brethren and sisters, God demands unity! It is time for us to stop going into new deviations from the truth. It is time for us to rebuild the old waste places; to restore the breaches in the faith; to re-establish the mighty pillars of God’s Word; and to clear the paths of error and folly that God’s truth may be established.

Today, rather than having men who are as true to duty as the needle is to the pole, we have men who are false to their duty, and bear no likeness to the duty that the needle has to the pole. Today, instead of men who cannot be bought or sold, men standing erect as the spiritual guardians of the people, we have many men who accept bribes in the form of position, in the form of the

expectation of receiving satisfactory sustenance, rather than standing by the pillars of the faith. See *Education*, 57.

There are many ordained brethren who believe the truth. I speak sincerely to these individuals: Cease your silence! Do not have the charge of cowardice leveled against you in the judgment! I plead with such men: Be faithful to your ordination vows. Stand with truth no matter how unpopular it is! Your eternal salvation depends upon that which God has called you to undertake in the sanctity and fidelity that God expects of you. Do not pull back from duty when opposition arises, when organizational denunciation is received, when church discipline is threatened. Trust God, serve Him faithfully, and stand tall in His armor.

“And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.” ✠

Notes:

¹ See *Keepers of the Faith* by Colin and Russell Standish available from Hartland Publications, PO Box 1, Rapidan, VA 22733.

² You may request a subscription to the *Remnant Herald* newsletter by writing: The Remnant Herald, P.O. Box 175, Kalorama, Victoria 3766, Australia. Email requests may be sent to remnantherald@optusnet.com.au.

³ See *Winds of Doctrine* by Colin and Russell Standish.

Russell Standish writes from Victoria, Australia, where he is the director of the Remnant Herald ministry.



Unified By the Spirits

VS.

One in the Spirit



*Under whose banner
will you be united?*

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

Jesus prayed for unity. But there is a difference in the unity Jesus wanted us to have, and the unity that is being urged upon us by the frog-spirit led ecumenical thrust. Is it possible to discern which kind of unity is being urged within our own churches? — Notice this quotation from one of the main books of the Promise Keepers movement to get a clue as to why unity is important to them:

"Alone we can't change much; you can't, either, but together, with a million brothers — committed Promise Keepers, we can influence a nation. We can demonstrate that what history, the political process, and the legal system could not do, faith, obedience, repentance and unity in Jesus can change." *The 7 Promises of a Promise Keeper*, 169.

While this statement seems to imply a noble goal, it is evident from the political agenda of Promise Keepers and likeminded organizations that their objective is to force

their will upon the nation through the political process.

We can do it if we get together. We can get what we want by force of numbers. We can take Christ by force and make Him king to further our aims. Down through the ages we see that the dragon powers have always tried to rule by force of numbers.

The Bible gives us one of the best examples of the work of the "Moral Majority." Led and encouraged by their religious leaders, the Jews united to use their political clout to get what they wanted from the government.

And what important thing was it that the three factions of Jewish society united against? — It was Jesus. They hated that obscure Galilean Teacher who was seriously hampering their total control of the people. They joined forces to crucify the Son of God.

This is a parallel of our own day, where we see the three main divisions of the religious world, hating each other, yet uniting together to use their political clout to get what they want from the Pilates of today.

The Unity of the Three Frogs

How can those who have only enmity for one another unite? — The same way the three factions of the Jews united in Christ's day. They united on common grounds, ignoring the myriad things they did not have in common:

"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.*" *Review and Herald*, May 8, 1888. (All emphasis supplied by the author unless otherwise noted.)

Illustrations: Bob Bresnehan; Color: Teresa Grosboll

The three frog-spirits of Revelation 16:13 – spiritualism, the Roman beast power, and the false prophet of apostate Protestantism – have something in common: hatred for the truth, rebellion against God’s law, and a lust for power to force their ideas on others. Ultimately, each of these forces intend to destroy the other two to achieve supreme authority.

The great controversy started at the very beginning when Lucifer rebelled and severed himself from the unity that had existed in the heavenly realms. He began with intensity to circulate among the angels, seeking by any means to get them to join him in unity against God and to agree that he should be equal with Christ.

Those who depart from the will of God strongly desire the company and approval of others. The larger the group they can identify with, the more comforting it is to hearts that have set themselves in array against their Creator. As rebellion in this world becomes universal, we see an intense desire among people to “join” something, a need to be a member, to be part of a group. Individuality, freedom to decide for ones’ self which is the better way, and courage to stand alone for truth is almost obsolete in our media-controlled, politically-correct, organization-obsessed society.

The very concept of “majority rule” is a Satanic invention, for since Satan established sin in our world the majority of people have almost always been on his side. In that infamous impromptu election on Passover Friday, Barabbas had a clear majority. However, in light of the unfallen worlds, one person united with God is a true majority.

The “unifying” spirit is so strong these days, that there are groups for every aspect of life that people feel they need to join – prenatal groups, children’s groups, sports groups, hobby groups, senior’s groups, and so on. Yet, in all this uniting it is most interesting that the one group that God established from the beginning and placed sacred bounds around is being split,

divided, fractured, and intruded into. Today, more and more people identify with their groups and less with their families.

Even family worship, which used to be like a sacred flame in the family circle, is difficult these days, because everybody “knows” that children have to have their own books, women have theirs, men have theirs, and teens have theirs, and to even suggest that all people

them. Here is someone who will not agree that they are in the right. Here is someone who says they are wrong in the sight of God.

Why was torture so much a part of the persecution used against true believers? – Because just killing them does not really give the assurance and satisfaction the apostate craves; he wants to be assured that he is right. He wants all to agree with him. If he can force

Sinners need company; they need approval, because the constant nag of the Holy Spirit in the conscience torments them, and if they can get others agreeing with them, then they feel assured.

need the very same spiritual food is to be considered a lunatic.

The Bible presents this joining together in associations as one of the signs of the end and makes it clear that God is not behind all this “grouping.” In fact, Inspiration tells us that the wicked are binding themselves into bundles to be burned: “Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces; and give ear, all ye of far countries: gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces. . . . Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid.” Isaiah 8:9, 12.

Sinners need company; they need approval, because the constant nag of the Holy Spirit in the conscience torments them, and if they can get others agreeing with them, then they feel assured. People may freely offer you a cigarette, an alcoholic drink, or a marijuana joint; but if you refuse their offer, they will likely start justifying their own indulgence. They will gladly share these harmful things; but seldom will anyone buy you a meal if you are in need.

Why is it that the wicked *need* to get everybody agreeing with them and united with them? – It is because the very sight of a true and faithful child of God is a torment to

the believer to agree with him, he feels more justified than if the believer just stands his ground and is killed.

True and False Unity in the Church

Today we are in a sad situation, for these same attitudes are clearly evident in the church. Many leaders cleave together and stick up for one another, even in the case of the most blatant transgression of God’s revealed will. The one presenting clear biblical evidence of wrongdoing often finds himself ostracized and condemned while the offending ones walk away, unrebuked, to go and do wrong again.

This false unity is what is being foisted on us within the church today. Spirit of Prophecy quotations that show the importance of unity are waved before us constantly, while warnings about wrong forms of unity are squelched. We are urged to be united, to obey church authority, to avoid speaking on subjects causing dissention, to submit to the church manual, church board, conference authority, and so on – anything but the inspired Word. So contrary to these concepts is God’s method of unity that many people fail to even recognize what it is.

True, lasting unity is impossible on any other ground than pure,

unadulterated truth. As I have stated before, the only unity that can occur in those not born again, fully surrendered to God, and walking in obedience to His will is a temporary agreement to unite against truth. Even Satan and his angels cannot agree except in their hatred for God.

It is time for us to learn the secret of real unity. Notice this warning:

“Just before His crucifixion, Jesus prayed for His disciples, ‘Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.’ John 17:17. *It is the duty of every one to search the Scriptures for himself.* We cannot accept the assertions of men as

inspired counsel. These same forces are working today to bring men together on one hand, and to scatter, confuse and corrupt the faithful on the other.

What are the methods Satan is employing to keep the faithful from a true, solid experience that would prepare them to stand against his wiles? – Read the following carefully:

“The experience of the past will be repeated. In the future, Satan’s superstitions will assume new forms. Errors will be presented in a pleasing and flattering manner. False theories, clothed with gar-

search the Scriptures to come to a mutual understanding. The idea of a centralized authority in the Christian church was so alien to them that it took hundreds of years before the bishop of Rome could finally take his seat as “head” of an apostate organization.

Let us go back to the time just after the Great Disappointment. Only a handful of scattered believers were clinging onto their faith. Even though confused and desolate, they were determined to do something about it. They were going to search the Scriptures and plead with God for light until they found out the *truth*. Prayer and Bible study was their whole focus. Soon light from God came, and they got a glimpse of the fact that the Scriptures indeed are a connected and harmonious chain of truth.

At one of these earnest prayer meetings, our loving Saviour gave the scattered little flock a precious, priceless gift. To a young girl, barely clinging by a thread to life, came the mighty angel of prophecy to bestow the Spirit of Prophecy in response to hearts who longed for nothing but the truth. Soon, as intense prayer and study continued, aided by revelations from this gift, a clear chain of truth began to be understood.

Old, non-biblical traditions and misunderstandings of Scripture began to fall from their minds like the scales fell from Paul’s eyes (see Acts 9:17–18), and they began to see a beautiful wholeness and harmony, never seen since apostolic days, when Jesus expounded to people from all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Now, I want you to take special notice of how those pioneers operated under the guidance of the Lord. God was calling forth and equipping a people to bear His last message of mercy to a perishing world – a clear, united message – and how was it done?

“Many of our people do not realize how firmly the foundation of our faith has been laid. My husband [James White], Elder Joseph Bates, Father [Stephen] Pierce, Elder

There is need for unity among us; but we are also warned that this unity is not to be like that of the world. Unity must never be purchased by laying aside even one particle of truth.

infallible. *To those who oppose and denounce our faith we say, Show us from the Bible that we are in error.* God’s Word is to judge us at the last day, and we want to know what saith the Scripture. We are regarded with jealousy and bitterness because we will not accept as evidence the assertions of men and the testimony of the Fathers; but we cannot purchase peace and unity by sacrificing the truth. *The conflict may be long and painful, but at any cost we must hold fast the Word of God. ‘The Bible, and the Bible only,’ must be our watchword.”* *Historical Sketches*, 197.

There is need for unity among us; but we are also warned that this unity is *not* to be like that of the world. Unity must never be purchased by laying aside even one particle of truth.

At Baal-Peor, Satan could not harm God’s people unless he got them into sin first. The frog spirits that promote the coming together of the powers for the final battle are also penetrating among us with pleasing sophistries designed to distract and distance us from God’s

ments of light, will be presented to God’s people. Thus Satan will try to deceive, if possible, the very elect. *Most seducing influences will be exerted; minds will be hypnotized.*

“Corruptions of every type, similar to those existing among the antediluvians, will be brought in to take minds captive. The exaltation of nature as God, the unrestrained license of the human will, the counsel of the ungodly – these Satan uses as agencies to bring about certain ends. He will employ the power of mind over mind to carry out his designs. *The most sorrowful thought of all is that under his deceptive influence men will have a form of godliness, without having a real connection with God.* Like Adam and Eve, who ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, many are even now feeding upon the deceptive morsels of error.” *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 293.

Keys to Unity

What united the early pioneers? What united the early apostolic church? – These brethren of faith would come together to pray and

[Hiram] Edson, and others who were keen, noble, and true, were among those who, after the passing of the time in 1844, searched for the truth as for hidden treasure. I met with them, and we studied and prayed earnestly. Often we remained together until late at night, and sometimes through the entire night, praying for light and studying the Word. Again and again these brethren came together to study the Bible in order that they might know its meaning, and be prepared to teach it with power. When they came to the point in their study where they said, 'We can do nothing more,' the Spirit of the Lord would come upon me, I would be taken off in vision, and a clear explanation of the passages we had been studying would be given me, with instruction as to how we were to labor and teach effectively. Thus light was given that helped us to understand the Scriptures in regard to Christ, His mission, and His priesthood. A line of truth extending from that time to the time when we shall enter the city of God, was made plain to me, and I gave to others the instruction that the Lord had given me." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 206–207.

Here is the answer: not by might (educational degrees), nor by power (force of numbers or centralized authority), but by my Spirit, saith the Lord. See Zechariah 4:6. The Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy were what gave us a harmonious, clear foundation of biblical doctrine.

What did they do when they had a situation where some were seeing it one way and others differently — did they take a vote? — No. They prayed and studied until light came clearly, and each one could wholeheartedly agree, "Yes, this is the Bible truth — I see it." Sometimes they had to separate and go home to pray and study for a while; but they kept coming back until everyone could unite on a clear, biblical foundation. Once a clear foundation of present truth was understood and they could see the harmony and connectedness of it, they were led by the Lord to travel and seek out

the scattered flock and carry the foundation to them.

As they presented these Bible truths, most would come into harmony very quickly and with great joy, especially when they saw the working of the Lord through the mighty Spirit of the prophetic gift. A few, of course, would not believe even after they were clearly shown from the Bible; and these, after a time, went into darkness and walked no more with the little flock.

Friends, we have the secret of unity; and it is just what is being so viciously attacked within both the organized church and self-supporting ministries today — the *Spirit of Prophecy*. God knew we would need help in these terrible days when every wind of doctrine is howling around the faithful. Every false view and error that Satan has ever used in the past is now to be found taking souls to perdition. Brethren and sisters, we *have* a foundation, or else why would we be warned so much to stay on it and not allow anyone to tear it down?

Without the Spirit of Prophecy, our pioneers would never have come to see the connected chain of truth flowing harmoniously through the Word. Without the Spirit of Prophecy, the apostolic church would have failed in presenting a clear message to the world. The disciples had many wrong concepts; however, when Jesus showed them the pattern through the power of the Holy Spirit, they saw it, and unity and power was the result.

True Conversion Necessary

"All, high or low, if they are unconverted, are on one common platform. Men may turn from one doctrine to another. This is being done, and will be done. Papists may change from Catholicism to Protestantism; yet they may know nothing of the meaning of the words, 'A new heart also will I give you.' Ezekiel 36:26. Accepting new theories, and uniting with a church, do not bring new life to anyone, even though the church with which he unites may be established on the true foundation.

Connection with a church does not take the place of conversion. To subscribe the name to a church creed is not of the least value to anyone if the heart is not truly changed." *Evangelism*, 290–291.

True conversion is an experience based on the inspired Word of God when the heart is totally surrendered, and the inspired counsel is used as the ultimate authority both by the individual and collectively. Then only can real unity occur. Yet, remember that the truth only promotes unity among those who surrender to it and walk in it. Among those determined to go their own ways, it divides.

"Unless man is given the converting grace of heaven, he will have no disposition to oppose Satan's counsels, and will become the enemy's willing dupe. It is God alone who puts enmity to sin in the human heart. The Lord gives man a new mind. He causes the conflict that will not submit to Satan's deceptive reasoning. It is God who makes a conflict where heretofore there has been unity of action. It is the Lord's purpose that depraved human nature should, through His divine power, be provided with a renovating energy." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 13, 383.

Jesus prayed, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." John 17:21. What is the unity of Jesus? — Unity is being *in* God, and having God *in* us by His Holy Spirit. Outside of God, no true unity can ever exist. Therefore, regardless of what man may say or do, we as God's remnant must be united in Christ for His truth, standing firm on His Word, and the Spirit of Prophecy. Let us each do our part that Christ's prayer for us may be answered. ✽

Patricia Temple writes from Ontario, Canada.



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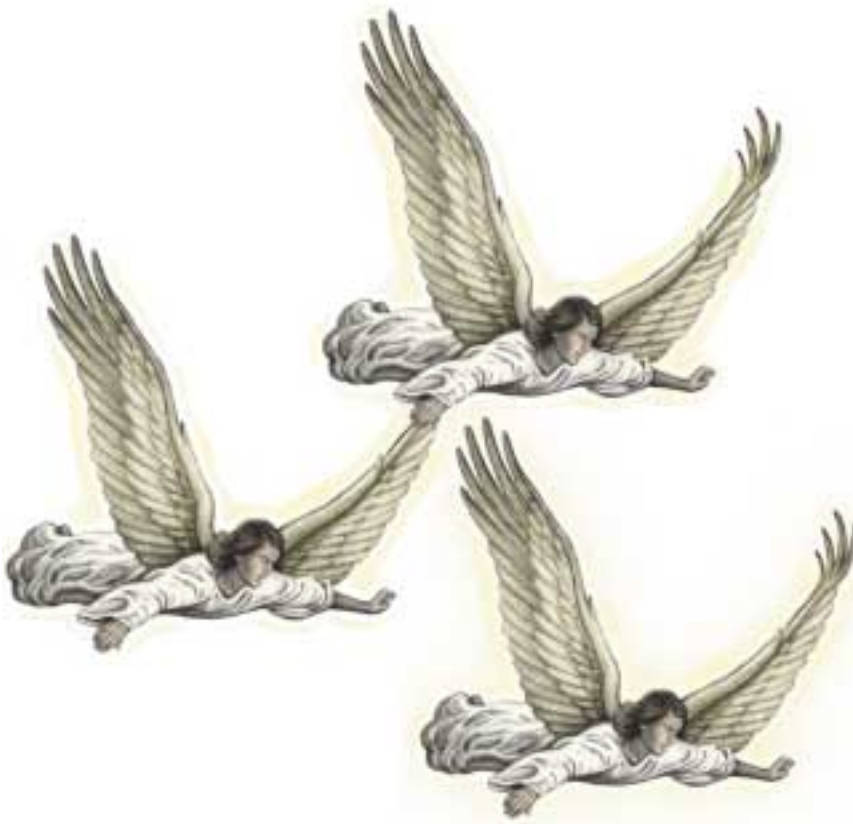
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Historic Adventism

PART I

Colin Standish

What are the chief characteristics of what has become known as "historic Adventism"?

Historic Adventism is a term commonly used to identify the beliefs of those who have opposed the intrusion of "new theology" into the Seventh-day Adventist Church beginning in the 1970s and 1980s. While agreeing that the roots of Seventh-day Adventism go back to the sixteenth-century Reformation, historic Adventists believe that God has shed much greater light upon His end-time people.

After the 1888 General Conference session in Minneapolis where righteousness by faith was the focus, Sister White defined the pillars of the Seventh-day Adventist faith:

"The passing of the time in 1844 was a period of great events, opening to our astonished eyes the cleansing of the sanctuary transpiring in heaven, and having decided relation to God's people upon the earth, [also] the first and second angels' messages and the third, unfurling the banner on which was inscribed, 'The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.' One of the landmarks under this message was the temple of God, seen by His truth-loving people in heaven, and the ark containing the law of God. The light of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment flashed its strong rays in the pathway of the transgressors of God's law. The non-immortality of the wicked is an old landmark." *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, 30.

An Emphasis on Present Truth

Historic Seventh-day Adventists emphasize belief in and proclamation of the message of Christ our righteousness, revealed through the study of such truths as the sanctuary message, the law of God, the seventh-day Sabbath, and man's mortality. They accept that these messages are central truths around which all other biblical truths cluster. They believe that these themes are to be strongly emphasized and that the lack of such emphasis by many preachers has caused Satan to gain a decided

advantage in the church. They support this view from the writings of Sister White.

“There are many precious truths contained in the Word of God, but it is ‘*present truth*’ that the flock needs now. I have seen the danger of the messengers running off from the important points of present truth, to dwell upon subjects that are not calculated to unite the flock and sanctify the soul. Satan will here take every possible advantage to injure the cause.

“But such subjects as the sanctuary, in connection with the 2300 days, the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, are

theology, they are often viewed as rigid and even intolerant. Yet, to them, it is essential that they remain unwaveringly faithful to God’s Word and to His righteousness. While loving the sinner and the apostate, they strongly contend for the faith against the views and conduct of those who bring false theories and practices into the church.

Some believe historic Seventh-day Adventists are reactionary – resistant to further light. However, historic Seventh-day Adventists have frequently been leaders in discovering the deeper, fuller truths of the Word of God. Whether in the area of doctrine, of lifestyle –

- and worship Him that made heaven and earth, the sea, and the fountains of waters.

It is wholly a God-centered gospel, falling neither into legalism nor antinomianism.¹ The Biblical concept of “fear God” fits perfectly into the end-time emphasis upon Christ our righteousness. Of all the biblical definitions of “fear God,” none surpasses God’s Old Testament definition:

“And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, to keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?” Deuteronomy 10:12–13.

This text reveals God as interested in the best good of His creation. If we are to achieve this best good, we are to follow the footsteps of Jesus, keeping His commandments. It leads us to recognize that this can be achieved only through the power of the indwelling Christ.

Historic Seventh-day Adventists believe that the everlasting gospel encompasses both justification *and* sanctification. This is in sharp conflict with a gospel of justification, which excludes sanctification. The difference is rooted in the very issue of salvation.

Historic Seventh-day Adventists believe that justification and sanctification are inseparable Siamese twins. To separate them is to annul them both. Justification is our forgiveness and pardon through faith in the blood of Christ. Sanctification is our purification through faith in the same blood. Historic Seventh-day Adventists believe that many reject sanctification as part of the gospel because they have accepted the Roman Catholic doctrine that sanctification is man’s good works. It is common to hear some people say that to place sanctification together with justification in the gospel is papal. Others have said that to put justification and sanctification

Historic Seventh-day Adventists believe that our title and fitness for heaven are anchored in Christ’s death and ministry.

perfectly calculated to explain the past Advent movement and show what our present position is, establish the faith of the doubting, and give certainty to the glorious future. These, I have frequently seen, were the principal subjects on which the messengers should dwell.” *Early Writings*, 63. (Emphasis in the original.)

Some Seventh-day Adventists may hanker after the past, but this is not true of the majority of historic Seventh-day Adventists. Had the members of the church in earlier times been united by a sanctifying truth, God’s people would have received the latter rain, the loud cry would have been given to the world, probation would have closed, and Jesus would have returned long before now. Rather than pining for the lost practices of the past, historic Seventh-day Adventists seek to establish that relationship with Jesus which will allow Him to transform their lives, so that this generation will not fail Jesus as have former generations.

Because historic Seventh-day Adventists reject the pluralistic concepts of much contemporary

including healthful living – or of Christian practice, they fervently believe that the path of the just shines more and more upon God’s people until the perfect day. See Proverbs 4:18. However, they are persuaded that no new light will conflict with established light. Their conviction is that much “light” being pressed upon the church today fails that criterion.

Support the Proclamation of the Everlasting Gospel

Historic Seventh-day Adventists acknowledge that the only gospel that will be proclaimed to every inhabitant of the earth is the everlasting gospel of Revelation 14:6–7. This is the gospel they understand must be known, believed, lived, and proclaimed to all. They see this as the gospel that Jesus identified would be “preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations” (Matthew 24:14) before His second coming. This gospel is in four segments –

- fear God;
- and give glory to Him;
- for the hour of His judgment is come;

together in the gospel is to commit spiritual adultery. Yet, the Bible teaches that the same faith that justifies, sanctifies. Jesus said, "That they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are *sanctified by faith* that is in me." Acts 26:18. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

The Bible teaches that the same blood that justifies also sanctifies. "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might *sanctify the people with His own blood*, suffered without the gate." Hebrews 13:12; see also Ephesians 5:25-27; Hebrews 10:10. This is the blood of the new covenant, which is able to make us "perfect in every good work." Hebrews 13:21.

Ellen White defines the role of good works in salvation as follows: "While good works will not save even one soul, yet it is impossible for even one soul to be saved without good works." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 377.

Historic Seventh-day Adventists believe that our title and fitness for heaven are anchored in Christ's death and ministry. Frequently the New Testament puts justification and sanctification together in the gospel. Texts used by historic Adventists include: "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins [justification], and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." Acts 26:18; see also Romans 8:1; Revelation 22:11; John 3:5; Matthew 6:12-13.

Historic Seventh-day Adventists find no heart-response in the Catholicism of Augustine, which limited the insights of some of the sixteenth-century Reformers. They see a dangerous similarity between Augustine's concept of salvation and that of many "gospels" currently finding acceptance in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They reject Augustine's concepts of original sin, predestination, once-saved-always-saved, and the unfallen nature of Christ.

Complete Victory Possible Through Christ

Historic Seventh-day Adventists base their assurance upon the all-sufficiency of Christ, recognizing that without Christ we "can do nothing." John 15:5. But "with God all things are possible." Mark 10:27. They confirm their faith by such promises as: "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25; see also 2 Peter 3:9; Titus 2:11; Jude 1:24.

Historic Seventh-day Adventists believe that salvation is by grace through faith. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9.

Historic Seventh-day Adventists accept by faith that all the efforts of Heaven are directed to

world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior 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 2:12-14; see also Zechariah 3:3-7; Philippians 2:13; Hebrews 9:14, 10:22, 13:21; 2 Peter 1:4-11; Galatians 5:16; Revelation 14:12.

Historic Seventh-day Adventists cannot understand how a people who once believed that the saints keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus can be turned 180-degrees by the arch-deceiver, so that now many believe Satan's lie that man cannot obey God's law. See *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 77. This falsehood implies that God does not have the power to provide victory, or He chooses not to exercise such power.

It is upon this issue of victorious Christian living that historic

They believe that the remnant will have a daily experience of victory through Christ; and until this happens, God's people cannot be entrusted with latter-rain power.

their salvation. God thus provides the power to resist the devil. See James 4:7. While human strength will not give victory over even one temptation, daily submission to God provides divine strength for constant victory.

Historic Seventh-day Adventists believe that the present tendency of many to declare that we cannot overcome sin in this life is a denial of the Scriptures. They believe such a denial is leading large numbers into carnal security while they are headed for eternal destruction. They maintain the Bible is clear on the issue:

"Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present

Seventh-day Adventists believe that the readiness of God's people for the return of Jesus is predicated. They believe that the remnant will have a *daily* experience of victory through Christ; and until this happens, God's people cannot be entrusted with latter-rain power.

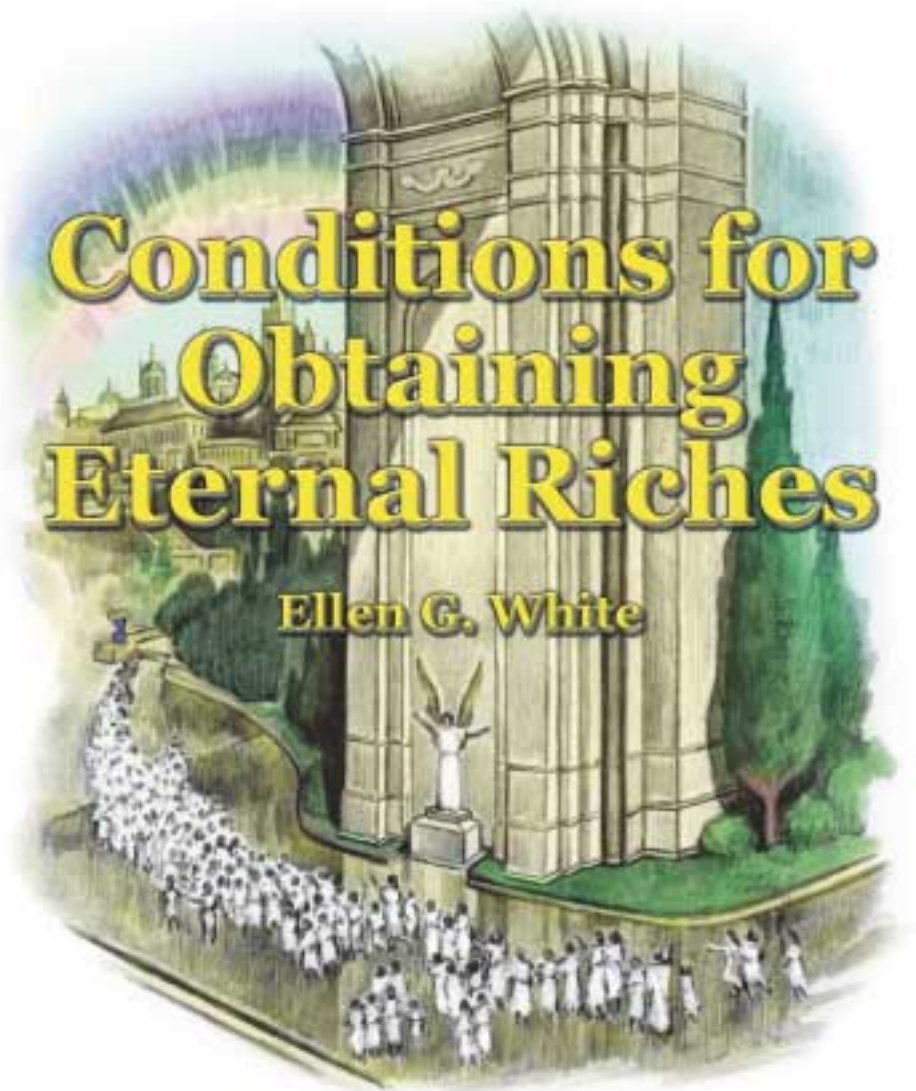
"The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth." Zephaniah 3:13. "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, *which keep the commandments of God*, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17.

Continued on page 30...

An infinite price has been paid for our redemption, and we should know that we are in the right way, walking in the path of humble obedience. We must bring our work, thought, and emotion to the Word of God, and have God impress upon our hearts His written Word; then may we have confidence toward Him. The Saviour says, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." John 15:10-11. We can see harmony in the Word of God. We are to be in a condition to keep God's commandments and live, and His law as the apple of the eye. It is true sanctification to love God with all the heart, and with all the mind, and with all the strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. We must be subject to the will of God. We must not make our feelings a standard, but God's will must be our rule of action.

Forty-five years ago, when I began my labors, we met with some of the most erroneous doctrines. One would say, "I have the truth because my feelings tell me so." Another would say, "The Spirit tells me that I have the truth." But how were they to know that they had the right spirit. There are two spirits in the world, the Spirit of Christ and the spirit of antichrist. They declared that they had gone beyond the Bible, and left that for those not so far advanced as themselves; for the Lord talked directly with them. As I stood with my Bible before them, pleading with them, they pushed me away, saying, "No, no, I don't want to hear anything about it. God has told me the way." We must know what saith the Scriptures. Let God be true and every man a liar. Not one of us must lose the eternal treasure that is laid up for the overcomer. A great sacrifice was made for us because God loved us.

Adam and Eve were placed upon probation in the garden of Eden, and they were tested as to



*Christ has paid the price for my salvation.
What must I do to receive it?*

whether they would render obedience to God's law. They fell from their allegiance through the temptation of the wily foe, and now a great and infinite sacrifice has been made that man may have another trial. And of all the creatures upon the face of the earth, we should be the most happy because this great sacrifice has been made in our behalf, that a just and holy God may accept our efforts to keep His law. We should come into a position where we will be determined to have salvation even at the cost of every earthly consideration; for a way has been devised whereby every one of us can be saved, and it is by coming back to our allegiance to Christ. And when we realize that the Heavenly Father gave His Son to assume humanity, to lift up the

fallen race, we will be ready to praise him.

This earth was the field of battle; here the Son of God had to contend with the wily foe in our behalf. Behold Him on Jordan's bank just before He entered the desert of temptation. He offered up a prayer such as heaven never heard before, and the heavens opened and the Spirit of God, like a dove of burnished gold, encircled the Son of God, and there was heard a voice, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17. Do you comprehend all that this scene signifies? It tells you that heaven is opened before you, and that your petitions will find access to the Father. After the transgression of Adam, God no longer communicated directly with man; earth was

separated, as it were, from the continent of heaven; but Jesus was made our substitute, our surety, that He might bring us back to the Father, and His human arm encircles the race, while His infinite arm reaches to the highest heavens, and thus He unites finite man to the infinite God, and connects earth with heaven. The voice that came from heaven to our Surety, tells us that heaven's portals are open and God hears our prayers, and that the light that enshrouded the Son of God will be over us if we follow in His way.

Christ passed from this scene of glory to one of the greatest temptation. He went into the wilderness, and there Satan met Him, and tempted Him on the very points where man will be tempted. Our Substitute and Surety passed over the ground where Adam stumbled and fell. And the question was, Will He stumble and fall as Adam did over God's commandments? He met Satan's attacks again and again with, "It is written" (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10), and Satan left the field of conflict a conquered foe. Christ has redeemed Adam's disgraceful fall, and has perfected a character of perfect obedience, and left an example for the human family, that they may imitate the Pattern. Had He failed on one point in reference to the law of God, He would not have been a perfect offering; for it was on one point only that Adam failed.

But He says, "I have kept my Father's commandments." He withstood the fiercest temptation upon appetite, which has had such a great influence upon the human family; so that whatever may be the habits and practices of men, they may overcome them in His name and through His merits. God saw that it was impossible for man to overcome in his own strength, with his own feeble moral power; yet man is required to exercise all the capabilities and powers that God has given him in order to overcome, and then he needs a higher power, and help has been laid upon One who is mighty to save. Divine power

may combine with human effort, that through Jesus man may stand free, a conqueror. Man may conquer perverted appetite. Though the moral image of God was almost obliterated by the sin of Adam, through the merits and power of Jesus it may be renewed. Man may stand with the moral image of God in his character; for Jesus will give it to him. Unless the moral image of God is seen in man, he can never enter the city of God as a conqueror.

Satan tempted Christ upon ambition. How many have been

with, "It is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Luke 4:8. We see many around us who will be allured by the things of earth. Satan presents these things in a flattering light to them, and they sell their souls for a little worldly gain, when Christ has presented to us eternal riches, on condition of obedience. Who can describe the exceeding great reward that is to be given to the Christian? Eternal riches are promised, and who can turn his eyes from this reward? We are

Christ has redeemed Adam's disgraceful fall, and has perfected a character of perfect obedience, and left an example for the human family, that they may imitate the Pattern.

ruined by ambition! They have had a knowledge of the truth, but they bring up their business, and say, "I cannot obey the truth on account of my business." And, again, "What will other people say? I cannot be different from the people around me." What does the voice of the good Shepherd say? What says the Master?—"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey?" Romans 6:16. We must not study how to serve ourselves, but to do the will of God. Christ left His glory, His majesty, and clothed His divinity with humanity, and came to our world; He was a Man of sorrow, and acquainted with grief. For our sakes He became poor that we through His poverty might become rich. And then after this infinite sacrifice has been made for us, what sacrifices are we willing to make for Jesus?

Satan came to Christ and presented another temptation. He took him upon an exceeding high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them in a moment of time, and promised to give them all to Him if He would only fall down and worship him. Christ resisted Satan

subject to failures in this world. A man may be worth his thousands one day, and it may be all swept away the next. Is it not meet to ask what we must do to secure eternal riches?

Jesus withstood all the temptations of Satan, and through Christ we may withstand them. Through Jesus we may overcome the love for earthly treasures. Our Saviour withstood on every point the test of temptation, and in this way He has made it possible for man to overcome. Now, there is enough in this idea, in this thought, to fill our hearts with gratitude every day of our lives. As Jesus was accepted as our Substitute and Surety, every one of us will be accepted if we stand the test and trial for ourselves. He took our nature that He might become acquainted with the trials wherewith man should be beset, and He is our Mediator and Intercessor before the Father.

Everyone that follows in the footsteps of Jesus keeps the commandments of God. Those who flatter themselves that God has told them that they need not keep His commandments because it interferes with their circumstances, make a sad mistake. It is another leader that

such are following, and not Jesus. We are to inquire what saith the Scriptures. We must have the law of God before us. Jesus suffered the severest temptation, and finally died upon Calvary's cross, thus demonstrating to the human family that the law of God is immutable, not one jot or one tittle can be changed; but Satan has deceived the Christian world with the story that Christ died to abolish the law. It was the cross of Calvary that exalted the law of God and made it honorable, and showed its immutable character,

them through thy truth: thy word is truth." John 17:17. Therefore, the sanctification of the Spirit of God upon the heart leads men to walk in the way of God's commandments. The very test that God brought upon Adam in Eden, will be brought upon every member of the human family. Obedience to God was required of Adam, and we stand in the same position that he did to have a second trial, to see whether we will listen to the voice of Satan and disobey God, or to the Word of God and obey. We must exercise

do not want to hear anything about them."

We must know that our feet are upon the eternal Rock. It is not for us to bring the Word of God to our feelings and ideas, but to bring these to the Word of God. "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20. We are in the perils of the last days, and Christ has said that false teachers shall arise in the world, and deceive many with their pernicious doctrines. Then how shall we know the true from the false? – "Ye shall know them by their fruits." Matthew 7:16. Do they teach obedience to the law of God, or do they teach men to break His commandments? We are living in a world of false doctrines, and we must know what is truth.

We do not inquire, What is for my convenience? but, What is God's Word? If Christ had studied His convenience, He would never have left heaven to come to our world to die, to hang upon the accursed tree for us. Jesus has died for you, and now what will you do for Jesus? He says, "Love one another; as I have loved you." John 13:34. And if you love Jesus, you will have your feet planted in the bloodstained footprints of the Man of Calvary, and at last those who have gained the victory will enter in through the gates into the city, and have a right to the tree of life.

God has given us reasoning faculties, and He wants us to use them. He has given us a chart which marks out for us the only right way to reach eternal life. Study the Scriptures for yourselves. Hear what the voice of the true Shepherd says to you, and then walk in the path of humble obedience, and at last the gift of eternal life will be granted to you. We cannot afford to lose eternal life. May God grant that we may meet this dear people around the great white throne, and with them sing the song of redemption in the kingdom of glory. ❀

Review and Herald, June 10, 1890.

"Believe, believe, believe in Jesus," is the soothing fallacy that is lulling many to sleep in the cradle of carnal security, and we need to be alarmed.

and thus it is demonstrated before all the worlds God has created, and before the heavenly angels, that the law is changeless. If God could have changed one iota of His law, Jesus need not have come to our world and died. But our Saviour, who was equal with God Himself, came into our world and suffered the death upon the cross, to give man another probation.

If this great and infinite sacrifice has been made in our behalf, let us ask ourselves what we are doing. Do we say, "Believe on Christ, and that is all you have to do"? It is our privilege to ask those who tell us this, what we shall believe. The words of Satan ever lead to disobedience, but the voice of God in His Word leads to a perfect obedience. We must have the faith that works by love and purifies the soul from every stain of sin. What is sin? – The only definition that is given to you in the Word of God, is, "Sin is the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:4. The apostle says, "Where no law is, there is no transgression." Romans 4:15.

The law of God is the one great standard that will measure every man's character in the day of God. The prayer of Christ was, "Sanctify

repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

There is no power in the law to save the transgressor of the law from the penalty, but the penalty has been paid by Jesus. It was because the Father loved us that He gave His only begotten Son to die for us. John says, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." 1 John 3:2. It is no cheap faith that we are to have. "Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." Verse 3. Every sin will be put away from us because it is an offense to God, and we will bring ourselves into harmony with God.

"Believe, believe, believe in Jesus," is the soothing fallacy that is lulling many to sleep in the cradle of carnal security, and we need to be alarmed. When you bring Jesus into your daily life and character, you will not talk of your feelings, but of what God hath said. When Christ is in the soul, then we will work for those around us who are in darkness. There will not be heard from any man, "Give me Christ, but away with the commandments of God, I



A few months ago, we studied the Two Sanctuaries—one on earth and the other in heaven. Now we are going to look at what is happening today in that heavenly sanctuary.

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:

Investigative Judgment

IJ 1: 2 Corinthians 5:10.

- 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 IJ.**”

- Go through the study to check for broken links.

- Share the study with others!

Investigative Judgment

Code: IJ

IJ 1: 2 Corinthians 5:10.

All mankind has a court summons pending. There are three phases to any court case: 1. Investigation 2. Sentencing 3. Execution of the sentence.

IJ 2: Revelation 22:12.

The investigative part will be done before Jesus’ second coming since He brings our reward with Him.

IJ 3: Revelation 20:12.

Everyone will be judged out of the records that have been kept in heaven.

IJ 4: 1 Peter 4:17.

The professed followers of God will be the first to be judged.

IJ 5: Revelation 12:9-10.

Satan, though he can no longer appear in the heavenly court, is still the accuser – the “prosecuting attorney.”

IJ 6: 1 John 2:1.

Jesus Christ, the righteous One, serves as our Advocate – our “defense attorney.”

IJ 7: Acts 3:19.

The record of the sins of God’s people – those who have been converted and have repented of their sins – will be blotted out.

IJ 8: Revelation 21:27.

The names of those who have accepted Jesus as their Saviour and Advocate are registered in the Lamb’s book of life.

IJ 9: Exodus 32:31-33.

The names of those who cherish sin will be blotted out of the book. See also Revelation 3:5.

IJ 10: Matthew 7:21-23.

Jesus said there are some who claim to be Christians and think they do service for God whom He will not recognize.

IJ 11: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.

This is the criteria by which we will be judged.

IJ 12: Matthew 7:16-20.

Our works reveal our faith. See also James 2:17.

IJ 13: Daniel 7:9-10.

God gave Daniel a glimpse of the heavenly sanctuary – where God’s throne is – and the beginning of the judgment.

IJ 14: 1 John 2:1-6.

Let us keep our eyes on Jesus who is still advocating our cases today.

The Shadow of Egypt



Fred Volz

In the shadow of Egypt, you can make your earthly dreams come true—as long as you agree to abide by its rules and play its games.

“**W**oe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin: that walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt!”
Isaiah 30:1-2.

The children of Israel came out of many years of slavery to Pharaoh only to find themselves wanting to go back and live in the relative security of what they had become accustomed to. Because they refused to obey God and abide in His shadow, Israel had to wander in the desert, eating the food that God provided. It was not enough to get the Hebrews out of Egypt; He had to get Egypt out of the Hebrews. So, they circled the desert for 40 years until the last idolater died. Israel’s

example showed that those who do not abide in God and obey His commandments will yearn for the self-based comforts of the world’s system and will die without seeing the Promised Land. There is no compromise between the two positions.

Please notice in the passage from Isaiah 30 that it is called the shadow of Egypt – not the shadow of Pharaoh. Why? – Pharaoh is a type of Satan, and even though Satan is the king of the world’s system (Egypt), it is the system itself that God has condemned and Satan with it. We must not only reject Satan himself but also his system, which from a Christian point of view may contain some things that seem “good.”

The difference between God’s kingdom and Satan’s can be summed up in one word, “selfless.” We are required to take up our

crosses daily and follow the Messiah, crucifying ourselves with Him. The term “selfish Christian” is a contradiction of terms, because fulfillment of self is what the world is all about. In reality, the world’s system is a place of opportunity and self-fulfillment; of wealth and temporal happiness.

In the shadow of Egypt (at least in the United States), you can make your earthly dreams come true – as long as you agree to abide by its rules and play its games. It is a place where you can make millions of dollars playing a kid’s game like basketball, or win 100 million dollars in the lottery. It is a place where you can live out sexual fantasies and watch others doing the same. You can be a witch, a psychic, a tarot card reader, or a Satanist. You can also call yourself a Christian.

Yes, just as there were Hebrews who longed for Egypt and Jews who worked for Rome, there are “Christians” who belong to the spiritual Egypt of our day, with “Christian” teachers encouraging them every step of the way.

These teachers are false prophets, who prophesy peace and prosperity to the disobedient. They are the false teachers who try to convince you that God’s shadow is legalistic bondage, just like the faithless Hebrews who cried, “It would have been *better for us* to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.” Exodus 14:12, NKJV. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

Jesus gave another illustration in Matthew 10:39: “He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.”

While the children of Israel said that a life of serving Egypt was better than death, Jesus said just the opposite – that death for His sake was better than life for your own sake, which is the very essence of the shadow of Egypt. Likewise, Satan would have you think that a life of compromise with the world is *better for us* than allowing ourselves to be killed by the letter (crucified in the flesh) so that the Spirit may give

life. See 2 Corinthians 3:6. Those who are in harmony with Satan would rather believe they have life by voiding the letter and then pretending that their emotions and esoteric experiences are evidences of the Spirit's presence.

Many Christians are ignorantly retreating to Egypt by cherishing the idea that it is acceptable to abide in Egypt's shadow. Even worse, some would have the church reflect that shadow, competing with the world on its terms – all in order to *win* the world. Even if you ignore this whole teaching, remember this one question: "How can Satan cast out Satan?" Mark 3:23. The church will never be as good at being the world as the world is at being itself. The most lively and emotional church service will never fulfill the hunger of the flesh – which grows as you feed it. We must stop pretending that God promises complete gratification of self when in reality God requires abandonment of self as evidence of His grace working in us.

During my time in the charismatic church, I saw things that were obviously supernatural. Gold flakes forming on people's faces, wind blowing through the building, and people prostrate on their faces were just a few of the many "manifestations" I witnessed. However, some of the same people who were "prostrate before the presence of God" were living in unmarried sin – and without any plans to change the situation. In spite of the great things "God" was showing, others had no intention of living anything but a worldly lifestyle, for they felt that to actually obey God's commandments would mean that "Christ died for nothing." They actually felt these "manifestations" were evidence that their sin was not that important to God because, if it were, why would God reward them with manifestations of His presence?

Those people who trust in supernatural manifestations as an indication of God's approval should remember that, while God provided manna to the children of Israel, those who coveted Egypt and

its shadow never entered the Promised Land.

When Jesus calmed the storm, He calmed it for all the boats on Galilee, not just His own boat. So, even if these signs are real, it is certainly no indication that these ministries, or their messages, are true. It could also be that many of these signs and wonders are counterfeits, just like the counterfeit miracles that Pharaoh's magicians did to make Egypt ignore God's judgment and true miracles. "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it

Many of these signs and wonders are counterfeits, just like the counterfeit miracles that Pharaoh's magicians did to make Egypt ignore God's judgment and true miracles.

is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20.

One of the most sobering verses for us to keep in mind in these last days is one that most preachers avoid: "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12.

There are only two shadows for you to live in, God's or Egypt's. The question is not who will win the great controversy – God or Satan; God can crush Satan at His will anytime He wishes. Rather, the question is who will win the battle in your mind – a decision to be made according to your own free will.

There are many "Christian" teachers and prophets who will soothe your itching ears with promises of prosperity and success,

and you may choose to heap these up for yourself in fulfillment of prophecy: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." 2 Timothy 4:3-4.

You can silence the small voice inside you that makes you just a little uncomfortable when confronted with the truth; it is a *small voice* after all. You can ignore sobering talk about crucifying the

flesh, putting on the new man who was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. See Ephesians 4:24; 5:9. You can listen to the false prophets and false teachers who will stroke your selfish bent with fables.

You ask, "What fables?" – Fables such as, "Jesus was really a rich man who wore designer clothes." My favorite fable: "Rich people bring more glory to God than poor people do, so God wants us all to be millionaires." And half-truths like: "Don't worry if you're living a sinful lifestyle, God's love is bigger than your sin."

If you do not have a love for the truth, you will fall for these lies and many others, which all basically say the same thing: "You can abide in God's shadow and Egypt's too," or, "You can have Jesus and your idols too." However, if you listen to that still, small voice of the Holy Spirit and study God's Word, you will know that such a life is not possible. ✨

Fred Volz is a freelance writer living in Aloha, Oregon.

Sanctification Essential for True Unity

In His prayer, Christ gave the key to unity. “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17.

Until God’s people are sanctified by truth, they cannot be unified, and God cannot entrust them with the Holy Spirit, for myriads would spurn the truth presented because of the character defects of those presenting the truth. Thus, God calls for a people who are sanctified in obedience to the truth. See Ephesians 4:12–15.

Peter puts the principle beautifully. “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.” 1 Peter 1:22.

When we recognize that Jesus is the Truth (see John 14:6), the Christ-centeredness of this message is not lost. Sister White seconds the Bible when she says, “There is no sanctification aside from the truth – the Word.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 432.

This sanctification brings unity. “Unity is the sure result of Christian perfection.” *The Sanctified Life*, 85.

With this understanding and their heartfelt desire for unity, it becomes obvious why historic Seventh-day Adventists are so protective of biblical truth. It is hardly surprising that they out-of-hand reject pluralism as a tool of deception. They resolutely resist any concept that implies more than one pathway to salvation. They believe that truth is to be cherished, protected, and above all, through Christ, must become the living pulsation of their lives. Accepting that righteousness by faith is the basis of true conversion, they believe that the rest of the everlasting gospel follows logically. They sense that the first object of their mission is to teach the true prin-

ciples of conversion, for once our lives have been wholly surrendered to Christ, then minds will be open to the other precious truths of Scripture.

Following the message of conversion is the call to “give glory to Him.” The converted person will seek God’s glory through good works (see Matthew 5:16), and will live a life that, by his dress and healthful lifestyle, attracts people to his Saviour (see 1 Peter 3:3–4; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

Historic Seventh-day Adventists see the message of the cross as integral to the sanctuary message and wholly essential to Christ’s High Priestly ministry. They see that the third segment of the Everlasting Gospel is focused upon the investigative judgment, emphasizing that their Saviour stands up for His people in the judgment. See Daniel 12:1; 7:22. This message provides wonderful hope for the billions of people on this earth who are weighed down with guilt.

In segment four of the everlasting gospel, they understand the Sabbath message acknowledges the sovereignty of Christ, His Creatorship, His Lordship, and His rightful claims to the allegiance and worship of all. They see the centrality of the Sabbath to sanctification (see Exodus 31:13) and to the sealing of the saints. They proclaim the Sabbath as the distinguishing sign of God’s faithful people at the end of time. This will be the final test of loyalty before the close of probation.

The Nature of Christ Vital to Understanding Other Doctrines

In the context of calls for repentance, reformation, and revival, historic Seventh-day Adventists believe that Jesus overcame in the human nature of fallen man. For some reason this has perhaps become the central battleground of the controversy, notwithstanding that, unlike many other issues, the pioneers were strongly agreed upon this doctrine. Historic Seventh-day Adventists affirm that a whole platform of biblical truth is established upon this understanding. It is central to their understanding of salvational principles, it influences their view of the second coming of Jesus, it pervades the sanctuary message, and it influences attitudes toward lifestyle and personal conduct.

Historic Seventh-day Adventists support their belief, not from pioneer traditions, but from the Bible. “Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was *made of the seed of David according to the flesh*.” Romans 1:3; see also Hebrews 4:15, 2:14–18; Romans 8:3–4; Galatians 4:4–5.

Historic Seventh-day Adventists believe that the concept of the unfallen nature of Christ leads logically to antinomianism and to the loss of myriads of souls for the kingdom of heaven. ✠

Note:

¹ Antinomianism: the belief that the gospel frees us from obedience to the law.

Are historic Adventists loyal to the church? What about the shaking? And how do historic Adventists relate to apostasy in the church? These questions and more will be addressed next month when we conclude our brief description of historic Adventism.



Please accept this donation with all the joy and love that it is sent, and use it to uplift, encourage, and spread the Word!

JK, Ohio

With the enclosed check we say “thanks” for *Our Firm Foundation* and the wonderful articles published — and especially the articles by Mrs. White.

CB, Tennessee

Enclosed is a check for a subscription to the *Our Firm Foundation* publication. The additional amount is for the building in Kenya. Not much, but according to my income!

FS, Nevada

I really appreciate the article “Simple Means” by Bill Humeniuk and am sharing it with friends. Thank you for the articles in your magazine. God bless you and guide you in your work is my prayer.

LC, California

Here is my renewal for another year of *Our Firm Foundation*. Use the extra for someone who cannot afford it. I sure enjoy my journal and share it with others.

ES, Alabama

Please use the balance of this check for your mission work. Thanks so much for your faithful service to God and our fellow men. We pray for you; please keep us in your prayers.

WW, Illinois

Thanks to our God for the work you are doing. May our God give you souls for our loving God to love and guide.

FS, North Carolina

I am a lifetime Seventh-day Adventist. I enjoy the *Our Firm Foundation*

magazine very much. I share it with my family and other church members. Please remember me and my family in your prayers in these last days.

BF, Missouri

Enclosed find a check to cover the cost of two subscriptions, addresses also enclosed. We echo the letters you print. Your articles give us spiritual “meat.”

ES, Indiana

Due to the love that you have for all mankind, I have been blessed and touched deeply. I can never live the sinful life that I once did. *Our Firm Foundation* has given me so much “food to eat” these last 24 months that my spirit is lifted up. I love you all so dearly, and if we never meet in this life, I pray that we will in the next life.

WK, Florida

Our Firm Foundation is wonderful! May the Lord continue to bless all of you. I am so grateful for all you dedicated ministries. Jesus is coming soon. Praise the Lord! We *must* be ready.

VK, California

We are a group of Seventh-day Adventists that want to help send the message out to the world. We know how important it is to send out *The Great Controversy*. We surely hope our enclosed donation will help. We will be praying it reaches many people. You are doing a wonderful job. God is truly with you.

BK, Canada

From Overseas

I am an Adventist evangelist. The burden of my toil includes conducting Bible studies in the home and churches, and distributing truth-filled literature. Further, I do have a home library where people come to read and borrow books. As such, I am asking you to help with second-hand books. Even those without covers will be appreciated. May the good Lord richly bless you for the sacrifice you will make.

CS, Zambia

Surely you will never know, till in the new home, the full extent of the good work you have done and the souls that have been, and will continue to be, saved through your heaven-appointed ministry.

I wish to tell you that your *Our Firm Foundation* magazine has been an indescribable treasure to me. I stumbled on old copies which a distant fellow SDA secretly passed on to me after the local SDA pastor “banned” them and threatened to burn all the publications which the man was periodically receiving from Hope International. Of course, God would not allow that, and knowing how hungry I was for the true gospel, He led me to the green pasture of those magazines! Brothers, God alone knows how much I have been changed for the good by those magazines. But I can tell you *Our Firm Foundation* is the only magazine I read from the first page to the last page, and re-read and keep re-reading, and give to a friend, and share the contents all and sundry! Did the local SDA pastor who “banned” the magazines ever bother to read just one article in any of them, I wonder?

PM, Zimbabwe

I am a member of an Adventist church who is looking forward to the blessed hope — the hope of seeing God in His glory — and leaving my sufferings here to live in heaven for eternity. I cannot keep silent over this; therefore, I go to the afflicted, the disabled, and the hopeless to give them assurance in the Lord. The miracle is that they also live, and one of our local songs says “a living dog is better than a dead lion.” This is very true from my point of view. I do all that I can to help them spiritually. The problem I face is that after giving them all these assurances through talking, I do not have anything to leave with them to give them more hope. A friend told me you can help me with inspirational books. Please do all in your power to help me, and I know God will bless you.

IA, Ghana



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If your answer is Yes, then please plan now to join us in worship and fellowship.

Don’t miss the special sale pricing on all publications you purchase at camp meeting!

If you plan to attend our camp meeting in Eatonville and wish to stay on our grounds, you are more than welcome. Water, restrooms, and limited showers will be available, but hookups for water, sewer, and electricity are not available. Please plan on a real *camp* meeting.

As usual, there will be no charge for staying on our campus, but we cannot provide either lodging or food. Please do not take it for granted that we will be able to provide special services for those who need them. If you have special needs, please call and let us know—we will do our best to accommodate all who desire to attend.

If you do not plan to stay on our grounds, the following list of motels may be helpful:

- **Mill Village Motel**—2 miles south of Hope International. (360) 832-3200.
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Speakers will include: Jeanie Cook, Sheldon Parrett, Danny Shelton, John Skeete, Ron Spear, Colin Standish, Russell Standish, and others!

Spanish meetings will be conducted by J.C. Perozo and David Hernandez.



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