

The cover features a large, textured stone pyramid on the left side, extending diagonally towards the top right. A dark jet airplane is flying in the clear blue sky above the pyramid. The title 'Our Firm Foundation' is written in a large, serif font, with 'Our' in a smaller, italicized font. The background is a gradient of blue and white, suggesting a bright sky.

Our Firm Foundation

**America's Prophetic Power
unleashed**

Volume 18, Number 7

July 2008

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary



History Repeated

The whole world is now astir with the war in Iraq and the rebuilding of the nation once ruled by the tyranny of Saddam Hussein.

The Muslim world is a billion strong. Shiites are now demanding that Iraq become an Islamic nation. They have marched in the streets of major cities, demanding that U.S. troops leave Iraq.

The question is asked, Can our victory in Iraq bring peace to the Islamic nations and to the Christian world?—God’s Word has the answer: “Of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.” 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3.

Satan’s deceptions are overwhelming the world. “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.” Revelation 12:12. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8. “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that

great day of God Almighty.” Revelation 16:13-14.

Before his death in A.D. 632, Muhammad cleansed the Islamic faith of all so-called pagan gods. He claimed to accept Christ as a messenger for God; however, he would not accept Him as *the* God of creation. He believed and taught that Allah was the God of Abraham. The Ishmaelites (Arabians) left the worship of the true God to worship the ancient Chaldean gods.

The Koran (Quran) teaches that Christianity is a religion of Satan and must be destroyed. It teaches that Christians are infidels and must be killed if they refuse to become followers of Muhammad.

The Battle of Tours

The Muslim hordes nearly conquered Europe in A.D. 732. This battle, led by Charles Martel, changed the history of the world:

“The Arab governor of Spain, led the Mohammedan hordes against the resistance of the united European forces at Tours, France. Ridpath writes that the purpose of the conquest was nothing less than all Europe for Allah and the crescent. ‘Europe was arrayed against Asia and Africa; the cross against the crescent; Christ against Mohammed.’ John Clark Ridpath, *History of the World*, vol. IV, 510-511.

“Charles Martel was in command of the forces of Western Europe. The battle continued furiously for six days. On the seventh day the Mohammedan armies were most decisively routed. As the result of the victory which saved Europe, Charles was given the name Martel (the hammer).

The *World Book Encyclopedia* says: ‘It saved Christian civilization in Western Europe from being overwhelmed by the Moslems. . . . If the Saracens had not been checked, Christianity might not have survived in Europe.’ *World Book Encyclopedia*, vol. III, 1332; *ibid.*, vol. II, 692.”

History Is Repeating Itself

Under his satanic generalship the devil is attempting again to bring the Islamic hordes against the so-called Christian world. A billion strong, they will help Satan to raise the curtain on fulfilled prophecy in the great drama of the controversy between Christ and Satan in the final crisis hour.

The Islamic world is carrying out Satan’s wrath against the government of God. For every Islamic terrorist who is killed or captured there are thousands who are willing to take their place and become suicide bombers.

There will be no peace until Jesus returns from the clouds of heaven with His angel army to gather home His saints. What we have seen on the streets of Baghdad, in Afghanistan, and with the attack on the Pentagon and the destruction of the twin towers in New York City is only the beginning of greater woes soon to fall on our world for its rebellion against God’s sacred law.

The laws requiring everyone to worship on Sunday and Satan’s impersonation of Christ must be very near now. May God help us to prepare our characters to stand in the times of trouble, which also have already begun. ✠

Plan to attend . . .

. . . the fall convocation at our new location in Illinois, October 3-5, 2003. See upcoming newsletters for more information.



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

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A Question of Loyalty

Harvey Steck



Are you a loyal citizen of your country? Especially when we hear the threat of war, we do not want disloyal people immigrating to our country. When someone requests citizenship in the United States, they are faced with a battery of questions that center around their loyalty to the nation and its government. Witnesses are also requested to testify that the person has demonstrated his loyalty to the laws of the land.

Is it right to examine the loyalty of someone who requests citizenship in our country? Would you feel safe if such tests were abandoned? — I doubt it.

We want some assurance that a person will be safe to make a citizen of our country, and it is the same in heaven.

In Revelation, chapter 12, we have a glimpse of the war that broke out in heaven thousands of years ago. Satan sought to take the place of Christ on the throne of God, and in his disaffection, he stole the loyalty of one third of the angels of heaven. If you were one of the angels who remained in heaven, or if you were an inhabitant of another unfallen world, you would want the assurance that rebellion would never again erupt in heaven.

When God created this world, He intended that man would take the place of the fallen angels. He instituted a test that would demonstrate to unfallen beings that man was loyal to God's government —

that he was "safe to save," that it was safe for man to be a citizen of heaven. What was that test? — "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Genesis 2:16–17.

Were Adam and Eve lacking nourishing, tasty food in the Garden of Eden? — No, they had an abundance of delicious food. They were lacking nothing. Did God give them a difficult test? — No, there was no great pressure for them to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It was a *small* test — but big in its consequences. The issue was *loyalty* — or we might say *faithfulness* or *trustworthiness*.

Luke 16:10 says, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." If Adam was faithful in this little test, he could be entrusted with greater things.

Adam's Sin—Just a Little Sin?

When Adam ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, he failed the test, and he was immediately banished from the garden and from the tree of life. Was that not pretty severe for such a small infraction? — "Many regard the punishment of Adam's transgression as too severe a penalty for so small a sin. The enemy of all

righteousness has blinded the eyes of sinners, so that sin does not appear sinful. Their standard of what constitutes sin is vastly different from God's standard. Should those who regard Adam's sin as a matter of very small consequence look a little deeper, they would see the great mercy of God in giving Adam the smallest possible test. It could scarcely be called a self-denial on his part to refrain from partaking of the fruit of the tree of knowledge, for he already had everything necessary to supply his wants. A compassionate God gave no severe test, no strong temptation that would tax human endurance beyond the power to resist. The fruit itself was harmless. If God had not forbidden Adam and Eve to partake of the fruit of the tree of knowledge, their action in taking it would not have been sinful. Up to the moment of God's prohibition, Adam might have eaten of the fruit of that tree without realizing any harm. But after God had said, Thou shalt not eat, the act became a crime of great magnitude. Adam had disobeyed God. In this was his sin." *Signs of the Times*, January 23, 1879.

Notice, if Adam had picked one of the fruits off the tree and tested it in a laboratory, he would not have found evidence that it was harmful. Are we waiting for the world to prove that God is right before we will obey Him?

When you have done something that you know is wrong, are you

tempted sometimes to say, “Oh, it’s just a little thing – it can’t be *that* bad”?

“The very fact that Adam’s trial was small, made his sin exceeding great. God tested him in that which was least, to prove him; and with the prohibition He stated that the punishment consequent upon his disobedience would be death. If Adam could not bear this smallest of tests to *prove his loyalty*, he surely could not have endured a stronger trial had he been taken into closer relationship with God, to bear higher responsibilities. *He evidenced that God could not trust him*; should he be exposed to Satan’s more determined attacks, he would signally fail. . . .

“God made the test with Adam upon things that are least, to show man that the slightest disobedience to His requirements is sin in every sense of the word. . . .

“The very fact that disobedience to God in one of the smallest requirements brought such woe to our world shows that any disregard of His law will surely be followed by the penalty, which is death.” *Ibid.* (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

When Adam fell, God and the unfallen citizens of the universe could no longer trust him, lest he create another revolution in heaven. Adam showed that he was not a loyal citizen of God’s government. The angels would not feel any safer in bringing Adam into heaven than you would in having a known terrorist living next door to you.

God knows that if any of Earth’s fallen inhabitants – any of us – are to be saved, the angels and other unfallen beings in the universe must see evidence that we are trustworthy. It must be demonstrated that we are absolutely loyal to God and His government, for “those who disregard the requirements of God in this life would not respect His authority were they in heaven.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 312.

Today, we are facing little tests. Are we showing that God can trust us? Would *we* respect God’s authority if we were in heaven today? Do

we underestimate the significance of disobedience?

“That religion which makes of sin a light matter, dwelling upon the love of God to the sinner regardless of his actions, only encourages the sinner to believe that God will receive him while he continues in that which he knows to be sin. This is what some are doing who profess to believe present truth. The truth is kept apart from the life, and that is the reason it has no power to convict and convert the soul.” *Ibid.*, vol. 5, 540.

“There is *no safety* except in strict obedience to the Word of God. All His promises are made upon condition of faith and obedience, and a failure to comply with His commands cuts off the fulfillment to

We are making a fearful mistake if we believe we will be faithful in the Sabbath test ahead while we are failing the little tests today.

us of the rich provisions of the Scriptures. We should not follow impulse, nor rely on the judgment of men; we should look to the revealed will of God and walk according to His definite commandment, no matter what circumstances may surround us.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 621–622.

How does this relate to our prayer for the healing of the sick? How often do we neglect to follow the laws of health as God has given them, and then when we get sick we plead with God to heal us!

The issue here is *loyalty* – loyalty to God, which is shown by faithful obedience to all that He asks us to do. It is put concisely in *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 97–98.

“The man who attempts to keep the commandments of God from a sense of obligation merely – because he is required to do so – will never enter into the joy of obedience. He does not obey. When the requirements of God are accounted a burden because they cut across

human inclination, we may know that the life is not a Christian life. True obedience is the outworking of a principle within. It springs from the love of righteousness, the love of the law of God. The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer. This will lead us to do right because it is right – because right doing is pleasing to God.”

Remember Luke 16:10: “He that is faithful [or, ‘trustworthy,’ according to *Strong’s Concordance*] in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.”

Just as God placed the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the midst of the garden to prove whether Adam and Eve were loyal, faithful, trustworthy, so we are

being tested regarding things that may seem small and insignificant to us. Remember, the easier the test, the more grievous it is when we choose our own way – the more it echoes the words of the Jews, that we will not have Christ to reign over us.

God has given us instruction regarding many facets of life. We are making a fearful mistake if we believe we will be faithful in the Sabbath test ahead while we are failing the little tests today.

The Spirit of Prophecy

We have been told that God gave to the Christian church “some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the *perfecting* of the saints, for the work of the *ministry*, for the *edifying* of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the *unity* of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, *unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*” *Ephesians* 4:11–13.

Sadly, some Seventh-day Adventists sincerely feel that we do not need the Spirit of Prophecy, or that it is embarrassing that we have a prophet. Some would say that her messages were given for her time, not for ours. However, until we reach the goal that Paul set before us, we still need the gifts of the Spirit, including the gift of prophecy.

God has ordained Seventh-day Adventists to be His “special forces” – to carry the banner of the Lord’s army – the three angels’ messages – in the final war on Earth. Because the enemy is more

Some “Little” Sins

What are some of the sins that so often beset God’s remnant church today? Are there some things that God has instructed us that you are tempted to believe are not really that important?

Sabbathkeeping: God’s standard for Sabbathkeeping has not changed:

“And he [Moses] said unto them [the rulers of the congregation], This is that which the LORD hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake to day, and

“That which corrupts the body tends to corrupt the soul. It unfits the user for communion with God, unfits him for high and holy service.”

crafty, and we are attempting a total invasion of his territory, God has given us the gifts of the Spirit to help us win the battle.

The gift of prophecy helps God’s “special forces” to:

- More clearly understand the character of our Captain, and
- Know His will.
- Identify our enemy,
- Know his tactics, and
- Know where his traps, “landmines,” and ambushes are.

The gift of prophecy is like a special intelligence report from behind the enemy lines. Do we show loyalty to the Commander of the army of heaven when we throw out this detailed information? – We are saying, “I don’t need that detailed map. I’ve got a world atlas here, and that’s good enough for me.”

If we are neglecting to study and obey this detailed instruction, do we expect the same degree of sympathy and help from God when we get injured on the battlefield?

seethe [boil] that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.” Exodus 16:23.

“On Friday let the preparation for the Sabbath be completed. See that all the clothing is in readiness and that all the cooking is done. Let the boots be blacked and the baths be taken. It is possible to do this. If you make it a rule, you can do it. The Sabbath is not to be given to the repairing of garments, to the cooking of food, to pleasure seeking, or to any other worldly employment. Before the setting of the sun let all secular work be laid aside and all secular papers be put out of sight. Parents, explain your work and its purpose to your children, and let them share in your preparation to keep the Sabbath according to the commandment.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 355–356.

Before the Sabbath begins at sundown on Friday, is the cooking and baking done? Is our bathing done? Are our clothes in order?

We close our businesses, but are we still running them in our minds? What about our conversations? Do we talk about our cars and motor

homes, our computers; our latest dessert recipes?

Our Spiritual Food: What are you feeding your mind? God has given us a safety gauge for what we see, read, and listen to – in Philippians 4:8: “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

While a teenager, I became convicted that the music I was listening to did not pass this test. Neither did the science fiction that I read occasionally. The Lord helped me to see that these things were making me feel like Bible study was boring. Praise the Lord for victory over these things!

The Laws of Health

God has said much about the importance of obedience to the laws of health:

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” 1 Corinthians 3:16–17.

“Many seem to think they have a right to treat their own bodies as they please, but they forget that their bodies are not their own. Their Creator, Who formed them, has claims upon them that they cannot rightly throw off. Every needless transgression of the laws which God has established in our being is virtually a violation of the law of God, and is *as great a sin in the sight of Heaven as to break the Ten Commandments.*” *Counsels on Health*, 40.

“Many articles of food eaten freely by the heathen about them were forbidden to the Israelites. It was no arbitrary distinction that was made. The things prohibited were unwholesome. And the fact that they were pronounced unclean taught the lesson that the use of injurious foods is defiling. *That which corrupts the body tends to*

corrupt the soul. It unfits the user for communion with God, unfits him for high and holy service." *The Ministry of Healing*, 280.

"The Spirit of God cannot come to our help, and assist us in perfecting Christian characters, while we are indulging our appetites to the injury of health, and while the pride of life controls." *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 57.

Diet— Because diet is so important to our physical and spiritual health, we have several books that dwell at length on this subject. I urge you to pick up *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, *The Ministry of Healing*, *Counsels on Health*, and read them for yourself. Just the first few chapters of *Counsels on Diet and Foods* make it very clear that a proper diet is vital to a vibrant spirituality.

These books give us much detail on what to do to keep our bodies in optimum health. For example, we are told that we need to:

- Eat at regular times
- Eat moderately
- Eat no food between meals
- Avoid flesh foods, and
- Avoid other foods that are known to be diseased.

We are also instructed to avoid other harmful substances, such as

1. Soda and Baking Powder: "Hot biscuit[s] raised with soda or baking powder should never appear upon our tables. Such compounds are unfit to enter the stomach." *Ibid.*, 343.

2. Vinegar: "The salads are prepared with oil and vinegar, fermentation takes place in the stomach, and the food does not digest, but decays or putrefies; as a consequence, the blood is not nourished, but becomes filled with impurities, and liver and kidney difficulties appear." *Ibid.*, 345.

3. Cheese: "Cheese should never be introduced into the stomach. . . . It is wholly unfit for food." *Ibid.*, 368.

4. Spices: "Spices at first irritate the tender coating of the stomach,

but finally destroy the natural sensitiveness of this delicate membrane. The blood becomes fevered, the animal propensities are aroused, while the moral and intellectual powers are weakened, and become servants to the baser passions. The mother should study to set a simple yet nutritious diet before her family." *Ibid.*, 341.

As a young person, I was embarrassed to see my parents reading labels in the store. It seemed so inconvenient as well. However, after leaving home, I found that it was impossible to purchase healthy food if I did not read the labels. We may have to forego the food we would like sometimes because it is not healthy, but would you not rather have the peace that comes from a clear conscience and an unclouded mind?

Exercise, Sunshine, and Fresh Air— Especially in the United States, we have figured out how to get machines to do most of our physical work for us. Yet, vigorous exercise is particularly important for those of us whose lifestyle is mainly sedentary:

"Strict temperance in eating and drinking is highly essential for the healthy preservation and vigorous exercise of all the functions of the body. Strictly temperate habits, combined with exercise of the muscles as well as of the mind, will preserve both mental and physical vigor, and give power of endurance to those engaged in the ministry, to editors, and to all others whose habits are sedentary." *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 487.

"In the building of houses it is especially important to secure thorough ventilation and plenty of sunlight. Let there be a current of air and an abundance of light in every room in the house. Sleeping rooms should be so arranged as to have a free circulation of air day and night. No room is fit to be occupied as a sleeping room unless it can be thrown open daily to the air and sunshine." *The Adventist Home*, 148.

Water: Are you looking for something to cleanse your body? "Water is the best liquid possible to

cleanse the tissues." *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 420.

Drink plenty of water. I use a timer to remind me to drink; otherwise I forget because I get so occupied with my work. Some health educators tell us that you can easily calculate the minimum number of ounces of water that you should drink each day by dividing your weight by 2.

Temperance and Proper Rest— Whether in eating, working, or in any other area, do that which is good in *moderation*, and *abstain* from that which is harmful. If you make a habit of temperance, then when you have to push extra hard your body will have the reserve to do what is necessary.

It has been said, "The day begins the night before." If you want to have a great day tomorrow, prepare by giving today's troubles over to the Lord and getting a good night's sleep. Then you will be refreshed in the morning to begin your day in quietness with the Lord. When you are well rested, you will notice that it is much easier to trust in God.

Trust in God— If we truly trust God, we will believe His promises, and we will not worry and complain. When we get sick, instead of following the world's way of masking the cause with a drug, we show our trust in God by turning first to learn the true cause of our sickness and how we can cooperate with the laws of nature— and also thereby with God— in restoring our health.

Promises to the Repentant

Perhaps you have been convicted that there are some "little" sins in your life that you need to repent of. You might even feel overwhelmed. However, the Lord has left us many encouraging promises:

"As the will of man cooperates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enabling." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 333.

continued on page 11...

America's Prophetic Power unleashed



Hal Mayer

Revelation 13:11-13. "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed."

This interesting passage brings to light some things many Seventh-day Adventists have overlooked. America (the lamb-like beast) is going to rise higher and higher in power and dominance on the world stage. She will become more and more arrogant until at last she fulfills the economic prophecy of verse 17 and enforces the Sunday law, not only on her own people, but on the whole world.

Notice that "he exerciseth all the power of the first beast." What kind of power did the first beast actually wield? The Roman Papacy's medieval power to coerce conscience consisted of controlling the state and using it to accomplish its own purposes. The Old World Papacy depended on an alliance with feudal kings willing to wield the sword of steel on her behalf. This pagan principle of combining religion and civil government greatly served the interests of the church in controlling the masses.

This passage reveals that America will exercise the same type and force of power on the whole world as the Papacy did in the Old

World. See *The Great Controversy*, 615. America will be the instrument that causes "the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed." Verse 12. Imagine that! America will become much more powerful and forceful than she even is at present. America will dictate to all nations of the earth, not just to Americans, that they must worship the Papacy by hallowing her "sabbath."

How is America going to become as strong in the New World, as the Papacy was in the Old? There are many, even among Seventh-day Adventists, who think that such an idea has little credibility. Yet, that is what the Bible teaches. Since September 11, 2001, it is becoming easier to see how this can happen. Those who are daily studying the prophecies in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy with Jesus are the ones enlightened as events unfold around them.

The Lamb Becomes a Dragon

"He had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon." Christ is the Lamb. When America began, it was Christlike and did not force the conscience, and it permitted each citizen to practice his own religion according to his own conscience. But eventually America will speak like Satan the dragon, removing the religious freedom that for more than two centuries has blessed its inhabitants. This is unexpected by

those who do not understand or who are not paying attention to fulfilling prophecy.

America Rises

After World War II the world was divided into partitions that then engaged in a cold war. The superpowers tended to balance each other. The cold war ended, and this balance was disrupted. Most people hoped that the New World would be peaceful without the threat of annihilation. Yet, instead of peace, the world is now full of little dictators, many bent on increasing their share of geopolitical influence.

When the cold war ended, America became the only remaining superpower. Many people have failed to see the uniqueness of this situation and its relation to prophecy. No other power in history has been in the position that America is now in. The Roman Empire was quite large, but the Persian Empire, and the still larger China beyond were each significant in their own right. Even when Britain was at its height of world power there were the other next greatest powers, such as Spain, contending for the preeminent spot in geopolitics.

However, America today is way out and beyond all other nations in world power. America, for example, outspends the next 20 countries combined on its military (a vital component to world dominance).¹ Its Navy, Air Force, and space power are unrivaled. Yet America's

dominance goes beyond these international interests and includes its economy, technology, and even its language.

America is now in the position of being the only super, superpower on every front of international influence. This dominance is leading to the ultimate geopolitical hegemony — enforcement of oppressive religious laws on God's faithful people worldwide.

Since the cold war ended, America has been stealthily building its military resources in order to effectively control the new world order that is being imposed by the UN. In reality, there has been a quantum leap in military superiority during the decades following the demise of the Soviet Union. Thanks to technology, the American military stands positioned to enforce its political objectives on the rest of the world if it desires to do so, not with more nuclear bombs, but with smart bombs and GPS ordinance and air power that can reach targets with pinpoint precision and a minimum of collateral damage. Other nations would not admit it, but they are running scared. One can tell by the political rhetoric that they know the implications of American dominance. The trouble is that there is not even an alliance of nations that can rival America's power.

September 11 Helps America Rise

Prior to September 11, 2001, America had not had opportunity to demonstrate all of its dormant powers. There was a hint of it during the Kosovo conflict in which air superiority became the key to controlling that conflict. But after September 11, there was a political realignment. Suddenly, nations like Pakistan who had stood on the sidelines, strategically joined America in the war on terrorism. Even Russia and China, who at one time had flirted with the idea of an anti-American alliance, have joined the American camp and have not pressed geopolitical competition.²

More importantly, September 11 gave America an opportunity to

demonstrate its huge military advantage in Afghanistan. The hardened Taliban regime, even though favored by terrain and climate, was no match for the American military. With a sum total of only 426 men on the ground employing smart weaponry and other high tech tools of war, America breathtakingly destroyed the fanatical Muslim government with a ferocity that even surprised its allies.³

There is now no question in international circles that America has risen to the height of worldwide military superiority and dominance.

The only question that remains among the other nations is how to manage themselves in light of this huge unrivaled disparity.

The only question that remains among the other nations is how to manage themselves in light of this huge unrivaled disparity.

The Role of the UN in American Dominance

After World War II, the United Nations was theoretically established in an ongoing effort to prevent another world war. However, the goal has always been world government. During the cold war, the UN was an intermediary between huge competitive powers. While ever this political standoff existed, however, the UN would not have been able to increase in power beyond mere arbitration. The big competitors had to be diffused so that the UN could establish its universal governing power by managing smaller conflicts with lesser stakes. The cold war had to end. When it did the UN could assert itself, with American leadership, into local unrest and impose its own solutions. American leaders also recognized the UN as a useful means of assisting its own agenda to become more powerful on the world stage.

Throughout the last 15 years America greatly aided the growth of UN power by building multi-lateral relationships and coalitions with other nations in the name of the UN. Nevertheless, it has had its own goals in mind. The UN is destined to become the government of the new world order, but it is also going to be the front organization for the international objectives of the United States wherever possible. But first, it must be recognized as a legitimate governing authority.

To exercise that authority, the UN must have the three legs of government in place: legislative,

military, and justice systems. During the decades following the end of the cold war, American leaders put strong emphasis on multinational cooperative projects under UN authority, such as Kosovo, Somalia, and other UN peace-keeping missions. This cemented the legislative authority of the UN in world politics while at the same time established a UN military, supplied by the personnel and equipment of member nations. The only remaining element required to empower the UN was a justice system. However, in July 2001, the International Criminal Court opened for business. This UN court, though largely modeled after the old inquisition, was the final leg of government needed for the UN to be recognized as the legitimate universal ruling body.

American leadership wasted no time in recognizing the significance of the UN's new status as the world government. After all, they are positioned to dominate it. There is now no underlying need for America to exercise the level of discretion it has used in the past in pursuing its objectives. It is true that

there are still geopolitical relationships that need to be cultivated, but deep down America is about to unleash its political muscle on the whole world through the UN.

The conflict in Iraq was the first example, with more nations to follow, like Iran and Syria (according to news reports). Just the example that has been made of Iraq is a strong deterrent to other nations hostile to the United States.

Now, instead of a multi-lateral coalition of powers working together for global peace and justice, America is willing to dictate international policy. Even if other nations do not like it, what can they do to stop it? Who can stand up

Islam and the New America

Religious implications play no small role. How will the Islamic world and other nations that are not Christian come into line with America's power? How are huge portions of the world that hate America or despise its global ambitions going to submit to its authority concerning the worship of the "first beast"? Will there not be more conflict and terrorist attacks as America pushes against Islam? Certainly, but these token victories for America's enemies will only strengthen America's resolve and legitimize its actions while deflecting attention from its geopolitical dominance.

How will the Islamic world and other nations that are not Christian come into line with America's power? . . . Will there not be more conflict and terrorist attacks as America pushes against Islam?

against America? Some nations can veto UN resolutions; yet, can UN sanctions against America have any force if no nation or even a coalition of nations are able to effectively oppose the American military? American allies have already recognized that America is going to use the UN authority as cover for her own purposes, and if the UN does not cooperate, they can see that America will act unilaterally.

In other words, now that the UN has its governmental systems in place, and now that it is recognized as having authority in international politics, America does not need to work with all the nations like before. Now it will simply control the UN whenever it can, but will act on its own when it cannot.

No matter how you look at it, the obvious and undeniable fact remains, America is rising to much more power than ever before — and this power will corrupt it and make it drunk with blood, first the blood of those who stand in its political path, then with the blood of those who stand in its religious path.

America Deceives Hostile Nations

"And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast." Revelation 13:13-14.

Some are tempted to think that this reference to fire is about bombs. However, this wonderworking power is not referring to the military superiority of the United States. Though damaging, bombs are not miraculous and do not deceive nations. Even nuclear bombs and sophisticated smart weaponry are the result of human ingenuity, and technological advancement. America will have access to a supernatural, miraculous power above and beyond its military, and will use it deceptively. This miraculous power makes it appear that God sides with America.

The pope understands these hostile forces. Catholic author

Malachi Martin made an enlightening statement. "There will come a day, John Paul believes, when the heart of Islam — already attuned to the figures of Christ and of Christ's Mother, Mary — will receive the illumination it needs."⁴ The pope, in other words, believes that Islam will eventually be "illuminated" and will join the religious coalition that will rule the world (and ultimately persecute God's people).

Prophetic Significance

Imagine the earth on the brink of nuclear war and annihilation. America and other Islamic nations are about to destroy each other. Suppose that in conjunction with the decisions of American leaders there are miraculous and obviously supernatural interventions on behalf of American interests. Suppose there are also apparitions telling Islam to back off, and that Islam must listen to the pope and seek peace with America. Suppose a kind of supernatural weaponry comes into play on America's behalf that strikes fear into the hearts of Islamic fanatics, such as fire from heaven that no human hand could have devised. What then? It is very significant that American presidents have been very friendly with the pope and the bishops. Both sides see a very connected future, and so should we.

Will Islam, Hinduism, and other religions yield to American global dominance? America will insist that the whole world should worship the image to the beast. All nations will be pressured to worship the Papacy by honoring Sunday. Amazing as it may sound, these non-Christian nations will one day align with the pope and the United States to enforce the global Sunday law, create a universal "no buy, no sell" decree to freeze the assets of God's people, and eventually order them executed. They will be left to the mercy and sustaining hand of God.

America is taking the next step in power building. In spite of international political objections, the world is ready for it. Some

nations will protest because they do not like the idea of another nation telling them what to do. Nonetheless, they will yield. America could never fulfill its prophetic role unless it gains much more geopolitical power in the coming years than in the past.

Watch carefully. We are very near the final rapid movements. Thanks to Bible prophecy we can see many things shaping up before they happen. Watch and pray. Leave nothing concerning your soul to chance. ✠

Notes:

- ¹ Krauthammer, Charles, *Imprimis*, January 2003, Hillsdale College, speech given December 4, 2002, Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C.
- ² Ibid.
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ Martin, Malachi, *The Keys of This Blood*, (Simon and Schuster, New York, NY), 285.

Continued from page 7...

“Do you imagine you can leave off sin a little at a time? Oh, leave the accursed thing at once! Hate the things that Christ hates; love the things that Christ loves. Has He not by His death and suffering made provision for your cleansing from sin? When we begin to realize that we are sinners, and fall on the Rock to be broken, the everlasting arms are placed about us, and we are brought close to the heart of Jesus. Then we shall be charmed with His loveliness, and disgusted with our own righteousness. We need to come close to the foot of the cross. The more we humble ourselves there, the more exalted will God’s love appear. The grace and righteousness of Christ will not avail for him who feels whole, for him who thinks he is reasonably good, who is contented with his own

condition. There is no room for Christ in the heart of him who does not realize his need of divine light and aid.

“Jesus says, ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’ Matthew 5:3. There is fullness of grace in God, and we may have His spirit and power in large measure. Do not feed on the husks of self-righteousness, but go to the Lord. He has the best robe to put upon you, and His arms are open to receive. Christ will say, ‘Take away the filthy garments from him, and clothe him with a change of raiment.’ ” *Selected Messages*, book 1, 327-328.

Let us pray that the Lord will give us a spirit of true repentance, that we might put our sinful neglect behind us. Let us show our loyalty to our Saviour by obeying Him in every detail, whether it seems large or small. ✠

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The POWER of Music

Part II

H. Lloyd Leno

As noted in our previous article, music enters the mind on the subconscious level because it is received first by the thalamus, which records it as either a pleasant or an unpleasant sensation. The cortex is not involved; the powers of reason and judgment are not employed. Now notice these statements by Ellen White: "Satan has no objection to music if he can make that a channel through which to gain access to the minds of the youth." *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 506. "Satan knows what organs to excite to animate, engross, and charm the mind." *Ibid.*, 497.

The implication of these for the Christian should be frightening, especially when considered along with these statements: "The natural mind leans toward pleasure and self-gratification" (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 325); "Satan is using every means to make crime and debasing vice popular. . . . The mind is educated to familiarity with sin" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 459); "When it suits his purpose, he [Satan] can impart to men sentiments that are enchanting" (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 27).

Now, if music can affect us subconsciously, we need to know just what effect it has. Scientific investigations prove music can bring about

mood changes by affecting the body chemistry and electrolyte balance. However, can the thoughts be affected by music without words?—Mrs. White wrote: "No one who has an indwelling Saviour will dishonor Him before others by producing strains from a musical instrument which call the mind from God and heaven to light and trifling things." *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 510.

Note that in this instance it was instrumental music that she warned would "call the mind" from God to "light and trifling things." Again, with the same concern, she spoke of music that, "instead of inciting to holiness and spirituality, has been the means of diverting their minds from the truth." Immediately, she qualifies the type of music: "Frivolous songs and . . . popular sheet music," and in the next sentence she again spoke of the use of "instruments of music." *Ibid.*, 497. Other expressions such as "pleasing infatuation" (*ibid.*, 506); "deprave the imagination" (*ibid.*, vol. 4, 653); and "abundance of enthusiasm, and a kind of inspiration" (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 339); show a causal relationship between the musical atmosphere and the mood of the people involved.

By contrast, she described the activities of those enrolled in the

schools of the prophets: "No frivolous waltz was heard." *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 97. Whatever the music was, we know it was a kind opposed to frivolity.

Our brief survey of scientific studies showed that response to music can be physical, that muscular energy can be affected, movement can be inhibited or stimulated, and that repetitive rhythmic music has a hypnotic effect. Mrs. White warned that "Satan knows what organs to excite to animate, engross, and charm the mind." Other statements which relate music to physical activity are these: Music has power "to promote harmony of action" (*Education*, 168), "a frivolous ditty, fit for the dance hall" (*Testimonies*, vol. 1, 506). Speaking of the effect of a certain kind of music she wrote: "It prepares the participants for unholy thought and action." *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 339.

Music and Environment

If scientific investigations regarding music are valid and the inspired counsel is correctly interpreted, we should be able to find some evidence in life situations that music does, in fact, have an influence and that this has been true throughout history. Furthermore, we

want to discover what type of music was, and is, detrimental to character.

A great deal can be learned from observing music in its original setting, and its basic function. Some would object to a consideration of association as evidence of musical meaning and influence; but there is a reason for the close affinity of certain kinds of music with certain activity. It cannot be mere coincidence. It has to do with the intrinsic qualities of the musical material. As Finklestein says: "The human imagery of music, the key to its content, is confirmed by people through their very use of it."¹

Recently the Blue Cross Insurance Company issued a study of the youth scene in America entitled *Adolescence for Adults*. Believing that "public health education starts with understanding," Blue Cross commissioned a group of sociologists, psychologists, and writers from various educational institutions to make an in-depth study of the youth culture, its philosophy, mores, and morals.

The analysis of the musical scene entitled "Songs of the Hang-Loose Ethic" begins with this provocative statement: "Popular music has troubled Americans ever since the turn of the century when ragtime and jazz began to evolve and be played in the off-limits of southern and eastern cities. From its inception, it was colored with some of the ill repute of the peoples from which it sprang . . . and ever since . . . many people have worried over the vulgarizing and immoralizing influences of the wild new music."²

History bears out the accuracy of this statement with one exception, the dating of ragtime. According to the black-music historian Eileen Southern, piano ragtime developed during the years 1865 to 1875. Minstrel shows (vaudeville theater) also emerged at this time.³

Through the syncopated banjo figures used in these performances, the music of the minstrel shows contributed directly to the development of ragtime. (The term *rag* was used synonymously with the word *syncopation*.)

According to Southern, "The fusion of the blues and ragtime with the brass band and syncopated dance music resulted in the music called jazz."⁴ Descriptive names for functional music are common, and the etymology of the name *jazz* is doubtless significant. Many ingredients of jazz, as well as jazz itself, were so closely associated with the immoral entertainment world of which it was a part and so appropriate for the brothels, it was only natural that a term with this connotation should be chosen.

Webster's *New World Dictionary* states: "Jazz, Creole patois (dialect) *jass*, a sexual term applied to the Congo dances (New Orleans): present use from Chicago, c. 1914

Descriptive names for functional music are common, and the etymology of the name jazz is doubtless significant.

but from earlier similar use in the vice district of New Orleans." The historian Borroff quotes a famous black entertainer who confirms that *jass* was a "four-letter word" common in the New Orleans brothels.⁵ Later, it became a common slang expression for sexual intercourse in many parts of the United States.⁶

Some have attempted to equate the entire popular jazz musical scene with folk music. Some folk-type elements such as the field hollers, work songs, and spirituals were among the elements that contributed to jazz, but the result was not more folk music. Jazz has no parallel anywhere in the world. It is a distinctive musical manifestation whose style and development bear no resemblance to any body of folk literature anywhere. The success of the many State Department tours of jazz groups to all parts of the world is convincing evidence of the universal appeal of jazz.

Continuing as an integral part of the lower class entertainment world, jazz soon became accepted in all economic levels of society. Through the years it evolved and changed with the social climate and created a lucrative industry. Even though new styles emerged, the old ones continued to be used. Today jazz exists in many forms; in addition to its fusion with rock, older forms have been revived.

It seems more than a mere coincidence that during these years (1865-1869) Ellen G. White should receive visions with instruction and warnings for Seventh-day Adventists about the music used in the theater and the dance hall. Not only did she mention music used for these types of amusements (see

Testimonies, vol. 1, 506; *ibid.*, vol. 4, 652-653; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 707), but also warned that at social gatherings of professed Christians (pleasure parties) certain music had a powerful influence on attitudes and behavior.

She described one scene thus: "One was seated at the instrument of music [a piano?], and such songs were poured forth as made the watching angels weep. There was mirth . . . abundance of enthusiasm, and a kind of inspiration; but the joy was such as Satan only is able to create. This is an enthusiasm and infatuation of which all who love God will be ashamed. It prepares the participants for unholy thought and action." *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 339.

Additional insight into the background of the counsels of Mrs. White can be obtained by noting the specific activities in the entertainment world during this period. We know that much of the instruction contained in *Testimonies*, vol. 1, and

Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students was directed to the young people of the church, the sanitarium, and the college in Battle Creek. Some useful information was obtained through examination of local newspapers of that era.

Public Entertainment 1880–1896

As we would expect, the two daily newspapers in Battle Creek, the *Daily Journal* and the *Nightly Moon*, carried advertisements, as well as comments, on a variety of entertainment items. They ranged from recitals, and band and choir concerts, to theater productions of various kinds. A place known as

*Callender's Genuine Colored Minstrels: Mississippi Levee Dancers, Genuine Jubilee Shouters, No Time-worn Songs, No Old Torturing Jokes, No Worn-Out Sketches, Everything New;*¹⁰ *The South Before the War: 60 Sable Soulful Singers, Sunburnt Southern Silhouettes, Campmeeting Shouters and Shooters, Gunnysacked Cotton Picking Choristers, Male and Female African-Hued Artists, Rollicking, Ravishing, Rip Roaring, Round of Rare and Rousing Revelry.*¹¹

It is important to note here that minstrel shows made two important contributions to the development of popular music. First, the syncopated banjo figures carried directly into

most dangerous resorts for pleasure is the theater. . . . It is the very hotbed of immorality. . . . Low songs, lewd gestures, expressions, and attitudes, deprave the imagination and debase the morals. . . . (334) Between the associations of the followers of Christ for Christian recreation, and worldly gatherings for pleasure and amusement, will exist a marked contrast. . . . (336) There has been a class of social gatherings . . . that have been a disgrace to our institutions and to the church. They encourage . . . hilarity, and trifling. Professed Christians who are superficial in character . . . are used by the tempter as his decoys. . . . Their influence attracts others. . . . They do not discern that these entertainments are really Satan's banquet." (339–341)

Thus, we have seen that, once again, specific divine counsel was given to the church at a time when it was most needed, and it was not only prophetic in terms of exposing the immediate problem but also in anticipating the discoveries of science.

How these counsels relate to modern life and the extent to which they agree with contemporary sociologists and psychologists, as well as entertainers, is the subject of the next article. ✽

Notes:

¹ Sidney Finkelstein, *How Music Expresses Ideas* (International Publishers, 1970), 18.

² J. L. Simmons and Barry Winograd, "Songs of the Hang-Loose Ethic," *Adolescence for Adults* (Blue Cross Association, 1970), 35–39.

³ Eileen Southern, *The Music of Black Americans: A History* (New York: W. W. Norton and Company, Inc., 1971), 330.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 374.

⁵ Edith Borroff, *Music in Europe and the United States* (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1971), 583.

⁶ Leo C. Schwartz, "Juvenile Delinquency: A Challenge," *Music Teachers Quarterly*, December, 1943.

⁷ *Battle Creek Daily Journal*, December 24, 1896.

⁸ *Ibid.*, April 3, 1891.

⁹ *Ibid.*, September 17, 1891.

¹⁰ *Battle Creek Nightly Moon*, October 16, 1882.

¹¹ *Daily Journal*, December 2, 1896.

The most popular types of entertainment were productions . . . that included a combination of music, drama (serious or humorous), dancing, and novelties.

Hamblen's Opera House scheduled everything from lectures to grand opera. Evidently, the most popular types of entertainment were productions (called shows) that included a combination of music, drama (serious or humorous), dancing, and novelties. Many of these were "big name" companies from New York and Philadelphia.

The advertisements were notably explicit—some samples: *The Twelve Temptations: The most remarkable, Mighty Massive Marvelous and Magnificent Show Ever Conceived or Designed to Travel;*⁷ *The Bowery Girl: A Happy Blending of Sensation, Comedy and Pathos Interspersed with Bright and Catchy Songs, Dances, and Up-to-Date Specialties;*⁸ *The Devil's Auction*⁹ (accompanying this latter ad is a picture of three scantily clad dancing girls).

Another significant type of song-dance-act show was the Southern or Minstrel Show. From the frequency and number of different companies appearing there, it is apparent this type must have had wide appeal. Some examples of this type were

ragtime, which we have seen was an important element of jazz. The ragtime pianists were for years *the* entertainment in brothels and saloons in New Orleans, as well as farther north. Second, minstrel shows made extensive use of the song-dance combination. It is common knowledge that with their accompanying gestures their songs were often suggestive and lewd.

With this historical background of entertainment practices in Battle Creek, consider the relevance of these statements taken from *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 325–341: "The desire for excitement and pleasing entertainment is a temptation and a snare to God's people. . . . He [Satan] keeps up a continual excitement to induce the unwary to join in worldly pleasures. There are shows . . . and an endless variety of entertainments that are calculated to lead to a love of the world. . . . The natural mind leans toward pleasure and self-gratification. It is Satan's policy to fill the mind with a desire for worldly amusement. . . . (325) Among the

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In Search of the Remnant

Fred Volz

According to the Bible, God will have a small leftover group of believers, or remnant, in the last days who will be especially rewarded for their steadfast faith while most of Christendom and its religious people will fall by the wayside for various reasons: Selfishness, worldliness, or just plain choosing sin over righteousness. What is the remnant? Is it a particular church or denomination? Or is the remnant church made up of individuals who qualify by virtue of God's grace, their faith and corresponding works?

Biblically speaking, the remnant, as we shall see, is a very special people. What are God's identifying attributes for His remnant people? The only thing we really have to go on is Holy Scripture, because true remnant status cannot be ordained by man's measure or any human claims. For man to claim himself qualified by his own standards to be the "called out," peculiar, and holy people, a bride without spot or wrinkle, is very arrogant and may lack the humility necessary to indeed be a part of the remnant.

Jesus said that many false prophets and false christs would come in His name and deceive many. The same is true with churches. Many churches will come in His name and claim to be His "remnant church." These each make the same claim to the "prize," each with different reasons for thinking

so and each with completely different beliefs. That is why it is imperative that a person living in this time must diligently seek God's revelation in this matter. So, let us identify God's remnant by His measure. You can then compare your own walk and your own church to find the answer to the question, "Have I found the remnant, and am I part of it?"

Twelve Traits of the Remnant

God's holy end-time people will all share certain traits as outlined by God in His Word. There are, of course, other attributes such as mercy, love, kindness, longsuffering, and so on, that should be expected of all Christians. Without real Christlike love and the fruits of the Spirit, fulfilling these requirements would be impossible. I believe that the twelve qualities of the remnant epitomize the putting of love into action and indeed are the Bible definition of the word "love" (agape). That said, let us go over the twelve traits of the remnant.

1. The remnant will be few — "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matthew 7:14. "Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." Luke 13:23-24. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

I have found the word "strait" to be one of the most foundational words of all Scripture. Well-meaning ecumenical movements often bombard us with statements that say that all churches are just emphasizing different parts of God's truth: a different "slice of the same pie," so to speak. As much as I would like to think that is true, I know that it cannot be. The "narrow and few" statement made by our Lord is an effective shield against deception, for it is a most basic and irrefutable truth, a scripture verse that cannot be twisted, only ignored or avoided. This statement alone separates much of the wheat from the chaff, and eliminates from remnant status the vast majority of churchgoers who believe in a wide and easy path to salvation.

2. The remnant are labourers — "Then saith he [Christ] unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, *but the labourers are few.*" Matthew 9:37.

This is really a tie-in to the statements above, for just as there are few that find the narrow way, it stands to reason that there would also be few servants and labourers to reap His harvest. Just think, if there were as many Christians preaching the narrow way of God's kingdom as there are deceivers preaching the false gospel of non-repentant salvation, what would Christendom look like? — To answer, it would look like God's kingdom.

The true gospel of righteousness by faith would have reached the corners of the globe. The church would have reached the full stature of Christlikeness and victory. But again, God's special people have always been a relatively small group, and they always will be. His remnant people are driven by their love and devotion to their Lord, and they are eager to serve. They have figured out that servanthood not only pleases God, it results in true happiness and fulfillment.

3. The remnant will be pure — "And every man that hath this hope in him *purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*" 1 John 3:3. "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and *purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*" Titus 2:13-14.

Notice that Scripture says both that God will purify the remnant and that they will purify themselves. These verses refute the popular notion that the word "perfect" as used to describe God's will for us really means "mature" and that God does not expect perfection in His people. These verses use the word pure in the same context as the use of the word perfect in Matthew, chapter five; note the similarity of 1 John 3:3 quoted above with Matthew 5:48: "Be ye therefore perfect, *even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*"

Revelation 14:4 describes them as not being "defiled with women." In prophecy, women represent religion, and to defile oneself with women would mean to accept false doctrines and false religions. False prophets, false teachers, or charlatans will not easily deceive God's special end-time people. These who purify themselves by walking according to the uncompromised Word of God will be nearly impossible to put anything over on because their knowledge of, and relationship with God will be such that they will smell a counterfeit a mile away.

4. The remnant will not work iniquity — "But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; *depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.*" Luke 13:27.

This dovetails into our previous trait of purity. However, it is important to know that the word translated iniquity is also the word for lawlessness. God's remnant people are law-keeping people and do not practice or cherish sin. Now, it is important to point out that there is a difference between making a mistake that results in committing a sin, and practicing sin as a lifestyle. However, with that said, many of us do practice sin even if it is what we would consider a "minor sin." The Bible defines sin as "the transgression of the law." 1 John 3:4.

God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering." Colossians 3:12.

The word holy means "called out" and "separate" and actually encompasses all the traits we have looked at so far. Holy people are the few pure labourers that do not practice sin and who hold the fruits of the Spirit as shown in the above verse from Colossians. These people are set apart by God, and they set themselves apart for God; just as God purifies us, and we also purify ourselves.

6. The remnant will be peculiar — "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that

These verses refute the popular notion that the word "perfect" as used to describe God's will for us really means "mature" and that God does not expect perfection in His people.

Jesus put the law back in its proper perspective in the Sermon on the Mount, and even raised the standard of the law to the extent that He explained the true heart of the law and said that this is what we are to keep, above, but including the letter. It was not enough to refrain from actually murdering someone to keep the law; your heart must be such that you would not even consider it. In fact, a person with the heart of Christ would not even be angry without just cause, and then would not make a condemning spiritual judgment out of anger. See Matthew 5:22. So again, this is similar to, and is part of purity but is just one specific aspect of purity or perfection.

5. The remnant will be holy — "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 and into his marvellous light.*" 1 Peter 2:9. "Put on therefore, as *the elect of*

he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself *a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*" Titus 2:13-14.

The Greek word translated peculiar in the King James is *periousios* (per-eeOO-see-os). This word means "being beyond." The first part of the word, *peri* is that from which we get the word "perimeter," or border. In other words, God's remnant church will be beyond where Christian behavior and belief is normally expected. This can be both with regard to doctrine and, as the context suggests, good works.

Most Christians follow what is called "the pale of orthodoxy," that is a perimeter of acceptable belief and interpretation and anything outside this set of boundaries is considered peculiar or even heretical by the mainstream. God's special people will ignore man's interpretation of "orthodoxy" which is based mostly on Scripture but is also affected by tradition and

changes in societal attitudes. The remnant church of Christ will believe and obey only that which carries a “thus saith the Lord.” And yes, a people who do this will be considered strange in light of today’s standards.

7. The remnant will be hated by all men and nations—“*And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.*” Matthew 10:22.

This is one of the few statements by our Lord that is repeated in all four gospels. See also Mark 13:13, Luke 21:17, John 17:14. In other places in Scripture, this statement is rendered, “You will be hated of all nations.” See Matthew 24:9. The

a commandment and at the same time be defending it. This also means that the remnant will defend God’s commandments against those who would try to water them down or annul them by their example or teaching.

9. The remnant will have the faith and testimony of Jesus Christ—“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:17. “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12.

(Matthew 5:48), and being “holy; for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16), all of which imply, and require, the possession of a Christlike faith. So, the remnant will have the Jesus-kind-of-faith, which is not possible without first having faith in Jesus.

10. The remnant will fight a constant battle with Satan—“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to *make war with the remnant of her seed*, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:17.

Spiritual warfare is a real and deadly proposition, one that cannot be taken lightly. Before becoming an Adventist, I had been warned by a close “friend” that Adventists would steal my intimacy with God. He said that I should become anything but a Seventh-day Adventist, as that would put me into legalistic bondage and I would never be happy again—among other accusations. I can tell you that this has not been my experience and that most of what my “helpful friend” accused the church of was baseless. This was spiritual warfare by Satan, through my friend, trying to keep me from the present and precious truth, just as Satan used Peter in the garden of Gethsemane to try to convince Jesus that He did not have to go to the cross. True remnant Christians are warriors who are locked in spiritual battle against powers and principalities.

11. The remnant will contend for the faith—“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and *exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*” Jude 3. “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” 2 Timothy 4:2.

Here is another trait that may not win you many friends at your local church, because people who contend for God’s Word and sound doctrine are often seen as conten-

The remnant church of Christ will believe and obey only that which carries a “thus saith the Lord.” And yes, a people who do this will be considered strange in light of today’s standards.

word translated nations in the Greek is the word *ethnos*, from where we get the words ethnic or ethnicity. So, this is not limited to governments but to society in general. The remnant have always been and always will be marginalized by the world and by nominal religion just as our Savior Jesus Christ was.

8. The remnant will keep God’s commandments—“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with *the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*” Revelation 12:17.

This seems obvious, but it should be pointed out that to keep God’s commandments is not the same as merely believing they are true and immutable. In Scripture, the word translated “keep” is the Greek word *tereo* (tay-reh-o). It is a military term which means to defend something, not simply to believe it exists. The implication is that you can simultaneously believe something is true and not perform or obey, but it is impossible to break

We have seen in a nutshell what it means to keep the commandments of God, but what is the faith of Jesus? What is the testimony of Jesus? What I find most interesting in this verse is the wording. Notice it does not say the remnant have faith in Jesus, but *the faith of Jesus*. This can be interpreted two ways.

First, it can mean to have Jesus’ kind of faith, and if that is true, the remnant will not only be holy like Christ, but in the latter rain will carry miracle-working faith. Not loving their lives unto death, carrying their crosses and walking as Christ walked.

Second, this can be interpreted to mean the faith from Jesus. However, we know our faith is gained through Christ and from the Father, who sends the Holy Spirit as we pray that He will increase our faith.

I believe the whole of Scripture points to the first interpretation because of the references to walking “even as he walked” (1 John 2:6), being “perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect”

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Disciplined for Handing out Bibles

News Item: A man from Gideons International gave some Bibles to a Florida school bus driver, and she thought that the man was with the school. Then the bus driver handed out the Bibles to students on her bus who requested them. For this she was given a letter of discipline.

The Florida *Times-Union*, in its Sunday editorial, condemned the disciplinary action, noting that “‘political correctness not only is alive and well, it’s thriving on Florida’s First Coast.’”

“‘Young people need to read more,’ the editorial continued. ‘If the parents thought it would harm their offspring to read the Bible, that’s a decision they should make themselves. A school bus driver shouldn’t be expected to make it for them.’” *Crosswalk.com*, Religion Today Summary for November 26, 2002.

End-Time Perspective: It seems like almost any immoral idea or unchristian material can be promoted, but not the Bible. This shows the truth of the statement that Paul wrote to the Ephesians. “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:12.

New Federal Religion Guidelines for Public Schools

News Item: “New guidelines have been issued by the Department of

Education on what it considers unconstitutional government speech on religion and protected private religious speech in the country’s elementary and secondary schools. Among specific applications listed in the guidelines are:

- Students may communicate their religious beliefs in class assignments without being discriminated against.
- Students may pray and read their Bibles or other religious materials during non-instructional time ‘to the same extent that they may engage in nonreligious activities.’
- Students may organize prayer meetings and Bible or religious clubs before school hours to the same extent other extracurricular student activities are permitted.
- Students selected on a neutral basis to speak at assemblies may express religious views, and school officials may clarify through disclaimers the schools are not endorsing those beliefs.
- In order to receive federal education funds, school districts must certify they have no policies limiting constitutionally protected religious expression.” *Crosswalk.com*, Religion Today Summary for February 21, 2003.

Churches, Homosexuality, and the Bible

News Item: “Several mainline denominations are being pulled

apart over attempts by homosexual activists to redefine Biblical sexual morality. Same-sex ‘marriage’ and ordination of practicing homosexuals are the prime points of contention. How these issues are resolved will likely determine whether or not several of the largest denominations will avoid a costly schism. . . .

“During the August 1998 Anglican worldwide Lambeth Conference in Canterbury, England, a resolution was passed . . . that declared the Conference ‘upholds faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman in lifelong union [and] cannot advise the legitimizing or blessing of same-sex unions, nor the ordination of those involved in such unions.’ *The resolution has largely been ignored.*” *Crosswalk.com*, Religion Today Summary for February 21, 2003. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

End-Time Perspective: If we cannot make a stand and obey the Word of God on an issue for which there is a plain “thus saith the Lord,” how can we possibly know and understand the mystery of godliness? The last two sentences of the above news item should remind us of how the issue of women’s ordination was voted down by an almost 2-to-1 margin by the delegates to the 1995 General Conference session; yet, it is very apparent that it is being openly ignored, especially in North America. It is also plain to see by the things that are being condoned, and actually promoted, by our leadership – such as celebration worship, clowns, magicians, GraceLink Sabbath

school curriculum, and drama — that God has allowed us to follow our own devisings. Jesus said, “By their fruits you shall know them.” See Matthew 7:15–20.

New Plan to Check Background of Air Travelers

News Item: For the sake of airline passengers’ safety after the September 11 attacks, Congress ordered development of a nationwide computer system to gather and check certain personal information on anyone buying an airline ticket.

The system will check “credit reports and bank account activity and compare passenger names with those on government watch lists.” Then each passenger’s boarding pass will be tagged green, yellow, or red depending on the potential risk the passenger’s background is perceived to warrant. *ABCNEWS.com*, February 28, 2003.

End-Time Perspective: It is very easy to imagine how a person or group of persons could be singled out almost at will when a system

like this is in operation. When we see these kind of portentous signs all around us, let us prepare ourselves to be hidden in Christ, Who alone is our righteousness. It is becoming more and more evident that if we cannot be hidden in Him and protected by Him because of some cherished sin, we will not survive the overwhelming delusion that the beast will unleash on *God’s faithful, commandment-keeping people* in the very near future. Pray, repent, and work as though your life depends upon it, for it surely does. ✨

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tious. However, let us make no mistake, we are commanded to contend when it comes to upholding God’s truth in the face of error. Satan seeks to disarm these contenders any way possible, either from without the church through civil legislation, or from within

among you; and I partly believe it. For there must be also heresies [or factions] among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.” 1 Corinthians 11:18–19.

In other words, there will be factions in the church and the truth will always be contended for. The remnant will always have people

Summary

Having discussed the twelve virtues of God’s remnant church, do you see your own traits listed among them? Do you see your own home church when you read this list? Just as importantly, would you or your church welcome someone who had these attributes, or would you see them as a threat to the peace of the church?

No doubt, I have found the remnant residing within the Seventh-day Adventist faith. However, I do not believe that mere denominational affiliation will pass muster on Judgment Day. We will stand alone before God and give account for ourselves. Our church leaders will not be there to defend us or put in a good word on our behalf. Therefore, each of us must become familiar with God’s requirements and give ourselves over to Him completely if we are to be changed and empowered to live for Him and His way.

The stakes are high, but the reward is infinitely higher. Remember the parable of the rich man and Lazarus? One had a comfortable life and a miserable death, the other — a miserable life but a glorious eternity. As God’s remnant, we will have our share of suffering, we will each have to bear our cross, but the most important thing is to keep our eyes fixed on the prize — eternity with Jesus. It will be worth everything. ✨

Would you or your church welcome someone who had these attributes, or would you see them as a threat to the peace of the church?

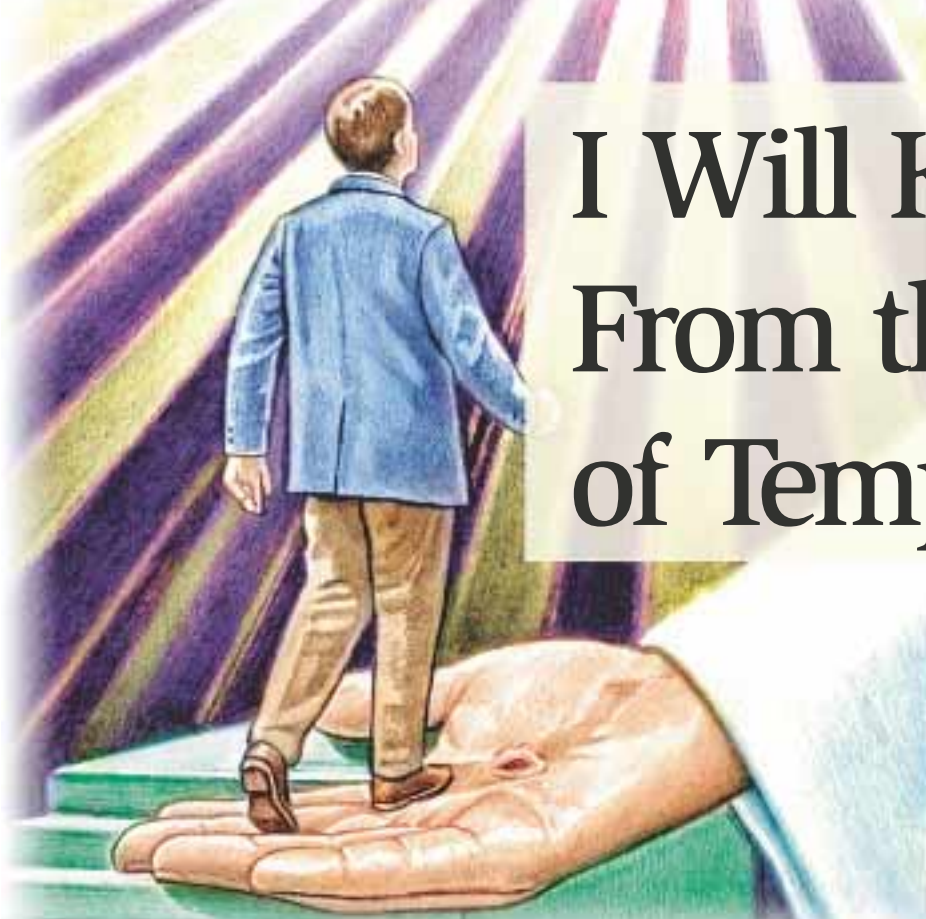
through accusations of divisiveness because they stand in his way of deceptions.

However, being hated is not necessarily evidence of a Christlike character. Many people are hated because they are truly self-righteous and arrogant, or do not listen to the Holy Spirit to guide them with regard to times and seasons for knowing when to talk and when to listen. Thus, instead of helping and blessing with the truth, they harm and damage those who are not ready (by God’s perfect timing) to receive the Word in due season.

12. The remnant will be accused of divisiveness — “For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions

attempting to bring in false teaching because the remnant has enough of God’s truth to warrant an attack by Satan.

According to the verse from Corinthians, truth cannot cause dissention because division is necessary to prove what is true and what is false. In fact, people bringing in false teachings and ideas and then presenting them as Bible truth is actually what causes dissention even though those who openly oppose them are considered “intolerant” or “divisive.” Satan cannot bring in false teachings unless he can first bind the watchmen. This he does by accusing them (hence the name Satan — the accuser) of causing contention or dissention.



I Will Keep Thee From the Hour of Temptation

Part 2

Ellen G. White

After the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, the Jews, the priests, and the rulers of this world expected to see the disciples of Christ cast down and discouraged, because their Lord had been put to death. The disciples might have reasoned that they were in danger, and that they would better go out of Jerusalem; some might have said, "Do not stay there, but if you do stay, do not mention the name of Christ; for he is regarded as an impostor."

But Christ had said, "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." Luke 24:49. After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, they were to begin their work in Jerusalem, and let it extend from this city to the uttermost parts of the earth. Did anyone lose his life in exalting Jesus before the people? Was anyone killed? — Yes, Stephen was killed. Their enemies expected that terror would come upon the disciples, and that they would be afraid to speak the message of God. But hear what Peter says: "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs,

which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it." Acts 2:22-24.

God wants His witnesses to present the genuine in contrast to that which is false. There were many converted under Peter's preaching, and it greatly disturbed the people; and as they spake to the people, the Sadducees came upon them. The disciples remembered the falsehood which these great, and supposedly good men had so zealously circulated — that the disciples had stolen Him away by night while the Roman guard slept. Can you be surprised that the Sadducees were grieved because those who believed, preached the resurrection of the man they had murdered, when the number of those who believed was about five thousand? The seed that Christ had been sowing while He was on earth, sprang up. Many were waiting for this God-given testimony to come

from the disciples in reference to Christ and His resurrection, and they believed when they heard it; for it revived the testimony they had heard from the lips of Jesus, and they took their stand in the ranks of those who believed the gospel of Christ.

By What Name Have Ye Done This?

We have on record another testimony that proves the boldness of the disciples. When Peter and John had bidden the paralytic arise in the name of Jesus, and he had been healed, the people were amazed; and the Scripture says, "And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; and killed the

Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. And his name through faith in his name, hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled." Acts 3:12-18.

"And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, being grieved that they taught the people, and

The disciples were not afraid to proclaim the truth. They expected that they would be persecuted. "*Whom ye crucified.*" Why did they not keep that back? — Because it was a testimony that they were to bear before the great men of the earth. "This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." Verses 11-13.

go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is." Verses 17-24. They said, "Lord, thou art God," and we shall have to say the same thing.

When the authorities come between us and God, we shall receive help if we only trust in Him as did the patriarchs, prophets, and apostles, and with them we shall be able to say, "Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is." But while we trust in God, no one should be presumptuous; and that we may not take an unwise course, we should pray constantly. We should not rush into danger unless God sends us there; nor should we call our brethren cowards because they are cautious in their plans that they may not unnecessarily provoke the rulers and powers of the earth.

What was the strength of those who in the past have suffered imprisonment and death for Christ's sake?—It was union with God, union with the Holy Spirit, union with Christ.

preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand. And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, and Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, if we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole." Acts 4:1-10.

Then they asked in this council, "What shall we do to these men?" Verse 16. I expect that this question will be asked many times in reference to those who keep the commandments of God in these days of peril as time is about to close. The priests acknowledged that a notable miracle had been wrought, but they said, "That it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done. For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed. And being let

A Living Experience Needed

What was the strength of those who in the past have suffered imprisonment and death for Christ's sake? — It was union with God, union with the Holy Spirit, union with Christ. They had fellowship with God and with His Son, and the multitude that believed were of one mind and one soul. We may safely seek to be of one accord in doctrine and spirit, and if this were done, we would be in harmony with God's will.

If selfishness and pride and vanity and evil surmising were put away, we would become strong in God, and the door of our heart would be open for the entrance of Christ; the baptism of the Holy Ghost would fall upon us, and we should be filled with all the fullness of God. Then we should know what is the length and depth and breadth and height of the love of God which passeth knowledge — we should know something of the mystery of godliness. We would be able to speak, as did Peter and John, of the things which we had seen and heard.

What we need is a living experience in the things of God. We need the transforming grace of Christ to bring into subjection every thought of the mind, every power of the intellect. The physical, mental, and spiritual powers should be under the control of the God of heaven who gives us life, who gives us food, who gives us every blessing. He is the God of Israel, therefore we will accept Him, and Him alone will we serve.

Go . . . Speak to the People

We read in the Acts of the Apostles that after the miracle at the temple gate, many signs and wonders were wrought, and many were healed. "Then the high priest rose up and all they that were with him . . . and were filled with indignation." Acts 5:17. Why? — Because the great adversary of God and man was provoked that he could not hold his captives in torment, and that Christ was doing the very work that he had declared in Nazareth he would do. He had said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Luke 4:18-19.

And then they shut the disciples up in a prison, that the message of God should no longer be given to the people, but the angel of the Lord was there. All heaven was looking upon them then, and the angels are now looking upon those who are living at this closing period of earth's history.

The angel of the Lord came by night to the servants of God, and said, "Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life." Acts 5:20. Here was an order directly contrary to the command given by the potentates of the earth. But the direction of the angel was from the highest court in the universe. Did the apostles say to the angel, "We cannot do this until we have consulted the magistrates, and received permission of

them"? — No; God had said "Go," and they went forth to speak according to His commandment.

In the morning their enemies called a council, and sent to the prison that they might be brought before them, but when the officers found them not, they said, "The prison truly found we shut with all safety . . . but when we had opened, we found no man within." Verse 23. The angel of God could take them through the prison walls, and they had no power to hold them.

We have the same God today, and He works on the same plan. When they said the prison was shut, the chief priest doubted the keeper. God was working and the enemy was working, and the battle was waged between the God of heaven and the powers that be.

There is your work. Pray as you have never prayed before; and if you spend nights in prayer, and learn to trust God, you will have an intelligent experience.

Then the captain sent the officers and had them brought, because they feared the people, and when they were before the council, the high priest asked, "Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine." Verse 28. Then the apostles answered, "We ought to obey God rather than men." Verse 29. We ought to be obedient to all the laws of our country, except when those laws come in collision with the law of God, and then we must obey God, irrespective of everything else.

"Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space; and said unto them . . . Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest

happily ye be found even to fight against God. And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." Verses 34-42.

Your Work Is to Pray

God has the same power to bestow upon us as He gave to His people anciently, and He will give it to His people now, if we do not choose our own ways but God's ways. Let God take care of His people, and teach and direct them,

and let man keep his plans out of the way. We would not lessen the courage of God's people, and be in a position where we shall dishonor the God of heaven, instead of glorifying Him.

There are many things brought to view in the Scriptures that will help us. James was killed, and because the enemies of the gospel saw that it pleased the Jews, they were going to take Peter, but they did not, because the Lord took charge of him. They killed Stephen, but the angel of the Lord opened the prison doors for Peter, for "prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him." Acts 12:5. There is your work. Pray as you have never prayed before; and if you spend nights in prayer, and learn to trust God, you will have an intelligent experience. It was by praying without ceasing that Peter gained the victory, and when the angel went to bring him out, Peter

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PRINCIPLE VS. FEELINGS

Patricia Temple

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

Today’s society, just like in the antediluvian world and in the time of Sodom, is being tuned so much toward feelings that it is antagonistic toward authoritative principle.

But the simple truth is: Nothing in God’s universe is going to change course based on how you feel about it. What you feel or think about something will not make a difference in the grand scheme of things.

Truth is like a mighty mountain. If we do not like it, it will not cease to exist. If we deny it and fight against it, it will not go away. We can beat ourselves to bits against truth, but we will be the ultimate losers. Truth will still be there when all its opponents are long gone.

Why is it then that Satan is so intensely promoting concepts of emotion and feeling? – For one thing, feelings are his specialty. He can never change God’s principles or His law, nor can he change the laws of nature, but he can play with our feelings, sensations, and emotions!

Spiritualism is founded upon feelings, sensations, imaginations, concepts, fantasies, masquerading demons, and outright falsehood. The truth of God is based on His Holy Word, which will never fail.

So, do feelings play no part at all in a Christian’s experience? – They

do play a part, but they are never to be the foundation. The true Christian’s feelings and emotions will be under the control of principle.

“Whoever shall give way to his natural feelings and impulses makes himself weak and untrustworthy, for he is a channel through which Satan can communicate to taint and corrupt many souls, and these unholy fits that control the person unnerve him, and shame and confusion are the sure result.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 264.

Satan can work in us and through us to harm others, if we strongly focus on feelings.

“The true Christian does not allow any earthly consideration to come in between his soul and God. The commandment of God wields an authoritative influence over his affections and actions. If everyone seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness would be always ready to work the works of Christ, how much easier would become the path to heaven. The blessings of God would flow into the soul, and the praises of the Lord would be on your lips continually. *You would then serve God from principle. Your feelings might not always be of a joyous nature; clouds would at times shadow the horizon of your experience; but the Christian’s hope does not rest upon the sandy foundation of feeling. Those who act from principle will behold the glory of God beyond the*

shadows and rest upon the sure word of promise. They will not be deterred from honoring God, however dark the way may seem. Adversity and trial will only give them an opportunity to show the sincerity of their faith and love.” *Mind, Character, and Personality*, vol. 2, 495–496. (All emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted.)

Anchored by Principle

Feelings and emotions are like a turbulent sea, which Satan can blow and lash about this way and that, but principle anchors the soul and brings a blessed calm. We are told that Jesus possessed a calm serenity that nothing could ruffle because He was anchored firmly in God:

“Applause did not elate Him. He feared not the threats of His enemies. He moved amid the world of excitement, of violence and crime, as the sun moves above the clouds. Human passions and commotions and trials were beneath Him. He sailed like the sun above them all. Yet He was not indifferent to the woes of men. His heart was ever touched with the sufferings and necessities of His brethren, as though He Himself was the one afflicted. He had a calm inward joy, a peace which was serene. His will was ever swallowed up in the will of His Father.” *This Day with God*, 263.

In the church today there seems to be a great emphasis on having programs that excite the emotions,

play on feeling, and promote sensual indulgence. It is felt that these things are a way to bring more people into the church. Of course, these things will appeal more to the carnal mind, but is this what should be used to win converts? — “If the interest steadily increases, and the people move understandingly, *not from impulse, but from principle, the interest is much more healthy and durable* than it is where a great excitement and interest are created suddenly, and the feelings are excited. . . . The feelings and sympathies of the people were stirred; but their consciences were not convicted, their hearts were not broken and humbled before God.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 218.

When we build our faith on the solid Rock of Bible truth, we can rejoice in the Lord, no matter what our feelings or circumstances may be at the time, because we have an assurance within us that gives us lasting joy.

This is why our only defense against Satan is the Word of God. When we can honestly say, “Well, I may feel this or that, but the Word says this, and by God’s grace, here I stand,” we will have an entirely different Christian experience than we ever thought we could have. Living by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God gives a wonderful freedom and peace that no giving into emotions can ever replace.

Shaky Ground

Some people cite some reassuring episode they have experienced in the present or past, and say, because God blessed them in this way they are assured of right standing with Him forever. They forget that the Holy Spirit works with all people, seeking to bless, encourage, and woo them to the truth, but only by comparing our lives to the Guidebook can we know our standing in relationship to the will of God. Satan can also give counterfeits of dreams, impressions, and experiences, and in fact, does this frequently.

The “evidence” that some are willing to base their eternal security

on is shaky ground indeed. A certain woman felt because she spontaneously began singing a particular song that it held the answer to her current spiritual dilemma and was an answer to her prayer — and it may indeed have been. The tendency, however, is to think that it meant that she was led of God and was, therefore, in no danger of going astray.

I know of people who took the fact that a vase of flowers had died as evidence that a person who had recently died was sure to be saved in the kingdom. For one thing, such situations are not for us to speculate on anyway.

Feelings and emotions are like a turbulent sea, which Satan can blow and lash about this way and that, but principle anchors the soul and brings a blessed calm.

Dreams are varied and many. A common one is of the image of Jesus in some form, looking down on the person with approval or with a smile. People receiving such dreams often take them to mean that whatever course they pursue, in spite of biblical evidence to the contrary, it will be approved of Jesus. One woman used such a dream to justify her decision to reject the Spirit of Prophecy!

Brethren and sisters, Satan can appear as Jesus when we are not even dreaming, and he has no problem appearing like Him in our dreams. If our course of action causes us to disregard any instruction from the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy, then you can be sure that no matter how good and how wonderful you felt in your dream, it was not Jesus who gave it to you.

I certainly do believe that God gives each person who truly walks with Him dreams and insight through the Holy Spirit. We also do have times when we receive information or guidance in dreams and providential workings. However, these dreams *must* be judged by the inspired counsel. For example,

many Mormons are taught that if they feel a “burning in their bosom,” they can know the doctrines that they are studying are true. Yet, how easy it is for Satan to create a “burning in the bosom.”

I have also recently had an Adventist Pastor quote to me the text, “Despise not prophesyings” (1 Thessalonians 5:20), and indicate that it means that anything that claims to be prophecy should be accepted. However, following this text, Paul adds, “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” Verse 21. If we see that it deviates from Spirit of Prophecy or shows biblical error, we are not to accept it.

The Lure of Spiritualism

The whole tower of spiritualism is founded on feelings, sensations, and counterfeit miracles. Why should the “people of the Book” consent to step off our solid rock to perch on the shaky limbs of such a structure? — There is only one reason: Spiritualism promises you freedom to do whatever you wish, with no inhibition on your carnal desires, while the way of truth commands you to take up your cross and crucify self.

Because several years of my life were spent in chasing the elusive phantoms of the new-age and eastern religions, I can truly second the words of the Spirit of Prophecy that say when we get into these things we are indeed “in a position where the enemy can talk with us and lead us *away from God*.” See *Selected Messages*, book 1, 202. While involved in it, I was strongly motivated to combine the “good” parts of this spiritualism — though I did not even see it as spiritualism then — with what I thought were truths from my Seventh-day Adventist upbringing.

My problem was that I had never known what true Adventism was, though I am grateful to God for the little that I did know, for without it I never would have returned from that dreadful trap I had wandered into.

From my experience, I can testify to the fact that Satan can make you feel good. He can give you experiences that make you feel like you are entering a new and higher stage of existence. He can give you special powers — telepathy, clairvoyance, dreams, and trance-like experiences. However, only God can really give you peace, no matter what the circumstance.

Those who are involved in these mysticisms are reluctant to admit that they are evil. We often hear people who are involved in these practices mock the messengers of warning saying, “Oh, these people think everything is from the devil!”

“There are many who shrink with horror from the thought of consulting spirit mediums, but who are attracted by *more pleasing forms of spiritism*. Others are led astray by the teachings of Christian Science, and by the *mysticism* of Theosophy and *other Oriental religions*.” *Prophets and Kings*, 210.

Then there are some who, upon receiving an earnest warning, will leave off spiritualism for a while, but then will return. Why do they return? — I can tell you from experience that the mystic practices with

their interesting and wonderful sensations, and their subtle promises of hidden knowledge are very addictive; and when you leave them, there is often a sense of loneliness and loss. This is Satan luring you to return. Do not ever do it! Instead, run to Jesus as a little child and cry for help. Ask Jesus to come close to you and drive the seducer away forever. Remember, if you return to the devil, he may make sure you never escape again! Do not look for something to reassure yourself that it is all right to return to the mire. If you do, Satan will be only too glad to send you a dream or impression or give you an extra-special experience as soon as you venture to try your mystic practices again. One person did this, and upon returning to her spiritualistic meditation, had a wonderful, joyous interaction with her counterfeit “Jesus.” Now, she actively promotes her mysticism through books and other means. Such people will have to answer for the many souls lost through their influence! A dark future lies ahead of them, unless they repent.

Is it ever safe to visualize Jesus or anyone in our minds and then interact with this being? — *No way!* This is pure spiritualism. “Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery?” Ezekiel 8:12.

So, what is real meditation for Christians? — Real meditation is a combination of prayer and Bible/Spirit of Prophecy study — reading or listening to concepts and then carefully thinking on them, seeking to understand them more deeply, and applying them to our lives.

There is *nothing* of God to be found in worldly philosophy, eastern mysticism, or in new-age religions. Our only treasure lies in Christ Jesus who is the Pearl of Great Price. He alone can give us living water that we may thirst no more for the cisterns of spiritualism.

I repeat: Spiritualism is founded on feeling and sensation. The truth of God is found in His Holy Word. It will *never* fail. ❀

Continued from page 23...

was bound with two chains, and, behold, the angel of the Lord came forth, and smote Peter on the side, and said, “Rise up quickly.”

All the ruler’s expectations failed because the same mighty agent that Joshua summoned when he was to bring down the walls of Jericho, was with the men who were bound with chains. When Peter returned to his brethren, a free man, he found them praying, and this is the key to his deliverance — they were praying. He knocked at the gate, but the maid who came to open it, ran back to the house in great astonishment without letting him in. They did not think that Peter was to be released from the prison. They had expected a deliverance of a different order, but God worked in His own way and after His own counsel, and brought him to the very door of those who were praying for him.

A Faith That Will Stand

We should seek to understand how God works. He wrought for His servants and released them from prison. They did not say, “If I can only get out of this place, I will never speak of Christ again,” no, for Jesus was in their hearts, and they were happy. God is always by the side of His people, and He never leaves them — He never gives a trial to His children but He will be there to help; He knows just what they can bear, and He does not give them any more than they can bear. If they fail, it is because they do not in faith bring their difficulties to God as to one who will help them. God does not forsake. No one fails because God leaves him to perish. When men fail, it is because they do not avail themselves of the provisions which God has made; they do not trust in the Lord.

When Paul and Silas were left with bleeding backs and with their feet in the stocks, they did not lament over their situation, but sang glory to God. A different note sounded in the prison from any ever heard there before. The keeper had heard cursing and swearing and blasphemy, but he had never heard

Personnel Needs

Hope International is hiring workers to assist in the following areas:

1. Accounting and bookkeeping. (We use the Cougar Mountain accounting software, which is very user-friendly.)

2. Marketing / Coordinator — to promote the work of Hope International and to coordinate our evangelistic training programs.

Please contact Hope International immediately if you are willing and able to help in either of these areas.

the praises of God resounding through the halls; for he himself was an unconverted man. The suffering servants of God continued to send up their notes of thanksgiving, and they echoed in heaven; and the angels of God, as they caught the strain, came to their aid with a mighty tread, and the prison was shaken, and the apostles were loosed from their bands, and the light of the glory of God shone in the prison, and every man's bands were loosed, and the jailers found the doors open. The record says that the jailer drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had fled; but Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Acts 16:28-30.

How do we know but that this persecution came upon the servants of God in order that souls might be saved in that prison? God worked for His people in the past, He manifested His power in their behalf when they were in emergencies. If we let human counsel prevail, and arrange our plans so that God cannot work for us, we may expect to get into difficulties. May God help us to come to our senses. We have had little enough faith in the past, and we do not want to crush out the least particle of the faith that still lives.

Let us inspire our people with faith that they may stand firm for the right in whatever situation they may be placed. There is no necessity for thinking that we cannot endure persecution; we shall have to go through terrible times. I am going to stand at my post of duty, brethren, and I hope that you will give your brethren a chance to stand at their post of duty till the Master shall come.

Let Us Stand the Test Manfully

When Stephen was called upon to suffer for Christ's sake, he did not waver. He read his fate in the cruel faces of his persecutors, and he did not hesitate to give to them the last

message which he was to bear to men. He looked up and said, "I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God." Acts 7:56. All heaven was interested in this case.

Jesus, rising from the throne of His Father, was leaning over, looking upon the face of His servant, and imparting to his countenance the beams of His own glory, and men were astonished as they saw Stephen's face lighted up as if it had been the face of an angel. The glory of God shone upon him, and while he was beholding the face of his Lord, the enemies of Christ stoned him to death. Would we not think that a hard death to die? But the fear of death was gone, and his last breath was spent in petitioning the Lord to forgive his persecutors.

Jesus has made it as easy as He possibly can for His children, and

the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." Daniel 3:17-18.

They were thrown into the burning fiery furnace, but the Lord was with them. The king looked into the furnace, and said, "Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." Verse 25. Angels of the Lord were watching by the side of the faithful three. God wished to show to the nations of the world who was the great I AM, the God of the heavens, the ruler of the universe, who alone was to be worshiped. Did not the Hebrews break the law of the king? — Yes, but the law of God was first to be obeyed.

May God help us to come to our senses. We have had little enough faith in the past, and we do not want to crush out the least particle of the faith that still lives.

He wants us to follow in His footsteps; for if we do, we shall be partakers of Christ and His glory.

No law has ever been made to exalt the idol sabbath but that Satan has taken a leading part in its enactment and its enforcement. Every law for the elevation of Sunday has a direct reference to the fourth commandment. Every move that has been made to enforce its observance is for the purpose of exalting the man of sin above God and above all that is worshiped. Satan would have us exalt the idol sabbath, but we cannot do it, for it would be disloyalty to God.

In the face of Nebuchadnezzar's decree of death, the three Hebrew children refused to bend the knee, preferring to be cast into the fiery furnace rather than bow to the golden image. They declared they were not careful to answer the king, and said, "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from

Now, brethren, we are coming to the crisis. Let us stand the test manfully, grasping the hand of Infinite Power. God will work for us. We have only to live one day at a time, and if we get acquainted with God, He will give us strength for what is coming tomorrow, grace sufficient for each day, and every day will find its own victories, just as it finds its trials. We shall have the power of the Highest with us; for we shall be clad with the armor of Christ's righteousness. We have the same God that has worked for His people in ages past. Jesus stands by our side, and shall we falter? — No, as the trials come, the power of God will come with them. God will help us to stand in faith on His Word, and when we are united, He will work with special power in our behalf. ✠

Review and Herald, April 22 and 29, 1890.



Cheerful Obedience Required

Ellen G. White

Abraham was an old man when he received the startling command from God to offer up his son Isaac for a burnt-offering. Abraham was considered an old man even in his generation. The ardor of his youth had faded away. It was no longer easy for him to endure hardships and brave dangers. In the vigor of youth, man may breast the storm with a proud consciousness of strength, and rise above discouragements that, later in life, when his steps are faltering toward the grave, would cause his heart to fail. But God, in His providence, reserved His last, most trying test for Abraham, until the burden of years was heavy upon him, and he longed for rest from anxiety and toil. The Lord spoke unto him, saying, "Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering." Genesis 22:2. The heart of the old man stood still with horror. The loss

of such a son by disease would have been most heart-rending to the fond father, and would have bowed his whitened head with sorrow; but he is commanded to shed the precious blood of that son with his own hand. It seemed to him a fearful impossibility. Yet God had spoken, and His word must be obeyed.

Abraham was stricken in years, but this did not excuse him from his duty. He grasped the staff of faith, and in dumb agony, took his child by the hand, and went out to obey the word of God. The grand old patriarch was human; his passions and attachments were like ours; he loved this boy, who was the solace of his old age, and unto whom the promise of the Lord had been given. But Abraham did not stop to question how God's promises could be fulfilled if Isaac was slain, he did not stay to reason with his aching heart; but he carried out the divine command to the very letter, till, just as the knife was about to be plunged

into the quivering flesh of his child, the word came, It is enough. "Now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me." Verse 12.

This great act of faith is recorded on the pages of sacred history as an illustrious example to the end of time. Abraham did not plead that his old age should excuse him from obeying God. He did not say, "My hairs are gray, the vigor of my manhood is gone; who will comfort my waning life when Isaac is no more? How can an aged father spill the blood of an only son?" No, God had spoken, and man must obey without questioning or murmuring or fainting by the way.

We Need Abraham's Faith

We need the faith of Abraham in our churches today, to lighten the darkness that gathers round them, shutting out the sweet sunlight of God's love and dwarfing spiritual growth. Age will never excuse us

from obeying God. Our faith should be prolific of good works; for faith without works is dead. Every duty performed, every sacrifice made in the name of Jesus, brings an exceeding great reward. In the very act of duty, God speaks and gives His blessing. But He requires of us an entire surrender of the faculties. The mind and heart, the whole being, must be given to Him, or we fall short of becoming true Christians.

God has withheld nothing from man that can secure to him eternal riches. He has clothed the earth with beauty and furnished it for his use and comfort during his temporal life. He has given His Son to die for the redemption of a world that had fallen through sin and folly. Such matchless love, such infinite sacrifice, claims our strictest obedience, our holiest love, our unbounded faith; yet all these virtues, exercised to their fullest extent, can never be commensurate with the great sacrifice that has been offered for us.

God requires prompt and unquestioning obedience of His law. But men are asleep or paralyzed by the deceptions of Satan, who suggests excuses and subterfuges, and conquers their scruples, saying, as he said to Eve in the garden, "Ye shall not surely die." Genesis 3:4. Disobedience not only hardens the heart and conscience of the guilty one, but it tends to corrupt the faith of others. That which looked very wrong to them at first gradually loses this appearance by being constantly before them, till finally they question whether it is really sin, and unconsciously fall into the same error.

We should not look in the face of duty and delay meeting its demands. Such delay gives time for doubts, unbelief creeps in, the judgment is perverted, the understanding darkened. At length the reproofs of God's Spirit do not reach the heart of the deluded person, who has become so blinded as to think that they cannot possibly be intended for him or apply to his case.

The precious time of probation is passing, and few realize that it is given them for the purpose of preparing for eternity. The golden hours are squandered in worldly pursuits, in pleasure, in absolute sin. God's law is slighted and forgotten; yet every statute is none-the-less binding; every transgression will bring its punishment. Love of gain leads to desecration of the Sabbath; yet the claims of that holy day are not abrogated or lessened. God's command is clear on this point; He has peremptorily forbidden us to labor upon the seventh day. He has set it apart as a day sanctified to Himself.

course that He would have them pursue, than now. But will they profit by His teachings? will they receive His reproofs and heed the warnings? God will accept of no partial obedience; He will sanction no compromise with self.

Through Samuel, God commanded Saul to go and smite the Amalekites and utterly destroy all their possessions. But Saul only partially obeyed the command; he destroyed the inferior cattle, but reserved the best, and spared the wicked king. The next day he met the prophet Samuel, with flattering self-congratulations. Said he, "Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have

All hindrances will vanish before an earnest desire and persistent effort to do the will of God at any cost to self, even if life itself is sacrificed.

Many are the hindrances that lie in the path of those who would walk in obedience to the commandments of God. There are strong and subtle influences that bind them to the ways of the world; but the power of the Lord can break these chains. He will remove every obstacle from before the feet of His faithful ones, or give them strength and courage to conquer every difficulty, if they earnestly beseech His help. All hindrances will vanish before an earnest desire and persistent effort to do the will of God at any cost to self, even if life itself is sacrificed. Light from Heaven will illuminate the darkness of those who in trial and perplexity go forward, looking unto Jesus as the author and finisher of their faith.

No Partial Obedience

In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the testimonies of His Spirit. There was never a time when God more earnestly instructed His people concerning His will, and the

performed the commandment of the LORD." 1 Samuel 15:13. But the prophet immediately answered, "What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" Verse 14.

Saul was confused, and sought to shirk responsibility by answering, "They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the *people* spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed." Verse 15. Samuel then reproved the king, reminding him of the explicit command of God directing him to destroy all things belonging to Amalek. He pointed out his transgressions, and declared that he had disobeyed the Lord. But Saul refused to acknowledge that he had done wrong; he again excused his sin by pleading that he had reserved the best cattle to sacrifice unto the Lord.

Samuel was grieved to the heart by the persistency with which the king refused to see his sin and confess it. He sorrowfully asked,

“Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.” Verses 22–23.

God has given us His commandments, not only to be believed, but to be obeyed. The great Jehovah, when He had laid the foundations of the earth, and dressed the whole world in the garb of beauty, and filled it with things useful to man, when He

in the sight of God. The example of Adam and Eve in the garden should sufficiently warn us against any disobedience of the divine law.

The sin of our first parents in listening to the specious temptations of the enemy, brought guilt and sorrow upon the world, and led the Son of God to leave the royal courts of heaven and take a humble place on earth. He was subjected to insult, rejection, and crucifixion by the very ones He came to bless. What infinite expense attended that disobedience in the garden of Eden! The Majesty of heaven was sacrificed to save man from the penalty of crime.

no mistake. How dare anyone venture to transgress a commandment so solemn and important? Has the Lord made an exception, by which some are absolved from the claims of the law He has given to the world? Are their transgression omitted from the book of record? Has He agreed to excuse their disobedience when the nations shall come before Him for judgment?

Let none for a moment deceive themselves with the thought that their sin will not bring its merited punishment. Their transgressions will be visited with the rod, because they have had the light, yet have walked directly contrary to it. “He that knoweth his master’s will, and doeth it not, shall be beaten with many stripes.” See Luke 12:47.

God has given man six days in which to do his own work, and carry on the usual business of his life. But the Lord claims one which He has set apart and sanctified. He gives it to man as a day in which he may rest from labor, and devote himself to worship and the improvement of his spiritual condition. What a flagrant outrage it is for man to steal the one sanctified day of Jehovah, and appropriate it to his own selfish purposes!

It is the grossest presumption for mortal man to venture upon a compromise with the Almighty, in order to secure his own petty, temporal interests. It is as ruthless a violation of the law to occasionally use the Sabbath for secular business, as to entirely reject it; for it is making the Lord’s commandments a matter of convenience. “I the LORD thy God am a jealous God” (Exodus 20:5), is thundered from Sinai! The Lord requires willing sacrifice. No partial obedience, no divided interest, is accepted by Him who declares that the iniquities of the fathers shall be visited upon the children to the third and fourth generation of them that hate Him, and that He will show mercy unto thousands that love Him and keep His commandments. ❀

Review and Herald, June 9, 1885.

“I the LORD thy God am a jealous God,” is thundered from Sinai! The Lord requires willing sacrifice. No partial obedience, no divided interest, is accepted by Him.

had created all the wonders of the land and sea, instituted the Sabbath, and made it holy. God blessed and sanctified the seventh day, because He rested upon it from His wondrous work of creation. The Sabbath was made for man, and God would have him put by his labor on that day, as He Himself rested after His six days’ work of creation.

The Example of Adam and Eve

Those who reverence the commandments of Jehovah, after light has been given them in reference to the fourth precept of the decalogue, will obey it without questioning the feasibility or convenience of such obedience. God made man in His own image, and then gave him an example of observing the seventh day, which He sanctified and made holy. He designed that upon that day man should worship Him, and engage in no secular pursuits. No one who disregards the fourth commandment, after becoming enlightened concerning the claims of the Sabbath, can be held guiltless

God will not more lightly pass over any transgressions of His law now than in the day when He pronounced judgment against Adam. The Saviour of the world raises His voice in protest against those who regard the divine commandments with carelessness and indifference. Said He, “Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:19.

Remember the Sabbath

At the very beginning of the fourth precept, God has said, “Remember,” knowing that man, in the multitude of his cares and perplexities, would be tempted to excuse himself from meeting the full requirements of the law, or, in the press of worldly business, would forget its sacred importance. “Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work.” Exodus 20:9. These words are very explicit; there can be



We really appreciate *Our Firm Foundation* – both the periodical and the “other foundation can no man lay that that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 3:11.

DA, Wisconsin

We know God is truly blessing your ministry. There is not much time left before Jesus comes in the clouds of glory.

FB, New Mexico

My prayer is that Hope International will continue to present the “straight testimony” in all the world!

Please use the enclosed gift as needed to “preach the gospel in all the world” (see Revelation 14:6), so the end will come soon! May God continue to strengthen your ministry.

DG, California

I want to thank you for helping me through these Bible studies and your many letters of encouragement. I’ve learned a lot from God’s Word. Please pray for me that I may continue to know more. Thank you for the books I received. I’ll be looking forward to my certificate.

LS, Arizona

I am incarcerated in — — — jail. I recently found two books in our library here — unused! One called *The Great Controversy* and the other *The Final Conflict*. To my surprise they are the same book. I’ve read *The Great Controversy* in its entirety, and was surprised and shocked! I tested it in the spirit and the Word, and found it to be spiritually inspired from biblical truths. I do not study history, so as far as the prophetic side of the book I can’t determine, but we all know

Jesus will come; *when* is not the major issue, *being ready* is!

I was amazed by the Sunday law, the rapture, and other things taught by the Roman Catholic Church. I had accepted these at one time as Bible truths. I know now they are false and go against God’s law! I have had to put away many of these false doctrines. I now find that I need to devote more time to prayer, Bible study, meditation, and doing Jesus’ work (going to others with this information) just as you are doing!

It amazes me now that all the time I had thought myself saved I was really lost. I didn’t feel a need to know God or to follow His commands, because I was deceived by many false doctrines and had no desire to look into the Word of God and ask Him myself. I was spiritually lazy. I am grateful and glad Jesus led me to this book and these truths. I have begun to change my life. I am trying to clean up all areas of my life — language and the outside everyone sees! I am also praying for a new heart; and the Spirit is working in me to perfection! I am changing through His will, not mine. I am letting Him lead the way. I want to follow all His commands to the best of my ability. I want to learn His precepts; I want them written on my heart and in my mind. I know I now have a relationship that is personal with God (Jesus). He teaches me, not man.

Anyway, I am writing because He has directed me to the Bible studies you offer. So, I would ask you to please send them to me and any other free information or studies you offer. I would also ask for a list of books you sell as long as they are in keeping with the doctrine of God and His laws and precepts. I would like to thank you

for the free Bible studies in advance. I will keep you and your cause in my prayers. May God continue to bless your work. Remember that if all the money you’ve spent helps just one of His, it will all be worth it, because it is His will that none should be lost that were given to Him. I pray that your light keeps shining!

BP, Indiana

From Overseas

Praise the Lord for *Our Firm Foundation* magazine, which is now circulating widely here. I am so thankful for the several hundreds of copies of the magazine you sent, which I distributed to several people — including some of our church leaders who have appreciated your straightforward presentation of the present truth. A year ago they were calling Hope International or Hartland names, but I knew that they didn’t understand Hope’s or Hartland’s mission. Now, with the distribution of the magazine, the same people are expressing great appreciation for the messages presented by the same ministries they were branding as offshoots. This sounds incredible, doesn’t it? Frankly speaking, your works are of great benefit to all whose minds are focused upon true spiritual salvation. May the Lord bless Hope and all workers with the ministry.

Thank you very much for the *Earth’s Final Warning* tabloids, the books on health, the *Our Firm Foundations*, and the *Waymarks of Adventism* books. I truly appreciate your love for the people in this part of the world. If possible and by God’s providence, send us as many *Our Firm Foundations* as you can, even the old ones, since literature here is very uncommon.

MK, Malawi



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The Law of God

This brochure on "The Law of God" presents the Ten Commandments as found in Exodus 20:2-17 in comparison with the Ten Commandments as changed by man. The simple gospel is also presented to the readers, and they are encouraged to submit their request for a free copy of *Final Conflict Between Truth and Error*, a free Bible course, and/or a free *Panorama of Prophecy* CD.

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1) You can sponsor a bulk mailing to every home in a given postal route or ZIP code area. The cost to send this colorful tract out, including postage, is **20¢ each**.

2) You may give out the brochures individually. Try sending them with your bill payments, giving them out at flea markets and fairs, or visiting your neighbors door-to-door. The following prices, *good through July 31, 2003*, reflect a 30% savings. Order a case today!

- 1-49 brochures: **17¢ each**
- Packets of 50: **\$3⁵⁰ per packet (7¢ each)**
- Cases of 500: **\$28 per case (5.6¢ each)**
- 5000 or more: **\$210 per case (4.2¢ each)**



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

Catalog # TEHI-LOGO
See page 3 for shipping and sales-tax information.

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