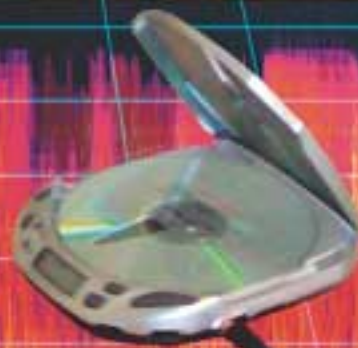


Our Firm Foundation



The **POWER** of Music



Volume 18, Number 6

June 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



In Search of Happiness

The whole world is searching for happiness; however, in the milling masses of humanity, in the streets of our cities, or in the five o'clock bumper-to-bumper traffic, you can see strained, hurried faces with very little happiness showing through. You can find laughter at the tavern over a social drink or in front of a television set, where a family, eating a hurried T.V. dinner, laughs as a member relates the latest off-color joke. However, laughter is not happiness.

Where do we find happiness today? — Where it has always been, at the foot of the cross, at the feet of Jesus — with a fully surrendered life and will. From Inspiration we find the key to real happiness:

“As the sinner, drawn by the power of Christ, approaches the uplifted cross, and prostrates himself before it, there is a new creation. A new heart is given him. He becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus. Holiness finds that it has nothing more to require. God Himself is ‘the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.’ Romans 3:26. And ‘whom he justified, them he also glorified.’ ” Romans 8:30. *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 163.

A new heart brings happiness. The new heart is an obedient heart with the law of God written on it by the hand of Jesus.

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.” Hebrews 10:16–17.

Justification comes instantly when you are so sorry for sinning

that you confess, repent, and choose to stop. See 2 Corinthians 7:10. We cannot be justified while practicing known sins or neglecting known duties. See *Selected Messages*, book 1, 366; *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 355.

However, you ask, “How can I surrender my life and will to God? I have tried and I still do not have victory or real happiness.” Inspiration gives us the answer:

“Many are inquiring, ‘How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?’ You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair. What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can *choose* to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony

with Him.” *Steps to Christ*, 47. (Emphasis in the original.)

Loving obedience brings happiness spontaneously. Tragically, very few Christians have found this beautiful experience of happiness because they never have had victory over their selfish hearts and motives. They have never felt the real joy of helping and blessing others as the first priority in their lives. As a result, their countenances never have the sunshine of heaven. They walk around with somber faces and are disturbed by the happy spirit of real born-again Christians. The born-again Christian knows that his sins are forgiven, and he speaks of hope, courage, and faithfulness. When everything is going wrong and the horizons of life are foreboding, his confidence is in God. He will accept tragedy and sorrow with confidence that God is over all and will not allow him to be tempted above what he is able and will make a way of escape so that he will be able to bear the trial. He knows the promises of God are sure.

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27:1.

We are living in serious, awesome times, and we must be sober, denying ungodliness, and completely separated from worldly lusts. We must extend happiness to an unhappy world as we look for the soon and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Let us remember, a real Seventh-day Adventist is a happy Christian. ❀



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: KHPTech.com

Our Firm Foundation is a monthly publication of:



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

Phone: (309) 343-1844
 Monday–Thursday: 8:00am–5:00pm
 Friday: 8:00am–12:00pm Central Time
Fax: (309) 343-3721
Email: office@hopeint.org
Web: <http://www.hopeint.org>

Subscription Information

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

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

Shipping Information

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

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

Illinois state residents: Please add 6.5% sales tax.
All money received must be in US funds, drawn on US banks.

Copyright © 2003 Hope International

Artwork and photos in this publication are the property of their respective owners, and are used with permission.

Other items are © Hope International.

Cover Illustration: Kevin H. Patterson

4

The Power of Music, part 1

H. Lloyd Leno

Psychological and physiological effects of music

9

Elevate the Standard

Ellen G. White

A call to cleanse the camp of the fornication that is in our ranks

13

Stay Close to Me

Ralph Larson

Words of comfort, words of courage

16

Historic Adventism, part 2

Colin Standish

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

20

No Good Reason for Being Discouraged

E. Hilliard

Why would God write to us, "that ye sin not," if there is no way to be kept from sinning?

21

Why Health Reform?

Bill Humeniuk

What special relevance does health reform have for the final generation?

24

Between the Porch and the Altar

Ron Spear

Sin cannot be taken lightly

28

I Will Keep Thee From the Hour of Temptation, part 1

Ellen G. White

Promises and preparation for the time of trouble

departments

Defending the Faith	15
Newswatch	26
Letters to the Editor	31



The POWER of Music

Part I

H. Lloyd Leno

Dr. H. Lloyd Leno (now deceased) was the director of the Music Department at Antillian Adventist University, Puerto Rico at the time this series was originally published in Our Firm Foundation – in 1987. Due to the continuing conflict over music in the church and repeated requests for copies of these articles, we are pleased to publish this series once again.

Against the backdrop of the spread of rock 'n roll music and campus unrest nationwide during the late 1960s, the Seventh-day Adventist Church was experiencing a troublesome change in attitude toward worship in general and religious music in particular. Among those who advocated the use of the vernacular popular music were sincere Christians who were looking for new ways to witness for Christ. Also, among the advocates of the use of popular dance styles for worship, were those who, in my opinion, were motivated to a large extent by the prevailing philosophy of "change for change's sake." This philosophy assumes that since previous methods did not solve or cure the world's problems or evangelize the world, they must be replaced with new, even though radical, methods. "The end justifies the means" seemed to be almost a credo.

Most church musicians and church leaders alike found themselves groping for

answers. However, some musicians and a few church leaders were not surprised at the development of the problem, because in the absence of strong leadership and/or a unified philosophy of music, the church was in fact vulnerable on this issue. In the summer of 1972, the General Conference convened a special task force committee to study the problem that had developed in music. A number of papers were commissioned and capable persons put forth a tremendous effort to search for and apply guiding principles.

Sensing the need for some scientific information that could complement that from the Bible and the writings of E. G. White, I suggested to the chairman of the committee that a paper dealing with the psychological aspect of music be prepared for study by the committee. The reply was a request that I undertake this assignment. The result was a paper which was subsequently revised for the *Review and Herald* and in which form it is here reproduced.

Since writing these articles, I have continued my study in this area with the hope of developing a larger and more complete perspective. The information discovered, and the resulting insights gained, will be the subject of an article which will follow this series.



During recent years a great deal of concern among Seventh-day Adventists has developed over the subject of the ethics of music. There has always been an awareness that some types of entertainment and amusements were harmful to the Christian, and it was more-or-less understood that the kind of music closely associated with these amusements was also unsafe for Christian use. However, until about the 1960s, discussions on the subject, written or verbal, by ministry or laity, seem to have been infrequent, causing little recognition or comment outside of the local situation.

Today, we see a different picture. There is widespread interest, concern, and discussion, and some definite polarization among the church members. Some believe that music is amoral, that its meaning and influence are what the individual wishes it to be. Others have strong convictions as to the influence of music. A few have studied and written on the subject. Surprisingly enough, there are those who fail to see any issue at all.

Rather than relying on majority opinion, personal tastes, or even the opinion of professionals in the field of music, it seems logical that we should develop a philosophy of music based on what effect music has upon people. I believe this can be determined from three sources. First, the Bible, which gives us the

basic principles of Christian living. Second, the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy, which enlarge upon the biblical teachings. And third, God's other book, nature and science, which can furnish us with added insights into the nature of man's response to various stimuli in his environment.

Addressing a meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, Howard Hanson, a nationally prominent composer, declared: "Music is a curiously subtle art with innumerable, varying emotional connotations. It is made up of many ingredients and, according to the proportions of these components, it can be soothing or invigorating, ennobling or vulgarizing, philosophical or orgiastic. It has powers for evil, as well as for good. If we are to use it as a social or therapeutic force, the first essential is that we find out something about it."¹

It is obvious that we Seventh-day Adventists use music a great deal. But our tastes and consequently our practices are subject to the influence of radio, television, and the recording industry as are those of others. Can we afford to be less concerned about the power and influence of music? If there are eternal consequences involved, we indeed "must guard well the avenues of the soul." *The Acts of the Apostles*, 518. To do this we must be informed. To remain uninformed is to surrender our

power of choice to others, for no one can live in a musical vacuum.

First, let us review briefly certain scientific investigations into the psychological and physiological responses to music. Next, we will consider how these findings compare with the writings of Ellen G. White. Then we will examine the moral and spiritual implications, and how these relate to contemporary moral issues. In this first part we shall explore the ways in which sound, musical sounds in particular, affects the human organism. Without an attempt to exhaust the subject, we will look at some of the information provided by psychologists, physiologists, and other scientists who have conducted research in this field. Some of these findings will suggest moral and spiritual implications; others may not. In any case, we shall postpone until later the discussion of these implications.

The Perception of Music

A major interest that led to the study of the effects of music on man was that of music therapy. Activity in this field increased when during the Second World War it was recognized that many "shell shocked" servicemen were in desperate need of psychiatric treatment. In 1944, upon authorization of the Surgeon General, the Music Research Foundation was established at Walter Reed General

Hospital, in Washington, D.C., for the purpose of discovering and developing new methods of controlling human emotions and behavior.

Probably the most important development in the scientific investigation of music was the discovery that music is perceived through that portion of the brain receiving the stimuli of emotions, sensations, and feelings, without being first subjected to the brain centers involving reason and intelligence. This discovery, confirmed by a number of scientists, gave great impetus to the field of music therapy, as one can readily understand from this statement:

Most people would agree that music affects their moods. This idea is not only accepted by the general public and used by industries, it is also supported by scientific investigation.

“Music, which does not depend upon the master brain to gain entrance into the organism, can still arouse by way of the thalamus – the relay station of all emotions – sensations and feelings. Once a stimulus has been able to reach the thalamus, the master brain is *automatically invaded*, and if the stimulus is continued for some time, a closer contact between the master brain and the world of reality can be thus established.”² (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

Thus, music became the tool by which communication could be re-established with certain mentally ill patients who, because of their condition, could not be reached through verbal communication, which requires the use of the cerebral cortex.

Music, Moods, and Body Chemistry

Even without giving the subject a great deal of thought, most people would agree that music affects their moods. This idea is not only accepted by the general public and used by industries, it is also sup-

ported by scientific investigation. One of the earliest studies was conducted in 1920–1923 by the Carnegie Institute of Technology. The study involving a nationwide investigation demonstrated that music affects the moods of people of varied backgrounds in a remarkably similar way.³ Later, the psychiatrist Edward Podolsky reported: “Researchers on the auditory nerves indicate that there is scarcely a function of the body which may not be affected by the pulsations and harmonic combinations of musical tones.”⁴

He stated further that moods are directly related to physiology, that

they depend a great deal on the activity of the brain and blood and body chemistry.⁵

More recent studies have confirmed and enlarged upon these earlier conclusions. Two German scientists, Von G. and H. Harrer, conducted experiments to determine the effects of music upon the body. In their studies they noticed significant changes in pulse and breath rates, as well as in the psychogalvanic skin reflex when the subjects listened to music. In one experiment the listener’s attention was purposely drawn away from the music so that he was not even aware that a certain piece had been played. It was discovered that even without his attention a strong, emotional response to the music was registered on the instruments. “However, when asked to listen to the music critically, the psychogalvanic skin response was much less, while there was a measurable increase in brain activity. As a result of their experiments, these researchers concluded that of all the senses, hearing has the greatest effect on the autonomic nervous system.”⁶

Those with some knowledge of physiology will recognize that this system regulates not only the functions of the visceral organs, such as the heart and respiratory organs, but also the endocrine glands. Now, the portion of the brain involved in the control of these functions is the hypothalamus, and since we are concerned with moods and emotions, we should be interested in the function of this part of the brain. The physiologist Mary Griffiths states that among other functions “the hypothalamus exerts control over the rate of secretion of the thyroid gland, the adrenal cortex, and the gonads. It can thus influence metabolic rate . . . as well as the secretion of sex hormones.”

She further states that the hypothalamus is definitely concerned with “triggering the autonomic responses connected with the expression of fear, rage, and other emotions.”⁷

This seems to support an earlier conclusion by a Harvard physiologist that music “releases adrenaline and perhaps other hormones.”⁸ Another discovery made some time ago was that music influences the electrical conductivity of the body.⁹ Medical science has discovered that there is a direct relationship of the electrical potential and electrolyte balance and moods of an individual.^{10,11}

Still, many would contend that the response to music is too individual to predict, and that the mood stimulated by music is largely a matter of the association the individual gives it. Certainly there are some individual differences and some other variables, but the fact still remains that there is a close enough relationship of the mood-provoking power of music and the human response so that a number of business enterprises, such as Muzak, to say nothing of the motion picture industry, are highly successful at choosing music to create or modify mood. Furthermore, we are all aware that our moods stimulate a desire to hear or express music compatible with these moods.

Rhythm is such an important part of man's existence that we must recognize that man is a rhythmical being. There is an obvious rhythm to the heartbeat, respiration, gait, and speech. The internal organs also operate in rhythmic cycles. Even the brain functions in rhythm. The brain waves, it was discovered by the German scientist Hans Berger, are constant in frequency and are influenced by physical and mental states.¹² It should be easily understood, then, why the human organism (as well as that of some animals) responds readily to rhythmic music.

An experiment performed by the eminent physiologist McKendrick, in Glasgow, reveals just how sensitive the human body is to rhythm. Wires from a record player were attached to a vessel containing a solution of salt into which deaf mutes placed their fingers. With the exception of one girl, who lost her hearing at the age of 11, all of the subjects had been deaf from infancy. All the subjects reported that they felt "the crescendo and diminuendo of rhythm." Instinctively they nodded their heads in time with the rhythm experienced through their fingers. The one subject said that what she felt in her fingers reminded her of music she had heard as a child before becoming deaf.¹³

The most natural human response to music is physical movement. Capitalizing on this, fast rhythmic music was used therapeutically in war hospitals to help wounded soldiers regain the use of limbs that had been in casts.¹⁴ Music has also been used to revive those who are well but fatigued: "It has been found that . . . music that is strongly rhythmical may set up a sensory-motor reaction. . . . Thus, when soldiers are tired during long marches and scouts come to the end of a difficult hike, a spirited song or the strains of a snappy band will release new energies and keep them going with renewed spirit."¹⁵

In ancient as well as modern civilization, music has helped to synchronize the movements of workers. In fact, many folk songs

originated in this way. Of course, the music also helped to relieve the monotony of their toil. Experiments in offices and industries have led to the conclusion that unless the rhythm of the music is adapted to the work there is no effect on the precision or accuracy of the work. In fact, when the rhythm is contrary to the speed of typewriting, there was a decrease in accuracy.¹⁶

Effects of Rhythm and Tempo

In Russia, the Institute of Medical and Biological Problems of the USSR Ministry of Public Health reports that their scientists have conducted a number of experiments

out that even in the more sophisticated societies rhythm tends to dominate the attention of the individual whether he is a participant in the dance, the creator of a dance, or merely a spectator: "Such situations occur when actual rhythmic bodily movement is imagined or is actually present. Where the subject is himself the dancer, we have already shown that absorption in the dance may reach the point of self-hypnosis. Even in social dancing it is probable that the phrase, 'The intoxication of the dance,' so often employed in one form or another, is more than a conventional expression."¹⁹

The most natural human response to music is physical movement.

to determine the effects of music. It was discovered that rhythm and tempo had a definite effect on the body: "Specially selected music increases the working capacity of the muscles. At the same time, the tempo of the movements of the worker changes with the change of the musical tempo. It is as if the music determines a good rapid rhythm of movement. Another series of experiments on students proved that not only the working capacity changes under the influence of music but also the pulse and blood pressure."¹⁷

Unfortunately, rhythm has not always been used for constructive purposes. Music and dance were often used in many cultures as a means to excite people to certain types of action, from the frenzied orgies in the rites of Dionysus to the religious and war dances of various tribes of Indians in the Americas. E. Thayer Gaston, nationally known music therapist, states that all these repetitive, monotonous dances resulted in cataleptic seizures.¹⁸

Writing for the book *Music and Medicine*, Charles Hughes points

Rhythm is Physically Stimulating

There should be no doubt then, that rhythm is the most *physically* stimulating of the musical elements. If rhythm has such an energizing effect on the muscles of the body, it is only natural that the emotions (and inevitably the mind) should be affected. Charles Hughes discusses this relationship between mood, emotion, and the rhythmic factor. He states:

"Music when it truly stirs and moves the hearer has two important effects: it so centers the attention of the auditor on the music that for the moment he forgets himself, and it creates within the listener an emotional response appropriate to the mood of the music. This response is accompanied by the same physiological changes that accompany emotional states as they occur in life situations. Such a response is a response to the total and complex effect of music. Yet an examination of the pieces employed to test the emotional effect of music would indicate that rhythm is a primary

factor in determining the kind of effect produced. It is not only the presence or absence of a pronounced rhythmic pattern which is involved here, but also the general rate of movement, be it fast, moderate, or slow."²⁰

Three other researchers, Gundach, Henlein, and Hevner, working independently of one another, found that tempo and rhythm were definitely the most important element in creating emotional response. "Dotted figures of uneven rhythms" were especially significant. Furthermore, "the difference in expressiveness for certain melodies is generally attributed to their rhythm, tempo, et

sense impressions. Studies show that this is definitely the case. The senses of smell and taste, as well as touch, are affected by sound. In short, we become more sensitive to taste, odor, and touch while listening to music. The effect on the eyesight is probably the most spectacular, including the perception of color. It was discovered that patches of color, which at a given distance could scarcely be recognized, were clearly identified, and barely legible print was read when a musical tone was present."²⁴

This is but a brief survey of some of the scientific studies of music and its effect on the mind and body.

Rhythm is a primary factor in determining the kind of effect produced.

cetera, instead of the pitch pattern of successive tones."²¹

Participating in activities in which rhythm and body movement are prime factors, obviously changes the atmosphere and our attitudes to one another. It encourages and promotes a certain kind of cooperation or unity. Thayer Gaston says: "Rhythmic activities make working together easier because no words are needed, rhythm is the common bond. Somehow, it encourages a freedom with others. During a dance, a man and a woman who have just met put their arms around each other in an intimacy that would never be tolerated by the two or the public, but is acceptable in the dance as long as the music continues."²²

Perhaps an appropriate summary would be the statement by the author of *Music in Hospitals*: "Much of what we call 'irresistible' in music is so because we react on this sensory-motor level of functioning."²³

Music and Sensory Perceptions

It may be surprising to many to learn that music affects our other

Even this limited report, however, brings to the surface some significant information.

1. Music is perceived and enjoyed without necessarily being interpreted by the higher centers of the brain involving reason and judgment.

2. Response to music is measurable even though the listener is not giving conscious attention to it.

3. There is evidence that music can bring about mood changes by affecting the body chemistry and electrolyte balance.

4. By lowering the level of sensory perception, music heightens the responses to color, touch, and other sensory perceptions.

5. It has been shown that music affects changes in muscular energy and promotes or inhibits body movement.

6. Highly repetitive rhythmic music has a hypnotic effect.

7. The sense of hearing has a greater effect upon the autonomic nervous system than any of the other senses. ❀

To be continued.

Notes:

¹ Howard Hanson, "A Musician's Point of View Toward Emotional Expression," *American Journal of Psychiatry*, vol. 99, 317.

² Ira A. Altshuler, "A Psychiatrist's Experiences With Music as a Therapeutic Agent," *Music and Medicine*, ed. by Dorothy Schullian and Max Schoen (New York: Henry Schuman Inc., 1948), 270-271.

³ Max Schoen, *The Psychology of Music*, (New York, Ronald, 1940), 89.

⁴ Edward Podolsky, *Music for Your Health* (New York: Bernard Ackerman, Inc., 1945), 26-27.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 131.

⁶ G. Harrer and H. Harrer, "Musik, Emotion und Vegetativum," *Wiener Medizinische Wochenschrift*, NR. 45-46, 1968.

⁷ Mary Griffiths, *Introduction to Human Physiology* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1974), 474-475.

⁸ Altshuler, *op. cit.*, 270.

⁹ Doris Soibelman, *Therapeutic and Industrial Uses of Music* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1948), 4.

¹⁰ Arthur Guyton, *Function of the Human Body*, 3rd ed. (Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1969), 332-340.

¹¹ Madelyn Nordmark and Ann Rohweder, *Scientific Foundations of Nursing*, 2nd ed. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1967), 99-102.

¹² Lawrence Walters, "How Music Produces Its Effects on the Brain and Mind," *Music Therapy*, ed. Edward Podolsky (New York: Philosophical Library, 1954), 38.

¹³ Agnes Savill, "Physical Effects of Music," *Music and Letters*, vol. 39, 1958, 25.

¹⁴ Doron K. Antrim, "Music Therapy," *Musical Quarterly*, October 1944, 414.

¹⁵ Willem Van de Wall, *Music in Hospitals* (New York: Russell Sage Foundations, 1946), 15.

¹⁶ Soibelman, *op. cit.*, 47.

¹⁷ Leonid Malnikov, "USSR: Music and Medicine," *Music Journal*, XXCII, November 1970, 15.

¹⁸ E. Thayer Gaston, *Music in Therapy* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1968), 329.

¹⁹ Charles W. Hughes, "Rhythm and Health," *Music and Medicine*, 186-187.

²⁰ Hughes, *Ibid.*, 168-169.

²¹ Leonard Gilman and Frances Paperte, *Music and Your Emotions* (New York: Liveright, 1952), 32.

²² Gaston, *op. cit.*, 18.

²³ Van de Wall, *op. cit.*, 15.

²⁴ Charles M. Dizevens and Harry Fine, *A Psychology of Music: The Influences of Music on Behavior* (Cincinnati: College of Music, 1939), 229.



Elevate the Standard

Ellen G. White

There is much preaching the truth, but few are sanctified through the truth. Piety and righteousness are not brought into the practical life, and the Lord is dishonored; and, having no vital connection with God, poor, weak human nature has no strength to resist temptation, and never will have till the converting power of God takes hold upon the soul.

We are nearing the judgment, and those who bear the message of warning to the world must have clean hands and pure hearts. They must have a living connection with God. The thoughts must be pure and holy, the soul untainted, the body, soul, and spirit be a pure,

clean offering to God, or He will not accept it.

Recent painful developments of evil are one of the greatest evidences we have that the end is near. Satan, like a roaring lion, is going about, seeking whom he may devour; and if men and women, under the blazing light that now shines in this perilous time, will be found fornicators, I am afraid that God will separate them from the work forever.

Decided Action Called For

The youth, for misdemeanors of a comparatively light character, are treated with much severity; but when men and women of large experience, who have been consid-

ered patterns of piety, are revealed in their true character – unsanctified, unholy, impure in thought, debased in conduct – then it is time for such to be dealt with in a decided manner. The greater forbearance that is exercised toward them has only had, as far as my knowledge extends, the influence to cause them to regard their fornication and adultery as a very light matter, and all their pretense has proved to be like morning dew when the sun shines upon it.

No sooner are they placed in temptation than they reveal their moral defects – that they are not partakers of the divine nature, neither have they escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust; but that they are earthly, sensual, devilish. Satan

finds in them something that he can work up into marked iniquity, and he improves his opportunity, and the result is, those who claim to be shepherds of the flock are carnally minded, leading the sheep of their care, whose purity, modesty, and virtue they should strictly guard, into licentiousness and lewdness. Angels of heaven are looking on with shame and grief and disgust. How can the pure angels of heaven minister unto this class? How can they bring heavenly light into the assemblies where such ministers are advocating the law of God, but breaking that law whenever a favorable opportunity presents itself; living a lie, pursuing an underhanded course, working in secret, nursing their polluted thoughts and inflaming their passions, and then taking advan-

more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you. Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you." Joshua 7:12-13. These things are written for our benefit, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

False Shepherds

I have no real ground of hope for those who have stood as shepherds to the flock, and have for years been borne with by the merciful God, following them with reproof, with warnings, with entreaties, but who have hid their evil ways, and continued in them, thus defying the

the side of Satan, listening to his suggestions, obeying his promptings, imperiling his own soul and souls for whom Christ died, to gratify the carnal mind, giving lenity to sin in his example— will such a man be found among the overcomers?

When a man dies, his influence does not die with him; but it lives on, reproducing itself. The influence of the man who was good and pure and holy lives on after his death, like the glow of the descending sun, casting its glories athwart the heavens, lighting up the mountain peaks long after the sun has sunk behind the hill. So will the works of the pure and the holy and the good reflect their light when they no longer live to speak and act themselves. Their works, their words, their example will forever live. "The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance." Psalm 112:6.

But what a contrast to this is the life of those who are earthly, sensual, devilish! The sensual pleasure was indulged. In the light of the judgment, the man appears as he is, stripped of the livery of heaven. He stands before others as he is in the sight of a holy God. Let every one of us think seriously whether the works following us will be the mellow light of heaven or the shadows of darkness, and whether the legacies we bequeath are those of blessings or curses.

Every passing hour of the present is shaping our future life. These moments spent in carelessness, in self-pleasing, as if of no value, are deciding our everlasting destinies. The words we utter today will go on echoing when time shall be no more. The deeds done today are transferred to the books of heaven, just as the features are transferred by the artist onto the polished plate. They will determine our destiny for eternity, for bliss or eternal loss and agonizing remorse. Character cannot be changed when Christ comes, nor just as a man is about to die. Character building must be done in this life. We fear that repentance will come to the self-indulgent, tainted soul all too late. A

The influence of the man who was good and pure and holy lives on after his death, like the glow of the descending sun, casting its glories athwart the heavens, lighting up the mountain peaks long after the sun has sunk behind the hill.

tage of women or men who are tempted, like themselves, to break down all barriers and debase their bodies and pollute their souls? How can they do this thing? How can they have any fear of God before them? How can they have any love for God in their souls? Of what value is their faith in the truth?

Cleanse the camp of this moral corruption, if it takes the highest men in the highest positions. God will not be trifled with. Fornication is in our ranks; I know it, for it has been shown me to be strengthening and extending its pollutions. There is much we will never know; but that which is revealed makes the church responsible and guilty unless they show a determined effort to eradicate the evil. Cleanse the camp, for there is an accursed thing in it.

The words of God to Joshua are: "Neither will I be with you any

laws of the God of heaven by practicing fornication. We may leave them to work out their own salvation with fear and trembling, after all has been done to reform them; but in no case entrust to them the guardianship of souls. False shepherds! Oh, can it be that the men who have been engaged in this work for a long time will corrupt their ways before the Lord after great experience and special light?

He that is to come says, "Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:12. Every good deed done by the people of God as the fruit of their faith, will have its corresponding reward. As one star differeth from another star in glory, so will believers have their different spheres assigned them in the future life. Will the man who did not walk with God as did Enoch, but who walked by

few resolves, a few tears, will never reverse a guilty past life nor blot out of the books of heaven the transgressions, the willful, knowing sins of those who have had the precious light of truth, and can explain the Scriptures to others, while sin and iniquity are drunk up like stolen waters. As though written with an iron pen, they may be found lead in the rock forever.

Need of Alarm

I would make my brethren alarmed if I could. I would urge upon them with pen and voice, Live in the Lord, walk with God, if you would die in the Lord, and enter by and by where the Lord abideth forever. Be not disobedient to the heavenly warnings; grasp the neglected appeals, the entreaties, the warnings, the rebukes, the threatenings of God, and let them correct your wayward, sinful heart. Let the transforming grace of Christ make you pure, true, holy, and lovely as the pure white lily which opens its blossom on the bosom of the lake. Transfer your love and affections to Him who died for you on Calvary's cross. Train your lips to speak forth His praises, and to offer up your prayers as holy incense.

I ask again, How can any who have the precious, solemn message for this time indulge in impure thoughts and unholy deeds, when they know that He that never slumbers and never sleeps sees every action and reads every thought of the mind? — Oh, it is because iniquity is found in God's professed people that He can do so little for them.

Truth in the Heart Sanctifies

The truth, when received into the heart, sanctifies the receiver; kept apart from the life and practice, it is dead and useless to the receiver. How can you, oh, how can you grieve your Redeemer? How can you dishonor Him before His angels and before men? How can you grieve the Holy Spirit of God? How can you crucify the Lord of glory afresh, and put Him to open shame?

How can you give occasion for Satan and his angels to exult and triumph over those who claim to be loyal subjects of Jesus Christ?

All fornicators will be outside the City of God. Already God's angels are at work in judgment, and the Spirit of God is gradually leaving the world. The triumph of the church is very near, the reward to be bestowed is almost within our reach, and yet iniquity is found among those who claim to have the full blaze of heaven's light.

He who presides over His church and the destinies of nations is carrying forward the last work to be accomplished for this world. To His angels He gives the commission to execute His judgments. Let the ministers awake, let them take in the situation. The work of judgment begins at the sanctuary. "And,

The triumph of the church is very near, the reward to be bestowed is almost within our reach, and yet iniquity is found among those who claim to have the full blaze of heaven's light.

behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar." Ezekiel 9:2. Read verses 2-7. The command is, "Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house." Verse 6. Saith God, "I will recompense their way upon their head." Verse 10.

The words will soon be spoken, "Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth." Revelation 16:1. One of the ministers of vengeance declares. "And I heard the angel of the waters

say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus." Verse 5. These heavenly beings, in executing the mandate of God, ask no questions, but do as they are bid. Jehovah of hosts, the Lord God Almighty, the just, the true, and the holy, has given them their work to do. With unswerving fidelity they go forth panoplied in pure white linen, having their breasts girded with golden girdles. And when their task is done, when the last vial of God's wrath is poured out, they return and lay their emptied vials at the feet of the Lord.

And the next scene is recorded, "After these things . . . I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for

the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." Revelation 19:1, 6. They sing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb.

Keep Close to the Leader

We must keep close to our great Leader, or we shall become bewildered, and lose sight of the Providence which presides over the church and the world, and over each individual. There will be profound mysteries in the divine dealings. We may lose the footsteps of God and follow our own bewilderment, and say, Thy judgments are not known; but if the heart is loyal to God everything will be made plain.

There is a day just about to burst upon us when God's mysteries will be seen, and all His ways vindicated; when justice, mercy, and love will be the attributes of His throne. When the earthly warfare is accom-

plished, and the saints are all gathered home, our first theme will be the song of Moses, the servant of God. The second theme will be the song of the Lamb, the song of grace and redemption. This song will be louder, loftier, and in sublimer strains, echoing and re-echoing through the heavenly courts. Thus the song of God's providence is sung, connecting the varying dispensations; for all is now seen without a veil between the legal, the prophetic, and the gospel. The

God seeth not? that God taketh no knowledge? . . .

Set the Heart Zionward

Christ has not died for you that you may possess the passions, tastes, and habits of men of the world. It is difficult to distinguish between those who serve God and those who serve Him not, because there is so little difference in character between believers and unbelievers. Ye cannot serve God and Belial. The sons of God belong

Christ has not died for you that you may possess the passions, tastes, and habits of men of the world.

church history upon the earth and the church redeemed in heaven all center around the cross of Calvary. This is the theme, this is the song—Christ all and in all—in anthems of praise resounding through heaven from thousands and ten thousand times ten thousand and an innumerable company of the redeemed host. All unite in this song of Moses and of the Lamb. It is a new song, for it was never before sung in heaven.

Again I ask, In view of the revelation made to John on the Isle of Patmos, which from the opening of the first chapter to the close of the last chapter is light, great light, revealed to us by Jesus Christ, who chose John to be the channel through whom this light was to shine forth to the world—with such wonderful, solemn truths revealed, with such grand truths unfolded before us in the events to transpire just prior to the second appearing of Christ in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory, how can those who claim to see wondrous things out of the law of God, be found in the list of the impure, of the fornicators and adulterers, constantly evading the truth, and secretly working out iniquity? Do you think that they can hide their ways from the Lord? that

to a different nation—the empire of purity and holiness. They are the nobility of heaven. The stamp of God is upon them. So evident and perceptible is this that the enmity of the world is aroused against them by the contrast. I call upon everyone who claims to be a son of God never to forget this great truth, that we need the Spirit of God within us in order to reach heaven, and the work of Christ without us in order to give us a title to the immortal inheritance.

Those who can have such an overpowering, gushing love for human objects, men or women, have an idol which they worship, devoting their heart's affection to it. One of the convincing characteristics of the sons of God is, their conversation, their sympathies, their outflowing love and affection are all in heaven. What is the predominating tone of your feelings, your tastes, your inclinations? Where is the main current of your sympathies, your affections, your conversation, your desires?

No man enters the portals of glory but he who sets his heart thitherward. Then let the questions come home, Do you mind earthly things? Are your thoughts pure? Are you breathing the atmosphere of

heaven? Do you carry with you the miasma of pollution? Is your heart loving and worshiping a woman whom you have no right to love? Where is your heart? Where is your treasure? Where is your god? Have you been washing your robes of character, and making them white in the blood of the Lamb; or are you defiling your robes of character with moral pollution? Let the ministers of the gospel apply this to themselves. You are blessed with an understanding of the Scriptures, but is your eye single to the glory of God? Are you earnest and devoted, serving God with purity and in the beauty of holiness? Ask sincerely, Am I a child of God, or am I not?

"Ye are the light of the world." Matthew 5:14. What an impression was produced upon Darius by the conduct of Daniel! Daniel lived a pure and holy life. God was first with him. Whenever real Christianity reigns in the heart, it will be revealed in the character. All will take knowledge of such, that they have been with Jesus. The undivided affections must be given to God.

A Thorough Reformation Needed

We need a thorough reformation in all our churches. The converting power of God must come into the church. Seek the Lord most earnestly, put away your sins, and tarry in Jerusalem till ye be endowed with power from on high. Let God set you apart to the work. Purify your souls by obeying the truth. Faith without works is dead. Put not off the day of preparation. Slumber not in a state of unpreparedness, having no oil in your vessels with your lamps. Let none leave their safety for eternity to hang upon a peradventure. Let not the question remain in perilous uncertainty. Ask yourselves earnestly, Am I among the saved, or the unsaved? Shall I stand, or shall I not stand? He only that hath clean hands and a pure heart shall stand in that day. ❀

Testimonies to Ministers, 426–443.



Stay Close to Me

Ralph Larson

Probably at or near the top of everyone's list of questions this year would be this one: Will this year bring war?

By the time this article reaches you, this question may be moot. If you have been reading the news magazines you probably have little doubt. There are speculations about war in virtually every issue. Never before has war been so openly debated and discussed. Those who favor war expect it to be quick and easy. However, others point out that it could easily explode and expand into a major world conflict. Add to that the increasing plague of terrorism, the widespread financial distress, the rising unemployment, and the famine conditions already appearing in some countries, and the prospects are grim indeed. It would be safe to say that there is trouble ahead, there is danger ahead in the year 2003.

So, what should we expect our Lord to be saying to us at this time? — Probably the same thing that He said to His disciples when He was here with them: "There is trouble ahead, there is danger ahead. Stay close to me; stay close."

This message comes to us quite clearly from two of the three major "banquets" that Jesus hosted during His earthly ministry. One of them was on a grassy plain north of the Sea of Galilee, where 5,000 men, with their wives and children, were the guests. The other was in an "upper room" in Jerusalem, where

the twelve apostles were the guests. The first was early in the three-and-one-half-year period of Christ's ministry. The other was at the very close of that ministry. Yet, there is a striking similarity in the language used by Jesus, the host, at each of these two banquets.

In the sixth chapter of John's gospel we read how the people who had been fed by the loaves and fishes followed Jesus to Capernaum, with the intention of seizing Him and making Him a king. However, they were so deeply offended by the words that He spoke to them there that they abandoned the idea and "walked no more with him." John 6:66.

What did He say to them? — He told them, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. . . . Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." Verses 51, 53–54.

This, in the strongest possible language, was an *appeal for intimacy*, for a close personal relationship with Him. And approximately three years later, when the twelve apostles were gathered with Him in the Upper Room, He again employed the same very strong language:

"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the

cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many." Mark 14:22–24.

What this means is, "Stay close to me."

We notice that He did not say, "There is trouble ahead, there is danger ahead; therefore, make sure that you have your theology straight," although theology is very important. He did not say, "There is trouble ahead, there is danger ahead; therefore, make sure that you have your church history straight," although church history is very important. What He said was, "There is trouble ahead, there is danger ahead. Stay close to me; stay close."

If He were physically here with us, and looking with us at the ominous portents of the year 2003, would we not hear Him again say, "Stay close to me; stay close"?

When Jesus used this extraordinarily strong language in Capernaum, He knew what the result would be. He knew that there were two very different groups among those who were following Him. There were some who were following Him for spiritual reasons, responding gladly to the influence of the Holy Spirit, and cherishing the words of life that fell from His lips. However, another much larger number of them were following Him for carnal reasons. It was to these persons that Jesus said, "Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled." John 6:26.

Jesus was looking ahead. He knew that there was a day coming when all who were following Him for carnal reasons, hoping to gain some earthly advantage for themselves, would suddenly turn against Him and firmly and forcefully reject Him. And He knew that in the shock and dismay of this disappointment the apostles themselves might be carried away. Therefore, He deliberately created this crisis in order that He would yet be alive when it happened, and able to

steady the apostles and help them to understand. Note Ellen White's insightful comment in *The Desire of Ages*, 394:

"When Jesus presented the testing truth that caused so many of His disciples to turn back, He knew what would be the result of His words; but He had a purpose of mercy to fulfill. He foresaw that in the hour of temptation every one of His beloved disciples would be severely tested. His agony in Gethsemane, His betrayal and crucifixion, would be to them a most trying ordeal. Had no previous test been given, many who were actu-

in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before

personal Saviour, believing that He forgives our sins, and that we are complete in Him. It is by beholding His love, by dwelling upon it, by drinking it in, that we are to become partakers of His nature." *The Desire of Ages*, 389.

This imagery was not as unfamiliar to the Jews as they pretended. "Moses, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, had said, 'Man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD.' Deuteronomy 8:3. And the prophet Jeremiah had written, 'Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart.' Jeremiah 15:16. The rabbis themselves had a saying, that the eating of bread, in its spiritual significance, was the study of the law and the practice of good works; and it was often said that at the Messiah's coming, all Israel would be fed. The teaching of the prophets made plain the deep spiritual lesson in the miracle of the loaves." *Ibid.*, 386.

In our reading (eating) the words of Christ, something profoundly important is happening. We should say to ourselves as we read, "I am getting information, but that is not all. I am learning truth, but that is not all. *I am building an intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.* This is a relationship that is so close and so personal that He calls it eating His flesh and drinking His blood. In doing this I am actually partaking of the divine nature and becoming one in spiritual life with Christ."

However, like so many other things in the Christian life, this relationship will only become a reality if we go beyond reading for information or truth to believing and practicing it. Why should we neglect such an opportunity?

As we move through the perils of the year 2003, let us resolve to spend more time reading (eating) the words of Christ and thus partaking of the divine nature. Let us heed the urgency of His warning. "There is trouble ahead, there is danger ahead. Stay close to me; stay close." ❀

When these trying events are happening all about us, and to us, it will be supremely important that we are fully heeding the Saviour's words, "Stay close to me; stay close."

ated by merely selfish motives would have been connected with them. When their Lord was condemned in the judgment hall; when the multitude who had hailed Him as their king hissed at Him and reviled Him; when the jeering crowd cried, 'Crucify Him!' — when their worldly ambitions were disappointed, these self-seeking ones would, by renouncing their allegiance to Jesus, have brought upon the disciples a bitter, heart-burdening sorrow, in addition to their grief and disappointment in the ruin of their fondest hopes. In that hour of darkness, the example of those who turned from Him might have carried others with them. But Jesus brought about this crisis while by His personal presence He could still strengthen the faith of His true followers."

This should create some questions in our minds. Have we not been told of a future occasion when a great multitude, indeed the "larger portion" of the professed followers of Christ, will abandon the faith and join the ranks of the enemy? — Yes we have, in language that cannot be mistaken:

"As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith

the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them." *The Great Controversy*, 608.

When these trying events are happening all about us, and to us, it will be supremely important that we are fully heeding the Saviour's words, "Stay close to me; stay close."

What keeps us close to Christ? How do we "eat His flesh" and "drink His blood"? Let God's special messenger give us the answer:

"It is in eating the *words* of Christ that we eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God. In obedience to His Word, we become partakers of His divine nature in the same way in which we are composed of the food we eat. Those who eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God become one in spiritual life with Christ." *The Home Missionary*, June 1, 1897. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

"To eat the flesh and drink the blood of Christ is to receive Him as a



Judgment Begins

Code: JB

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:

Judgment Begins

JB 1: Revelation 22:12.

- 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 JB.**”

- Go through the study to check for broken links.

- Share the study with others!

1: Revelation 22:12.

When Jesus comes to earth again, He will bring men’s rewards with Him.

2: Matthew 24:33, 36.

We do not know when Jesus will come to earth again.

3: Acts 17:31.

However, God has appointed a day for the judgment to begin.

4: Revelation 14:6–7.

God revealed the time of judgment to His people and told them to proclaim it to the world.

5: Daniel 7:2–8.

Daniel saw the rise and fall of earthly powers throughout the time of the papal power which would receive a “deadly wound” in 1798.¹

6: Daniel 7:9–10.

Then Daniel saw the beginning of the judgment.

7: Daniel 8:14.

Daniel was told that the records in the sanctuary would be cleansed after 2300 days (years—see Ezekiel 4:6).

8: Daniel 9:21–23.

The angel Gabriel returned to finish explaining the vision to Daniel.

9: Daniel 9:24.

Gabriel told Daniel that 70 weeks (490 years) were given to the Jewish nation, which began in 457 B.C. and ended in A.D. 34. (Remember there was no zero year.) Therefore, the remaining 1810 years (until the “cleansing” or judgment would begin) brings us to A.D. 1844.

10: Leviticus 16:29–34.

Jesus was crucified in A.D. 31 on Passover, which was symbolic of His death. On the day of atonement in 1844, the judgment

began just as had been prophesied.

11: Ecclesiastes 12:13–14.

Every work will be judged—and declared either good or evil.

12: 1 John 2:1–2.

John says to “sin not.” However, there is a provision, an Advocate, “if any man sin.”

13: 1 John 2:28.

Further instructing us, John says, “Abide in him.” Then we can confidently look forward to the judgment.

14: Revelation 22:11–12.

Soon our probation will close and God will make His awesome pronouncement.

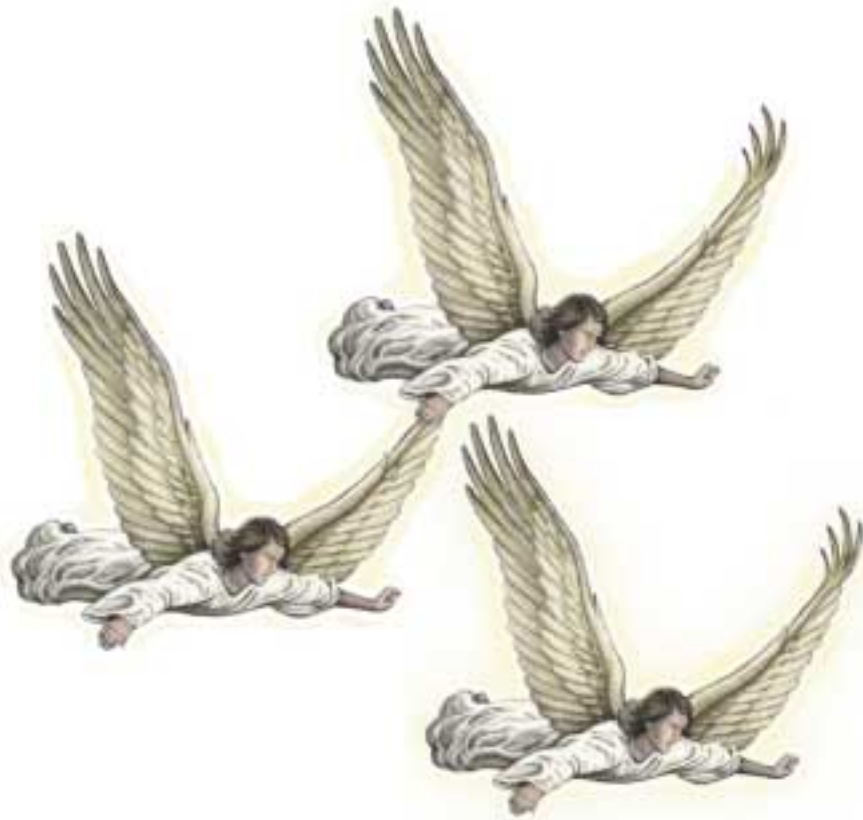
15: 2 Peter 3:9.

God has waited patiently; however, He will not wait forever. Let us be about our Father’s business, preparing our own lives and warning all who will listen of the shortness of time left to prepare.

¹ See the February 2003 *Our Firm Foundation* for an explanation.

A Note From the Editors

This is the final article of the series entitled “Defending the Faith.” We have published this series with the hope that many readers would be better able to show from God’s Word the reasons for our faith. We want to thank those who edited these studies, especially Philip Garber, Alan Esselbach, Lisa Epperly, and Gwen Richter.



Historic Adventism

PART II

Colin Standish

In part 1 of this series, we began to give a brief description of what is now widely referred to as “historic Adventism.” We dwelt chiefly upon the beliefs related to the everlasting gospel of Revelation 14:6–7. Before concluding this article, the author would like to explain how this article came about:

In the mid-1990s I was commissioned by the then editor of *Ministry* magazine, Elder David Newman, to write an article for *Ministry* entitled “Historic Seventh-day Adventists.” This I did. The *Ministry* editor had said a professor from Andrews University would be writing a contrasting view. I counseled with a number of faithful Seventh-day Adventist pastors who warned that the article would not be published because it was too well written. The advisors said there was no effective way to answer my dissertation. So it proved to be. Elder Newman wrote a letter rejecting the article in which he stated that he would not offer any reason for the rejection.

The title “Historic Seventh-day Adventists” was not chosen by me. I believe the term is faulted. I do not believe it necessary to add any adjective to the name God has given to His people. Further, I believe that if nineteenth-century Seventh-day Adventists had accepted the message of Christ our Righteousness the Seventh-day Adventist people would have been home in heaven long ago. To be ready for the latter rain and translation, faithful Seventh-day Advent-

ists today need to “come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may.” *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 187.

— — —

It is no secret that the beliefs of historic Seventh-day Adventists have engendered opposition and significant persecution. Their view of the church, while wholly consistent with expressions of many early church leaders, (for example, James White), is increasingly out of favor with currently developing hierarchical concepts of church governance. Historic Seventh-day Adventists cling unwaveringly to the conviction that “the Bible and the Bible only is our basis of faith and practice.” “We have no creed but the Bible.” They fear that the primacy of the Bible is being set aside for the primacy of church pronouncements. They believe that to put the church above the Word is to destroy the church. “The very beginning of the great apostasy was in seeking to supplement the authority of God by that of the church.” *The Great Controversy*, 289. Further, they see many of our educators and church leaders going to the world in order to obtain their motivation for evangelism, their understanding of theology, and their modes of worship. Such sources they reject. They believe the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy also provide safeguards in these areas.

While historic Seventh-day Adventists do not hold that the Spirit of Prophecy supersedes the Bible, they, nevertheless, believe that Inspiration can never be partial. They believe that the inspiration of Sister White is equal with that of the prophets of the Bible. The Bible is our primary source of light and the only basis of our doctrines. However, they are heavily burdened by the indifference many members show toward the counsels of the Spirit of Prophecy.

Historic Seventh-day Adventists accept unreservedly the historicist view of prophetic interpretation,

recognizing the Jesuit origins of the futuristic and preterist systems. They believe the futurist view masks the identity of the antichrist as the Papacy and the preterist view supports the higher critical stream of biblical interpretation.

It seems ironic to many historic Seventh-day Adventists that on the one hand there is such hostility to their beliefs, while on the other hand pluralism is increasingly accepted by church members. Some even express the frustration that the only concepts that seem unacceptable to many pluralists are those doctrines established upon the clear testimony of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

Historic Seventh-day Adventists see a rejection of divine instruction for leaders to counsel and advise, sensing rather the exercise of kingly power and domination.

Truth Is the Source of True Loyalty

When truth is put aside, men seek another principle to define unity. This inevitably becomes “loyalty to the church.” Historic Seventh-day Adventists urge that the Seventh-day Adventist Church not fall into this trap. Already many have seen a redefining of the concept of the church. Whereas once the church was defined as the whole body of believers, now increasingly, the “church” is narrowed to the conference organization or to conference leadership. Such is seen as an extraordinarily dangerous usage of the word “church.” This hierarchical concept has produced division in the church, and will lead finally to persecution as it has in past eras. Historic Seventh-day Adventists believe in the concept of the priesthood of all believers, established upon Jesus’ words, “All ye are brethren.” Matthew 23:8.

Historic Adventists express alarm at what they perceive as a

rapid retreat toward a hierarchical type of church structure. They have seen a rejection of the decentralization model presented by Sister White at the 1901 General Conference session. Historic Seventh-day Adventists see a rejection of divine instruction for leaders to counsel and advise, sensing rather the exercise of kingly power and domination. They call for a return to the leadership built upon the model of Jesus. “Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and

whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:25–28.

Historic Seventh-day Adventists see a major drift toward the requirement of the local churches to serve the needs of the conference, rather than the conference serving the needs of its constituent churches. They see many pastors ruling and dictating rather than counseling and guiding. They see General Conference actions frequently treated as edicts that are rubber stamped by “lower” organizations. They see a great effort to silence the voices of warning and to prepare a passive and compliant laity who less- and less have any real say in their church, and who more-and-more are judged loyal, not on the basis of loyalty to God and His Word, but on the basis of passive loyalty to pastors and church leaders. In this they see deep moral danger to both leaders and followers.

A Remnant Preserved Despite the Shaking

Historic Seventh-day Adventists proclaim the triumph of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They accept Sister White's identification of the Seventh-day Adventist people as the remnant. See *Selected Messages*, book 2, 384–385. They reject the charge of those who declare such an identification as

will take the place of the defectors and join God's faithful people. "Standard after standard was left to trail in the dust as company after company from the Lord's army joined the foe and tribe after tribe from the ranks of the enemy united with the commandment-keeping people of God." *Ibid.*, vol. 8, 41.

There is much uncertainty among historic Seventh-day Adventists in regard to the final shape of

disfellowshipment. See Isaiah 1:26; Jeremiah 23:3–4; Ezekiel 34:12; Zephaniah 3:18–19.

Voices Calling for Revival and Reformation

The earnest entreaties of many historic Seventh-day Adventists have often been viewed with hostility by those not receptive to their biblical convictions. Generally speaking, historic Seventh-day Adventists are reform-minded, and therefore sustain an earnest concern for their fellow church members. Such concerns, not infrequently, are viewed as judgmental.

Among the historic Seventh-day Adventists, some have exhibited little tact and even hostility and bitterness to those not in harmony with their convictions. As in any reform movement, there are fanatical elements who have attached themselves to reform-minded Seventh-day Adventists. However, the earnestness, integrity, and loyalty of the movement as a whole should not be judged by these exceptions.

The central group of historic Seventh-day Adventists have a deep love for souls, especially for those that they sense are not truly committed to the Word of God. It is painful to these dedicated people to be referred to as perfectionists, legalists, fanatics, extremists, radicals, and ultra-conservatives. They reject claims that they are the dividers of the church, rather placing that charge against those responsible for bringing "new theories" into the church. Their burden is to uphold, live, and share the great truths God has entrusted to His remnant church.

Many are lifelong Seventh-day Adventists, and are alarmed that the message that they learned in their youth, into which they were baptized, and to which they have committed their lives, is now considered to be radical. They sense that Satan has been allowed to subvert God's truth, and to redirect the focus of the church.

As they perceive the increasing apostasy and worldliness in the

Genuine historic Seventh-day Adventists are all those who believe and live the pillars of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and refuse to compromise this position.

spiritual arrogance; rather they believe that it is the only valid conclusion from Scripture. They know no other church that teaches the keeping of the commandments of God *and* at the same time has the Spirit of Prophecy. See Revelation 12:17; 19:10.

However, historic Seventh-day Adventists do not believe most contemporary Seventh-day Adventists will be among the remnant. The Scripture refers to the remnant as being very small and feeble. See Isaiah 1:9, 16:14; Romans 9:27–28. They recognize that the remnant is a victorious people. See Zephaniah 3:13; Revelation 12:17. They believe the church is already going through a shaking which began with the introduction of apostate beliefs. See *Testimonies to Ministers*, 112. They believe that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is now in the second phase of the shaking, with the giving of the straight testimony of the True Witness, and that, as predicted, many are rising up against the message *and* the messengers. See *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 181–187.

They discern that the completion of the shaking does not occur until the terrible persecution of the little time of trouble, at which time the majority of Seventh-day Adventists will fail the test. However, they rejoice in the assurance that others

the end-time church. It is believed by most that the present worldwide disfellowshipping of earnest Seventh-day Adventists is the fulfillment of numerous biblical prophecies. See Jeremiah 23:1–2; Ezekiel 34:2; John 16:2; Luke 6:22–26.

Overwhelmingly, historic Seventh-day Adventists emphasize that, unlike previous responses to apostasy, when there was a coming out—for example, from the Jewish Church, from the Roman Catholic Church, and from the apostate Protestant churches—the end-time separation is accomplished by the angels, who separate the wheat from the tares.

A small minority of historic Seventh-day Adventists have taken the position that the church is so corrupt that they have no alternative but to resign their church membership; however, for most their church membership is very precious to them; yet, few are willing to compromise their convictions on truth and righteousness to retain their church membership. Most historic Seventh-day Adventists who are disfellowshipped retain a strong loyalty to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and are seen as loyal by other historic Seventh-day Adventists. They hold to the promise of God that He will redress the injustices that have led to their

church, it is almost certain that their voices will become stronger and their calls for repentance and reformation will be heard more loudly and frequently. They see this as their God-given duty, and they recognize that this will surely lead to stronger discipline and oppressive persecution.

Many have treated the historic Seventh-day Adventists as almost synonymous with self-supporting ministries (or independent ministries, or private organizations as they sometimes are unkindly labeled). However, such an equation can hardly be sustained. Some self-supporting ministries have rejected the platform of historic Seventh-day Adventism, and most of the historic Seventh-day Adventists are not directly associated with self-supporting ministries. Genuine historic Seventh-day Adventists are all those who believe and live the pillars of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and refuse to compromise this position.

Historic Seventh-day Adventists express alarm at the church's drift toward friendship with the fallen churches of Christendom. They believe that many vestiges of papal belief and practices have edged their way into the thinking and practices of some within the church. While few are engaged in hunts to find "the Jesuits in the church," most believe the Seventh-day Adventist Church could very well have been infiltrated in much the same way as the communists succeeded in infiltrating our churches of Eastern Europe.

Historic Seventh-day Adventists see danger in their ministers joining the ministers' fraternals, identifying this with a marked diminution to proselytize members of other faiths. They are very uneasy with calls to evangelize only the unchurched, not because they do not believe in such evangelism, but because they fear there is a hidden agenda to reduce, if not eliminate, the pastor's commitment to calling men and women out of Babylon according to Revelation 18:4.

Standing Against Apostasy

Commonly, historic Seventh-day Adventists sense that through our church's observer status with the World Council of Churches, we have stepped over the line of safety, and have become too-closely linked with an organization which will be a prime agency in bringing about the fulfillment of Revelation 13:8. They see evidence for their concerns in the official invitation for leaders of other faiths to participate as observers and to give greetings at our General Conference sessions. They also see gifts to leaders of other churches as dangerous fraternization.

*"The truth in all its pointed severity must be spoken.
Men of action are needed—men who will labor with earnest,
ceaseless energy for the purifying of the church
and the warning of the world."*

In recent years historic Seventh-day Adventists led the warnings against the training in the new-age-based Lab 1 and Lab 2 courses. As more information became available, they became concerned that pastors who received that training were taught NLP (neuro-linguistic programming). Indeed, there were some elements of NLP in the Lab courses.

They also became concerned that many pastors were being trained in hypnotic techniques. Reassurances by church leaders have done little to allay their concerns as they have learned of the simple methods of hypnotic techniques. They are concerned that unknowingly, some pastors have learned these techniques without understanding what they were. In any case, they see the training in listening skills as a means of human control over other fellow human beings, and therefore inconsistent with the gospel.

They emphasize that church growth can never be developed upon humanistic principles. Thus they perceive the "church growth"

movement as doomed to failure because it is not built upon biblical principles. True church growth results from the investing of God's sanctified people with the Holy Spirit. They seek quality of converts before quantity.

Historic Seventh-day Adventists have resolutely opposed the celebration movement. They identify the celebration movement as one of the "glues" to unite all Christendom under the banner of the Papacy. They agree that generally our church services have been lifeless and tame. They believe the emasculated gospel of the new theology is the cause of this impotency. They see the presentation of riveting

messages from the transcendent truths of the three angels' messages, which pierce the heart and renew the soul, as the only way to bring authentic life back to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Historic Seventh-day Adventists see their mission summarized in the following statement: "It is no time now to cry, 'Peace and safety.' It is not silver-tongued orators that are needed to give this message. The truth in all its pointed severity must be spoken. Men of action are needed—men who will labor with earnest, ceaseless energy for the purifying of the church and the warning of the world." *Ibid.*, vol. 5, 187.

Generally, these people give sacrificially to God's work, both in resources and ministry. It is certain that they willingly will explore unity with those of other understandings upon the basis of God's revealed Word. They are unshakable in their convictions that they are following the revelation of

continued on page 27...

No Good Reason For Being Discouraged

E. Hilliard

There is no good reason for anyone's becoming discouraged. There is no sin, no matter how deeply seated in the physical man, or how long it has been indulged, but what if fully surrendered to Him who has all power in heaven and earth, it can be fully conquered.

By keeping our eyes fixed upon Jesus by faith, we can resist every temptation. From all temptations that are too strong for us to bear, He has promised to make a way of escape. It is the mind of God that we live without sin; for if in His strength we can conquer every temptation that He allows to come upon us, and He makes a way of escape for temptations too strong to bear, there can be no reason why we should not become sinless, and live a pure life. It is sin that discourages us, and only sin.

That it is God's mind that we live without sin, is evident from 1 John 2:1: "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not." Why would God write to us, through His servant, "that ye sin not," if there is no way to be kept from sinning? It would certainly be useless thus to admonish if there was no possible way for the admonition to take effect.

But strive as we may, and be as determined as we know how, we are told in *Steps to Christ*, 64, that "we shall often have to bow down and weep at the feet of Jesus because of our shortcomings and mistakes, but

we are not to be discouraged. Even if we are overcome by the enemy, we are not cast off, not forsaken and rejected of God." No; for the Lord did not leave the text unfinished, but added, "And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." Praise His name for this!

Many are perplexed over this text. They seem to think it impossible to live without sin, and positively declare that it cannot be done. They grasp the latter part of the text, "And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous," and then without any dependence on Christ, try in their own strength not to repeat the sin. The temptation can be met successfully only by keeping our eyes upon Jesus, and by exercising faith in His keeping power. See 1 Peter 1:5.

However, our danger lies in losing sight of Christ, and our faith failing. If we do, we will certainly sin.

Let us illustrate: A man is thrown overboard at sea. A line is thrown within his reach, and he grasps it tightly. As long as he clings to it, he is drawn toward the ship. But as he nears the vessel, he begins to think himself quite secure, which causes him somewhat to loosen his grasp; and before he is aware of it, he has lost his hold entirely. He is again at the mercy of the wind and the waves. He awakens anew to his perilous condition, and again calls loudly for help. His deliverer again throws the lifeline,

which is grasped more tightly than ever. Had he been more careful not to lose his hold the first time, it would have been much better. A mountainous wave might have swept him away, just as he was reaching out to lay hold of the line.

It is just so with the sinner. He is shipwrecked on the sea of death; but God in His mercy has thrown the lifeline of His promise (see 1 John 1:9), and many a shipwrecked mariner has grasped it, but again he has grown careless and lost his hold. Some have awakened again to grasp the lifeline (1 John 2:1, last part), to lay hold of it more securely, pray more fervently, believe more fully, and watch more diligently; while others have been swept away by some great temptation, and have given up in despair.

By continually keeping our eyes fixed upon Christ, we *can* live without sin. By looking away from Him, we *will* sin. We *can* look to Him continually. We *may* become careless and lose sight of Him. But if we make calculations that we *cannot* live out the admonition, "that ye sin not," we have already looked away from Christ, made provisions to fulfill the lusts of the flesh, and will sink in despair. (All emphasis in the original.)

May our faith take hold of His keeping power, and we be preserved from the terrible temptations that are awaiting us on every side. ✠

Review and Herald, March 7, 1893.



Why Health Reform?

Bill Humeniuk

“Everything in the world is in *agitation*. The signs of the times are ominous. Coming events cast their shadows before. . . .

“The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. . . . Satan sees that his time is short. He has set *all his agencies* at work that men may be *deceived, deluded, occupied and entranced*, until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut.” *The Desire of Ages*, 636. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

Many of our people are vegetarians and think that they are health reformers because they have given up flesh. Health reform for this last generation goes *far beyond* just giving up flesh. The Spirit of Prophecy, in the light of the times we are living in and the events that are transpiring around us, is calling for total *health reform* — giving up *everything* that is harmful to the body — the temple of the Holy Ghost. See 1 Corinthians 6:19–20. We are living in serious times, which require serious attention. “The great controversy is nearing its end. . . . Is there a Christian whose pulse does not beat with quickened action as he anticipates the great events opening before us? The Lord is coming. We hear the footsteps of an approaching God.” *Maranatha*, 220.

Are you taking inventory of your spiritual and physical life? Can we not see and hear “footsteps of an approaching God”? As we see all the

events transpiring around us, do we not sense “that something great and decisive is about to take place”? *Prophets and Kings*, 537. Is it not time for God’s people to lay aside everything harmful, destructive, and sinful to the body in order to be ready for the final days which are already upon us?

“When men and women are truly converted they will conscientiously regard the laws of life that God has established in their being, thus seeking to avoid physical, mental, and moral feebleness. . . . We must answer to God for our habits and practices. Therefore, the question for us is not, ‘What will the world say?’ but, ‘How shall I, claiming to be a Christian, treat the habitation God has given me?’ ” *In Heavenly Places*, 191; see also Ephesians 2:22.

Fit for God’s Presence and Power

God desires to keep us from being deceived, deluded, occupied, and entranced by the Babylonian food that our supermarkets are offering in pleasant boxes, wrappers, and bottles. Young Daniel, only 18 years old, made up his mind not to eat of the Babylonian food, but only as God provided from the field and the garden — is it not time for us to purpose in our hearts to do the same? Do we not see the human suffering caused by the myriads of diseases in the world today? It is time for us to wake up out of our spiritual and

physical lethargy. God wants us to see “that human nature might be restored, rebeautified, reconstructed from its ruins, and made fit for the presence of God.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 537. This not only talks about the spiritual, but also the physical.

“In teaching health principles, keep before the mind the great object of reform — that its purpose is to secure the *highest development* of body and mind and soul. Show that the laws of nature, being the laws of God, are designed for our good; that obedience to them promotes happiness in this life, and *aids in the preparation for the life to come*.” *Evangelism*, 526.

“The light which God has given upon *health reform cannot be trifled with* without injury to those who attempt it; and no man can hope to succeed in the work of God while, by precept and example, he acts in opposition to the light which God has sent.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 38.

“The health reform, I was shown, is a part of the third angel’s message, and is just as closely connected with it as are the arm and hand with the human body. I saw that we as a people must make an advance move in this great work. Ministers and people must act in concert. God’s people are *not prepared for the loud cry* of the third angel.” *Ibid.*, 74; see also *ibid.*, 39; *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 559.

When we put it all together, God holds the Seventh-day Adventist

Church responsible and accountable for the light He has given them on the subject of health reform. It is part of the third angel's message, and we are not even prepared for the loud cry. Why is this? — It is because we are holding on to the Babylonian diet of the world and, therefore, cannot be sealed and prepared to present the loud cry of the third angel.

Defiling the Temple of God

While many of us have given up certain foods, we still cling to other products that are defiling the temple of God, which is holy because it is intended to be a dwelling place for the Spirit of God. See 1 Corinthians 3:16–17. So, when we defile our bodies, how can the Holy Spirit dwell

grains in “as *natural* a condition as possible.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 314; see also *ibid.*, 322, 380. As we can see the final crisis on the horizon, we should all be preparing for translation spiritually, as well as in the aspect of diet.

Listen to what the servant of the Lord was shown:

“Sugar clogs the system. It hinders the working of the living machine.” *Ibid.*, 331; see also *ibid.*, 327. “From the light given me, sugar, when largely used, is more injurious than meat.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 370.

“Cheese should never be introduced into the stomach.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 368.

“True temperance teaches us to dispense *entirely* with everything

admonition of Isaiah 26:3–4: “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.” My mind is at peace because I trust the Lord in what He says, including on the issue of diet, that He will lead His people if they trustingly obey Him, thereby receiving “*everlasting strength*.” I claim that promise. Will you?

Remember, when Israel followed God's plan for 40 years in the wilderness by eating manna, the bread of heaven, “there was not one feeble person among their tribes.” Psalm 105:37; see also Psalm 78:19–32; Deuteronomy 7:15. I believe that if we, as God's people, will follow His plan in health reform fully today, there will be none feeble among us, especially as we approach the time of trouble.

“It is of *great importance* that individually we act well our part, and have an *intelligent understanding* of what we should *eat and drink*, and how we should *live to preserve health*. All are *being proved* to see whether they will accept the principles of health reform or follow a course of self-indulgence.” *Review and Herald*, February 10, 1910.

Cleanse the Appetite

Are we reading the ingredients of packaged foods in order to guard our health by avoiding harmful products? We are being tested in these last days, just as Adam and Eve were tested in the Garden of Eden, and just as the Israelites were tested during their 40 years in the wilderness, and just as our Lord was tested when he was 40 days in the wilderness, *fasting for us*.

Are we eating and drinking to the glory of God (see 1 Corinthians 10:31), or suiting our own taste?

“There is a large class who will reject any reform movement, however reasonable, if it lays a restriction upon the appetite. They *consult taste, instead of reason and the laws of health*.” *Counsels on Health*, 153.

“If we move from principle in these things, if we as Christian reformers educate our own taste, and bring our diet to God's plan, then we may exert an influence upon others in

“I was shown that God would give to His commandment-keeping people a reform diet, and that as they received this, their disease and suffering would be greatly lessened.”

there? Since Revelation 21:27 says, “There shall in no wise enter into it [the New Jerusalem] any thing that defileth,” why would we expect the Holy Spirit to dwell in *us* if we defile our bodies?

Some of us are still clinging to things that the Spirit of Prophecy informs us are specifically forbidden, such as vinegar, baking powder, and large amounts of sugar. Science is producing mounting evidence that other food products are harmful as well, such as dairy products; chocolate (which not only contains caffeine but also large amounts of sugar, fat, and cream); other products containing hydrogenated (trans) fat, whey, casein, MSG, and chemicals used as preservatives and food coloring; soft drinks; and all kinds of junk food.

Some may be saying, “Now wait a minute, you are going too far. Some of those items that you named are in everything! How can you avoid them?” That is the point! They *are* in almost everything that is made by the food industry; therefore, it is time to return to fruits, vegetables, nuts, and

hurtful and to use judiciously that which is healthful.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 562. Today, science is catching up with what God showed our church years ago, proving the dangers of many man-made food products.

“I was shown that intemperance would prevail in the world to an alarming extent and that every one of the people of God must take an elevated stand in regard to reformation in habits and practices. . . . I was shown that God would give to His commandment-keeping people a reform diet, and that as they received this, their *disease and suffering* would be *greatly lessened*.” *Counsels on Health*, 531. If God's people would practice the full extent of the health reform, “disease and suffering would be *greatly lessened*.”

Promises of Health and Peace of Mind

Do you want the peace of mind that health reform offers? Do you want to greatly diminish the chances of disease and suffering? Then follow the

this matter, which will be pleasing to God." *Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, 119; see also *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 380–381.

"God demands that the *appetites be cleansed*, and that self-denial be practiced in regard to those things which are not good. This is a work that will have to be done before His people can stand before Him a *perfected people*." *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 153–154.

A Salvational Issue

"As a people we have been given the work of making known the principles of health reform. . . . The subject of temperance, in all its bearings, has an important place in the work of salvation." *Ibid.*, 112.

"The light God has given on health reform is for our salvation and the salvation of the world." *Counsels on Health*, 479.

The Spirit of the Lord has spoken; health reform affects our salvation:

"It is impossible to present our bodies a living sacrifice to God when they are filled with corruption and disease by our own sinful indulgence." *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 164.

"If man will cherish the light that God in mercy gives him upon health reform, he may be sanctified through the truth and fitted for immortality." *Ibid.*, 162.

"I was again shown that the health reform is one branch of the great work which is to fit a people for the coming of the Lord. . . .

"In love and pity to the race, He causes the light to shine upon health reform. . . . All accountable beings can understand it if they will. Idiots¹ will not be responsible. To make plain natural law, and urge the obedience of it, is the work that accompanies the third angel's message to *prepare a people* for the coming of the Lord." *Ibid.*, 161.

My friends, God is doing everything He can to save us! The cross reveals it all: self-denial and self-sacrificing love. Health reform is a part of the plan of salvation, especially for the 144,000, to "fit a people" for His coming. "It [health reform] is a subject that we *must understand* in order to be prepared for the events

that are close upon us, and it should have a prominent place." *Counsels on Health*, 453.

"If church members *do not act* the part God has assigned them, the movement of health reform will go on *without them*, and it will be seen that God has removed their candlestick out of its place." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 13, 339.

Part of the Third Angels' Message

God has assigned us to finish this work in proclaiming the third and fourth angel's message. "Come out of her, *my people*." Revelation 18:4. Come out of the Babylonian diet!

Diet is not the ultimate goal; godliness and holiness is. Proper diet is only a tool to clear up our minds so that we can grow and be sanctified in Christ.

"When properly conducted, the health work is an *entering wedge*, making a way for other truths to reach the heart. When the third angel's message is received in its fullness, health reform will be given its place in the councils of the conference, in the work of the church, in the home, at the table, and in all the household arrangements." *Counsels on Health*, 434.

"Much of the prejudice that prevents the truth of the third angel's message from reaching the hearts of the people might be removed if more attention were given to health reform. When people become interested in this subject, the way is often prepared for the entrance of other truths. If they see that we are *intelligent with regard to health*, they will be *more ready to believe that we are sound in Bible doctrines*." *Ibid.*, 452.

"The subject of health reform has been presented in the churches; but the light has not been heartily received. . . . And the influence of these older church members will leaven those newly come to the faith. The Lord does not now work to bring many souls into the truth, because of

the church members who have never been converted and those who were once converted but who have backslidden. What influence would these unconsecrated members have on new converts? Would they not make of no effect the God-given message which His people are to bear?" *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 370–371.

Our Ultimate Goal

My final point is that diet is not the ultimate goal; godliness and holiness is. Proper diet is only a tool to clear up our minds so that we can grow and be sanctified in Christ. "His example declares that our only hope of eternal life is through bringing the

appetites and passions into subjection to the will of God." *The Desire of Ages*, 122.

"As we near the close of time, we must rise higher and still higher upon the question of health reform and Christian temperance." *Counsels on Health*, 467.

"God will not work a miracle to keep those from sickness who have no care for themselves, but are continually violating the laws of health, and make no efforts to prevent disease. . . . Let all understand that *they have a work to do*. God will not work in a miraculous manner to preserve the health of persons who, by their careless inattention to the laws of health, are taking a sure course to make themselves sick." *Review and Herald*, December 19, 1899.

My prayer is that, as we enter into the final crisis, we will prepare ourselves spiritually, as well as physically, to meet all the conditions laid out to develop our character and make us fit for immortality. ✨

¹ *Idiot*: A person of profound mental retardation. The term is no longer in scientific use. —Noah Webster

BETWEEN THE

PORCH

AND THE

ALTAR



Ron Spear

God has His faithful few in all parts of the earth who are sighing and crying for the abominations that are taking place in the world all around them, and especially do they cry out to God for the sins which are now tolerated in the church. It is as though sin were not sin anymore. "A little sin can't be helped — just don't sin in a big way," is the insidious counsel given by some.

However, God's inspired messenger brings this counsel to His remnant people in this crisis hour: "Mark this point with care: Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those 'that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done' (Ezekiel 9:4) in the church." *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 267.

So, we must now understand that sighing and crying for the sins of the

world and the church has something to do with the sealing of God's people. This means that God's people must have a hatred for all sin, but still love the sinners as Jesus loves them. They must believe with all their hearts and souls that God has all the power in the universe to keep them from sin. If they are willing to be made willing to submit their minds and wills continually to Him, there is complete victory by the power of the Holy Spirit over lustful thinking and every evil temper and disposition.

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.' Revelation 3:21. We can overcome. Yes; fully, entirely. Jesus died to make a way of escape for us, that we might overcome every evil temper, every sin, every temptation, and sit down at last with Him." *Ibid.*, vol. 1, 144.

"Exact obedience is required, and those who say that it is not possible to live a perfect life throw upon God the imputation of injustice and untruth." *Review and Herald*, February 7, 1957.

Praise God! There is still hope in Israel because He has a small company who sigh and cry unto Him for the sinners in Zion.

"The leaven of godliness has not entirely lost its power. At the time when the danger and depression of the church are greatest, the little company who are standing in the light will be sighing and crying for the abominations that are done in the land. But more especially will their prayers arise in behalf of the church because its members are doing after the manner of the world.

"The earnest prayers of this faithful few will not be in vain. When the Lord comes forth as an avenger, He will also come as a protector of all those who have preserved the faith in its purity and kept themselves unspotted from the world. It is at this time that God has promised to avenge His own elect which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them.

"The command is: 'Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.' Ezekiel 9:4. These sighing, crying ones had been holding forth the words of life; they had reprovved, counseled, and entreated. Some who had been dishonoring God repented and humbled their hearts before Him. But the glory of the Lord had departed from Israel; although

many still continued the forms of religion, His power and presence were lacking.

“In the time when His wrath shall go forth in judgments, these humble devoted followers of Christ will be distinguished from the rest of the world by their soul anguish, which is expressed in lamentation and weeping, reproofs and warnings. While others try to throw a cloak over the existing evil, and excuse the great wickedness everywhere prevalent, those who have a zeal for God’s honor and a love for souls will not hold their peace to obtain favor of any. Their righteous souls are vexed day by day with the unholy works and conversation of the unrighteous. They are powerless to stop the rushing torrent of iniquity, and hence they are filled with grief and alarm. They mourn before God to see religion despised in the very homes of those who have had great light. They lament and afflict their souls because pride, avarice, selfishness, and deception of almost every kind are in the church. The Spirit of God, which prompts to reproof, is trampled underfoot, while the servants of Satan triumph. God is dishonored, the truth made of none effect.

“The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 209–211.

Anyone — church leader, pastor, or layman — who would cover up sin by excusing it becomes as guilty before God as if he had committed that sin himself. If adultery, or any open sin, be excused or overlooked by God’s church, the curse of God will rest upon the entire congregation until the sin be searched out and dealt with in a Christlike spirit.

The almost total disregard of God’s inspired counsel of how to deal with sin in the camp has been responsible for bringing God’s remnant church into a position of great apostasy. We are told that the same apostasy which brought the displeasure of God upon the ancient Israelites — Balaam’s curse of

Moabitish immorality — would plague God’s people in these last days if they followed after the ways of the world.

“Unless these evils which bring the displeasure of God are corrected in its members, the whole church stands accountable for them.” *Review and Herald*, December 23, 1890.

“Instead of giving all for Christ many have taken the golden wedge and a goodly Babylonish garment and hid them in the camp. If the presence of one Achan was sufficient to weaken the whole camp of Israel, can we be surprised at the little success which attends our efforts when every church and almost every family has its Achan?” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 157.

Then the shaking and the sealing go on until God has a people, His church, who are safe to save.

What Is the Sealing?

“What is the seal of the living God, which is placed in the foreheads of His people? — It is a mark which angels, but not human eyes, can read; for the destroying angel must see this mark of redemption.

“The angel with the writer’s inkhorn is to place a mark upon the foreheads of all who are separated from sin and sinners, and the destroying angel follows this angel.

“Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads — it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved — just as soon as God’s people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come.” *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, 1161.

Then the shaking and the sealing go on until God has a people, His church, who are safe to save. His sealing approval is upon them. They have overcome by the blood of the Lamb; every sin, every

temptation, every deficiency of character has been corrected. The character of Jesus has been reproduced in them perfectly.

“The Christian’s life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. This change can be brought about only by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit.” *The Desire of Ages*, 172.

In concluding this important study, let us refer again to God’s counsel: “Everyone must now search the Bible for himself upon his knees before God, with the humble, teachable heart of a child, if he would know what the Lord requires of him. However high any minister may have

stood in the favor of God, if he neglects to follow out the light given him of God, if he refuses to be taught as a little child, he will go into darkness and satanic delusions and will lead others in the same path.

“Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 214.

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” 1 Peter 2:9.

“The Holy Spirit is at work. Divine agencies are combining with the human in reshaping the character according to the perfect pattern, and man is to work out that which

continued on page 27...



Girls' Coffee Drinking May Lead To Tobacco, Alcohol Use

News Item: "Coffee-drinking and dieting may become the newest red flag to indicate whether a girl will start to smoke or drink.

In a new survey of girls and young women out last week, those who drink coffee are four times more likely to be smokers than girls who don't drink coffee. The report also finds that young women (18 to 22) who drink coffee begin smoking and drinking alcohol at an earlier age."

"Twenty-three percent of girls who drink coffee also smoke, vs. 5 percent of girls who don't drink coffee." *The News Tribune* [Tacoma, WA], February 10, 2003.

End-Time Perspective: "The highly seasoned flesh meats and the tea and coffee, which some mothers encourage their children to use, prepare the way for them to crave stronger stimulants, as tobacco. The use of tobacco encourages the appetite for liquor; and the use of tobacco and liquor invariably lessens nerve power." *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 234.

"There must be a revolution in our world upon the subject of tobacco before the ax is laid at the root of the tree. We press the subject still closer. Tea and coffee are fostering the appetite which is developing for stronger stimulants, as tobacco and liquor." *Ibid.*, 430.

This research also illustrates why we cannot depend on science to give us guidance for life. Science tries to explain cause-to-effect relationships, but by its very

nature it has to rely on observable facts. God reveals the cause-to-effect relationship before the effect can be observed. By trusting obedience we may avoid the causes that lead to undesirable or destructive consequences. How many lives could be saved if the above counsel would be heeded!

Faith And Works

News Item: "A store once stocked with pornography merchandise is now stocked with Bibles and other Christian products because the storeowner repented of his sins and asked Jesus to save him.

"Morally, I couldn't sell it any longer," Michael Braithwaite, the storeowner, said about the sexually explicit merchandise. After being saved, he said God convinced him that he needed to burn the \$10,000 worth of filthiness, so a local pastor helped him haul everything out to the parking lot and set it on fire with 10 gallons of diesel fuel.

"When the Lord gets a hold of you, you make some changes," Braithwaite said. The store once had bright red outside walls, but now they've been painted white. Where suggestive merchandise was once displayed, now Bibles are shelved. Needless to say, his former customers are quite surprised to walk in the store and find products of the light where they once sought products of darkness."

Crosswalk.com, Religion Today Summary for December 4, 2002.

Day of Rest for European Union Members

News Item: "The European Union has set up the policy that every

member-state must have one day of rest during the week. But the policy explicitly states that the designated day need not be Sunday, since for reasons of 'religious pluralism' a nation's government might choose another day.

"In Italy, the designation of Sunday as a 'day of rest' was first set in 1993. That policy was changed in 2000, however, when — in order to grant more flexibility for employers — the nation required only that every employer produce workers with a 24-hour rest period each week. But by August 2003, under the new European policy, Italy will again be required to fix a certain 'day of rest.'

"In an interview with the daily *Corriere della Sera*, Bishop Giancarlo Bregantini — who heads a committee dealing with social issues for Italian bishops' conference — remarked that attitudes on the observance of the Sabbath are 'already bad enough' without a change in national policy. He said that any move away from the Sunday rest would be 'a perverse act.' And Cardinal Pio Laghi, the former prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education, asked *La Repubblica*: 'How can you overlook the fact that Sunday is a special day for millions of Europeans?' " *Catholic World News*, December 19, 2002.

Religion Very Important to 59% Polled in the USA

News Item: "Religion is much more important to Americans than to people in other wealthy countries, according to an international poll released Thursday.

“It found that the United States is more spiritually akin to many developing nations. In the United States, 59 percent of poll respondents said religion is ‘very important’ in their lives.

“That was well above the numbers for other industrialized nations, including Britain (33 percent), Canada (30 percent), Italy (27 percent), South Korea (25 percent), Germany (21 percent), Japan (12 percent) and France (11 percent).” *Star-Telegram*, December 20, 2002.

End-Time Perspective: May God help us not be deceived into thinking that, since we are very religious, we are in harmony with God’s will. See Matthew 24:11–12, 2 Timothy 3:5–7. The believers in the church of Ephesus were very religious, but they needed to repent. We need to meditate upon – taking to heart and heeding – the warning and counsel Jesus had for them lest the darkness that surrounds us today engulf our souls. See Revelation 2:1–7. God is going to bring around a condition of things where the good men and the men in authority will have an opportunity to know what is truth indeed. ✠

Continued from page 25...

God works in. Will we as a people do this God-given work? Will we carefully heed all the light that has been given, keeping constantly before us the one object of fitting students for the kingdom of God? If by faith we advance step-by-step in the right way, following the Great Leader, light will shine along our pathway, and circumstances will occur to remove the difficulties. The approval of God will give hope, and ministering angels will cooperate with us, bringing light and grace, and courage and gladness.

“Then let no more time be lost in dwelling on the many things which are not essential and which have no bearing upon the present necessities of God’s people. Let no more time be lost in exalting men who know not the truth, ‘for the time is at hand.’ Revelation 22:10. There is no time now to fill the mind with theories of what is popularly called ‘higher education.’ The time devoted to that which does not tend to assimilate the soul to the likeness of Christ is so much time lost for eternity. This we cannot afford, for every moment is freighted with eternal interests.

Now, when the great work of judging the living is about to begin, shall we allow unsanctified ambition to take possession of the heart and lead us to neglect the education required to meet the needs in this day of peril?” *Ibid.*, vol. 6, 130.

Let us remember that we can only be God’s chosen, holy, peculiar, sealed people in this fateful crisis hour if we are obedient to all of God’s inspired counsel and are sincerely weeping between the porch and the altar for the sins in the church – and are ready to call sin by its right name.

God will never lead anyone or any group of men and women – whether they be church board, conference committee, or General Conference – to go contrary to His orders given through the Holy Spirit’s inspiration.

May we all now, in these final moments before probation closes for the church and the world, go to the Bible and those neglected “little red books” and study earnestly how we can be subordinate to all the commands and directions that God has given His remnant church for the finishing of His work. ✠

Continued from page 19...

Scripture and are consistent with the beliefs brought to the church through prayer, Bible study, and divine revelation. They do not contemplate compromise to accommodate any revisionist or reconstructionist concept that does not measure to the testimony of Scripture. Their earnestness, their loyalty to God, to His Word, and to His church can never be validly questioned.

Historic Seventh-day Adventists have a fervent burden to reach the hearts and minds of their fellow church members, leaders and pastors. The love of God constrains them to work unceasingly for the lost sheep of the house of Israel for they know that probationary time is almost past. Thus their efforts

intensify, believing that many precious souls are yet outside the security of Christ. They appeal to those in authority not to misconstrue their motives nor their earnest efforts.

“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.” 2 Corinthians 4:8–10.

Conclusion

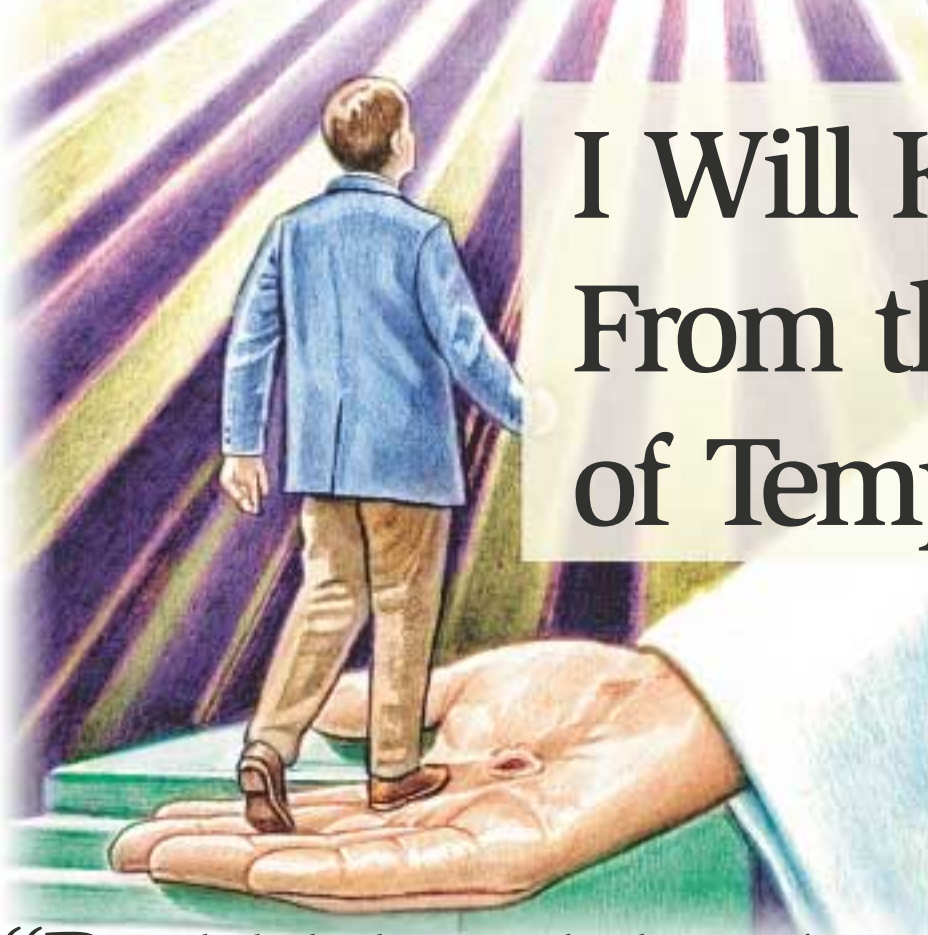
Historic Seventh-day Adventists, as defined in this article, are not an offshoot of the Seventh-day Adventist church; rather, they are the

continuation of the church that God raised up over 150 years ago.

If you find that you do not fit this description of an historic Seventh-day Adventist, we urge you to earnestly and prayerfully study the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy to learn for yourself what are the characteristics of God’s remnant people.

May each one who professes to be an historic Seventh-day Adventist be faithful to that profession and thus truly bring glory to God. ✠

Colin Standish writes from Rapidan, VA, where he serves as President of Hartland Institute.



I Will Keep Thee From the Hour of Temptation

Part 1

Ellen G. White

“**B**ecause thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” Revelation 3:10.

These words are important and solemn, and it would be profitable to us should we take them home with us, and search the Scriptures in reference to their true meaning. The hour of temptation is to come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth; and although we do not wish to make a time of trouble for ourselves, nor do we wish to groan over trials in the future, still we should be so closely connected with God that we shall not fall under the temptation when it does come. “Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.” Isaiah 50:10.

The Lord will raise up a standard for us against the enemy. We should believe that we have a Helper in God, that we shall not be afraid, we shall not be filled with

wonder and amazement; for we know that the God of Israel has been with His people from the very first—from the very infancy of this world God has been with His obedient children. We must show that we have confidence in God, and make it manifest to the world that we can trust Him because we believe in Him. His Word is pledged that there shall no temptation come upon us, but that help shall be provided to sustain us. “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13.

We should be watching unto prayer. Just as surely as we do watch and pray, we shall know who is our helper. “Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am.” Isaiah 58:9. He is ready to strengthen us; and may the Lord give you grace day by day, that you may be able to withstand the storm that is coming, for it will try your spiritual hope to the very uttermost.

If your hope is in man, you are lost; if in Jesus, who is the Rock of Ages, your salvation is sure. He has said, “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; and ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.” Matthew 10:16–22.

We ought to be thankful that these words are left on record. Every child of God that is brought into difficulty and trial because of his faithfulness to Jesus, may claim the

promise, and will receive sufficient grace for every emergency.

We are only selfishly wise when we plan for the future, and make resolutions and bring them in, and we ourselves arrange matters, as we think in all wisdom; for in so doing we are in danger of getting in the way of the Lord. Stand out of the way with your many resolutions, and when the time comes for God to bring His people into trying places to test and prove them, He will help them, and He will not fail or be discouraged, but will be a present help in trouble.

Christ Will Speak Through You

We read in the Scriptures, "But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; and ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles." Kings, governors, and councils are to have a knowledge of the truth through your testimony. This is the only way in which the testimony of light and truth can reach men of high authority.

"But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." Christ stood by the side of Luther, and by the side of all the Reformers whom He commissioned to go forth and make aggressive moves to advance the message of God in our world. He did not send them forth alone. Jesus has promised to be at your right hand. What a gracious promise is this, and it will be fulfilled; for He is faithful that hath promised. Jesus is yours, and all things in heaven and earth are His, and yours because you believe in Him.

We should become acquainted with the Bible. We are required to become diligent Bible students, lest we be found adopting error for truth. We want the truth as it is in Jesus. He says, "It is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father

which speaketh in you." You need not be surprised that God will flash the knowledge obtained by diligent searching of the Scriptures, into your memory at the very time when it is needed. But if you let the precious moments of probationary time pass, and neglect to fill your minds and the minds of your children with the gems of truth, if you are not acquainted with the words of Christ, if you have never tested the power of His grace in trial, you cannot expect that the Holy Spirit will bring Christ's words to your remembrance. We are to serve God daily with our undivided affection, and then trust Him.

What God Will Do and What You Must Do

We read, "And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children

stand, than should be spoken, because our knowledge is only superficial. There should be more humble trust and confidence in our Saviour. We should have the simplicity of Christ; we want to be like Him, having our lives hid with Christ in God, that "when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." Colossians 3:4.

We expect trials to come in these last days; we are not looking for anything else; but may God give us grace that we may endure the trials when they do come, and not faint under persecution. We do not desire to be in a position where we shall have no strength at that time. Then let us become acquainted with God now. Many in this congregation are ignorant of God's grace and power and matchless love, because they have allowed the enemy to do just

We expect trials to come in these last days; we are not looking for anything else; but may God give us grace that we may endure the trials when they do come, and not faint under persecution.

shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." You must carry Christ with you to the very close of probationary time, and let no man take your crown; keep an eye single to the glory of God, and stand as did Paul, believing that God has power to keep that which has been committed to His trust against that day. In believing that God will keep that which has been committed to His trust, we show confidence in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

But we desire you to understand what you are to do at the present time. You are to keep your eye single to the glory of God. There is too much talk and too little prayer. A great deal more is spoken of things that we think we know and under-

what he designed to do — to intercept himself between them and their God.

Sabbath and Sunday Observance

There will be an effort made to unsettle the faith of every believer in present truth. Since Satan fell from heaven, he has been trampling underfoot the Word of God, and putting something of his own devising in its place. His work has been accepted as the work of God. When the legislature frames laws which exalt the first day of the week, and put it in the place of the seventh day, the device of Satan will be perfected.

If man had always kept the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, there never would have been an atheist or an infidel in the world. Through the fourth commandment,

the attention of men is called to the power of the infinite Hand that placed the stars in the firmament. If they had obeyed this commandment, they would have worshiped God, as they looked at the sun that rules the day, and the moon which rules the night.

Everything in nature – the tints and coloring that He has given to every opening bud and every blooming flower, the lofty tree, the grass that clothes the earth in its green mantle, would have spoken to the soul, bidding us to remember God and the commandment in which He says that He created all these in six days and rested on the seventh day, and hallowed the Sabbath day which He had made. He blessed man, and gave the Sabbath to him to be observed as a

the Papacy and cradled and nurtured it.

Satan means to make all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of the fornication of Babylon. Men are binding themselves together in bonds of union to show their disloyalty to the God of heaven. The first day of the week is to be exalted and presented to all for observance. Shall we be partakers of this cup of abomination? Shall we bow to the authorities of earth and despise God?

The powers of darkness have been gathering their forces to bring this crisis about in the world, so that the man of sin may exalt himself above God. God does not force the conscience of any man, but the powers of darkness have been trying to compel the consciences of men ever since Abel fell under the

do? – We are to keep in living connection with the God of heaven, ranking in His army and under His banner, and we cannot afford to be in such gross blindness that we cannot discern truth from error.

We want to know what is truth. Many say, “The whole world is keeping the first day of the week, and do you think that all the great and good men are in error?” God is going to bring around a condition of things where the good men and the men in authority will have an opportunity to know what is truth indeed. And because a people will not bow the knee to the image, and receive the mark of the beast in the hand or the forehead, but will stand to the truth because it is truth, there will be oppression, and an attempt to compel the conscience; but those who have known the truth will be afraid to yield to the powers of darkness. God has a people who will not receive the mark of the beast in their right hand or in their forehead. God has a place for His people to fill in this world, to reflect light. You are God’s sentinels.

Christ says of His people, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.” Matthew 5:14. We are to stand the trial and test of persecution because of allegiance to the truth. Not a move has been made in exalting the idol sabbath, in bringing around Sunday observance through legislation, but Satan has been behind it, and has been the chief worker; but the conscience should not be compelled even for the observance of the genuine Sabbath, for God will accept only willing service.

The question is asked, Shall we not obey the powers that be? – Yes, when they are in harmony with the higher powers that be. God made His law for all the universe. He created man, He gives the bounteous provisions of nature, holds our breath and life in His hand. He is to be recognized, His law honored, before all the great men and the highest earthly powers. ❖

Review and Herald, April 15, 1890.

God is going to bring around a condition of things where the good men and the men in authority will have an opportunity to know what is truth indeed.

memorial of His creative power. But Satan has come in, and shown himself the decided enemy of man, and he seeks to make of none effect the work of God, and get in every conceivable thing of human origination, to hide God and His glory from our sight. The man of sin, it is declared in Daniel, shall “think to change times and laws” (Daniel 7:25), and is not this very work done now? Is he not seeking to change times and laws?

He cannot do this, because God’s holy law is as unchangeable as His throne, and is from everlasting to everlasting. Christ has said, “Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” Matthew 5:18. But the question of Sabbath and Sunday observance is to be agitated everywhere, and the deceptions of Satan will flood the world. The man of sin has instituted a spurious sabbath, and the Protestant world has taken this child of

murderous blow from the hand of pitiless Cain because Abel’s works were righteous and his own were sinful. God had respect unto the offering of Abel, but He had no respect for Cain’s offering, and this made Cain very angry, and the Lord said, “Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door.” Genesis 4:6–7. God was not at fault that Cain’s offering was not respected. It was valueless because it was destitute of the thing that gave it virtue, and that was the blood that was to be shed for the sins of the world – the blood of Jesus Christ.

Obeying Our Highest Authority

Satan is ever seeking to bring about a state of things in which righteousness may be termed unrighteousness, and unrighteousness righteousness. What are we to



Last week I received my very first copy of *Our Firm Foundation*. To say that I am wholly delighted with it would be an understatement.

In my first issue (March 2003) there is an article by Dennis Priebe, "Ellen White's Writings: Their Role and Function, part 2." If you would send me the issue with part 1 of that article, I'd really appreciate it.

MJ, Florida

I have been reading *Final Conflict Between Truth and Error* and have enjoyed it immensely. With the stress of importance placed on the Sabbath and that it wasn't originally observed on Sunday, I was wondering if you could enlighten me to the teachings of the "Seventh Day Adventists." I would love some free Bible Study Guides and any information you could send.

TS, Indiana

From Overseas

If ever I have seen satanic delusion trying to unbolt the nuts that have been tightened by God's faithful servants, then I'm witnessing it now trying to happen in my own church. Please, there is nowhere else I can find help. Manna will not come from heaven to feed us, angels will not come down to work for us, but one thing I'm sure of is there are human angels like you people to whom God has assigned a mission to check on satanic theories in the church.

I'm a Seventh-day Adventist ordained deacon of the SDA church in — — —, Cameroon. It's just a week since we had a seminar, while during the seminar there were these *Our Firm Foundation* magazines on one of the chairs; I'm a regular reader and a

lover of *Our Firm Foundation* and *Last Generation*. I did pick up the one entitled "What is Happening to Our Young People" and saw an advertisement for the books "The Christian and Rock Music" and "Adventist Carnivals." You know, we once had a Hartland seminar here about the type of music and instruments we should use in church during worship. We were just a few who attended this seminar, though we met with lots of opposition from the church, but thank God, we attended. This Hartland seminar fortified our experience on this point of instruments used in the church.

We tried to teach our brethren who could not attend, but believe me, we were not received, it was tough, but thank God, I picked up *Early Writings* and read this passage on page 102: "The servants of God who teach the truth should be men of judgment. They should be men who can bear opposition and not get excited; for those who oppose the truth will pick at those who teach it, and every objection that can be produced will be brought in its worst form to bear against the truth." Amen!

During that period our church was shaking and there was a break up. Some members had to leave the church. We went for a long time without a pastor, and just only had a young leader, but thank God, he was educated and humble. We were all together at the Hartland seminar, despite all the oppression, and leaders right up to the district pastor forbade any person who attended the Hartland seminar to even give out any booklet or magazine from Hartland, but thanks be to God, the message went through, though there is still opposition going on. But we are not

ceasing to pray for them, and I'm sure you will also pray for us. But this point of using drums in the church has caused a lot of controversy; all the biblical proofs have been exposed, because there is a neighboring church that has bought drums and all types of instruments with the blessing from the district pastor. It's becoming a mockery on us because the youth and some elderly people are seeking all those abominable things to dishonor God in worship, but I know God has withheld us from getting any means to achieve these things.

Well, our church has now been blessed with a young pastor who is just from school. He is a very good pastor, well educated, and he teaches very well. He has held a lot of inreach seminars and has revived the church so that we really thank God. Even those who went out during the minor shaking have come back. But, there is something that I've discovered; he is interested in having instruments in the church. I discovered this just a week after I picked up that *Our Firm Foundation* magazine during that seminar. We were having a youth week of prayer and this issue was raised in the discussion, and the new pastor said, "The problem is not with the instrument itself, but how it is handled."

Well, thank God, I remembered the books that I saw mentioned in the magazine. Please send them to me to meet this challenge Satan wants to inflict on God's children. There are some other books I need to have, like *Absolutely Vegetarian*. I will include the price of all the books you send in a money order. Thanks, and may God continue to bless you,

— — —, Cameroon



Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Knoxville, IL
Permit No. 20

July 15–20, 2003

First meeting begins Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Do you sense the nearness of Christ's return? Are you seeking to do all you can to prepare yourself, your family, and others for the crisis just ahead? Do you find encouragement as you fellowship with others who, like you, are striving to serve the Lord with all their hearts?

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.
- **Motel Puyallup**—25 miles north of Hope International. Call (800) 921-2700.
- **Northwest Motor Inn**—25 miles north of Hope International. Call (800) 845-9490.
- **Eagle's Nest**—10 miles south of Hope International. Call (888) 877-2533

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.



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

