



# *Our* Firm Foundation

What is a  
Christian?

The Seventh-day Sabbath

Christ Our Righteousness

The Immutable Law of God

The Non-Immortality of the Soul

The Three Angels' Messages

The Sanctuary

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## Acts—a Preview of Our Day

It is my humble belief that much of the book of Acts typifies the experiences of the final generation of God's faithful people. The spiritual blindness of the Jewish leaders and laity is a picture of our church in this final hour of the world's history. We are told that the spiritual condition of the church would be repeated. See *Selected Messages*, book 1, 406.

Remember, the church leaders were ignorant concerning the prophecies that were being fulfilled. The time revealed in Daniel 9:24–27 was made very clear. The place of Jesus' birth was revealed—it would be in Bethlehem. The wise men from a pagan country had searched the prophecies and understood the time, and they asked the church leaders for the place. The leaders told them, Bethlehem, but they were ignorant of the time. In their spiritual Laodicean blindness they could not see that they were nearing the end of the prophetic time of 69-weeks foretold in Daniel 9.

"He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not." John 1:10–11.

Christ came to the world and the church, and the world would not receive Him; perhaps partly because the church leaders knew Him not. The church killed Christ because of His purity, His holiness. His life and miracles were a threat to their authority and their positions. So they agreed it was better for Christ to die in order to preserve the church's structure and policies.

How does this church tragedy apply to the church today? The book of Acts reveals God taking the reigns into His own hands. The sanctified life and death of Christ,

His ascension, His acceptance by His Father, His High Priesthood, and the Pentecostal movement—all are portrayed in the book of Acts. Here we have a preview of God's faithful, obedient people in the latter rain experience at the end-time, which is clearly confirmed in *Testimonies to Ministers*, 300:

"Let me tell you that the Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to the world. God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that He is taking the reins in His own hands. The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness."

Inspiration has also revealed to us that the majority of us are following the very same path of apostasy as the ancient church.

"The trials of the children of Israel, and their attitude just before the first coming of Christ, have been presented before me again and again to illustrate the position of the people of God in their experience before the second coming of Christ—how the enemy sought every occasion to take control of the minds of the Jews, and today he is seeking to blind the minds of God's servants, that they may not be able to discern the precious truth." *Selected Messages*, book 1, 406; see also *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 75–76, 456; *ibid.*, vol. 1, 129.

Even in the time of preparation for the latter rain we are told that there will be those who attempt to control the work of God, and dictate the movements when the work goes forward under the power of the Holy Spirit in the three angels' messages, when they shall swell into the loud cry of the fourth angel of Revelation chapter 18.

Then only a very few will understand. The majority of us will not recognize the importance of the time of the latter rain.

"Soon God's people will be tested by fiery trials, and the great proportion of those who now appear to be genuine and true will prove to be base metal. Instead of being strengthened and confirmed by opposition, threats, and abuse, they will cowardly take the side of the opposers." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 136.

It is the confession and forsaking of sin that will prepare us for the latter rain: "It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now. . . . Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it." *Testimonies to Ministers*, 507.

The future is your choice, whether it will be one of tragedy or victory. Let us choose the path to victory by following the example of the apostles, faithfully studying God's Word, dying to self, and living for Christ.



## Our Mission

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

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## About Hope International

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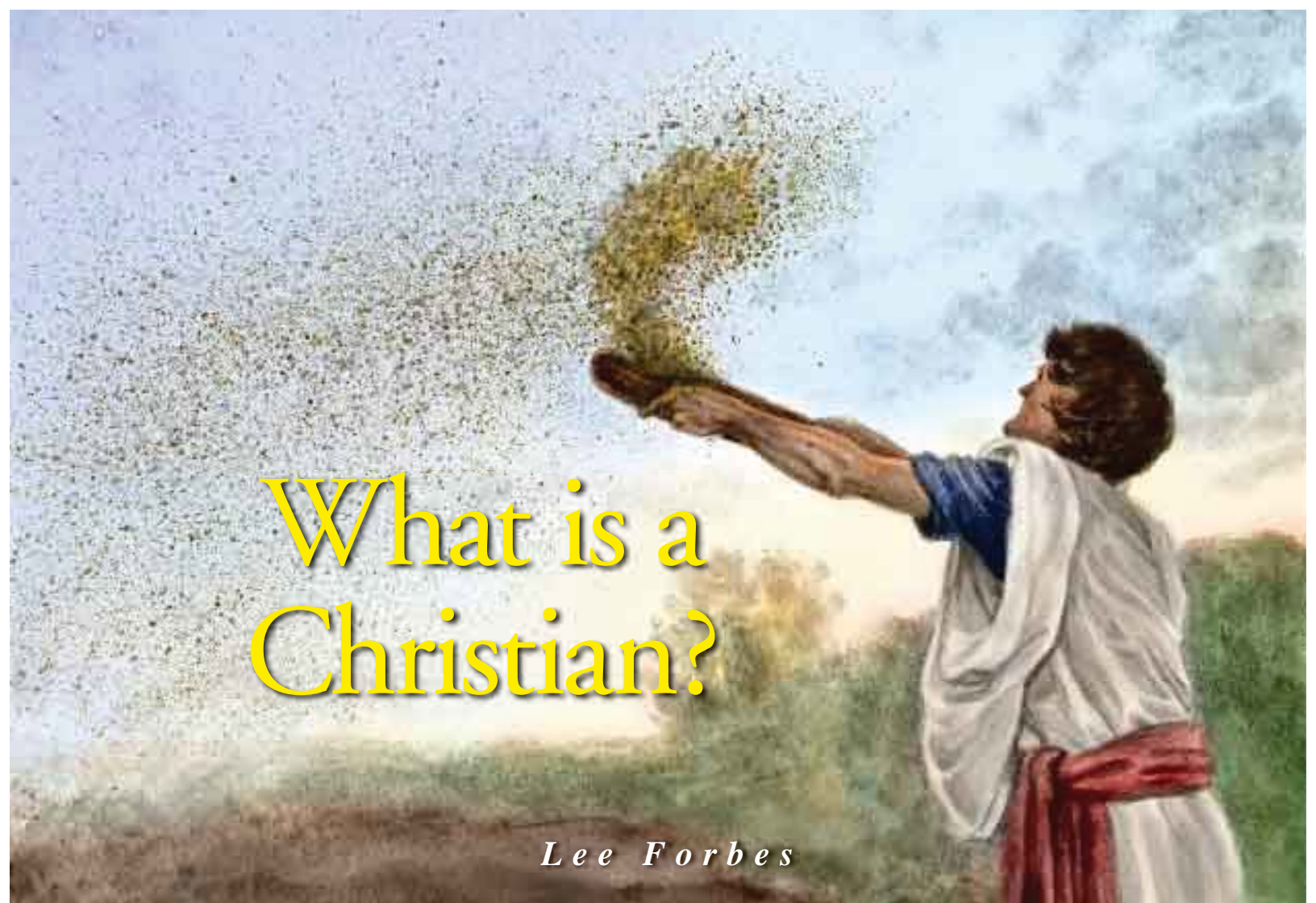
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Hope International does not solicit tithes, however we are a tithe-worthy organization and accept tithes. We use the tithe only for the gospel ministry. Donations designated "Gospel Ministry" will be considered tithe.



# What is a Christian?

*Lee Forbes*

**A**m I a Christian? Is it important for me to know the answer to this question? If so, what test should I use to determine the answer?

In my work I often meet people who claim to be Christians, but their lifestyle and conversation raise serious doubts. Why do so many people claim to be Christians? Is it to be more socially acceptable? That may be the case with some people, but as a rule I don't believe it starts out this way.

The wise man said in Ecclesiastes 1:13, "I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith." God has placed in our hearts a void that He wants to fill, but He has given us the freedom to choose that with which we will fill it.

As was typified in the parable of the Sower and the Seed, many of us are captivated by the powerful message of the Gospel, but we embrace it only to fall under the influence of someone else or realize the cost to our selfish spirit and give up or water down the definition of "Christian."

Now let us answer the question, What is a Christian? The best definition to be found is in Christ, for a Christian is one who emulates the example and character of Christ.

## **WWJD**

A very popular bumper sticker among Christians, especially in North America, says, "WWJD" or "What Would Jesus Do?" Unfortunately, most people do not have a clue what Jesus would do because they don't know Jesus. I hear people say, "I think Jesus would handle this situation this

way. . . ." Or "I think Jesus would do this. . . ." Is it just a matter of my opinion, or can I really know what Jesus would do?

If you are married, then as you spend time with your spouse on an intimate basis you come to know their likes and dislikes and how they would respond to a given situation. Since our relationship with Jesus as Christians is supposed to be the most intimate, shouldn't we *know* what Jesus would do? Well, you say, "I can't see Jesus." My wife's grandmother used to say, "Can't couldn't because can't didn't want to." My friend, Jesus can be seen very clearly in His Word if you are willing to take the time to look.

When I base my opinion of what Jesus would do on my experience, my feelings, or hearsay, I know little or nothing about what Jesus would do. And if I don't *know* what Jesus would do, how can I

emulate or copy the Example—or be Christlike—which is what “Christian” means?

### Why Go to Church?

There is much concern today about members leaving the church. A recent article I read stated that the primary reason for this departure is not doctrinal but social. People didn’t feel that they fit in, they didn’t feel accepted, or someone said something to offend them.

As I read God’s Word I find that Christ found virtually no acceptance in the church either. Furthermore, He was persecuted by the leadership. Yet He did not turn His back on the church. Nor was He offended, because pride did not form a part of His character. Jesus said, “The glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.” John 17:22–23.

In actuality, my friend, the problem in the church has a great deal to do with doctrine because the first doctrine of the church is, “That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Thessalonians 1:12.

Once we realize the price God has paid through the gift of the Son in purchasing our sins, our heart’s response will be to give God all the glory and honor and to desire to bring joy to the heart of God through faithful obedience and emulation of the character of Christ. Our thoughts must not be on what we receive from others but on what we can impart of the blessings we have already received and continue to receive from God.

In a recent conversation with a Mennonite brother, he made the observation that we should never be offended by something someone

says to us. When someone criticizes us, we should take the opportunity to prayerfully consider whether there is any substance to the comment that needs to be changed in us. If there is nothing to give credibility to the comment, then we can be confident that God will vindicate our characters in His time. But if we take offence, then we fall prey to Satan’s hellish spirit of pride.

Remember, Solomon said in Proverbs 16:18, “Pride goeth before destruction” —not a “fall.” Satan would have us think that pride is a small issue, so when you hear this scripture quoted in public you will generally hear, “Pride goeth before a fall.” Pride is most dangerous because it blinds us to its presence.

*If Christ could do nothing without the Father, then how preposterous that we, frail, sinful human beings that we are, should think that we can function daily on our own!*

Jesus said, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28–30. The hardest work we have is found in releasing our selfish hold on living *our* way and allowing Jesus through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to do His work in us. But is this not what true Christianity is?

Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.” John 5:19. If we choose to be Christians or take the name of Christ, then we must follow the example of Christ. If Christ could do nothing without the Father, then

how preposterous that we, frail, sinful human beings that we are, should think that we can function daily on our own!

### “As ye have done it unto one of the least of these . . .”

In the parable of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31–46, Jesus illustrated what will result from the type of relationship we choose to have with God:

“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

“Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you,

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# Receiving the Victory!

Patricia Temple

In His earthly life, Jesus was relentlessly pursued by the devil from birth to grave; however, there were certain times in His life where He went through intense temptation. It was not by chance that this happened; it was part of the plan for our salvation.

Most people know about Jesus' trial, mocking and death on the cross. Many also know about the terrible struggle of Gethsemane, when the whole destiny of a lost world trembled in the balance until Jesus' pale and trembling lips uttered the words, "Nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done." Luke 22:42. He made the *choice* at that time that even if He ended up separated forever from His Father, He would do it to save us.

## Tempted in the Flesh

In order for us to understand this topic, it is first necessary to realize that Jesus was born in the same kind of flesh as you and I. He was born in a human body that was subject to the weaknesses and temptations coming from generations of sin. Notice:

"Wherefore in all things it behoved him *to be made like unto his*

*brethren*, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." Hebrews 2:17. (All emphasis supplied.)

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in *all points tempted like as we are*, yet without sin." Hebrews 4:15.

"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh." Romans 8:3.

Very few Christians today believe this; instead they prefer to accept some form of the Roman Catholic idea that He was born with some kind of "holy flesh," not subject to temptations as we are. Sort of a "pretend" saviour. This is not true according to the Bible.

In fact, we are told that believing that Jesus did not come in human flesh, flesh subject to human weakness and infirmities, is a sign of antichrist. It gives us a false Christ, a make-believe Saviour, But we have a *real* Saviour:

"Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh

is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." 1 John 4:3.

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist." 2 John 7.

Jesus was not play-acting when He lived on earth, His was a terrific struggle—harder than any of us will ever be called to face. He had the same "flesh" as we do. He could have sinned. He did not fall. True, He was also divine; however, He did not use His divinity on His own behalf, not even once.

So why did He not fall? He lived a sinless life through connection by faith with the power of His Father. We can overcome sin through connection by faith with Jesus, our Great High Priest. He did not use any power that is not available to us through Him.

## Tempted in the Wilderness

We often think of the great struggles that Jesus went through in Gethsemane and at His trial and crucifixion, but His first great battle for you and me was actually the

temptation in the wilderness. It had been planned as part of salvation for man that Jesus would be tempted on the very points that Adam and Eve fell. These points were appetite and lust (coveting), desire for power and fame, and presumption.

Jesus was led into the wilderness for this test right after He was baptized and anointed by the Holy Spirit for His ministry. For forty days he fasted, until humanity was weakened almost to the point of death. Then Satan came on the scene, determined to trick the Saviour, the only one who stood between him and total conquest of the earth.

He tempted Jesus to use His divine power to provide for His own needs and also to prove something to Satan—in other words, to show off. Jesus refused and answered Satan with God's Word—"It Is Written." Luke 4:4 says, "And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."

Jesus was there in the wilderness under the direction of His Father, He would trust and obey, even to death itself.

Satan came back with other temptations, all connected with the way in which Adam and Eve fell in Eden. They had been strong, well fed, had perfect minds, no excuse at all to sin against their Creator, yet shamefully they fell.

Now Jesus was passing over the same ground, but He was starving, weak, and had a body and mind that had the effects of many generations of sin and degradation. But He was doing this to provide a way out for us. He was showing us how to overcome; He clung by faith to His Father's power, and He used the Living Words of Scripture to defeat the devil.

You can read about the temptation in Luke 4 and Matthew 4. Twice more Satan came with schemes to trick Jesus. Once he even used cleverly twisted scriptures himself, hoping to trick Jesus into presumption. He offered Jesus

all the kingdoms of the world, if He would just yield to him even once. How often are we tempted to think, "just once doesn't matter!"

Jesus refused, and each time He relied on the power of the Bible to defeat Satan. Finally Jesus ordered Satan to leave, and he had to run from the Word of the Father. Even in a starving and dying condition, even when He used no power not available to us, Satan could not overcome one who kept His faith on God and clung to the words of the Bible.

Jesus fell fainting to the ground after this mighty battle, but He had won the victory; He had passed over the very ground where Adam fell. Even though Adam had every

I know, I have experienced it many, many times! *But* when we admit our weakness and call to Jesus for *His* victory, for *His* power and we, too, lean on the Word of God and *trust* God in the name of Jesus to save us and keep us, *then* Satan trembles! Soon he has to flee from that name, and the victory of Jesus is ours.

Battles are not just fought once, and that is it; temptation comes in many forms, just like it did to Jesus when here on earth, but He won the victory and He gives it freely to all who will have it. It never wears out, it never can fail. If we choose, and cling by faith asking for that mighty victory, we will have it. The weak-

*When we are tempted—and we will never be tempted as badly as Jesus—we can choose to do right and to call on God in the name of Jesus to give us the victory.*

advantage, and Jesus every disadvantage, the *victory* was won.

### **The Victory Won for Us**

What was this victory for? It was for you and me! Yes, when we are tempted—and we will *never* be tempted as badly as Jesus—we can choose to do right and to call on God in the name of Jesus to give us the victory. That very victory is ours just as if we ourselves had won it.

Yes, this is the secret of overcoming any bad habit or sinful practice, the victory of Jesus! We fool ourselves, we think we ourselves can overcome and thus have something we can boast about or be proud of. We try real hard, and we often do seem to succeed for a while. Satan is not worried a bit! He knows that it is just a matter of time and we will fall again and feel so discouraged, then he can get his hooks into us even worse.

est soul who clings to Jesus and the Word is more than a match for Satan and all his hosts of darkness.

### **Cling to Jesus**

Why then do so few find this victory? Part of it is they don't choose to have it, and they don't ask for it. They don't want to choose to totally let go of sin, they want to keep the door open so that when an excuse comes along, they can run back to the sin.

We can pray to the Lord to make us willing to make the choice, we can tell Him we are willing to be made willing. His Spirit will work with us. What about lack of faith? We can cry out as the man in the Bible, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." Mark 9:24.

When we feel we cannot hold on, we can cry out as did Peter when sinking in the water, "Lord

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# Christian(?) Idolatry



*Gordon Zutz*

From an alcoholic on skid row, but, according to him saved when he accepted Christ, and now, elevated to the position of a pastor, the gentleman I was talking with emphatically declared that no matter how he lived, even if he should return to the life of an alcoholic, he was saved. Vehemently repeating this sentiment, he exited through the front door, slamming it loudly as he departed.

We had been discussing the subject of salvation through Christ and the once-saved always-saved theology along with the biblical requirements necessary to remain in a saving relationship with the Lord. Of course, the law, God's great moral standard, entered into the discussion, resulting in the minister's abrupt and hasty departure. He was demonstrating a natural reaction for one who believes that the law was nailed to the cross, thereby deleting one's obligation of obedience, especially in the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath.

Strange infatuation, but then the Scriptures are replete with Israel's

idolatrous history. Even in the near presence of God, at the foot of Sinai, the sinful propensities of mankind became blatantly evident. So today, in the spiritual world, mankind is still steeped in idolatrous worship, whether they are aware of it or not.

"In rejecting the truth, men reject its Author. In trampling upon the law of God, they deny the authority of the Law-giver. It is as easy to make an idol of false doctrines and theories as to fashion an idol of wood or stone. By misrepresenting the attributes of God, Satan leads men to conceive of Him in a false character. With many, a philosophical idol is enthroned in the place of Jehovah; while the living God, as He is revealed in His Word, in Christ, and in the works of creation, is worshiped by but few. Thousands deify nature while they deny the God of nature. Though in a different form, idolatry exists in the Christian world today as verily as it existed among ancient Israel in the days of Elijah. The god of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journal-

ists—the god of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and universities, even of some theological institutions—Is little better than Baal, the sun-god of Phoenicia.

"No error accepted by the Christian world strikes more boldly against the authority of Heaven, none is more directly opposed to the dictates of reason, none is more pernicious in its results, than the modern doctrine, so rapidly gaining ground, that God's law is no longer binding upon men." *The Great Controversy*, 583–584.

Proverbs 28:9 reinforces the above inspired statements. "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination (idolatry)."

This verse reveals the importance of obedience to God's great moral standard, His law, which is the standard of the universe. For it is the law of love, the revelation of God's everlasting love and character. Here is solid information exposing the fallacy of the sin-and-live theology, the once-saved always-saved mind set.



To those who claim that obedience to the law is no longer binding, God's Word tells us that even their prayers are looked upon by Him, as idolatry, abomination. The so-called Christian world today is deeply entrenched in the idolatry of false doctrines and theories and are unwilling to acknowledge the binding claims of God's laws as related to the everlasting gospel.

### The Power of God

In Romans 1:16–17 the faithful apostle Paul reveals the unity of the law and the gospel: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

What is Paul really saying here? What he has written casts the death knell upon the sin-and-live philosophy, for he associates together with the gospel both the law and salvation by grace through faith. The essence of the gospel revealed in these verses is that the gospel is a demonstration of the power of God to deliver from the power and penalty of sin through faith in the justifying and sanctifying power of Christ and His promised gift of the Holy Spirit.

Deliverance from the power of sin here and now and from its penalty when time meets eternity is what the glorious gospel of Christ is all about. It is the result of the converted individual grasping by faith the many precious promises found in Scripture and applying them to his or her life.

As Paul has done, so Peter also reveals this wonderful truth in chapter one of his letter to the faithful to whom he gives the assurance of "an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation." 1 Peter 1:4–5.

### Stubbornness Is as Idolatry

The stubborn rejection of obedience to the law of God by the professed Christian world, especially the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, is regarded by God as iniquity and idolatry.

"And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying

"The leaven of truth works a change in the whole man, making the coarse refined, the rough gentle, the selfish generous. By it the impure are cleansed, washed in the blood of the Lamb. Through its life-giving power it brings all there is of mind and soul and strength into harmony with the divine life. Man with his human nature becomes a

*Deliverance from the power of sin here and now and from its penalty when time meets eternity is what the glorious gospel of Christ is all about.*

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." 1 Samuel 15:22–23.

Rather than angrily fleeing from the house, it would have been far better for the once-saved always-saved pastor to follow Paul's counsel, "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry." 1 Corinthians 10:14.

### Character Perfection

Sadly, today, even among some prominent Seventh-day Adventists, the idea of victory over sin and character perfection is being rejected and the sin-and-live philosophy is being promoted. However, the first five verses of Revelation 14 reject this theology. For those sealed ones, the faithful company described there, are those who will be translated at Christ's second coming. In Revelation 7 this same company is shown to be sealed before probation closes. They are described as standing before God without fault. They have allowed the leaven of truth to do its work in them.

partaker of divinity. Christ is honored in excellence and perfection of character." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 102.

This will be the experience of all those who are found among that faithful sealed company for they have walked the path of obedience following the counsel Paul gives in Romans 13:11–14:

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

It is "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27), that will reveal His character to a world steeped in spiritual idolatry and witchcraft.

### The Path to Paradise

"When will men learn that God is God, not man, and that He does

not change? Every calamity, every death, is a witness to the power of evil and to the truth of the living God. The Word of God is life, and

is seen by the prophet coming in glory to reap the harvest of the earth." *Signs of the Times*, February 8, 1910.

the final warning to the inhabitants of this sin darkened planet and at last, translated, stand on the sea of glass and sing the song of victory, the song of Moses and the Lamb. Revelation 15:1–4. ✿

*There is only one path to Paradise restored—  
the path of obedience.*



*Gordon Zutz, a Seventh-day Adventist for 67 years, writes from Tennessee. He worked for 23 years as a spectroscopist-chemist for one corporation in association with NASA, and also 10 years as assistant publishing director in two conferences in North America.*

it will abide forever. Through all eternity it will stand fast. How can man, knowing what God is and what He has done, choose Satan's way instead of God's way? There is only one path to Paradise restored—the path of obedience." *Signs of the Times*, January 25, 1910.

The majority of earth's inhabitants have chosen Satan's way. The minister at the beginning of this article is a prime example of the spiritual blindness so prevalent in today's world, but "in marked contrast with this multitude stands a little company who will not swerve from their allegiance to God. 'Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.' Revelation 14:12.

"These are they of whom Isaiah speaks: 'They that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach. The restorer of paths to dwell in.' Isaiah 58:12. The breach was made in the law of God when the Sabbath was changed by the Romish power. But the time has come for that divine institution to be restored. The breach is to be repaired, and the foundation of many generations to be raised up. And this message is the last to be given before the coming of the Lord. Immediately following its proclamation, the Son of Man

May you, dear reader, have that blessed privilege of being among the faithful remnant who will give

## *I Long To Be There*

In the midst of temptation, and sorrow and strife,  
And evils unnumbered, of this bitter life,  
I look to a blessed earth, free from all care;  
The kingdom of Jesus, and long to be there!

When this mortal body is racking with pain,  
And demons are striving to trouble my brain,  
I hope for the crown that the saints soon shall wear,  
In the regions of glory, and long to be there!

When the wicked are scoffing—because I believe  
The Saviour is coming, my pains to relieve—  
I weep for their folly, and bow in deep pray'r,  
For Christ's coming kingdom, and long to be there!

By the sweet flowing River of Life I will sing  
My triumph through Jesus, my Saviour and King,  
And praise Him who brought me, a sinner to share  
A feast of fat things—O, I long to be there!

I long to be there! and the thought that 'tis near  
Makes me almost impatient for Christ t'appear,  
And fit up that dwelling of glories so rare,  
The earth robed in beauty—I long to be there!

Author unknown. Printed in *Review and Herald*, April 21, 1851.

# Beware, Beware of False Teachers and Prophets



*Wallace Boddy*

**A** must-read text of counsel to us for this special time in Earth's history is 1 John 4:1: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

In these days of peril, we must be ever at our guard against Satan's cunning deceitfulness. Satan dresses error in the most attractive garb to appeal to the earth's vast potpourri of humanity. He and his evil empire have been and now are, more than ever, busily at work everywhere, in every forum, in every organization, every government and every civilization ready to mislead and deceive God's created beings.

He has studied fallen man intently, in minute detail, for thousands of years. He intimately knows every culture, every language, every fear, every strength

and weakness and every reaction of all. In his hate for God, he has resolutely manufactured worldwide every subtle and deceitful religion and error of "worship" imaginable to mislead and delude mankind.

But, we are not left helpless against Satan's deceptions. Christ Himself warned us that, "many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many." Matthew 24:11. "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." Matthew 7:15. God gives us a test, a measuring rod, whereby we can know for certainty what is or is not truth: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20.

"There will be false dreams and false visions, which have some truth, but lead away from

the original faith. . . . If they belittle the law of God, if they pay no heed to His will as revealed in the testimonies of His Spirit, they are deceivers. They are controlled by impulse and impressions which they believe to be from the Holy Spirit and consider more reliable than the Inspired Word. They claim that every thought and feeling is an impression of the Spirit; and when they are reasoned with out of the Scriptures, they declare that they have something more reliable. But while they think that they are led by the Spirit of God, they are in reality following an imagination wrought upon by Satan." *Signs of the Times*, March 27, 1884.

"The Word of God is solid rock, and we may plant our feet securely upon it. Every soul must needs be tested, every faith and doctrine must needs be tried by the law and the testimony. Take heed that no

man deceive you." *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 952.

God does not want us to be gullible. He offers us the gift of distinguishing between true and false spirits: "For to one is given by the Spirit . . . discerning of spirits." 1 Corinthians 12:8, 10. Those who claim to be accredited by God should be tested by the Word of God. It is our duty to apply to everything that we read and hear the test of the inspired writings of prophets and apostles. Only as we are faithful to this principle will our faith be based upon God and not men.

*"They wish to find some new and strange truth to present, to have a new message to bring to the people; but such a desire is a snare of the enemy."*

This means that, if the message sounds like "cheap grace"; if it sounds just too easy because "God will do all the work"; if the message does not, in every aspect, uplift Christ, but instead, uplifts the speaker so that he attempts to confer a personal aura or charisma unto himself; if the speaker represents himself as possessing a special gift or divinely conferred power so as to inspire popular enthusiasm unto himself; if his message does not square with Scripture and what you know as truth . . . *then, friend, beware, beware.* "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." 1 Thessalonians 5:21.

"Of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember." Acts 20:30–31. Our only safety is to *remember His words of warning.*

## Error and Truth—a Deadly Mix

We cannot in safety get caught up in the world's celebration of well-known and respected charismatic preachers and give attention and credence to what they say. They should *firstly*, of course, representing themselves as teachers of the Bible, love truth and know, or hunger to know, exactly what the Bible and the Bible only, says about everything.

So, if they openly preach biblical error, regardless of their claimed credentials, they cannot be trusted, even though they might sometimes discover an acorn of truth. They

are not of God. They are of Satan's synagogue. *God never accepts as a valid representation of Him, any truth mixed with error.* If they urge people to accept diversions or private interpretations of what we solidly know to be truth, so that they cannot be trusted, *avoid them!* Such agents of Satan giddily ride a wave of earthly popularity. *They seek and accept approbation and adoration from their deluded partisans which rightly belongs to God.*

The utter confusion of Babylon is the result of such a cluttered morass of religions and apostasies. Whether it be the Imam of Islam, the Pope of Rome, the Brahman of Hinduism, the venerated pastor in Apostate Protestantism or a Seventh-day Adventist pastor; if there is much truth and a little error or much error and a little truth, the result is the same—the error will prove to be deadly unless it is recognized and rooted out.

In these days of delusion, everyone who is established in the truth will have to contend for the faith once delivered to the saints. But, Satan knows that he can never prevail against men who receive divine power. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7. Love God with all your heart, and nothing will be able to pluck you out of His hand. See Matthew 22:37; John 10:28–29. Praise the Lord for His promises!

"It is through faith in Jesus Christ that the truth is accepted in the heart, and the human agent is purified and cleansed. . . . A mere profession of godliness is worthless. It is he that abideth in Christ that is a Christian. . . . Unless the mind of God becomes the mind of men, every effort to purify himself will be useless; for it is impossible to elevate man except through a knowledge of God. . . . A nominal acceptance of truth is good as far as it goes, and the ability to give a reason for our faith is a good accomplishment, but if the truth does not go deeper than this, the soul will never be saved. The heart must be purified from all moral defilement." *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 951.

## Originality

Many teachers and preachers struggle with the constant danger of becoming unsettled in the faith by the *desire for originality.* "The natural stubbornness of the human heart resists the light of truth. Its natural pride of opinion leads to independence of judgment and a clinging to human ideas and philosophy. . . . They wish to find some new and strange truth to present, to have a new message to bring to the people; but such a desire is a snare of the enemy to captivate the mind and lead away from the truth.

"In our experience we shall see one and another start up with new theories in regard to what is truth. . . . They will launch out into the work of advocating their

ideas, even though these teachings may be in opposition to the belief that has called out Seventh-day Adventists from the world, and made them what they are. The Lord would have those who understand the reasons for their faith rest in their belief of that which they have been convinced is truth, and not be turned from the faith by the presentation of human sophistries." *Review and Herald*, August 19, 1909.

### Beware, Beware!

Repeatedly, Christ warns us, "Be not deceived. Take heed that no man deceive you. Beware! Many false prophets shall arise and shall deceive many. If possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." (See Luke 21:8; Matthew 24:4, 11; 7:15; 2 Timothy 3:13.)

The servant of the Lord, Ellen White, adds this relevant admonition:

"As we near the end of time, falsehood will be so mingled with truth, that only those who have the guidance of the Holy Spirit will be able to distinguish truth from error. We need to make every effort to keep the way of the Lord. We must in no case turn from His guidance to put our trust in man. The Lord's angels are appointed to keep strict watch over those who put their faith in the Lord, and these angels are to be our special

help in every time of need. Every day we are to come to the Lord with full assurance of faith, and to look to Him for wisdom. . . . Those who are guided by the Word of the Lord will discern with certainty between falsehood and truth, between sin and righteousness." *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, 907.

"Cursed be he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully." Jeremiah 48:10.

"After the Lord has put one on test and trial, that he may be assured of his calling to the ministry, if he is content to follow his own way and his own will, if he will not heed the manifestations of the Spirit of God, if he refuses to profit by growth in grace and depth of understanding, be assured that the Lord does not need him; for he cannot communicate that which he has never received. . . . All are not called upon to enter the ministry, but nevertheless, they are to minister. It is an insult to the Holy Spirit of God for any man to choose a life of self-serving." *Ibid.*, vol. 4, 1159.

### Ask for the Holy Spirit

O, dear friends, how we need to pray and plead daily in the name of Jesus for the power of God and the Holy Spirit in our lives to teach, convict, guide and dwell in us. Regarding this subject, I have never read a more beautiful and lovely

promise from Jesus Himself than this one from *Signs of the Times*, June 18, 1896:

"We have an advocate at the throne of God, which is encircled by the bow of promise, and we are invited to present our petitions in the name of Christ before the Father. Jesus says: Ask what ye will in My name, and it shall be done unto you. In presenting My name, you bear witness that you belong to Me, that you are My sons and daughters, and the Father will treat you as His own, and love you as He loveth Me. Your faith in Me will lead you to exercise close, filial affection toward Me and the Father. I am the golden chain by which your heart and soul are bound in love and obedience to My Father. Express to My Father the fact that My name is dear to you, that you respect and love Me, and you may ask what you will. He will pardon your transgressions, and adopt you into His royal family—make you a child of God, a joint heir with His only begotten Son. *Through faith in My name He will impart to you the sanctification and holiness which will fit you for His work in a world of sin, and qualify you for an immortal inheritance in His kingdom.*"

Thank you, Dear Jesus! ❀



Wallace Boddy writes from Alabama and is a life-long Seventh-day Adventist, retired business man, and ardent defender of the truth.

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### ...continued from page 7

save me, I perish." See Matthew 14:30.

Every blessing we can possibly need is ours for the asking. Not one soul need continue in sin. Not one soul need fall into bad and harmful habits over and over. There is a *victory*, and it is yours for the asking.

Never let Satan tell you that because you have fallen over and over, the Lord is fed up with you and you need not ask, He won't hear you. That is a lie; our Saviour

hears the weakest cry and His hand is stretched out to save. As long as human probation lasts, His hand is stretched out to save to the uttermost.

When you are tempted, look away from self and what you are being tempted about; look to your Saviour. See Him on your behalf alone in the desert, starving, weak, almost at death's very doorstep. See the cruel foe trying to trick Him, coming as most cowards do, when

Jesus was at His weakest point. See your Saviour clinging by faith to the power of His Father. See Him driving the mighty devil away with the Word of God, the simple scriptures. Then ask for that *victory* and cling by faith to that Saviour. You can never fall when you do this. Never! ❀

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# A WORKING CHURCH

*Ellen G. White*

**M**inisters should impress upon the people for whom they labor the importance of individual effort. No church can flourish unless its members are workers. The people must lift where the ministers lift, thus seconding his efforts and helping him bear his burdens, and then he will not be overworked and become discouraged. There is no influence that can be brought to bear on a church that will be enduring unless the people shall move intelligently, from principle, to do all they can to forward the work. The individual members of the church should feel a responsibility resting upon them to overcome their own defects of character, and by doing this they encourage others to overcome.

Those who profess to be Christians should arouse themselves, and take up their neglected duties; for the salvation of their own souls depends upon their individual efforts. Said the Prince of life, "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 13:24. "Agonize," says the margin. There are vastly more seekers than strivers. Tame, half-hearted efforts will not insure success. There must be determined, persevering, untiring effort, proportionate to the value of eternal life, the object of our pursuit.

We cannot trust to another to win the crown for us; we must individually fight the battles of the Lord. The minister cannot save the people. He can be a channel through which God will impart light and knowledge; but after that light is given he cannot make the people walk in the light. Christ could not do this. It is left for those who have the light to appropriate the light, and in their turn let it shine forth in bright rays upon the pathway of others.

### **Be a Godly Example**

True Christians will represent Christ in deportment and in char-

acter. They will sanctify themselves through obedience to the truth, that the people they would save may be influenced by their Christ-like character, and see a beauty and harmony in the truth. Preachers and people will effect more for Christ by humble, devoted, and virtuous lives, than can be done by preaching where a godly example is wanting.

Many, I fear, will not have zeal and earnestness to seek God for themselves, and know for themselves that Christ is formed in them the hope of glory. If they have the heart work, they can, if any man ask them, give a reason of the hope that is within them with meekness and fear. With meekness, because Jesus died for them as sinners that they might have eternal life; with meekness because there is no virtue or goodness in them. They are dependent upon Christ every moment for this great salvation. With fear, lest they fail to represent their faith, which to them is so precious, in

such a manner as to convince unbelievers that they have the truth.

The meekness of wisdom will be seen in their deportment. They have the evidence that they are built upon the sure foundation, and will stand amid the perils of the last days. They purify their souls through the truth to unfeigned love of the brethren. The fire of affliction may kindle upon them, and although the removal of imperfections from their characters may be to them a severe process, yet they will endure the test and trial so essential to their eternal good.

We are not, as Christians, doing one-twentieth part that we might do in winning souls to Christ. There is a world to be warned, and every sincere Christian will be a guide and an example to others in faithfulness, in cross-bearing, in prompt and vigorous action, in unswerving fidelity to the cause of truth, and in sacrifices and labors to promote the cause of God.

This is a great work. To meet the standard of God, men must be growing Christians, having root in themselves. Many are separated from God by wicked works, and need the help that growing Christians can give them by a holy life and godly example. When clouds and darkness overshadow us, we are inclined to seek for human sympathy; we do not take our burdens to Jesus; we do not exercise living faith in His promises. There is not a close searching of our own hearts to see if there is not some darling sin cherished, some idol that needs to be cast down in order to give Christ the entire heart's affections.

Said Christ, "Search the Scriptures: for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me." John 5:39. The promises contained in the Word of God are exceedingly precious. The Word of life, carefully and prayerfully studied, and practically obeyed, will thoroughly furnish us unto all good works. Ministers and people must learn to look to men less and

to God more. He can save to the utmost all who put their trust in Him. When power and grace in unlimited supply await our demand, why do we neglect to come in living faith for the things God knows we need, and that He longs to bestow upon us if we will only ask Him in faith?

### Enoch's Purity

Enoch lived in a corrupt age, when moral power was very weak. Pollution was teeming all around him; yet he walked with God. He educated his mind to devotion—to think on things that were pure and holy; and his conversation was upon holy and divine things. He

victory. One is with us, even the Captain of our salvation, who has said for our encouragement, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:20. "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33. He will lead us on to certain victory. What God promises, He is able at any time to perform. And the work He gives His people to do, He is able to accomplish by them. If we live a life of perfect obedience, His promises will be fulfilled to us.

### Let Your Light Shine

God requires His people to shine as lights in the world. It is

*What God promises, He is able at any time to perform. And the work He gives His people to do, He is able to accomplish by them.*

was made a companion of God. He walked with Him, and received His counsel.

He had to contend with the same temptations that we do. The society surrounding him was no more friendly to righteousness than is the society surrounding us at the present time. The atmosphere he breathed was tainted with sin and corruption, the same as ours; yet he was unsullied with the prevailing sins of the age in which he lived. And so may we remain as pure and uncorrupted as did the faithful Enoch. He was a representative of the saints living amid the perils and corruptions of the last days. For his faithful obedience to God, he was translated. So, also, those who are alive and remain, who are faithful, will be translated to Heaven. They will be removed from a sinful and corrupt world to the pure joys of Heaven.

The course of God's people should be upward and onward to

not merely the ministers who are required to do this, but every disciple of Christ. Their conversation should be heavenly. And while they enjoy communion with God, they will wish to have intercourse with their fellowmen, in order to express by their words and acts the love of God which animates their hearts. In this way will they be lights in the world, and the light transmitted through them will not go out, or be taken away. It will indeed become darkness to those who will not walk in it; but it will shine with increasing brightness on the path of those who will obey and walk in the light.

The Spirit, wisdom, and goodness of God, as revealed in His Word, should be exemplified by the disciples of Christ. God's requirements of His people are in accordance with the grace and truth given them. All His righteous demands must be fully met. Accountable beings must walk in the light that

shines upon them. If they fail to do this, their light becomes darkness, and the degree of darkness is according to the abundance of light possessed.

It is not for lack of knowledge that God's people are now perishing. They will not be condemned because they do not know the way, the truth, and the life. The truth that has reached their understanding, the light which has shone on the soul, that has not been cherished, and which they have neglected, or refused to be led by, will condemn them. What more could have been done for God's vineyard than has been done? Light, precious light, shines upon His people; but the light will not save them, unless they consent to be saved by it.

God calls upon His people to act. Will they awake? Will every one who professes godliness seek to put away every wrong, confess to God every secret sin, and afflict the soul before Him? Will they, with great humility, investigate the motives of every action, and know that the eye of God reads all—searches out every hidden thing? Let the work be thorough, the consecration to God be entire. He calls for a full surrender of all that we have and are.

Ministers and people need a new conversion—a transformation of the mind—without which we are not savorers of life unto life, but of death unto death. Great privileges belong to the people of God. Great light has been given them, that they may attain to their high calling in Christ Jesus; yet they are not what God would have them to be, and what He designs they should be. ❀

*Review and Herald*, August 23, 1881.



*Ellen G. White, 1827-1915, received the spiritual gift of prophecy, and the fruits of her life and work accord with the biblical tests of a true messenger of God. To*

*this day, her counsels are an incalculable blessing to God's people around the world.*

## “It’s Jewish”

When we present God’s holy law,  
And arguments from Scripture draw;  
Objectors say, to pick a flaw,  
“It’s Jewish.”

Though at the first Jehovah blessed  
And sanctified HIS day of rest;  
The same belief is still expressed—  
“It’s Jewish.”

Though with the world this rest began,  
And thence through all the Scriptures ran,  
And Jesus said ‘twas *made for man*—  
“It’s Jewish.”

Though not with Jewish rites, which passed,  
But with the moral law ‘twas classed  
Which must endure while time shall last—  
“It’s Jewish.”

Though the disciples, Luke and Paul,  
Continue still this rest to call  
The “Sabbath day,” this answers all—  
“It’s Jewish.”

The gospel teachers’ plain expression,  
That “Sin is of the law transgression,”  
Seems not to make the least impression—  
“It’s Jewish.”

They love the rest of man’s invention,  
But if Jehovah’s day we mention,  
This puts an end to all contention—  
“It’s Jewish.”

—Roswell F. Cottrell.

*Review and Herald*, February 1851.





# Dead Languages or Eternal Truths?

## Part 2

Kevin Paulson

Perhaps the biggest problem with so much of contemporary Christian music that I have heard is its lack of spiritual depth, especially when compared to most of the older, traditional hymns of Protestant Christianity. Few contemporary Christian songs I have heard contain exhortations to obedience, warnings of the coming judgment, or similar themes of solemnity. Much of this music harmonizes well with a cheap-grace gospel which has long since marginalized the soul-disturbing features of Bible religion.

An excellent article in *Adventists Affirm* magazine sometime ago addressed this point, with the appropriate title, "Worship is More Than Praise."<sup>1</sup> This article compared the rich variety and Biblical clarity of many of the hymns included in the current *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal* with the doctrinal shallowness, imbalance, and almost trivial tone of much of today's "praise" music.<sup>2</sup>

How often would we do well to ask ourselves, Does this song convey to our youth a message of spiritual challenge and conviction, or does it trivialize the radically-changing, life-transforming conditions of salvation taught by Jesus (Matthew 19:16–19; Luke 10:25–28)?

Praise is certainly an important part of worship. But it is not the only part. Worship and its attendant music must include heart-felt recognition of

our sinful deeds, our desperate need of forgiveness and power for victory, the recounting of God's mighty acts in history, and the church's prophetic mission culminating in her Lord's soon return. The biblical psalms—often mistakenly compared to today's praise music—contain precisely this theological and spiritual balance, as do the hymns in the *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*. In my opinion, contemporary Christian music rarely offers such a balance. Totally apart from issues of musical style and instrumental performance, this point should be decisive.

### Generational Stereotypes

Like an earlier, equally incendiary *Review* article,<sup>3</sup> the one in question asserts that unless the church accepts contemporary Christian music, it faces the loss of its young people. As in the former article, an author of relatively advanced years presumes to speak for a generation not his own:

"This attitude (opposition to contemporary music) places pastors and administrators in a bind between reaching the lost and placating the saints. 'If we allow contemporary and/or rock music, we lose the older members; if we don't, we lose the young people.'"<sup>4</sup>

Would that the author might attend a General Youth Conference!

In the past several years a powerful movement of young adult

Adventists, called the General Youth Conference (GYC), has stirred throughout the North American Church, thus far quiet and unobtrusive and without publicity from denominational media. Its second annual convocation, which the present writer attended this past December in Ann Arbor, Michigan, drew over 1,000 young adults from throughout the Division. The overflow crowds were especially remarkable at a time of year both expensive for travel and fraught with competing personal obligations. Those in attendance spanned a rainbow of ethnic and educational diversity, from home-schoolers and self-supporting workers to SDA college students and Ivy League graduates.

Their mission: to recover and proclaim the distinctive doctrinal, prophetic, and lifestyle message of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Anyone doubting that today's youth and young adults can be inspired by the sturdy old hymns of Adventism, need only to have sat in that gathering for a single day! The ceiling and chandeliers of that crowded Sheraton ballroom rang with the challenges and glories of classic Adventist music. On one particular evening, as a guest choir sang the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," the director turned around and motioned for all of us to join in. To a man we rose to our feet, and the

chorus, “Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! His truth is marching on!” rose with passion from hundreds of youthful voices. One of the conference’s main speakers, a prominent conservative Adventist scholar, declared to the assembly, “You are the answer to those in the church who insist that entertainment, doctrinal ambiguity, and lowered standards are the way to retain our youth.”

North American Adventism will hear more from this powerful and growing movement, and none too soon! It has touched a live nerve and a deep soul-hunger in the church’s rising generation. When its impact is

reach the unchurched through “culturally relevant” means, perhaps it should interest us to hear what some prominent unchurched voices are saying about these efforts.

Alan Wolfe, director of the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life at Boston College, has written a provocative new book titled, *The Transformation of American Religion*.<sup>5</sup> Though Jewish by birth, he declares himself in this book to be thoroughly secular — “I am not, and never have been, a person of faith.”<sup>6</sup> If anyone fits the definition of “unchurched,” this man does. Yet, despite his effort at objective unconcern,

and the supplanting of doctrinal and moral clarity at the hands of the so-called “small group” movement.<sup>13</sup> Wolfe sees this feel-good church culture reflected in such popular Christian books as Bruce Wilkinson’s *The Prayer of Jabez*,<sup>14</sup> whose message he denounces as “so narcissistic that it makes prosperity theology look demanding by contrast.”<sup>15</sup> Wolfe later comments, “One searches this exceptionally thin book in vain for any statement indicating that Christian prayer is an act of sacrifice.”<sup>16</sup>

In a more recent analysis, Princeton history professor Christine Stansell weighs in on what she calls “The Fashion of the Christ.”<sup>17</sup> Stansell writes of how “the latter day Jesus is an American optimist: good-tempered and informal, a generous Jesus sympathetic to the desires of this world.”<sup>18</sup> Elsewhere she observes:

“The amiable saviour, not only personal but also personable, has pushed the traditional Father, merciful and mighty, off center stage, and with Him the formal elements of Protestant worship. Pop-inspired music for easy listening has ousted gorgeous hymns dating back to the fifteenth century; leisure wear and sneakers have supplanted Sunday best; ministerial raps have edged out liturgy.”<sup>19</sup>

The *Review* article under discussion worries that Adventists might “inter” the gospel in King James English.<sup>20</sup> Yet Stansell, writing from a secular standpoint, laments the loss of King James Bible language and what she calls the “thrilling music” of the church’s heritage, writing that such features of worship once made churches “among the few places away from cities where the imaginative powers of literature and art were evident.”<sup>21</sup>

Despite their quest for neutrality in all this, both Wolfe and Stansell seem obviously troubled by these trends; even an unbeliever’s conscience is disturbed by compromise on the part of those who ought to know better. In Wolfe’s words:

*The great divide in contemporary Adventism is not between generations, but between those seeking strict faithfulness to the written counsel of God, and those seeking to move beyond and outside that counsel.*

fully felt in the contemporary church, it will be something to see!

The struggle over worship and music in the church is not generational, as evidenced by a fact we have noted already — that the author of this *Review* article, and many others of like mind, aren’t exactly young themselves. To stereotype the young in this way is both divisive and factually groundless. The great divide in contemporary Adventism is not between generations, but between those seeking strict faithfulness to the written counsel of God, and those seeking to move beyond and outside that counsel.

### Voices of the Unchurched

It is fascinating to hear what certain secular voices are saying about recent trends in Christian worship and theology. Since the goal of these “contemporary,” “user-friendly,” “seeker-sensitive” churches is to

Wolfe’s view of what is happening to American Christianity — through megachurches, contemporary music, doctrinal apathy, and the loss of clarity regarding sin and holiness — is anything but favorable.

Like G.A. Pritchard, whose book on Willow Creek noted earlier reflects several years of firsthand observation, Alan Wolfe’s book is likewise based on countless interviews with clergy and laity, attendance at church services throughout the country, and the digesting of reports from every corner of the United States.<sup>7</sup> Writing of the “seeker-sensitive” churches so popular just now, Wolfe describes their religion as “God Lite”<sup>8</sup> — what a *U.S. News & World Report* editorial recently dubbed “low-cal Christianity.”<sup>9</sup> He writes of the loss of reverence,<sup>10</sup> the self-centered content of contemporary Christian music,<sup>11</sup> the intrusion of marketing and psychology at the expense of the biblical message,<sup>12</sup>

*"In both the Old and the New Testament the Lord has positively enjoined upon His people to be distinct from the world, in spirit, in pursuits, in practice, to be a holy nation, a peculiar people. The east is not farther from the west than are the children of light, in customs, practices, and spirit, from the children of darkness. And this distinction will be more marked, more decided, as we near the close of time. . . ."*

"This American propensity to reshape institutions to satisfy personal needs, while perhaps appropriate to consumer goods, seems to many observers to be out of place where matters of ultimate meaning and significance are at issue."<sup>22</sup>

Even more profoundly, he later writes:

"As a nonbeliever, I ought to be encouraged by this development, for it suggests that we will be less likely to point invidious fingers of shame at those who do not happen to agree with the majority's determination of what is acceptable morality and what is not.

"But somehow I am not pleased with this retreat from sin, for the ease with which American religious believers adopt nonjudgmental language and a psychological understanding of wrongdoing is detrimental to anyone, religious or not, who believes that individuals should judge their actions against the highest possible ideals of human conduct, however those ideals are established. One need not be a Calvinist preoccupied with the dark side of human

nature to recognize that covenants exist and that we break them only at great cost to ourselves and to others with whom we share our society."<sup>23</sup>

In the final sentence of her article, concluding her assessment of the new "laughing" Jesus who leaves sin unchallenged and righteousness undeclared, Stansell writes in a tone she might not have wished to sound so sorrowful, but which does nonetheless:

"You could also wonder whether, if Jesus is going to take it so lightly, you might be the one who weeps."<sup>24</sup>

An irony indeed! While the church celebrates in carnal comfort, her clarity muted by false grace, her favorite sins uncondemned by a contrived and unscriptural Jesus, the world she seeks to attract through compromise weeps at the loss of her integrity!

### **Conclusion: Dead Languages or Eternal Truths?**

Thoughtful observers in both the church and the world understand what is going on in the current war over worship. It is a struggle, not of cultural preferences or generational fads, but of eternal realities. Those Adventists who uphold the King James Version of the Bible, and the standards of Inspiration regarding worshipful reverence, do so not for love of dead languages, but in defense of eternal truths.

Writing of the subject matter addressed in the recent *Review* article, Alan Wolfe writes: "The most intransigent battles in the worship wars of American Protestantism take place over music. And it is clear who is losing: those who believe that there are standards of musical excellence that, when reached, are capable of inducing moments of genuine transcendence."<sup>25</sup>

That the Seventh-day Adventist Church might offer a shining exception to this prevailing culture of irreverence and liturgical frivolity, is my sincere prayer and earnest challenge to the struggling faithful in God's remnant church. ❀

*Pastor Kevin Paulson serves on the pastoral staff of the Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Through the years he has published articles in many publications.*

### **Notes:**

- <sup>1</sup> Elsie Landon Buck, *Adventists Affirm*, Spring 1999, 6–10.
- <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 9.
- <sup>3</sup> George R. Knight, "If I Were the Devil," *Adventist Review*, January 2001, 10.
- <sup>4</sup> Dickerson, "Dead Languages," *Adventist Review*, March 2004, 29.
- <sup>5</sup> Alan Wolfe, *The Transformation of American Religion: How We Actually Live Our Faith*, Free Press: New York, 2003.
- <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, vii.
- <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, front inside flap.
- <sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 156.
- <sup>9</sup> "Divining the God Factor," *U.S. News & World Report*, October 23, 2000, 22.
- <sup>10</sup> Wolfe, 17–22.
- <sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, 24.
- <sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, 28–29, 181–184.
- <sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, 67–76.
- <sup>14</sup> *The Prayer of Jabez: Breaking Through to the Blessed Life*, Multnomah Publishers: Sisters, OR, 2000.
- <sup>15</sup> Wolfe, 33.
- <sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, 34.
- <sup>17</sup> "The Fashion of the Christ," *The New Republic*, March 8, 2004, 29–33.
- <sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, 29.
- <sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, 30.
- <sup>20</sup> Dickerson, 29.
- <sup>21</sup> Stansell, 33.
- <sup>22</sup> Wolfe, 65.
- <sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, 184.
- <sup>24</sup> Stansell, 33.
- <sup>25</sup> Wolfe, 30.

*. . . It is not a profession of faith, or a name registered in the church book, that constitutes us children of God. It is a vital connection with Christ. We must be one with Him, imbued with His Spirit, partakers of the divine nature, crucified to the world with its affections and lusts, renewed in knowledge and true holiness."*

*Review and Herald,  
November 12, 1914.*



# *Christ and His Righteousness*

*Ellen G. White*

**“B**lessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” Matthew 5:6.

All through this sermon on the mount is a line of advancement for Christian experience. The angels of darkness are to stand back, that the soul purchased by the infinite sacrifice of Christ may attain unto perfection of character.

but co-operate with God, God will work in him to will and to do of His good pleasure, and man will work out his own salvation with fear and trembling. The reason you do not realize the help of the Lord to a far greater degree, is that you are so self-centered; your will is not on the side of God’s will.

The Lord would have you make it manifest that you are blessed, in

a distinct line, so decided that the difference between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not, is always discernible. If the people of the world do not see that you are different from those that are around them, they will not be influenced by your profession of religion; for you will not be a savor of Christ, and you will win no soul to the service of God. But there will be no one in heaven with a starless crown.

If you are saved, there will be some soul in the courts of glory that has found an entrance there through your instrumentality. Then why not entreat the Lord to put upon you His Spirit, that you may be able to awaken an interest in the truth in the minds of those around you? Think of your neighbors and friends and relatives who are out of Christ. How much do you care for their souls?

You should be so filled with love for the lost that you cannot forbear working for their salvation. What you need is Jesus. He says, “Whosoever

*There will be no one in heaven  
with a starless crown.*

If the soul is not drawn to Christ, it is because the will is not on the side of God’s will, but on the side of the enemy. If man will

your manners, in your dress, in your spirit. He would have you show that the line of demarcation between the world and the followers of Christ is

drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." John 4:14. If the rich blessing of Jesus is in your hearts, you will be able to refresh others.

### Be Filled With Jesus

How many have their names upon the church books, who know not what it means to have Christ abide in their hearts by faith. There are many who make a profession of Christianity who will have to be born again, or they cannot see the kingdom of heaven. They will have to become partakers of His love and grace before they can present to others the great salvation that has been provided for those who are dead in trespasses and sins.

But the promise is given to all who feel their need, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled." God has promised the fulness of salvation; and yet while the world is full of those who are hungering and thirsting after the pleasures, the fashions, the applause, of the world, or that they may have their own way, how few are hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and directing their desires along the channel where the fulness of heaven shall be given.

Why not determine that you will place your will on the side of God's will, that you may become a laborer together with Him? Jesus says, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me." Acts 1:8. Then is there any excuse for our weakness, for our coldness, for our lethargy? There are many who seem to think that when they have acknowledged that they are full of weakness, they have put a plaster over their sins. But we are not to talk of our inefficiency, but to find in Christ a full salvation. He says, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37.

God takes men as they are, with the human element in their character,

and trains them for His service if they will be disciplined and learn of Him. As the heart becomes transformed by divine grace, an external change is seen in true kindness, sympathy, and courteousness. The more we look to Jesus, and become acquainted with His character, the more nearly shall we conform to His image, and the more anxious we shall be to labor diligently and perseveringly to save the souls of all who will listen to the invitation of the Spirit of God.

them that ask Him, than earthly parents are to give good gifts to their children. Do not be afraid to trust God; rely upon His sure promise, "Ask, and it shall be given you." Matthew 7:7.

Jesus has presented to us truth full of spiritual light and vitality. But has this truth been brought into the inner sanctuary of the soul? Does Christ abide in your hearts by faith? If Christ is in you, you will make Him manifest to others. We must have more of Jesus, and less, far less,

*The more we look to Jesus, and become acquainted with His character, the more nearly shall we conform to His image, and the more anxious we shall be to labor diligently and perseveringly.*

### Live for God, Not Self

When our weakness becomes strength in Christ, we shall not be craving for amusement. Then holidays, that are considered so indispensable, will not be used simply for the gratification of self; but they will be turned into occasions in which you can bless and enlighten souls.

When weary, Jesus sought for a place of rest in the desert; but the people had had a taste of the heavenly manna, and they came out to Him in large companies. In all their human woe and suffering and distress, they sought His retreat, and there was no rest for the Son of God. His heart was moved with compassion; for they were as sheep without a shepherd, and His great heart of love was touched with the feeling of their infirmities, and He taught them concerning the kingdom of heaven. Jesus was never cold and unapproachable.

Our compassionate Saviour is not less mindful of His people now. He is more willing to give His Holy Spirit as a guide and instructor to

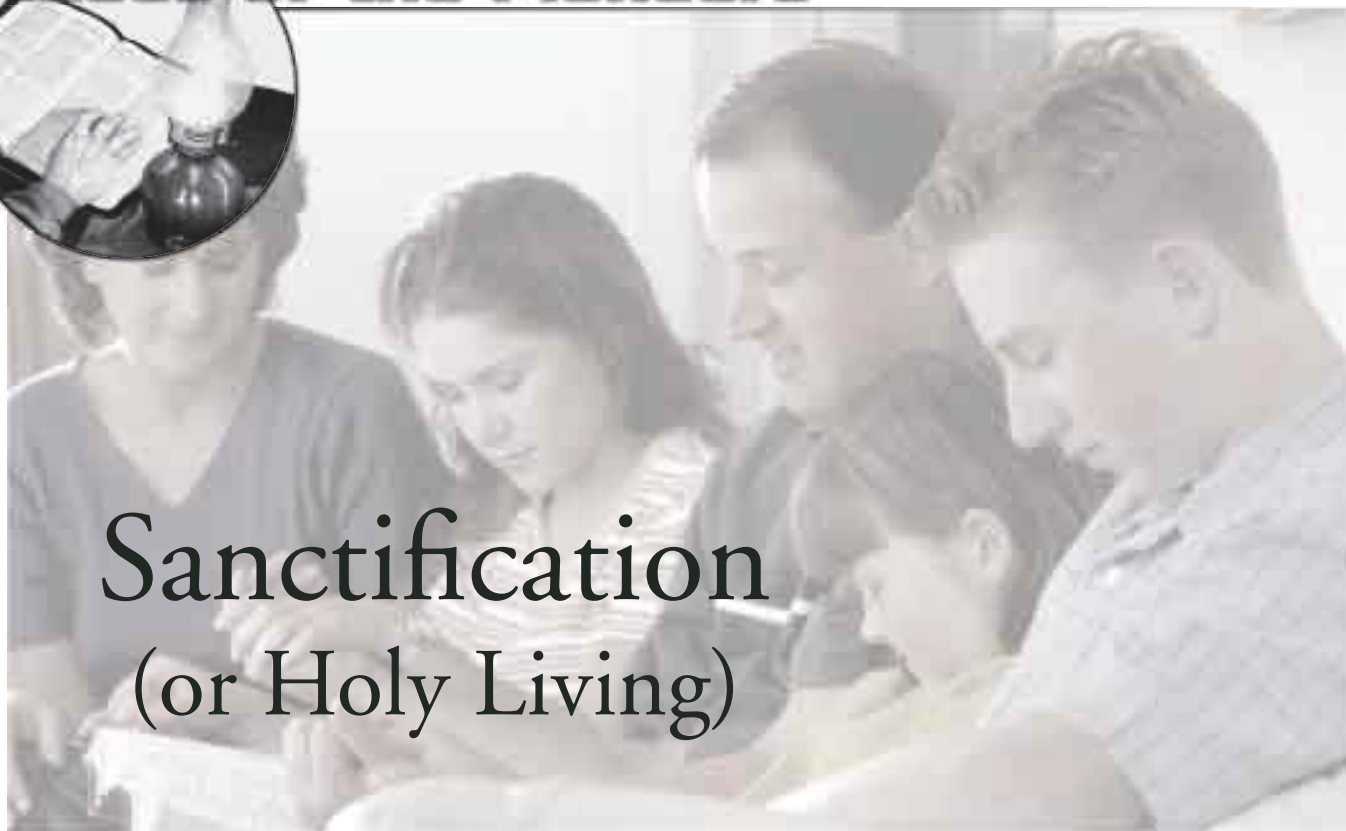
of self. The aspiration of our hearts should be, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." Psalm 42:1.

Jesus must abide in the heart; and where He is, the carnal desires will be subdued, and kept in subjection by the operation of the Spirit of God. "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:4-5. ✽

*The Bible Echo*, June 15, 1892.



*Ellen G. White, 1827-1915, received the spiritual gift of prophecy, and the fruits of her life and work accord with the biblical tests of a true messenger of God. To this day, her counsels are an incalculable blessing to God's people around the world.*



# Sanctification (or Holy Living)

*Daniel T. Bordeaux*

Sanctification is a Bible subject, and as such it demands our serious attention. The importance of this subject appears from the fact that it is God's will that we should be sanctified. Says inspiration: "This is the will of God, even your sanctification." 1 Thessalonians 4:3. The object of God in giving a revelation to man, was to sanctify a people unto Himself; and as many as have spoken and written by inspiration, have dwelt on the necessity of sanctification.

Anciently God commanded His people to be holy. Leviticus 11:44. Jesus prayed the Father to sanctify His followers, and those who should believe on Him through their word, and died that a people might be sanctified unto God (John 17:17, 19; Hebrews 12:2); and under this dispensation the Lord says, "Be ye holy; for I am holy." "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." 1 Peter 1:16; Hebrews 12:14.

In the face of these plain truths, it cannot be expected that those who love the Bible will be disposed to let this subject pass unnoticed.

In the holy Scriptures, sanctification sometimes consists in setting apart or consecrating to a sacred or religious use. In this sense the seventh day, the first-born, mount Sinai, the priests, the sanctuary and its utensils, the temple at Jerusalem, and the prophets, were sanctified. Genesis 2:3; Exodus 13:2; 19:23; 28-30; 2 Chronicles 29:5; Jeremiah 1:5. In this sense even Christ was sanctified, when He was set apart to the work of man's redemption. John 10:36; 17:19.

Sanctification consists, moreover, in cleansing from sin, in making pure and holy that which is impure and unholy. In this sense Christians are sanctified, and in the progress of their sanctification, there is a setting apart to holy purposes—a self-consecration to the glory of God.

The depravity of our race is the doctrinal fact upon which rests the necessity of our being sanctified. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. All are naturally inclined to love the ways of sin and to do evil. The power of sin has so affected the human family, that they may, in their natural state, be called the servants of sin. But sanctification purifies and alienates us from the dominion of sin; destroys the corrupt propensities of our fallen natures; rectifies our affections and inclinations, and brings our entire beings into subjection to the will of God, so that we may properly be called the servants of righteousness.

This is indeed a great work, and the Scriptures plainly teach that God sanctifies His people. Exodus 31:13; Ezekiel 20:12; John 17:17; Hebrews 2:11. God graciously provides and urges the means of sanctification, and helps His people to use them. It is impossible for

man to devise means whereby he can sanctify himself, or to attain to holiness by his own strength. Man must accept the means which God has devised, and the gracious assistance which He affords.

The plan of God is such that we must co-operate with Him in this work. This is seen in the following texts: "Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God. And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the Lord which sanctify you." "Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded." "Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit." "Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as he is pure." "Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly." Leviticus 20:7-8; James 4:8; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 John 3:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:22-23.

From this view of the subject, it is evident that we cannot be sanctified, or become holy, without making special efforts to overcome sin. If men could be sanctified irrespective of the course they pursue, we might conclude that sanctification depends wholly on the will of God; and as God is no respecter of persons, we might also conclude that if He sanctifies one He will sanctify all, and that all mankind will be saved.

It is also evident that those greatly err who think that sanctification rests solely in the power of men, and that they can of themselves turn from sin to holiness. To say the least, they do not realize the depth of their degradation and misery, and have not felt the force of this humbling truth, that they are carnal, sold under sin.

Sanctification is effected through the truth. Says Christ, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. . . . And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." John 17:17, 19; 15:3. And Peter says, "Seeing ye

have purified your hearts in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." 1 Peter 1:22.

Genuine sanctification follows the channel of Bible truth. It is not grounded on flights of feeling, but on the immutable truths of God's word. It is the truth received through the mind, and practically carried out in the life. When the truth is thus received and carried out, there is a radical work, a change indeed; and those who receive and obey the truth are not destitute of good feeling. They have an inward satisfaction for well-doing, and enjoy the approbation and blessing of the Lord to encourage and strengthen them in their great and glorious work.

*Those greatly err who think that sanctification rests solely in the power of men, and that they can of themselves turn from sin to holiness.*

Some would try to evade the truth with the idea that they have the Spirit, and consequently the sanctification of the Spirit. But what is the leading office of the Spirit that sanctifies? It is to guide into the truth. Said Christ, "When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth." John 16:13. The Spirit and the truth agree. The Spirit is the great agent that God employs in sanctifying men. Hence Bible sanctification is called the sanctification of the Spirit. See 1 Peter 1:2. The Spirit helps our infirmities. It helps us to understand, receive and practice the truth. Therefore that spirit which is not in harmony with the truths of God's Word is not the sanctifying Spirit of truth, and the sanctification which is based on the

leadings and teachings of such a spirit is a false one.

## A Progressive Work

Sanctification is a progressive work. Says Paul, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Corinthians 7:1. Those whom Paul is here addressing were Christians, yet they needed to cleanse themselves and perfect holiness or sanctification. The same sentiment is expressed in the following texts: "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God." Hebrews 6:1. "Not as though I had

already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:12-14.

2 Peter 1:5-9: "And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren

# Historical Footnotes

“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”—Ellen G. White, *Life Sketches*, 196.

Many today have neglected to study the history and the people that made up the early days of the Advent movement. Names like David Hewitt, E.J. Waggoner, and Kate Lindsay hold no value for many Seventh-day Adventists; yet these people were used by God to help advance the Advent message of Jesus Christ.

To help encourage interest in Adventist history, we have put together a monthly quiz about people and events of our past. Our goal is to spark faith, and *further study* into “the way the Lord has led us and His teaching in our past history.”

1. Who was Kate Lindsay?
  - a. Willie White's wife
  - b. Famous SDA song writer
  - c. First SDA woman doctor
  - d. SDA prophet
2. Who was given the truth on the sanctuary message while walking through a field in Port Gibson, N.Y.?
  - a. Ellen G. White
  - b. Hiram Edson
  - c. William Miller
  - d. W.K. Kellogg
3. What is Ellen White's middle name?
  - a. Grace
  - b. Gertrude
  - c. Genevieve
  - d. Gould
4. How many students attended Avondale college when it opened in 1897?
  - a. 10
  - b. 50
  - c. 100
  - d. 24
5. Who was the first General Conference president?
  - a. William Miller
  - b. James White
  - c. John Byington
  - d. Ellen White
6. What was Ellen and James White's first child's name?
  - a. William
  - b. James Edson
  - c. Henry Nichols
  - d. Elizabeth Mary
7. What was John Loughborough's last job before he became a preacher?
  - a. He sold window-sash locks
  - b. Farmer
  - c. Ship Captain
  - d. Mayor of Battle Creek
8. What was the name of the first SDA church in Battle Creek?
  - a. Battle Creek Tabernacle
  - b. House of Prayer
  - c. House of God
  - d. Battle Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church
9. Who was the first official SDA missionary?
  - a. J.N. Andrews
  - b. J.N. Loughborough
  - c. James White
  - d. William Miller
10. What famous ship carried J.H. Kellogg's exercise machines aboard for passengers to use?
  - a. Morning Star.
  - b. Titanic
  - c. Nina
  - d. Queen Mary

**Answers:** 1:c, 2:b, 3:d, 4:a, 5:c, 6:c, 7:a, 8:b, 9:a, 10:b

nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.”

In this passage the apostle addresses those who have obtained like precious faith (verse 1) and urges a progressive advancement in holiness toward completeness in the Christian character. In conversion a blow is struck at the corrupt propensities of fallen human nature, and a great change takes place. But the work of sanctification is not then complete. The young convert stands on the platform of faith. He has seen sin in its true light, has repented of his sins, and has been cleansed from the same by faith in the merits and efficacy of the blood of Christ, and now rejoices in his Saviour. But he must advance in holiness by adding to his faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge and the rest of the Christian graces.

Thus it appears that sanctification is not the work of a moment. It is to be regretted that some, believing sanctification to be an instantaneous work, will fall back on some past blessing or excitement, and will even affirm that they have been months and years in a state of perfect love without committing a single sin, and scoff at the idea that they can be in a better condition, in a holier state. The spirit of such, is different from that of many pious and devoted men and women in the past, who often wept over the remains of inbred sin, and in whose lives we trace progress in sanctification. ✠

*Sanctification or Living Holiness*, Steam Press, Battle Creek, Michigan, 1864, 5–10.



*Elder Daniel T. Bordeau was ordained to the ministry in 1858 and served the Lord in Canada, the United States, and Europe as a minister, evangelist, missionary, and writer.*

*Our Firm Foundation*



Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

“Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to

me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

Please bear in mind that Christ is not comparing the church with the world. He is actually contrasting those who claim they are His with those who, by their consistent life of self-sacrifice, are His without pretense.

In an earlier sermon Jesus gave a similar illustration, found in Matthew 7:21–23, where those who are lost actually argue with God because they thought they were saved and did the works to prove it: “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have

cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Friends, Christianity is a lifestyle. It is a state of being fully dependent on our relationship with its author, Jesus Christ. As you proceed through this day and the rest of your life, polish the mirror of God’s Word, and make sure that the image you see in it is Christ’s, not your own. ✠



*Lee Forbes lives in West Virginia. He is a roofing contractor by trade, but his favorite pastime is teaching others how to study God’s Word.*

## The Better Land

by W. H. Hyde. Printed in *The Present Truth*, Vol. 1, No. 11, November 1850.  
(For tune, see *The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, Number 453.)

We have heard from the bright, the holy land;  
We have heard, and our hearts are glad;  
For we were a lonely pilgrim band,  
And weary, and worn, and sad.  
They tell us the pilgrims have a dwelling there—  
No longer are homeless ones;  
And we know that the goodly land is fair,  
Where life’s pure river runs.

They say green fields are waving there,  
That never a blight shall know;  
And the deserts wild are blooming fair,  
And the roses of Sharon grow.  
There are lovely birds in the bowers green—  
Their songs are blithe and sweet;  
And their warblings, gushing ever new,  
The angels’ harpings greet.

We have heard of the palms, the robes, the  
crowns,  
And the silvery band in white;  
Of the city fair, with pearly gates,  
All radiant with light.  
We have heard of the angels there, and saints,  
With their harps of gold, how they sing;  
Of the mount, with the fruitful tree of life,  
Of the leaves that healing bring.

The King of that country, He is fair,  
He’s the joy and the light of the place!  
In His beauty we shall behold Him there,  
And bask in His smiling face.  
We’ll be there, we’ll be there in a little while,  
We’ll join the pure and the blest;  
We’ll have the palm, the robe, the crown,  
And forever be at rest.

# Hope International Camp Meeting 2004

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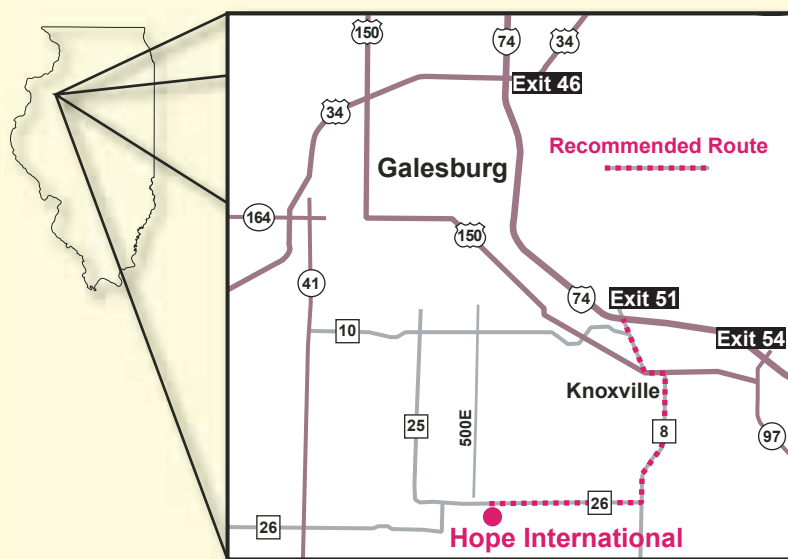
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Call 1-800-468-7884 to purchase meal tickets in advance!



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Our Firm Foundation



**Clark Floyd** - Clark has traveled with Ron Spear as his cospeaker for Hope International (1990-1994). For the last 10 years Clark has lived in the mountains of Western North Carolina. He sits on the Board of Directors both for Hope International and for Hartland Institute of Health and Education in Virginia. He has also co-hosted a radio program with Lee Forbes. Clark continues to travel and speak as a revivalist, seeking to help finish this last-day work of God.

**Richard Harris** - Elder Harris is the pastor of Kingdom Growth SDA Church in Birmingham, Alabama and the Director of Seven Thunder Ministries. He studied theology at Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama, where he obtained a graduate degree in History and Psychology. He is dedicated to spreading the "straight testimony" without compromising truth.



**Patrick Herbert** - Pastor Herbert received part of his ministerial training in his native country of Trinidad before moving to Canada, where he continued his studies and was ordained to the gospel ministry. He then immigrated to the United States where he subsequently got married. Pastor Herbert holds a doctorate in religion and pastors the Tucker Adventist Church. He is also the director of the Gilead Institute of America (a medical missionary evangelistic training institution established in Georgia in 1990). Pastor Herbert has traveled widely to share God's truths to others and has written extensively on religion and health. He loves breaking the bread of life to others and is especially burdened to see God's people prepared to receive the latter rain and ready to proclaim the Sabbath more fully.



**Diane Herbert, ND**—A naturopath and lifestyle consultant, Diane teaches health classes at the Gilead Institute of America and has made numerous health presentations in churches, secular groups, and camp meetings. She is a major contributor in the Gilead Institute's literature and health flyer series. Besides all her other administrative responsibilities, she manages a Health Food Club, which distributes different health items and aids in the promotion of health reform. Diane has received training from the NAD Lifestyle Consultant program, Thomas Edison State College, Clayton College of Natural Healing, and Bastyr University. Her earnest desire is to alleviate pain and suffering by promoting the gospel and using natural healing remedies.



**Lee Forbes**—Lee has worked with his partner in ministry, Clark Floyd, as a radio talk show co-host on "Bible Answers with Clark and Lee," and also as a conference speaker, seminar teacher, and music evangelist. Lee knows what it means to be a broken vessel as he has "been there" many times, but the beauty of the gospel is that God can take something broken and marred and make it altogether new.

**Joe Olson** - Brother Olson is the Executive Director and Chairman of the Board of Hope International and an international speaker. It is Joe's hope to be faithful to God in whatever capacity God sees fit to use him and for Hope International to be a ministry totally dedicated to Jesus and the finishing of His work. Joe looks forward to hearing the words "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."



**J.C. Perozo** - A Bible expositor and ministry consultant, Elder Perozo is presently the assistant to the president of Hartland Institute of Health and Education. In his 31 years of ministry, Elder Perozo has visited 38 countries in 5 continents. He sees the world as a vast hospital and Jesus as our healing physician who is willing to work through us to bring restoration.

**Ron Spear** - Elder Spear has served the Adventist Church for over 40 years as a pastor, missionary in Africa, department secretary, evangelist, and Field Secretary for the Review & Herald Association. His is currently a self-supporting minister, author, revivalist, and the Executive Editor of *Our Firm Foundation* magazine.



**Colin Standish** - Dr. Standish holds to the conviction that only the Word of God is a safe guide to follow. Has served at his alma mater, Avondale College, as chair of the Education Department. Subsequent to this he has served as Academic Dean, Department Chair, and/or President of several denominational colleges in Australia, Jamaica, and the United States. He is currently the President of Hartland Institute in Virginia. As an ordained minister, his messages have been heard by large crowds in Australia, North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America. His extensive knowledge of history, his perceptive evaluation of current affairs, and deep research of the Scriptures, including Bible prophecy, ensure that he will make the Bible clear and help us to understand our perplexing world.

# Meeting Schedule

## Wednesday, September 29

7:00 pm Clark Floyd

## Thursday, September 30

7:00 am George Gomoll (in the Chapel)

7:40 am Breakfast

9:00 am Lee Forbes

11:00 am Colin Standish

12:30 pm Dinner

2:00 pm J.C. Perozo

4:00 pm Richard Harris

5:30 pm Supper

7:00 pm Talk Back Live

## Friday, October 1

7:00 am Harvey Steck (in the Chapel)

7:40 am Breakfast

9:00 am Patrick Herbert

11:00 am Diane Herbert

12:30 pm Dinner

2:00 pm Richard Harris

4:00 pm Musical Concert

5:00 pm Supper

5:46 pm Sundown

7:00 pm Talk Back Live

## Sabbath, October 2

7:00 am Patrick Herbert (in the Chapel)

7:40 am Breakfast

9:30 am Richard Harris

11:00 am Ron Spear

12:30 pm Dinner

2:30 pm Musical Concert

4:30 pm Colin Standish

5:44 pm Sundown

6:00 pm Supper

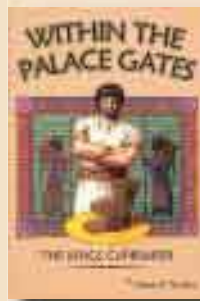
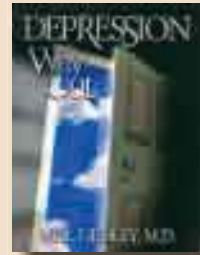
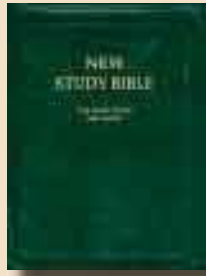
7:30 pm Talk Back Live

## Sunday, October 3

7:00 am Diane Herbert (in the Chapel)

7:40 am Breakfast

9:00 am Joe Olson

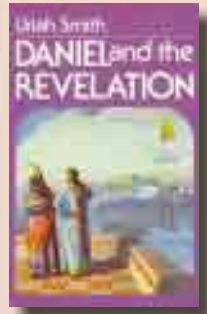


# New Publications

available from the

## Hope International Bookstore

Here are some of the new items that we have added to our book store since our 2004 catalog was published. If you would like a free 2004 catalog, please give us a call or drop us a line, and we will be happy to send you one. You may also browse online at [www.hopeint.org](http://www.hopeint.org). Please see page 30 for shipping and sales tax information.



## General Books

### God's Word

**Study Bible and Hymnal**  
 This Bible has all the features of the Deluxe Study Bible, but also includes the complete Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal. A high-quality zippered binding of genuine leather protects this Bible for a life time of study and song.  
**Leather Zipper Cover, 2 Ribbon Markers**  
**BEGW-SBHY \$54.95**

### Nedley, Neil

**Depression: The Way Out**  
 Learn how the brain works and how to recognize depression in its various forms. Its many causes are identified, along with the effects it has on the human mind. Learn the important role nutrition and lifestyle play in managing and overcoming this malady.  
**Hardback, 260 pages, 2001**  
**BENN-DWOU \$29.95**

### Noorbergen, Rene

**Treasure of the Lost Races**  
 As in *Secrets of the Lost Races*, Rene Noorbergen shows how the most recent archaeological finds reveal clues to the lost history of the earth.  
**Paperback, 174 pages, 2004**  
**BENR-TOLR \$9.95**

### Siviter, Anna P.

**Within the Palace Gates**  
 Anna Siviter, by weaving the rich tapestry of the ancient Persian court as a backdrop for the story of Artaxerxes' noble cup bearer, allows us to grasp the deep significance of Nehemiah's devotion to God, to Jerusalem and to his people.  
**Paperback, 308 pages, 1992**  
**BESA-WPGA \$7.99**

### Smith, Uriah

**Daniel and Revelation**  
 This volume is devoted largely to tracing the story of God's marvelous dealings with nations and with notable men in fulfillment of the great prophecies of the Bible in the past, but more particularly to the unrolling of the prophetic scroll as seen in the stirring events of the throbbing present and of those impending in the immediate and ominous future. Such events are of the greatest personal significance to every man and woman.  
**Paperback, 783 pages, 1972**  
**BESU-DREV \$7.79**

**Daniel and Revelation**  
**Hardback, 783 pages, 1972**  
**BESU-DRHB \$11.49**

### Spears, Ron D.

**Adventism in Crisis**  
 The shaking of the church will remove those who are not faithful, and will strengthen those who are faithful. Though the church may appear as about to fall, we have the assurance from God's Word that He will have a people in His church who will remain true to Him unto the end.  
**Paperback, 95 pages, 1998, Regular price: \$3.95**  
**BESR-AICR \$2.99**

### White, Ellen G.

**Medical Missionary Manual, The**  
 This compilation of Ellen G. White's writings regarding the medical missionary work is a school textbook and working guide to the type of medical missionary work described in the Spirit of Prophecy.  
**Paperback, 335 pages, 2002, Regular price: \$9.95**  
**BEWE-MMMA \$4.85**



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**Zurcher, J.R.**

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***Touched With Our Feelings***

In this study on the nature of man, Zurcher examines the biblical doctrine of Christ's human nature. Carefully tracing the development of the doctrine of Christ within the Adventist church, Zurcher maintains that the glory of our Saviour's successful mission to this world is enhanced, not diminished, by the fact that He triumphed in spite of taking all the liabilities of "sinful flesh."

Paperback, 308 pages, 1999  
BEJR-TWOF

\$14.40



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**Children and Youth**

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**Bohner, Olivine Nadeau**

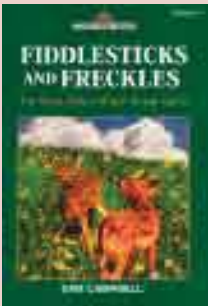
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***Into the Blizzard***

When Jack Zachary of Manitoba, Canada, accepted Christ as his Master, he began to spread his new faith. No ice, no snow, no wintry gale, no danger, no persecution, no brush with death, no angry charges of "heretic" could detain him from telling others—especially his own Ukrainian people—about the Saviour he had found.

Paperback, 155 pages, 2001  
BEBO-IBLI

\$10.95



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**Campbell, Sam**

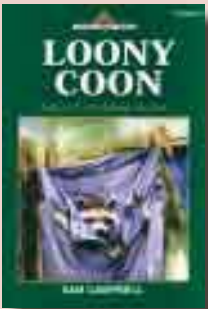
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***Fiddlesticks and Freckles***

Fiddlesticks and Freckles carries you away into the Wisconsin wilderness where the Campbell family adopts two orphan fawns. You will meet a host of forest friends in an exciting array of adventures—some hilarious, others sad. Sprinkled throughout are secret lessons revealed through God's natural world.

Paperback, 243 pages, 1955  
BECS-FFRE

\$6.19



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**Loony Coon**

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Raccoons are notorious for their mischief and "streetwise" animal antics. But seldom has there been a raccoon that could match the career of Loony Coon. Join in the fun, spills, and porcupine quills, told in the wonderful Sam Campbell style.

Paperback, 236 pages, 1954  
BECS-LCOO

\$6.19



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**Seven Secrets of Somewhere Lake, The**

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The Campbells have no choice but to 'adopt' Zipper, a half starved fawn, Zowie, a baby

fox, Zanie, a taffy-colored puppy, and Zinnia, a tiny skunk—followed by seven young beavers! You will also read of Sam's "buck fever" experience when he discovers a mountain lion.

Paperback, 236 pages, 1952  
BECS-SSSL

\$6.19



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**Edwards, Josephine Cunningham**

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***Swift Arrow***

A large family migrated from Europe to America in the early 1700's. After they decided to join others to settle the frontier, disaster struck when their son George was stolen by Indians. This is a true account of George's life with the Indian tribe and his eventual escape and journey back home.

Paperback, 120 pages, 1997  
BEEJ-SARR

\$8.95



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**Hare, Eric B.**

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***Dr. Rabbit***

The heartwarming tale of the author's medical missionary work for the Karens of Burma. Dubbed "Dr. Rabbit" because of his name, he came to be loved by the common people in this land of tigers and elephants, riverboats and oxcarts. You will enjoy his story-telling style.

Paperback, 127 pages, 2004  
BEHE-DRAB

\$8.25

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**Clever Queen**

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In Clever Queen you will learn how the great almighty God of heaven works through His Spirit and by His power to convert evil to good. The native villagers, who for generations have believed in the witch doctors and the ways of devil worshipping—now have a new-found guiding light.

Paperback, 96 pages, 2001  
BEHE-CQUE

\$8.95



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**Moore, Rebecca Deming**

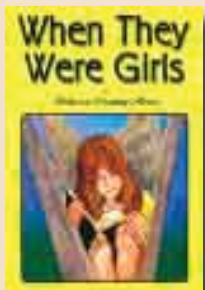
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***When They Were Girls***

We know Clara Barton's dedication to suffering man. You may have read Louisa May Alcott's, "Little Women." Jane Addams started a house for destitute women in Chicago. The list goes on. But what kind of homes made these women great? What were the advantages these ladies of fame had as children? What was it like when they were girls?

Paperback, 192 pages, 2001  
BEMR-WTWG

\$6.95





## Youngberg, Norma

### *Singer on the Sand*

An incredible, true story of a missionary family who landed on the Pacific island of Great Sangir to teach islanders truth, loyalty and faith. Many villagers grew to love and respect the Christian family. However, the witchdoctor, the chief and many of the headmen resented them being there. The plot thickens when a huge disaster strikes the village, and the Christians are right in the middle of it!

Paperback, 128 pages, 1998

BEYN-SOSA

\$8.95

## Audio

### Hare, Eric B.

#### *Eric B. Hare Stories 1*

These wonderful mission stories — told by a great story teller, Eric B. Hare — will become a favorite past-time for your children and you, while teaching valuable lessons about living a life for Jesus. Your children will remember and cherish Eric B. Hare stories long after they have left their childhood years. Audio cassette includes four stories: "Mister Crooked Ears," "Silver and the Snake," "Meme," and "The Chinese Lady and the Rats."

Cassette 1, 4 stories, 1980

AEHE-EHS1

\$5.39

#### *Eric B. Hare Stories 2*

Includes four stories: "Little Engine,"

"Bunny and Jim," "The Big Yellow Truck," and "Pip Pip, the Naughty Chicken."

Cassette 2, 4 stories, 1980

AEHE-EHS2

\$5.39

#### *Eric B. Hare Stories 3*

Includes four stories: "Sweet Potatoes," "White Bean," "The Hermit and the King," and "Jack's Quarter."

Cassette 3, 4 stories, 1980

AEHE-EHS3

\$5.39

#### *Eric B. Hare Stories 4*

Includes four stories: "Who Put the Fire Out?" "What a Fool I've Been," "Little Call," and "Guess Who Saw the King?"

Cassette 4, 4 stories, 1980

AEHB-EHS4

\$5.39

#### *Eric B. Hare Stories 5*

Includes three stories: "The Mean Old Mistress," "Ronnie and the Robber," and "The Impossible Fish Story."

Cassette 5, 3 stories, 1980

AEHE-EHS5

\$5.39

## Waters, Allison, Emily, and Josiah

### *From the Hearts of Youth*

Allison, Emily, and Josiah share from their hearts topics that are pertinent to their lives at ages from 14–21 years. Topics include "A True Hero," "Personal Worship Made Practical," "Becoming a Woman," "Principled Relationships," "Winning or Losing," and "Preparing for Eternity."

Set of 6 Audio CDs

DEWA-FHOY

\$21.99



## Subscription, Shipping, and Sales Tax Information

### Subscription Information

**United States:** US \$18.75 per year

**Canada and Mexico:** US \$23.75 per year

**Foreign (Surface Mail):** US \$23.75 per year, (shipped quarterly)

**Foreign (Air Mail):** US \$60.00 per year

**Large Print Edition:** US \$29.95 per year

**Audio Edition:** US \$36.00 per year

**Foreign Audio and Large Print Editions:** Please inquire regarding postage.

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

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

- Add 15% shipping plus US \$3.00 handling.
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**Sales tax:** Illinois residents, please add 6.5%. Washington state residents, please add 7.8%.

**All money received must be in US funds, drawn on US banks.**

## Letters to the Editor



I have been a Seventh-day Adventist for a little over 5 years, and I praise God for leading me to the church that adheres to the Bible and the Ten Commandments.

Somehow, in 2003 I got a copy of *Rebellion and Retreating Toward Egypt*, and I was enthralled with the information, and I learned a lot. I am a recovered alcoholic and ex-cigarette smoker. My heart sings with praise to the Lord.

Sometimes it is hard to realize I had a life of alcohol and total moral decline, and I am so grateful to God for pulling me out. I like to say that I had two buddies in the past—named Alcohol and Tobacco. Now I have *three* buddies—named God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. What a miracle!

How did I hear about Hope? My sister in Christ from our church gave me an old copy, and I read it over and over. Then I sent it to another sister in Christ in Oklahoma.

*IJ, Hawaii*

We appreciate the work that you are doing for the Lord. May God continue to bless you with your families and all of God's work.

*SS, California*

Hope things are well with you. Keep up the good work. I'm appreciating the magazine *Our Firm Foundation*. We need a "firm foundation" in these last days. God continue to bless each one there.

*BW, Washington*

I first learned about Hope through Pastor Ron Spear. He is a frequent visitor to Florida. He has brought much encouragement with spiritual zeal and instruction to our group at

the Eternal Gospel Church, West Palm Beach, Florida. We cherish his visits here. I believe you are doing God's work and deserve the support. God will continue to bless your ministry as you give the messages of Revelation 14 & 18 without compromise. Pray for us at Eternal Gospel Church that we will continue in a similar work to hasten our Lord's coming.

*JB, Florida*

Thank you for the assurance you bring to me and my family through the *Firm Foundation*. I read the articles over and over. Each time I get a new look at the Blessed Hope. Thank God for Pastor Ron Spear. I met him and Sister Spear at the Eternal Gospel Church at West Palm Beach and was convinced that God had called them for these crucial times to which we have come. Please pray for my family and me. We honestly want to go to the promised land above. We have no desire to return to Egypt. Here is our gift to your ministry.

*RG, Florida*

Here are some names, and I hope you will send three issues of your magazine to these people. They all need your help. Thank you for your magazine. For a while I gave up on God, I kept asking Him where His people were in these last days. I thought I was the only one who saw what was going on in the church. Because of your magazine God has answered my prayers and has showed me that there are many others like myself who want to be ready for Jesus. If only people would wake up and realize Ellen White is the last prophet God gave us.

Don't give up. God has used you to bring me back to Him. And now I am happily waiting on Jesus' return. The time is too short to be messing around.

*RE, Vermont*

I received and read two copies of your *Our Firm Foundation* magazine through a friend and wanted to express how much it meant to read incisive and accurate scriptural messages. Although I am not a professed Adventist by denomination, and I don't read much on or by Ellen White, your magazines are right on! I found some reading in them that really opened my thinking even more. I don't have the money to dedicate to a subscription to your magazine for myself, as I am led more to give what I can to your ministry by month to help with the wonderful works you're doing for the Lord.

*EF, Montana*

I received and read the entire May issue of your magazine today. What a Sabbath blessing it has been. I thank God that there are men who do not fear to call sin by its right name and unflinchingly reveal the truth as Ralph Larson has done in his articles on the book *Questions on Doctrine*. I am looking forward to reading the book, *Touched With Our Feelings*. With writers such as these presenting the truth-filled gospel, you have no fear of being represented as "watering down" the message. Keep up the great work, and may the Lord's richest blessings be with all of you "Till the Work is Done."

*NMS, Wisconsin*

I have received some feedback on the *Firm Foundation* magazine from members of our Seventh-day Adventist church and they thank us for them. One family is very poor, so I want to pay for a year's subscription. I'll try to do this next month; they really like it. God bless your wonderful ministry, you are soldiers and watchmen for Jesus, our soon-coming Saviour.

*RP, Utah*

# Announcing These Upcoming Meetings

## Upcoming Events

Hope International speakers and board members will be conducting or participating in the following events. We invite you to attend and become acquainted with us, and we hope you will receive a rich spiritual blessing.

### August 2004

#### **7 — Walnut, NC**

- Speaker: Clark Floyd

#### **16-22 — Czech Republic (Camp Mtg)**

- Speaker: Clark Floyd

#### **23-28 — Germany**

- Speaker: Clark Floyd

#### **28 — St. Charles, IL**

- Speakers: Ron Spear, Joe Olson, Lee Forbes

### September 2004

#### **3-4 — Colton, CA**

- Speakers: Ron Spear, Joe Olson, Lee Forbes

#### **4 — Portland, TN**

- Speaker: Clark Floyd

#### **17-19 — Delta, BC, Canada (Camp Mtg)**

- See advertisement on this page.

### October 2004

#### **25-28 — Knoxville, IL (Medical Missionary Training for Families)**

- See advertisement on this page.

### November 2004

#### **5-6 — Fort Wayne, IN**

- Speakers: Ron Spear, Joe Olson

## Fall Camp Meeting 2004

Knoxville, Illinois  
Sep. 29 through Oct. 3

See pages 26-27 for more information



## British Columbia Meetings

September 17-19, 2004

Meetings will be at the Coast Tsawwassen Inn, Delta, British Columbia, Canada.

Room rates: Can\$89 / US\$65 per night.

To reserve a room, call (800) 943-8221.

A local food service will provide a vegan Sabbath lunch for those who prepay (Can\$22 / US\$16.50).

To arrange for meals, call (800) 468-7884.



## Medical Missionary Training Course for Families

October 25-28, 2004 • Knoxville, Illinois



### Classes Offered:

- 8 Laws of Health
- Hydrotherapy
- Massage Therapy
- Cooking School
- Patient Assessment
- Herbs

Classes will be offered for ages 5 thru adult.

To register, or for more information contact Debbie Fine: (423) 236-5352 • E-Mail: thefines6@msn.com

For more information on locations, schedules, meals, or lodging for any of the above meetings, write or call Hope International: (800) 468-7884.



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